



**Physical Disability Rugby League Australia Inc.**

trading as NSW Physical Disability Rugby League Association Inc.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

**1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019**

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2019 KARI Premiership winners – NSWPDRLA Newtown Jets

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# OUR MISSION

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**To provide...  
children and adults with a  
physical disability, the  
opportunity to participate  
in a fun, inclusive sport  
and be a part of the  
Rugby League family.**



2019 Indigenous Combined Nations vs NSWPDLA All Stars Game (Annual NAIDOC Week event)  
Noah Pittas on Ed Sharp's shoulder

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# OUR VISION

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<b>Our immediate vision</b>	<p>To become a national body with state bodies - state bodies managing their competition – the national body managing the rules of the game, governance, finance and business of the PDRLA as a whole.</p> <p>The national body to gain DGR status - to attract suitable and significant supporters, sponsors and funding - to progress our purpose and our game nationally and worldwide. To compete in the 2021 World Cup.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to promote our organisation and our inclusive game - within the national, states and territories rugby league communities - cement our relationships within those communities.</p> <p>For our players, in the immediate seasons - provide appropriate accreditation for volunteers who support our teams. Provide players with more and different opportunities to increase their - strength, rugby league skills, community and likelihood to play the game they love.</p> <p>Foster and promote a strong, positive and inclusive culture within our organisation that is led by the Board. For the Board and members to be aware of, understand and follow NRL and Association policies, procedures and code of conduct.</p> <p>For our organisation to continue to be - family friendly, respectful, social and inclusive. For our volunteers and players to - enjoy the game, have fun and a healthy attitude towards sportsmanship and to develop themselves and their rugby league skills.</p>
<b>Our longer term vision</b>	<p>To enter the year 2023 with 8 teams who have developed strong and reciprocal relationships with their respective NRL Clubs. Share that relationship with other inclusive rugby league organisations within the NRL. Be mentored by the NRL and state bodies of the Clubs.</p> <p>Each of our teams operating independently and supported by accredited volunteers including the referees, coaches, managers and trainers. We aspire to provide these teams with two tiers – for more experienced and competitive players and for less experienced or younger or less competitive players.</p> <p>Our business model, culture, laws of the game, player classification and representative selection criteria will be the benchmark for other countries wishing to start a physical disability rugby league competition.</p>





2019 Indigenous Combined Nations vs NSWPDLA All Stars Game (Annual NAIDOC Week event)  
Left to right – Blake Eagleson, Daniel Frost, Craig Anderson, Steve Cremona (AB), PDLA founder in red shorts George Tonna

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We would like to thank our talented volunteers for the wonderful photographs taken on behalf of the Association throughout the season. Without you we could not capture the moments so well or be able to remember and share them, through this document, with our members, sponsors and the community.

Marco Quintao Snr  
Cilene Quintao  
Joel Pragnell  
Trish Spennati  
Neil Williamson

This Annual Report was written and compiled by Marianne Caddy and proofread by Craig Anderson and Neil Williamson.

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# OUR HISTORY

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George Tonna, Paralympian for '7-a-side' Football, had a dream of setting up a modified form of Rugby League for people with a physical disability.

One of the Founding Committee members that joined George in making the dream come true was, Stan Pragnell. He was also the Secretary/Media Manager on the Board in 2012 and 2013 and captured our history from its first days in his 2012 and 2013 Annual Reports. Extracts from the reports and of his heart-felt words are below in *italics*.

## **2010 to 2012**

*On 14 October 2010, a committee of nine people was formed to launch a dream. This dream was to provide a framework for people with a physical disability to be able to play "The Greatest Game of All". The committee created an Association (NSWPDRLA) and that Association set the dream in motion.*

*The concept started simply enough, with a few blokes vowing to get together once a month and play football together. They didn't even have jerseys or teams, just the desire to get out there and play. But as determination grew, so did the numbers and the few blokes became many.*

*Soon it wasn't good enough just to play. They wanted to play for their colours and for the pride of a team. So, the committee formed two teams under the one banner. The Eastern Sydney Stingrays (the Rays) and the Western Sydney Outlaws (the Outlaws).*

*The first ever clash took place on 4 December 2010, when the Stingrays and Outlaws drew 24 all. In the second game on 29 January 2011, the Stingrays won convincingly, by 42 to 32. However, on 5 February 2011, the Outlaws balanced the books by taking out the game 28 to 14.*

*Word soon spread about these "Disabled" people who dared to stomp the grass of the football field and soon our first major sponsor came on board to lend some well needed support. With a substantial sponsorship, [Macarthur Disability Services](#) (MDS) made it possible for the dream to grow bigger and stronger.*

*By 2012 over fifty people with varying types of disability and from all over NSW took the field to give their all - in front of friends, relatives and loved ones.*

*And throughout 2012 some great celebrities supported NSWPDRLA taking the field alongside the players. Guest players included -. Jason Stevens, Manoa Thompson, Jay Bandy, Sean Garlick (all former NRL players), Michael Johnson (representing sponsor's MDS), Nick Walshaw (Daily Telegraph) and Brad Cooke (Host of the BareFoot Rugby League Show – NITV).*

## **4 February 2012**

*NSWPDRLA were invited to present an exhibition game during the International Nines Tournament at Cabramatta Sports Ground. The Association took this opportunity to launch their inaugural Cup Day and two more teams.*

*This invitation has continued and is our first promotional event played each year, during the 9s at Cabramatta – which is now our home ground.*



## 2012 MILESTONES

6 August 2011 – Nick Walshaw (Daily Telegraph) wrote his first of three articles on PDRLA (known as the Association or NSWPDRLA).

