



2023 ANNUAL REPORT





The Canberra Region Rugby League would like to thank all their partners for the 2023 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

It was an honour to be the Chairman of the CRRL in its Centenary year. It is a time to reflect on what rugby league has meant to so many communities over the century plus years and the dedicated service of so many volunteers across all eras to leave a legacy for their communities into the future. The event was celebrated at the Hellenic Club before the season opened and we were fortunate to have the early history of the league outlined by ANU historian Dr David Headon, reminisces from many of our luminaries including John McIntyre and a treasure trove of memorabilia on display.

It was also an honour to attend the following club milestones this year; West Belconnen Juniors 50 years, North Canberra Bears juniors 60 years and Gungahlin Bulls seniors 30 years (from Panthers United to Gungahlin).



A new era dawned for rugby league in the region this year when the Canberra Raiders NRLW team took to the field for their debut match against Cronulla just like their male counterparts did in 1982.

This was a team that had its genesis from the CRRL promoting women's involvement in the game from Touch and Tag through to the establishment of the Katrina Fanning Shield and the strength of the growth in this area in the last eight years.

To all the clubs, juniors and seniors that have gone on the journey so far in promoting the sport to our young female athletes, congratulations, and you all can take immense pride in your contributions in making it happen.

I would also like to acknowledge the strategic foresight of the CRRL staff who, with the clubs, not only introduced new competitions but took the lead in establishing the first Tarsha Gale Cup representative teams before handing over to the Raiders and the development of the Valkyrie Plan.



The NRLW team gave opportunity to local and regional players who have come through with local clubs: Ahlivia Ingram (Tuggeranong); Elise Smith (Yass/Junee), Ua Ravu (Harden/Griffith), Alanna Dummett (Yass/South Coast), Ella Ryan (Woden), Georgia Willey (Woden), Tijana Zdravevska (Gungahlin) and Aaliyah Lomas (West Belconnen).



Club volunteers once again delivered 396 teams, kept 36 clubs going and assisted in having 178 games a weekend scheduled. A truly outstanding feat. Our overall participation numbers were up slightly, and we need to keep working at recruiting more players to the game in all formats and looking at new formats as applicable. A very big thank you to all the volunteers within the clubs.



The viability and sustainability of clubs rests with two areas. Its members and the sponsors and supporters of the club. On behalf of the Canberra Region Rugby League, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all your sponsors across all the clubs in the CRRL and thank you also for your contribution to rugby league.

From the CRRL perspective, Blumers Lawyers continue to support our senior rugby league with their sponsorship of the Canberra Raiders Cup, George Tooke Shield and Katrina Fanning Shield competitions. To Mark Blumer and Ian Burchell, a great vote of thanks from our association for your involvement. Blumers also became an inaugural sponsor of the Raiders NRLW team.

We also welcomed Leader Security into the rugby league family. Leader has a long association with the Raiders Group and came on board as our major security partner this season assisting us with security issues, especially in the finals series. Thank you to Troy and Karen Cassell for your contribution and we look forward to expanding our involvement and utilizing Leader Security's expertise.

To our other partners Capital Region Community Services and Everyman thank you for your support during the year.

Without the continued support and contribution of the Raiders group of clubs and the Canberra District Rugby League things such as administrative support, grants to senior and junior clubs; the cost covering of the referees' fees and Friday night ground hire in juniors and that support allows many clubs to keep their fees down. Thanks to the Queanbeyan Leagues Club, Mawson Club, Raiders Belconnen, Raiders Weston and Raiders Gungahlin for their support.

Once again Entice Travel have supported our Wheelchair Rugby League program and to Amy and Matt Hewson a huge vote of thanks for your support and confidence in our program.



In November we were fortunate to receive a grant from the IMB Foundation which will allow us to purchase portable defibrillators for every junior club. The defibrillators will be part of a broader partnership with St John's Ambulance who will assist us in training and other areas of trainer management.

After much consultation and presentation, the Player Development Framework was rolled out in season 2023. The Under 6s played non-contact League Tag and the Under 7s, for 2023, were allowed to tackle from the start of the season as they had completed the Tackle Ready program in 2022. For 2024, the new Under 7 cohort will do six weeks of tag and then commence tackling after completing the Tackle ready program. Allied to that, the Under 10s in 2024 will not play for premiership points as the age groups transition up to Under 12s.

Reports from around the state, especially in the regional areas, have been favorable and supportive of the changes. In many leagues, the non-playing for competition points improved sideline behavior which is a huge bonus.

The NSWRL HQ at Bruce continues to be an important facility within the community and representative rugby league framework. The Belconnen Sharks continue to thrive with their new home ground. Raiders and Monaro representative teams train and play there. The Canberra Districts Referees train at Bruce and it is also the main training facility for the Score Raiders.



Our gratitude is extended to NSWRL CEO Dave Trodden and his team for their commitment to the region. Currently, the CRRL, Belconnen Sharks and the NSWRL are putting together a submission seeking a grant for lights upgrade which are badly needed at Bruce.

For a second year I have been able to contribute to the NSW Community Rugby League Committee. This committee is solely focused on community rugby league, the districts and regions and seeks to increase participation through best practice.



The forming of the Monaro region has continued this year with the CRRL and Group 16 working ever more closely together. This has led to Monaro applying for incorporation in which the two regions can align processes for the mutual benefit of both organisations.

One of those projects was the inaugural Monaro-Bateman's Bay Knockout held at McKay Park in Bateman's Bay.

The CRRL Judiciary continues to be recognised as one of the most professional organisations of its type in the state. Our gratitude goes to these volunteers as well with Co-Chairs Chris Gribble and Bwalya Chifuntwe committing to running the panels and long-standing Appeals Chair, Jonathan Hanton continuing his invaluable contribution and guidance.



Our Canberra District Referees Association continues to recruit, train, retain and schedule new recruits and seasoned veterans in the referees' ranks. Our geographic region has some unique travel commitments, and we can only praise their dedication and commitment. The CRRL and the CDRLRA have a close working relationship which is essential to ensure that our match officials are supported.

We need to highlight the retirement from the NRL referee ranks of Ben Cummins. Ben was trained here in Canberra and had an outstanding career. He refereed 443 NRL matches (The most by anyone) 13 Test matches and 14 State of Origins. Congratulations Ben on an outstanding career.

The CRRL committee once again has provided great support to me and their wise advice is greatly appreciated and beneficial to guiding all aspects of administering the CRRL. My thanks especially to retiring members Joe Stephens and Naomi Apps who have contributed to the growth and development of the competitions.

My thanks also go to the CRRL team under the leadership of our General Manager Mark Vergano. Deb Charman has built a solid rapport with the senior clubs and collaborates tirelessly with them on their Player Points Index System allocation and meeting their ground needs.

Stacey Studholme had her first full season administering the complex nature of the junior competitions. No doubt Stacey learnt much this year but her positivity and care for the clubs shone through. The work at re-framing the finals series without Phillip District Oval this season was an immense project.





Anthony McQueen continued to service the Trainers and maintained the Wheelchair rugby league. Finn Williamson tackled his media area with enthusiasm and will be now working on the Raiders side of the business as we welcome Liam Wyllie to the team.

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 2024 as we continue to expand and get more players on the field playing our great game.

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

Gary Green
Chairman
CRRL



CRRL CENTENARY NIGHT





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

Greg Bell

Danny Roper

Naomi Apps

Appointed Members

Chris Nightingale (Referees)

Jon Tucker (ACT Schools)

Yvette Croft (Women's RL)

CRJRL COMMITTEE – Attendance at 9 Committee Meetings held in 2024.

| NAME | ATTENDED | APOLOGIES |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| GARY GREEN | 9 | 0 |
| GREG BELL | 9 | 0 |
| DANNY ROPER | 9 | 0 |
| CHRIS NIGHTINGALE | 5 | 4 |
| KATHRINE NIGHTINGALE | 4 | 0 |
| JON TUCKER | 6 | 3 |
| TONY RAYNER | 6 | 3 |
| NAOMI APPS | 8 | 1 |
| YVETTE CROFT | 7 | 2 |
| JOE STEPHENS | 7 | 2 |
| PHIL WATTS | 9 | 0 |
| STEVE TROTH | 7 | 2 |
| MARK VERGANO | 9 | 0 |



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Season 2023 provided plenty of highlights for CRRL; history, strategy, competitions and representative programs.

The celebration of the centenary of rugby league in the region having been kicked off four years previously with Yass, followed by Crookwell, Harden and Cootamundra, was a recognition and celebrations of the pioneers of our game who established, nurtured and grew the game to become the most popular winter pursuit in NSW, especially in the bush. Rugby League remains the glue to so many communities, not only through success and trials but most importantly, socially as everyone comes together.

Congratulations to all our clubs in being part of an historic moment in rugby league's development.

It's fantastic when a long-term aspiration and strategy comes to fruition as it did with the Canberra Raiders NRLW team taking to the field this season. A strategy borne out of the Valkyrie program which took four Under 16 teams in 2015 to grow into the Katrina Fanning Shield, the Tarsha Gale Cup team, the Monaro Women's Country Championship team and finally the Raiders NRLW team.

It was a poignant moment when Ahlivia Ingram made her Raiders debut as it was Ahlivia who played in the early Tarsha Gale teams, initially run by the CRRL, the Under 16s and graduating into the Katrina Fanning Shield and finally a Raiders debut. May Ahlivia's dedication, ability and humility be an example to many more young players from the region.

The Monaro Women's Country Championship team was victorious in the Country Championships in 2023. The team dominated their southern pool with wins over Riverina, Western Rams, Macarthur Tigers and Illawarra South Coast Dragons. In the Grand Final against the Knights, the Monaro team won comprehensively 34-0 to secure the title.



Goulburn's Krystal Blackwell was adjudged the best on ground after scoring two tries. This was a big performance for Krystal who went on to receive a full contract with the North Queensland Cowboys in their inaugural NRLW season.

The Monaro men played a knockout tournament and bowed out in the first round to the eventual runners up Riverina.



The George Tooke Shield provided its own fairytale when after 40 years Boorowa Rovers were victorious in taking out the Grand Final over defending premiers Crookwell.

The post-match celebrations at the ground and back in the township were in the best traditions of bush footy and re-emphasised what our game means to our communities.



There continues to be concern from the League about the sideline behaviour in the game, especially at junior matches. The continuing poor conduct marred an otherwise well attended and well contested finals series as well as placing further pressure on referees. This poor behaviour also impacts on club volunteers who have game day responsibilities and who more readily will walk away from helping our clubs, costing us good volunteers. The impact on referees is well known and retaining referees must be a priority.

The general poor behaviour can also be seen in the approach of many coaches, managers, league safes and trainers and volunteer touch judges. In discussions with other rugby league regions many have started to remove competitions more quickly and having done so have seen a marked improvement without premiership points to play for.

Parents, supporters, coaches, managers and other people involved must self-reflect on whether their behaviour and attitude are driving young players away; driving referees out of the game and impacting on peoples' ability to volunteer.

An important development this season was the report of the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs which made 13 recommendations into concussion and head trauma which will affect the game of rugby league and all contact sports. The CRRL will be, as always, part of the discussion and will assist the clubs in navigating this area and any changes that will come through the sport and society in general. Let it be very clear, there will be changes to the way we play the game and especially in returning to the game.

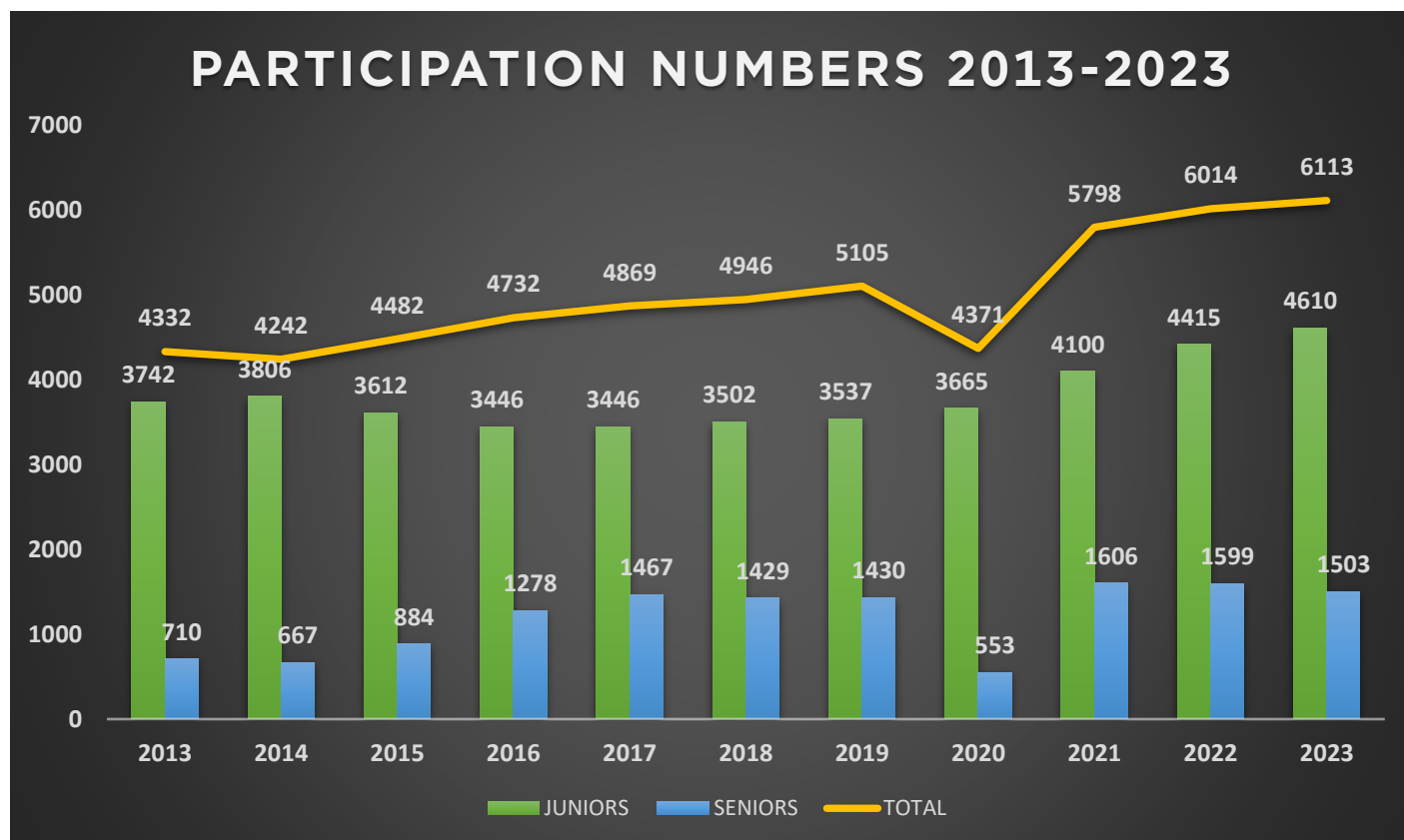


Rugby League is one of the best equipped sports to handle these changes with our system of accredited trainers but also is a reminder of our responsibility to the players' health to check for concussion and to enter all injuries on to the database. We are all custodians of this sport for future generations of players and the game itself.



