



2020 Annual Report



Canberra Region Rugby League would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support during an unprecedented year.



Contents

Chairman’s Report	pg 4
Committee Report	pg 7
General Manager’s Report	pg 8
Junior Competition Statistics	pg 15
Best and Fairest Awards	pg 17
Senior Competitions Overview	pg 19
Junior League Grand Finals Club Representation	pg 38
Junior League Grand Final Results	pg 39
Community Rugby League	pg 42
Accreditation & Trainers	pg 43
Game Development	pg 44
Representative Football Wrap	pg 47
Referees	pg 52
Judiciary	pg 54
History	pg 55
Women in League	pg 56
News	pg 57
Life Members	pg 62
Obituaries	pg 63
Financials	pg 67

Chairman's Report

The COVID-19 pandemic introduced rugby league and the world to a whole new lexicon and practices that we all had to deal with.

Social distancing became physical distancing; sanitising and re-learning how to wash our hands properly; the mask became a thing; contactless; lockdown; registering and home schooling. Zoom and Microsoft Teams became meeting places of choice (enforced!).

For rugby league, a contact sport in a new contactless world, there were real reservations that we would get the season up in any way and what the future held for contact-based sports. We had plenty of time to ponder this during lockdown with children at home and walks and bike riding being the activities of choice.

I am pleased to say that we not only got our junior and senior competitions away for a shortened but intense season, but the work from our huge army of volunteers was simply magnificent. Clubs dealing with COVID-19 protocols, having to manage a whole new set of circumstances and getting our children active again was an enormous feat and on behalf of the CRRL, congratulations to everyone on your outstanding efforts.

The remarkable statistic from the return from lockdown was that the Canberra Region juniors actually went up in participation. From our information, the only junior competition in NSW to achieve this feat. Well done to all involved in getting the young athletes out to return to play.

The year had already been overshadowed with the passing of three giants of our game at both NRL and local level. In quick time we lost two of my predecessors and simply outstanding administrators and great men in Ian Henry and the much-loved Noel Bissett. Ian was the first Chairman of the new CRJRL Committee which brought the seniors and juniors together. Noel's record is known by everyone and unparalleled in refereeing and administration. Unfortunately, we also lost the doyen of coaches for the region and the Raiders, the great Don Furner senior. I commend you read their outstanding contributions to rugby league in this Annual Report.

COVID-19 managed to disrupt so many things. Centenary celebrations for Crookwell and Harden will now be undertaken in 2021. Local representative rugby league was put on hold for 12 months. Our functions at both club and CRRL level had to be re-imagined as we maintained a respectful distance. New facilities that were to be opened at Harden, Crookwell and Yass with Bungendore just sneaking theirs in.

The pandemic placed economic pressure on our clubs but especially our licensed clubs who are the backbone of the league. This extended across the NRL and NSWRL, who have had to revise their operations and their staffing levels. However, we must thank the continued support of the CDRL and the licensed clubs who have continued to support the League. We must also thank the ACT Government for their leadership and especially removing the ground hire fees which alleviated a burden on our clubs. We need to extend the same to the Queanbeyan-Palerang Council who also removed costs.

Amongst NSWRL's challenges was bringing together a merger and their new One State blueprint. Whilst the CRRL is always open to new initiatives, the re-framing of the Bidgee region into Bidgee Greater Western may not be in the best interests of the CRRL and our partners from Group 16. The CRRL

committee and Group 16 are seeking to re-instate the Monaro region in its own right to look after the affairs of the CRRL and Group 16 and to allow NSWRL to utilise its scarce resources in other areas of need.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the Grand Finals but also congratulate the junior clubs that took on the role of facilitating the semi-finals and Grand Finals. This was done solely due to the restriction of numbers we could have at any ground at any one time. If we had run the junior finals series in any other way, many more family members would have missed out on seeing their children play.

Congratulations to the seniors for being able to host the George Tooke Shield Grand Finals at Bungendore and the CRRL Cup at Seiffert. The change in name for this season to the CRRL Cup as opposed to the Canberra Raiders Cup was to delineate that the competition was a fully amateur competition. This was a huge change and congratulations to all players for participating. However, the CRRL was fully aware of the reasoning behind many clubs for not playing in 2020 and fully respect their decision.

In the senior competition special mentions must be made of:

- Gungahlin, Woden and Queanbeyan Blues for fielding First Grade, Reserve Grade and League Tag teams.
- Raiders Under 20s who helped form a first-grade competition and were extremely appreciative of the other clubs for accommodating them in the competition.
- University of Canberra who moved into Reserve Grade to give us four teams and made the Grand Final plus their League Tag team, who kept playing in a tough competition. Also, the relationship formed between the Buffaloes Katrina Fanning Shield team and UC.
- Burrangong Bears who joined from the Woodbridge Cup to assist us in forming the George Tooke Shield and winning the GTS League Tag.
- Bungendore who provided three teams and were in two Grand Finals.
- Gordon Highlanders, who started a new club in a pandemic and managed to win a competition!
- Gunning, who were steadfast and supportive throughout and who nearly played finals in both competitions. Their crowd numbers were very good.

I must thank the Referees Association and their Executive for their support. Without hesitation, they not only indicated their desire to referee but to halve their match fees to assist the clubs in making it viable to play and save money. A fantastic gesture in the best traditions of "We are all in this together".

Our Wheelchair Rugby League was building momentum after taking possession of ten wheelchairs and two successful Talent Identification days. Monaro and Queanbeyan Blues legend Steve Hewson has been tireless in his support of this initiative. Thanks also to the Lords Taverners for coming on as a sponsor for the program.

Our thanks to the Judiciary and Disciplinary Committees who this year had to contend with managing all hearings via Zoom. The technology generally worked well but it was very different for the panels and also those appearing to be doing it remotely.

We need to acknowledge our sponsors, Blumers Lawyers and Specsavers, for being a part of our revised schedule. However, we need to especially thank the Raiders group of clubs who continue to support our administration of the game and also with their on-going support continue to make rugby league one of the most cost-effective sports for children to participate in.

To my colleagues of the Canberra Region Rugby League committee, a huge vote of thanks for your support and advice during this extraordinary year. The amount of information and communications that came the way of the committee to have to assess and then make decisions on certainly tested our skills as administrators. It certainly was a year unlike any other.

Finally, we need to acknowledge the efforts of the CRRL staff who continued working through their Jobkeeper furlough in preparation for the possible return of competition. The way they managed to get a competition up with only a few weeks' notice and trying to communicate all the relevant protocols and restrictions was an outstanding effort by all, especially to Mark Vergano, Deb Charman and Deb Ford.

To Don Furner and all the Raiders staff who have also assisted us this season, we thank you. To Ricky, all the coaching staff and players, congratulations on a good year.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and hopefully COVID-free New Year.

Gary Green
Chairman CRRL
December 2020

Committee Report

Committee Members

Chairman	Gary Green
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 Women's Rugby League)

CRJRL Committee - Attendance at nine Committee Meetings held during the year

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

General Manager's Report

The 2020 season certainly had its challenges but not in the manner we envisaged as we moved to January 1, 2020. At that stage, from a rugby league perspective, we thought contending with the NSWRL-Country Rugby League merger was going to be a new world to be encountered and also the introduction of our new management system, MySideline, would keep volunteers and staff alike, occupied.

How wrong we were!

The COVID-19 pandemic basically closed down society, and with it rugby league. As CRRL Chairman Gary Green alluded to in his report, our contact sport was endangered in a new non-contact era.

The challenges were great.

Many things unfortunately disappeared in 2020; handshakes and water bottle running, dressing room usage, club championship prizemoney, McIntyre Medal night and club presentations, face to face meetings, live streaming and match filming, no representative rugby league especially at Country Championship and schools' level.

However, my congratulations are extended to all the clubs, their volunteers and supporters and to our players for their commitment to getting a season underway, albeit in July. The preparation of COVID-19 plans, their constant revision, the understanding and making sense of new provisions and also the cross-border issues whereby, due to our unique structure, we had to provide information based on the ACT Government protocols and NSW Government protocols which were not always in alignment.

Clubs were magnificent in the sense of co-operation and their ability to be organised and flexible to get our young people playing again.

I must also highlight the great work undertaken by Deb Ford, our junior's administrator, and Deb Charman, who manages the seniors, for their efforts in communicating with clubs and supporters. Often, COVID-19 protocols would change and be advised at short notice and these were communicated to clubs in a timely and efficient manner. Rosie Harrison joined us in February and proceeded to "learn on the job" whilst in lockdown and what a fantastic effort to get our communications out.

We also welcomed Sarah Williams in her role as CDRL Community Program and Support Manager and Jen Pilosio, who works as our Competitions and Accreditations Assistant.

The sense of the unknown with our licensed clubs closed, businesses restricted and our viability threatened was difficult to navigate. I must thank the reassurance given to us by Simon Hawkins, Warwick Burr and Don Furner in supporting the structure of rugby league and ensuring that our game was able to emerge from the worst of the restrictions in a viable state.

Sport & Recreation ACT and the ACT Government along with many local Councils played their part in providing free ground hire for the 2020 winter season. This was greatly appreciated and had been lobbied for by the CRRL and also the COMPS ACT organisation (Coalition of major participation sports) which saw that the viability of the club structure was important in us being able to rebound post-pandemic.

The difficulty for all of us going forward is where will this end? The reality for the League and its clubs is that COVID-19 restrictions and protocols will be part of our on-going existence for some time yet.

We need to acknowledge our club COVID-19 officers who ensured that there was a smooth transition to the new environment when we returned to play. Also our trainer cohort, which grows in strength and provides great advice in working with the league, took a leadership role in ensuring the new protocols were adhered to, managed and implemented.

One of the most rewarding aspects of our return to play was that the junior numbers of the CRRL actually increased. All 15 junior clubs participated in the 2020 season. This was a magnificent effort by clubs and parents and showed how highly regarded sport is in our society; that there was a real hunger to get back on the field amongst the training restrictions, the sanitising of balls, pads, goal-post pads and bench areas (plus just getting kids out of the house!).

Participation Numbers 2012-2020

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
2019	3675	1430	5105
2020	3818	553	4371

This increase was testament to the work of our volunteers and clubs, our NRL Development officers Aaron Peat and Shane Read and the enthusiasm of the staff in promoting rugby league. The relationship between the Raiders organisation and the CRRL continues to see everyone working together to improve rugby league.

I must echo the Chairman’s sentiments in thanking the Referees’ Association for their pivotal role and support this season. They certainly set the tone for the season that was in their enthusiasm to get out and referee matches to kick start rugby league and the positive attitude in ensuring club viability with their generous offer to cut their fees for the season. I am grateful for the great relationship we have through Chris Nightingale, Martin Jones, Mark Ryan and Jo West with the Association. I would like to thank Martin Jones for his contribution to the CDRLRA as he relocates to Newcastle with his family to start a new chapter in his career. We wish Martin well for his refereeing going forward and we look forward to his NRL debut in the near future.



Also, our congratulations to Chris Nightingale for being awarded with the prestigious Dennis Braybrook Award for his contribution to refereeing and rugby league. There was no more deserving recipient than Chris, who is not only the Executive Officer of the Referees' Association but is a member of the CRRL committee and still an active referee. Congratulations Chris.

