



2022 ANNUAL REPORT





The Canberra Region Rugby League would like to thank all their partners for the 2022 season.



Canberra Raiders respect and honour the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the lands we meet, gather and play on.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After the challenges of recent years, it was fantastic to be able to complete a season of rugby league that had a full finals series and saw all players from Under 6 to First Grade doing what they like best – playing rugby league.

The clubs and their volunteers have once again driven Canberra Region Rugby League to a new participation record with 6,049 players registered this season – an increase from the 5,798 in 2021. Rugby League has proven its resilience post-pandemic, with increased numbers from the 5105 participants in 2019 before Covid struck. I commend to everyone the Community Rugby League Participation graphic in this report as a terrific snapshot of the strength of rugby league in the region.

Canberra Region Rugby League wishes to acknowledge the continued support for our clubs by their sponsors, partners and supporters without whom many of our clubs would find the world a more difficult place to operate without the financial backing.



It would be remiss of me not to thank the CRRL's major sponsor, Blumers Personal Injury Lawyers, who have shown great faith in rugby league and our organisation by not only renewing their partnership but increasing their investment. Blumers have been great supporters of our women's competitions but has taken on all of the senior competitions in 2022. To Mark Blumer, Ian Burchell and their team, thank you for your continued support.

The NSW Rugby League (NSWRL) and the Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) have had their issues this season. This has led to the development officers returning to the ARLC and the competition structures will reside with the NSWRL. The CRRL values its relationships with both the NSWRL and ARLC staff and will continue to work with both organisations in growing the game and delivering the best product possible.

The close relationship between the CRRL and NSWRL saw the CRRL Judiciary take on overflow regional cases for the NSWRL. This was an acknowledgement of the professionalism of the CRRL Judiciary, the Chairs and the panels. CRRL is unique in that it has the mechanism to have an independent appeals committee without reference to NSWRL.



The NSWRL HQ at Bruce has proven to be an exceptional addition to local rugby league and the representative program. It has given a home to the Belconnen Sharks after many years of moving grounds and it has facilitated the Referees Association as well. We certainly appreciate the support of NSWRL CEO, David Trodden with this initiative and look forward to having this facility available to rugby league for many years into the future.

I have had the honour of serving on the NSW Community Rugby League Board which brings together their country representatives and metropolitan representatives with an independent chair. This Board is trying to ensure a strategic alignment with the NSWRL and seeking to have more meaningful input into the future planning of junior and community rugby league.

Group 16 and the CRRL have continued to work closely in 2022 and this has led to the formation of the Monaro region which will have a joint committee that will have responsibility for the representative teams and the promotion of rugby league in the CRRL and Group 16. Both organisations are partners in developing a Monaro Knockout for teams in Tier 2 competitions such as the George Tooke Shield and smaller groups.

Once again, the CRRL Judiciary worked extremely hard and we are fortunate to have the expertise of our three Co-Chairs; Chris Gribble, Luke Crocker and Jonathan Hanton (Appeals Chair). The professionalism of the Chairs, along with the commitment of other panel members, puts our organisation in a strong position dealing with on-field and off-field matters. My thanks also to Glyn Sargent who heads up the Match Review Committee.

The Referees' Association continues to provide referees across all our matches and this year they have been stretched. In many ways we have been victims of our own success as a number of our younger referees have been appointed to NSWRL and schools representative fixtures as well as the growth in our numbers which places more pressure on the existing referees resources. Thanks once again to Matt Hall, Chris Nightingale and the Referees' executive for their support of our game and region.





We can be proud of two important aspects of our sport as compared to others here in Canberra. Congratulations to the clubs that keep the sport affordable for their participants at junior level. Rugby League is one of the best value for money sports in the region. We must thank the Raiders Group of clubs and the Canberra District Rugby League for their financial support in both juniors and seniors that maintains the viability but also affordability of our sport.

The other aspect is that of our trainers and first aid champions who provide rugby league with an important point of difference. We look after our own in rugby league and no sport, currently, has the level of expertise on match day that our trainers and first aid accredited supporters provide to our participants. As we all know, concussion presents a threat to our game and our ability to identify and support players with head knocks is vital to our on-going growth as a sport.

I am excited by a number of new partnerships that we will have in season 2023. The CRRL will partner with Everyman and Capital Region Community Services in being able to have access for our clubs to expertise in a variety of areas such as mental health, domestic violence, youth trauma and other associated areas. Another partnership being finalised at present will be with the Queanbeyan Kanberri Connections as we undertake cultural appreciation programs with all our clubs.

To my colleagues of the Canberra Region Rugby League committee, once again, a huge vote of thanks for your support, advice and counsel as we navigate our way back to normalised competition.

The CRRL team at Braddon continue to deliver for our clubs and have a



reputation as one of the most progressive administrations in the game. The team had challenges this year with long standing Juniors administrator Deb Ford moving on along with Sarah Williams (maternity leave), Jen Pilosio and Taylor Giggins plus Rosie Harrison moving to the Raiders media unit. Welcome to Stacey Studholme, Anthony McQueen, Finn Williamson and Taylah Kelly who have slotted into new roles. This year also saw our General Manager, Mark Vergano, recognised in the Australia Day Honours List with an Order of Australia Medal for his services to sports administration. Congratulations to Mark on his outstanding community service over many years.



To Don Furner and all the Raiders staff who have also assisted us this season, we thank you for the integrated nature of the business and the beneficial relationships developed to promote the game in our community. The work between the CRRL staff and the Raiders staff is seamless and has benefited both organisations in the delivery of rugby league in the region.

I look forward to 2023 with great anticipation as we celebrate the centenary of rugby league in the region. Clubs such as Yass, Harden, Cootamundra and Crookwell have already celebrated their centenary and the Warrigals will also be celebrated as they morphed into the Queanbeyan Blues.

We look forward to the rugby league family celebrating this magnificent milestone.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Gary Green
Chairman
CRRL



COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman

Gary Green

Executive Officer

Mark Vergano (non-voting)

Senior Club Representative

Joe Stephens

Steven Troth

Phillip Watts

George Tooke Shield Representative

Tony Rayner

Junior Club Representatives

Gary Bergkotte

Danny Roper

Naomi Apps

Appointed Members

Chris Nightingale (Referees)

Jon Tucker (ACT Schools)

Yvette Croft (Women's RL)

CRJRL COMMITTEE – Attendance at nine Committee Meetings held in 2022.

NAME	ATTENDED	APOLOGIES
GARY GREEN	9	0
GARY BERGKOTTE	8	1
DANNY ROPER	9	0
CHRIS NIGHTINGALE	9	0
JON TUCKER	7	2
TONY RAYNER	7	2
NAOMI APPS	8	1
YVETTE CROFT	6	3
JOE STEPHENS	7	2
PHIL WATTS	7	2
STEVE TROTH	6	3
MARK VERGANO	9	0



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The 2022 season provided a recovery for our sport where we were able to return to a sense of normalcy in scheduling and routine. A full season of rugby league, both at community and representative level was welcomed, however, the El Nino weather pattern made life difficult for our clubs, volunteers and in the preparation and maintenance of the grounds.



Whilst we observe a historic realignment of our game with now 25% of participants being female, the CRRL is conscious on ensuring that conditions are right to keep boys in our game. To that end, our retention and recruitment strategies are vital and as always, positive, inclusive coaching will keep players in the game longer. Research has shown the importance of good coaching in setting a positive culture not only for the players but also for parents and officials.

There is concern in many sports, both in Australia and overseas, that coach and parental behaviour continues to drive match officials out of the game. We would all agree that the match officials are essential to the smooth operating of our match days and games and that positive sideline behaviour is imperative to our efforts in recruiting and retaining match officials.

The CRRL wants to recruit more players to our great game. We also wish to have a positive experience for the referees that we recruit as well.

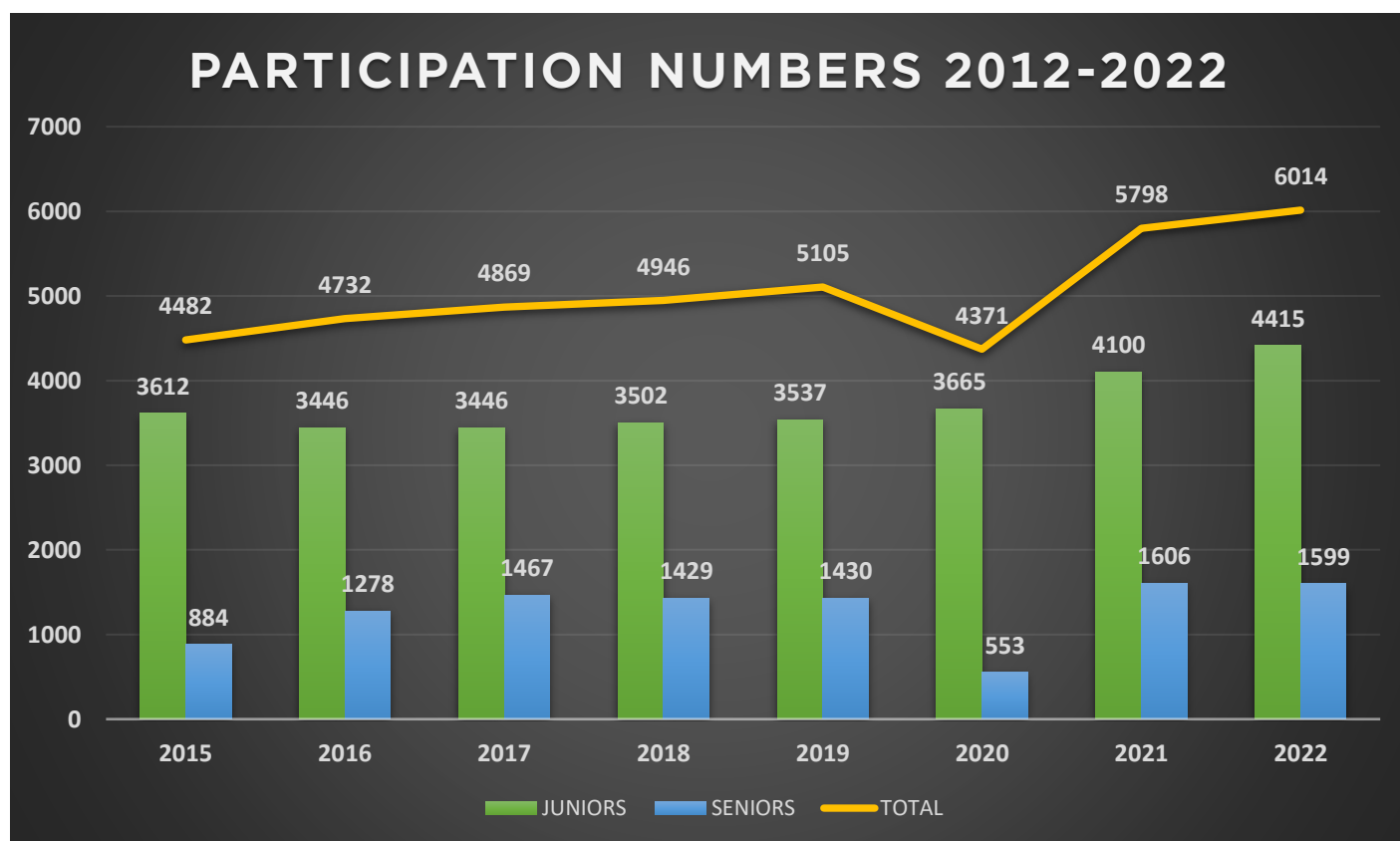
I would ask our rugby league family, whether you are a player, coach, supporter, parent or administrator to look seriously at our culture and commit to improving our behaviour on the sidelines and during matches.

Punitive action by a Judiciary or Disciplinary committee is available but our strongest tool is peer monitoring and a commitment to respect our match officials. Self-regulation builds a far stronger and more positive culture rather than the imposition of fines, suspensions or bans.



Participation Reports 2012-2022

SEASON	JUNIORS	SENIORS	TOTAL
2012	3680	766	4355
2013	3742	710	4332
2014	3806	667	4242
2015	3612	884	4482
2016	3446	1278	4732
2017	3446	1467	4869
2018	3502	1429	4946
2019	3537	1430	5105
2020	3665	553	4371
2021	4100	1606	5798
2022	4415	1599	6014



The CRRL's overall participation numbers have continued to grow each year since 2014 and this is testament to the great work by the clubs and the volunteers in making rugby league an attractive game to play and a positive social experience. We were also able to revert to year-on-year figures now that the 2020 interruption is behind us.



Observations on Participation were:

- Overall participation grew by 3.7% from 5798 (2021) to 6014
- Junior numbers rose by 7.7% from 4100 (2021) to 4415.
- Senior numbers decreased by 7 registrations
- Overall female participation now represents approximately 25% of overall participation.
- Junior boys contracted from 3728 in 2021 to 3619 in 2022
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation across playing and other roles represents over 10% of total registrations (*Note - of those that identify at time of registration)

I commend the infographic in this Annual Report for a summary of our participation.

The trends are there for all of us to see and work towards. As mentioned earlier, there is a historic re-alignment for our sport occurring. The success of the new League Tag competitions and increased female tackle numbers show up in our junior statistics.

Notwithstanding, we need to focus more closely on ensuring that our male participation numbers need to rebound. We are especially challenged in the key transition age groups of Under 12-13s and Under 16-17s. Apart from retention strategies, we all must examine how we relate to the modern player/participant



and ensure that for the growth and health of the game we need to keep them “in the game” whether that is through inclusive coaching; better training regimes; working with the players in their other commitments or looking at different competition models. Often that essential engagement from senior clubs to junior clubs can have a positive impact on building the trust relationship between the seniors and the juniors.

There was a common pressure point this season where the second-tier grades had trouble recruiting or holding players.

The junior clubs agreed to begin working towards the implementation of the national Player Development Framework. The framework sees the transition out of playing for premiership points and finals over the next 4 years until we have players beginning to play for points from Under 13s.