Participation Reports 2012-2023

| SEASON | JUNIORS | SENIORS | TOTAL |
|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| 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 |
| 2023 | 4610 | 1503 | 6113 |



Whilst we can once again report a rise in participation numbers, in reality, the numbers were stagnant and there are some signs which are not encouraging presently.



Observations on Participation were:

- Overall participation grew by 1.6% from 6014 (2022) to 6113.
- Junior numbers rose by 4.4% from 4415 (2022) to 4610.
- Senior numbers decreased by 96 registrations.
- Overall female participation now represents approximately 25.03% of overall participation.
- Junior boys contracted from 3677 in 2022 to 3508 in 2023.
- 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.

Male participation continues to be under pressure with a not insignificant loss of another 169 boys not returning to play. We lost some significant numbers transitioning from Under 9 to Under 10 (41 players) under 11 to Under 12 (47 players), Under 15 to under 16 (54 players) Under 16 to Under 17 (61 players).

These are all key transition areas and our inability to retain players remains too high.



Some areas could see the transition from playing for competition points in Under 10s as a reason for leaving in the younger age groups, however, we have to examine if our competition offerings are what is expected by players these days. This also aligns to how we are coaching and what our expectations are:

Do we have competitions that players want to play in when too many players gravitate towards particular teams or clubs?

Do coaches sometimes put winning and recruiting in front of what is good for the competition?

Are we nurturing our players or simply pandering to the few?

Do we develop all players' skills to increase their enjoyment of the game or concentrate on those who give us a win rather than developing the team?

All these things need to be considered otherwise we will soon be into that uncomfortable space:

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.



The Player Development Framework was implemented in 2023 with one exception. The CRRL took the decision that the Under 7 cohort, having piloted the tackle ready program would play tackle for the season. The Under 6 cohort did league tag and will commence 2024 doing league tag with all its skill development and do tackle ready then transitioning to tackle around 1 June. There was some resistance to the change, which was understandable but as a sport if we concentrate on skill development and introducing young players into a safe and fun environment, we should recruit more players and retain more.

Development



The NRL Development team of Shane Read and Taylor Giggins have become an integral part of the CRRL strategy in developing products and promoting rugby league in the schools. The gala days they run are well received and often have CRRL staff on hand to assist with many of the CRRL volunteers assisting with First Aid and refereeing.

These gala days are tools to have children enjoy our game; can be great recruiting tools and we also identify trends from the children.

One of the interesting growth tournaments has been mixed league tag in secondary schools and also southside girls league tag tournaments had an impressive 40 plus teams involved.

We thank Shane and Taylor for their dedicated efforts in developing rugby league.

Referees

The relationship between the Canberra District referees and the CRRL committee and administration is strong with a great sense of purpose and co-operation. The CRRL understands the pressure placed on referees at all levels, but especially our younger referees and makes no apology in pursuing abusive and poor behaviour by team officials and supporters with the implementation of the NRL Code of Conduct.



Protection of our match officials is a whole of game approach in ensuring we maintain high standards of compliance and good conduct.



Competitions

The Canberra Raiders Cup once again provided a very competitive environment with great interest in the competition. That interest could be seen in the viewing figures through BAR TV which were very healthy and great crowds at the finals series.

The competition is getting closer to most teams now having five teams in their senior club and others striving to create Under 19 and Katrina Fanning Shield teams.



However, the Queanbeyan Blues had a difficult season with no Reserve Grade team as many players relocated and the absence of a league tag team. However, the CRRL was working closely with the club as they developed an action plan and were already implementing this before season's end. We look forward to the Blues being competitive again in 2024.

The Player Points Index System was in its second year and clubs were working with the CRRL to ask for changes for the 2024 season which were well researched and progressive. The CRRL were happy to advocate for these changes. Deb Charman once again spent many hours working with clubs to get their rosters compliant and we are all grateful for Deb's dedication.

The Raiders Cup Salary Cap moved into its second year and the CRRL were pleased with the compliance provided. The CRRL understands that having fiscal discipline for clubs can lead to some players moving to other groups for more money, however the primary aim is to ensure that clubs can remain competitive and sustainable. That said, the CRRL and their Raiders Cup clubs can be proud of their efforts in that no club has folded in the last 10 years plus where in many other competitions teams have disappeared.

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



The George Tooke Shield continues to provide a superior standard of bush footy supported by their communities and the great volunteers at each club. The finals days now with three games based in the communities continue to be well attended with a great atmosphere. It was pleasing to have been able to live stream a few more games this season capped off with a classic Grand Final in the men's division.

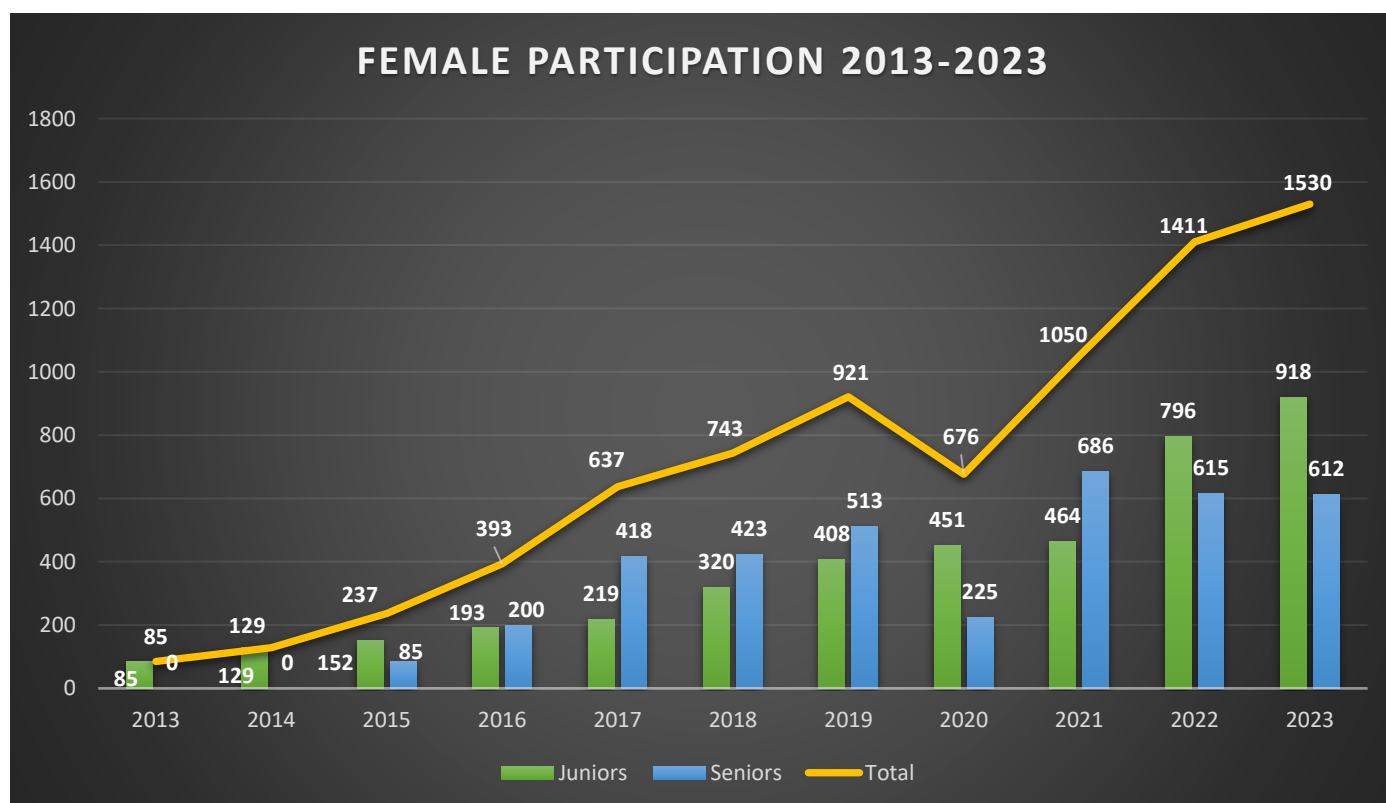


Harden's continued dominance of the League Tag needs to be acknowledged with another outstanding Grand Final win resisting a spirited Cootamundra challenge.

The CRRL has asked for expressions of interest for a 10 a side George Tooke Women's tackle competition which can keep building on the interest in the bush.

Female Participation 2013-2023

| SEASON | JUNIORS | SENIORS | TOTAL |
|-------------|---------|---------|-------|
| 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 |
| 2023 | 918 | 612 | 1530 |





The movement of young girls and women to the game has continued. The junior tackle and league tag competitions have continued to grow, and the Katrina Fanning competition has also grown but has challenges with managing the increase in numbers and the diversity of where the players come to the game.



There are always growing pains with any new concept and decisions made at NRL and NSWRL level can impact on the type of competition we run as our female athletes are in a wonderful but challenging space of having many sports to participate in and choose from. Until this settles, the teams and participation will be fluid.

Inclusion

The CRRL has maintained its commitment to both the Score Raiders and Wheelchair Rugby League.

The Score Raiders now play a full season in the local junior competition which has benefits for both the Score Raiders players and their opponents. Our thanks go to all the teams that participate in this project.



The Entice Travel Wheelchair Rugby League program has commitment from the CRRL and sees us still engaged with the region but next year we are seeking to enter the Sydney competition with the Rolling Raiders. The strength of the program can be seen with three players in the NSW Origin team and two in the development squad.

Infrastructure

Whilst the Phillip District Oval development will be a welcome improvement for the Woden club, there will be a significant inconvenience as due to delays it will be out of action for the 2024 season. Woden will be relocating to Boomanulla Oval for the season.

It is pleasing that the NSWRL, Belconnen Sharks and the CRRL are combining to seek to improve the lighting at the Bruce HQ which if the grant is successful will allow for night games to be played on the ground.

The CRRL is disappointed with the ACT Governments lack of engagement in developing Taylor, Melba and Kambah.



Taylor is especially disappointing as it is part of a new suburb's development and the lack of commitment to adhering to the original plan of four turf fields and two synthetic fields plus an adequate set of changerooms can only be viewed in a negative way.

Progress has been made with the improvements at Wright Park but the continued delay of the opening of the new Bungendore facility and the building around Mick Sherd Oval will be problematic for the Bungendore club.

The CRRL was frustrated this year when at late notice from the ACT Government, and after a booking being had for more than six months, the Raiders Cup Preliminary Final had to be moved from Gungahlin Enclosed.

This was not well received and the CRRL has doubled down insisting on commitment from the ACT Government when a booking is made in good faith.

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.



We'd also like to acknowledge one of our own as Sam Williams with Michelle Bishop have joined SEN Canberra with their Saturday morning sports show highlighting the CRRL competitions.

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.

Thanks to all the licenced clubs general managers and the support of the CDRL Board whose contribution to our game ensures we have a well-run, efficiently administered competition.



To the CRRL staff, thank you for your outstanding contribution to facilitating our clubs and administering the league.

Deb Charman, as mentioned previously, is available to all clubs and works closely with them. Deb also co-ordinates an outstanding finals series across the region with multiple venues and we thank her for her dedication.

Stacey Studholme had a baptism of fire coming into her first full season of junior competition administration. Draws, gradings, competition changes, oval allocations were all new experiences for Stacey, plus dealing with 17 clubs and 290 teams. Stacey is an enormously positive person and her enthusiasm and genuine concern for the development of clubs shone through.

Anthony McQueen has worked hard bringing the accreditations area up to date and working with our wonderful trainer cohort in getting common goals and priorities for the safety of our players. His work in the Wheelchair space needs to be commended as he often works Sunday mornings with the local group, does school development clinics and moves around the southern part of the state with his car and trailer visiting centres to grow the game.

Finn Williamson had a full season as our media coordinator and has made a deserved move over to the Raiders media team. Finn brought great enthusiasm to the role, worked hard on our social platforms and has become a very proficient co-commentator in the local league with James “Sully” Sullivan, with their calls enhancing our product.