Before COVID-19 hit our community, the NSWRL had presented to the Canberra Raiders Cup clubs the opportunity of elevating the competition to what is known as a "Performance competition" along with Newcastle and Illawarra to operate in a similar manner to the Ron Massey Cup. This would have been a great acknowledgement of the capacity of the local clubs and the competition to be administered in this manner. However, due to the crisis, this option was not carried through. Later, NSWRL was looking to implement a state-wide President's Cup but at this time, the CRRL committee and clubs are looking to re-establish our competition and ensure the viability of all comes first.

The senior competition was the one that was hardest hit by the economic situation and the restrictions on crowd sizes, which made operating in the 2020 season a difficult proposition. Many clubs took the decision to sit out the season and concentrate on 2021. The CRRL took the difficult decision to also



declare the competitions "amateur" and that all contracts were "null and void" for the season to increase any chance for clubs to be able to participate in a cost-effective way. The move to an amateur status also led to the Canberra Raiders Cup being suspended for a season to be replaced by the CRRL Cup for First Grade, Reserve Grade and League Tag. The Katrina Fanning Shield and George Tooke Shield were able to operate as normal although all competitions had four teams participating.

New NSWRL restrictions in line with COVID-19 protocols saw matches having a drinks break; unlimited interchanges for First Grade; trainers not running water on the field; footballs cleaned down during breaks in the game and a loan/permit system being implemented to allow players looking for a game to play whilst still being tied to their base club. It was a lot for clubs and administrators to undertake but this was done successfully, although at times interpretations could be interesting!

On July 17th, some three months after our normal season start, matches were played under the new COVID-19 environment, with restrictions on people watching the game and the "Get In, Train/Play, Get Out" mantra being front of mind. Slowly more sanctions lifted and with some weather interruptions, the 10-week season got through to its finals weekend by the end of September. It was truly a turbulent and intense period for everyone concerned.

The junior finals series had to undergo a radical shift in how the CRRL administered them. If the CRRL had run the finals series at one venue as usual then a lot of parents would've missed out watching their children due to restricted numbers in one spot. The clubs took on the responsibility to run the finals series across multiple grounds. This placed much pressure on those committees and we are grateful for their organisational capability and dedication to having parents be able to watch their children. We hope to be able to return however to our usual staging for 2021.

The senior competitions simply went to a Grand Final. Our thanks to Bungendore for hosting the George Tooke Shield Grand Finals at Mick Sherd Oval and the co-operation of the clubs as we had to navigate around rugby union semi-finals too. Seiffert Oval for the CRRL Grand Finals posed some unique challenges. Having to fence off particular areas of the ground to try and increase capacity; teams preparing on Taylor Park as the dressing rooms were still deemed off limits and a sound system that refused to co-operate leading to a large portable system to have to be set up. However, the day ran quite smoothly and the CRRL appreciated the co-operation of the crowd in attendance.



Unfortunately, the truncated season saw some poor sideline behaviour once again. Whilst one may say this was brought on by some lockdown fatigue and a loss of empowerment, we really have to have higher expectations of our coaches, parents and supporters. The actions and reactions to situations are not acceptable and personal responsibility should be at the forefront of peoples' behaviour.

However, not only sideline misbehaviour became apparent but both children and adults engaging in extremely poor social media behaviour; trolling clubs, taunting other teams and individuals. This is not acceptable either. Whilst we see social media as a positive when used appropriately, the CRRL needs all people associated with our game to understand their role in the game and not to use social media to denigrate, taunt or belittle others. It grieves me to have to write this and we need to do better.

The CRRL and clubs had to modify their photography consent when NSWRL rather quickly instituted new requirements due to unfortunate circumstances of an incident involving live-streaming and social media in another jurisdiction. This was difficult for the CRRL and clubs in understanding the new requirements and communicating these whilst then also having to ask people to desist from filming. Thank you to everyone for abiding by this and trying to implement a new regime at short notice.

Working with Vulnerable People and Working with Children Registers are important to the protection of our young people. It is pleasing to see club officials working with the CRRL to ensure these registers are current and compliant. The CRRL has a dedicated resource in this area and is pleased with the co-operation and positive outcomes.

In August of this year, the ACT Government notified sports that it would be introducing mandatory Child Safety Standards in organisations engaging with children and young people as recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Whilst COVID-19 has delayed this, it will be progressing and the CRRL will assist the clubs in navigating this once we have more detail.

With the cutbacks at both the NRL and NSWRL, it appears that the Facilities Fund that was being established by the NRL will now be re-directed in the short term. This is unfortunate as there are facilities that need upgrading or repair and some ovals need improved facilities to make them viable. The CRRL will continue to work with the ACT Government and Councils on improving grounds or advocating and lobbying as appropriate.

One of the success stories that COVID-19 interrupted was the commencement of a Wheelchair Rugby League program. CRRL was successful in securing a \$22,000 ACT Government innovation grant which led to the purchasing of ten wheelchairs. Talent Identification Days were held in February with some 28



people attending. Just as we looked to establish a competition we were shut down and the pandemic was even more problematic for people with co-morbidities. Of course, one of the great things about wheelchair rugby league is its inclusive qualities. People who regularly use wheelchairs compete equally against able-bodied athletes; male and female; children from age 14 to adults, all can participate. Slowly we are bringing it back and looking to expand and provide opportunity for people from the South Coast and Riverina.

The CRRL is working closely with Basketball ACT and their ACT Chargers program in recruitment and promotion across both our sports. Linkages have also been established with Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT.

The Score Raiders rugby league program for players with an intellectual disability also suffered from the shut down as they were to play the Score Dragons at GIO Stadium before a Raiders NRL match. This match was not played but will be held in early December. They did play a select Sydney team at Seiffert Oval and Eilish Winbank has the program going from strength to strength with great numbers.



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

The CRRL would like to acknowledge the continued support of the Raiders Group of clubs. Their continued commitment to rugby league makes our sport very cost effective for the participants and also the viability of the clubs and the CRRL itself. This investment in our game also allows for professional staff and administration to assist the clubs to operate and makes the league one of the strongest in the regions. Thank you to all of the General Managers for their commitment.

There are a number of strategic initiatives that the CRRL has commenced. A strategic plan is underway with a look at the Tuggeranong region, whereby the four clubs involved in the area are looking at common approaches to recruitment, sponsorship, facilities and government relationships whilst respecting the individual identities of each club. A comprehensive girl's/women's strategy is being developed whilst also working on the key Under 16 to Under 19 male competitions and retention. We are very hopeful of a revived and strengthened Under 19 competition for 2021.

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
2019	408	513
2020	492	225

Two significant pieces of work are being undertaken. The first is the development of a transitional education piece for players, coaches and parents transitioning from the Under 12 age group to Under 13s. In all sports, this is where the first significant drop in player participation occurs. There is a transition from mod football to international rules and also socially from primary school to secondary school. We are looking at the research work of Professor Rochelle Eime and Professor Hans Westerbeek to further understand trends and develop a program with underpinning research on sports participation, adolescent behaviour and dropping out of sport.

The other is the establishment of a cultural advisory committee to look at the issues of integration, inclusion and to ensure that rugby league is reaching out to its diverse communities within the game and ensuring the development of a best practise model. The CRRL is partnering within the COMPS organisation in looking at structures around restorative practises beneath the 13-year age group.

Finally, I have to acknowledge my wonderful team at the CRRL. Deb Ford continues to run the junior competition, putting over 130 games on the paddock each week and services the clubs with which she has a great relationship. Guiding them all through My Sideline remotely has been an extraordinary task. Deb Charman moved into the role vacated by Wendy Bennett and has done an exceptional job in building relationships. Her dedication to the tasks at hand is greatly appreciated. Rosie Harrison took on the media role in February from Jon Kroiter and almost immediately had to wait as shutdown occurred. In a space with less content, restricted access to matches and initially working from home in a new role, her ability to forge new links and guide the local media has been exceptional. The work Rosie and Sarah Williams put together for Women in League round was acknowledged as easily the best content we had produced in this space ever. Sarah Williams has joined the team looking after NRL community and working with myself in developing new programs and tournaments that we hope to commercialise going forward. Whilst COVID-19 has delayed us, I am confident we will see a new set of programs emerge with Sarah's expertise. Jen Pilosio has started in the accreditation space and also will lead our trainers' cohort going forward.

Having to do multiple draws, looking at which teams were available to play, organising a competition eventually at short notice, changed conditions and having to communicate those to our clubs turned into a huge task which the staff dedicated themselves to. I cannot speak highly enough of their professionalism and genuine care to ensure that our clubs and players thrive.

Whatever the “new normal” is, we look forward to tackling this with a positive mindset and in many ways, COVID-19 offers an opportunity to reset and be innovative, to try new initiatives and challenge ourselves going forward. However, our focus needs to be getting as many youngsters and adults, male and female, playing our great game and engaging or re-engaging with it. I continue to look forward to the future.

Mark Vergano
CRRL General Manager

2020 CRRL Junior Competition Statistics

Total Number of Clubs: 15

Total Number of Teams: 261

Total Number of Players: 3818

Competitions	2019 Teams	2019 Players	2020 Teams	2020 Players
Midgets		111		75
Mini (U6-U9)*	129	1464	131	1460
Mod (U10-U12)	64	988	61	1000
International (U13-U18)**	59	1112	69	1283
TOTALS	252*	3675	261*	3818

*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 U15, U18 girls teams and 4 x U15 Girls League Tag

BREAKDOWN	2019 Teams	2019 Players	2020 Teams	2020 Players
Midgets		111		75
Under 5		196		146
Under 6	35	262	32	292
Under 7	36	329	34	305
Under 8	34	348	33	360
Under 9	30	329	30	357
Under 10	20	348	20	345
Under 11	26	306	26	332
Under 12	19	334	18	323
Under 13	15	289	15	380
Under 14	11	285	12	274
Under 15 Girls & League Tag	7		10	
Under 15	11	184	8	270
Under 16	8	239	8	189
Under 17		39	6	141
Under 18 Girls	6	19	5	29

The above figures have incorporated girls playing in the 2020 season.

Breakdown of Girls playing throughout the age groups are:

Age Group	No. of female players
Midget	10
Under 5	14
Under 6	18
Under 7	19
Under 8	39
Under 9	20
Under 10	15
Under 11	19
Under 12	23
Under 13	74
Under 14	57
Under 15	58
Under 16	32
Under 17	33
Under 18	20

Total number of girls competing in the 2020 Junior season was 451 compared to 408 in 2019.

Best and Fairest Awards

This year, CRRL did not hold a McIntyre Medal presentation night due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, all the Best and Fairest awards were presented after each grade's grand final.

The Best and Fairest award was the only one presented for the 2020 season.



Brayden Robertson, Mitchel Souter and Jordan Williams claimed the Blumers Lawyers CRRL Cup First Grade Best & Fairest Award after a three-way tie. Robertson (Woden Valley Rams), Souter (Raiders Under 20's) and Williams (Raiders Under 20's) all had excellent seasons, with Robertson gaining three points in his final round nine clash to finish equal first.

