



SINCE 1923

2018 Annual Report



Canberra Region Rugby League would like to thank our sponsors and partners for their support of rugby league throughout the ACT and surrounding areas during 2018.

These include:

- Austbrokers Canberra
- Blumers Lawyers
- Canberra Raiders
- Active Canberra
- Raiders Group
- Country Rugby League
- NSW Junior Rugby League



We would also like to thank the countless volunteers at all the clubs and with us here at CRRL who enable the sport to be held every weekend throughout the season.



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CRRL Chairman Noel Bissett To Retire At The End of the Year

Canberra Region Rugby League Chairman, Noel Bissett has announced that he will retire from the role at the conclusion of the 2018 Annual General Meeting this December.

Having served on the CRRL committee for 21 years and being Chairman for 12 of them, Bissett said he believed it was the right time to retire.

“I consider it a privilege to have served during these years,” Bissett said. “Rugby League people are good people and I have made many friends which I treasure very much.

“I want to thank the Canberra Raiders, John McIntyre, Simon Hawkins and Don Furner for their confidence in appointing me as Chairman, I consider it an honour.”

Bissett’s retirement ends his 52 years of direct involvement with rugby league within the Canberra region.

Canberra Raiders CEO Don Furner said Bissett, a Raiders life member, had made a wonderful contribution to the game over many years and would be sorely missed by the rugby league community.

“Noel is a legend of the game in this region and has been one of the most passionate and wonderful contributors to the game we’ve seen in Canberra,” Furner said. “His achievements as a referee and then administrator will never be forgotten and we wish him nothing but the best for the future.”

CRRL General Manager Mark Vergano echoed Furner.

“Noel has been an outstanding servant of our game over the years,” Vergano said. “It’s been an absolute pleasure to work alongside him these last three years and I wish him all the best for the future.”

After playing in the lower grades in the early 1960’s for the North Sydney Bears, Bissett moved to Canberra in 1965 as part of a transfer from the NSW Fire Brigade to the Canberra Fire Brigade.

In 1966, he played for East Canberra before beginning a distinguished career as a referee.

Bissett refereed 275 Country Rugby League matches, including 11 Grand Finals and was graded into the Winfield Cup, becoming the first Canberra referee to control First Grade in Sydney.

During his time as a referee, Bissett refereed touring international sides and was the video referee for the 1997 tri-series between New Zealand, NSW and Queensland and one of the 1999 State of Origin matches at Lang Park.

Bissett was heavily involved with Canberra Referees, serving as the Director of Referees between 1999-2008 as well as serving as the inaugural president of the Canberra/Monaro Men of League since 2008.

Due to his contribution to Rugby League within the Canberra region, Bissett is only one of nine Canberra District Rugby League Life Members.

Bissett is also a life member of Group 8 Country Rugby League, Canberra & District Rugby League Referees Association, NSW Rugby League Referees Association and the Australian Rugby League Referees

Association.

As well as this, Bissett was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2013 for his service to sport and rugby league, an Australian Fire Service Medal in 1996 and the NSWRL Dennis Braybrook Memorial Award for Service to Rugby League.

As a result of his significant contribution to rugby league within the Canberra Region, Bissett was inducted into the ACT Sport Hall of Fame in 2018.

Canberra District Rugby League will appoint a new Chairman who will assume the role at the conclusion of this year's Annual General Meeting.



Chairman's Report

An epic Austbrokers Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade Grand Final, continued growth in women's rugby league, a highly competitive George Tooke Shield season, continued development in our junior rugby league, West Belconnen League Tag going two years undefeated and a near miss by our Monaro Under 23 team going back to back, were the highlights of an outstanding 2018 Canberra Region Rugby League season.

The Canberra Raiders Cup (CRC) First Grade Grand Final between the Woden Valley Rams and Tuggeranong Bushrangers was one for the romantics of the sport with Woden having last appeared in the "big one" in 1996 and Tuggeranong in only their second Grand Final. The runaway match with Woden leading 30 nil turned into an epic match with the magnificent Tuggeranong fightback to get back to 30 all and then veteran returnee to Woden, Lincoln Withers, kicks a match winning field goal. Somebody has a script for a Hollywood blockbuster! Great credit also to both sets of supporters who were determined to celebrate their teams reaching the Grand Final with a magnificent and memorable atmosphere at Seiffert Oval.

Congratulations to our other Grand Final winners in West Belconnen in Reserve Grade, Queanbeyan Blues in the Under 18s, Goulburn in the Katrina Fanning Shield and West Belconnen in Ladies League Tag. The efforts of West Belconnen in the Ladies League Tag to remain undefeated for two seasons needs to be acknowledged and congratulations to Darren Tredgold and his team on their outstanding performance.

I thank the efforts of Wendy Bennett and Mark Vergano, our two Senior competition administrators for their contribution to the successful administration of the competitions.



The George Tooke Shield continues to evolve into a highly competitive league with great atmosphere and enthusiasm around all who are involved. Crookwell were able to avenge their Grand Final loss from the previous year in a hard fought win over the North Canberra Bears. Congratulations to Harden in winning the Ladies League Tag and also Yass being successful in the Youth League.

Woden were not only successful in the CRC First Grade but also took out the Club Championship whilst Harden were successful in the GTS Club Championship.

After the success of the previous year, the Junior Grand Finals were once again held at Seiffert Oval with the lead up finals this season being played at Phillip with Northbourne undergoing its reconstruction as the new CDRL Centre of Excellence. The League would like to express its gratitude to all clubs, their committees, coaches and trainers for the fabulous work they do on every weekend and throughout the season. Also, I acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of our two Juniors' administrators, Deb Ford and Deb Charman. It is a feat of organisation in getting over 250 teams on to the ovals each week with scheduling and ground hire issues. Thank you all for the co-operation that is shown across the competitions.

The Monaro Under 23 program continues to go from strength to strength as the team almost made it back

to back titles.

Coach Ash Barnes has had an outstanding and successful stint as the Monaro coach as well as being the coach of the CRC premiers, Woden. Ash has been rewarded for his efforts by subsequently being appointed as the Raiders Jersey Flegg coach for season 2019. To all who have assisted with the Monaro program and the great relationship enjoyed with Group 16, we are grateful for your efforts and dedication to the program.

The Canberra District Referees Association once again supplied referees across all our competitions. I am especially grateful for their dedication and enthusiasm for officiating and also how they continue to mentor and bring through young referees. In many cases this season, senior referees would do juniors on a Sunday morning before backing up in seniors that afternoon or referee across Friday, Saturday and Sundays in some cases. The CRRL would like to see the NRL re-design the courses to allow for more referees and touch judges to get through the system more efficiently. The league also needs the support of clubs to assist in identifying talent to progress to the referees ranks. My congratulations to Oliver Levido on being once again recognised as the most outstanding referee this season.



Whilst there have been many positive things happening in and around our competition, we did detect some drop off in particular areas which the League will need to focus on in the future. Whilst our junior numbers have had a slight increase of 115 participants, we were disappointed to see a drop off in some key areas. The Under 18 competition was effectively down to five teams by season's end and also the Youth League was in the same situation. This trend in a key age demographic does endanger our sport as we have continued to struggle from Under 14 upwards. We need to refocus on what makes rugby league a fun, engaging sport for young men and coach and market the game appropriately. The George Tooke Shield lost the Boomanulla Raiders this season and we hope to be able to rebuild the club, this time with a junior component as well.

The CRRL committee continues to look to the future in a number of areas that will improve our clubs and the competition in years to come. Headway is being made in a number of areas with improved facilities either being built or in the process of being lobbied for in both Canberra and the surrounding regions. Boorowa, Crookwell, Taylor, Higgins, Freebody are all ovals with new buildings or funding for facility improvement. Yass is still awaiting its revamp of Walker Park and Bungendore's Mick Sherd Oval has new funding earmarked for facility improvement. The bringing together of the Trainers' group is a recognition and development of an important cohort of our sport who have been under-represented in the recent past. When we consider our challenges with concussion, the Trainers become an integral part of our boast that we are a game that "looks after its own".

I thank our major sponsor in recent years, Austbrokers Canberra for their support and whilst they will no longer be directly associated with the CRRL, they are continuing their association with the Raiders. Blumers Lawyers joined the rugby league family this season in sponsoring the new Good Sports Program. This is an especially important program in reminding our supporters and parents of appropriate behaviour at matches and also about participating in developing a club and being part of the community.

It would be remiss of me not to highlight the continual significant sponsorship contribution by the Raiders Group of licensed clubs and the Canberra District Rugby League. The generous support of the clubs and CDRL helps maintain many of our clubs in the Canberra Raiders Cup and ameliorates expenses in our junior competition. I would encourage all of the clubs to engage with the Raiders Group of clubs as they are, far and away, our greatest financial supporter. The Canberra Raiders need to be acknowledged for their commitment and contribution to our community rugby league through their making boxes available at Raiders home matches along with signed jerseys and footballs for fund raising.

To my colleagues of the Canberra Region Rugby League committee as well as our Judiciary and Disciplinary panels, a big thank you for your dedication to the game and to the jobs you all undertake in your respective roles. We have been fortunate to have Greg Bell join the CRRL committee and also a regeneration of the Judiciary and Disciplinary panels with Jonathan Hanton, Bill Logan and Geoff Besgrove joining.

This is my final Chairman's Report before I retire as your Chairman and it has been an absolute privilege to have had the honour of serving our members, clubs and the great game of rugby league. The game itself has changed as has the requirements on committees, volunteers, referees and trainers. I am continually amazed at the dedication of so many people to the game and especially the great talent on show every week, male and female, from Under 6s to Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade. I know I can speak for everyone in that we are all very fortunate to be involved in "The Greatest Game of All".

To Mark Vergano and his team, I congratulate you for the wonderful progress which you have achieved including future development plans for our Canberra region.

Mark and his team have undertaken a progressive and proactive approach to improving CRRL's standing in the local community. Assisting clubs with potential new developments; speaking to the ACT Government and local councils to help facility upgrades; a total revamp of the media space which has engaged more people than ever before; being very aware of developing new strategic directions; being ahead of the game in developing women's rugby league and reinstating Canberra Women's Rugby League and closer links with the Raiders for the benefit of the clubs, has moved rugby league from being good competitions to being a dynamic sport developing our young people and making other sports take notice.

The last three years have seen great changes and I am glad to have been able to assist Mark and his professional team in achieving that.

My thanks to John McIntyre, Simon Hawkins and Don Furner for their confidence in me and the advice they have been able to impart to make my job easier over many years.

I wish your new Chairman, Gary Green, all the very best and congratulate him on his appointment.

In closing, I thank all for contributing to a career which I have made many friends and I will treasure the memories forever. I will certainly miss the time I have been involved.

Finally, I wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and Prosperous New Year.