To Sully, a big thank you for all you have done. MC of the Centenary celebrations, commentating multiple matches a week often going from a NSW Cup match to come back and do a Raiders Cup game, your efforts are greatly appreciated. And with the Sully and Finn show, our Rub of the Green podcast continues to debate the big issues in local rugby league.

Liam Wyllie takes over the mantle from Finn as media coordinator and has acquitted himself well in his first finals series.

To Jake McDonald, the Group 16 NSWRL League and Club Support Coordinator, thank you for all your help and advice. Jake has been invaluable in organising the South Coast teams and aligning with the common strategic objectives between the CRRL and Group 16.



Jess Crisp and Sarah Williams have been a part of the CRRL team in their role in the community space. Through Jess and Sarah, we are able to access the Raiders games for our little leaguers, promote the CRRL and organise the Raiders players for the “Schools Blitz” and club visits.

Every season has its challenges and we have clear issues to address such as off field behaviour, retaining our match officials and rebooting the male competition programs. However, we have much to celebrate with record interest, new programs to establish, an NRLW team that has already done the region proud and success with our Raiders Cup, George Tooke Shield and junior finals series.

We live in a growth area, both within Canberra, and many of the surrounding townships showing increased population and development as we see the great reset with people moving from the city to the regional areas. We must be prepared with our infrastructure, our development programs and with our club development to take advantage of this opportunity. Let’s be confident that we will continue to grow and have more players playing our great game as we could be entering a golden age of bush footy.

Mark Vergano OAM

General Manager



JUNIOR COMPETITION STATISTICS

Total number of clubs: 17

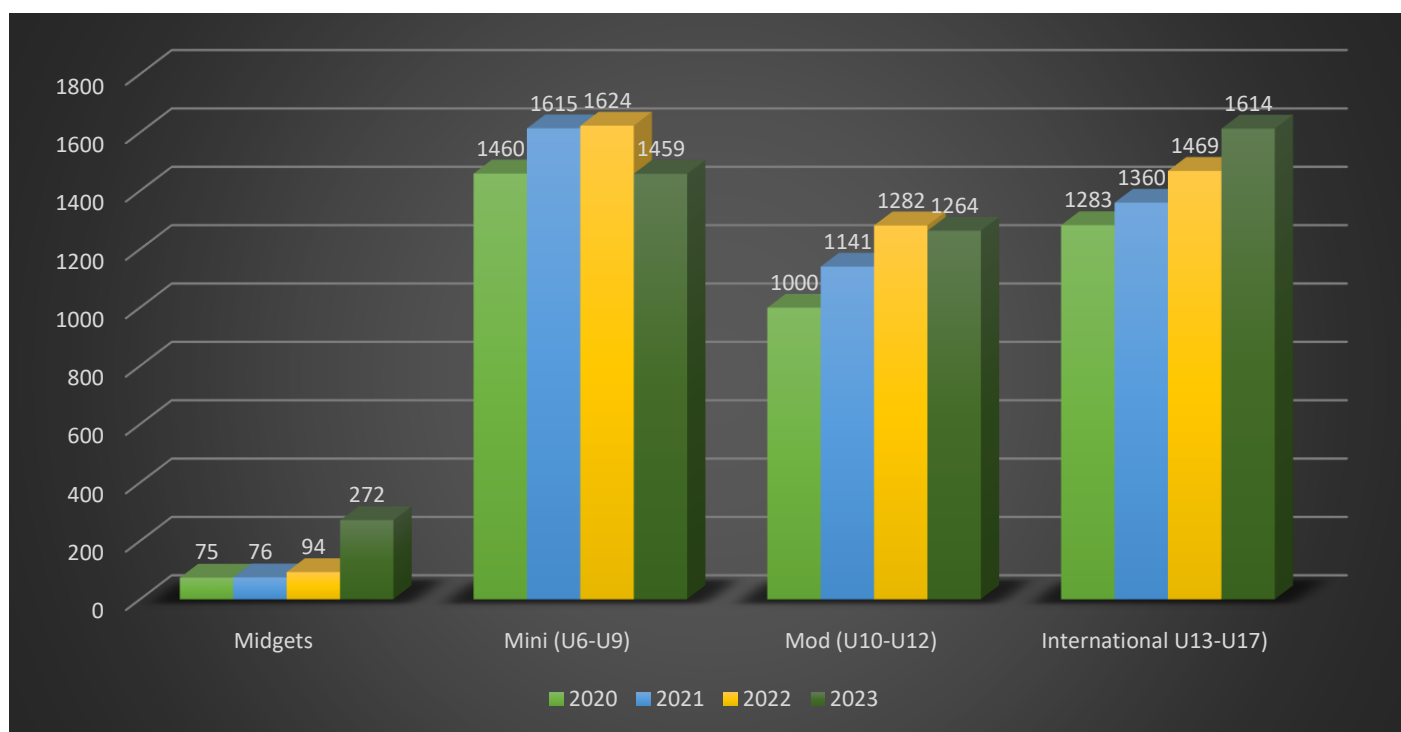
Total Number of teams: 329

Total Number of players: 4610

| Competitions | 2020 Teams | 2020 Players | 2021 Teams | 2021 Players | 2022 Teams | 2022 Players | 2023 Teams | 2023 Players |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Midgets | - | 75 | - | 76 | - | 92 | | 272 |
| Mini (U6-U9) * | 131 | 1460 | 141 | 1615 | 146 | 1624 | 143 | 1459 |
| Mod (U10-U12) ** | 61 | 1000 | 79 | 1141 | 83 | 1282 | 92 | 1264 |
| International U1317)** | 69 | 1283 | 73 | 1360 | 76 | 1469 | 94 | 1615 |
| Totals | 261* | 3818 | 293* | 4192 | 305 | 4469 | 329* | 4610 |

* 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 U11, U13, U15 and U17 Girls teams as well as U10, U12, U14 and U16 League Tag.

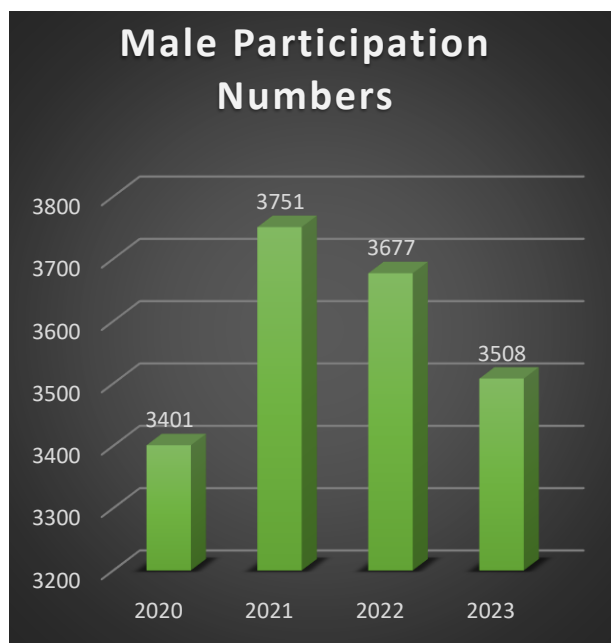




| Competition Breakdown by Age Group | 2020 Teams | 2020 Players | 2021 Teams | 2021 Players | 2022 Teams | 2022 Players | 2023 Teams | 2023 Players |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Midgets | - | 75 | | 76 | - | 92 | | 83 |
| Under 5 | - | 146 | | 188 | - | 170 | | 189 |
| Under 6 | 32 | 292 | 36 | 266 | 37 | 295 | 33 | 266 |
| Under 7 | 34 | 305 | 38 | 379 | 37 | 336 | 35 | 343 |
| Under 8 | 33 | 360 | 33 | 369 | 38 | 419 | 37 | 373 |
| Under 9 | 30 | 357 | 34 | 413 | 34 | 398 | 37 | 477 |
| Under 10 | 20 | 345 | 27 | 402 | 28 | 432 | 20 | 368 |
| Under 10 Leagues | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5 | 41 |
| Under 11 | 26 | 332 | 23 | 350 | 24 | 418 | 25 | 432 |
| Under 12 | 18 | 323 | 19 | 389 | 20 | 358 | 20 | 369 |
| Under 12 Leagues | N/A | N/A | 10 | 125 | 11 | 137 | 10 | 54 |
| Under 13 | 15 | 380 | 15 | 319 | 12 | 294 | 23 | 436 |
| Under 14 | 12 | 274 | 17 | 381 | 11 | 284 | 12 | 287 |
| Under 14 Leagues | 4 | 73 | 5 | 80 | 11 | 171 | 9 | 85 |
| Under 15 | 8 | 270 | 9 | 271 | 14 | 331 | 16 | 291 |
| Under 16 | 8 | 189 | 9 | 232 | 7 | 225 | 11 | 298 |
| Under 16 Leagues | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5 | 19 |
| Under 17 | 6 | 29 | 7 | 118 | 6 | 172 | 15 | 199 |

Male Participation in Competitions:

| Competition Breakdown by Age Group | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Midgets | 62 | 62 | 80 | 81 |
| Under 5 | 135 | 173 | 145 | 184 |
| Under 6 | 277 | 257 | 272 | 264 |
| Under 7 | 283 | 356 | 313 | 287 |
| Under 8 | 322 | 358 | 388 | 318 |
| Under 9 | 339 | 370 | 369 | 396 |
| Under 10 | 332 | 382 | 359 | 328 |
| Under 11 | 314 | 334 | 360 | 317 |
| Under 12 | 301 | 340 | 328 | 313 |
| Under 13 | 305 | 290 | 252 | 307 |
| Under 14 | 217 | 312 | 227 | 219 |
| Under 15 | 216 | 203 | 250 | 181 |
| Under 16 | 164 | 183 | 178 | 196 |
| Under 17 | 134 | 131 | 156 | 117 |
| Total | 3401 | 3751 | 3677 | 3508 |

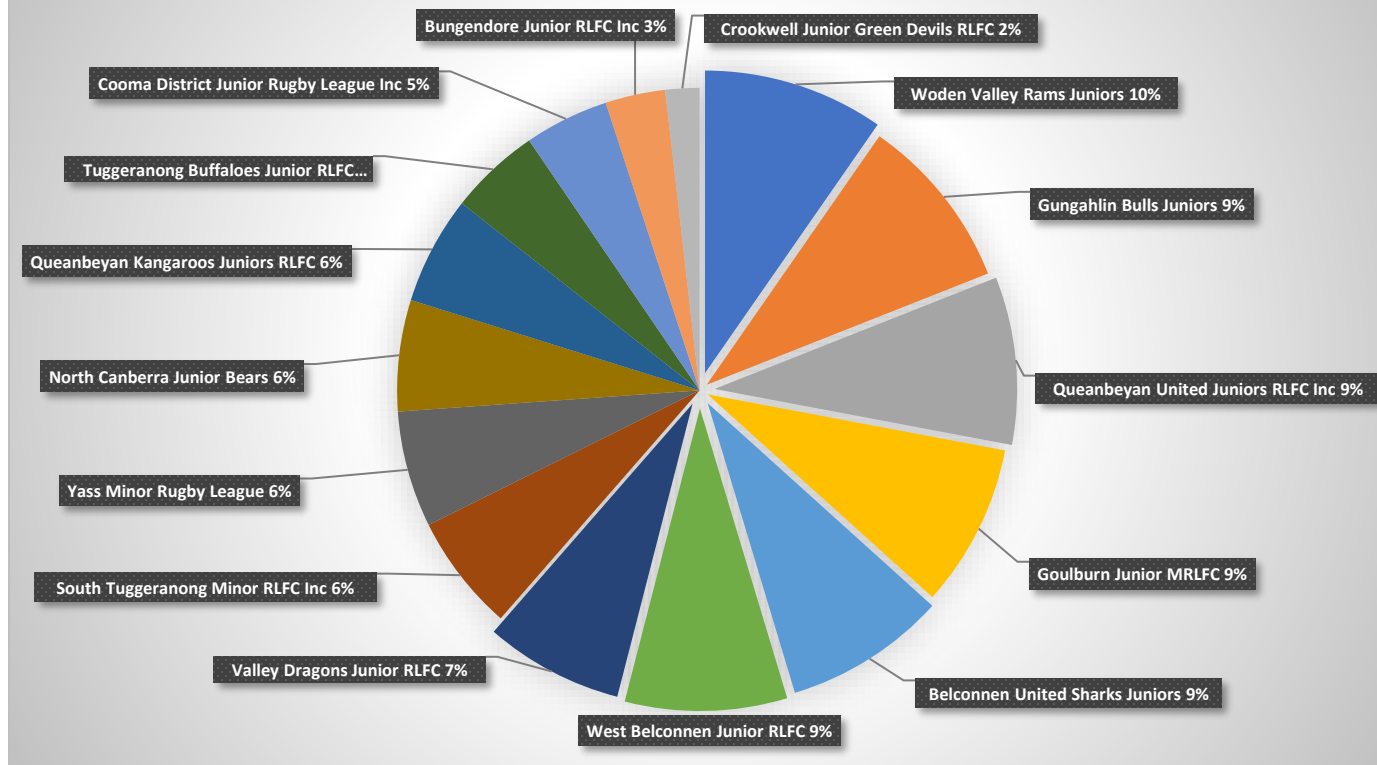




2023 Male participation breakdown by club - all green highlights had an increase of last year.

| Club | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|
| Belconnen United Sharks Juniors | 324 | 319 |
| Boorowa Rovers | | |
| Bungendore Junior RLFC Inc | 139 | 118 |
| Cooma District Junior Rugby League Inc | 171 | 166 |
| Crookwell Junior Green Devils RLFC | 68 | 67 |
| Goulburn Junior MRLFC | 321 | 321 |
| Gungahlin Bulls Juniors | 343 | 344 |
| North Canberra Junior Bears | 202 | 219 |
| Queanbeyan Kangaroos Juniors RLFC | 175 | 213 |
| Queanbeyan United Juniors RLFC Inc | 341 | 330 |
| South Coast United | | |
| South Tuggeranong Minor RLFC Inc | 217 | 230 |
| Tuggeranong Buffaloes Junior RLFC | 184 | 179 |
| Valley Dragons Junior RLFC | 213 | 273 |
| West Belconnen Junior RLFC | 329 | 319 |
| Woden Valley Rams Juniors | 354 | 356 |
| Yass Minor Rugby League | 239 | 229 |