Nirvana Ngan-Woo won the Specsavers Katrina Fanning Shield Best & Fairest Award for the 2020 season. The Bushpies prop was very strong for her side all season, scoring three tries and recording three player of the match performances.



Full List of Award Winners

Blumers Lawyers CRRL Cup First Grade Best & Fairest

- Brayden Robertson – 8 points (Woden Valley Rams)
- Mitchel Souter– 8 points (Raiders Under 20's)
- Jordan Williams– 8 points (Raiders Under 20's)

Blumers Lawyers CRRL Cup Reserve Grade Best & Fairest

- Jonathan Jerome Mose – 17 points (UC Stars)

Specsavers CRRL Cup Ladies League Tag Best & Fairest

- Kimberley Grant – 9 points (Queanbeyan Blues)

Specsavers Katrina Fanning Shield Best & Fairest

- Nirvana Ngan-Woo – 11 points (Bushpies)

Specsavers Under 18 Girls Best & Fairest

- Krystal Blackwell – 17 points (Goulburn Stockmen)

Blumers Lawyers George Tooke Shield Best & Fairest

- Jack Bramley – 11 points (Bungendore Tigers)

Specsavers GTS Ladies League Tag Best & Fairest

- Annika Picker – 16 points (Burrangong Bears)

2020 Senior Competitions Overview

Blumers Lawyers CRRL Cup First Grade

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Raiders Under 20's	8	7	1	0	0	256	134	122	14
2	Gungahlin Bulls	8	4	4	0	0	216	177	39	8
3	Woden Valley Rams	8	3	5	0	0	177	186	-9	6
4	Queanbeyan Blues	8	2	6	0	0	135	287	-152	4



Grand Final

Sunday 27th September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Andrew Nightingale | Touch Judges: Houshyar Fallah & James Gould

Raiders Under 20's		Gungahlin Bulls
Kaho, Manase	1	Eldridge, Tristan
Croker, Thomas	2	Bradley, Linkin
Moeakiola, Brigham	3	O'Sullivan, Rourke
Simbiken, Jeremiah	4	Simbiken, Jedidiah
Rupapera, Temple	5	Sherd, Todd
Roberts, Joe	6	Holton-Williams, Tre
Williams, Jordan	19/7	Williams, Connor
Titiuti, Silafono	8	Pettit, Alex
Trevilyan, Adrian	9	Patch, Zachary
Clarkson, Jayden	10	Feterika-Antonio, Phaebian
Fellows, Matthew	11	Williams, Jack
Esera, Caleb	12	Dunn, Brendan
Mooney, Trey	13	Hately, Dylan
Souter, Mitchel	14	Hitchins, Jarrod
Whippy, Gordon	15	Smith, Cody
Harris, Cooper	16	Thompson, Jesse
Allen, Joshua	17	Pehara, Earldric
	18	Williams, Thomas
	19	Mauava, Ropeti
Walkington-Meads, Keaton	20	Sloane, Wayne
	21	Owen, Jackson
Ashley Barnes	Coach	Neil Bijorac
Tony Bellingham	Manager	Jason Bradley

Raiders Under 20's 66 (Tries: C Esera 3, M Kaho 3, J Williams 2, C Harris, T Mooney, S Titiuti, A Trevilyan, J Allen; Goals: M Souter 4, J Williams 3) d **Gungahlin Bulls 10** (Tries: L Bradley, T Eldridge; Goals: C Smith)

Player of the Match: Caleb Esera – Raiders Under 20's

Match Report: Raiders Under 20s win big in 2020 grand final against Bulls



The Raiders Under 20s defeated the Gungahlin Bulls 66 – 10 in a massive grand final victory at Seiffert Oval.

The Raiders had control for most of the game in a masterclass performance to close out the 2020 Canberra Region Rugby League Cup.

The Bulls came out firing off the kick-off as they drove the Raiders back into the in-goal in a big start to the game.

Gungahlin forced another goal-line dropout, but play was stopped when Raiders U20's halfback Jordan Williams went down injured after just three minutes.

Caleb Esera broke through the Bulls defence to open the scoring for the Raiders after seven minutes of play. The score remained at 4 – 0 with an unsuccessful conversion to Mitchel Souter.

A classy kick on the last tackle from hooker Adrian Trevilyan and a good kick chase from the Raiders kept the Bulls trapped in the in-goal to earn another set on the attack.

Gungahlin regained possession and threatened the Raiders line but just couldn't hold onto the ball. The Raiders capitalised and worked it down the field.

Trevilyan crashed over under the posts for the Raiders second try, and Souter added the extra two points for a 10 – 0 lead after 15 minutes.

The Raiders went back to back just two minutes later when Joshua Allen spun over to plant the ball down on the try line. Souter converted the try to extend their lead to 16 – 0.

Esera broke through the Bulls line right on the first-quarter buzzer, passing to fullback Manase Kaho who scored under the posts. Another successful conversion from Souter put the Raiders ahead 22 – 0.

Gungahlin worked it out of their end off the back of a Raiders error, and a subsequent penalty got them deep into the Raiders half, but their last kick option didn't come off and the Raiders regained possession.

Kaho earned his second try of the day and Souter added the extra two points for a 28 – 0 lead. Kaho then went back to back, running 90 metres to score his third try of the game, and Souter converted to put the Under 20s in front by 34 points.

Cooper Harris was next in line to score for the Raiders, with two minutes to go before half-time. Halfback Jordan Williams returned to the field and took over kicking duties, successfully adding the two points for a 40 – 0 lead.

Raiders lock Trey Mooney scored on the half-time buzzer and another successful conversion from Jordan Williams put his team ahead 46 – 0 going into the break.

The Raiders U20's picked up right where they left off after half-time, with captain Silafono Titiuti scoring first in the second half and a successful conversion putting them ahead 52 – 0 after 47 minutes.

Gungahlin threatened the Raiders line but a stray ball over the sideline put the Raiders back on the attack.

Bulls winger Linkin Bradley scored his team's first try of the day in the corner after 53 minutes but an unsuccessful conversion left the score at 52 – 4.

The Raiders hit back and Esera scored his second try of the day, with the score remaining at 56 – 4 after an unsuccessful conversion.

Esera went back to back with 20 minutes to go as the men in green extended their lead 60 – 4.

The Bulls' second try came with 10 minutes to go when fullback Tristan Eldridge crashed over under the posts. A successful conversion from Cody Smith brought the score to 60 – 10.

Jordan Williams scored the final try of the day, sliding over in the corner to extend the Raiders lead with three minutes left on the clock. He converted his own try to bring the final score to 66-10.

Blumers Lawyers CRRL Cup Reserve Grade

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Woden Valley Rams	8	6	2	0	0	134	88	46	12
2	UC Stars	8	5	3	0	0	172	100	72	10
3	Queanbeyan Blues	8	4	4	0	0	130	98	32	8
4	Gungahlin Bulls	8	1	7	0	0	68	218	-150	2



Grand Final

Sunday 27th September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Andrew Wheeler | Touch Judges: Dave Charman & Elijah Fernance

Woden Valley Rams		UC Stars
Swadling, Mitchell	1	Agnew, Aiden
Gordon, Shaun	2	Bell, Iszac
Afemui, Gideon	3	Woolnough, Matthew
Ellis, Luke	20/4	Bramich, Samuel
Philipzen, Bryce	5	Fa'amoe Ioane, Jayleel
Taws, Jesse	6	Wilson, Luke
McKenzie, Joel	7	Turner, Dave
Prior, Daniel	8	Baker, Ranapiri
Hepburn, Hayden	9	Howard, Jacob
Smith, Kyle	10	Johnstone, Kurt
Taws, Kayne	11	Leadbitter, Harrison
Nordin-Skipnes, Kristian	12	Ierome Mose, Jonathan
De Rooy, Jaiden	13	Mose, Jerome
Howard, Liam	14	Bray, Luke
Dixon, Sean	15	Hill, Luc
Fuka, David	16	Kelly, Matthew
Donnelly, Brandon	17	Day, Anthony
Camilleri, Joseph	18	Du Plessis, Johannes
Moore, Tobias	19	Nasca, Alessandro
	20	Barton, Dylan
Lawler, Reuben	21	Zissler, Ethan
	22	Haron, Neil
	23	Fermann, Tron
	24	Jones, Matthew
Albert Camilleri	Coach	Matthew Cox
Kim Richards	Manager	Stuart McLennan

Woden Valley Rams 22 (M Swadling, L Ellis, T Moore, L Howard; Goals: J Taws 3) d **UC Stars 4** (Try: J Fa'amoe Ioane)

Player of the Match: Luke Ellis – Woden Valley Rams

Match Report: Rams take home Reserve Grade Cup over Stars



The Woden Valley Rams kept the UC Stars to one try in their 22 – 4 grand final victory at Seiffert Oval.

The Reserve Grade clash was a tense physical battle between the two sides, but the near perfect defence of the Rams proved to be too tough for the Stars.

Woden opened the scoring with a try to fullback Mitchell Swadling early in the first half. A successful conversion from five-eighth Jesse Taws gave the Rams a 6 – 0 lead.

The Stars looked dangerous as they made their way down the field, but the Rams tackled them into touch. They earned a subsequent penalty in the next set, which helped them out of their own end.

Centre Luke Ellis crashed over for the Rams just before the end of the first quarter for the second try of the match, and a successful conversion from Taws put Woden in front 12 – 0.

An early penalty to start the second quarter helped UC down the field but Woden's goal-line defence held strong for back-to-back sets.

As tensions grew between the teams, the Stars forced a number of goal-line dropouts late in the first half, putting the Rams' defence to the test.

Stars winger Jayleel Fa'amoe Ioane burst through Woden's defence, scoring in the corner with one minute to go before the break. Halfback Dave Turner couldn't add the extra two points and the scores were locked in at 12 – 4 at half-time.

Rams winger Shaun Gordon split open the Stars defence after a line break and Tobias Moore planted the ball down for a try with two minutes to go before the final quarter. Taws successfully converted to put his side ahead 18 – 4.

A line-break from Stars second rower Harrison Leadbitter gave UC good field possession deep inside the Rams half and they threatened the try-line with back-to-back sets, but Woden again held them out.

Rams centre Gideon Afemui returned from a stint on the sideline to make a break down the field and open up the Stars defence.

A long ball to the left put Liam Howard over in the corner for the Rams with four minutes to go. The conversion was unsuccessful, with the final score 22 – 4 to the Rams.