*Please see the transition graphic later in this report (page 79).



Allied to this, was the pilot of having the Rugby League Ready program whereby the Under 6 players had six weeks of separating learning to tackle from running with the ball and passing skills development in a League Tag environment. This was the prelude to the national roll out by NSWRL with this extending to Under 7s in 2023. The program has been a success in Queensland and also in Group 9 juniors. Whilst there has been conjecture as to its benefits, all change creates a level of uncertainty and doubt.

No doubt the change to mini and mod rugby league formats created similar spirited debate when those changes were implemented as the introduction of compulsory accredited trainers would have in 2008. That program is now one of our strongest differentiations as a sport.

Development



The Development area has been fraught in the last few years and 2022 was no exception. We farewelled Aaron Peat from his NRL Development role at the end of 2021 and Shane Read carried the load until Taylor Giggins moved from the CRRL to NRL Development in May.

The Development team has had an extraordinarily difficult time as school clinics were off limits for the greater part of the year and also commitment to the various gala days and school competitions could change quickly with an outbreak in a school of children having to isolate or teachers going down ill.

We are seeing at the back end of the 2022 year a return to more regular visits and these are now being welcomed by schools rather than being seen as an outside threat.

Referees

Scheduling some 170 matches a weekend and then allocating referees throughout the season is no mean feat and our referees' panel does this every week of the season. With a referee shortage as against our growth, it proved to be challenging not only scheduling but actually covering the matches. Referees would referee consecutive matches for up to three hours on a regular basis and other referees were known to run a marathon on a weekend when they made themselves available for Friday night, Saturday and Sunday matches. Other referees would commence at one oval for a series of matches and then drive to another ground to complete a round of matches.



We are grateful for the dedication of the match officials and the referees' administration in the co-operative manner they work with the CRRL.

As a sport we do not recruit our former players well to the referee ranks unlike other sports who have a more positive record of doing this. Even at NRL level, few former players return as referees.

That is a shame as these former players have great knowledge, game sense and intuition in understanding the players. The CRRL and the Referees' Association will be looking to identify former players and fast track them in a new program. We ask clubs to assist us in promoting this scheme when it is released and also identify potential refereeing talent amongst their former players.

Competitions

The influenza and residual of covid played havoc with the early part of the season for many senior clubs. However, this settled as the season progressed although having enough fit players due to the aforementioned illness, a cold winter with poor waterlogged grounds and injuries from such grounds often made senior selections hazardous for the clubs.

The new Player Points Index System was implemented and overall ran quite smoothly. I would like to acknowledge the sterling work of our Senior Competitions administrator, Deb Charman, who spent countless hours coming to understand the new system and then spending time with clubs, often at their training sessions, ensuring clubs were compliant. This praise also goes to the club secretaries who managed the new system.



The Raiders Cup Salary Cap had its first full season outing. Many of the clubs have seen the benefit of this system in being able to remain competitive and re-establishing their financial base with the cap. Unfortunately, one club was deducted points for salary cap breaches but the overall compliance was sound. More attention to time lines will be adhered to for next season but clubs have complied with the bulk of requirements.

My thanks go to Salary Cap Integrity Commissioner, Geoff Besgrove, for his independent administration of the process.

One disturbing trend is that of players signing with clubs or being unaware of the three-year rule and then trying to break that commitment. This has led to a number of teams then paying, in effect, a transfer fee or release fee for a player.



This trend is not healthy as it not only causes angst among clubs but also seeks to break down original commitments.

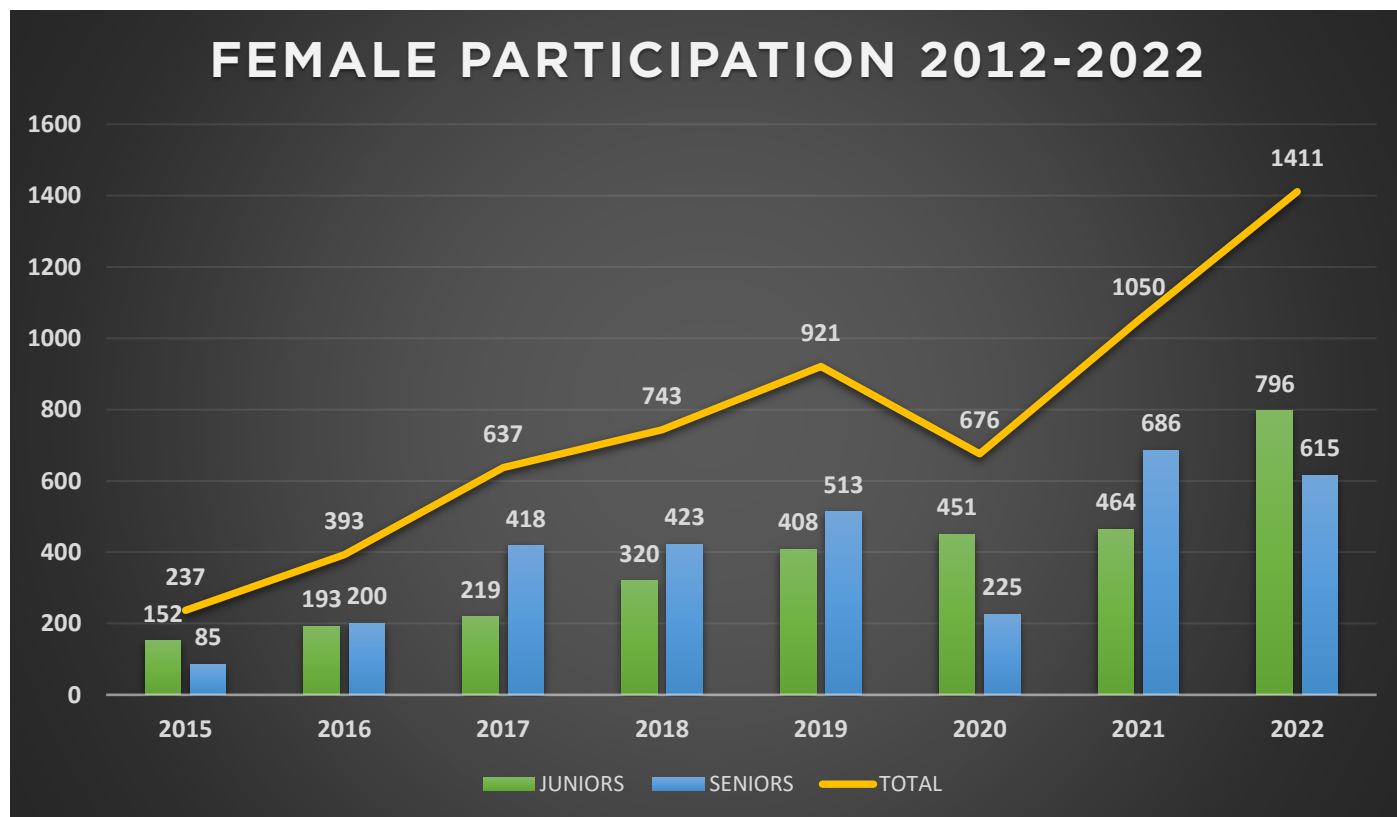
The CRRL will be monitoring both senior and junior clubs more closely as to injury reporting, especially that of concussion. As we have highlighted previously, concussion represents the single biggest threat to rugby league participation and its social license to operate. We respect the great work done by our trainers and first aid personnel but we must endeavour to ensure that player safety and well-being is paramount and that injuries are recorded. We have a responsibility to our future generations of club and league administrators to ensure best practice as these injuries have a long lead time.

The George Tooke Shield continues to grow in stature in both the men's and League Tag competitions. Finals day was augmented with four Grand Finals as the Katrina Fanning Shield Tier 2 and Under 19 Tier 2 finals were added to the agenda. This has proved popular with the players and clubs in taking extra games to the region and also an extra investment in rugby league and the clubs.

It is to be hoped that the CRRL may be able to have a Tier 2 George Tooke competition in the Katrina Fanning Shield as we attempt to move toward standard appropriate competitions for players

Female Particiaption 2012-2022

SEASON	JUNIORS	SENIORS	TOTAL
2012	24	0	24
2013	85	0	85
2014	129	0	129
2015	152	85	237
2016	193	200	393
2017	219	418	637
2018	320	423	743
2019	408	513	921
2020	451	225	676
2021	464	686	1050
2022	796	615	1411



It was extremely pleasing that one of the organisations major goals, to have its own NRLW team, was realised when the Canberra Raiders were accepted as one of four new teams to boost the NRLW to ten teams.

This represents a fantastic opportunity to the region's young female talent and to expand the local Katrina Fanning Shield (KFS) competition. The KFS comprised of nine teams (up from 7) this year and we welcomed South Coast who provided teams in the KFS, Under 17s and Under 15s.

The CRRL is hopeful that the interest generated by the NRLW team will lead to increased numbers across all competitions and make competitive balance fairer for all.



One of the key moves will be to attempt to get an Under 13 and Under 11 Girls only tackle competitions to keep completing the pathway. The move to also have more League Tag grades is to provide young female players with multiple entry points to our game.

The CRRL is pleased with the progress and growth in female participation.



Inclusion

Our two major inclusion programs, the Rolling Raiders Wheelchair Rugby League and the Score Raiders have been successful and are both now looking to go to the next level.

The CRRL staff have been fostering participation in the Griffith and Wagga Wagga hub and now in the Bathurst – Dubbo hub as well as continuing to grow the game in Canberra.

The next step is to establish competitions in all these centres and importantly we would seek club partners to support the individual teams. We wish to regularise the program.

We need to acknowledge our corporate partner MPS Travel who have backed our program and their contribution has allowed the CRRL to purchase a bespoke trailer that carries all our chairs and equipment. Without the trailer we could not cover the area we do. To Amy and Matt Hewson, thank you so much for your support.



The Score Raiders program for players with an intellectual disability has continued to grow through the partnership with The Disability Trust and the leadership of Eilish Winbank. Matches on WIN Stadium and GIO Stadium against the Score Dragons were highlights but competing every fortnight in the local competition was

outstanding. Many thanks to all clubs and especially the Yass Under 15s and Mike Inkster and his team who played the team at GIO Stadium and also in their Grand Final. This was truly a highlight.

The Score Raiders program won the Minister's Award for Inclusion at the 2022 CBR Sport Awards.

*There is a detailed report of the CRRL Inclusion Programs (page 44).

Strategic Initiatives

Infrastructure

Infrastructure and upgrades to facilities is still a frustration for the CRRL as well as the Raiders with the mooted new stadium.



A positive progression is the re-development of Phillip Oval, Woden's home ground. A partnership with Royals Rugby Union and Cricket ACT, a new pavilion, new playing surface and lights will transform the ground although there has been a delay in the funding.

Melba, Taylor and Kambah are all high priority areas and the CRRL is still trying to work with ACT Sportsgrounds and the ACT Government in changing some of their practises to be able to improve facilities. The CRRL is pursuing modular changerooms as a short term solution to improving facilities at the above grounds as well as the surfaces. We will still pursue some use of synthetics to give us training alternatives and wet weather options, especially with the number of times grounds have been shut in recent years due to poor weather.

We are also pleased to be working with the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council in looking at improvements at all Queanbeyan based grounds and the support of Mayor Kenrick Winchester and Deputy Mayor Esme Livermore is greatly appreciated.



Yass also opened its new pavilion this year commemorating Colin "Yic" York and Ken Bell by naming the pavilion after them. The completion of the referee changerooms was also greatly appreciated.

It is pleasing that the entry into the NRLW will see an upgrade of the Raiders Belconnen ground. A new big screen, improved drainage, improved covered seating and new coaches boxes with player bench areas will lift the ground's amenity.

Acknowledgements

The CRRL once again would like to thank our media partners for their continued coverage and support of our sport. To WIN TV, Channel 9, The Canberra Times, Queanbeyan Age, Riot ACT, ABC Radio and television, 2CC and the regional news media who have been under pressure in recent years, we greatly appreciate our relationship in promoting community sport together.

The Raiders Group of clubs and Canberra District Rugby League continued their commitment to rugby league and makes our sport very cost effective for the participants and ensures the viability of the community clubs and the CRRL itself. This investment in our game allows also for professional staff and administration to assist the clubs and makes the league one of the strongest in the regions.



Thank you to all the General Managers for their commitment.

From a staff perspective the year was enormously challenging and one of great change.

In March our long serving and talented Junior Competitions administrator Deb Ford, who had been managing the competition remotely decided after 8 years to move to a new challenge. I want to place on the record the outstanding job Deb did in growing and moulding the junior competition into an efficient, well-run operation and developing a close association with the clubs. It is pleasing that Deb's new role is with the NRL and she is still contributing to the rugby league family.

Rosie Harrison had made a huge impression in the media and communications space and built on the work of Jon Kroiter. Rosie was dedicated to match days and delivered an outstanding media section and also brought BAR TV into the mix with our recording of matches, highlights and especially organising and engaging commentators. Rosie herself led the way with female commentary and post-match interviews. Rosie's work was of such a high standard she moved across to the Raiders section and we welcomed Finn Williamson who moved into the role just before the season started and has shown his writing and organising talents as well as commentary skills.

Jen Pilosio had been our accreditations manager and also took the inclusion role and really developed the Wheelchair rugby league space from the beginning. Jen was always a ball of energy and enthusiasm and had great creative skills which certainly improved the CRRL's presentations. Jen moved into Deb Ford's role but in May had an opportunity arise within the public service and moved on. With that we welcomed Stacey Studholme to take on the role of the Juniors' Competition Manager and Anthony McQueen assumed the role of Accreditations and Inclusion officer.

To Deb Charman, a huge vote of thanks. For a large part of the season, Deb oversaw both the junior and senior competitions and simply did an outstanding job in these roles. Her dedication to implementing the new Player Points System and ensuring that both competitions ran smoothly was a huge effort and I cannot thank Deb enough for her contribution.