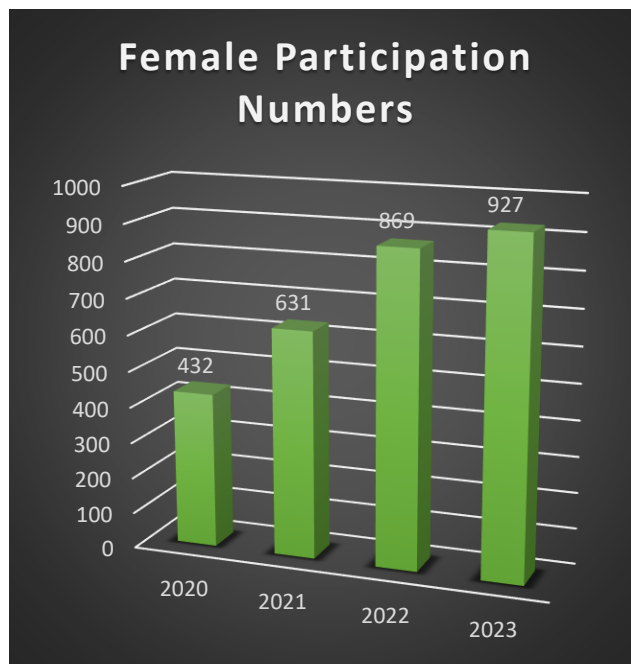
MALE PARTICIPATION PER CLUB 2023





Female Participation in both Tackle and League Tag:

| Competition Breakdown by Age Group | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Midgets | 10 | 17 | 12 | 7 |
| Under 5 | 14 | 21 | 25 | 16 |
| Under 6 | 18 | 12 | 23 | 29 |
| Under 7 | 19 | 25 | 23 | 28 |
| Under 8 | 38 | 18 | 31 | 33 |
| Under 9 | 19 | 53 | 30 | 56 |
| Under 10 | 15 | 50 | 73 | 57 |
| Under 11 | 17 | 66 | 72 | 87 |
| Under 12 | 19 | 60 | 92 | 92 |
| Under 13 | 75 | 42 | 121 | 111 |
| Under 14 | 62 | 85 | 110 | 136 |
| Under 15 | 64 | 74 | 124 | 104 |
| Under 16 | 30 | 66 | 82 | 91 |
| Under 17 | 32 | 42 | 51 | 74 |
| Under 18 | | | | 6 |
| Total | 432 | 631 | 869 | 927 |

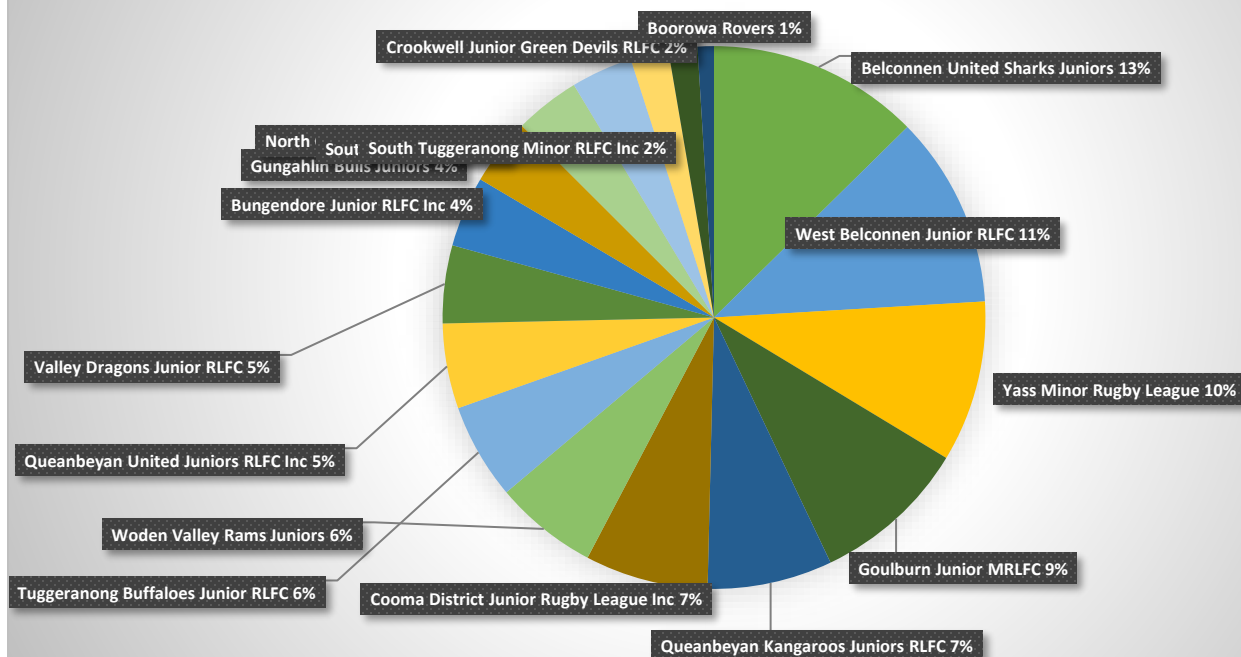


2023 Female participation breakdown by club - all green highlights had an increase of last year.

| Club | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|
| Belconnen United Sharks Juniors | 181 | 117 |
| Boorowa Rovers | | 9 |
| Bungendore Junior RLFC Inc | 53 | 39 |
| Cooma District Junior Rugby League Inc | 63 | 68 |
| Crookwell Junior Green Devils RLFC | 20 | 21 |
| Goulburn Junior MRLFC | 97 | 86 |
| Gungahlin Bulls Juniors | 47 | 37 |
| North Canberra Junior Bears | 27 | 36 |
| Queanbeyan Kangaroos Juniors RLFC | 55 | 69 |
| Queanbeyan United Juniors RLFC Inc | 43 | 47 |
| South Coast United | 54 | 34 |
| South Tuggeranong Minor RLFC Inc | 15 | 16 |
| Tuggeranong Buffaloes Junior RLFC | 40 | 53 |
| Valley Dragons Junior RLFC | 16 | 43 |
| West Belconnen Junior RLFC | 103 | 106 |
| Woden Valley Rams Juniors | 72 | 57 |
| Yass Minor Rugby League | 73 | 89 |



2023 Female Participation by Club





CRRL 2023 SEASON JUNIOR MAJOR PREMIERS

| COMPETITION | WINNING TEAM/S |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Under 10 Div 1 | Goulburn Stockmen |
| Under 10 Div 2 | Belconnen United Sharks |
| Under 10 Div 3 | Yass Magpies Queanbeyan Kangaroos |
| Under 10 League Tag | West Belconnen |
| Under 11 Div 1 | West Belconnen Woden Valley Rams |
| Under 11 Div 2 | Belconnen United Sharks |
| Under 11 Div 3 | North Canberra Bears |
| Under 11 Girls | West Belconnen |
| Under 12 Div 1 | Gungahlin Bulls |
| Under 12 Div 2 | Cooma Colts |
| Under 12 Div 3 | North Canberra Bears |
| Under 12 League Tag | Goulburn Stockmen |
| Under 13 Div 1 | North Canberra Bears |
| Under 13 Div 2 | South Tuggeranong Knights |
| Under 13 Div 3 | Valley Dragons |
| Under 13 Girls | West Belconnen |
| Under 14 Div 1 | Queanbeyan Blues |
| Under 14 Div 2 | West Belconnen |
| Under 14 League Tag | West Belconnen |
| Under 15 | Belconnen United Sharks |
| Under 15 Girls | Tuggeranong Buffaloes |
| Under 16 Div 1 | West Belconnen |
| Under 16 Div 2 | West Belconnen |
| Under 16 League Tag | Woden Valley Rams |
| Under 17 | Queanbeyan Blues |
| Under 17 Girls Div 1 | South Coast Marlins |
| Under 17 Girls Div 2 | Queanbeyan Blues |

Congratulations to all the clubs who were able to top off what was a successful season across all juniors' competitions.



MCINTYRE MEDAL AWARDS 2023

Queanbeyan Kangaroos captain-coach Sam Williams was awarded the 2023 Les McIntyre Medal as the Best & Fairest of the Canberra Raiders Cup First-Grade competition.



Williams polled 22 points for the Les McIntyre Medal, voted on a 3-2-1 basis by the on-field referee of each match during the regular season.

After a highly successful first full season in the Canberra Raiders Cup for Williams, he also picked up the Leading Points Scorer award and the Don Furner Snr Shield for the Coach of the Year.

The crafty halfback racked up 199 points, crossing the line for 5 tries and kicking 89 goals. After finishing the regular season as minor premiers, he went on to lead the Kangaroos to premiership glory.

The former Canberra Raider edged Belconnen United half Matthew Woolnough by one point, with Mitchell Cornish (Goulburn) and Mitchel Souter (Woden) making up the remaining finalists.

The Maree Bush Best & Fairest Medal for the Katrina Fanning Shield Tier 1 competition was awarded to Hollie Massey from the Gungahlin Bulls.

In her first year at Gungahlin, Massey led her team around the park in the half back position, playing a big role in their journey to a preliminary final.



Massey polled 16 points to earn the prestigious medal, four points clear of the other two finalists Caitlin Turnbull (Gungahlin) and Kaitlyn Andrews (Yass).



The Leedon Shield Reserve Grade Best & Fairest was awarded to Cody Smith from the Gungahlin Bulls.

The Katrina Fanning Sheild Tier 2 Best & Fairest Medal was awarded to Payge-Louise Condon from the Queanbeyan Blues, which makes for her third consecutive year earning best & fairest honors.



West Belconnen Warriors hooker Jye Rushton was awarded the David Sharpe Medal for the Best & Fairest in the Under 19's competition.

The Canberra Raiders Cup League Tag Best & Fairest Medal was awarded to Keesha Kapea of the Woden Valley Rams.

The Gavin Miller George Tooke Shield Best & Fairest Medal was awarded to Peter Dunn from the North Canberra Bears.

The George Tooke Shield League Tag Best & Fairest Medal was awarded to Georgia Smith from the Harden Hawkettes.



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

The Hewson/Stonham Shield for the Monaro Colts Best & Fairest was awarded to Xavier Cacciotti (Woden), and the Monaro Colts Open Women's Best & Fairest was awarded to Krystal Blackwell (Goulburn).



George Tooke Shield Representative Player of the Year awards went to Jayde Della (Crookwell) in the League Tag and Luke Colquhoun (Bungendore) in the Open Men's.



BEST & FAIREST STANDINGS

CRC FIRST GRADE

Samuel Williams – 22 votes
Matthew Woolnough – 21 votes
Mitchell Cornish – 17 votes

CRC RESERVE GRADE

Cody Smith – 29 votes
Bake Morschel – 20 votes
Andrew Swaffield – 17 votes

KFS TIER 1

Hollie Massey – 16 votes
Caitlin Turnbull – 11 votes
Kaitlyn Andrews – 11 votes

KFS TIER 2

Payge-Louise Condon – 20 votes
Briony Frater – 9 votes
Bethany Loco – 9 votes

CRC LEAGUE TAG

Keesha Kapea – 24 votes
Rachel Grocott – 19 votes
Maddison Harney – 15 votes

CRC UNDER 19'S

Jye Rushton – 18 votes
Thomas Harmer – 16 votes
Patrick Hubbard – 11 votes

GTS OPEN MEN'S

Peter Dunn – 19 votes
Jayden Cutting – 14 votes
Daniel Jacobs – 12 votes

GTS LEAGUE TAG

Georgia Smith – 24 votes
Emma James – 19 votes
Maddison Gillies – 19 votes



FULL LIST OF AWARD WINNERS

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP FIRST GRADE

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Jack Davison - 16 Tries | TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Samuel Williams - 199 Points | QUEANBEYAN KANGAROOS |
| DON FURNER SNR SHIELD (COACH OF THE YEAR) | Samuel Williams | QUEANBEYAN KANGAROOS |
| LES MCINTYRE MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST) | Samuel Williams - 22 Votes | QUEANBEYAN KANGAROOS |

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP RESERVE GRADE

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Lachlan Armstrong - 10 Tries | GUNGAHLIN BULLS |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Blake Morschel - 122 Points | GUNGAHLIN BULLS |
| COACH OF THE YEAR | Benjamin Flynn | GUNGAHLIN BULLS |
| LEEDON SHIELD (BEST & FAIREST) | Cody Smith - 29 Votes | GUNGAHLIN BULLS |

BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD Tier 1

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Caitlin Turnbull - 26 Tries | GUNGAHLIN BULLS |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Kaitlyn Andrews - 122 Points | YASS MAGPIES |
| GRAHAM WILLARD SHIELD (COACH OF THE YEAR) | Duncan Gray | GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS |
| MAREE BUSH MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST) | Hollie Massey - 16 Votes | GUNGAHLIN BULLS |



BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD Tier 2

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Emma Bayley - 15 Tries | HARDEN WORHAWKS |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Briony Frater - 199 Points | QUEANBEYAN BLUES |
| COACH OF THE YEAR | Paul Lewis & Kristy Brown | HARDEN WORHAWKS |
| BEST & FAIREST | Payge-Louise Condon - 20 Votes | QUEANBEYAN BLUES |

BLUMERS LAWYERS UNDER 19'S

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Peter Soward - 13 Tries | TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Thomas Harmer - 128 Points | GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS |
| COACH OF THE YEAR | Leslie Ferris | GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS |
| DAVID SHARPE MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST) | Jye Rushton - 18 Votes | WEST BELCONNEN WARRIORS |

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP LADIES LEAGUE TAG

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Caitlin Turnbull - 20 Tries | GUNGAHLIN BULLS |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Annie Croker - 128 Points | GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS |
| COACH OF THE YEAR | Patrick Lenane & Phil Davison | GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS (Lenane), TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS (Davison) |
| BEST & FAIREST MEDAL | Keesha Kapea - 24 Votes | WODEN VALLEY RAMS |


BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Steven Cummins - 20 Tries | CROOKWELL GREEN DEVILS |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Dion Aramoana - 116 Points | CROOKWELL GREEN DEVILS |
| COACH OF THE YEAR | Nicholas Hall | HARDEN HAWKS |
| GAVIN MILLER MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST) | Peter Dunn - 19 Votes | NORTH CANBERRA BEARS |

BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LADIES LEAGUE TAG

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| TOP TRY SCORER | Georgia Smith - 34 Tries | HARDEN HAWKETTES |
| TOP POINTS SCORER | Emma James - 170 Points | HARDEN HAWKETTES |
| COACH OF THE YEAR | Lauren Connell | COOTAMUNDRA BULLDOGS |
| GAVIN MILLER MEDAL (BEST & FAIREST) | Georgia Smith - 24 Votes | HARDEN HAWKS |

* These awards are based off regular season statistics.

SPECIAL AWARDS

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| NOEL BLISSETT TROPHY | Andrew Nightingale | |
| HEWSON/STONHAM MEDAL | Xavier Cacciotti | WODEN VALLEY RAMS |
| MONARO WOMEN'S BEST & FAIREST | Krystal Blackwell | GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS |
| GTS REP PLAYER OF THE YEAR | Luke Colquhoun | BUNGENDORE TIGERS |
| GTS LEAGUE TAG REP PLAYER OF THE YEAR | Jayde Della | CROOKWELL GREEN DEVILS |
| NSW WHEELCHAIR RL RECOGNITION | Chris O'Brien, Toby Popple & Zac Carl | |



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. |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|
| Queanbeyan Kangaroos | 16 | 30 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 623 | 188 | 435 |
| Tuggeranong Bushrangers | 16 | 22 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 458 | 351 | 107 |
| West Belconnen Warriors | 16 | 21 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 380 | 320 | 60 |
| Belconnen United Sharks | 16 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 332 | 358 | -26 |
| Goulburn City Bulldogs | 16 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 474 | 364 | 110 |
| Woden Valley Rams | 16 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 384 | 379 | 5 |
| Queanbeyan Blues | 16 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 306 | 511 | -205 |
| Gungahlin Bulls | 16 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 329 | 540 | -211 |
| Yass Magpies | 16 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 302 | 577 | -275 |

* The Queanbeyan Blues were deducted one competition point under Tough Love in Rugby League legislation.

The 2023 Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade season culminated in an exciting Grand Final clash between the Queanbeyan Kangaroos and their bogey team this year, the Tuggeranong Bushrangers.

The Roos went undefeated till they met Tuggeranong for the second time in round 15 where they lost in a thriller 18-17. Queanbeyan dominated their opposition for the remainder of the regular season which earned the minor premiership and home ground advantage in their major semi-final against the Bushrangers. Tuggeranong, once again, found a way to beat the competition heavy weights 18-13 which booked their spot in the grand final, while the Roos had to beat Belconnen United the following week in a preliminary final, which they did convincingly 40-10.

The Roos, led by 2023 McIntyre Medalist Sam Williams, were able to cap off a brilliant year, defeating Tuggeranong 34-6 and were crowned 2023 CRC premiers, with fullback Kaine Pagura named best on ground.


BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP RESERVE GRADE

| Team | Played | Points | Wins | Draws | Losses | Byes | For | Against | Diff. |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|
| Gungahlin Bulls | 14 | 28 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 556 | 154 | 402 |
| Yass Magpies | 14 | 18 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 272 | 202 | 70 |
| Tuggeranong Bushrangers | 14 | 18 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 284 | 294 | -10 |
| Woden Valley Rams | 14 | 17 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 278 | 284 | -6 |
| Queanbeyan Kangaroos | 14 | 11 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 242 | 330 | -88 |
| Goulburn City Bulldogs | 14 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 262 | 328 | -66 |
| West Belconnen Warriors | 14 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 268 | 358 | -90 |
| Belconnen United Sharks | 14 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 178 | 390 | -212 |

The Gungahlin Bulls were able to complete the perfect season in the 2023 Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup Reserve Grade.

After finishing the regular season undefeated and earning the minor premiership, Gungahlin continued their win streak, defeating Yass in a 22-16 nail biting major semi-final.

With the strongest side already locked into the grand final, their challenger was yet to be decided.

The Magpies met Tuggeranong in the preliminary final, which turned out to be one of the most exciting games of the year.

It was a try-for-try affair with the Bushrangers having the final say in the dying minutes of the game, which saw them defeat Yass 24-18.

This marked an exciting day for the Tuggeranong Bushrangers RLFC as they had reached the Grand Final in both first and reserve grade.

The Bulls sought redemption from last year's grand final loss, putting on a dominant 36-20 performance to lift the CRC Reserve Grade premiership trophy and finish the year undefeated.

Gungahlin fullback Ethan Miller was awarded man of the match for his influential performance in setting up a few tries and scoring one for himself.



BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD TIER 1

| Team | Played | Points | Wins | Draws | Losses | Byes | For | Against | Diff. |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|
| Yass Magpies | 15 | 25 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 515 | 126 | 389 |
| Gungahlin Bulls | 15 | 24 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 480 | 184 | 296 |
| West Belconnen Warriors | 15 | 19 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 411 | 196 | 215 |
| Goulburn City Bulldogs | 15 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 312 | 372 | -60 |

* The competition split into two tiers after round 9 for performance and development reasons. Points and statistics were carried over.

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

The 2023 season saw three new expansion teams join the competition, including the Gungahlin Bulls, Queanbeyan Kangaroos, and the West Belconnen Warriors.

Gungahlin and West Belconnen performed well all year and situated themselves near the top of the ladder which saw them split into tier 1 of the KFS after round nine.

In their debut season in the KFS, the Warriors were able to defeat reigning premiers Yass in the grand final 24-22 to lift the 2023 Katrina Fanning Shield.

Crystal Papalii led from the front and was damaging all afternoon for her side as she collected the player of the match honours.

The Bulls also had a successful year, finishing the regular season one point behind the minor premiers Yass, but fell short in the preliminary final.

The success of both expansion clubs showcases the amount of female talent there is in the Canberra region.

We look forward to the progress and development of the competition in years to come.



BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD TIER 2

| Team | Played | Points | Wins | Draws | Losses | Byes | For | Against | Diff. |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|
| Queanbeyan Blues | 13 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 361 | 172 | 189 |
| Harden Worhawks | 13 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 316 | 238 | 78 |
| Tuggeranong Bushrangers | 13 | 11 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 277 | 196 | 81 |
| Woden Valley Rams | 13 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 238 | 384 | -146 |
| Queanbeyan Kangaroos | 13 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 73 | 422 | -349 |

* The competition split into two tiers after round 9 for performance and development reasons. Points and statistics carried over.

Once the Katrina Fanning Shield split into two tiers, we saw more competitive matchups with tighter scorelines and greater development for all players.

The Blumers Lawyers Katrina Fanning Shield Tier 2 made for an entertaining competition, particularly during the finals series.

The Harden Worhawks put on a commanding 32-12 scoreline against the minor premiers Queanbeyan Blues in the major semi-final to book a spot in the grand final.

They met again two weeks later, with the Blues seeking redemption from their prior loss to Harden.

Queanbeyan put on an impressive grand final performance, defeating the Worhawks 32-14 and were crowned premiers.

Blues halfback Briony Frater had a hand in most of Queanbeyan's tries and was awarded best on ground.



BLUMERS LAWYERS UNDER 19's

| Team | Played | Points | Wins | Draws | Losses | Byes | For | Against | Diff. |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Goulburn City Bulldogs | 12 | 21 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 384 | 110 | 274 |
| Woden Valley Rams | 12 | 20 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 356 | 178 | 178 |
| West Belconnen Warriors | 12 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 280 | 304 | -24 |
| Tuggeranong Bushrangers | 12 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 196 | 270 | -74 |
| Gungahlin Bulls | 12 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 216 | 232 | -16 |
| Queanbeyan Blues | 12 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 180 | 336 | -156 |
| Yass Magpies | 12 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 156 | 338 | -182 |

The Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup Under 19s was one of the most competitive competitions of the year.

The Goulburn City Bulldogs were the front runners for the entire regular season, securing the minor premiership, and going into the finals series with high expectations.

They came up against a strong Woden outfit in week one of the finals, which saw the Rams dominate Goulburn 50-10, sending Woden straight into the grand final.

The Bulldogs had a chance to redeem themselves the following week but fell short to a West Belconnen side that found a vein of form in the back end of the year.

After defeating the minor premiers 24-14 in the preliminary final, the Warriors then faced their biggest challenge against Woden.

The Rams didn't skip a beat on grand final day, defeating West Belconnen 42-18.

Woden prop Mathais Tomuli Ah-Kuoi was awarded man of the match, scoring a try and having his hand in a further three to wrap up an incredible individual performance.


BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP LADIES LEAGUE TAG

| Team | Played | Points | Wins | Draws | Losses | Byes | For | Against | Diff. |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|
| Woden Valley Rams | 14 | 26 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 580 | 64 | 516 |
| Gungahlin Bulls | 14 | 23 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 358 | 96 | 262 |
| Belconnen United Sharks | 14 | 19 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 256 | 136 | 120 |
| Goulburn City Bulldogs | 14 | 17 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 376 | 156 | 220 |
| West Belconnen Warriors | 14 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 156 | 206 | -50 |
| Yass Magpies | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 102 | 306 | -204 |
| Tuggeranong Bushrangers | 14 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 88 | 370 | -282 |
| Queanbeyan Kangaroos | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 4 | 26 | 608 | -582 |

The Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup Ladies League Tag was very entertaining this year, particularly the battle between the top two teams.

Woden and Gungahlin were the more dominant sides this season, with both teams solidified at the top of the table for the entire year, closely followed by Belconnen United and Goulburn.

Woden were the favourites coming into 2023 as reigning premiers and proved themselves as the team to beat by only suffering one loss, which was handed to them by the Bulls in round four.

The two top contenders met in the major semi-final where Woden proved too strong, defeating Gungahlin 22-6 to secure a grand final spot.

They matched up again two weeks later in the game that matters most, where the Woden Valley Rams were crowned 2023 CRC Ladies League Tag premiers after a classy 18-4 display.

Elana Sliwinski was awarded best on ground for her individual performance, steering her side to back-to-back premierships.



BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LADIES LEAGUE TAG

| Team | Played | % Won | Wins | Draws | Losses | Byes | For | Against |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|---------|
| Harden Hawks | 11 | 90.91 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 514 | 66 |
| Cootamundra Bulldogs | 10 | 90.00 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 354 | 50 |
| Crookwell Green Devils | 11 | 63.64 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 244 | 160 |
| North Canberra Bears | 11 | 54.55 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 232 | 158 |
| Bungendore Tigers | 12 | 41.67 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 196 | 258 |
| Boorowa Rovers | 11 | 36.36 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 241 | 164 |
| UC Stars | 10 | 20.00 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 94 | 228 |
| Burrangong Bears | 11 | 9.09 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 763 |

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

The 2023 season saw the Harden Hawkettes secure their fourth consecutive premiership, continuing their dominance from the past few years.

Cootamundra were the only club to pose a threat to Harden, as they served the Hawkettes their one and only loss in round 14.

Harden were able to hold their position atop the table and earn the minor premiership, while Cootamundra trailed a close second.

The Hawkettes showed their superiority in the major semi-final, getting over the Bulldogs 36-0.

Harden would then re-face Cootamundra a fortnight later in the grand final, which saw the Hawkettes hold out a tight 10-0 victory.

Harden playmaker Eliza Butt was recognised for her standout performance and awarded player of the match.



BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S

| Team | Played | Points | Wins | Draws | Losses | Byes | For | Against |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Crookwell Green Devils | 14 | 22 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 466 | 198 |
| Boorowa Rovers | 14 | 22 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 294 | 192 |
| Bungendore Tigers | 14 | 21 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 437 | 180 |
| Harden Hawks | 14 | 21 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 404 | 208 |
| North Canberra Bears | 14 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 277 | 274 |
| Cootamundra Bulldogs | 14 | 14 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 346 | 259 |
| Boomanulla Raiders | 14 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 176 | 430 |
| UC Stars | 14 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 242 | 543 |
| Burrangong Bears | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 100 | 458 |

2023 was a greatly successful year for the Blumers Lawyers George Tooke Shield Open Men's competition.