Noel Bissett
December 2018

Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Committee Report for 2018

Committee Members

Chairman	Noel Bissett
Executive Officer	Mark Vergano (non-voting)
Senior Club Representatives	Tom Ebsworth Steven Troth Phillip Watts
George Tooke Shield Representative	Tony Rayner
Junior Club Representatives	Greg Bell Gary Bergkotte Danny Roper
Appointed Members	Chris Nightingale (CDRL Referees Association) Jon Tucker (ACT Schools RL Council) Yvette Croft (Canberra Womens Rugby League)

CRJRL Committee

Attendance at 9 Committee Meetings held during the year

Committee Member	Meeting Attendance	Apologies
Greg Bell	8	1
Gary Bergkotte	9	0
Noel Bissett	7	2
Yvette Croft	7	2
Tom Ebsworth	6	3
Chris Nightingale	9	0
Tony Rayner	5	4
Danny Roper	9	0
Steve Troth	7	2
Jon Tucker	8	1
Phillip Watts	7	2

General Manager's Report

The 2018 season will see the end of an era with the retirement of our long serving and greatly revered Chairman, Noel Bissett. Noel has been recognised for an outstanding career as an official and an administrator with his induction into the ACT Sports Hall of Fame. Congratulations Noel on this accolade and it no doubt is a testament to an outstanding career of service to the game we all love and respect. From a personal perspective, I have been very fortunate to have had Noel as my Chairman with his calm demeanour and wise counsel being invaluable for a new General Manager. Noel, may you enjoy your retirement and we look forward to seeing you at matches casting your learned eye over our aspiring young referees.

We saw a small increase in our overall numbers and our juniors grew by three percent. There are still challenges in holding our male players in the 13 to 18-year range which is across all sports. The CRRL itself is looking at ways of increasing that participation in both the tackle and tag formats. The seniors saw a decrease for the first time in a number of years as we lost a number of Under 18 teams and the Boomanulla club. As many people know, the CRRL has been investigating the move to Under 17s and Under 19s as a way of keeping players in the game longer before they have to transition to competitions which many find challenging. This is definitely a work in progress and we look forward to the trialing of the Player Development Framework from the NRL in the 2019 season as a way of revitalising many of our age competitions.

YEAR	JUNIORS	SENIORS	TOTAL
2012	3589	766	4355
2013	3622	710	4332
2014	3575	667	4242
2015	3598	884	4482
2016	3454	1278	4732
2017*	3402	1467	4869
2018	3517	1429	4946

**2017 adjusted from the previous annual report due to figures including volunteers and players, instead of players only.*

Once again, we pay tribute to our terrific volunteers and club officials who take on the responsibility for the administering of our clubs; registering our players and all our troops on the ground each weekend. Without your efforts sport would cease to exist. Thank you all for everything you continue to do from First Aid and LeagueSafe duties to the canteens, ground marking and set up/pull down in all sorts of conditions across the region.

An area that was somewhat concerning this season was that of player behavior and also, we saw a regression from previous high standards of sideline behavior. Gary Green will comment more about the Judiciary in his report but after a three-year trend of declining send offs and citations, we were disappointed with a large spike in the number of players dismissed. Apart from striking, there was a marked increase in players being dismissed for back chatting referees. There was no edict about crackdowns or a tougher approach. Players allowed ill-discipline to get the better of them which was both concerning and casts our sport in a poor light. I urge all coaches and club officials to renew their efforts, across all grades to ensure

our standards lift.

There were more sideline incidents in 2018 than for the previous three seasons and this did run counter to the recent promising trends. Again, clubs have the responsibility of having strong committees and strong ground managers to ensure we have a welcoming environment for spectators, players and referees. I am confident that clubs will improve their training and engagement of their members to reinforce the positive messages from our Blumers Lawyers Good Sports program and the aspirations of Play By The Rules. We have a collective responsibility to get this right and improve standards.

Female Participation

YEAR	JUNIORS	SENIORS
2012	24	0
2013	85	0
2014	129	0
2015	152	85
2016	193	200
2017*	219	418
2018	320	423

**2017 adjusted from the previous annual report due to figures including volunteers and players, instead of players only.*

Female participation continued to grow in the junior grades and had a year of consolidation in the senior ranks. These are very encouraging signs and the fact that a successful WNRL competition generated great interest at the back end of the season can act as a very positive pull factor in helping to continue attracting females to the game through tag and tackle. The move to introduce an Under 15 tackle competition in 2019 along with raising the next age group to Under 18 will consolidate our program. The Under 15 competition is the missing piece of the jigsaw pathway for progression from junior rugby league where the girls move away from the boys after Under 12s.

Two Katrina Fanning Shield matches were played at GIO Stadium after Canberra Raiders matches and many of the crowd stayed to watch these matches which was a first for the competition. There were also two Canberra Raiders Cup matches played before NRL matches this season. We must thank the Canberra Raiders and GIO Stadium for their support of local rugby league.

The George Tooke competition was once again a highly competitive affair with Crookwell defeating North Canberra in the Grand Final. The competition has settled into a two day finals series format with matches played at Crookwell, Harden, Boorowa and Jamison with healthy crowds in spite of some biting weather in the first week of the finals. Yass competed in the Youth League this season as a way of keeping its former Under 18 team together to ensure a flow into their Reserve and First Grades for 2019. They were successful in the Grand Final. The very consistent Harden team won the League Tag over the improving Bungendore who, although defending Premiers, had a large turnover of players, many in their first year.



Our junior rugby league continues to provide a sport for boys and girls to play and enjoy with small sided games and more involvement. We are very supportive of coaches and clubs that have a philosophy of maximum involvement at all levels and that all players are there to develop their skills and play to enjoy a team game. Allied to that, much of the football in the older grades is outstanding with much talent on show. The CRRL this season undertook an advertising campaign pre-season developing an advertisement including Jarrod Croker, Sam Williams and Nick Cotric in their junior clubs' jerseys along with a female and male junior player. This was placed on the back of buses for two months and on LED screen around Canberra. We are keen to reduce our churn rate which still sits at around 30% per year of players.

Bar TV once again undertook our match coverage with live streaming of matches increased this season. Chris Coleman has become the "Voice of Rugby League" in Canberra with his outstanding commentary of matches. Jon Kroiter's post-match interviews have also become an institution. The highlights packages from the weekend matches has become a hit online and sees so many people connecting with the game and each other. Our thanks to the Raiders Group for the Player of the Match awards.

The CRRL would like to acknowledge our media partners throughout the season. WIN TV and Channel 9 continue to cover local rugby league through its news reports. To all the journalists at the Canberra Times and regional newspapers, a big thank you for your continued support. Our radio partners at ABC and 2CC have been very supportive in their coverage. It was the end of an era this season with long time ABC Sports Reporter Tim Gavel signing off the day before our senior Grand Final after 30 years with the ABC. A truly great broadcaster and great community minded person, Tim has been part of the Canberra Sports fabric. Tim's departure also brought to a close his stewardship of ABC Canberra Grandstand along with his co-host Bronwyn Fagan who also had been doing the show for 14 years. The CRRL thanks Tim and Bron for their outstanding professionalism and support of local rugby league.

The new website was finally functional for the 2018 season and it has been an outstanding success. The new format, look, and functionality has been a vast improvement on what came previously and Jon Kroiter has done an outstanding job in establishing it as a place for all information and content on local rugby league.

The CRRL was very proud to be the number one winter sport in the social media space across the region. Please refer to the article on page 59 by Jon Kroiter in the Annual Report for more detail around this year's media and digital.

The CRRL has been active in assisting clubs with applications for new or upgraded infrastructure in Canberra and around the region. The move of West Belconnen Juniors from Kippax to Higgins still has a way to go but is progressing. Gungahlin Seniors and Juniors have a new facility at Taylor being developed. Boorowa has almost completed its new dressing rooms and canteen facilities. Crookwell and Mick Sherd Oval are earmarked for significant upgrades and the Queanbeyan Kangaroos were successful in receiving a

grant for improved lighting and seating. The development at Walker Park has progressed more slowly than what the Yass Magpies would have liked.

A significant amount of work is being done on the inclusion of synthetic fields into the ACT. The ACT Government is developing synthetic grounds in conjunction with turf grounds at Taylor and Stromlo and then CRRL has been at the forefront researching this surface. A committee of Danny Roper, Shane Reed, Deb Ford, myself and ACT Government officials looked at approximately six ovals in Sydney that have converted to synthetics. Expert Martin Sheppard will come to Canberra to hold a forum for clubs and parents about synthetic surfaces.

Of course, rugby league in the region will be the beneficiary of the new Raiders Centre of Excellence at Northbourne Oval from November 2019. This new facility will assist developing male and female rugby league players as well as better meeting rooms, lecture theatres and have a facility that is state of the art.

One of the great challenges facing rugby league going forward is the management of concussion and other injuries. We are one of the few sports where we have trained personnel on the sidelines to attend to our players and we cannot start a match without trainers. To that end, the CRRL has brought together accredited trainers from all clubs to work as a collective to improve even further our efficiency and procedures in looking after players' safety. Injury management, new protocols and a broader collaborative approach will be key for this new committee to drive even safer and better injury management. I am very excited to work with these passionate people in ensuring rugby league has best practice.

The referees continue to do an outstanding job across both our junior and senior competitions. Each weekend they often officiate on multiple days at multiple venues and in many cases over distance. In an ideal scenario we would prefer to minimize the amount of appointments and distance travelled but currently this is a fact of life. I do not have to reiterate that for us to maintain our officials, everyone in rugby league has the responsibility to protect and nurture our match officials. Referees seem to be in that rare category, that regardless of experience or circumstance they should be mistake free. They do the best job they can and we need to support them to strive to continually improve. The CRRL has been actively seeking the NRL Referees division to accelerate the new program and to make qualification simpler which appears to be happening. Also, we are seeking a basic course to allow people to more easily qualify as touch judges.

Congratulations to Oliver Levido on another outstanding season as the leading referee and we wish to acknowledge the contribution of the retiring Tyson Flynn after something like 18 years in the refereeing ranks. It was nothing to see Tyson doing an Under 11 match on Sunday morning and then officiating in First Grade that afternoon. The CRRL acknowledges Tyson's contribution and wish him well in retirement.



Defending a premiership is always one of the most difficult assignments in rugby league. The Monaro Under 23 men's team gave it an almighty shake in 2018 Country Championships only falling at the last hurdle losing to Northern Rivers 26-22 in the Grand Final. This was a tremendous effort by the playing group and also the coaches in Ash Barnes and Ryan Apps who prepared the team meticulously. The co-operation and goodwill in the Canberra Rugby League and Group 16 relationship has been smooth has provided positive outcomes for both groups. Ryan McQueen, Ryley Thomas, Ron Leapai, Nukurua Ngere and Derek Hay were selected in the NSW Country team to play Papua New Guinea as a reward for their outstanding performances throughout the competition.

The Ladies League Tag had a new coach this season in Karen Breden. Although the team bowed out in the first round, this team was a true coming together of the two groups with almost equal representation. For 2019, the CRL is introducing a women's tackle competition with a guaranteed two matches which will further enhance the development pathway.

Regan Hart enjoyed an outstanding feat by being named in the Indigenous Women's All Star squad for the 2019 All Star fixture. Her inclusion is well deserved after an outstanding two seasons with the Queanbeyan Blues in the Katrina Fanning Shield.



The CRRL and the Raiders Group of clubs are facing some significant changes and challenges going forward. The ACT Government's review of the Community Contribution Scheme will place a great strain on continuing the level of support for rugby league across our competitions and development. Increased taxation, increased levies and changes to what is included in the community contribution assessment has the Raiders Group looking at all parts of the business which it must do. Support from our clubs in contacting their members of parliament to remind them how the licensed clubs support community participation and make our game cost effective is extremely important.

The Canberra Raiders and the Raiders Group of clubs continued their support of local rugby league in 2018. Match day boxes, signed jerseys, signed footballs, cheaper training balls were available to junior and senior clubs once again. Referees are paid for by the Raiders group relieving junior clubs of significant cost. The senior competition has seven clubs supported by the Raiders group of clubs. It is imperative that clubs support their benefactors as they already support their other sponsors. Many thanks to the General Managers of Raiders Belconnen, The Mawson Club, Raiders Weston and Raiders Gungahlin as well as the Queanbeyan Leagues Club. Also, thanks to The Mawson Club for sponsoring the Katrina Fanning Shield and Ladies League tag competitions.