At the 2022 CBR Sports Awards, CRRL Chairman Gary Green received the Services to Sport Award for his long career here in Canberra.

Gary was recognised for his participation and commitment to playing, refereeing, his long career on the judiciary, and more recently administration in being chairman of the CRRL.

Congratulations to Gary on being recognised for his outstanding contribution to rugby league with this prestigious award.

The season had its challenges and there is still more work to do in the Indigenous space, participation and infrastructure as well as ensuring club alignment and understanding the new demographics of Canberra and the region and those challenges.

I look forward to the future with confidence that rugby league in the bush is actually strong and an attractive game for all with the right culture and positive outlook.

Mark Vergano OAM

General Manager



JUNIOR COMPETITION STATISTICS

Total number of clubs: 16

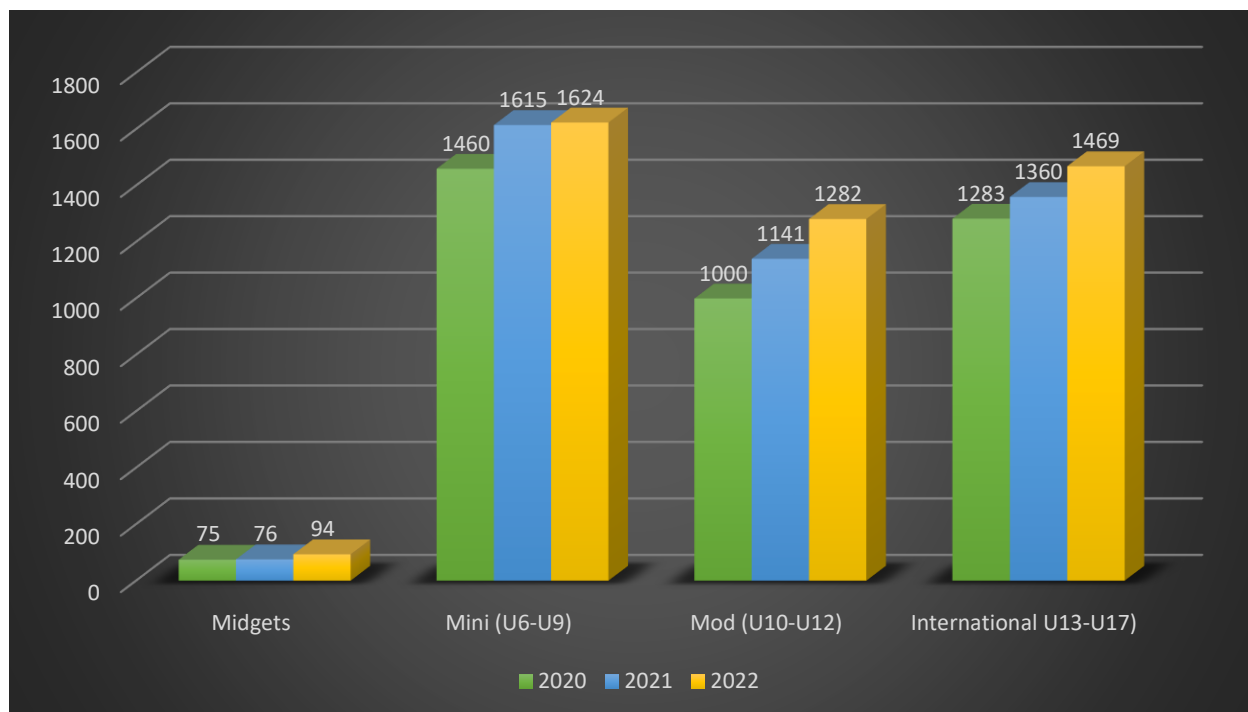
Total Number of teams: 305

Total Number of players: 4469

Competitions	2020 Teams	2020 Players	2021 Teams	2021 Players	2022 Teams	2022 Players
Midgets	-	75	-	76	-	92
Mini (U6-U9) *	131	1460	141	1615	146	1624
Mod (U10-U12) **	61	1000	79	1141	83	1282
International U13-U17)**	69	1283	73	1360	76	1469
Totals	261*	3818	293*	4192	305	4469

* Numbers include Goulburn Mini Competition, which was administered by The Canberra Region Rugby League, and run by the Goulburn Junior MRLFC. Please note that this does not include Midgets but does include 5-Year-olds)

** Numbers include U15 and U17 Girls teams as well as U12 and U14-16 League Tag.



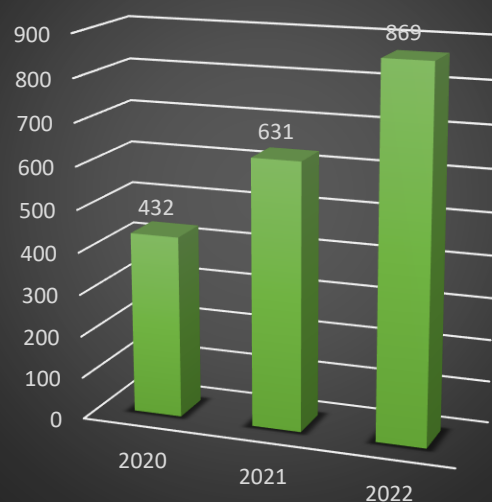


Competition Breakdown by Age Group	2020 Teams	2020 Players	2021 Teams	2021 Players	2022 Teams	2022 Players
Midgets	-	75		76	-	92
Under 5	-	146		188	-	170
Under 6	32	292	36	266	37	295
Under 7	34	305	38	379	37	336
Under 8	33	360	33	369	38	419
Under 9	30	357	34	413	34	398
Under 10	20	345	27	402	28	432
Under 11	26	332	23	350	24	418
Under 12 League Tag	N/A	N/A	10	125	11	137
Under 12	18	323	19	389	20	358
Under 13	15	380	15	319	12	294
Under 14	12	274	17	381	11	284
Under 14-16 League Tag	4	73	5	80	11	171
Under 15	8	270	9	271	14	331
Under 16	8	189	9	232	7	225
Under 17	6	29	7	118	6	172

Female Participation in both Tackle and League Tag

Competition Breakdown by Age Group	2020	2021	2022
Midgets	10	17	12
Under 5	14	21	25
Under 6	18	12	23
Under 7	19	25	23
Under 8	38	18	31
Under 9	19	53	30
Under 10	15	50	73
Under 11	17	66	72
Under 12	19	60	92
Under 13	75	42	121
Under 14	62	85	110
Under 15	64	74	124
Under 16	30	66	82
Under 17	32	42	51
Total	432	631	869

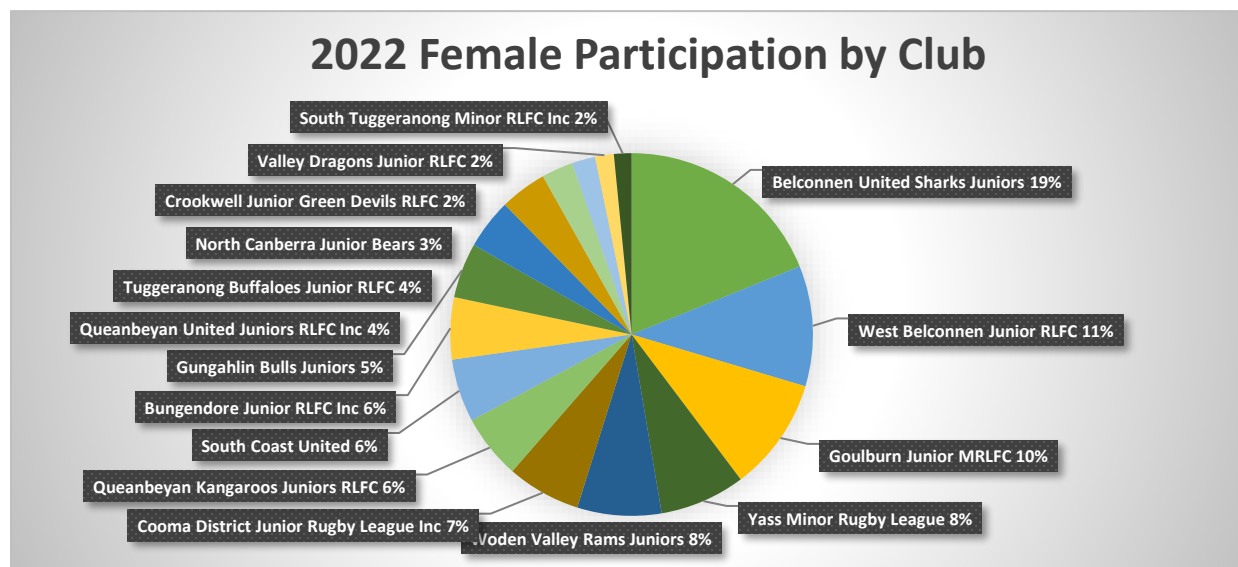
Female Participation Numbers





2022 Female participation breakdown by club.

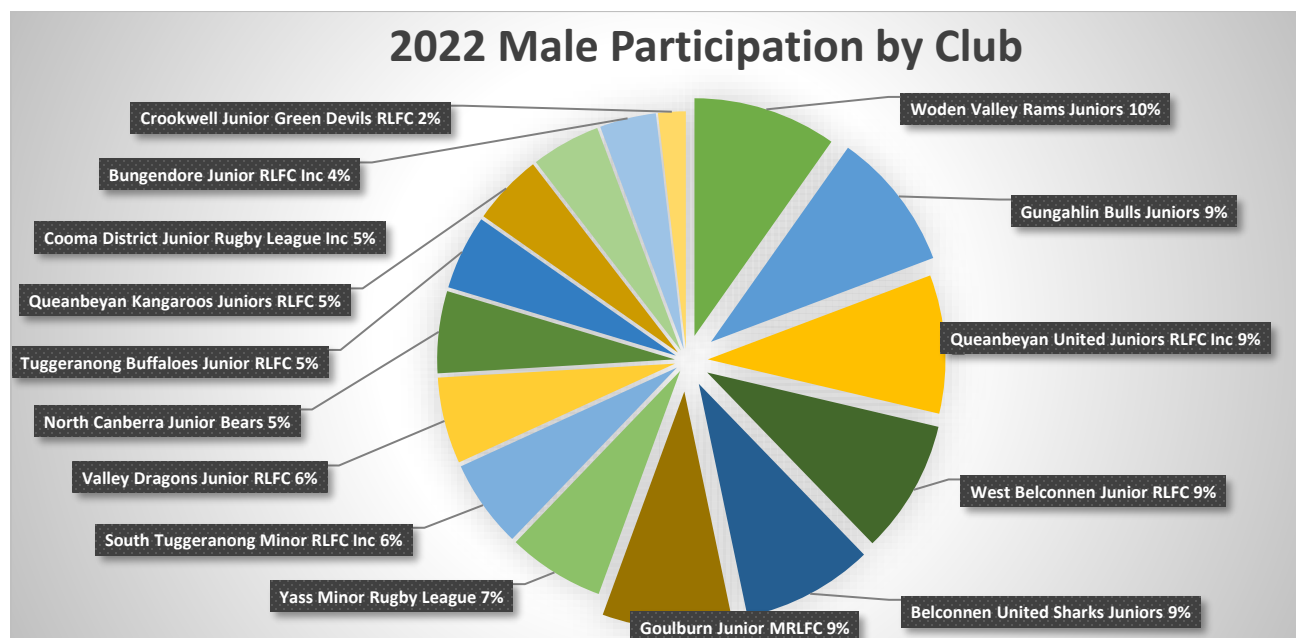
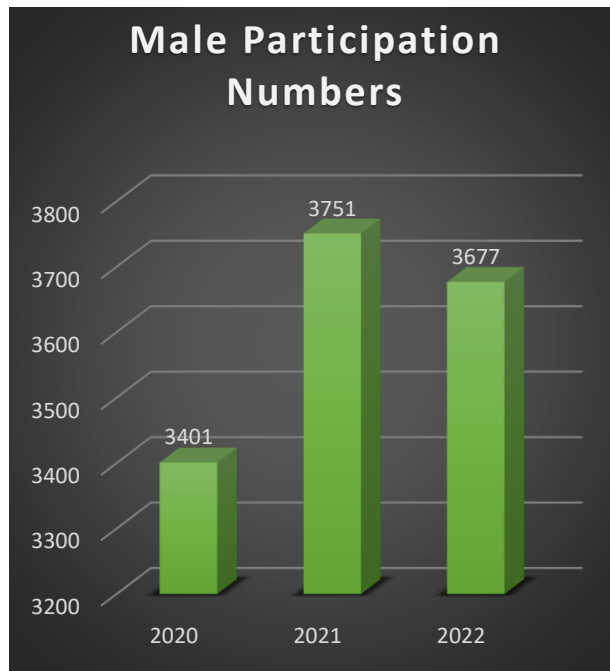
Club	Participation
Belconnen United Sharks Juniors	181
West Belconnen Junior RLFC	103
Goulburn Junior MRLFC	97
Yass Minor Rugby League	73
Woden Valley Rams Juniors	72
Cooma District Junior Rugby League Inc	63
Queanbeyan Kangaroos Juniors RLFC	55
South Coast United	54
Bungendore Junior RLFC Inc	53
Gungahlin Bulls Juniors	47
Queanbeyan United Juniors RLFC Inc	43
Tuggeranong Buffaloes Junior RLFC	40
North Canberra Junior Bears	27
Crookwell Junior Green Devils RLFC	20
Valley Dragons Junior RLFC	16
South Tuggeranong Minor RLFC Inc	15





2022 Male participation breakdown by club.

Competition Breakdown by Age Group	2020	2021	2022
Midgets	62	62	80
Under 5	135	173	145
Under 6	277	257	272
Under 7	283	356	313
Under 8	322	358	388
Under 9	339	370	369
Under 10	332	382	359
Under 11	314	334	360
Under 12	301	340	328
Under 13	305	290	252
Under 14	217	312	227
Under 15	216	203	250
Under 16	164	183	178
Under 17	134	131	156
Total	3401	3751	3677



**CRRL 2022 SEASON JUNIOR MINOR PREMIERS**

COMPETITION	WINNING TEAM/S
Under 10 Div 1	West Belconnen Blue
Under 10 Div 2	Goulburn Stockmen Blue
Under 10 Div 3	Crookwell
Under 11 Div 1	Goulburn Stockmen
Under 11 Div 2	Yass Magpies White
Under 11 Div 3 – Joint Premiers	Queanbeyan Kangaroos Bungendore Tigers
Under 12 Div 1	Woden Valley Rams Gold
Under 12 Div 2	Queanbeyan United Blue
Under 12 Div 3	Cooma Colts
Under 12 League Tag	Gungahlin Bulls Red
Under 13 Div 1	Queanbeyan United Blue
Under 13 Div 2	Yass Magpies
Under 14 Div 1	Belconnen Sharks Black
Under 14 Div 2	West Belconnen Blue
Under 14-16 League Tag	Yass Magpies
Under 15 Div 1	Goulburn Stockmen
Under 15 Div 2	South Tuggeranong
Under 15 Girls	Belconnen Sharks Black
Under 16	Queanbeyan United
Under 17	Woden Valley Rams
Under 17 Girls	Woden Valley Rams



MCINTYRE MEDAL AWARDS 2022

Queanbeyan Blues captain-coach Terry Campese was presented the 2022 Les McIntyre Medal Best & Fairest award at what was our first face-to-face senior presentation evening in over two years.