Specsavers CRRL Cup Ladies League Tag

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Gungahlin Bulls	8	7	1	0	0	276	32	244	14
2	Queanbeyan Blues	8	6	2	0	0	168	88	80	12
3	Woden Valley Rams	8	3	5	0	0	138	110	28	6
4	UC Stars	8	0	8	0	0	8	360	-352	0



Grand Final

Sunday 27th September, Seiffert Oval Queanbeyan

Referee: Gage Miles | Touch Judges: Steve Zorzi & Liam Richardson

Gungahlin Bulls		Queanbeyan Blues
Turnbull, Caitlin	1	Grant, Kimberley
Bailey, Abbie	2	Miners, Hannah
Crowe, Jessica	3	Hickson, Erin
Aylott, Kylie	4	Smyth, Brooke
Ward, Annie	5	Alexander, Ruby
Chaplin, Belinda	6	Heyman, Carly
Grocott, Rachel	7	Ellis, Tia
Daylight, Natalee	8	McLeish, Melissa
Orr, Madeleine	9	Smith, Georgia
Henman, Jaimee	10	Frater, Briony
Smith, Georgia	11	Nye, Adelaide
Bailey, Samantha	12	Hibbert, Ashleigh
Hyland, Maddeline	13	Koorey, Tiffany
Hyland, Ellen	14	Dragisic, Kasey
Pateman, Teagan	15	Day, Teagan
Everett, Georgia	16	Cross, Lyza
McNair, Matisse	17	
Ruwald, Alice	18	Allan, Shaenice
Croker, Lily	19	
Osztrenkovics, Klaudia	20	Williams, Jacinta
Lynch, Rebecca	21	
Glover, Katie	22	
Krizaic, Kate	23	
Pollard, Katelyn	24	
Sutherland, Abbey	25	
Karen Breaden	Coach	Nicolas Grant
Margie Ward	Manager	Jae Williams

Queanbeyan Blues 18 (Tries: E Hickson, K Dragisic, G Smith; Goals: B Frater 3) d **Gungahlin Bulls 14**

(Tries: C Turnbull, T Pateman, M McNair; Goal: B Chaplin)

Player of the Match: Jacinta Williams – Queanbeyan Blues

Match Report: Blues fight back to defeat Bulls



The Queanbeyan Blues have come from behind to defeat the Gungahlin Bulls 18 – 14 in the CRRL Cup Ladies League Tag Grand Final at Seiffert Oval.

Erin Hickson opened the scoring for the Queanbeyan Blues off an in-goal error from Gungahlin after seven minutes of play. Briony Frater successfully converted to give her side an early 6 – 0 lead.

The Bulls went the length of the field with a line-break from Teagan Pateman but the Blues goal-line defence proved too strong as they forced a changeover with six minutes to go before the first quarter break.

Queanbeyan led for much of the first half until a last kick option from the Blues was collected by Caitlin Turnbull, with the Bulls fullback running the length of the field to score her team's first try. Belinda Chaplin levelled the scores at 6 – 6 with a successful conversion, four minutes to go in the first half.

Gungahlin looked like scoring again as they made a break downfield, but Queanbeyan held on and the two teams went into the half-time break with a 6 – 6 score line.

Gungahlin scored the first try in the second half when Pateman crashed over six minutes in. An unsuccessful conversion left the scores at 10 – 6, with Gungahlin taking the lead for the first time.

The Bulls went back to back with a try to Matisse McNair, but another unsuccessful conversion left the Bulls leading 14 – 6.

Kasey Dragisic scored the Blues second try with 10 minutes to go, and a successful conversion from Frater put them back within two points at 14 – 12.

With three minutes left on the clock, hooker Georgia Smith crashed over for the Blues to regain the lead. A successful conversion from Frater brought the final score to 18-14.

Specsavers Katrina Fanning Shield

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Queanbeyan Blues	8	7	1	0	0	274	60	214	14
2	Bushpies	8	6	2	0	0	204	60	144	12
3	Tuggeranong Buffaloes	8	3	5	0	0	124	134	-10	6
4	West Belconnen	8	0	8	0	0	0	348	-348	0



Grand Final

Sunday 27th September, Seiffert Oval

Referee: Angus Blackman | Touch Judges: Liam Richardson & Katherine Nightingale

Queanbeyan Blues		Bushpies
Haridemos, Krystyana	1	Blowes, Elissa
Papanicolaou, Alexia	2	Palmer, Ashley
Ruiz, Jennifer	3	Teivonen, Jana
Brooks, Alanna	4	Ingram, Ahlivia
Pryslak, Oryssia	5	Masi, Ema
Williams, Jacinta	6	Phonsaya, Nirada
Wood, Samantha	7	Winbank, Eilish
Watson, Lani	8	Ngan-Woo, Nirvana
Condon, Payge-Louise	9	Fazey-Robinson, Caitlin
Vause, Gemma	10	Banks, Emily
Stuckey, Chelsea	11	Ernst, Emily
Devenish, Brianna	12	Afele, Samara
Spajic, Chloe	13	Frost, Taylah
Johnson, Casey	14	Thomas, Felicia
Dragisic, Kasey	15	Clayden, Madeleine
Kiriui, Seluvaia	16	Cooke, Jenna
Allan, Shaenice	17	Primrose, Kaiti
Preston, Keisha	18	Huey, Kristy
Hunter, Tracy	19	Marshall, Grace
Turner, Mikaela	20	Davis, Logan
Todd Blowes	Coach	Greg Smith
Taylor Thorpe	Manager	Mel Pfeiffer

Bushpies 22 (Tries: S Afele 2, E Masi, J Cooke; Goals: E Blowes 3) d **Queanbeyan Blues 12** (Tries: S Wood, A Brooks, J Williams)

Player of the Match (Cath Welch Medal): Samara Afele – Bushpies

Match Report: Bushpies too good for Blues as they claim grand final win



The Bushpies have defeated the Queanbeyan Blues 22 – 12 in the Katrina Fanning Shield Grand Final at Seiffert Oval.

The Bushpies opened the scoring after 12 minutes of play when second rower Samara Afele crashed over the try-line. Fullback Elissa Blowes added the extra two for a 6 – 0 lead.

The Bushpies cracked the Blues defence again and Afele scored her second try to extend her side's lead. An unsuccessful conversion left the score at 10 – 0 with 12 minutes to go in the first half.

Queanbeyan got their first points on the board with six minutes to go before the break, when halfback Samantha Wood spun over to plant the ball down on the try-line. The score remained 10 – 4 with an unsuccessful conversion from Wood.

Winger Ema Masi cleaned up a Blues knock-on and grounded the ball to earn the Bushpies their third try. Blowes successfully converted and the Bushpies headed into half-time with a 16 – 4 lead.

The Blues looked like scoring early in the second half but the Bushpies goal-line defence held strong and denied them.

Bushpies player Jenna Cooke opened the scoring in the second half and a successful conversion from Blowes extended the Bushpies lead to 22 – 4.

The Bushpies went the length of the field with 10 minutes to go but the Blues held on and took possession to work it out of their own end.

A Queanbeyan knock-on gifted the Bushpies good field possession but the Blues defence held strong. They regained possession and travelled the length of the field.

The Blues earned back-to-back tries through centre Alanna Brooks and five-eighth Jacinta Williams late in the game. But the scores remained at 22 – 12 after a couple of unsuccessful conversions as the Bushpies ran home with the win.

Specsavers GTS Ladies League Tag

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Bungendore Tigerettes #1	9	9	0	0	0	266	67	199	18
2	Burrangong Bears	8	5	3	0	0	171	146	25	10
3	Gunning Rooettes	8	3	5	0	0	106	138	-32	6
4	Bungendore Tigerettes #2	9	0	9	0	0	56	248	-192	0



Grand Final

Saturday 26th September, Mick Sherd Oval

Referee: Aidan Richardson | Touch Judges: Jason Severs & Jessica Charman

Bungendore Tigerettes #1		Burrangong Bears
Iffland-Mihaich, Claudia	1	Grant, Abbie
Rehwinkel, Aislinn	2	McKenzie-Cooper, Karigan
Shoobert, Ellen	3	Coker, Krystal
Iffland-Mihaich, Isobel	4	Maloney, Bridget
Kirk, Emma	5	Robinson, Tory
Cooper, Belinda	6	Hegy, Victoria
O'Rourke, Jessica	7	Pocock, Kayla Maree
	8	Edwards, Megan
Stewart, Jamie	9	Evans, Faith
Hayes, Hannah	10	Picker, Annika
	11	Smith, Jaida
Davis, Samantha	12	McKenzie-Cooper, Kahlan
Hayes, Brodie	13	
Carlisle, Hannah	14	Godsell, Megan
Jones, Chloe	15	Tredgold, Georgia
Fisher, Cassandra	16	Edwards, Kaylie
	17	Edgerton, Priscilla
	18	Lang, Sara
Nelson, Molly	19	Davis, Kahlicia
	20	Winzar, Janae
	21	
Pryor, Lillie	22	Fliedner, Mackenzie
Looke, Tikarra	23	
John Nelson	Coach	Tori Hegyi
	Manager	James Sheehan

Burrangong Bears 20 (Tries: A Grant, K Coker, A Picker; Goals: A Picker 4) d **Bungendore Tigerettes #1**

14 (Tries: A Rehwinkel, E Kirk, B Cooper; Goal: M Nelson)

Player of the Match: Victoria Hegyi – Burrangong Bears

Match Report: Bears claim grand final victory over Tigerettes #1



The Burrangong Bears have won the Specsavers GTS Ladies League Tag grand final after defeating the Bungendore Tigerettes #1 side 20-14 at Mick Sherd Oval in Bungendore on Saturday.

With the scores locked at 14-14 heading into the final quarter, Bears centre Krystal Coker broke the deadlock with five minutes to go. Annika Picker kicked the conversion to give her side a 20-14 lead. It was a frantic final few minutes, but Burrangong held on to claim grand final victory.

The Bears started the game strongly, with a great run by fullback Abbie Grant. Picker scored a play later right under the posts, converting her own try to give her side an early 6-0 lead.

The Tigerettes #1 side had a couple of chances to score but the Bears held them out with some solid defence.

Bungendore came out firing after the first quarter break, and winger Emma Kirk pounced on a kick to score a try. The Tigerettes couldn't convert, with the score at 6-4.

The Tigerettes jumped to an 8-6 lead a few minutes later through Aislinn Rehwinkel, who crossed in the corner for a try.

Burrangong levelled the scores at 8-8 through a Picker penalty goal, and the score remained at half-time.

The Tigerettes #1 side bounced back right after the break, with five-eighth Belinda Cooper scoring a try. Molly Nelson kicked the conversion, giving her side a 14-8 lead.

In what was a see-sawing affair, the Bears levelled the scores again at 14-14 after Grant crossed the try-line for a four-pointer and Picker added the two points.

Coker scored the match-winning try in the final five minutes, with Burrangong holding on to claim the win.