The Boorowa Rovers broke their 40-year premiership drought, defeating the reigning premiers Crookwell at a packed out Crookwell Memorial Oval.

The GTS was the most competitive competition that falls under the CRRL banner in 2023, with Crookwell and Boorowa both finishing the regular season on 22 points, closely followed by Bungendore and Harden on 21 points.

The battle between Crookwell and Boorowa in the finals series was the highlight of the year.

The major semi-final went down to the wire, finishing at 31-30, to send the Green Devils straight into the grand final.

The Rovers fought their way to face Crookwell again in what was a blockbuster grand final with a heaving atmosphere.

With the backing of their large fanbase present, Boorowa defeated the Green Devils 22-8 to lift the George Tooke Shield.

Boorowa halfback Jayden Cutting was awarded best on ground.



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP

| Team | Firsts X4 | Res X3 | KFS X3 | U19s X2 | LT X2 | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-------|
| Gungahlin Bulls | 24 | 84 | 72 | 16 | 46 | 242 |
| Woden Valley Rams | 64 | 51 | 30 | 40 | 52 | 237 |
| West Belconnen Warriors | 84 | 24 | 57 | 30 | 28 | 223 |
| Goulburn City Bulldogs | 64 | 24 | 45 | 42 | 34 | 209 |
| Tuggeranong Bushrangers | 88 | 54 | 33 | 18 | 8 | 201 |
| Yass Magpies | 24 | 54 | 75 | 10 | 18 | 181 |
| Queanbeyan Kangaroos | 120 | 33 | 6 | n/a | 0 | 159 |
| Belconnen United Sharks | 80 | 12 | n/a | n/a | 38 | 130 |
| Queanbeyan Blues | 24 | n/a | 45 | 12 | n/a | 81 |

Congratulations to the Gungahlin Bulls RLFC for winning the 2023 Canberra Raiders Cup Club Championship award.

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





BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD

| Team | Mens X4 | LT X3 | KFS X3 | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Harden Hawks | 300 | 276.93 | 150 | 726.93 |
| Crookwell Green Devils | 314.28 | 200.01 | n/a | 514.29 |
| Cootamundra Bulldogs | 200 | 275.01 | n/a | 475.01 |
| Bungendore Tigers | 300 | 138.45 | n/a | 438.45 |
| Boorowa Rovers | 314.28 | 99.99 | n/a | 414.27 |
| North Canberra Bears | 228.56 | 150 | n/a | 378.56 |
| UC Stars | 57.16 | 50.01 | n/a | 107.17 |
| Boomanulla Raiders | 85.72 | n/a | n/a | 85.72 |
| Burrangong Bears | 0.00 | 23.07 | n/a | 23.07 |

Congratulations to the Harden Hawks RLFC for winning the 2023 George Tooke Shield Club Championship award.

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





COMMUNITY REPORT

In 2023, the Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL) were proud to partner with the Canberra Raiders Community team to deliver a high volume of community outreach programs to the local Rugby League community. We would like to thank all clubs and volunteers for your patience and support throughout season 2023.



It was great to see so many of our clubs engage in all community events that were run in 2023. We were privileged to welcome all junior clubs once again to GIO Stadium for the annual CRRL Round. Players, and for the first time ever, club mascots, were given the opportunity to run the relay on field at halftime in front of more than 11,000 fans, as well as forming the guard of honour for the second half.

A massive thanks to the 15 teams, and over 150 runners, that participated in this event. The event was well received, and we look forward to providing this opportunity to all clubs in 2024.

It was important to ensure that community engagement remained strong and consistent through the year. This was evident by the 14 junior club visits that took place in 2023. When asked about giving back to the community, this is the thing that the players say they enjoy most. We once again thank all junior clubs for assisting to facilitate these visits and look forward to being involved in it again in 2024.

Our Inclusion Programs continued to branch out into the community. We hosted Wheelchair Rugby League activations at GIO Stadium before the Canberra Raiders home games, as well as showcasing the very best that our Score Raiders had to offer in games at both GIO Stadium and various other grounds throughout the region. The Score Raiders defeated the Whistleblowers in the grand final, which was played at NSWRL HQ in Bruce.



In 2023, there were several themed rounds. We thank all the clubs who engaged in some of these which included Indigenous Round, NAIDOC week, Women in League round, and the Family of League Foundation crazy socks round.



It is amazing to see all the clubs continually getting involved with these special causes and driving these initiatives.

I would like to thank the Raiders Group for their continued support and commitment to developing rugby league in our region and ensuring that community rugby league remains a strong, viable, and sustainable sport.

Thank you to Raiders Belconnen, Raiders Weston, Raiders Gungahlin, The Mawson Club, and Queanbeyan Leagues Club. For season 2024, the 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

2023 saw us complete another full season following the success of 2022, after numerous disruptions over the previous few years, and it was great to once again see both the Junior and Senior competitions flourish.



Like 2022, we faced a couple of challenges in the accreditation space, but now, with a full season under our belts, communication between the CRRL and the clubs showed positive signs of growth. The continued support of the clubs from the CRRL allowed for a higher percentage of compliance in both the coach and sports trainer space.

Whilst we weren't at 100% in either of these areas, we are trending upwards with a 2024 goal of 100% consistency across the board.

We had growth in courses and course attendance. In total there were 13 Community Coach courses (6x Community Coach 6-12 courses, and 7x Community Coach 13+ courses), and 9 League First Aid and Sports Trainer courses. These courses serviced 224 new coaches and 242 new sports trainers. This led to another increase in qualified officials, our largest number to date.

Once again, the number of courses became a recurring challenge, and we were constantly working to organise new courses to accommodate the increase in registration numbers. It is important to ensure we continue to have strong communication with our volunteer base to ensure they are given adequate time to fill all upcoming courses.

Overall, the increase in course and My Sideline registrations, led to our largest contingency of volunteers:

| Officials | 2023 |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Coaches | 789 |
| Trainers / FAO | 562 |
| League Safes | 1292 |

*Numbers based off 2023 My Sideline Registrations

This year also saw the continuation of the Tackle Ready Program, once again, facilitated by our NRL Game Development Officers, Shane Read and Taylor Giggins.



This program is a part of the Player Development Framework (PDF), with the overall goal being to properly educate coaches and players on correct tackle technique. 2024 will again see further stages of the PDF implemented, with the U7 teams completing 6 weeks of tackle ready before moving into full tackle in Round 7. Coaches will once again be encouraged and supported to ensure they are confident in delivering the Tackle Ready Program in 2024.



I thank everyone for their patience and support as we once again had a strong focus on our Concussion Protocols. With consistent reporting and communication in place, the trainers showed a greater level of confidence in replacing players as soon as they started showing concussion symptoms. This will be another strong focal point in the 2024 pre-season as I will continue to upskill and support trainers, ensuring they are confident enough in the protocols, as well as the reporting system via My Sideline.

Overall, 2023 was a successful year from both a registration and communication standpoint. With a stable team of administrators, we were able to build on the growing relationships that were built throughout 2022. In 2024, we will continue to put our focus into ensuring 100% compliance on all fronts (coaches, trainers, and Working with Vulnerable People/Working with Children registrations), as well as continuing to maintain our relationships with volunteers in all capacities whilst continuing to encourage and support them in all aspects of Rugby League. I look forward to the further growth of this area in 2024.

Anthony McQueen

CRRL Competition and Accreditation Assistant



INCLUSION PROGRAMS REPORT

2023 once again proved to be an important year for our two Inclusion Programs, the Rollings Raiders Wheelchair Rugby League, and the Score Raiders. The growth and popularity of both programs continued to blossom, and it was evident that with continued support, they will continue to be an important pillar of community rugby league.

This year we were fortunate enough to run a full calendar of Wheelchair Rugby League events. Like in 2022, we were able to run two full Wheelchair Rugby League seasons. An autumn season (between March-July) and a spring season (between September-December). With a steady flow of returning players, we were able to enhance the skills we had put into practice throughout much of 2022.



The session structure remained similar, with a warmup, followed by skills building, and ending with a game, with teams changing weekly. This allowed continual development, as players were able to work on tactics with different players.



The CRRL is proud of the development shown through all players in 2023. Whilst we were unable to launch a competition, the Rolling Raiders were able to participate in a highly competitive game against a Sydney Barbarians Invitational team. The Rolling Raiders would go down 14-10 in what was, for many players, their first competitive Wheelchair Rugby League game. This game was played as the curtain raiser for the NSW City vs Country game at Queanbeyan PCYC on Saturday 6th May.

2023 saw growth in a number of other areas in Wheelchair Rugby League. We were successfully added to the Sporting Schools portal for Term 4 and through this, several schools were able to organise multi-week Wheelchair Rugby League programs, with the hope, of increasing participation numbers through this exposure. Through this Sporting Schools program, we have been able to introduce Wheelchair Rugby League to over 500 school participants of all ages.



We once again continued our regional footprint, with expansion into Wagga Wagga, with plans to reconnect with Bathurst and Griffith in early 2024. Once these regional hubs are established, and equipment pending, we will soon see competitive teams come out of these areas, with the hope of a Southern NSW cup to be played in late 2024.

The Rolling Raiders saw several representative players take to the court. The 2023 Rolling Raiders team consisted of Bradley Burns, Anthony McQueen, Michael Medveczky, Luke Patterson, Kale Popple, Mitchell Sentence, Victoria Simpson, and Michael Skerry with the team being coached by Amanda Carlyon.



Chris O'Brien, Toby Popple, and Zac Carl were once again busy on the representative scene as all three represented NSW Country (who defeated NSW City by a record margin of 70-15), as well as representing NSW in the 2023 Wheelchair State Challenge. NSW were unfortunately defeated in this match by a strong QLD outfit.

After a number of impressive performances throughout 2023, Toby Popple was named in the Australian Wheelaroos train on squad for the 2024 tour of USA. We look forward to seeing more players progress through these representative pathways in 2024.

In 2023, the Rolling Raiders continued to develop and improve on several key relationships. We give special thanks to the following groups for their support of the program in 2023. To Entice Travel, Interreach, Invictus Australia, Feros Care, Marymead Autism Centre, Active Recovery Sports Physiotherapy and Capital Region Community Service, we thank you for your ongoing support to our program and look forward to continuing these partnerships in 2024.

The Canberra Region Rugby League is also pleased to continue its ongoing partnership with the Disability Trust in 2023. The Score Raiders were once again integrated into our Under 14s competition, and continually showed signs of positive development with highly competitive games against some of the strongest teams in this competition. We thank all the clubs who got involved with this wonderful opportunity and for their support of the program.





The Score Raiders season culminated in a Grand Final victory over the Whistle Blowers, which was played at NSWRL HQ in Bruce. This game was well received by all participants and spectators. A massive thank you must also go out to the Yass Magpies, who competed against the Score Raiders at GIO Stadium.

The CRRL would like to thank everyone who supported both Inclusion Programs in 2023. Without your unending time, support, and commitment, we wouldn't be able to continue to grow highly rewarding programs. We've hit various milestones in both programs in 2023 and look forward to continuing to grow and improve both of these programs in 2024.

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 2023. We appreciate all the hard work that you do and there would not be a game without your dedication.

NRL Canberra have returned to the Southern NSW game development team in 2023. These areas include Canberra, Illawarra, Tablelands, South and Far South Coast regions.



2023 has been a successful year for everyone. NRL Canberra delivered an increased number of Secondary school programs in terms 1 and 2 including Sporting Schools, LIFT and Tackle Ready programs. This increase in interest from secondary schools is very encouraging for the recruitment and retention of 13+ players in the CRRL district.

Our NRL Southern NSW Development team have once again conducted many events, competitions, education courses and community events. 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 after school program League Stars had 120 participants in 2023 across 10 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 2024 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 RL Mark Vergano, Deb Charman, Stacey Studholme, Anthony McQueen, Finn Williamson and Liam Wyllie as well as all our Junior Rugby League clubs and committees, our event and programs could not occur 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 Matt Williams, Kyle Williams, Huw Ellis, Alysha Janssen, Gethin Thomas, Quincey Dodd, Holly Furness and Josh Norris as well as our NRL Southern region manager Matt O'Brien and our Assistant Development Officers. Our GDO team works 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 2023 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
- Community events

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 2023. Enjoy the break and we look forward to working with you in 2024.

Shane Read & Taylor Giggins

NRL Game Development, Canberra.



League Stars

- A total of 10 League Stars after school programs were offered throughout 2023, with 180 participants. Only 1 program was cancelled due to low registrations.
- NRL Canberra conducted 3 x NRL holiday clinics, 3 CRRL Development clinics and the Canberra Raiders Master class with a total of 470 participants.

School Competitions

Primary School:

In 2023 we were able to conduct the majority of our Primary School gala day events, 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 2023 we were able to conduct almost all our High School and College gala day events. These included: University Shield in Goulburn, Female League Tag, Alan Tongue Cup 9's Male, Katrina Fanning Cup 9s Female, Country Cup Tablelands, Buckley Shield Tablelands, Country Cup Canberra and Schoolboy Trophy Canberra.

*Our new initiative of NRL Raiders Tag for secondary schools will be conducted in mid -term 4 of 2023. 14 Teams have nominated for the event as of October 31st, 2023.