Campese polled 24 votes for the McIntyre Medal, voted on a 3-2-1 basis by the on-field referee of each Canberra Raiders Cup first grade match.

Campese had a fantastic season as captain-coach of the Queanbeyan Blues, winning the medal for the first time in his career which happens to also be his final season before retirement.

The crafty five-eighth led the competition in total points scored, crossing for nine tries and converting 68 goals to rack up 154 points on the season.

The former Raider finished three points clear of Robert Roberts of West Belconnen, further edging Darby Medlyn of Tuggeranong and Ron Leapai of Goulburn.



Pictured L to R: John McIntyre & Terry Campese



Pictured L to R: Payge-Louise Condon & Maree Bush

The Maree Bush Best & Fairest Medal for the Blumers Lawyers Katrina Fanning Shield competition was awarded to Payge-Louise Condon of the Queanbeyan Blues for the second consecutive season. Payge was dominant yet again this year, polling 21 votes and leading her side to a preliminary final (pictured left).

The Leedon Shield Reserve Grade Best & Fairest was awarded to Blake Morschel of the Gungahlin Bulls.

Sean Ward of the Crookwell Green Devils was awarded the David Sharpe Under 19's Best & Fairest Medal.

The Canberra Raiders Cup League Tag Best & Fairest Medal was awarded to Sarah Carter of the West Belconnen Warriors.



Pictured: Sarah Carter



Pictured: Kurt Johnstone

The Gavin Miller George Tooke Shield Best & Fairest Medal was awarded to Kurt Johnstone of the UC Stars.

The George Tooke Shield League Tag Best & Fairest Medal was awarded to Emma James of the Harden Hawkettes.

Andrew Nightingale was awarded the famous Noel Bissett Trophy for outstanding referee.

North Canberra Bears junior Harley Smith-Shields and Queanbeyan Blues junior Zac Woolford were joint-recipients of the Don Elphick Medal for the Raiders Rookie of the Year, having graduated from CRRL to the NRL (pictured below).



Pictured L to R: Debra Aislabie and Andrew Nightingale



Pictured L to R: Zac Woolford & Harley Smith-Shields



FULL LIST OF AWARD WINNERS

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP FIRST GRADE

TOP TRY SCORER	Mathew Parsons - 20 Tries	QUEANBEYAN BLUES
TOP POINTS SCORER	Terry Campese - 154 Points	QUEANBEYAN BLUES
DON FURNER SNR SHIELD (COACH OF THE YEAR)	Billy Thomson	WODEN VALLEY RAMS
LES MCINTYRE MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST)	Terry Campese - 24 Votes	QUEANBEYAN BLUES

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP RESERVE GRADE

TOP TRY SCORER	Clyde Parsons - 21 Tries	QUEANBEYAN BLUES
TOP POINTS SCORER	Blake Morschel - 154 Points	GUNGAHLIN BULLS
LEEDON SHIELD (BEST & FAIREST)	Blake Morschel - 30 Votes	GUNGAHLIN BULLS

BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD

TOP TRY SCORER	Klaudia Osztrenkovics - 15 Tries	QUEANBEYAN BLUES
TOP POINTS SCORER	Payge-Louise Condon - 138 Points	QUEANBEYAN BLUES
GRAHAM WILLARD SHIELD (COACH OF THE YEAR)	Brendon Housden	YASS MAGPIES
MAREE BUSH MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST)	Payge-Louise Condon - 21 Votes	QUEANBEYAN BLUES


BLUMERS LAWYERS UNDER 19'S

TOP TRY SCORER	Jordan Valter - 14 Tries	BELCONNEN UNITED SHARKS
TOP POINTS SCORER	Samuel Gash - 104 Points	WODEN VALLEY RAMS
DAVID SHARPE MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST)	Sean Ward - 12 Votes	CROOKWELL GREEN DEVILS

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP LADIES LEAGUE TAG

TOP TRY SCORER	Tijana Zdravevska - 18 Tries	GUNGAHLIN BULLS
TOP POINTS SCORER	Sarah Carter - 104 Points	WEST BELCONNEN WARRIORS
COACH OF THE YEAR	Bryce Lloyd	WODEN VALLEY RAMS
BEST & FAIREST MEDAL	Sarah Carter - 26 Votes	WEST BELCONNEN WARRIORS

BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S

TOP TRY SCORER	Daniel Jacobs - 16 Tries	BUNGENDORE TIGERS
TOP POINTS SCORER	Adam Booth - 98 Points	UC STARS
COACH OF THE YEAR	Jack Bramley	BUNGENDORE TIGERS
GAVIN MILLER MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST)	Kurt Johnstone - 22 Votes	UC STARS

BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LADIES LEAGUE TAG

TOP TRY SCORER	Georgia Smith - 39 Tries	HARDEN HAWKETTES
TOP POINTS SCORER	Emma James - 180 Points	HARDEN HAWKETTES
COACH OF THE YEAR	Hayley Kemp	NORTH CANBERRA BEARS
GAVIN MILLER MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST)	Emma James - 22 Votes	HARDEN HAWKETTES

* These awards are based off regular season statistics.



NAMING OF AWARDS

Les McIntyre Medal – The Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade Best and Fairest Award is named after Les McIntyre who was the founding father of the Canberra Raiders. McIntyre was awarded life membership at the Canberra Raiders, Country Rugby League and New South Wales Rugby League.

Don Furner Snr Shield – The Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade Coach of the Year award is named after former Australian representative Don Furner Senior. During his playing years, Furner also represented Queensland before enjoying a successful coaching career. Furner coached Australia, the Queanbeyan Blues and was also the inaugural coach of the Canberra Raiders.

Leedon Shield – The Canberra Raiders Cup Reserve Grade Best and Fairest Award is named after Lee Donnelly who helped pave the way for the Raiders' entry to the NSWRL competition in 1982. He was heavily involved with the Woden Valley Rams and was also awarded life membership of the old Group 19 competition.



David Sharpe Award – The Canberra Raiders Cup Under 19's Best and Fairest Award is named after David Sharpe. Sharpe was involved in rugby league in the Canberra Region as a player for the Queanbeyan Blues before helping establish senior rugby league in Tuggeranong with the Valley Dragons and Tuggeranong Bushrangers. Sharpe coached both of these sides. He was well known for his role as football manager with the Canberra Raiders where he implemented education, development and welfare programs for the NRL.

Gavin Miller Shield – The George Tooke Shield Open Men's Best and Fairest Award is named after two-time Dally M Medalist Gavin Miller. Miller played for a number of clubs but is best remembered for his stint with Cronulla where he was named as a club immortal. Miller also played for Goulburn during the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Maree Bush Shield – The Katrina Fanning Shield Best and Fairest Award is named after influential administrator Maree Bush. Bush was a talented player who represented a number of clubs and helped establish new clubs in the women's competition.

Graham Willard Shield – The Katrina Fanning Shield Coach of the Year award is named after inaugural Jillaroo's coach Graham Willard. Willard won multiple premierships in women's rugby league in Canberra and enjoyed plenty of success at the Woden Valley Rams. Willard went on to coach the Jillaroos, the Australian Women's Rugby League Team, for their inaugural match in 1994.



Hewson/Stonham Shield – The Representative Player of the Year Award is named after Steve Hewson and Phil Stonham. Steve Hewson represented Monaro, NSW Country and NSW and was named Country Player of the Year in 1975. He is now involved in developing the overall strategy for NSW Wheelchair Rugby League, and in previous years has coached the Wheelaroos and NSW Wheelchair State of Origin teams. Phil Stonham enjoyed a long representative career with Monaro and was named Canberra Region as well as Country Player of the Year in 2004. Stonham played for the Queanbeyan Blues throughout the majority of his playing career.

Noel Bissett Trophy – The Outstanding Referee Award is named after former NSWRL referee and former CRRL Chairman, Noel Bissett. Bissett, who was awarded an Order of Australia in 2013, officiated in 275 Group 8 matches including 11 grand finals. Bissett is a life member of the Canberra Raiders and was also the president of the Canberra/Monaro – Men of League charity.

Don Elphick Medal – The award for Outstanding Rookie from the Canberra Region at the Canberra Raiders is named after Don Elphick. Elphick played an instrumental role in the formation of the Canberra Raiders and is a life member at the club.



SENIOR COMPETITIONS OVERVIEW

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP FIRST GRADE

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
West Belconnen Warriors	16	23	11	1	4	2	409	320	89
Woden Valley Rams	16	22	11	0	5	2	388	342	46
Tuggeranong Bushrangers	16	21	10	1	5	2	468	299	169
Queanbeyan Blues*	16	19	11	0	5	2	548	362	186
Belconnen United Sharks	16	16	8	0	8	2	420	467	-47
Queanbeyan Kangaroos	16	16	8	0	8	2	374	432	-58
Goulburn City Bulldogs	16	12	6	0	10	2	370	453	-83
Gungahlin Bulls	16	8	4	0	12	2	372	442	-70
Yass Magpies	16	4	2	0	14	2	264	496	-232

* Queanbeyan Blues were docked three competition points for the 2022 Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade season due to failure to comply with salary cap requirements.

The 2022 Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade season resulted in the West Belconnen Warriors being crowned both minor and major premiers. The premiers led from the very start, only dropping the one game to the Blues in the opening half of the season, including a draw with Tuggeranong.

Securing the minor premiership booked home ground advantage for their opening major semi-final against Woden, where the Warriors dominated for a 36-22 victory to book a spot in the Grand Final.

The Warriors would then face the Queanbeyan Blues in a showdown for the ages, where West Belconnen proved their premiership credentials, once again dominating to lift the cup after a 38-24 victory at Seiffert Oval.

West Belconnen co-captain coach, Ryan McQueen, was named man of the match in the Grand Final.



BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP RESERVE GRADE

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
Gungahlin Bulls	16	25	12	1	3	2	486	215	271
Queanbeyan Kangaroos	16	20	10	0	6	2	359	266	93
Yass Magpies	16	18	9	0	7	2	372	277	95
West Belconnen Warriors	16	18	9	0	7	2	318	286	32
Goulburn City Bulldogs	16	18	8	2	6	2	331	306	25
Queanbeyan Blues	16	16	8	2	6	2	440	262	178
Woden Valley Rams	16	16	7	2	7	2	390	298	92
Tuggeranong Bushrangers	16	11	5	1	10	2	290	442	-152
Belconnen United Sharks	16	0	0	0	16	2	132	766	-634

The Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup Reserve Grade competition was, as usual, one of the most entertaining competitions among all senior CRRL competitions for the 2022 season.

The Canberra Raiders Cup only being a top-four finals format meant it was a tight battle to secure a finals position. Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Woden all missing out by competition points and for/against proved how tight the competition was approaching the finish.

However, it was the minor premiers, Gungahlin Bulls, who were dominant all season, claiming the minor premiership by an astonishing five competition points. They would meet the second-placed Kangaroos in the major semi-final, to pip them by four-points to book a ticket to the Grand Final.

The Kangaroos were forced to do it the hard way, coming up against the third-placed Magpies in the preliminary final, where they came away victorious with a 23-10 win at Gungahlin Enclosed Oval.

The top two would meet again on the big stage in the Grand Final. In a see-sawing contest, the Kangaroos would upset the minor premiers 24-22 in an absolute thriller to lift the premiership for the first time since 2013.

Queanbeyan fullback Kaine Pagura was named man of the match after a brilliant performance, scoring two tries in the Grand Final.


BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
Yass Magpies	11	22	11	0	0	2	475	34	441
Woden Valley Rams	11	18	9	0	3	2	354	116	238
Goulburn City Bulldogs	11	18	9	0	2	2	274	114	160
Queanbeyan Blues	11	14	7	0	4	2	434	80	354
Tuggeranong Bushrangers	11	10	5	0	6	2	184	197	-13
South Coast United	11	10	5	0	6	2	154	173	-19
UC Stars	11	6	3	0	8	2	94	410	-316
Harden Worhawks	11	2	1	0	10	2	68	404	-336
Boomanulla Raiders	11	0	0	0	11	2	29	538	-509

The Blumers Lawyers Katrina Fanning Shield highlighted another season of talent within Canberra's premier women's tackle rugby league competition.

The 2022 season saw two new expansion teams join the competition in the Woden Valley Rams and South Coast United.