Blumers Lawyers George Tooke Shield

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye	For	Against	Difference	Points
1	Bungendore Tigers	9	6	1	2	0	224	110	114	14
2	Gordon Highlanders	9	5	2	2	0	160	76	84	12
3	Gunning Roos	9	4	4	1	0	170	110	60	8
4	Burrangong Bears	9	0	8	1	0	42	300	-258	0



Grand Final

Saturday 26th September, Mick Sherd Oval

Referee: Luke Barrow | Touch Judges: Geordie Doherty & Garth Widdowson

Bungendore Tigers		Gordon Highlanders
McLennan, Joseph	1	Sykes, Lachlan
McKenna, Matt	2	Cohen, Joshua
Warner, Thomas	3	Flack, Max
Sullivan, Mitchell	4	Gray, Dean
Barbara, Matthew	5	Johnson, Alan
Sheffield, Robert	6	Boughton, Scott
Rayner, Benjamin	7	Douglass, Nicholas
Laurent, Bradley	8	Lanham, Isaac
Bramley, Jack	9	Marshall, Angus
Neil, Brent	10	Simon, Kalib
Colquhoun, Luke	11	Whittaker, Tommy
Rodham, Alexander	12	Hayes, Hugh
Kolber, Jason	13	Greenwood, Lachlan
Johnston, Curtis	14	Peppernell, Jack
Hogan, Mark	15	Wood, Matthew
Bonfini, Sheldon	16	Atkinson, Mitchell
Evans, Alexander	17	Greenwood, Liam
Hickson, Daniel	18	Cotterill, Jonathon
Rothnie, Joshua	19	Hopkins, David
Beaumont, William	20	Tozer, Kody
Bakos, Scott	21	
	22	
Bassett, Brendon	23	
Mark Hogan	Coach	John Sykes
Corey Fitzgibbon	Manager	Joseph Dombroski

Gordon Highlanders 24 (Tries: A Marshall, J Cohen, M Flack, K Simon; Goals: S Boughton 4) d

Bungendore Tigers 10 (Tries: B Laurent, T Warner; Goal: R Sheffield)

Player of the Match: Angus Marshall – Gordon Highlanders

Match Report: Highlanders claim grand final victory over Tigers



The Gordon Highlanders have won the 2020 George Tooke Shield after defeating the Bungendore Tigers 24-10 at Mick Sherd Oval on Saturday.

In what was an exciting grand final, the Highlanders held off a strong Tigers outfit to claim the win.

The Tigers got off to a good start and gained an early repeat set, but made an error off the kick. The Highlanders then received a penalty, giving them good field position.

Gordon hooker Angus Marshall capitalised and burst through Bungendore's defence, scoring under the posts for the opening try. Five-eighth Scott Boughton kicked the conversion to give his side a 6-0 lead.

The Highlanders had a few attacking sets and a couple of chances to extend their lead but the Tigers defence denied them. Gordon went into the first quarter break leading 6-0.

Both sides battled for field position in the second quarter, with some solid defence from the two teams.

Gordon winger Joshua Cohen scored the next try for his side, crossing the line after some slick passes. Boughton added the two points, bringing the score to 12-0.

The game was delayed just before half-time after a serious leg injury to Bungendore captain Alexander Rodham, who left the field in an ambulance.

Bungendore came out firing after the break, with prop Bradley Laurent scoring the Tigers' first try of the match. Five-eighth Robert Sheffield kicked the conversion, closing the gap to 12-6.

Gordon hit straight back a minute later, with centre Max Flack scoring in the corner. Boughton missed the sideline conversion, with the Highlanders maintaining a 16-6 lead.

The Tigers were next to cross the try-line, with centre Thomas Warner fighting his way over for a try. Sheffield was unable to add the two points, with the score at 16-10.

Gordon were awarded a penalty, and Boughton kicked the goal to extend the visitors lead to 18-10.

A great offload by Isaac Lanham allowed his forward partner Kalib Simon to crash over the try-line with two minutes to go. Boughton added the two points, with the Highlanders winning 24-10.

Junior League Grand Finals Club Representations

CLUB	TEAMS
Belconnen United Sharks	10z3, 11z2,12z1,14z1,16z1
Bungendore Tigers	
Cooma Colts	13z2,15 girls, U16z2
Crookwell Green Devils	13z3
Goulburn Stockmen	10z1,11z1,13z1,16z2,17,18 girls
Gungahlin Bulls	10z2,10z1,11z3,12z3,12z3,13z1,15z2,18 girls
Harden/Boorowa	
North Canberra Bears	10z2
Queanbeyan Kangaroos	10z3
Queanbeyan United	11z1,14z1,17
South Tuggeranong Knights	12z2
Tuggeranong Buffaloes	12z1
Valley Dragons	11z2
West Belconnen Warriors	13z2,14z2,15z2,15 girls
Woden Weston Rams	10z1,11z3,14z2,15z1,16z1
Yass Magpies	12z2,13z3,15z1

2020 Junior League Premiers

Under 10 Zone 3:	Belconnen Sharks
Under 10 Zone 2:	North Canberra Red
Under 10 Zone 1:	Woden Weston Blue
Under 11 Zone 3:	Woden Weston Gold
Under 11 Zone 2:	Belconnen Sharks
Under 11 Zone 1:	Queanbeyan Blues
Under 12 Zone 3:	Gungahlin Bulls Yellow
Under 12 Zone 2:	South Tuggeranong
Under 12 Zone 1:	Belconnen Sharks Black
Under 13 Zone 3:	Crookwell
Under 13 Zone 2:	Cooma Colts
Under 13 Zone 1:	Goulburn Stockmen Blue
Under 14 Zone 2:	West Belconnen Green
Under 14 Zone 1:	Belconnen Sharks
Under 15 Zone 2:	Gungahlin Bulls
Under 15 Zone 1:	Woden Weston Blue
Under 16 Zone 2:	Goulburn Stockmen
Under 16 Zone 1:	Woden Weston Rams
Under 15 Girls:	Cooma Colts
Under 17:	Queanbeyan Blues
Under 18 Girls:	Goulburn Stockmen

Junior League Grand Final Results

Under 10 Division Three

Belconnen Sharks 40 d Queanbeyan Kangaroos 32

Under 10 Division Two

North Canberra Red 24 d Gungahlin Bulls Red 16

Under 10 Division One

Woden Weston Blue 30 d Goulburn Stockmen 12

Under 11 Division Three

Woden Weston 42 d Gungahlin Bulls Orange 18

Under 11 Division Two

Belconnen United Sharks 44 d Valley Dragons White 24

Under 11 Division One

Queanbeyan United 22 d Goulburn Stockmen Blue 18

Under 12 Division Three

Gungahlin Bulls Yellow 20 d Gungahlin Bulls Red 16

Under 12 Division Two

South Tuggeranong 22 d Yass Magpies White 6

Under 12 Division One

Belconnen Sharks Black 14 d Tuggeranong Buffaloes 12

Under 13 Division Three

Crookwell 36 d Yass Magpies 22

Under 13 Division Two

Cooma Colts 24 d West Belconnen Blue 22

Under 13 Division One

Goulburn Stockmen Blue 38 d Gungahlin Bulls Yellow 6

Under 14 Division Two

West Belconnen Green 18 d Woden Weston 12

Under 14 Division One

Belconnen United Sharks 32 d Queanbeyan United 10

Under 15 Division Two

Gungahlin Bulls 26 d West Belconnen Blue 18

Under 15 Division One

Woden Weston Blue 38 d Yass Magpies 4

Under 15 Girls

Cooma Colts 14 d West Belconnen 4

Under 16 Division Two

Goulburn Stockmen 30 d Cooma Colts 6

Under 16 Division One

Woden Weston 14 d Belconnen Sharks 12

Under 17

Queanbeyan Blues 26 d Goulburn Stockmen 14

Under 18 Girls

Goulburn Stockmen 24 d Gungahlin Bulls 4

Community Rugby League Report

The 2020 Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL) season was a season full of promise and took on challenging limitations due to the effects of COVID-19 restrictions.

Unfortunately, the Autograph Alley experience and the Community Club Blitz slated for mid-2020 were not able to go ahead for junior clubs. Similarly, the CRRL Season Launch and McIntyre Medal events were also cancelled.

2020 game day experiences were minimised which meant clubs were unable to participate in the initial CRRL Recognition Round, which included activations such as the half-time relay race, forecourt activities and complimentary club ticketing, all of which will be resumed in 2021 (pending COVID-19 restrictions). CRRL will look to introduce new engagement opportunities for next season to ensure that our clubs can continue to be involved with all aspects of the rugby league community.

Several community relations were undertaken where possible with positive club interaction. CRRL look forward to being able to deliver more opportunities in 2021.

In 2020 CRRL partnered with ACT Health to deliver the Healthier Choices Canberra program, working with our Clubs and participants of Rugby League to make it easier than ever to find tasty, fresh and delicious food and beverage choices. This program was primarily delivered online through our social platforms and website and will be integrated further in 2021.

The NSWRL Volunteer Recognition Round coincided with the Raiders v Bulldogs game in Round 16 of the NRL at GIO Stadium on Sunday, 30 August 2020. CRRL partnered with NSWRL to deliver this event, which recognised and acknowledged all those in our volunteer network who constantly give back to our great game. Two volunteers from each Club attended this game as a small token of our appreciation.

The Women in League Round coincided with the Raiders v Warriors game in Round 19 of the NRL at GIO Stadium on Sunday, 20 September 2020. CRRL presented five stories about women in our game ranging from administrators, players, committee members and those on the sidelines who are the heart of Rugby League. As part of the Women in League Round, our network of licensed clubs also got involved by providing a ticketing promotion in the week leading into the game.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Raiders Group for their ongoing commitment to developing rugby league in our region, particularly this year during what has been an unprecedented season – thanks to Raiders Belconnen, Raiders Weston, Raiders Gungahlin, The Mawson Club and Queanbeyan Leagues Club. Through the financial support contributed by the licensed clubs, CRRL registration and referee fees are able to be subsidised for participants which allows CRRL to continue to drive higher participation numbers and continually develop our game.

Take care in the off-season as we start to prepare for season 2021, in what we will hope to be a bigger and better year.

Sarah Williams

CDRL Community Program and Support Manager

Accreditation Report

New to the role before the COVID-19 pandemic, I had to establish strong relationships with the trainers, club presidents and secretaries in our competition to support them with the administrative tasks concerning accreditations and Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) [ACT] or Working With Children's Check (WWCC) [NSW] registrations.

Returning to work mid-August, post-COVID-19 shutdown, the prioritised project was to ensure all team officials obtained a WWVP/WWCC registration. Upon registration, team officials needed to record this registration field on the MySideline system. Unfortunately, on MySideline WWVP/WWCC is not a mandatory field to be completed to continue through the registration process. In communication with MySideline, via a support ticket, there was no improvement or update with this issue. Therefore, each CRRL registered volunteer's WWVP/WWCC information had to be manually recorded via a spreadsheet (approx. 1400 people). It is important for CRRL to obtain this important information in support of our clubs, particularly regarding juniors. As an organisation we need to strive to be 100% competent and compliant in this area. As of October 2020, we are 77% compliant. To improve this area for next season, the clubs will be pushed to obtain and record this WWVP/WWCC information well before the competition start date.

Another important aim for 2020 was to develop and strengthen the relationships between the CRRL trainer cohort. These relationships are important to grow and maintain to increase the support around the trainers and to minimise the pressures and influences from coaches and other team officials.



The first trainers meeting was held in March 2020, which gave the trainers an opportunity to speak about any issues and areas of improvement for CRRL to work on and implement during the season. A second trainers meeting was held in late October to discuss the 2020 season. The main areas of concern included MySideline, Operoo (an online injury reporting system), trainers' courses, cold weather policy and the CRRL guidelines for trainers and their roles and responsibilities. The final trainers meeting of the year was held in late November, and was conducted face-to-face. It was our first opportunity post-COVID-19 to meet and strengthen the connection between each club's officials and to re-engage with the trainers of clubs that did not participate in our 2020 season. The importance of concussion was highlighted, which led to the creation of an assessment template for trainers to implement next season. Trainer course dates are tentatively locked in for the 2021 pre-season, which will allow trainers to be re-accredited prior to the commencement of the competitions.