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

- **University Shield NSWPSSA** - U17 and U18 males, Mulwaree HS to progress to regional final.
- **Buckley Shield NSWPSSA** - U14 male, Yass HS def Mulwaree HS. Yass progressed to state finals but were knocked out.
- **NRL Country Cup - Tablelands** - U13 and U15 males U13 -Mulwaree to proceed to regional finals U15 -Mulwaree to proceed to regional finals.
- **Country Cup Canberra (Clyde/Router)** - U13s- St Francis Xavier def Melrose HS U15s - St Edmunds Def St Francis Xavier College Both teams knocked out at state finals in Ulladulla.
- **Schoolboy Trophy** - Year 11-12 Boys 2023- Winner -Erindale College def Gungahlin College, Gungahlin College progress to state finals in Cootamundra but were knocked out.
- **Katrina Fanning Cup 9's Canberra** - Year 7-12 Girls - 8 x schools 15 x teams WINNERS: U14 -Daramalan College U16 -Daramalan College U18 -Erindale College
- **Katrina Fanning Cup 9's Monaro finals-** U14 Winner; Lumin Cristi Pambula def Daramalan College U16 Winner: Narooma HS def Daramalan College U18 Winner: Erindale College def Monaro HS
- **Alan Tongue Cup 9's** - Year 7-10 Boys 22 x schools, 41 teams U14 Winner; Mulwaree HS def St Edmunds College U16 Winner: St Edmunds College def Erindale College, U18 Winner: Erindale Red def Erindale Black
- **Ladies League Tag** - Year 7-12 Girls 2023- 15 x schools, 27 teams Winners - U14s Daramalan College U16s Daramalan College U18s Erindale College
- **Raiders Tag- Secondary Schools** -Mixed 7 aside event, 23 teams / 11 schools

School Programs

- Canberra Raiders Community Blitz was conducted in February 2023 delivering the NRL INSPIRE message to 22 ACT/NSW Primary schools. League Stars Inspire workshops were also conducted across multiple schools in the Canberra Region including the Dickson College Bridging program.
- 4 Sporting Schools LIFT Programs where 345 school students participated in a Rugby League program across ACT High Schools.
- League Stars Introduction clinics were run within schools to promote a League Stars program in their area.
- Tackle Safe programs were delivered across Primary and Secondary Schools in ACT & NSW to assist in preparation for gala day attendance.





Education

In 2023 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 2 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 the availability of Canberra Raiders/NRL staff to deliver the sessions.



REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL WRAP

Country Championships

MONARO COLTS OPEN MEN'S



The Monaro Colts Open Men's side, made up of Canberra Raiders Cup representatives bar one player, were unfortunately knocked out in round one of the 2023 Country Championships tournament.

They were defeated by the eventual runners-up, Riverina Bulls, 46-12 at NSWRL HQ, Bruce.

A disappointing result considering their success in previous years, advancing to week one of the finals last year, and winning the competition in 2021.

Squad: Ryan McQueen (West Belconnen Warriors), Jayden Pollard (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Willie Peace (West Belconnen Warriors), Gideon Afemui (Woden Valley Rams), Jack Davidson (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Liam Oakley (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Bobby Roberts (Gungahlin Bulls), Jayden Thomas (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Harry Brown (West Belconnen Warriors), Hayden Lazarus (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Brigham Moeakiola (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Ben Nanesa (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Darby Medlyn (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Jack Heyman (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Grant Moon (Merimbula), James Horvat (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Tom Bethke (West Belconnen Warriors), Josh Eppelstun (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Matthew Wheatley (Queanbeyan Kangaroos)

Staff: Jason Kelly, Joel Glover, Allan Wilton



MONARO COLTS OPEN WOMEN'S



The Monaro Colts Open Women's side tasted success in the 2023 Country Championships, defeating the NMR Knights 34-0 to win the competition for the very first time.

Predominantly made up of local Katrina Fanning Shield representatives, the Monaro Colts showcased some of the great female talent our region has to offer, going undefeated throughout the tournament to win this year's grand final.

Monaro dominated the Southern pool with wins over close-rivals Riverina Bulls, as well as Western Rams, Macarthur Wests Tigers and Illawarra South Coast Dragons.

Monaro dominated in the grand final where they had an incredible 34-nil victory over the Newcastle Maitland Region Knights at Leichardt Oval.

Goulburn junior Krystal Blackwell was awarded best-on-ground for playing a role in most of their tries and scoring two of her own in the final, she was also recognised as Best & Fairest of the squad at the CRRL McIntyre Medal presentation night.

Most importantly, this tournament provided a platform and a pathway for our Katrina Fanning Shield players, some of whom progressed through to the Harvey Norman Women's Premiership and NRLW competitions.

Squad: Krystal Blackwell, Tijana Zdraveveska, Madyson Tooth, Klaudia Ostrenkovics, Lily Croker, Mikayla Morris, Holly Massey, Carley Wilkin, Zoe Podmore, Samara Afele, Lucy Prosser, Elly Hazelton, Kaitlyn Andrews, Lily Janota, Caitlyn Fazey-Robinson, Jessica Zammit, Milika Tuinakauvadra, Sam Poidevin, Sydney Harrison, Emily Banks, Gaelle Noelle Alakame Anzong, Kathryn Nikki, Hayley Liddle

Staff: Cobie Sheehan, Farah Attalah, Jess Howard, Credence Bartlett, Adrian Day, Nathan Smith

**Monaro Junior Representatives****ANDREW JOHNS CUP (UNDER 16s)**

The Monaro Colts SLE Andrew Johns Cup representative side had a solid campaign, advancing through to the semi-final where they fell short to the eventual runners-up, NMR Knights, 24-16.

Monaro won three games, lost one and drew once in the five-week competition before their semi-final.

All three of their victories were dominant, winning 32-14 against the Roosters, 34-16 over the Rams, and beating the Bulls 28-10.

The side improved on last year's results, where they missed out qualifying for the semi-finals 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: Cooper Johnston, Jet Millard, Jonah Alaia, Samuel Green, Joshua Klobucar, Jamie Cowling, Troy Codey, Billy Hollands, Koby Anderson, Dempsey Woolf, Thomas Moss, Lochie Ellard, Byron Cahill, Daniel Moananu, Malachi Tomlinson, Patrick Koen, Luke Palmer, Levi Woods.

Coach: Shane McCallum



LAURIE DALEY CUP (UNDER 18s)



The Monaro Colts SLE Laurie Daley Cup representative side had a highly successful tournament, making it through to the grand final where they narrowly lost 26-24 to the Illawarra South Coast Dragons.

Monaro won three of five round games before defeating the NMR Knights 34-30 in the semi-final.

Colts hooker Xavier Cacciotti was the standout player of the squad, scoring a whopping four tries in the grand final.

When they first faced the Dragons in round two of the competition, Cacciotti got over the line on four occasions in that game as well.

Xavier was recognised for his performances and was awarded the Tom Nelson Medal for the SLE Laurie Daley Cup Player of the Year.

Cacciotti was also presented the Hewson/Stonham Shield at the CRRL McIntyre Medal awards night as the Best & Fairest for the Monaro Colts in 2023.



Squad: Alexander Sweeney, Jack Clutterbuck, Nikolas Klobucar, Tui Georgievski, Israel Taiaitini, Blake Hovi, Mason Kearney, Jayden Svager, Xavier Cacciotti, Lane Davis, Cooper Ferris, Mark Connors, Jayden Wolfe, Yanga Marela, Joshua Urbaniak, Jordan Williams, Mathias Petone Tomuli-Ah-Kuoi, Ethan Ayodele

Coach: Brendan Bradley



Monaro League Tag Representatives

NSWRL SOUTHERN OPENS BLUES TAG



The Monaro Colts Blues Tag outfit maintained an unbeaten record to claim victory at the NSWRL Southern Opens Representative Gala Day held in Boorowa.

Monaro, made up of Canberra Raiders Cup and George Tooke Shield League Tag players, had an up-and-down road to their round three winner-take-all fixture against Western, earning a convincing 32-6 win over Riverina before managing a 10-10 draw with Illawarra-South Coast.

The Colts lifted another gear in the gala day final against the unbeaten Rams, securing a dominant 24-6 victory to take home the trophy.

Monaro fullback Keesha Kapea, who represents Woden in the Canberra Raiders Cup, was named 'Player of the Day', continuing her exceptional form in the League Tag arena.

The NSWRL Opens Blues Tag tournament offers a great pathway for those who want to play non-contact to compete at a representative level.



Squad: Jessica Crowe (Gungahlin Bulls), Jayde Della (Crookwell Green Devils), Rachel Grocott (Gungahlin Bulls), Maddison Harney (Belconnen United Sharks), Karina Hewlett (Woden Valley Rams), Maddeline Hyland (Gungahlin Bulls), Emma James (Harden Hawks), Keesha Kapea (Woden Valley Rams), Grace Marshall (Goulburn City Bulldogs), Emma McDonald (Woden Valley Rams), Andie McTavish (Cootamundra Bulldogs), Teagan Pateman (Bungendore Tigers), Elana Sliwinski (Woden Valley Rams), Clare Smith (Harden Hawks), Georgia Smith (Harden Hawks), Alicia Trevethan (Woden Valley Rams), Caitlin Turnbull (Gungahlin Bulls).

Coach: Darren Grocott



George Tooke Shield Representatives

GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S & LEAGUE TAG REPRESENTATIVE SIDES

The George Tooke Shield Open Men's and Ladies League Tag competitions had their third consecutive season of selecting a representative team to play in their annual exhibition match against Woodbridge Cup.

The representative fixtures took place at McLean Oval in Harden.

The Open Men's side unfortunately went down 30-20 in a hard-fought game against a strong Woodbridge Cup representative outfit.



While the Ladies League Tag side put on a dominant display, defeating their Woodbridge Cup opposition 44-10.

These annual exhibition matches offer a great opportunity for players in the George Tooke Shield to play at the representative level, providing an added pathway for further development.

Open Men's Squad: Daniel Jacobs (Bungendore), Trent Brown (North Canberra), Steve Cummins (Crookwell), Joie Whybrow (Harden), Adam Booth (UC), Hamish Scott (Boorowa), Carl Johnson (Bungendore), Jayden Eddy (Crookwell), Tyler Keller (Crookwell), Alex Stewart (Boorowa), Luke Colquhoun (Bungendore), Kurt Johnstone (UC), Brad Laurent (Bungendore), Jayden Cutting (Boorowa), Cooper Cross (Boorowa), Pat Pryor (Bungendore), Riley Manwaring (Harden).

Ladies League Tag Squad: Clare Smith (Harden), Marylou Minehan (Harden), Georgia Smith (Harden), Chloe Muggleton (Harden), Emma James (Harden), Eliza Butt (Harden), and Grace Smith (Harden), Georgia Noack (Crookwell), Kristen Byrne (Cootamundra), Ange McTavish (Cootamundra), Jayde Della (Crookwell), Imogen Pye (Boorowa), Mackella Pye (Boorowa), Tailor Holgate (North Canberra), Lauren Connell (Cootamundra).



REFEREES REPORT

Office Bearers 2023

Chairman: Matthew HALL

Executive Officer – CRRL Board Member: Chris NIGHTINGALE

Director Finance: Katherine NIGHTINGALE

Operations Manager: Mark RYAN

Director Coaching and Development (Director Referees): James GOULD

Director Members Services: Jason SEVERS

Director Recruitment & Retention: David CHARMAN

We commenced the year with another increase in registered players in the local competitions which translated to an increase up to 178 games each weekend. 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 at short notice and officiating in multiple games over three days each weekend, especially when some of those mornings involved games in what can be described as freezing temperatures. The year presented an opportunity for a number of members to progress to officiate at higher levels, which translated to some very high standard refereeing during the Finals Series.

Our recruitment improved from 2022 with 31 candidates undertaking the Referees Foundation One course. This was double from 2022, however presented challenges in engagement and participation by those new members.

Analysis showed two were returning adult members due to grandchildren now playing and were only engaged in the U7 – U9 age groups, two were adults who wanted to “give back” to Rugby League and the remaining 27 were aged from 13 to 18 with 23 still playing Rugby League and therefore refereeing needed to be scheduled around their playing times, where possible.



Again, we are lucky to have organisations such as the Canberra Raiders and Canberra Region Rugby League support our Association and assist with recruitment and development of referees. The support from the CRRL staff, especially General Manager Mark VERGANO, Chairman Gary GREEN, Senior Competition Administrator Deb CHARMAN and Junior Competition Administrator Stacey STUDHOLME cannot be under-estimated.



Incidents involving unsavoury conduct by players, officials or spectators were swiftly dealt with by the League, sending a strong message that poor behaviour is not acceptable and match officials will be supported by them.

The Association conducted two Referees Exchanges in 2023, with Newcastle and Group 6 Referees. Gage MILES and Liam RICHARDSON travelled to Newcastle with Michael BAYLEY and Tristan BROOKER travelling to Group 6 to referee. All members gained valuable experience officiating in different groups with the members from Newcastle and Group 6 experiencing games in the Canberra competition.

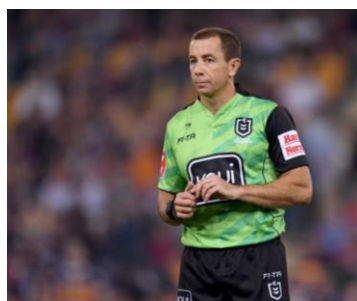
Achievements

Billy PERROTT – CRRL/Woodbridge Cup Open Ladies League Tag Representative game

Dave CHARMAN – CRRL/Woodbridge Cup Open Men’s Representative game

On the Representative front we had a Junior Representative Squad with referees in both Regional and Metro Squads. (Aidan RICHARDSON, Tristan BROOKER, Liam RICHARDSON, Heather HALL and Gage MILES). Congratulations to Liam RICHARDSON with his semi-final appointment and Aidan RICHARDSON and Gage MILES with their Grand Final appointments.