The Yass Magpies, by no surprise, continued their dominance in the KFS which was abruptly cut-short over the past two seasons due to covid, to be crowned both minor and major premiers in 2022.

The rise of talent in the KFS, along with the expansion of a nine-team competition, saw the finals series split into two divisions for the first time.

The top five played behind the Canberra Raiders Cup finals series while the bottom four played behind the George Tooke Shield finals series.

Yass faced first-year side Woden in the Katrina Fanning Shield grand final where the minor premiers dominated, winning 36-22 to finish the season undefeated.

Yass centre Tijana Zdravevska was awarded player of the match, scoring a hatrick in the Grand Final.

The Harden Worhawks would face the other first-year side in South Coast United, to lift the premiership after a tight 10-4 Grand Final win at Mick Sherd Oval.


BLUMERS LAWYERS UNDER 19's

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
Queanbeyan Blues	13	22	11	0	2	0	398	194	204
Goulburn City Bulldogs	13	18	9	0	4	0	306	141	165
Belconnen United Sharks	13	18	9	0	4	0	382	222	160
Gungahlin Bulls	13	18	9	0	4	0	285	168	117
Woden Valley Rams	13	14	7	0	6	0	344	232	112
Crookwell Green Devils	13	8	4	0	9	0	190	304	-114
Tuggeranong Bushrangers	13	6	3	0	10	0	198	280	-82
Cootamundra Bulldogs	13	0	0	0	13	0	86	648	-562

The Blumers Lawyers Under 19's competition has grown immensely in the 2022 season, picking up well-established George Tooke Shield clubs in Crookwell and Cootamundra.

In what was a huge stepping stone toward strengthening the under 19's competition and the transition from juniors to seniors, this competition showcased some great talent among both Canberra Raiders Cup and George Tooke clubs.

Like the Katrina Fanning Shield, the expansion of two new sides saw the finals series split in half, the top four behind the Canberra Raiders Cup finals series and the bottom four behind the George Tooke Shield finals series.

The Queanbeyan Blues were the dominant side all year, also being crowned both minor and major premiers for the 2022 season.

The Blues defeated a gallant Gungahlin side 18-16 in the Grand Final, with Blues front-rower Lester Davis picking up the man of the match medal.

The division two Grand Final saw the Woden Valley Rams face the Tuggeranong Bushrangers at Mick Sherd Oval, where the Rams came out on top 34-14, to claim the premiership.


BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP LADIES LEAGUE TAG

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
West Belconnen Warriors	14	25	12	1	1	4	350	64	286
Gungahlin Bulls	14	25	12	1	1	4	378	100	278
Woden Valley Rams	14	22	10	2	2	4	450	70	380
Belconnen United Sharks	14	14	7	0	7	4	214	110	104
Goulburn City Bulldogs	14	14	7	0	7	4	178	224	-46
Queanbeyan Blues	14	7	3	1	10	4	110	356	-246
Queanbeyan Kangaroos	14	3	1	1	12	4	56	418	-362
Tuggeranong Bushrangers	14	2	0	2	12	4	64	458	-394

The Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup Ladies League Tag competition remained another consistent competition with a great finish for the premiership.

The League Tag competition was yet again dominated by a strong West Belconnen outfit, which pipped competitors Gunaghlin for the minor premiership on for/against.

The Warriors secured a Grand Final spot after a tight 14-10 victory at home over Gunaghlin.

The Woden Valley Rams, who made the finals series for the first time in the competition's history, knocked off the Sharks and Bulls respectively to progress to the Grand Final as underdogs.

The Rams came back from a 4-nil deficit at halftime to upset the Warriors, running out 14-4 victors to lift the premiership.

Woden fullback Keesha Kapea was crowned player of the match after her incredible performance in the Grand Final.



BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LADIES LEAGUE TAG

Team	Played	% Won	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against
Harden Hawkettes	13	100	13	0	0	1	600	12
Boorowa Roverettes	13	76.92	10	0	3	1	302	118
North Canberra Bears	12	66.67	8	0	4	2	222	144
Bungendore Tigerettes	12	66.67	8	0	4	2	250	256
Cootamundra Bulldogs	12	58.33	7	0	5	2	288	198
Crookwell Green Devils	12	41.67	5	0	7	2	182	242
Binalong Brahmans	13	23.08	3	0	10	1	58	416
UC Stars	12	16.67	2	0	10	2	70	270
Gunning Rooettes	13	0	0	0	13	1	52	366

*This competition was administered as a percentage ladder due to uneven number of byes.

The George Tooke Shield Ladies League Tag competition showcased some incredible talent across the nine competing clubs.

The 2022 season saw the Harden Hawkettes finish the season undefeated, taking out both the minor and major premierships.

Boorowa, being the only club to come close to the undefeated premiers, were defeated 27-0 in week two of the finals series, granting Harden an early ticket to the Grand Final.

Harden would then re-face Boorowa at Mick Sherd Oval a fortnight later in the Grand Final.

The Hawkettes held a tight 6-2 lead at halftime before the floodgates eventually opened in the second half, where the defending champs went on to win 28-2 in a dominant performance.

Harden centre Georgia Smith was awarded player of the match for her try-double performance in the grand final.


BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S

Team	Played	% Won	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against
Bungendore Tigers	12	79.17	9	1	2	2	600	12
Crookwell Green Devils	12	75	9	0	3	2	302	118
Cootamundra Bulldogs	12	75	9	0	3	2	222	144
Harden Hawks	13	69.23	9	0	4	1	250	256
North Canberra Bears	13	57.69	7	1	5	1	288	198
Boorowa Rovers	12	50	6	0	6	2	182	242
UC Stars	13	38.46	5	0	8	1	58	416
Binalong Brahmans	12	8.33	1	0	11	2	70	270
Boomanulla Raiders	13	0	0	0	13	1	52	366

*This competition was administered as a percentage ladder due to uneven number of byes.

The Blumers Lawyers George Tooke Shield Open Men's competition was an entertaining season in 2022, where clubs valued getting back to normality after an interrupted 2020 and 2021 seasons.

In particular, the finals race was incredibly entertaining, with Bungendore just pipping Crookwell for the minor premiership, and North Canberra & Boorowa in the hunt for fifth position.

Harden eliminated North Canberra 14-10 in a thriller, while Crookwell took care of Cootamundra 18-4 to qualify for the Major Semi-Final against Bungendore.

The stakes are always high in the Major Semi-Final, with not only a Grand Final position on the line, but the winner also playing host to the George Tooke Grand Final.

Bungendore defeated Crookwell 14-13 in one of the games of the season while Cootamundra bounced-back to defeat Harden 12-11, incredibly both matches decided by one-point.

Crookwell would then re-face Bungendore in the George Tooke Grand Final at Mick Sherd Oval, where the Green Devils had a 14-10 comeback win to be crowned premiers for the first time since 2018.



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP

Team	Firsts X4	Res X3	KFS X3	U19s X2	LT X2	TOTAL
Belconnen United Sharks	64	0	n/a	36	28	128
Goulburn City Bulldogs	48	54	54	36	28	220
Gungahlin Bulls	32	75	n/a	36	50	193
Queanbeyan Blues	76	48	42	44	14	224
Queanbeyan Kangaroos	64	60	n/a	n/a	6	130
Tuggeranong Bushrangers	84	33	30	12	4	163
West Belconnen Warriors	92	54	n/a	n/a	50	196
Woden Valley Rams	88	48	54	28	44	262
Yass Magpies	16	54	66	n/a	n/a	136

Congratulations to the Woden Valley Rams RLFC for winning the 2022 Canberra Raiders Cup Club Championship award.

The Club Championships award clubs for their overall participation and success across all senior competitions.




BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD

Team	Mens X4	LT X3	KFS X3	U19s X2	Total
Bungendore Tigers	316.68	200.01	n/a	n/a	516.69
Crookwell Green Devils	300	125.01	n/a	50	475.01
Harden Hawks	276.92	300	30	n/a	606.92
Boorowa Rovers	200	230.76	n/a	n/a	430.76
Cootamundra Bulldogs	300	174.99	n/a	0	474.99
North Canberra Bears	230.76	200.01	n/a	n/a	430.77
UC Stars	153.84	50.01	60	n/a	263.85
Binalong Brahmans	33.32	69.24	n/a	n/a	102.56
Boomanulla Raiders	0	n/a	0	n/a	0

Congratulations to the Harden Hawks RLFC for winning the 2022 George Tooke Shield Club Championship award.

The Club Championships award clubs for their overall participation and success across all senior competitions.





COMMUNITY REPORT

The 2022 Canberra Region Rugby League season was highly anticipated by all members as it was the first season since 2019 to be run in full, with minimal disruptions, albeit the rain which had its effect on community events. Although, we would like to thank all clubs and volunteers for your patience and support throughout season 2022.

It was great to see so many of our clubs engage in all community events that were ran throughout the year. It was fantastic to welcome all teams once again to GIO Stadium during the Round 21 match against the Penrith Panthers in front of a crowd of more than 16,000 people for the annual CRRL Relay Race, as well as forming the guard of honour at halftime. A massive thanks to the 20 teams that participated in this event, the race was well received and provided a great opportunity to all participants.

This season saw the CRRL incorporate both of our Inclusion programs into the community. We regularly hosted Wheelchair activations at GIO stadium before a Canberra Raiders home game, as well as showcasing the very best that our Score Raiders had to offer in games at both GIO stadium and various grounds throughout the region. The Score Raiders welcomed everyone to their end of season presentation on Saturday 19th November, which was well received and was attended by Albert Hopoate and Corey Harawira-Neara. We look to exposing these programs to the community further in 2023.

It was important to ensure that community engagement remained strong throughout the year, and this was evident by the 15 Junior club visits that took place in 2022. This is the part that the players enjoy most when asked about giving back to the community. We once again thank all junior clubs for assisting to facilitate these visits and look forward to being involved in it again in 2023.

Congratulations to all teams who engaged with the themed rounds this year, including Indigenous Round, NAIDOC week, Women in League round, and the Men of League Foundation crazy socks round. It is fantastic to see the clubs and committees really getting around these causes and driving these initiatives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Raiders Group for their continued support and commitment to develop rugby league in our region and ensuring that rugby league remains a strong, viable and sustainable sport. As we look ahead to next season, CRRL will strive to continue to engage with our rugby league community and provide more opportunities to learn, improve and grow our inclusive game.

Anthony McQueen

CRRL Competition and Accreditation Assistant



ACCREDITATION REPORT

The 2022 season was an exciting year to be a part of after finally getting back to some normality. After two consecutive incomplete seasons, we were able to deliver a full season across both the junior and senior competitions.



The accreditation space faced some significant challenges throughout the 2022 season. In particular, the key staff changeover meant that communication and support that clubs have come to know and expect experienced a slight break down in stages. But with a new team, we have a renewed energy for assisting our clubs and their officials. There was a full program of sports trainer,

CPR refresher and coaching courses which saw the largest number of officials qualified to date.

Officials	2022
Coaches	500
Trainers / FAO	357
League Safes	583

This year also saw the implementation of the Tackle Ready Program which was facilitated by our NRL Game Development Officers, Shane Read and Taylor Giggins. This program is an integral part of our Player Development Framework. Its sole aim is to teach proper tackle technique from the beginning and to increase the players confidence.



The players in the U6 division played the first 6 rounds of our year as League Tag. The implementation across all the clubs had varying results.

We will be spending more time with the clubs in preparation for 2023, so every coach feels confident in implementing the Tackle Ready Program and each player starts their rugby league journey in the best way possible.

The reduction of NSWRL COVID-19 restrictions meant that the return to play felt more normal than it had in the past two years. CRRL wishes to thank all the senior and junior clubs for complying with the restrictions concerning players not sharing water bottles and specific water breaks, etc.



This season began with a new way to record all injuries and incidents. Operoo is now retired with an addition to MySideline. This ensured that anyone with manager access can complete incident reports via their mobile smart device. There were a few teething issues as can be expected from a new system, but overall the feedback was positive. The main common theme was families preferred to only enter their players information once, in one system, as opposed to the two separate systems.

The second year of the implementation of the concussion protocols went as well as could be. There were updated protocols which were more concise and efficient for trainers when conducting concussions tests. This coming season, there will be more communication between trainers across clubs to build their confidence and skills.



Overall, the 2022 season reassured everyone that we are heading back to our new state of normal. Our new team has found our stride, and we are all excited for the 2023 season. We are in continual conversations with our NRL Game Development Officers to ensure the 2023 Courses are as accessible and we will be reaching out to ensure that clubs are encouraging their officials to engage in these courses.

Anthony McQueen

CRRL Competition and Accreditation Assistant



INCLUSION PROGRAMS REPORT

2022 was another important year for the continued development of our two Inclusion Programs. The Rolling Raiders Wheelchair Rugby League (formerly Canberra Region Wheelchair Rugby League) program continued to grow and there has been a noticeable elevation in the skill and progression of all players involved and the Score Raiders were able to complete another full season against a mix of the Under 14 & 15 Boys teams which culminated in a grand final win, which was run in-line with the junior semi-finals held at Phillip Oval.

This year we were fortunate enough to run two Wheelchair Rugby League seasons, an Autumn season (April – July) and a Spring season (August – December). This year the program focused on skill development and understanding of the rules of the game due to their being an increase of new players. Each session began with warmups, then skill building and was ended with a game, where teams were changed regularly. This ensured there was a positive, fun and engaging environment during each session.

We are proud of all the participants as their skill levels and confidence increased over the course of the season. We will continue developing ways to increase local participation, with hope of launching a brand new four team competition starting in 2023.



Outside of our regular weekly program, there were strong developments in other aspects of the sport within the region. We began running school programs where we introduced a wide range of students to a new sport, as well as continued our ever-growing relationship with Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT. We were lucky enough to be included in several Wheelies holiday camps in 2022.