COVID-19 impacted the trainer's workload through the need for them to be educated on the COVID-19 safety plans and protocols. The trainers felt responsible to ensure COVID-19 safety rules and restrictions were followed at club training and game days by all participants. Most clubs were supportive of this, however more reassurance and communication from CRRL will help in this matter.

Overall, the 2020 season was challenging but successful in establishing a COVID-19 safe environment within our rugby league competitions. I look forward to implementing new strategies for season 2021 to support our trainers.

Jennifer Pilosio

CRRL Competition and Accreditation Assistant



Annual Game Development Report 2020

Firstly, we would like to thank all the clubs, schools and volunteers for their continued support of our programs throughout 2020. We appreciate all the hard work that you do and there would not be a game without your dedication.

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. NRL Game Development in Canberra was stood down in mid-March due to the impact of COVID-19 across the country. Due to this, many of the programs and initiatives we regularly run were unable to be fulfilled as normal. Aaron Peat returned to his Game Development role in July; while Shane Read was placed on secondment as a Biosecurity Liaison Officer with the Canberra Raiders and did not return until the completion of the NRL season.

Our NRL Southern NSW Development team have once again conducted many events, competitions and education courses as Government protocols would allow. This included some new initiatives to ensure that players, coaches, referees, sports trainers and volunteers are assisted in participating in the 'Greatest Game of All'.

The delivery of our flagship program League Stars with over 110 participants in 2020 has opened doors to 59 new participants experiencing our game for the first time. Thank you to the schools, clubs, teachers and volunteers who have helped promote and run League Stars and we look forward to working with you in 2021 to continue to provide opportunities for new and existing participants within our game.

We would also like to thank Jason Mathie and all the staff at the Canberra Raiders for their ongoing support. We are very fortunate to work in partnership with an NRL club and the fantastic support they provide for our region is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Mark Vergano, Deb Ford, Deb Charman, Sarah Williams, Rosie Harrison and Jen Pilosio and our Junior Rugby League clubs and committees. Our events and programs could not occur without your ongoing support and guidance.

Finally, a massive thank you goes to our NRL Game Development Officers who help support our region; this includes Kyle Williams, Brooke Smith, Chey Hatch, Tim Del Guzzo and Damian Kennedy, as well as our manager Matt O'Brien and our pool of Assistant Development Officers. Our GDO team work extremely hard to try and improve Rugby League in the region and their passion and dedication to the game is second to none.

The following is our 2020 information from a variety of NRL initiatives delivered across the Canberra region, which will include:

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

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

Once again thank you for a challenging yet great 2020; enjoy the break and we look forward to working with you in 2021.

Aaron Peat & Shane Read
NRL Game Development, Canberra



League Stars

- A total of nine League Stars programs was run throughout 2020, with over 110 registered participants. 59 of these participants had not played Rugby League before. (The number of participants registered for League Stars is expected to climb a little prior to the end of the year as some programs are still currently running and open for further registrations).
- Three League Stars school holiday clinics were run throughout 2020, with over 75 participants.

School Competitions

Results:

- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Year 9/10 Male – St Edmund's College, Canberra
- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Year 7/8 Male – St Edmund's College, Canberra
- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Year 9/10 Female – Kingsford Smith School
- Alan Tongue Cup 9's Year 7/8 Female – St Clare's College



Primary School

The COVID-19 pandemic saw us cancel almost all our Primary and Secondary School events for 2020. These included John Allen Cup, College 9's, College Female League Tag, Summer 7's, High School League Tag, The Rauter Shield, Bradley Clyde Shield, Buckley Shield, Legends Shield South Canberra, Sullivan Shield, Classic Shield and Legends Shield Goulburn.

Our Primary School Legends Shield North Canberra was the only gala day run by NRL Canberra Game Development prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, with six schools and 205 participants taking part in the event.

Raiders Tag North and South Canberra Primary School gala days, which were scheduled in October, were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather. NRL Canberra ran in-school Raiders Tag skill sessions for those schools who had nominated to attend the event, with the seven registered schools engaging with approximately 490 students participating.

High School

Once returning, we were able to keep our Alan Tongue Cup 9's events as scheduled. This did not come without its own hurdles as due to the restrictions in the ACT, we had to apply for exemption for these events to go ahead. Overall, there were 285 male participants from 14 different schools and 132 female participants from 10 different schools.

School Programs



- Canberra Raiders Community Blitz was run in late February. During this day, our NRL Game Development Officers visited over 6,500 students from 23 local schools with the entire Canberra Raiders squad. This was done within a three-hour time window.
- League Stars Inspire workshops were conducted across multiple schools in the Canberra Region.
- Ten Sporting Schools Programs where 1123 school students participated in a Rugby League program across Primary School and High School.
- League Stars Introduction clinics were run within schools to promote a League Stars program in their area.

Education

- Six Modified Games, seven International Games and one Club Coach courses run throughout 2020.
- 70 participants for MGC, 72 participants for IGC and two participants for Club Coach qualifications.
- Nine Sports Trainer courses which saw over 100 participants with 100% compliance.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the NRL Club Bubble, we were unable to run our annual Canberra Raiders Coaching Seminar for local community coaches. This also impacted our scheduled junior club visits throughout the year.

Community

NRL Game Development Canberra supported the following community events in 2020:

- Bushfire Relief events hosted by St George Illawarra Dragons and South Sydney Rabbitohs in Batemans Bay, Parramatta Eels and Penrith Panthers along the Far South Coast and Canberra Raiders in both the Riverina and South Coast areas.
- Parramatta Eels and Penrith Panthers Sapphire Coast NRL Trial as part of the Festival of Football for Bushfire Relief.
- NRL Canberra also conducted League Stars INSPIRE workshops with Canberra Raiders in the Batlow and Batemans Bay regions, visiting schools, community groups and businesses in the area.
- Canberra Cup Family Race Day
- Gungahlin Community Sports Fair hosted by Northside Community Services
- Canberra Region Rugby League Wheelchair program
- Australian Defence Force Academy Community Organization welcome event to support new Defence families arriving to the Canberra region.
- Charles Weston School Accessible Sports and Arts Expo hosted by Southside Community Services.
- Multi-Sports Day for students with a disability in Goulburn and Queanbeyan.

Representative Football Wrap

Country Championships

Women's Monaro side

The Monaro Colts women's side reached the first week of finals in the Country Championships, before COVID-19 forced the competition to be cancelled.

The Colts defeated the Central Coast Roosters 14-0 in round one, with Victoria Alley, Ahlivia Ingram and Jacinta Williams all scoring for the Colts while holding the Roosters to zero.

The Colts recorded a 14-8 win over the Riverina Bulls in round two. In what was a tight game, Annelise Hughes and Hollie Massey both scored for Monaro as they held on for the win.

Squad:

Samara Afele, Victoria Alley, Rosaline Aumele, Maddie Burton, Samantha Economos, Gabrielle Davis, Krystyana Haridemos, Elly Hazelton, Jessica Howard, Annelise Hughes, Ahlivia Ingram, Nora Lal, Hollie Massey, Crystal Papalii, Lucy Prosser, Jacinta Williams, Eilish Winbank, Shannon Wright. Coach: Josh Hardy

Men's Under 23s side

The Monaro Colts Men's Under 23s side also made it through to the first week of finals in the Country Championships, before the competition was called off.

The U23's claimed a 26-10 win over the Central Coast Roosters in round one. Bayley Loughhead, Zac Patch, Matt Martin, Kyle Shepherdson and Matt Woolnough all scored for the Colts.

The Colts recorded a convincing 46-6 win over the Riverina Bulls in round two. Monaro ran in nine tries, with Jackson Stuart (two), Nofoaiga Limoni, Lachlan Everston, Zac Patch, Bayley Loughhead, Matt Woolnough, Ranapiri Baker and Isaiah Latu all scoring four pointers.

Squad:

Gideon Afameui, Joel Ambrose, Ranapiri Baker, Steve Cummins, Jesse Dent, Lachlan Everston, Josh Fattore, Isaiah Latu, Hayden Lazarus, Romann Leota, Nofoaiga Limoni, Bayley Loughhead, Matt Martin, Connor Massen, Jacob McGrath, Nukurua Ngere, Kaine Pagura, Zac Patch, Cooper Purcell, Matt Scott, Kyle Shepherdson, Jedidiah Simbiken, Jackson Stuart, Matt Woolnough. Coach: Justin Giteau

Andrew Johns Cup (Under 16s)

The Monaro Colts Under 16's side unfortunately missed out on making the finals in 2020.

The Colts didn't win any of their regular season matches, losing a couple of tight games. In round three against the Illawarra South Coast Dragons, the Colts trailed 18-0 at half-time before staging a second half comeback. They scored 14 unanswered points but couldn't seal the win. The Colts also lost a tight 22-20 game to the Panthers in round four.

Squad:

Jack Anderson, Kye Bruce, Darcey Bush, Mark Connors, Jesse Eljuga, Jordan Eti, Jack Flanagan, Jake Griffin, Michael Griffiths, Aidan Herbert, Trent Jeffrey, Byron Lonsdale Patten, Noah Marcantonio, Kyle McDermott, Benjamin McSpadden, Joshua Melville, Peter Milin, Max Miller, Jack Mills, Blake Newcombe, Deekon Parsons, Peter Soward, Cole Taylor, Jordan Thurling, Latham Travers, George Wood, Harley Young.

Laurie Daley Cup (Under 18's)

The Under 18s Monaro Colts side also didn't make it into the finals this year.

The Colts recorded strong wins over the GSR Tigers (40-8) in round one and the Western Rams (26-12) in round two. But losses in rounds three and five and a draw in round four meant that the side missed out on reaching the finals.

Squad:

Corey Black, Connor Bush, Ty Dowdle, James Dyball, Mitchell Evans, Thomas Gaffey, Jack Grant, Julian Haywood-Whiley, Jarrod Hitchins, Reagan Hurley, Jerad Jang, Keegan Kenny, Joshua Knight, Ethan Marriott, Jackson Owen, Jack Peppernell, Kane Rushton, Aydan Saad, Noah Saddler, Jake Sasse, Daniel Shaw, Mitchell Spencer, Matthew Stewart, Mitchell Swadling, Bradley Terry, Matthew Troy, Joshua Waters, Jordan Wilson.

Canberra Raiders Junior Representatives

Harold Matthews Cup Under 16's



The UNE Harold Matthews Cup competition was called off after round six due to COVID-19. The Canberra Raiders side won two of their first six games in the competition.

The Under 16's side won their first game in round two against the Dragons, 20-8. They had a bye in round three before recording a 24-18 win over the Sydney Roosters in round four.

The Raiders side were leading the Sharks 22-14 at halftime in their round five clash, but a strong second half from the Sharks saw them claim a 40-28 win.

They fell to the Knights in round six, before the competition was called off.