The ACT Government partnered with the CRRL in a program known as the Indigenous Sports Participation Grant. This was a program that was rolled out across a number of sports. In 2018, 80 applicants were successful in accessing the grant to pay for their club fees to enable participation. This was the largest in the ACT and region. Due to the success of the program through rugby league, this program has been extended again into 2019 for players with an indigenous background.

The CRRL continues to be and promote its inclusive programs and socially responsible credentials. The development of women's rugby league and work in the indigenous area is part of an increasing overarching development of an integrated community program with the Canberra Raiders. This season, Alan Tongue met with four sets of young men from all our clubs participating in the Voice Against Violence Program. Congratulations to Woden for piloting a program with Menslink which the CRRL is looking to roll out to all clubs next season targeting behavior of our young men from ages 14-19 and the coaches. The CRRL is also developing a program of referral and counselling through the Judiciary system as we identify anti-social behavior which we have a chance of modifying and impacting positively on young peoples' lives.

The CRRL committee continues to operate in a challenging sporting environment with great change in the sporting market place. They continue to support the importance of the integrity of our competitions whilst being open to discuss and explore new ideas. As General Manager I am especially grateful for their receptiveness to explore what is happening in the wider sporting community. We continue to honour our past as well with Steve Troth driving our history project. We have also come into possession of a treasure trove of historical documents through our retiring Chairman, Noel Bissett. We have been really excited to commence our "From the Vault" series online. The CRRL is also going through a broader branding exercise with the Raiders as we upgrade our processes and look.

Finally, I would like to thank my wonderful team of Deb Ford, Jon Kroiter, Deb Charman and Wendy Bennett for all their hard work and dedication to making the competition as good as it can be. They often do after hours work and weekends to ensure the smooth running of our programs and are receptive to new ideas and developing these going forward. I am extremely appreciative of their efforts and also for the support you offer over the season and in the development phases. Thank you.

Rugby League continues to have its challenges but as a passionate and dedicated community I am confident that together we can keep developing our wonderful game to make it even more appealing to young people to participate in and that we will develop formats that will allow us to continue to grow our clubs and sustain our future.

Mark Vergano
CRRL General Manager

2018 CRRL Junior Competition Statistics

Total Number of Clubs:	15
Total Number of Teams:	253
Total Number of Players:	3517

Competitions	2018 Teams	2018 Players
Midgets	-	179
Mini (U6–U9)*	135	1370
Mod (U10–U12)	65	984
International (U13–U16)**	53	984
TOTALS	253*	3517*

*Numbers include the Goulburn Mini Competition, which was administered by CRRL, and run by Goulburn Stockmen Juniors but does not include Midgets.

**Numbers include the 8 U17 Girls Teams in 2018 but do not include the Open Women participants.

Breakdown	2018 Teams	2018 Players
Midgets	-	179
Under 5	-	111
Under 6	35	259
Under 7	36	329
Under 8	34	342
Under 9	30	329
Under 10	20	306
Under 11	26	363
Under 12	19	315
Under 13	15	273
Under 14	11	235
Under 15	11	232
Under 16	8	195
Under 17 Girls	8	49

The figures below have incorporated junior girls playing in the 2018 season. Breakdown of Girls playing throughout the age groups are:

Breakdown	No. of Female Participants
Midgets	8
Under 5	14
Under 6	24
Under 7	16
Under 8	18
Under 9	15
Under 10	11
Under 11	18
Under 12	18
Under 13	18
Under 14	20
Under 15	35
Under 16	56
Under 17	49
Total	320

McIntyre Medal

Michael Gilmour and Tom Warner have claimed the 2018 Les McIntyre Medal in the first tie for the award since 2012.

The Woden Valley Rams and Yass Magpies duo polled well after outstanding seasons where the two forwards also tallied first and second in the try scoring charts.

Gilmour becomes the first Woden player to claim the prestigious award since Brenton Lawrence in 2008. Warner, on the other hand, becomes Yass' second ever recipient since Clyde Chatfield in 1988.

Woden Valley Rams veteran halfback Lincoln Withers came in third despite playing only ten matches.

Elsewhere, Queanbeyan Blues playmaker Kasey Dragisic claimed a clean sweep of the awards in the Katrina Fanning Shield as she won the Maree Bush Shield and was the top try scorer and points scorer in the competition.

In the George Tooke Shield the majority of awards were split between Harden and Crookwell, which was epitomised by a three way tie for the Ladies League Tag Best and Fairest Award. Crookwell's Annika Picker and Harden's Georgia Smith tied with last year's winner Emma James on 20 points.



McIntyre Medal Winners: Tom Warner & Michael Gilmour



Maree Bush Shield Winner: Kasey Dragisic

Full List of Award Winners

Leading Try Scorers

George Tooke Shield

Youth League

Connor Massen (13 tries)

Tuggeranong Bushrangers

The Mawson Club
Ladies League Tag

Georgia Smith (32 tries)

Harden Hawkettes

Open Men's

Luke Brown (27 tries)

Harden Hawks

Katrina Fanning Shield

Kasey Dragisic (15 tries)

Queanbeyan Blues

Austbrokers Canberra Raiders Cup

U18s

Jack Williams (19 tries)

Queanbeyan Blues

The Mawson Club
Ladies League Tag

Caitlin Turnbull (17 tries)

Gungahlin Bulls

Reserve Grade

Ilija Cotric (28 tries)

Queanbeyan Blues

First Grade

Tom Warner (14 tries)

Yass Magpies



The Mawson Club LLT Leading Try Scorer: Georgia Smith

Leading Point Scorers

George Tooke Shield

Youth League	Riley Wilson (86 points)	North Canberra Bears
The Mawson Club Ladies League Tag	Emma James (230 points)	Harden Hawkettes
Open Men's	Cameron Picker (218 points)	Crookwell Green Devils

Katrina Fanning Shield

Kasey Dragisic (122 points) Queanbeyan Blues

Austbrokers Canberra Raiders Cup

U18s	Shane McMahon (166 points)	Woden Valley Rams
The Mawson Club Ladies League Tag	Amy Day (114 points)	Goulburn Workers Bulldogs
Reserve Grade	Bayley Graham (158 points)	West Belconnen Warriors
First Grade	Josh Mitchell (172 points)	Tuggeranong Bushrangers

Coach of the Year

George Tooke Shield

The Mawson Club Ladies
League Tag

Brendon Shean

Boorowa Roverettes

Open Men's

Chris Chudleigh

Crookwell Green Devils

Katrina Fanning Shield (Graham
Willard Shield)

Josh Hardy

Yass Magpies

**Austbrokers Canberra Raiders
Cup**

The Mawson Club Ladies
League Tag

Ben Wylie

Yass Magpies

First Grade
(Don Furner Snr Shield)

Justin Giteau

Tuggeranong Bushrangers

**Representative Player of the
Year**

(Hewson/Stonham Shield)

Cleveland McGhie

Monaro



Don Furner Snr Shield Winner: Justin Giteau

Best and Fairest

George Tooke Shield

Youth League
(Colin York Shield)

***Nicolaas Stephens
& Bailey Timmer***

Harden – Boorowa &
Yass Magpies

The Mawson Club Ladies
League Tag

***Emma James,
Georgia Smith &
Annika Picker***

Harden Hawkettes,
Harden Hawkettes &
Crookwell She Devils

Open Men's
(Gavin Miller Shield)

Luke Brown

Harden Hawks

Katrina Fanning Shield (Maree
Bush Shield)

Kasey Dragisic

Queanbeyan Blues

**Austbrokers Canberra Raiders
Cup**

U18s
(David Sharpe Award)

Scott Swanson

Woden Valley Rams

The Mawson Club Ladies
League Tag

Caitlin Turnbull

Gungahlin Bulls

Reserve Grade
(Leedon Shield)

Bayley Graham

West Belconnen
Warriors

First Grade
(Les McIntyre Medal)

***Tom Warner &
Michael Gilmour***

Yass Magpies &
Woden Valley Rams

Outstanding Referee
(Noel Bissett Trophy)

Oliver Levido

Naming of Awards

Graham Willard Shield – The Katrina Fanning Shield Coach of the Year award is named after inaugural Jillaroos 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.

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.

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 currently coaches the NSW Wheelchair Rugby League team. 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.

Colin York Shield – The Youth League Best and Fairest award is named after former Australian prop Colin York. York played two tests for Australia and represented New South Wales on six occasions. York also represented Yass in the 1920's and 1930's.

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 1990'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.

David Sharpe Award – The Canberra Raiders Cup Under 18'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. Sharpe was also an Assistant Commissioner in the AFP and is currently the CEO of ASADA.

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.

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 has been awarded life membership at the Canberra Raiders, Country Rugby League and New South Wales Rugby League.

Noel Bissett Trophy – The Outstanding Referee Award is named after former NSWRL referee and current 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 is also the current 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.

Bradley Clyde Medal – The medal awarded to the Player of the Match in the Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade Grand Final is named after former Canberra Raiders and Australian lock, Bradley Clyde. The two time Clive Churchill medalist played for the Belconnen United Sharks as a junior. Clyde was a part of the Raiders squad during their three premierships in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Doug McRitchie Medal – The medal awarded to the Player of the Match in the Canberra Raiders Cup Reserve Grade Grand Final is named after former Queanbeyan United player Doug McRitchie. McRitchie played for the St George Dragons for eight years between 1942 and 1950. McRitchie also played six games each for Australia and NSW.

Glenn Lazarus Medal – The medal awarded to the Player of the Match in the Canberra Raiders Cup Under 18's Grand Final is named after former Canberra Raiders and Australian prop, Glenn Lazarus. Born in Queanbeyan, Lazarus went on to win two premierships with the Raiders before winning another three during his time with the Brisbane Broncos and Melbourne Storm. Lazarus also represented NSW on 19 occasions.

Gary Marmont Medal – The medal awarded to the Player of the Match in the George Tooke Shield Grand Final is named after Gary Marmont. In a long career in the local region, Marmont played for Captain's Flat and the Canberra Camels.

Morgan/Quinn Medal – The medal awarded to the Player of the Match in the Youth League Grand Final is named after Jim Morgan and Paul Quinn. Morgan was a prop who represented Queanbeyan United for four years in 1970s after an illustrious career with the South Sydney Rabbitohs and Eastern Suburb Roosters. Morgan also represented Australia on four occasions and NSW eight times. Quinn was also a prop who represented Australia and New South Wales. Born in Canberra, Quinn was well known for his stint with the Newtown Bluebags before finishing his career back in Canberra.

Cath Welch Medal – The medal awarded to the Player of the Match in the Katrina Fanning Shield Grand Final is named after former Woden Weston Rams player, Cath Welch. Welch, represented the ACT as captain during her playing days before founding the Australian Women's Rugby League Association. Welch was integral to the development of women's rugby league in Canberra.

Tim Sheens Medal – The medal awarded to the Premiership Winning Coach in First Grade of the Canberra Raiders Cup is named after Canberra Raiders Premiership winning coach, Tim Sheens. Sheens took the reins in Canberra in 1988 and during his eight year stint with the club, won three titles. Sheens coached NSW and Australia during a six year period.