We also expanded our reach throughout NSW, and introduced Wheelchair Rugby League to Bathurst and Griffith, with the hopes of reconnecting Wagga Wagga and Albury in 2023. Our aim is that these regional hubs can continue to grow, and we can establish a self-sustaining competition which will grow into a state competition across NSW/ACT.

There were several representative players to come out of the Rolling Raiders in 2022. Amanda Carlyon, Bradley Burns, Luke Patterson, Michael Grech, Toby Popple, and Zac Carl were selected in the Country development team, who defeated the City development team 24-6. Brad Burns was awarded the Rising Star Award and Amanda Carlyon was awarded the Coaches award in this game.



Chris O'Brien, Toby Popple, and Zac Carl also represented the NSW Country team who were unfortunately defeated by NSW City 30-26. Kale Popple was appointed as a match official for this game. Both games were played in May at the Niagara Park Stadium, Central Coast. From this game Chris, Toby, and Zac were invited to the NSW Development camp where Chris and Toby were selected to represent NSW in the 2022 Wheelchair State of Origin game in July, with Zac named as a reserve player. We look forward to seeing more progression in 2023, with some of these players progressing into the Wheelaroos.

In 2022, Rolling Raiders Wheelchair Rugby League partnered with Invictus Australia for a number of events to help promote the sport to the veteran community. We were welcomed alongside other sporting organisations by our continued commitment to veteran support. We were also welcomed along to the Defence Community come and try event in November, where we showcased Wheelchair Rugby League to over 400 people. We look forward to engaging with Invictus further to capitalise on the veteran and defence community in the ACT.



The Canberra Region Rugby League are proud to continue their partnership with The Disability Trust in 2022. The Score Raiders program continued to boom and now includes more than 30 regular players. They were fortunate enough to once again be included in the Under 14 & Under 15's competition and showcased their continual improvement of skills and competitiveness each week. We thank all the teams for their participation and support of the program.



The integration of the Score Raiders into this competition is beneficial for the young men as they learn crucial skills and experience of working and playing with people living with a disability. The Score Raiders program benefit from the opportunity to continue learning the basic fundamentals of the game. These skills culminated in a Grand Final victory for the Score Raiders, which was played on junior semi-final day, which was well received by all involved.

A massive thank you to the Yass Magpies U15 for supporting this program on the day and playing the Score Raiders at GIO Stadium earlier in the season.



The Score Raiders amazing season culminated with the announcement that they won the Minister's Award for Inclusion at the 2022 CBR Sport Awards.

The CRRL would like to thank everyone who supported both Inclusion Programs in 2022. Without your time, support, and commitment, we wouldn't be able to continue to grow these amazing programs. We've hit various milestones in both programs in 2022 and are looking forward to continuing the growth of both programs in the local community, veteran community and schools in Canberra and the surrounding region in 2023.

Anthony McQueen

CRRL Competition and Accreditation Assistant



GAME DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Firstly, we would like to thank all the clubs, schools, and volunteers for their continued support of our programs throughout 2022. We appreciate all the hard work that you do and there would not be a game without your dedication.

NRL Canberra are proud to have Taylor Giggins on board in the Game Development Role for the Canberra Region. Taylor has proved to be a wonderful addition to the team and will be a tremendous asset to Canberra Region Rugby League.

2022 has once again been a challenging year for everyone. After a very tough beginning to the year with many ACT schools still under COVID restrictions for the first semester, meant we unfortunately had to cancel a lot of programs and events at the beginning of the year. This included some League Stars programs, sporting schools sessions, and primary and secondary school gala days.

Semester 2 however proved much better with NRL Canberra conducting its first, brand-new Club Connect program funded by the Australian Sports Commission as well as a record amount of sporting schools' programs for term four.

Our NRL Southwest NSW Development team have once again conducted many events, competitions and education courses as Government protocols would allow. This included some new initiatives to ensure that players, coaches, referees, sports trainers, and volunteers are assisted in participating in Community Rugby League.

The delivery of our flagship program League Stars had 60 participants in 2022 across 4 programs. Thank you to the schools, clubs, teachers, and volunteers who have helped promote and run League Stars and we look forward to working with you in 2022 to continue to provide opportunities for new and existing participants within our game.

We would also like to thank Jason Mathie and all the staff at the Canberra Raiders for their ongoing support. We are very fortunate to work in partnership with an NRL club and the fantastic support they provide for our region is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Canberra Region Rugby League's Mark Vergano, Deb Charman, Stacey Studholme, Anthony McQueen, Finn Williamson and Taylah Kelly, as well as all our junior rugby league clubs and committees, our event and programs could not go ahead without your ongoing support and guidance.



Finally, a big thank you goes to our NRL Game Development Officers who help support our region; this includes Andrew Lavaka, Ua Ravu, Courtney Barratt, Emma James and Zac Masters as well as our manager James Smart and our Assistant Development Officers. Our GDO team work extremely hard to try and

improve Rugby League in the region and their passion and dedication to the game is second to none.

The following is our 2022 information from a variety of NRL initiatives delivered across the Canberra region, which will include:

- School Programs and Event Participation
- Education Courses and Training
- Junior League Retention
- League Stars
- Female Participation

These provide you with a snapshot of the depth of work that goes into the year by our team. If you would like any further detailed information, please contact our local Game Development Officers.

Once again thank you for a great 2022. Enjoy the break and we look forward to working with you in 2023.

Shane Read & Taylor Giggins

NRL Game Development, Canberra.



League Stars

- A total of 8 League Stars programs were offered throughout 2022, with 4 programs being cancelled due to low registrations and 4 with 60 registered participants.
- A new initiative called Club Connect was introduced as a pilot program in Term 4. 2 schools, Charles Conder with 40 participants and Caroline Chisholm Schools with 60, were approved for funding to run this program.

School Competitions

Primary School

In 2022 we were able to conduct the majority of our Primary School gala day events, which we were unable to do in 2021. These include:

- Legends Shield South Canberra (11 teams)
- Gilbert/Croker Legends Shield (20 teams),
- Sullivan Shield North (13 teams) and South Canberra (12 teams)
- Raiders Tag Canberra (41 teams)
- NSWPSA Classic Shield in Bruce (5 teams) with North Goulburn Public School progressing to state finals.

High School

In 2022 we were able to conduct almost all our High School and College gala day events. These included: University Shield in Goulburn (Cancelled due to Covid restrictions), College Female League Tag (8 teams), Alan Tongue Cup 9's Male (17 teams) and Female (14 teams), College 9's (7 teams), John Allen Cup (3 teams), High School League Tag (9 teams), Buckley Shield (4 teams), The Rauter Shield (11 teams) and Bradley Clyde Shield (14 teams).

*Our new initiative of NRL Raiders Tag for secondary schools in Lyneham and Phillip were unable to go ahead due to the Covid and weather restrictions.

NRL Game Development Canberra also supports NRL staff on the Far South Coast and Riverina areas to conduct gala day events and school / community programs.

Results:

- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Under 16's Male – Melrose High School



- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Under 14's Male - St Mary MacKillop College, Canberra
- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Under 18's Female - Erindale College, Canberra
- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Under 16's - Mulwaree High School, Goulburn
- College 9's Under 18's Male - Lake Ginninderra College, Canberra
- College League Tag Under 18's Female - Erindale College, Canberra
- John Allen Cup Under 18's Male - Gungahlin College, Canberra
- High School League Tag Under 16's Female - Erindale College, Canberra
- High School League Tag Under 14's Female - St Clare's College, Canberra
- Bradley Clyde Shield Under 16's Male - Erindale College, Canberra
- The Rauter Shield Under 14's Male - St Francis Xavier College, Canberra

School Programs

- Canberra Raiders Community Blitz was unable to be delivered due to COVID 19 restrictions placed on ACT schools in semester 1, 2022.
- League Stars Inspire workshops were conducted across multiple schools in the Canberra Region.
- 9 Sporting Schools Programs where 1123 school students participated in a Rugby League program across Primary School and High School.
- League Stars Introduction clinics were run within schools to promote a League Stars program in their area.
- Tackle Safe programs were delivered across Primary Schools in ACT & NSW to assist in preparation for gala day attendance.

Education

In 2021 our Coach Education structure underwent a remodel to make the content more user friendly and specific to each age group. This saw the old Modified Games Coach (MGC) and International Games Coach (IGC) titles removed and replaced with Community Coach 6-12 and Community Coach 13+. Coaches would complete online modules which were specific to the age groups they are coach (e.g., 13-15, 16-18, etc.), then attend an NRL Education workshop to complete their accreditation.



In 2022 NRL Game Development conducted the following courses:

- 7 Community Coach 6-12 workshops
- 6 Community Coach 13-18 workshops
- 2 Teachers Coaching workshops – Cancelled due to Covid restrictions
- 6 League First Aid courses
- 6 Level 1 Sports Trainer courses
- 3 CPR Updates
- 3 Level 1 & Level 2 Re-Accreditations
- 3 x Tackle Ready Deliverer courses

NRL Game Development in collaboration with the Canberra Raiders would normally conduct two Coaching Seminars, one for coaches in the 6-12 age group and another for coaches in the 13+ age group. These workshops were cancelled due to APOLLO protocols placed on the NRL Squad.



REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL WRAP

NSW City v Country

NSW COUNTRY



Five Canberra Raiders Cup players were fortunate to be selected to represent NSW Country in the historic City v Country representative fixture in May, 2022.

This came after the announcement of Queanbeyan Blues captain coach Terry Campese, who was named head coach of the NSW Country side for 2022.

After the representative match was retired in 2017, as what was typically a selection tool for the NSW State of Origin side, the exhibition match returned to residency selection rules in 2021.

NSW Country defeated NSW City 36-34 in a see-sawing affair at Leichardt Oval.

Goulburn fullback Dillon Rota had an incredible performance in the famous victory, crossing for a hat-trick on the right-wing.

Selections:

Ron Leapai (Goulburn City Bulldogs), Darby Medlyn (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Brad Prior (Woden Valley Rams), Dillon Rota (Goulburn City Bulldogs), Zac Saddler (Tuggeranong Bushrangers)



Country Championships

MONARO COLTS OPEN MEN'S



The Monaro Colts Open Men's representative side reached week one of the finals in the 2022 Country Championships, going down 18-4 to Illawarra South Coast.

Monaro put on a nine-try clinic against the Western Rams in round one of the tournament, taking a comfortable 52-16 victory to open their campaign.

Monaro backed up the following week in their round two clash against Macarthur Wests Tigers, going one better to score ten tries in a 52-8 win ahead of the finals series.

The Colts would come up against the same side they defeated in the 2021 Country Championships Grand Final, this time the Illawarra side turning the tables, winning 18-4 to knock Monaro out of the competition.

Squad: Tristian Eldridge (Queanbeyan Blues), Cleve McGhie (Ryde), Willie Peace (West Belconnen), Tevita Aroha-Tuinauvai (Belconnen United), George Kepa-Morseu (Queanbeyan Blues), Tre Holten-Williams (Gungahlin), Blake Robinson (Group 16), Zac Saddler (Tuggeranong), Josh Mitchell (Queanbeyan Blues), Aiden Woods (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Josh Baker (Queanbeyan Blues), Ron Leapai (Goulburn), Darby Medlyn (Tuggeranong), Jordan Williams (Queanbeyan Blues), Jesse Dent (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Noa Vanisi (West Belconnen), Sonny Tupoula (Belconnen United), Liam Oakley (Tuggeranong), Romann Leota (Queanbeyan Blues), Atu Tupou (Queanbeyan Blues), Brad Prior (Woden)



MONARO COLTS OPEN WOMEN'S



The Monaro Colts Open Women's were eliminated from the Women's Country Championships after going 1-1 in the two-week competition.

The Colts began their campaign in style, putting together a solid 28-10 victory over the Western Rams at Pioneer Oval.

Monaro couldn't make it two from two, going down 16-8 to Macarthur Wests Tigers in the second week of the tournament.

Unfortunately, the Monaro side finished in fifth place, just missing out on a finals position by one spot which brought an end to their Country Championships campaign.

Squad: Shaenice Allan (Queanbeyan), Emily Banks (Yass), Lilly Bennet (Batemans Bay), Krystal Blackwell (Goulburn), Caitlin Fazey-Robinson (Tuggeranong), Taylah Frost (Yass), Jessica Grant (Yass), Kimberley Grant (Queanbeyan), Sydney Harrison (Yass), Elly Hazelton (Goulburn), Jess Howard (Yass), Olivia Howe (Goulburn), Ahlivia Ingram (Tuggeranong), Kiara Kennedy (UC Stars), Hayley Martin (Woden), Hollie Massey (Yass Magpies), Irene McCarthur (Woden), Nirvana Ngan-Woo (Tuggeranong), Klaudia Osztrenkovic (Queanbeyan), Jacqueline Pele (Yass Magpie), Paige Penning (Goulburn), Zoe Podmore (Tuggeranong), Livina Samoa (Tuggeranong), Lealofi Sauluma (Tuggeranong), Maddy Tooth (Goulburn), Milika Tuinakauvadra (Yass Magpies), Tabua Tuinakauvadra (Glebe), Ivy Tupai (Tuggeranong), Jacinta Williams (Queanbeyan), Eilish Winbank (Yass)



Monaro Junior Representatives

ANDREW JOHNS CUP (UNDER 16s)



The Monaro Colts SLE Andrew Johns Cup representative side had a sound tournament, winning two games, losing two games and drawing once in the five-week competition.

The Colts best victory came in round four against the Western Rams. The Colts trailed 16-6 at halftime, to then put on a second half clinic toward a big 40-16 victory.

Unfortunately, the side didn't qualify for finals after missing out by a single competition point.

The Under 16's side built a great platform for developing players for the future, as the playing group transition through to the Laurie Daley Cup towards the Open Men's grade.