Squad:

Tohu-Kadaf Cecil-Hamiora, Jack Craig, Matthew Davis, Jordan Eti, Penieli Faoa, Samuel Gash, Jake Griffin, Michael Griffiths, Jacob Haeta, Blake Halls, Aidan Herbert, Owen Hromow, Siamani Leuluai, Jett Liu, Niu Mariota, Noah Martin, Blake Metcalfe, Leroy Murray, Jack Neyland, Joseph Oti, Matthew Parkes, Joshua Petrovic, Tasman Shand, Brock Sing, Clay Sing, Kaide Steele, Jordan Thurling, Latham Travers, Sean Trindall, David White, Kaden Williams, George Wood, Kye Wright.

UNE S.G. Ball Cup Under 18s



Before the competition was called off in round seven due to COVID-19, the Canberra Raiders S.G Ball side had won four of their first five matches.

The side started their season off strongly, with three big wins over the Eels (30-16), the Warriors (36-28) and the Thunderbolts (36-24). They went down to the Roosters in round four 40-26 before winning their final match of the season 20-16 against the Sharks.

Squad:

Henry Alesi, Pauliasi Amone, Michael Asomua, Jayden Clarkson, Ty Dowdle, Caleb Esera, Harry Fitzpatrick, Ethan Foster, Thomas Gaffey, Ethan Gilchrist, Wilson Hamblin, Livai Kaloutolu, Enelesi Kamuta, Keegan Kenny, Ashton Kolinisau, Brown Kuresa, Bryce Magnone, Trey Mooney, Brandon Ngata, Jackson Owen, Jack Peppernell, Joshua Pokhoney, Levi Rokovuki, Aydan Saad, Noah Saddler, Kane Smith, Mitchell Spencer, Zane Thomson, Junior Tupou, Keegan Vandenburg, Clay Webb, Addison Williams, Connor Williams, Jack Williams.

Tarsha Gale Cup Under 18 Girls



The Canberra Raiders Tarsha Gale Cup side won three of their first six games of the competition before the rest of the games were cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Under 18 Girls recorded two victories to start the season, defeating the Eels 30-8 in round one and beating the Panthers 40-10 in round two. They lost their round three clash to the West Tigers before bouncing back and winning their round four clash 18-10 against the Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters. The Raiders lost their next two matches to the Bulldogs and Knights before the competition was called off.

Squad:

Ma'ata Alai-Lokeni, Valasi Asomua, Krystal Blackwell, Molly Carr, Holly Jane Christison, Samantha Clegg, Ella Cosgrove, Jessica Crane, Jemma Davey, Ashleigh Deaton, Maddie Dodson, Geena Elliot, Sydney Harrison, Sophie Janota, Amelia Kiriui, Eungyeol Ko, Hayley Liddle, Anjiellina Malama, Grace Martin, Taylah Maurier, Jessica McPherson, Makayla Morris, Kathryn Niki, Klaudia Osztrekovic, Brianna Rankin, Erica Rowell, Kaylee Roy, Grace Tai, Madyson Tooth, Ash Turton, Jesse Venn, Carly Wilkin.

Referee's Reports

2020 – Certainly a year to remember.

We commenced the year full of hope and ambitions. Initial forecasts were that all areas of the local Canberra Region Rugby League would continue to grow in 2020, with increased participation across all facets of Rugby League. That meant it was going to be a very trying year to appoint match officials to all games throughout the year. A real challenge to our members. Our Association saw this “challenge” as being an opportunity for individual members to progress to higher levels. Our Referees Foundation One course in early March had very good numbers which was also very encouraging for the season ahead.

And then COVID-19 changed the world. Community rugby league went into a holding pattern. It was July before our members had the opportunity to recommence training and eventually competitive rugby league. Without the support and tenacity of the CRRL staff, especially General Manager Mark Vergano and Chairman Gary Green, in pursuing a viable competition when numerous senior clubs had made the decision to put their clubs into hibernation for the season, the season could also have gone into hibernation. It was



no small task in holding together the clubs that remained. What was very encouraging was that despite the adversities rugby league was facing, and sport in general, the number of Junior players involved in the game increased. COVID-19 protocols became the norm, Zoom meetings the way we had discussions with each other. We all understood the reasons why the protocols were in place, despite the inconveniences.

Thank you to Dave Charman and others who organised training and ensured our COVID-19 policy was abided by and thank you to all those members who turned up each Wednesday night to train at Curtin Oval. Our Board worked seamlessly throughout the year and need to be congratulated for the way individual members assisted the Association. Our members also voted in a new Board structure for 2021 onwards.

We have been extremely lucky to have organisations such as the Canberra Raiders and Canberra Region Rugby League who actively assist in recruitment and provision of training facilities to our Association. Any incidents involving unsavoury conduct by players, officials or spectators was swiftly dealt with by the League. The working relationship between our Association and the League continues to be strong. Thanks are also extended to the other CRRL staff Deb Charman, Deb Ford & Rosie Harrison for their assistance and support throughout the year.

A casualty of COVID-19 was the reduction or non-existence of financial sponsorship not only to our Association, but to the local clubs and the CRRL. To help support the clubs and CRRL, our members voted to reduce their match fees for 2020. I would like to thank all our members who voted and supported this initiative.

Whilst the NSWRL and CRL amalgamated at the end of 2019, it is still a work in progress for the NSWRL and CRL Referees Associations. Referees courses also went through a rapid change from a blend of face to face courses to fully online versions. This will have its advantages for our Association with a reduction in travel provided we get the technology right.



On a local level, all games were very competitive and every match official represented CDRLRA to a very high level. During the year it was encouraging to see so many senior referees providing support to our newer members. The Finals Series, although in a different format, was highly competitive and high quality. With the late start of the season we only get a short time to relax before Pre-Season kicks off once again.

On a personal note, I would like to thank members of Canberra Referees Association for nominating me for the NSWRL Referees Association Dennis Braybrook Volunteer Award and presentation of a signed jumper by individual members at season's end.

Our Association looks forward to continuing our strong relationships in 2021, especially with the challenges of returning to some normality after COVID-19, although I feel this will continue to be a moving landscape.

Chris Nightingale

Executive Officer

Canberra District Rugby League Referees Association

CRRL Judiciary Report 2020

This year's CRRL competitions in both the seniors and juniors proved to be very challenging and very different in its format to previous years due to COVID-19 restrictions and compliance.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and requirements placed upon us by the NSWRL, the judiciary this year convened via the Zoom meeting function, which bar some minor technical issues proved to be an effective and efficient manner for dealing with the judicial process.

In a shortened season with fewer teams involved it would be expected and hoped that there would be fewer cases appearing before the judiciary. This was the case with only 33 send-off cases this year. As has been the trend in previous years the main reason for send-offs has continued to be Striking, making up 17 of the 33 dismissals. Contrary Conduct a further seven send-offs. Two of the send offs were dismissed and one withdrawn by the Match Review Co-Ordinator. Although there were less send-offs in the shortened season, almost two thirds of these offences occurred in the 13 – 16 years age group, an alarming number. If this had been the case in previous years it may warrant the League looking into this more.

There were 17 disciplinary cases, two of which were withdrawn due to lack of evidence and availability of witnesses. A disappointing seven of these cases involved team officials indulging in behaviour that clearly broke the Code of Conduct for Coaches and Officials. This is a major concern and must be addressed by both the League and Clubs; again, these offences were committed by officials in the 11 – 16 years age group.

The CRRL continues to look at the appropriateness of the Judiciary and Disciplinary structures in relation to areas such as vilification, social media, respect for officials and coaches, and parental and supporter behaviour.

I wish to thank the Judiciary Chairmen Bill Logan and Jonathon Hanton along with panel members Geoff Milczuk, John Cooper and Danny Roper for their service and the generous giving of their time in assisting with the judicial process.

It is also fitting for me at this time to acknowledge and thank Mr. Gary Green CRRL Chairman and Mr. Mark Vergano CRRL General Manager for their support, advice and guidance in my first year as the Match Review Co-Ordinator. Without the wisdom and knowledge of these two gentlemen my introduction to this role would have been infinitely more difficult.

Yours in Rugby League,

Glyn Sargent

Match Review Co-Ordinator

CRRL History Report

The History Project was created to gather, preserve and display our historical footprint in Queanbeyan, Canberra, and the surrounding regions, including Monaro division - this is to coincide with our centenary in 2023.

We have formed a knowledgeable and comprehensive committee consisting of:

- Mark Vergano, Gary Green, Noel Bissett (dec), Tom Ebsworth, Barry Cranston, Chris Nightingale (referees), Katrina Fanning (women), Graham Willard (women), Dale Huddleston (indigenous) and myself.
- Monaro includes Alan Wilton, David Skinner and Gary Dunbar.



OBJECTIVES:

- To gather, preserve, catalogue and display old photos, teams, jumpers and any memorabilia from our past.
- Develop and maintain a history web site for the CRRL and Monaro regions that can be readily accessed by the public.
- To promote and develop this great game through our history as we approach our centenary.

On behalf of our committee I congratulate Yass, Crookwell and Harden for achieving this great milestone.

I would like to make special mention of Noel Bissett - I was fortunate to have an association with Noel through the CRRL board, Men of League and the History project - he was a very knowledgeable and passionate Rugby League man and was a key driver in the development in the formation of this project.

Steve Troth

History Project

CRRL

Women in League round

In September this year, CRRL celebrated Women in League round with five stories centered around different women throughout our game. There are many incredible women involved in rugby league, who all give back to our game and ensure that it keeps thriving.

Below is a small snapshot of each of the women we spoke to for Women in League round.

Katherine Nightingale – Katherine has been a referee for 14 years, and is also treasurer on the Canberra District Rugby League Referees Association board. She became a referee at 14 years of age as there weren't any playing options for her at the time. Katherine encourages all women to pick up the whistle and get involved in refereeing.

Kathy and Christie Johnson – Kathy and Christie are heavily involved in the Gunning Roos rugby league club. Kathy has been President of the club for the last three years, while daughter-in-law Christie has played for the Gunning Rooettes league tag team for the past four seasons. Both are proud of the family culture they have helped build at the club.

Sharon Clarkson – Sharon looks after the Raiders House, where eight Raiders development players currently live (including her son Jayden Clarkson). These players have been recruited from overseas and interstate, so Sharon helps them all settle in, provides advice and ensures that the players are getting the support they need.

Zara Baker – Zara is a very dedicated administrator at the Queanbeyan Kangaroos junior rugby league club. Starting out as the club's first aid coordinator, she has now taken on the roles of club secretary, treasurer, registrar and even canteen manager.

Kathryn Niki and Grace Martin – Kathryn and Grace both play in the Canberra Raiders Tarsha Gale Cup side. They are Year 12 students at Erindale College and are part of the NRL School to Work program. Both believe that a better pathway would help encourage women to continue playing rugby league and to move up to the professional levels.

Rosie Harrison

CRRL Media & Communications Coordinator

News

CRRL Cup 2020 draws released



The competition draw for the revamped Canberra Raiders Cup has been released along with a competition name change for the 2020 season.