2018 Competition Overview

Austbrokers Canberra Raiders Cup

First Grade

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	<u>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</u>	18	12	4	0	2	485	276	209	28
2	<u>Woden Valley Rams</u>	18	11	4	1	2	518	281	237	27
3	<u>Queanbeyan Kangaroos</u>	18	11	4	1	2	532	336	196	27
4	<u>West Belconnen Warriors</u>	18	11	5	0	2	400	298	102	26
5	<u>Yass Magpies</u>	18	10	6	0	2	345	339	6	24
6	<u>Queanbeyan Blues</u>	18	7	7	2	2	396	393	3	20
7	<u>Goulburn Workers Bulldogs</u>	18	4	12	0	2	292	478	-186	12
8	<u>Gungahlin Bulls</u>	18	3	12	1	2	303	484	-181	11
9	<u>Belconnen United Sharks</u>	18	0	15	1	2	230	616	-386	5

Major Semifinal: Woden Valley Rams 24 def. Tuggeranong Bushrangers 16
 Minor Semifinal: West Belconnen Warriors 18 def. Queanbeyan Kangaroos 16
 Preliminary Final: Tuggeranong Bushrangers 22 def. West Belconnen Warriors 0



Grand Final

Sunday 2nd September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Oliver Levido | Touch Judges: Andrew Nightingale & Tyson Flynn

Woden Valley Rams

Spencer, Daine
Eveston, Lachlan
Geiger, Michael
Pheene, Joshua
Hodge, Cody
Maloney, Sean
Withers, Lincoln
Leapai, Ron
Lucas, Adam
Hodge, Tyson
Martin, Bradley
Gilmour, Michael
Morgan, Jeffrey (c)

Hicks, Thomas
Robertson, Thomas
Moala, Junior
Vaetoe, Kebjarvei

Ash Barnes
Adam Smith

Tuggeranong Bushrangers

1 Gruber, Matthew
2 Tuicakau, Livinai
3 Toetu, Francis
4 Faaeteete, David
5 Pollard, Jayden
6 Heyman, Jack
7 Picker, Michael
8 Hickson, Daniel
9 Mitchell, Joshua (c)
10 Vanisi, Tautalanoa
11 Martin, Jordan
12 Tupou, Atunaisa
13 Oakley, Liam

14 Murray, Blake
15 Antonio, Phaebian
16 Dragisic, Matthew
17 Nchouki, Jamal
18 Brophy, Michael
19 Neil, Brent
20 Sheffield, Robert

Coach Justin Giteau
Manager Gregory Beaumont

Woden Valley Rams 31 (Tries: A Lucas, C Hodge, M Gilmour, M Geiger, R Leapai; Goals: L Withers 5; Field Goal: L Withers) d **Tuggeranong Bushrangers 30** (Tries: J Nchouki 2, M Dragisic 2, J Pollard; Goals: J Mitchell 5)

Player of the Match: Lincoln Withers – Woden Valley Rams (Bradley Clyde Medal)

Match Report: Woden Claim First Premiership in 22 years

Lincoln Withers has led his junior club the Woden Valley Rams to their first premiership in 22 years, snapping a late field goal to defeat the Tuggeranong Bushrangers 31-30 in a grand final for the ages at Seiffert Oval on Sunday afternoon.

The Rams were clinical in racing to a 30-0 lead before the Bushrangers mounted one of the great comebacks to level the scores late in the match.

Tuggeranong scored 30 points in 18 minutes to level the scores before Withers kicked a field goal with four minutes remaining to lead his junior club to a premiership in his first season of first grade at the club.



Woden Valley drew first blood when Adam Lucas darted from dummy half before throwing an inside ball for Ron Leapai who crashed over under the posts.

The Rams had their second try in much the same way when Lucas again made a run from dummy half before passing inside, this time for a hard-running Michael Geiger who went over the top of a couple of defenders to score.

Woden Valley had their third try inside the opening 25 minutes when Lucas dived on the loose ball after his grubber kick was spilt by Tuggeranong defender Jack Heyman.

After receiving four straight penalties the Bushrangers looked to have broken through when David Faateete drew two defenders and flicked the ball out the back to Livinai Tuicakau who grounded the ball only for the referee to rule the grounding was the result of a double movement.

Woden Valley immediately punished their opponent by going the length of the field in one set and having Cody Hodge score off a Withers cross-field kick to give the Rams a 24-0 halftime lead.



The Rams started the second half how they finished the first with Michael Gilmour bursting his way through the Bushrangers defence to score under the posts.

The Bushrangers finally hit back in the 53rd minute when Matthew Dragisic somehow pushed his way over three defenders to get the ball down over the line.

Tuggeranong had their second try when Jamal Nchouki weaved through the Rams defence and pushed his way over to score.

The Bushrangers were over again when the big man Tautalanoa Vanisi dummied his way through the line before flicking the ball out the back to Dragisic who scored his second try of the match.

The comeback was on when Dragisic broke through the Rams defence before the ball was swung to the left where Jayden Pollard crossed to score.

With nine minutes left the impossible happened when the Bushrangers levelled the scores by scoring their fifth straight try, this time through Nchouki who pushed his way over to score under the posts.

The Rams snatched back the lead with four minutes remaining courtesy of Withers kicking what would prove to be the winning field goal in a match that will live long in the memories of those who saw it.



Reserve Grade

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	<u>Queanbeyan Blues</u>	18	12	3	1	2	440	269	171	29
2	<u>West Belconnen Warriors</u>	18	11	5	0	2	448	258	190	26
3	<u>Woden Valley Rams</u>	18	10	6	0	2	462	264	198	24
4	<u>Queanbeyan Kangaroos</u>	18	9	6	1	2	384	394	-10	23
5	<u>Goulburn Workers Bulldogs</u>	18	9	7	0	2	438	336	102	22
6	<u>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</u>	18	8	7	1	2	297	341	-44	21
7	<u>Gungahlin Bulls</u>	18	7	9	0	2	383	506	-123	18
8	<u>Belconnen United Sharks</u>	18	3	12	1	2	246	422	-176	11
9	<u>Yass Magpies</u>	18	1	15	0	2	176	484	-308	6

Finals Series

Major Semifinal: Queanbeyan Blues 26 def. West Belconnen Warriors 16
 Minor Semifinal: Woden Valley Rams 18 def. Queanbeyan Kangaroos 10
 Preliminary Final: West Belconnen Warriors 22 def. Woden Valley Rams 14



Grand Final

Sunday 2nd September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Adam Williams | Touch Judges: Matthew Hall & Luke Barrow

Queanbeyan Blues		West Belconnen Warriors	
Murray, Reeion	1	Graham, Bayley	
Agresta, Joe	2	McFarlane, Beau	
Stokes, Bradley	3	O'Brien, Max	
Bradley, Matthew	4	Tuionetoa, Leo	
Barrie, Bruce	5	Bethke, Thomas	
Jamieson, Todd	6	McDonnell, Jock	
Jenkins, Edward	7	Withers, Brandon	
Holland, Trent	8	Harvey, Fraser	
Woolford, Charlie	9	Middleton, Timothy	
Taholo, Samuela	10	Berry, William	
Fanderlinden, James	11	Gardner, James	
Mathers, Dylan	12	Kalolo, Destiny	
Kalsbeek, Scott	13	Canellis, William	
Cotric, Ilija	14	Lang, Harrison	
Williams, Pere	15	Keeley, Lachlan	
Mafi, James	16	Grayson, Adrian	
Ferguson, Dale	17	Afemui, David	
Ahosivi, Liuaki	18	Saipani, Jarnah	
Tuli, Salesi	19	Dorahy, James	
Ahosivi, Sione	20	McGee, Mitchell	
Ahosivi, Dylan*	21	Robinson, Kurtis	
	22	Wegener, Eduardo	
*No number submitted	23	Tredgold, Sam	
	24	Mundy, David	
	25	Dakin, Matthew	
Ronnie Hoare	Coach	Adrian Grayson & James Dorahy	
Maddy Hoare	Manager	John Fenton	

West Belconnen Warriors 24 (Tries: B Graham 2, A Grayson, T Middleton; Goals: B Graham 4) d

Queanbeyan Blues 16 (Tries: T Holland, R Murray, C Woolford; Goals: E Jenkins)

Players of the Match: Bayley Graham – West Belconnen Warriors (Doug McRitchie Medal)

Under 18

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	<u>Queanbeyan Blues</u>	18	12	2	1	3	598	188	410	31
2	<u>Woden Valley Rams</u>	18	12	3	0	3	587	206	381	30
3	<u>Goulburn Workers Bulldogs</u>	18	9	4	2	3	459	241	218	26
4	<u>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</u>	18	7	8	0	3	265	460	-195	20
5	<u>Gungahlin Bulls</u>	18	3	11	1	3	236	490	-254	13
6	<u>Queanbeyan Kangaroos</u>	18	0	15	0	3	76	636	-560	6

Finals Series

Major Semifinal:	Queanbeyan Blues	26	def.	Woden Valley Rams	18
Minor Semifinal:	Goulburn Workers Bulldogs	38	def.	Tuggeranong Bushrangers	16
Preliminary Final:	Goulburn Workers Bulldogs	28	def.	Woden Valley Rams	16



Grand Final

Sunday 2nd September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Benjamin Seppala | Touch Judges: Christopher Davis & Stuart Cameron

Queanbeyan Blues

Eldridge, Tristan
Bradley, Linkin
Bijorac, Zane
Stewart, Treigh
Rademaker, Michael
Bradley, Hayden
Williams, Jordan
Buckley, Bradley
Woods, Sam
Jones, Bradley
Williams, Jack
Marolt, Zane
Mariner, Neueli

Bradley, Jamie
Freebody, Kai
Longhurt, Ryan
Atonio, James
Stewart, Tyson
Delamere, Willie
Williams, Connor

Neil Bijorac
Jane Jones

1
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Coach
Manager

Goulburn Workers Bulldogs

O'Connor, Cooper
Marks, Cameron
Flack, Max
Crocker, Thomas
Boyt, Brayden
Dodson, Ryan
Douglass, Nicholas
Atkinson, Mitchell
Marshall, Angus
Eaton, Joshua
Klower, Tristan
Barlow, Adam
Greenwood, Lachlan

Higham, Daniel
Moss, Christian
Wood, Matthew
Greenwood, Liam
Lanham, Bailey
Withers, Thomas
Rawhiti, Kepahukiooterangi

Michael Dodson
Chris Hart

Queanbeyan Blues 28 (Tries: L Bradley 2, J Williams 2, T Stewart; Goals: N Mariner 4) d

Goulburn Workers Bulldogs 18 (Tries: T Crocker 2, N Douglass; Goals: M Atkinson 2, M Flack)

Player of the Match: Jack Williams – Queanbeyan Blues (Glenn Lazarus Medal)

Ladies League Tag

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	<u>West Belconnen Warriors</u>	18	14	0	0	4	346	94	252	36
2	<u>Goulburn Workers Bulldogs</u>	18	10	4	0	4	322	160	162	28
3	<u>Yass Magpies</u>	18	9	5	0	4	368	116	252	26
4	<u>Gungahlin Bulls</u>	18	7	6	1	4	246	200	46	23
5	<u>Woden Valley Rams</u>	18	5	8	1	4	182	192	-10	19
6	<u>Queanbeyan Blues</u>	18	5	8	1	4	186	274	-88	19
7	<u>Belconnen United Sharks</u>	18	4	9	1	4	156	286	-130	17
8	<u>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</u>	18	0	14	0	4	38	522	-484	8