Squad: Mitchell Brophy, Siosuia Fualalo, Brock Apolevski, Archie Duncombe, Cohen Stonham, Dylan Watkins, Toby Ferris, Lucas McPherson, Darnell Nye, Joseph Elton, Boyd McCallum, Harry Hudson, Brady Smith, Hayden Collings, Ryan Blowes, Lachlan Cunanan, Jesse Milin, Nate Woods, Josef Medina, Zac Warner, Alex Hardy, Sam Chapman



LAURIE DALEY CUP (UNDER 18s)



The Monaro Colts SLE Laurie Daley Cup representative side had a disappointing campaign in the 2022 competition, only winning the one match from five.

Monaro's win came in week one of the tournament, pipping the Riverina Bills 26-24 at McLean Oval, Harden.

Belconnen United representative Regan Carr crossed for a hatrick in the contest, including a try double from Queanbeyan Blues product, Jack Anderson.

The Colts unfortunately went down in their remaining four games against the NMR Knights, Ill SC Dragons, Western Rams and Macarthur Wests Tigers.

Majority of this group of players will transition into senior grades in the coming year, benefiting from this great opportunity to represent Monaro at the under 18's level.

Squad: Ben McSpadden, Cole Taylor, Darcey Bush, George Wood, Gus Young, Hayden Whitton, Hunter Marsh, Jack Anderson, Jesse Eljuga, Jordan Eti, Jye Smith, Kai Holt, Lane Davis, Max Miller, Regan Carr, Riley Shaw, Brodie Schumacker, Thomas Campagna, Jacob Haeata, Jack Mills, Noah Mills, Sean Ward, William O'Malley, Jack Craig



CANBERRA RAIDERS JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES

HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP UNDER 17s



The Canberra Raiders Harold Matthews Cup side had a fantastic season in the under 17's competition, progressing through to the preliminary final to go down to the Western Suburbs Magpies.

The Raiders got off to a shaky start, winning one of their opening three games in the competition.

However, the side finished strongly, winning three of their last four to scrape into the finals series.

The Raiders held off a gallant Penrith Panthers outfit, winning 24-18 in week one of the finals, credit to Woden Valley junior Sam Gash who was perfect with the boot.

The Raiders had to back up against the only undefeated side in the competition, Western Suburbs Magpies in week two of the finals.

In a see-sawing contest, the Raiders went down 20-16 in the major semi-final which brought an end to their campaign.

Squad: Alex Hardy, Archie Duncombe, Ashton Flint, Blake Watman, Byron Cahill, Callum Rossiter, Chris Feeney, Cody Wood, Cohen Benson, Cooper Adams, Cooper Johnston, Daniel Moananu, Gene Wighton, Hardy Glover, Harry Hudson, Billy Hollands, Harvey Gay, Jack Walsh, Jacob Ma'u-Pohiva, James Croker, Jesse Milin, Joey Charles, Jonah Anderson, Josef Medina, Josh Klobucar, Kapene Karaitiana, Kobe Field, Koby Anderson, Kyson Freer, Lachlan Cunanan, Lucas Mcpherson, Malachi Tomlinson, Matthew Cox, Mitchell Brophy, Patrick Dawson, Ryan Blowes, Sam Chapman, Sam Griffin, Sam Patmore, Thomas Handsaker, Tye Neason, Xanda Georgevski, Yuri Hromow, Zac Brooker, Zildjian Tafili

**SG BALL CUP UNDER 19s**

The Canberra Raiders SG Ball Cup representative side had an up and down 2022 campaign, winning three matches, losing four matches, and drawing once to finish ninth in the competition.

The SG Ball side recorded strong victories over the Illawarra Dragons, Victoria Thunderbolts and Parramatta Eels.

Incredibly, a number of SG Ball representatives received a taste of playing at a higher level this year, receiving their Jersey Flegg Cup (under 21's) debut for the club.

Squad: Abraham Tyli, Andrew Macfarlane, Bailey Miller, Ben Faoa, Blake Metcalfe, Blake Ruaporo, Blayne Linsell, Brock Sing, Chevy Stewart, Clay Sing, David White, Eddie Tiana, Elvis Nauer-Wood, Ethan Alaia, Eucla Vaematahau-Davies, George Wood, Guy Visachi-Waerehu, Israel Taiatini, Jack Anderson, Jack Clutterbuck, Jack Craig, Jack Mills, Jack Piccirilli, Jacob Iosefa, Jake Clydsdale, Jalen Afasamaga, James Khoo, James Walsh, Jaxen Yow, Jaxon Lavender, Jayden Wolfe, Joe Roddy, Jordan Eti, Judd Stevenson, Justin Norris, Jye Smith, Keahn Skipps, Lekani Mpasos, Mark Tuialii, Mason Kearney, Mathias Tomuli Ah-Koi, Matthew Wheatley, Movete Ota'oto, Niu Mariota, Noah Martin, Owen Hromow, Owen Pattie, Reagan Carr, Ryan Woolley, Sam Graziani, Samuel Gash, Sean Trindall, Siamani Leululai, Tahrell Feavai, Tomas Powell, Trent Jefferey, Vena Patuki-Case, Noah Marcantonio, Xavier Cacciotti



TARSHA GALE CUP UNDER 19s GIRLS



The Canberra Raiders Tarsha Gale Cup representative side had a tough season, winning two games from seven in the 2022 competition.

The squad will benefit from this opportunity to play at the representative level with the Raiders securing an NRLW team for 2023.

The Raiders Tarsha Gale Cup side secured two tight wins over South Sydney Rabbitohs (16-14) and North Sydney Bears (20-12) to finish in tenth place on the competition ladder.

Woden Valley Rams representative Georgia Willey led the way with six tries for the side this season.

Squad: Aaliyah Lomas, Abbey Brill, Abbie Grant, Aiesha Best, Allie Booker, Anastasia Martin, April Downey, Ashlyn Breust, Beth Loco, Bonnie Brewer, Chloe Cooper, Chloe Doon, Elli Beecham, Georgia Willey, Hunter Ings, India Dyball, Jada-Lily Lauvao, Jemikah Chow, Kayla Fleming, Lara Cosgrove, Lila Brewer, Lily Holmes, Lola Fletcher, Maddison Morris, Molly Chidgey, Monica Fasavalu Faamausili, Mya McGlynn, Nellie O'donnell, Olivia Faitua, Ruby Morrissey, Samantha Nealon, Sophia Kelsey, Sophie Pagett, Sophie Tindale, Tahnee McGregor, Taleisha Love, Tikirah Douglas



George Tooke Shield Representatives

GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S REPRESENTATIVE SIDE



The George Tooke Shield (GTS) Open Men's competition had their second consecutive season of selecting a representative team, playing two exhibition matches in 2022 against Woodbridge Cup and Group 16 (South Coast).

The GTS rep side travelled to Canowindra to play the Woodbridge Cup rep side, where they drew 22-all on Saturday, May 15th.

The GTS rep side played their second exhibition match on Saturday, June 11th, when they hosted the Group 16 rep side at Seiffert Oval, Queanbeyan.

The Group 16 rep side defeated the locals 32-10, meaning the GTS rep side would finish 1-1 for the 2022 season.

It's particularly a great opportunity for players in the George Tooke Shield to play at the representative level and provides a pathway for regional clubs to progress toward in the future.

Squad: Jordyn Ballard (Cootamundra), Austin Power (Harden), Michael Gordon (Bungendore), Christopher Thorley (North Canberra), Zac Patterson (Boorowa), Zach Smith (c) (North Canberra), Carl Johnson (Bungendore), Haydn Cowled (Cootamundra), Tyler Keller (Crookwell), Brad Laurent (Bungendore), James Croydon (Binalong), BJ Sione (North Canberra), Christopher Maher (Cootamundra), Hamish Scott (Boorowa), Kurt Johnstone (UC Stars), Bradley Cappello (North Canberra), Will Manwaring (Harden), Dylan Downey (Binalong), Ryan Tuckwell (Bungendore)

Coach: Zach Smith



GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LADIES LEAGUE TAG REPRESENTATIVE SIDE



The George Tooke Shield Ladies League Tag competition also had their second consecutive season where a representative side was selected.

The GTS rep side travelled with the open men's team to play Woodbridge Cup, racking up a huge 32-4 score in a comprehensive win.

The side also competed in another representative fixture which was the first of its kind, a league tag tri-series competing against Canberra Raiders Cup and Group 16 rep sides.

The George Tooke rep side won both of their games, attaining the trophy which they will defend in the 2023 Tri Series.

The George Tooke side defeated the Canberra Raiders Cup rep side 28-6, with Bungendore representative Teaghan Pateman starring with a hatrick in the performance.

They then backed up with another clinical performance, defeating Group 16 24-8 to take out the first CRRL Ladies League Tag Tri-Series.

Squad: Jayde Della (Crookwell), Georgia Noack (Crookwell), Georgia Smith (Harden), Claire Smith (Harden), Grace Smith (Harden), Madison Douglas (Harden), Abbey Grant (Harden), Mary Lou Minehan (Harden), Emma James (Harden) (C), Maddison Gillies (Cootamundra), Hayley Kemp (North Canberra), Madeline Withers (North Canberra), Amie Dekantiou (North Canberra), Mackella Pye (Boorowa), Grace Barker (Boorowa), Teaghan Pateman (Bungendore)

Coach: Jason Pollard



Canberra Raiders Cup Representatives

CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP LADIES LEAGUE TAG REPRESENTATIVE SIDE



The Canberra Raiders Cup Ladies League Tag competition selected a representative side for the first time in the competitions' history earlier this year.

The rep side competed in a league tag tri-series against competing rep sides from the George Tooke Shield and Group 16.

The Canberra Raiders Cup rep side went down to the George Tooke Shield in game one of the series, losing 28-6 at Seiffert Oval.

Although, the rep side bounced back in their clash with Group 16, coming away with a convincing 48-6 win in their final game of the series.

Gungahlin representative Abbie Bailey led the way for the Canberra Raiders Cup side with three tries in the final match.

Squad: Abbie Bailey, Samantha Bailey, Rebecca Beath, Haylee Butler, Sarah Carter (C), Briony Fleming, Tegan Gaughran, Rachel Grocott, Maddison Harney, Keesha Kapea, Sara Lang, Ashleigh Leach, Emma McDonald, Matisse McNair, Maria Posantzis (VC), Caitlyn Robb, Elana Sliwinski

Coach: Greg Smith



CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP REPRESENTATIVE SIDE



The Canberra Raiders Cup representative sides took on the Newcastle Rebels in an annual exhibition match, selecting an Under 20s and Open Men's side, in May at NSWRL HQ, Bruce.

Newcastle defended the two victories they took in 2021, defeating both the under 20's and open men's sides.

The Rebels under 20's side cruised away to a 26-6 victory in the opening match.

The Rebels open men's squad then backed up the under 20's performance, this time Canberra competing right to the death to eventually go down 28-16.

Under 20's Squad: Darcy Leadbitter (Belconnen Sharks), Kai Douvan (Yass), Connor Bush (Woden), Regan Carr (Belconnen Sharks), Thomas Scrivener (Woden), Calab Edwards (Gungahlin), Joshua Latham (Goulburn), Jordan Eti (Gungahlin), Cody McCallum (Goulburn), Max Miller (Queanbeyan), Arthur Brown (West Belconnen), Jacob Piper (Belconnen Sharks), Jordan Wilson (Belconnen Sharks), Zane Thomson (Woden), Pat Hubbard (Gungahlin), George Wood (Belconnen Sharks), Jyi Little (Goulburn)

Open Men's Squad: Mathew Parsons (Queanbeyan), Jayden Pollard (Tuggeranong), Ryley Thomas (West Belconnen), Gideon Afemui (Woden), Michael Geiger (Woden), Ryan McQueen (West Belconnen), Mathew Woolnough (Belconnen Sharks), Romann Leota (Queanbeyan), Josh Mitchell (Queanbeyan), Atu Tupou (Queanbeyan), Jesse Martin (Woden), Josh Baker (Queanbeyan), Jesse Dent (Woden), Angus Marshall (Goulburn), Noa Vanisi (West Belconnen), Thomas Watego (Gungahlin), Sean Maloney (Woden)

Coach: Jordan Macey



REFEREES REPORT

2022 – Our first full season since 2019 and fortunately not too badly affected by the weather and Covid-19 restrictions.

We commenced the year with an increase in registered players in the local competitions which translated to an increase to 151 games each weekend. Despite a couple of “wet” weekends, in 2022 we finished a full year with an entertaining Finals series. It was a challenging year to appoint match officials to all games and a big thank you to all our members who rose to the occasion, filling in with short notice and officiating in multiple games over three days each weekend. This presented an opportunity for a number of members to progress to officiating at higher levels, which I am happy to say our members took with open hands and performed above expectations.

We continued to recruit well for the Referees Foundation One courses with fifteen candidates undertaking the course. This was down on previous years and new strategies are being discussed with the local league for 2023.

Training was very well attended during the year and although the weather was not always kind towards us, the ability to use the AV room at the NSWRL HQ, Bruce facility allowed us to conduct video sessions. Thank you to the NSWRL for allowing our Association to utilise their facilities at Bruce.

We have been extremely lucky to have organisations such as the Canberra Raiders and Canberra Region Rugby League actively assist in recruitment and development of referees.

The support from the CRRL staff, especially General Manager Mark Vergano and Chairman Gary Green cannot be under-estimated. In fact, Gary Green pulled on the boots to referee U7-U9 games to get a feel for what our recruits were experiencing. All incidents involving unsavoury conduct by players, officials or spectators was swiftly dealt with by the League, with lengthy bans being handed out to a number of spectators, sending a strong message that poor behaviour is not acceptable. The working relationship between our Association and the League continues to be strong.

Achievements

Braiden McIntosh: Referee NSWRL Laurie Daley Cup Grand Final

Jack Shephard, Billy Perrott and Atticus Batten: State PSSA U11 & U12 Carnivals

Billy Perrott: Referee Under 11's PSSA Final.



Heather Hall and Katherine Nightingale attended the NSWRL Katrina Fanning State Cup and both were awarded spots in the finals.