On the coaching front Katherine NIGHTINGALE represented the Association at the Women’s National Championships and Matthew HALL at the NSW State CCC and CHS championships.



Congratulations to Ben CUMMINS who announced his retirement from the NRL with over 501 combined games. He has shown our Referees there is a pathway to success if you work hard and dedicate yourself. As an ambassador for Canberra Referees, we thank him for this and wish him the best in his retirement.

Congratulations to Phil HENDERSON on the year he has had in the NRL with Touch Judge appointments in the Preliminary Final and his State of Origin Appointments. The Association instituted a new perpetual award.

This award is named in honour of Glynn Henderson and Phil Henderson. Both Glynn and Phil started their refereeing careers here in Canberra and have progressed up to Touch Judge at the highest level in our game, including State of Origin and Grand Final appointments.



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

Noel Bissett OAM Shield – First Grade Referee: Andrew NIGHTINGALE



Neville Norris Shield – Rookie of the Year: Cooper SANDS

Bruce Chapman Shield – Most Improved Junior: Natasha KELLY

Neville ‘Chief’ Harradine Shield – Junior Encouragement: Patrick TRAYNOR

Jack McKie OAM Trophy – Most Improved Senior: Tristram BROOKER

Alan Hodge Shield – Senior Encouragement: Billy PERROTT

Jim Mahoney Shield – Outstanding Service to the Association: Andrew NIGHTINGALE

Henderson Family Shield – Most Improved Touch Judge: Jorja CHARMAN

Keith Gegg Shield – First Grade Touch Judge: Luke BARROW & James CHARMAN

Associate Life Membership: Chris CAHILL

Life Membership: Katherine NIGHTINGALE

The Association continued with strong sponsorship from Mayner & Cochrane, Appliance Repair Specialist to the Canberra Region, combined with sponsorship from the Canberra Raiders (Gungahlin Raiders Club) and grants from NSWRL Referees Assn. This has left our Association in a very stable financial position. We now look to identifying a new major sponsor from 2024 and continuing our existing arrangements with the other league organisations.

Chris Nightingale

CDRL Referees Association



JUDICIARY REPORT

This year hearings were held in person, with out-of-town clubs being given the option to either appear in person or by zoom. It should be noted that whilst appearing via zoom was convenient for some clubs, it also came with technical difficulties that made the judicial hearing longer and more frustrating for all parties concerned.

For the 2023 season there were a total of 141 send offs and citations in total across the senior and junior competitions, 94 of these offences occurred in the seniors, 39 offences occurred in the juniors.

The most common offence was striking/punching with 53 occurrences (clubs are reminded that this is a non-contestable 1 match suspension if proven). The second most common offence was Unnecessary/Heavy Contact with 21 occurrences.

A major concern for the CRRL and the judiciary in 2023 was the ever increasing occurrence of unacceptable off field behaviour by team officials, parents and spectators. The behaviour exhibited, in some of these cases, resulted in lengthy suspensions from 2 years to 5 years. Clubs are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that their officials, players, and parents behave in a manner that matches the NRL Code of Conduct, for these groups and that fail to do so can, and has, resulted in clubs being placed on good behaviour bonds for lengthy periods of time.

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.

Yours in League,

Glyn Sargent

2023 Match Review Chairman



MEDIA REPORT

In 2023, the Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL) continued its growth and media presence in the promotion of rugby league across the wider Canberra region.

The CRRL saw growth across all digital assets, including our website, social media platforms, and podcast.

The CRRL website continued to be the gateway for information, providing access to written/visual content, competition fixtures, inclusion programs, rules & regulations, and other administrative documentation.

Website pageviews were steady in 2023, recording a 3% increase compared to last year. The increase in viewership of Katrina Fanning Shield written content was the most significant, with an increase of almost 100% compared to 2022.

We continued weekly player and club media conferences which continued to build excitement for upcoming matches and boost engagement for weekly previews.



The clubs must be thanked for providing talent for media commitments throughout the season, as the press conferences provide beneficial promotion for not only the CRRL, but also the clubs and the game overall.

The CRRL social media channels all recorded growth in 2023. Compared to last year, our Facebook recorded a 7.1% growth in likes, Twitter gained a 7.9% increase in followers, while Instagram saw a 6% increase in followers.

The Rub of the Green podcast returned for another year, spanning across 22 episodes throughout the season, attracting a solid 2,628 listens.

A big thank you to James 'Sully' Sullivan for volunteering to co-host the show for the third consecutive year and for also being the senior commentator for the 2023 season. Sully's dedication to local and regional rugby league is invaluable and the CRRL appreciates his efforts.

CRRL resumed their strong relationship with filming provider, BarTV, delivering a free live stream on Facebook each weekend for viewers, along with filming all Canberra Raiders Cup games.



The added commentary to the live streamed matches provides our audience with a professional and entertaining viewing experience which helps to retain and grow our numbers.

Further to the established work of Jon Kroiter and Rosie Harrison, Canberra Region Rugby League's media and digital platforms have been driven by Finn Williamson, who has moved on from his role as CRRL Media & Digital Coordinator for an exciting opportunity with the Canberra Raiders.

We thank Finn for his massive contribution to CRRL over the past two years, as he has brought our media presence to new heights in 2023.



The CRRL media space is in an exciting time where we continue to see growth each year. We aim to remain engaged with our audience and continue to develop our media plan as we look forward to 2024.

Liam Wyllie

CRRL Digital & Media Coordinator

CRRL Social Channels

Facebook: 15,908

Instagram: 4,660

Twitter: 607



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



NEWS FROM 2023

Canberra Region Rugby League celebrate 100 years of Rugby League in Canberra

This year marked 100 years since Rugby League was officially introduced to Canberra.

This is an incredible achievement for Rugby League in Canberra which marks another important milestone for the CRRL.

The centenary celebrations took place ahead of the Canberra Raiders first home game in 2023 at the Hellenic Club in Woden.

The event was attended by pioneers of the game in the region, among many other prominent figures in Canberra rugby league.

Notable guest speakers included Canberra Raiders Historian David Headon, Canberra Raiders Patron John McIntyre, and women's rugby league pioneers Graham Willard and Kartina Fanning.

Formalities also featured a panel of referees, junior delegates, and a launch of the 2023 season.





Raiders extend female Pathway Program



The Canberra Raiders have re-enforced their commitment to the growth of women's rugby league in the local region, with the addition of a new under 17's female pathway program.

The new program will give young female rugby league players in the region the opportunity to be selected into an elite level program, which will be a valuable pathway to a potential NRLW career.

Earlier this year, the Raiders introduced a series of regional skills clinics across the Riverina, South Coast and in Canberra, which provided some valuable insights into the depth and talent pool in the local communities.

Following on from these clinics, the club has determined the next step will be to introduce this new program for the girls in these regions, as a stepping stone into the already established under 19's Tarsha Gale Cup program.

Raiders NRLW Coach Darrin Borthwick said the introduction of this new program would help young female players develop their skills at an earlier age and best prepare and develop players for the next stage of their careers.

"There's no doubt that the success of the Raiders inaugural NRLW season has given young female rugby league players in the region the desire and inspiration to follow their dreams and this program will be a valuable step in helping them to achieve this," Borthwick said.





“Not only will this program give young female players an opportunity, but it will also be a valuable program for the Raiders to help identify and develop the next generation of players who we can work with closely to help them on their journey towards the NRLW.”

Raiders Pathways and Performance Manager Dean Souter said the program will be part of the Raiders already impressive junior pathways programs, which has a proud history in developing and nurturing local talent.

“It’s vitally important for our club to show young players from our region that opportunity to play rugby league at the highest level starts in your own backyard,” Souter said.



“We’ve had a proud history of developing players from a young age and seeing them play at NRL level and in our first year in the NRLW we saw Ahlivia Ingram prove that it can be done in the female pathway system also.”

“This new program will run alongside all of the clubs established pathway programs and we believe will be a valuable addition to the Raiders family.”

In addition to Tuggeranong Bushrangers junior Ahlivia Ingram making her NRLW debut this year, the CRRL has produced a number of local talents that have worked their way into the NRLW, either as debutants, top 24 squad members, or as development squad members in 2023.

These players include Ua Ravu (Harden Hawks), Elise Smith (Yass Magpies), Alanna Dummett (Yass Magpies), Krystal Blackwell (Goulburn City Bulldogs), Aaliyah Lomas (West Belconnen Warriors), Georgia Willey (Woden Valley Rams), and Tijana Zdravevska (Yass Magpies & Gungahlin Bulls).



Defibrillators Saving Rugby League Lives



The Canberra Region Rugby League are proud to announce our successful efforts in receiving a grant from the IMB Bank Community Foundation based on the purchase of portable defibrillators for our local junior clubs.

Each year, the IMB Bank Community Foundation provides a grants program that seeks to fund organisations that aim to “create more liveable communities and better outcomes for the people living in them”.

This year, 55 community-building initiatives will receive funding, and the CRRL is one of them.

The funding will directly be invested in purchasing portable defibrillators, which will be allocated to our junior clubs and be on site at every match day, that accredited rugby league trainers will have available to administer in an emergency.

This purchase aligns with CRRL’s core value of ensured ‘safety’ among our players, officials, and spectators.

“The purchase of defibrillators and their availability will enhance the reputation of rugby league as a safe environment and a community sport that looks after its players, officials and supporters,” CRRL CEO Mark Vergano said.

“To have defibrillators at hand can be a lifesaving episode at any ground in the ACT or region.

“We will be providing a safer environment for the supporters and participants in rugby league.”





OBITUARIES

Roger Tait



The Canberra Region Rugby League would like to acknowledge the passing of former New Zealand International (#440), and local Canberra player and coach, Roger Bruce Tait.

Roger was a New Zealand junior who played for Huntley United, Glenora Bears and Papakura Sea Eagles. He also played 11 Tests for New Zealand from 1965 to 1968.

Upon moving to Australia, he played in Canberra as a Captain Coach and player for the Valley Statesman, Woden Valley Rams and Queanbeyan Kangaroos. Roger played as a Fullback, Centre or Five-Eighth.

Roger sadly passed away after a short illness on Saturday 6 May 2023.

Our condolences go out to Luke, Sal and the Tait family.



Jake Sanz



The Canberra Region Rugby League would like to send their deepest of condolences to the family and friends of the Sanz family, as Jake passed away in October last year.

Jake was a pivotal member of the Gungahlin Bulls RLFC, having played juniors from under 8's transitioning into seniors, making his first-grade debut for the club in 2017.

Jake was also involved as a coach and mentor for last seasons under 17's Bulls side.

The rugby league community was devastated by this passing, and we extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Jake.



CANBERRA REGION
RUGBY LEAGUE



COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE PARTICIPATION 2023

JUNIORS

SENIORS

LEAGUE TAG

WHEELCHAIR

TACKLE

SCORE

TOTAL PLAYERS

6,113

=

MALE PLAYERS

4,583

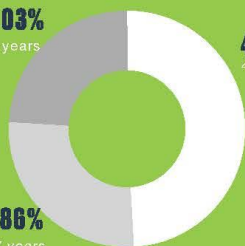
+

FEMALE PLAYERS

1,530

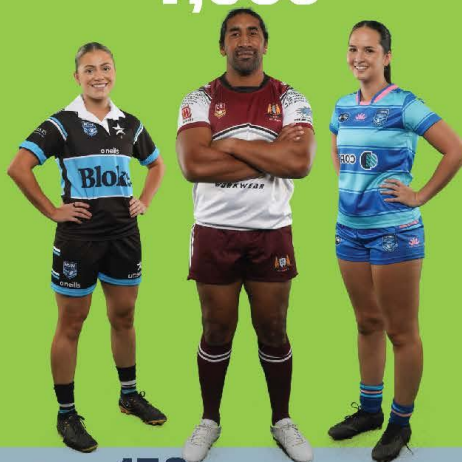
12.72% on 2021 numbers
AGE GROUP BREAK DOWN

24.03%
18+ years



49.10%
4-12 years

26.86%
13-17 years



42.52% on 2021 numbers
FEMALE REPRESENTATION



Each weekend, approximately **178** games are played across **37** Venues.
These games are facilitated by our **1756** club volunteers.



36 CLUBS
20 SENIORS
16 JUNIORS

396 TEAMS
68 SENIORS
328 JUNIORS

545
ACCREDITED
COACHES

95
REFEREES

303
ACCREDITED
SPORTS TRAINERS

INDIGENOUS
PARTICIPANTS

851*



INCLUSIVE
RUGBY LEAGUE

59*



MULTICULTURAL
PARTICIPANTS

299*



PARTICIPATION IN
SCHOOL EVENTS

5850



CANBERRA REGION
RUGBY LEAGUE



OUR REACH

Raiders Primary Footprint
Raiders territory participation areas
Raiders territory regional footprint
Canberra Region Rugby League
competition

* Participants who have been identified. All statistics obtained through MySideline registration reports

VISIT [RAIDERS.COM.AU/CRRL](https://www.raiders.com.au/crrl) TO FIND YOUR LOCAL CLUB



TRANSITION FROM DEVELOPMENT AGE GROUPS TO PREMIERSHIP COMPETITIONS

CANBERRA REGION
RUGBY LEAGUE



| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| UNDER 13s | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| UNDER 12s | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| UNDER 11s | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| UNDER 10s | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| UNDER 9s | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| UNDER 8s | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

KEY

- ✓ Playing for premierships
- ✗ Remaining a development grade
- Progression of cohort age grouping