Finals Series

Major Semifinal: West Belconnen Warriors 22 def. Goulburn Workers Bulldogs 6
 Minor Semifinal: Yass Magpies 8 def. Gungahlin Bulls 0
 Preliminary Final: Goulburn Workers Bulldogs 18 def. Yass Magpies 0



Grand Final

Sunday 2nd September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Aidan Richardson | Touch Judges: Tyler Petrelli & Owen Hardie

West Belconnen Warriors

Carter, Sarah	1
Stewart, Georgia	2
Lang, Sara	3
Kapea, Kahurangi	4
Slater, Katie	5
Sliwinski, Elana	6
Kapea, Keesha	7
Tredgold, Georgia	8
Coker, Krystal	9
Terry, Meg	10
Banks, Maddison	11
Tsakalos, Kayla	12
Fleming, Renee	13
Bishop, Brigitte	14
	15
Stockwell, Stephanie	16
	17
Manenica, Klara	18
Hardie, Gabriella	19
Magyar, Kristy	20
Magyar, Tarni	22
	23
	24

Darren Tredgold & Alana Franks
Kellie Lang

Coach
Manager

Goulburn Workers Bulldogs

Day, Amy
Thompson, Kate
Day, Ellen
Hickey, Breanna
Kent, Annie
Picker, Megan
Gann, Kayla
Brooker, Jordan
Marshall, Grace
Reid, Chelsea
Hewitt, Amelia
Hately, Claire
Northey, Keisha
Broadbridge, Ashley
Godkin, Laura
Sharwood, Chelsea
Economos, Samantha
Woodman, Rachel
Gould, Ashlee

Adam Antony & Matt Worboys
Jess Antony

West Belconnen Warriors 10 (Tries: K Coker, G Stewart; Goals: S Carter) d **Goulburn Workers Bulldogs 4** (Try: A Hewitt)

Player of the Match: Sarah Carter - West Belconnen Warriors

George Tooke Shield

Open Men's

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Crookwell Green Devils	18	15	1	0	2	684	182	502	34
2	Harden Hawks	18	13	2	1	2	750	174	576	31
3	North Canberra Bears	18	12	3	1	2	623	177	446	29
4	Boorowa Rovers	18	9	7	0	2	434	347	87	22
5	Bungendore Tigers	18	8	7	1	2	378	334	44	21
6	Binalong Brahmans	18	5	11	0	2	253	381	-128	14
7	UC Grizzlies	18	3	11	2	2	220	608	-388	12
8	Gunning Roos	18	3	12	1	2	155	622	-467	11
9	ADFA Knights	18	1	15	0	2	76	748	-672	6

Finals Series

Qualifying Final:	Harden Hawks	15	def.	North Canberra Bears	14
Elimination Final:	Boorowa Rovers	28	def.	Bungendore Tigers	20
Major Semifinal:	Crookwell Green Devils	36	def.	Harden Hawks	14
Minor Semifinal:	North Canberra Bears	30	def.	Boorowa Rovers	14
Preliminary Final:	North Canberra Bears	15	def.	Harden Hawks	12



Grand Final

Sunday 8th September, Crookwell Memorial Oval, Crookwell

Referee: Garth Widdowson | Touch Judges: John Wharehinga & Jack Black

Crookwell Green Devils		North Canberra Bears	
Knight, Daniel	1	Laundess, Jeffrey	
Jackson-Wilkie, Caylon	2	Jorgensen, Luke	
Cummins, Ben	3	Thorley, Christopher	
Cummins, Steven	4	Maifiti, Jackson	
Evans, Benjamin	5	Brown, Trent	
Picker, Cameron	6	Priestley, Jake	
McGeechan, Charles	7	Dunn, Peter	
Aramoana, Dion	8	Carmichael, Stanley	
Picker, Benjamin	9	Quzag, Hamza	
Selmes, Kurt	10	Thompson, Bradley	
Picker, Joseph	11	Bink, Jacob	
Eddy, Jayden	12	Bullock, Wayne	
Cummins, Joseph	13	Burnham, Matthew	
Walker, Isaac	14	Allan, Richard	
Keller, Tyler	15	Byrnes, Matthew	
Leonard, Andy	16	Reardon, Troy	
Davis, Kayne	17	Solomons, Joshua	
Croker, Lester	18	Cappello, Bradley	
Dawson, Jack	19	Hazell, Williams	
Rowles, Darnell	20	Fangaiuiha, Wiliami	
Hunter, Jake	21	Fisiikaile, Koli*	
Aramoana, Jayden	22	Gaudie, Lane*	
Evans, Adam	23	Hogan, Anthony*	
	24	Norman, Damian*	
Smith, Simon	25	*Number not submitted	
Christopher Chudleigh	Coach	Richard Thorley & Darren Solomons	
Simon Smith	Manager	Andrew Fenton & Gudrun Anneliese Porreca	

Crookwell Green Devils 22 (Tries: C Picker, B Picker, C Jackson-Wilkie, S Cummins; Goals: C Picker 3) d

North Canberra Bears 16 (Tries: C Thorley 2, M Byrnes; Goals: C Thorley 2)

Player of the Match: Ben Picker – Crookwell Green Devils (Gary Marmont Medal)

Match Report: Crookwell Claim First George Tooke Shield Since 2006

The Crookwell Green Devils have avenged last season's Grand Final heartbreak by grabbing a 22-16 win over the North Canberra Bears in the George Tooke Shield Grand Final.

The Green Devils went down 24-20 to the Harden Hawks in the 2017 Grand Final but made up for that winning the club's first shield since 2006.

Crookwell survived a second half comeback managing to hold on after jumping out to a 22-0 lead early in the second half to become the sixth team in the past seven seasons to win the Shield.



It didn't take long for the Green Devils to put pressure on the Bears with the kick-off to start the match trapping the Bears in their own in-goal area.

The first try would come in the next set of six as a swift backline movement to the left resulted in Steven Cummins finding Caylon Jackson-Wilkie who scored untouched in the corner in the second minute.

Crookwell grabbed their second with a powerful darting run from hooker Ben Picker who carried bodies over the line to give the Green Devils a 10-0 lead.

It began to look easy for the Green Devils with 23 minutes on the clock with a perfect grubber through the line from Ben Picker in which he regathered and linked with Cameron Picker to score under the posts.

The Bears had attempts in the remaining 12 minutes of the first half to get back into it but were unable to hold the ball as they went on the attack.

The second half began as the first concluded as a wayward pass from the Bears was intercepted by Steven Cummins who raced 30 metres to score under the posts.

It took eleven minutes in the second half but the Bears grabbed their first try of the afternoon following a poor pass from Stanley Carmichael being picked up around the bootlaces by Christopher Thornley to score out wide.

The Bears continued the comeback when Jake Priestly threw a nice flat ball allowing Matthew Burnham to crash through the defence on the right edge.

With five minutes on the clock, the Bears grabbed another try through Thorley with Priestly linking with the centre for a short side raid to reduce the deficit to six points.

Ladies League Tag

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	<u>Harden Hawkettes</u>	18	16	0	0	2	710	52	658	36
2	<u>Bungendore Tigerettes</u>	18	11	5	0	2	346	152	194	26
3	<u>Crookwell She Devils</u>	18	10	5	1	2	388	206	182	25
4	<u>Boorowa Roverettes</u>	18	8	6	2	2	312	246	66	22
5	<u>North Canberra Bears</u>	18	9	7	0	2	228	196	32	22
6	<u>Gunning Rooettes</u>	18	8	8	0	2	238	242	-4	20
7	<u>UC Grizzlies</u>	18	6	9	1	2	248	268	-20	17
8	<u>Binalong Jersey Girls</u>	18	2	14	0	2	133	494	-361	8
9	<u>ADFA Knights</u>	18	0	16	0	2	24	771	-747	4

Finals Series

Qualifying Final:	Crookwell She Devils	18	def.	Bungendore Tigerettes	16
Elimination Final:	North Canberra Bears	14	def.	Boorowa Roverettes	0
Major Semifinal:	Harden Hawkettes	16	def.	Crookwell She Devils	12
Minor Semifinal:	Bungendore Tigerettes	28	def.	North Canberra Bears	4
Preliminary Final:	Bungendore Tigerettes	32	def.	Crookwell She Devils	8



Grand Final

Sunday 8th September, Crookwell Memorial Oval, Crookwell

Referee: Jack Black | Touch Judges: Andrew O'Brien & Matthew Hall

Harden Hawkettes		Bungendore Tigerettes	
Smith, Grace	1	Leach, Ashleigh	
Smith, Casey	2		
Smith, Clare	3	Iffland Mihaich, Isobel	
Smith, Georgia	4	Shoobert, Ellen	
McGrath-West, Tara	5	Kooyman, Josephine	
James, Emma	6	Pateman, Teagan	
Doolan, Jessica	7	Iffland Mihaich, Claudia	
Samantha, Doolan	8	Haridemos, Krystyana	
Menz, Kate	9	O'Rourke, Jessica	
	10	Pearce, Carley	
Douglass, Maddison	11	Tanks, Natalie	
Ebbott, Caitlin	12		
Quinn, Emilie	13		
	14	Pryor, Lillie	
Hurley, Shannon	15		
	16	Cooper, Jessica	
Butt, Katie	17	Darmody, Kylie	
Vizl, Liana	22		
	24	Cooper, Belinda	
	25	Nelson, Molly	
	26	Grocott, Rachel	
	28	Lewis, Jade	
Jason Pollard	Coach	Matthew Pateman & Darren Grocott	
Maryanne Fitzgerald	Manager	Roberta Winters	

Harden Hawkettes 14 (Tries: T McGrath-West, G Smith; Goals: E James 3) d **Bungendore Tigerettes 10** (Tries: J Kooyman; R Grocott; Goals: A Leach)

Player of the Match: Tara McGrath-West – Harden Hawkettes

Youth League

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Yass Magpies	18	13	1	1	3	325	114	211	33
2	Harden Boorowa	18	11	3	1	3	424	180	244	29
3	Crookwell Green Devils	18	9	6	0	3	304	294	10	24
4	North Canberra Bears	18	6	9	0	3	292	266	26	18
5	Tuggeranong Bushrangers	18	5	10	0	3	232	402	-170	16
6	Bungendore Tigers	18	0	15	0	3	14	335	-321	6

Finals Series

Qualifying Final:	Harden Boorowa	18	def.	Crookwell Green Devils	6
Elimination Final:	North Canberra Bears	36	def.	Tuggeranong Bushrangers	16
Major Semifinal:	Yass Magpies	20	def.	Harden Boorowa	10
Minor Semifinal:	North Canberra Bears	38	def.	Crookwell Green Devils	12
Preliminary Final:	Harden Boorowa	24	def.	North Canberra Bears	12



Grand Final

Sunday 8th September, Crookwell Memorial Oval, Crookwell

Referee: Jack Black | Touch Judges: Andrew O'Brien & Matthew Hall

Yass Magpies

Maher, Bayley	1
Watson, Blake	2
Davy, Joshua	3
Godfrey, Jack	4
Madden, Cameron	5
Ebert, Cian	6
Perceval, Dylan	7
Poidevin, Jayke	8
Puckett, Hayden	9
Davis, Benjamin	10
Timmer, Bailey	11
Paton, Jackson	12
Goode, Will	13

Basalama, Jacob	14
Baldwin, Josh	15
Clifford, Adam	16
Vitler, Jordan	17
Skillin, Haydon	18
Waters, Tyler	19
Maher, Richard	20
Warner, Angus	21
Wilke, Trent	22