Braiden McIntosh, Heather Hall and Billy Perrott all attended National Carnivals, all receiving a finals appointment.

The Annual Awards Dinner and Life Member Presentation Night was well attended with the following awards presented:

Neville Norris Shield – Rookie of the Year: Jorja Charman

Bruce Chapman Shield – Most Improved Junior: Jack Shepherd

Neville ‘Chief’ Harradine Shield – Junior Encouragement: Ryan Bland & Sophie Rynehart

Jack McKie OAM Trophy – Most Improved Senior: Michael Bayley

Alan Hodge Shield – Senior Encouragement: Jack Black

Jim Mahoney Shield – Outstanding Service to the Association: Katherine Nightingale

Keith Gegg Shield – First Grade Touch Judge: Luke Barrow & James Charman

Noel Bissett OAM Shield – First Grade Referee: Andrew Nightingale

Associate Life Membership: Ben Cummins

Life Membership: James Gould



The Association continues with a strong sponsorship agreement with Mayner & Cochrane, Appliance Repair Specialist to the Canberra Region Rugby League, combined with sponsorship from the Canberra Raiders. The NSWRL Referees Association have also provided grants which has placed our Association in a very stable financial position. We look forward to continuing to build on these relationships in 2023.

Chris Nightingale

CDRL Referees Association



JUDICIARY REPORT

The 2022 season thankfully saw a return to all CRRL competitions running at full capacity, consequently there were more offences brought before the judiciary.

As in previous years, all judiciary cases were held via zoom meetings, this remaining an effective way of having all participants available to be present.

This season there were a total of 133 send off's and citing in total across the senior and junior competitions. 95 of these offences occurring in the seniors of which 12 were dismissed. 38 offences occurred in the juniors with 3 of these dismissed.

The most common offence was striking/punching with 42 occurrences, where clubs are reminded that this is a non-contestable 1 match suspension if proven. The second most common offence was Unnecessary Contact/ Heavy with 24.

This year an unfortunate trend that appeared was the number of at ground offences that occurred, where team officials had failed to follow game day protocols.

There were also two cases of serious referee abuse involving threats of physical harm, both incurred lengthy suspensions from all involvement in rugby league.

Thanks should go to the chairpersons and judiciary panel members for their professional approach to all cases and volunteering their time on a Wednesday evening.

We look forward to building on our growth and achievements attained throughout 2022 and transitioning into the 2023 season.

Yours in League,

Glyn Sargent

2022 Match Review Chairman



MEDIA REPORT

In what was the first uninterrupted season in over two years, the media space was able to get back to a consistent flow of content which was an exciting time for the CRRL.

Further to the established work of Jon Kroiter and Rosie Harrison, Canberra Region Rugby League's media presence was able to reach new heights in 2022.

The website re-structure in 2021, which now facilitates our work alongside the Canberra Raiders, allowed our identity to continue to grow along with strengthening our relationship with the Raiders.

Since the launch of the new website in March of 2021, the website has been extremely successful, with high traffic numbers and users.

The CRRL's strong partnership with Bar TV Sports allowed our games to be streamed and shared with an online audience throughout the season.

The product was consistent along with added commentary at each weekend's match of the round, which spanned across the Canberra Raiders Cup, Katrina Fanning Shield and George Tooke Shield.

The Rub of the Green Podcast returned for another year, spanning across 24 episodes where guests from all senior competitions would feature to highlight what was happening within the CRRL.

A big thank you to James 'Sully' Sullivan for volunteering to co-host the show for the second consecutive year and for also being the senior commentator for the 2022 season. Sully's dedication to local and regional rugby league is invaluable and the Canberra Region Rugby League appreciate his efforts.

The podcast had a mid-season platform switch, but numbers continued to grow where the show received over 2,800 listens for 2022 which was a 19% increase from last year.

Player and club media conferences continued to be carried out on a weekly basis, which continued the growth of senior competitions. This included our match of the round previews, Katrina Fanning Shield and under 19's Magic Rounds, Grand Final previews, etc.

The clubs appreciate the promotion of their matches but must be thanked for providing players, coaches and volunteers for media commitments throughout the course of the season. The availability of everyone's time and effort is much appreciated and only adds benefit to growing the game.



Facebook remained to be Canberra Region Rugby League's main source of traffic, seeing large engagement numbers and reach, particularly in the back half of the year as finals football arrived for both juniors and seniors.

However, CRRL's media presence extended across multiple platforms including Twitter, Instagram and Tik Tok.

The challenge for the media space moving forward is to remain engaged with members and continuing to develop our media plan as we look toward our centenary year.

Finn Williamson

CRRL Digital & Media Coordinator

CRRL Social Channels

Facebook: 10,247

Instagram: 4,349

Twitter: 597



CRRL Social Tiles





LIFE MEMBERS

Canberra District Rugby League (Raiders) Life Members

Les McIntyre*

George Tooke*

Bill Sullivan

Don Furner Snr*

Gerry Edwards*

Mal Meninga

Noel Bissett*

John McIntyre

Tony Wood

Canberra Region Rugby League Life Members

Michael Clarke

Cliff Stevens

Peter Cox*

Bob Gresham

Graham Johnston

Rhonda Carson

Karen Ebsworth

Tom Ebsworth

Chris Nightingale

John Cooper

*deceased

Congratulations to John Cooper who was appointed his CRRL Life Membership in February of 2022.



NEWS FROM 2022

Momentous Occasion for Women's Rugby League in Canberra



Women's rugby league will be on full display come Friday Night at GIO Stadium, as the Katrina Fanning Shield opens for the Ampol Women's State of Origin.

The curtain raiser to the first ever State of Origin match to be held in Canberra will be the Queanbeyan Blues and the Woden Valley Rams. A lot is on the line for both sides as they try to cement their spot in the top four of the competition.



But for the two teams, this match is more than just another chance to play the game they love.

It's an opportunity to showcase women's rugby league on its biggest stage and entice young women to pursue the sport across the country, but especially here in Canberra.

Last week it was announced that the Canberra Raiders will join the NRLW in the 2023 season, opening a pathway for female players to reach the elite level in the ACT and surrounding regions.

Woden Valley's Irene MacArthur spoke to media on Wednesday about the opportunity of NRLW and what it means for the local KFS competition.

"We're frothing at the mouth to be quite honest. I know that's pretty graphic," MacArthur jokingly said to media on Wednesday afternoon.



“We’re absolutely excited and there’s a bunch of girls in the mix. These guys are really willing to step up into the women’s grade (NRLW) and showcase their talent. We’re ready to express what we have.”

MacArthur showed plenty of emotion, expressing how grateful they are for the pioneers of the Rams and how they’ve paved the way for this new wave of the club.

The 2022 season is Woden Valley’s inaugural year in the Katrina Fanning Shield and MacArthur was emotional when explaining how this exciting opportunity wouldn’t be possible without the pathways forged by former female players.



“I start getting emotional talking about them, but those women were the pioneers for our club, so it’s really important for us to carry on that legacy,” MacArthur said.

“The fact that we have that platform at GIO Stadium this Friday, we just have to represent these jerseys with pride.”

Not only will this match be an important one in the context of the Katrina Fanning Shield, but also as such a momentous occasion for women’s rugby league in the ACT.



Yass Magpies: Grand Opening of Walker Park Sporting Complex



The Yass Magpies Senior Rugby League Club celebrated the official opening of their new sporting complex in July, ahead of their home game against Goulburn.

The highlight being the unveiling of the Colin 'Yic' York and Ken Bell Grandstand.

Colin was the first international sportsman to come from Yass, playing for both NSW and Australia.

In April 1928, Colin was packing down in the front row for Yass at Victoria Park in front of a few hundred people. But two short months later, Colin was in the front row for Australia in front of 48,000 people at the packed Brisbane Exhibition Grounds in the first test against England.

Ken Bell was also born in Yass. The 76-year-old is a life member of several sporting organisations and an indigenous elder.

He was the first Indigenous Coach of Yass Rugby League Juniors and Seniors from the mid-1960s.

A great celebration of two local sporting icons for the Yass Magpies.

Council secured \$500,000 in funding from the Australian Government, Sport Australia – Move It AUS Community Sport Infrastructure Grant for the complex upgrades. Council contributed \$50,000 to the project, with four local user groups generously contributing a further \$18,000 to the improvements.

The extensive upgrades included a new carpark adjacent to the level three playing fields, upgrades to field lighting, a new official's room, and a covered grandstand.



Rugby League Ready Program to start in Canberra



Rugby League Ready is coming to Canberra, with junior players set to gain confidence and increase skill development in the program.

Under 6s coaches will work alongside Rugby League Ready Deliverers and Educators to implement the program, which is aimed at teaching participants safe and correct tackling techniques.

The six-session program is set to be implemented across NSW and the ACT within the next couple of weeks.

Participants will start off with the League Tag (non-contact) form of the game up until June 1 2022. They will learn and gain confidence in tackling techniques before taking part in tackle games from June onwards.

The program will run concurrently with the Under 6s season, at no additional cost to the usual registration free.

During 2020 the Rugby League Ready Program was delivered in South-East Queensland, with over 1,750 children participating. 91% reported their child's enjoyment of the program, while 79% reported the program had improved their child's competence and confidence.

It is important that we as a sport continue to innovate and improve our emphasis on safety techniques that upskill coaches and players.

*Rugby League Ready was a pilot program of the Player Development Framework. It will be implemented in the U7's competition in 2023.



OBITUARIES

Dr Allan Hawke AC



The Canberra District Rugby League are deeply saddened by the passing of Canberra Raiders Chairman and long serving member of the community Dr Allan Hawke AC, who passed away on Wednesday, August 31st after a long battle with cancer.

Dr Hawke has not only held a long-serving role at the Canberra Raiders, but he also had a long and distinguished career in service to the Commonwealth of Australia as a senior public servant and diplomat.

Born in Canberra on February 18, 1948, Dr Hawke attended Queanbeyan High School before continuing his tertiary studies at the Australian National University, graduating in a Bachelor of Science (1st Class Honours) and as a Doctor of Philosophy.

During his extensive career in public administration, Dr Hawke held several major appointments as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Transport and Regional Development and Defence.

He completed his career in the public service in 2006 after his appointment as High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary of Australia to New Zealand, between 2003-2006.

Dr Hawke was appointed to the Canberra Raiders board of directors in 2002 and was elevated to Club Chairman in 2014. During his tenure as Chairman the Raiders have continued to strengthen their position on and off the field, with Hawke instrumental in the development of the Raiders Centre in Braddon and the appointment of Club Coach Ricky Stuart.



During his career Dr Hawke received several commendations and accolades and in 2010 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for his eminent service to public administration, particularly through the formulation and implementation of policy in the areas of transport, defence and education, and the strengthening of bilateral relations with New Zealand.

He was also appointed a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Public Administration (FAIPA) in 1998 and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management (FAIM) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to public service. He also became a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD) and was awarded the Centenary Medal for his service to the Department of Defence.



Peter Cox OAM



The Canberra Region Rugby League were deeply saddened by the passing of CRRL life member and Woden Valley Rams stalwart Peter Cox OAM.

Peter passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 6th surrounded by family after a long battle with illness.

CRRL Chairman Gary Green commented on the passing of Peter and the impact he had on rugby league within the Canberra region.

"Peter was a valued, long-term member of the CRRL community. Peter's valued service as an administrator at the Woden Valley Rams club and as a board member was appreciated, to be later valued as a life member," Green said.

"It is a sad day in rugby league to lose such a stalwart and a true gentleman," Green added.

The CRRL recognise the hard work of Peter and will forever appreciate his efforts and the legacy he leaves behind.



Mark Williams



The Canberra District Rugby League were saddened to hear about the passing of Mark Williams, who peacefully passed away in the early hours of Thursday, April 7th.

Mark, husband to Trish, and father to Tim, Tom and Raider #296 Sam Williams, passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Mark was a well-known figure and one of the stalwarts of the Cooma Stallions rugby league club within the Group 16 competition.

Cooma Stallions president David Brison shone a light on the life of Mark and the impact he had on the club.

"Mark will be missed in a number of sporting fields - cricket, tennis as well as rugby league. His efforts in supporting local juniors was second to none," Brison said.

"For the Stallions, he provided a steady head and a guiding light as well as the wealth of contacts on and off the field. A 'bloody good bloke,' and the whole town will miss his good cheer and ready smile."

Former Cooma Stallions president and current Tuggeranong Bushrangers coach Jason Kelly also mentioned the legacy of Mark and how he will be dearly missed.

"It's a tough day for everyone. A massive loss for the community. You just can't replace blokes like Mark Williams," Kelly said.

"He's a life member of the Stallions and has meant so much to so many."

CRRL General Manager Mark Vergano on behalf of the Canberra Region Rugby League, passed on his condolences to Trish and the family.



Phil Jackson



The Canberra Region Rugby League paid tribute to former Great Britain International and Goulburn player/coach Phil Jackson, who passed away Wednesday, July 20th at the age of 90 in Wagga Wagga.

Born in Canada in 1932, Jackson moved to Barrow-In-Furness in England when he was three and went on to debut for Barrow in 1950 at the age of 18.

Nicknamed the Prince of Centres, Jackson would play over 200 matches for Barrow including three Challenge Cup finals in the 1950s, while also representing Great Britain and England.

When injury forced him into retirement, he moved to Australia in 1960 and was tempted back to the game to play for Goulburn Workers, where in the role as player/coach he led the club to the Group 8 premiership. Goulburn also secured the Clayton Cup that season as the best team in Country NSW.

Canberra Raiders Patron John McIntyre paid tribute to Jackson and said he was a once in a generation player.

“Phil Jackson was one of the most talented players to have ever played rugby league in this region,” McIntyre said. “On behalf of the Canberra District Rugby League I would like to pay tribute to the contribution Phil made to the game and honour the legacy he leaves behind after such a wonderful life.”