For the 2020 season only, the Canberra Region Rugby League committee has taken the decision to re-name the Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup to the Blumers Lawyers CRRL Cup, which will cover the First Grade, Reserve Grade and Ladies League Tag competitions.

The George Tooke Shield and Katrina Fanning Shield competition names will remain unchanged.

The CRRL Cup First Grade, Reserve Grade and League Tag competitions will all have four teams involved over a ten-week season commencing on the weekend of 25 July.

The Grand Finals will be played on the weekend of 26/27 September.

In making the announcement, CRRL Chairman, Gary Green said;

“The Canberra Raiders Cup itself was “null and voided” by the committee in keeping with the prevailing challenges clubs have had to come to grips with in participating in competitions in this COVID-affected environment,” Green said.

“By renaming the Cup for this season to the CRRL Cup, it acknowledges that the competition for 2020 is a totally amateur competition and that there is changed circumstances for the season.

“In many ways, the players will be playing in a unique competition in extraordinary circumstances and the CRRL and rugby league appreciate their commitment to the game itself.

“Having the Raiders Under 20s team participating brings a very different element to the CRRL competition along with the Woden Valley Rams, Gungahlin Bulls and Queanbeyan Blues.”

The University of Canberra Stars men’s team and women’s league tag team have moved from the George Tooke Shield to participate in the CRRL Cup Reserve Grade and Women’s League Tag competitions.

Nightingale wins NSWRL Referees Association Award



Chris Nightingale has been recognised for all of his hard work and dedication, winning the ‘Dennis Braybrook’ Referees Association Award in the 2020 NSWRL Volunteer of the Year honours.

Nightingale has been involved in rugby league since 1974, playing for the Oberon Tigers for ten years before moving to Canberra and into the refereeing ranks.

He is currently the Executive Officer of the Canberra District Rugby League Referees Association, where he has been a board member since 1989.

Nightingale says it was an honour being nominated and thanked everyone in the region for their work too.

“It is still a group effort and if it wasn’t for the contribution of the CRRL and the Referees Association, I wouldn’t be receiving this award today. The award is due to them.”

Nightingale says being able to give back and mentor is the thing he enjoys most about being part of rugby league.

“Being able to give back to football and back to the game, and seeing young people evolve, that is what it’s all about.”

Phil Stuart has been involved with the Canberra Referees Association since 1979, and has refereed and worked alongside Nightingale for many years.

Stuart says Nightingale’s dedication and hard work has played a big part in getting the 2020 season up and going.

“Chris has done a fantastic job; he is the pillar of the Association with the amount of work he does. He is very dedicated and is a great mentor to all referees, young and old,” Stuart said.

“This year has been a tricky one and Chris has played big part in rugby league going ahead this season.”

Canberra Region Rugby League Chairman Gary Green has known Nightingale for 30 years and says he is grateful for all the work he has done.

“Chris has performed admirably in all of his positions for over 30 years with the Referees Association and 20 years with CRRL,” Green said.

“Everything he does is in the interest of referees and rugby league.”

Well done and thank you to Chris for all of your work in the rugby league community.

Score Raiders complete first hit out against City NSW ID



The Score Raiders had their first two matches of the year on Sunday 18 October, taking on City NSW ID at Seiffert Oval, Queanbeyan.

In what was a great morning of action, players from both sides thoroughly enjoyed being back on the field and playing some footy once again.

Game one saw plenty of good footy, with both teams sharing the ball around and everyone getting a run. The City NSW side ran in six tries, while the Score Raiders scored four tries of their own, with the final score a tight 28-22.

Victor the Viking made a special appearance half-way through the game, much to the delight of all the players and crowd.

Game two also saw many exciting tries, some great runs, and some crucial tags. City NSW ID scored seven tries to the Score Raiders two, but the scoreboard didn't matter as all players gave their best efforts and enjoyed being able to play their first match of the year.

After the games, Score Raiders coach Eilish Winbank said that she was so proud of her team and grateful they could even play a match.

"They had such an awesome time and it was so great for the team to come from Sydney, they were great.

"With everything going on in the world at the moment we didn't think we would get a game this year but we did and it was great."

Score Raiders player David Champion was happy to be back on the field and playing with his teammates.

"It was pretty good out there, the result didn't go our way today which is a bit disappointing but it was still a lot of fun."

Country claim victory in Country v City thriller



The Country NSW team have won the 2020 NSWWRRL Country v City match, holding off a strong City side to claim a 34-28 win at Queanbeyan Indoor Sports Centre on Sunday.

In what was a fast and frantic game, the Country side led by 20 points in the second half before City fought back. But Country's defence held strong as they claimed their third win in the annual fixture.

City were on the attack early in the match, camping themselves on the Country try-line, but the opposition defence held them out.

Country were first on the scoreboard, after Jason Attard crossed for a try. Brett Henman successfully converted, giving his side a 6-0 lead.

Country added more points in the 25th minute, with Henman scoring a four-pointer.

City hit back through Stephan Rochecouste, who barged his way over the try-line. City captain Craig Cannane was unable to convert, with the score remaining at 10-4.

Rochecouste got his second try of the day a couple of minute later, Craig Cannane converting to level the scores at 10-10 heading into the half-time break.

Both teams came out firing after the break, and it was local player Matt Collins who broke the deadlock, crossing for a try.

Country captain Brad Groves added to his side's tally with a try, and Diab Karim successfully converted to bring the score to 20-10.

Richard Engles scored next for Country, followed closely by Karim, with Henman converting to bring the score to 30-10.

But the City side weren't done with yet and Rochecouste got his third try of the afternoon after slamming the ball down on the try-line. Craig Cannane converted to close the gap to 30-16.

William Derederenalagi scored for City next, Craig Cannane converting and the side trailing by eight points.

Engles got his second try of the day for Country, to put his side ahead 34-22.

City finished fast with another try to Derederenalagi and conversion by Craig Cannane, but it wasn't enough as Country held on to claim a 34-28 win.

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

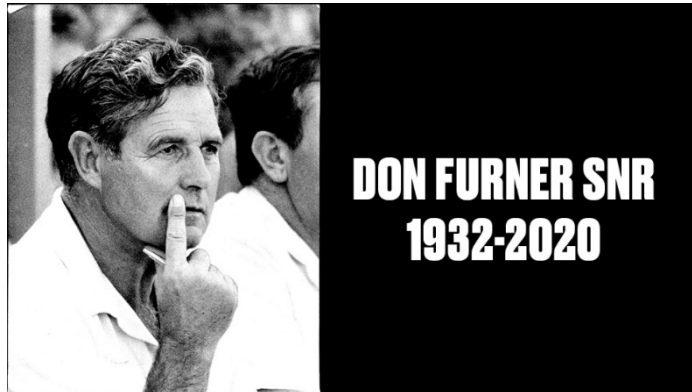
Tom Ebsworth

Chris Nightingale

*deceased

Obituaries

Vale Don Furner Senior



The Canberra Region Rugby League would like to acknowledge the passing of Canberra District Rugby League Life Member Don Furner Senior OAM (1932-2020), who passed away following a long battle with illness.

Born in Condobolin, Don had an impressive rugby league career, playing for a range of clubs across both Queensland and New South Wales, including Souths (Toowoomba), Roma, Junee and Queanbeyan. He represented Queensland on eight occasions and toured England with the 1956-57 Kangaroos.

Forced to retire through injury, Don embarked on a highly successful coaching career, taking Eastern Suburbs to a Grand Final in 1972 and piloting the Queanbeyan Blues to a remarkable 10 premierships in 13 years. Inevitably, Don became a fundamental part of the Raiders' push to enter the NSWRL, recruited by club patriarch Les McIntyre to add genuine credibility to the bid. He was subsequently named Head Coach when the club entered the competition in 1982.

Furner's wealth of experience as a coach in country football, together with his unmatched ability to spot raw talent, were invaluable in the Raiders' testing early years. He remained unperturbed, steadily putting together a squad that surprised the League world when it almost made the semi-finals in only its third year. His recruitment of Mal Meninga in late 1985, which then attracted so much talent to the club, was a masterstroke.

Head Coach until the end of 1986, Don took the team to a Grand Final (with co-coach Wayne Bennett) in 1987. In a matter of a few years he had laid the foundations of the club for the long-term future, foundations based on open, attacking football, hard work and mateship.

CRRL Chairman Gary Green paid tribute to Furner and thanked him for his outstanding work in rugby league within the region.

"On behalf of Canberra Region Rugby League, I would like to thank Don Furner Senior for his outstanding contribution to rugby league in the region," Green said.

"His coaching career within Group 8 was outstanding before he became the inaugural coach of the Canberra Raiders.

"Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time."

Vale Noel Bissett



The Canberra Rugby League community is in mourning with the passing of long-time former Canberra Region Rugby League Chairman and respected NSWRL referee, Noel Bissett on Anzac Day.

Canberra Region Rugby League Chairman Gary Green paid tribute to Noel Bissett.

“I have known Noel since my return to Canberra in 1985 and a truer gentleman you could not meet. His dedication to rugby league can be matched by few others from his early playing days at North Sydney through to joining the ranks of the Referees where he excelled,” Green said.

“Noel has given so much to the local rugby league through the Canberra District Referees Association and as Chairman of the Canberra Region Rugby League, a position he held for 12 years. Noel was also Chairman of The Men of League where he worked with his committee giving back to the greater league family for those in need of a helping hand.

“Noel lived for Rugby League and we will surely be worse off in this great game at the passing of Noel Bissett. Noel was a very dedicated, loyal and passionate person in all aspects of his life. Our deepest sympathies go out to Noel’s wife Lorraine and his family.”

These sentiments were echoed by Canberra Raiders CEO, Don Furner.

“Noel was a highly respected referee and administrator and had been involved with the game for over 50 years in Canberra and the region,” Furner said.

“He is also one of the first Life Members of the Canberra Raiders and joined the ranks of the NSWRL Referees officiating NSWRL matches when the Raiders were admitted to the NSWRL competition. He has made a significant contribution to the development of rugby league in Canberra.

“We have lost a true gentleman, a great rugby league man. Noel always popped into the Raiders office and stopped to say hello to everyone. No one ever said a bad word about Noel and just as importantly, you never heard Noel say a bad word about anyone. “

Noel Bissett was also inducted into the ACT Sporting Hall of Fame in 2018 for his contributions to Rugby League.

Vale Ian Henry



It is with great sadness we wish to advise the passing of Ian Henry. Ian had a forty-year association with footy in the Canberra region.

Ian chaired the Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Senior competition for a number of years and was then succeeded by Chris Harris.

When the Juniors and Seniors amalgamated into one group, Ian chaired the new combined entity and passed the baton to Noel Bissett.

Ian was an essential part of the move to a new structure and method of operating for rugby league in Canberra and the region.

Ian was also on the West Belconnen Junior committee when the juniors formed in 1972-73. He was then involved with the formation of the West Belconnen Seniors in 1975.

Ian remained President of the West Belconnen Seniors Club for 20 years. He was also on the Raiders board for several years as well as the inaugural manager for the Raiders in 1982.

Ian was one of the instrumental men in getting the first West Belconnen club above the Pizza Hut in Kippax and then acquiring the land and bank loan to build the Leagues Club at Kippax.