Daid McPherson & Peter Timmer
Greg Clifford & Adrian Waters

Coach
Manager

Harden Boorowa

Power, Austin
Daley, Ryan
Butt, Brody
Forsyth, Oscar
Butt, Thomas
Bolger, Rory
Stephens, Nicolaoas
Quinn, William
Hinds, Adam
Halls, Jakob
Hinds, Jack
Halls, Brady
Stanley, Wil

Dyer, Laurie
Ings, Tyson
Hulme, Jarrad
Whybrow, Travis
Hughston, Owen
Fahey, Patrick
Skillin, Thomas

Nathan Schofield

Yass Magpies 10 (Tries: D Perceval, J Godfrey; Goals: B Davis) d **Harden Boorowa 2** (Goal: R Daley)

Player of the Match: Bayley Maher - Yass Magpies (Morgan/Quinn Medal)

Katrina Fanning Shield

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	<u>Yass Magpies</u>	14	10	1	1	2	353	102	251	25
2	<u>Queanbeyan Blues</u>	14	10	2	0	2	380	134	246	24
3	<u>Goulburn Stockmen</u>	14	9	2	1	2	346	72	274	23
4	<u>Tuggeranong Buffaloes</u>	14	6	6	0	2	196	224	-28	16
5	<u>Queanbeyan Kangaroos</u>	14	3	9	0	2	148	287	-139	10
6	<u>Valley Dragons</u>	14	2	10	0	2	114	338	-224	8
7	<u>Gungahlin Bulls</u>	14	1	11	0	2	62	442	-380	6

Finals Series

Major Semifinal:	Yass Magpies	42	def.	Queanbeyan Blues	4
Minor Semifinal:	Goulburn Stockmen	62	def.	Tuggeranong Buffaloes	0
Preliminary Final:	Goulburn Stockmen	32	def.	Queanbeyan Blues	22



Grand Final

Sunday 2nd September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Aidan Richardson | Touch Judges: Tyler Petrelli & Owen Hardie

Yass Magpies		Goulburn Stockmen	
Suckling, Gabrielle	1	Hazelton, Elly	
Wright, Taylah	2	Selmes, Emily	
Alley, Victoria	3	Deaton, Hollie	
Afele, Samara	4	Kara, Ashley	
Banks, Emily	5	Bradley, Elizabeth	
Winbank, Eilish	6	Brooker, Jordan	
Massey, Hollie	7	Kelly, Lauren	
Walls, Kylie	8	Whittick, MacCie	
Wright, Shannon	9	Marshall, Grace	
Pasparne, Nicole	10	Economos, Samantha	
Marsh, Paremo	11	Rakete, Pearl	
Howard, Jess	12	Ottaway, Jennaya	
Frost, Taylah	13	Tooth, Jasmine	
Murphy, Jacinta	14	Parry, Amy	
Beck, Alexandria	15		
Davis, Logan	16		
Ings, Mellissa	17		
Peisley, Maddison	18		
Manton, Sharni	19		
Guest, Karissa	20		
Gaudie, Tayla	21		
	23	Penning, Paige	
Josh Hardy	Coach	John Sykes	
Stephen Greenwood & Fiona McPherson	Manager	Sue Sykes	

Goulburn Stockmen 20 (Tries: E Hazelton, J Ottaway, G Marshall, A Parry; Goals: L Kelly 2) d **Yass Magpies 8** (Tries: S Afele 2)

Player of the Match: Elly Hazelton – Goulburn Stockmen (Cath Welch Medal)

Match Report: Goulburn Claim 2018 Katrina Fanning Shield

The Goulburn Stockmen have defeated minor premiers the Yass Magpies 20-8 at Seiffert Oval on Sunday afternoon to claim their first Katrina Fanning Shield.

After finishing second last season, Goulburn were out for redemption and they certainly achieved that by defeating the highflying Magpies in a physical contest.

Yass led going into halftime, but the Stockmen came out hard in the second half and once the Magpies were reduced to 12 players Goulburn ran away with the match.



After a physical first five minutes Goulburn looked to have the breakthrough when they spread the ball to the left and created an overlap, but Elizabeth Bradley was unable to hold onto the football with the try line beckoning.

It was Yass who would score first though when their perfectly executed backline move from a penalty tap created an overlap for Samara Afele to score out wide.

The remainder of the first half was characterised by a number of fantastic defensive efforts from both sides including the Yass defence swarming on a Goulburn attack on the last play of the half to ensure they led 4-0 at the break.

Five minutes into the second half Goulburn were over when Lauren Kelly threw a bullet pass for Elly Hazelton who burst through a gap to score.

A few minutes later Yass were reduced to 12 players when Jacinta Murphy was sent off for repeated infringements.

Grace Marshall immediately made the most of the numerical advantage by darting from dummy half past some tired markers to score under the posts.

Goulburn were beginning to play with some confidence and put up a bomb from halfway which they were able to bat back and Jennaya Ottaway picked up the loose ball and ran 20 metres to score.

The Goulburn barrage continued when Kelly kicked a pinpoint chip kick for Amy Parry who snatched up the ball and scored Goulburn's fourth try.

Yass grabbed a late consolation try when Afele crossed out wide for her second try of the match.

Club Championships

Austbrokers Canberra, Canberra Raiders Cup

Club Championship	Youth x 1.5	L Tag x 1.5	U18s x 2	Res x 3	Firsts x 4	Total
Woden Valley Rams	-	28.5	60	72	108	268.5
Queanbeyan Blues	-	28.5	62	87	80	257.5
Tuggeranong Bushrangers	24	12	40	63	112	251
West Belconnen Warriors	-	54	-	78	104	236
Goulburn Workers Bulldogs	-	42	52	66	48	208
Yass Magpies	49.5	39	-	18	96	202.5
Queanbeyan Kangaroos	-	-	12	69	108	189
Gungahlin Bulls	-	34.5	26	54	44	158.5
Belconnen United Sharks	-	25.5	-	33	20	78.5

George Tooke Shield

Club Championship	Youth x 2	L Tag x 3	Tooke x 4	Total
Harden Hawks	29	108	124	261
Crookwell Green Devils	48	75	136	259
North Canberra Bears	36	66	116	218
Boorowa Rovers	29	66	88	183
Bungendore Tigers	-	78	84	162
Gunning Roos	-	60	44	104
UC Grizzlies	-	51	48	99
Binalong Brahmans	-	24	56	80
ADFA Knights	-	12	24	36

Junior Grand Finals

2018 Junior League Finals Club Representations (including playoffs)

CLUB	TEAMS
Belconnen United Sharks	U10z1, U12z2, U13z1, U14z2, U14z1
Bungendore Tigers	
Cooma Colts	U11z2, U13z2
Crookwell Green Devils	U15z2
Goulburn Stockmen	U10z1, U11z3, U11z2, U11z1, U12z1, U13z1, U14z1, U15z1, U16z1 & U17 Girls
Gungahlin Bulls	U10z2, U12z3, U12z2, U13z2, U14z2, U14z1, U15z1, U16z2 & U17 Girls
North Canberra Bears	U11z3, U13z2, U15z2
Queanbeyan Kangaroos	U11z3, U12z3
Queanbeyan United	U10z3, U10z1, U11z2, U12z1, U14z1, U15z2 & U16 Z1
South Tuggeranong Knights	U12z3, U12z2, U16z2
Tuggeranong Buffaloes	U10z1, U11z2, U13z1, U14z2
Valley Dragons	U10z3, U10z2, U12z1, U13z2, U15z1, U16z1
West Belconnen Warriors	U10z3, U10z2, U11z1, U11z1, U12z3, U12z1, U14z2, U15z2, U15z1, U16z2 & U17 Girls
Woden Weston Rams	U10z2, U11z1, U13z1, U16z1
Yass Magpies	U10z3, U11z3, U12z2, U16z2 & U17 Girls

Grand Final Results

Under 10 Zone 3

Queanbeyan United Black 22 drew West Belconnen Green 22

Player of the Match: Kyle Donovan



Under 10 Zone 2

Woden Weston Gold 30 d West Belconnen Blue 12

Player of the Match: Nicholas Platis (Woden Weston Gold)



Under 10 Zone 1

Tuggeranong Buffaloes Gold 24 d Goulburn Stockmen Blue 18

Player of the Match: Latrell Dyer (Tuggeranong Buffaloes)



Under 11 Zone 3

North Canberra Bears 24 d Yass Magpies 12

Player of the Match: l'amafana Meki Siaki (North Canberra Bears)



Under 11 Zone 2

Goulburn Stockmen Maroon 28 d Cooma Colts 24

Player of the Match: Matthew Ireland (Goulburn Stockmen Maroon)



Under 11 Zone 1

Goulburn Stockmen Blue 30 d West Belconnen Green 22

Player of the Match: Blake Watman (Goulburn Stockmen Blue)



Under 12 Zone 3

West Belconnen Green 12 drew Gungahlin Bulls Black 12

Player of the Match: Ethan Schneider (West Belconnen Green)



Under 12 Zone 2

Belconnen United Sharks 26 d Gungahlin Bulls Red 24
Player of the Match: Asora Poulos (Belconnen United Sharks)



Under 12 Zone 1

Goulburn Stockmen Blue 20 d Valley Dragons 10
Player of the Match: Josef Medina (Goulburn Stockmen Blue)



Under 13 Zone 2

Cooma Colts 26 d Gungahlin Bulls Black 16
Player of the Match: Jordan Williams (Cooma Colts)



Under 13 Zone 1

Woden Weston Blue 14 d Belconnen Sharks White 10
Player of the Match: Shane Wilcox (Woden Weston Blue)



Under 14 Zone 2

West Belconnen Blue 16 d Gungahlin Bulls Silver 14
Player of the Match: Kayan Watterson (West Belconnen Blue)



Under 14 Zone 1

Gungahlin Bulls Gold 20 d Goulburn Stockmen Blue 10
Player of the Match: Noah Marcantonio (Gungahlin Bulls Gold)



Under 15 Zone 2

Queanbeyan Blues 22 d North Canberra Bears 16
Player of the Match: Corey Black (Queanbeyan Blues)



Under 15 Zone 1

Valley Dragons Red 30 d West Belconnen Gold 20
Player of the Match: Lachlan Cossart-McGrath (Valley Dragons Red)



Under 16 Zone 2

West Belconnen Blue 38 d South Tuggeranong Knights 30
Player of the Match: Benjamin Flood (West Belconnen Blue)



Under 16 Zone 1

Queanbeyan United Blue 30 d Woden Weston Rams 24
Player of the Match: Willie Delamere (Queanbeyan United Blue)



Under 17 Girls

Goulburn Stockmen 22 d Gungahlin Bulls 12
Player of the Match: Courtney-Lee Picker (Goulburn Stockmen)



Representative Football

Country Championships

Under 23 Men's

The Monaro Colts U23's fought valiantly in their attempt to defend the Country Championships title but ultimately went down in the final 26-22 to Northern Rivers.

Monaro's path to the final began in Wagga Wagga, as they faced the Riverina Bulls in what was an exciting encounter. After a tight first half, the Colts found their try scoring form in the second half to come away with a 38-10 win to progress to the semi-final against the Illawarra South Coast Dragons.

In similar fashion to the previous game, the Monaro U23's held a slender lead entering halftime before a dazzling second half display ensured that Monaro ran out 48-18 winners.

The final was an exciting encounter as Monaro and Northern Rivers traded tries but Northern Rivers went into halftime with a 14-10 lead after two late tries.

Monaro levelled the scores during the second half thanks to tries from Tyson Greenwood and Cleveland McGhie but it wasn't enough as Northern Rivers claimed the win and the title.

Five players from the Monaro squad were selected in the NSW Country U23's squad that toured Papua New Guinea in October. Ryan McQueen, Ryley Thomas, Derek Hay, Nukurua Ngere and Ron Leapai were all selected. Cleveland McGhie also made the original side but didn't travel.

Ladies League Tag

The Monaro Colts were beaten by the GSR Wests Tigers in Round 2 of the Country Championships.

The Tigers started strongly as they scored three tries in the opening eight minutes before the Colts fought their way into the arm wrestle.

GSR grabbed another try in the 16th minute before Caitlin Turnbull opened the scoring for Monaro as she broke through the line and showed fantastic footwork to beat the last defender.

The Tigers finished the half with another try but the Colts started the second half in determined fashion.

Renee Norgrove doubled Monaro's score with a try in the corner after she received a basketball style pass from Emma James.

However, the Tigers found their stride midway through the half as they crossed the line on three more occasions as they claimed a 40-8 win.

Monaro Country Championship Squads

Monaro Colts U23's Country Championships Final



Players Back Row (L-R): Chris Hart (Goulburn Workers Bulldogs), Nicholas Cornish (Goulburn Workers Bulldogs), Luke Ingram (Bombala Blue Heelers), Luke Skidmore (Gungahlin Bulls), Tevita Aroha-Tuinauvai (West Belconnen Warriors), Connor Brebner (Goulburn Workers Bulldogs), Daine Spencer – 18th man (Woden Valley Rams), Kye Madden (Gungahlin Bulls)

Players Front Row (L-R): Tyson Greenwood (Goulburn Workers Bulldogs), Derek Hay (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Ryan McQueen (West Belconnen Warriors), Ryley Thomas (West Belconnen Warriors), Zac Patch (Queanbeyan Blues), Ron Leapai (Woden Valley Rams), Nukurua Ngere (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Cleveland McGhie (Woden Valley Rams), Kyle Shepperdson (Merimbula-Pambula Bulldogs), Noa Vanisi (Tuggeranong Bushrangers)

Coach: Ash Barnes (Woden Valley Rams)



Monaro Colts Ladies League Tag



Ali Ringland (Bega Roosters), Annie Ward (Gungahlin Bulls), Cailah Welch (Queanbeyan Blues), Caitlin Turnbull (Gungahlin Bulls), Emma James (Harden Hawkettes), Georgia Smith (Harden Hawkettes), Georgie Clarke (Bombala Blue Heelers), Hayley Kemp (Cooma Stallions), Jacinta Dummett (Bega Roosters), Kody-Leigh Hirst (Queanbeyan Blues), Lucy Sellers (Bombala Blue Heelers), Maddy Orr (Gungahlin Bulls), Rachael Grocott (Gungahlin Bulls), Renee Norgrove (Woden Valley Rams), Sarah Carter (West Belconnen Warriors)

Coach: Karen Breden (Gungahlin Bulls)



Andrew Johns and Laurie Daley Cups

Country Rugby League introduced Under 16's (Andrew Johns Cup) and Under 18's (Laurie Daley Cup) competitions for the 2018 season which the Monaro Colts competed in.

Laurie Daley Cup Squad

Ben Anderson, Mitchell Atkinson, Zane Bijorac, Callum Bower-Scott, Hayden Bradley, Henry Bruce, William Bruce, James Cahill, Keegan Caldwell, Trent Casey, Mathew Chelin, Ryan Dodson, Tristan Eldridge, Connor Griffiths, Scott Harris, Luke Heckenberg, Bailey Hitchcock, Isaac Lanham, Jonah Latu, Angus Marshall, Jordan Martin, Tony Mika, Joshua Morschel, Christian Moss, Tom O'Brian, Cooper O'Connor, Matt Parsons, Liam Rankin, Jeremiah Simbiken, Mitchell Souter, Treigh Stewart, Jordan Williams, Vincent Worthy

From this squad Treigh Stewart, Zane Bijorac and Mitchell Atkinson were selected to represent the Country Under 18's side.

Andrew Johns Cup Squad

Jacob Bennett, Llewellyn Boyle, Andrew Byrne, Blake Crotty, Mitch Day, Alexander Ganchov, Jack Grant, Ryan Hoare, Connor Ison, Bailey Lanham, Remy Lemisio, Menkah Lowah, Joseph Mamalai, Ashton Naidu, Jackson Owen, Jack Peppernell, Jordan Potter, Tyson Priestly, Mitchell Rhodes, Noah Saddler, Luke Salafia, Jake Sasse, Oscar Schmidt, Mitchell Spencer, Zane Thompson, Joshua Waters, Connor Williams, Tully Wilton, Keanan Woo-Ngan, Taine Woodford, Jayden Young

From this squad Menker Lowah, Jack Peppernell and Ashton Naidu were selected to represent the Country Under 16's side.

CRRL Open Women's Tackle Representative Side

The CRRL Open Women's Tackle Representative Side took part in the Country Southern Zone Trial as part of the selection process for the Women's Country Side.

CRRL Open Women's Tackle Squad

Gab Suckling (c) (Yass Magpies), Cailah Welch (Queanbeyan Blues), Paris Robinson (Queanbeyan Blues), Alannah Fraser, Amanda Kyburz (Tuggeranong Buffaloes), Tamika Murphy (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Abbey Kimber, Natasha Brunhuber (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Remi Wilton (Queanbeyan Blues), Courtney Miners (Queanbeyan Blues), Nora Lal (Tuggeranong Buffaloes), Emily Banks (Yass Magpies), Taylah Frost (Yass Magpies), Claudia Obst, Catherine Carling, Shelbie Catania (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Logan Davis (Yass Magpies), Kasey Dragisic (Queanbeyan Blues), Shannon Sanz (Gungahlin Bulls), Abbie Rhodes

From this squad Gab Suckling was selected in the Country Southern Zone Squad but didn't make the cut for the NSW Country side.

Referee's Report

2018 was not a good year for recruitment as despite running three (3) courses during the year only eleven (11) new members attended those courses. This was a significant reduction from previous years and will have an impact upon our resources going into the future. The NRL have indicated that in 2019 a revised Level 1 Referee course will be offered which will make it easier to register and complete. A major challenge for not only our Association, but all grass-roots Referees Associations across Australia is the retention of younger members through to senior football. As with most sporting codes there has been a steady decline of match officials transitioning from junior football and unfortunately this is not keeping pace with retirements.

In 2018 a new National Match Officials Structure was introduced, with revised Referees Accreditation courses and locally the implementation of a Referees Academy by NSWRL to support those in the pathways program. This has now been complemented during the "off season" with an Emerging Referees Academy being run at the University of Canberra and a Women in League Officiating program at the AIS in October. In addition to this the NRL have also announced a partnership with University of Queensland and locally the Country Universities Centre to provide educational support for Referees. All of these initiatives go towards a Pathway for Referees from grassroots to elite level. This highlights the possibilities that exist for ex-players that you don't need to be a player to participate at the highest levels of Rugby League in Australia.

Retention is a priority for all Referees Associations and cannot occur without the support and assistance from local leagues and Clubs. We are thankful of the support received from the Canberra Raiders and Canberra Region Rugby League but this is sadly lacking from some Clubs who see Referees as an adversary, rather than a partnership in the game of Rugby League. There are still too many incidents of crowd abuse towards touch judges and referees and whilst we encourage our members to concentrate on the game and leave the crowd and team officials to Ground Managers, the "noise" does still affect our members. We had a couple of members pull out of refereeing due to this "noise". I call it noise because it is generalised verbal abuse rather than an "in your face" stand-up abuse which the League have been very good in dealing with. We already have a very high turnover rate of young referees with traditionally 75% of new recruits under the age of 18. By the time they have built up the confidence and competency to referee senior football only about 10% remain as match officials. There are numerous reasons for this reduction, such as abuse, school & work pressures, social interactions, part time work requirements and we urge all clubs to actively promote to their players & members the benefits of becoming a match official. Without the support of clubs, the number of referees will continue to fall meaning that their players in which they have invested a lot of time and money in, will have no game to play. We already have a significant number of members refereeing Friday nights, Saturday and Sunday and running for up to 15 hours each weekend which is significantly more than a player might be involved. This amount of running is also taking a physical toll on their injuries which then affects their availability each weekend. 2019 will be a very challenging season.

2018 also saw us move our training venue from Northbourne Oval to Raiders HQ, Bruce. The facilities are top notch and we look forward to moving back to Northbourne Oval when it becomes the Raiders Centre of Excellence. I am very pleased to say that the cooperation and respect between the Canberra District Rugby League Referees Association and the Canberra Region Rugby League is in my opinion the best in CRL and NSWRL. Thank you to Mark Vergano, Deb Ford, Wendy Bennett, Deb Charman and many others within the CRRL and Canberra Raiders who assist our Association each year.

Chris Nightingale
Executive Officer, Canberra District Rugby League Referees Association

Judiciary Report – Gary Green

We are once again at the reporting end of the season and I offer the following report for your information. This year unfortunately saw a large increase from the last 2 years where the dismissals were dropping.

The season started with seven players from one match being reported. This set the scene for the next two rounds with similar numbers being reported each week.

At the end of the season we have had 93 matters reported to the Match Review and Disciplinary Co Ordinator's.

Of this there were 70 early pleas 20 went to judiciary hearing and 3 were dismissed. 63 senior players were dismissed, and 30 junior players were dismissed.

The biggest increase in send off was from the seniors with their numbers more than doubling on last year and the juniors increasing by just 3.

The Judiciary again continued the practice of considering extenuating circumstances when making decisions on matters that appeared before them. With finding of guilt in these matters' penalties reflected the issues that were raised. This was well accepted by the clubs and players concerned.

The greatest number of charges this year was for the offence of Striking (38), Contrary Conduct (18) and Offensive/Obscene Language (12) Dangerous Throw/Tackle (7) and Shoulder Charge (5).

I would like to thank those that attended the Judiciary Hearings for the professional way they presented themselves from Players, Officials, Parents and Referees under unusual and difficult circumstances.

Finally, I would like to thank the following for giving up there time to sit on the Judiciary this year, Bill Logan, Jonathon Hanton, John Cooper, Geoff Milczuk, Danny Roper, Phil Stuart and Geoff Besgrove. Your efforts are appreciated.

Yours in Rugby League

Gary Green JP
Match Review and Disciplinary Co Ordinator

News

CRRL Leading Digital Engagement

Canberra Region Rugby League have come out on top in a recent analysis on Facebook engagement across all grassroots sporting organisations in the ACT.

The study, which was undertaken by *Shunt*, gathered all data from the month of September and ranked CRRL as the leader in all six key areas. These areas were: number of posts, engagement percentage, likes per post, comments per post, shares per post and total reactions, comments and shares.

The September results provide a snapshot of the positive results from the last two seasons with Canberra Region Rugby League's Facebook and Instagram accounts rising rapidly to have the second highest number of likes and followers across all grassroots sporting organisations in the ACT.

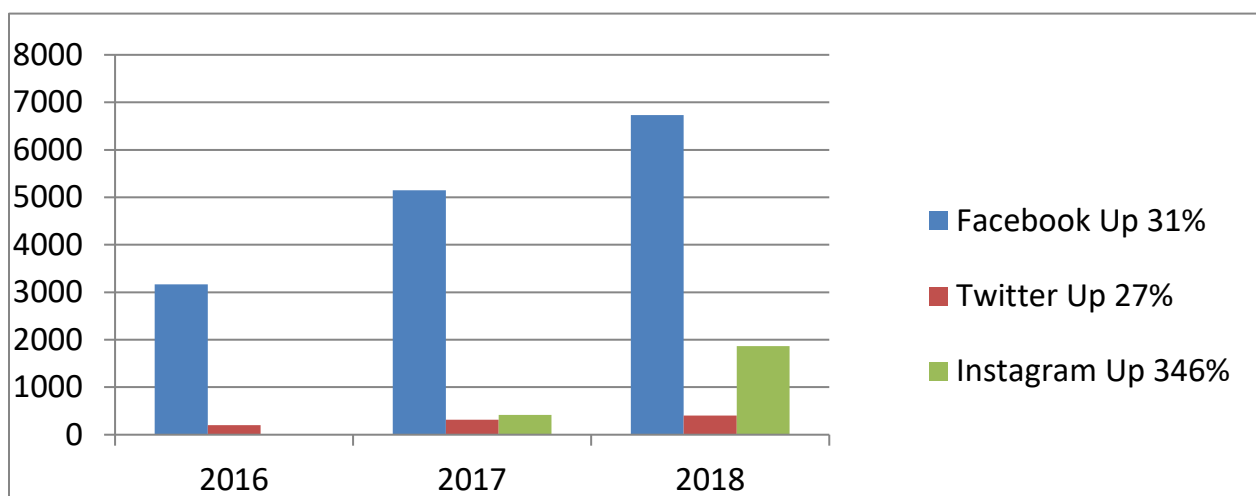
These results come off the back of significant investments by Canberra Region Rugby League to ensure all participants are engaged and informed of what is happening in the sport.

CRRL General Manager Mark Vergano said that the results at all levels of the game were pleasing.

"When we invested in our digital and communication channels, it was important it was promoted across all levels of our game," Vergano said. "We have seen an increase in people engaging with content at all levels from Canberra Raiders Cup and below."

Part of this investment by CRRL has been the introduction of BarTV Sports who have provided live streaming and highlights packages, as well as a new website and regular electronic emails.

For the 2018 season the new website received over half a million views, meanwhile the highlight packages received over 300,000 views.



NAIDOC Week – Because Of Her We Can: Katrina Fanning

This year's NAIDOC Week theme celebrated the essential role that women have played – and continue to play – as active and significant role models at the community, local, state and national levels.

No-one epitomises this within the Canberra rugby league community like Katrina Fanning – one of the pioneers for women's rugby league in the region.

A proud Wiradjuri woman, Fanning paved the way for all women wanting to play rugby league as she played in the inaugural Jillaroos test in 1995 and made 24 appearances for Australia. In Canberra, she captain-coached the Gungahlin Bulls as they won three premierships in Canberra's previous women's competition.



Having seen the growth of women's rugby league since that inaugural Jillaroos test, Fanning has been excited to see young indigenous players from the Canberra region getting involved in the game.

"If I can be of any help in regards to them making good choices, I'm happy to offer any support that I can," Fanning said. "That's what rugby league did for me and without it, my life would have been different, not be as satisfying and complete as I feel it is."

Throughout NAIDOC Week, Fanning believes it is a valuable time of year for all Australians.

"NAIDOC Week is a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share their culture and for mainstream Australia to go out and try some activities they don't any other time of the year," Fanning said.

Having been one of the first female indigenous role models in rugby league, Fanning has been excited to see other women take up the mantle as a mentor.

"To see the sort of role models that they are now, young girls from now on are always going to see opportunities in rugby league that perhaps in my day, no-one could see," Fanning said.

Ash Barnes to Coach Canberra Raiders Under 20's



The Canberra Raiders have announced the return of the under 20's Raiders to the NSW Jersey Flegg competition next season, with Woden Valley Rams Premiership Coach Ash Barnes to lead the team.

Previously, any Raiders players contracted with the 20's played with Mounties during the 2018 season, after the National Youth Competition concluded at the end of 2017. The Raiders 20's team will now be based full-time in Canberra and return under the Raiders logo and play in Raiders team colours.

The under 20's will play a number of their home matches at GIO Stadium and other local venues, with these fixtures to be announced once the NRL and NSWRL draws have been finalised.

The return of the Raiders under 20s to Canberra gives locally based players a clear and direct pathway into the NRL system, with the club's junior representative program to field four teams in 2019, with the under 16s (Harold Matthews), under 18s (SG Ball) and under 20s (Jersey Flegg) men's teams and the under 18s (Tarsha Gale Cup) women's team.

Raiders CEO Don Furner said the Raiders have long prided themselves on their junior development program and the re-inclusion of the under 20s into the club's pathway program allowed the club to continue this into the future.

"The Raiders are a club with a proud history of developing players and this comes from the work we have always done in junior development in Canberra and the surrounding regions," Furner said. "We want to make sure we are giving players from Canberra, the Monaro Region, the Riverina and the Far South Coast the opportunity to identify a clear pathway and having the under 20s is a vital stepping stone in this process."

“It’s also great to see a Coach who has achieved success locally in Ash Barnes, get the opportunity to further his career and lead the next generation of Raiders along this pathway.”

Barnes has an impressive Coaching resume, taking the Woden Valley Rams to their first Canberra Raiders Cup title since 1996 this season after four years in the Head Coach role at the Rams. Barnes also coached the Monaro under 23’s team in 2017-2018, winning the Country Championships in 2017 and making the Final in 2018. He was also an Assistant Coach for the Mounties under 20s team in 2018.

Barnes said he’s honoured to have the opportunity to become the Coach of the clubs under 20s team in 2019 and said the return of the team to the Raiders colours gives players the perfect opportunity to continue their career progression.

“I’m excited about the opportunity and it shows the Raiders are an organisation who reward local coaches and help develop them like they do with players,” Barnes said. “It’s great to have the under 20s back in Canberra playing under the Raiders colours again and I know the club has a strong tradition of developing local players and helping them with a pathway into the NRL.”

Barnes said the under 20s team showed resilience and professionalism to achieve success in 2018 and he expected the squad to return for pre-season training with a strong attitude and desire for more success in 2019.

“The under 20s had a phenomenal season this year considering all of the travel they had to do each week and it’s a credit to the Mounties organisation to have helped them reach the Preliminary Final,” he said. “The players I’ve spoken to are really excited to have the opportunity though to pull on the green jersey again and it gives us the opportunity to continue their progression as players as Raiders.”



Match Report: Canberra Region U23's Produce Dominant Win at AAMI Park

The Canberra Region U23's produced a dominant display to defeat the Victorian U20 Thunderbolts at AAMI Park in the World Club Challenge curtain raiser.

With players hoping to impress Canberra Region coach Ash Barnes for a spot in the Monaro trial next month, Barnes said he was pleased with his sides performance.

"I've been really pleased with the effort of the boys today," Barnes said. "They've given me a lot of selection headaches going forward.



"I thought it was a fantastic opportunity put on by Country Rugby League, Victorian Rugby League and Canberra Region Rugby League. The boys got a lot out of coming down here and playing in such a fantastic event and environment like this."

A first half blitz saw Canberra take the lead through former Victorian Thunderbolt, Will Sila as he received a cut out pass from Ryan McQueen.

Canberra continued to assert their dominance through the middle as Adam Lucas and Tevita Aroha-Tuinauvai crossed the line for four pointers.

A lapse in defence saw the Thunderbolts get on the board before halftime after their halfback Trent Toelau ran through the line to reduce Canberra's lead.

However, Canberra put their foot on the accelerator in the second half and they extended their lead after Luke Skidmore barged his way over the line to score.

New Yass Magpies recruit, Jake McGrath scored a second-half double, with his first coming off the back of another McQueen pass.

Victoria managed two more late tries but it wasn't enough for the home side as Canberra claimed a well-deserved 32-14 win.

The Canberra Region U23's will take on the Group 16 U23's next month as players from the two sides hope to make the Monaro squad for this year's Country Championships.

Canberra Region U23's 32 (Tries: McGrath 2, Sila, Lucas, Aroha-Tuinauvai, Skidmore; Goals: Hay 4) d Victorian U20's Thunderbolts 14

Life Members

Canberra District Rugby League (Raiders)

Les McIntyre*
George Tooke*
Bill Sullivan
Don Furner Snr
Gerry Edwards*
Mal Meninga
Noel Bissett
John McIntyre
Tony Wood

Canberra Region Rugby League

Michael Clarke
Cliff Stevens
Bob Gresham
Graham Johnston
Rhonda Carson
Karen Ebsworth
Tom Ebsworth

* deceased

Obituaries

Vale Gerry Edwards

Canberra Region Rugby League are saddened by the passing of Canberra Raiders Life Member Gerry Edwards (left).

Gerry passed away on 18 February 2018 after an illness and is sorely missed.

Gerry played an integral role in the development of rugby league in the ACT and Region over many years as he served the local ACT Rugby League as one of the two driving forces along with Don Elphick.



When the Raiders were formed in 1982, Gerry was an original member of the Canberra Raiders board alongside founding father, Les McIntyre.

Gerry also served as a board member of the ACT Rugby Leagues Club and more recently was a board member of the Mawson Club and the Canberra District Rugby League board, representing the Canberra Region Junior Rugby League.

Vale Bob Kinkade

CRRL have paid tribute to Bob Kinkade who passed away earlier this year at the age of 82 after a battle with illness.

Kinkade served the West Belconnen Warriors since their foundation in 1975 in a variety of roles such as coach, manager, committee member, scorer, ground announcer, timekeeper and club historian.

CRRL Committee Member Steve Troth said that Kinkade was a shining light for rugby league in the Canberra Region.

“Bob was a shining light, not just for people involved with West Belconnen Warriors but for rugby league within the Canberra Region as a whole,” Troth said. “People looked towards Bob because he was a leader and someone they could trust. He was a fantastic bloke and a real family man.”

West Belconnen Warriors President Steve Kirby said that Kinkade will be sorely missed by everyone at the club.

“He was a great man and will definitely be missed by the club.”

Kinkade was honoured by the Warriors as they renamed their scoreboard to “The Bob ‘Kinky’ Kinkade Scoreboard”.

Vale Michael 'Swanny' Swan

Michael 'Swanny' Swan unfortunately lost his battle to the crippling Motor Neuron Disease through the night of September 4th.

Michael was an avid West Belconnen Warriors supporter and contributor to the club. He showed his passion for the club as Manager of premiership winning teams as well as personal contributions of sponsorship for players over many years.



Swanny was diagnosed with MND in late 2017. A devastating disease that impacts many Australians.

In June this year, the West Belconnen Warriors held a 'Walk to D-Feet MND' round to support Swanny and his family as well as raise much needed funds for research to find a cure for the disease. The club successfully raised over \$800 for MND and over \$1500 to go directly to Swanny and his wife, Deb.

West Belconnen President Steve Kirby said that Michael would be deeply missed by the whole West Belconnen community.

"Swanny was one of those people that once you meet, they leave an everlasting impression on you and you couldn't wait to catch up with him again," Kirby said. "He had an infectious laugh and was just a kind and caring bloke that always made time for you when you saw him.

"Swanny will be deeply missed by the whole West Belconnen Warriors community and our love and thoughts go out to Deb and the whole Swan family during this most difficult time."

Swanny will be remembered by the West Belconnen Warriors and the wider community as a larrikin who loved a VB & scotch.