8 August 2011 – NSWPDRLA became officially affiliated with NSW Rugby League

29 September 2011 – The Board President, George Tonna, appeared on Fox TV sports show, Barefoot Rugby League. The show focused on Indigenous sport and George was presented with a Country Origin jersey to assist with fundraising.

10 December 2011 – The Stingrays and the Outlaws played to a substantial crowd at the annual International Day of People with Disability held at Narrabeen Sports Centre (home of NSWRL Academy).

4 February 2012 – Invited to present an exhibition game during the International 9s tournament at Cabramatta Sports Ground. The PDRLA inaugural Cup Day was played with four teams and Tas Baitieri (International Rugby League Development Manager NRL) presented the cup to the Stingrays, the overall winners by a 2 point difference.

## 2012 Office Bearers

George Tonna – President  
Stan Pragnell – Secretary/Media Manager  
Darren Hodgson – Treasurer  
David Smith – Football Operations  
Keenan Di Francesco – Football Operations  
Marik Gleizer – General Committee  
Che Fornusek – General Committee  
Matt Aguire – General Committee

## 2012 Sponsors & Supporters

Macarthur Disability Services  
Avatree

Spot on Video  
Bentons  
Cabramatta Leagues Club  
Milroy Hodgson Partners  
Ingleburn RSL  
Cameo Carpet Cleaners  
Cleaning Solutions  
Men of League

NSW Rugby League

The two extra teams formed in early February 2012 allowed representation from the North, South, East and West of Sydney - the Stingrays, Pirates, Outlaws and Cavaliers.

In September 2012 these teams played the first 7s competition for Physical Disability Rugby League.

## 2013

Stan writes in the 2013 Annual Report –

*I look at that name, Physical Disability Rugby League and I wonder at the irony of it. We call it Physical Disability, yet from watching month after month and especially in the Grand Final, I realise there is more 'ability' in this Association than we could hope to imagine.*

**TOURNAMENT**

**ROUND 1: SUN 16/09/2012 - 11am to 1pm**  
**ROUND 2: SUN 21/10/2012 | ROUND 3: SUN 18/11/2012**

**NEW SOUTH WALES PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE**

**Come down to the Cabramatta Leagues Club - 24 Sussex Street Cabramatta on Sunday 16th September @ 11am and show your support for the NSW Physical Rugby League. They will be holding a round robin tournament.**

If you have a physical disability and would like to participate please contact:  
George: 0402 773 045 or Stan: 0426 255 199 or Marik: 0402 001 218  
or by email at: [nswpdrl@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nswpdrl@yahoo.com.au)  
For more information find us on Facebook under "NSW Physical Disability Rugby League"

Sponsored by: MDS, KOMBAT, Cabra Leagues, Avatree, and others.

## 2013 MILESTONES

*The first full year (nine round) tournament with four full teams competing for the trophy.*

*NRL support allowed the four teams to be rebadged as the Rabbitohs, Sea Eagles, Roosters and Jets.*

*Played at ANZ in front of some 40,000 spectators thanks to the support from South Sydney Rabbitohs and the team at Souths Cares.*

*NSWPDLA rebadged as Physical Disability Rugby League Australia with national intentions including setting up a State of Origin framework.*

## 2013 Office Bearers

*George Tonna – President  
Che Fornusek – Secretary  
Stan Pragnell – Media Manager  
Darren Hodgson – Treasurer  
David Smith – Football Operations  
Keith Povah – Football Operations  
Marik Gleizer – Player Management  
Dylan Jobson – Player Management*

## 2013 Sponsors & Supporters

*Macarthur Disability Services  
Cabramatta Rugby League Club  
Ingleburn RSL Club  
Avatree  
Milroy Hodgson Partners*

*Manly Sea Eagles  
Newtown Jets  
South Sydney Rabbitohs  
Sydney Roosters  
Fitness to Suit U  
Everything Sports  
Spot on Video  
Cameo Carpet Cleaners  
Cleaning Solutions  
The Sharpe Family  
Men of League Foundation*

*NSW Rugby League*

## 26 October 2013 - The first Awards Night

*Dignitaries included Rhys Wesser, Brad Cooke and Steve Hewson.*

## 2014 to 2018

New South Wales Physical Disability Rugby League Association Presents

*Inaugural Represented Game*  
NSWPDLA All-Stars vs Indigenous Combined Nations

At Redfern Oval, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
Starting at 11.00 am

Come and help us celebrate our game in NAIDOC Week

Like us on Facebook @ New South Wales Physical Disability Rugby League

If interested in supporting, Sponsoring or playing please contact the Chairperson - George Tonna on 0402 773 043 or email at [george@ntscorp.com.au](mailto:george@ntscorp.com.au)

Supported by  
Kari Aboriginal Resources Inc. NTSCORP, South's Cares  
Macarthur Disability Services

**NAIDOC Week** - The KARI Heritage Shield has been held annually since 2014 and is competed by the Indigenous Combined Nations and NSWPDLA All Stars side. It is held in NAIDOC Week on the first Sunday in July at Redfern Oval.

**City vs Country** - In the same year, 2014, PDRLA started its annual City vs Country clash in regional NSW as a curtain-raiser for the NRL's now-discontinued City-Country fixture. City is undefeated, having won the first three matches then drew with Country in their last game in Mudgee.

**Our Competition** – Support from KARI was provided in 2016 by sponsoring our competition, which unlocked more opportunities. The Wests Tigers NRL Club supported a PDRLA Wests Tigers team who joined the other four teams in the KARI Premiership - Sydney Roosters, Newtown Jets, Manly Sea Eagles and South Sydney Rabbitohs. All teams are supported by the corresponding NRL Clubs - including being given the opportunity to play demonstration and curtain raiser games for NRL matches during their season.

In 2018, as the end of PDRLA's first decade approached, new opportunities continued to be opened-up by our devoted and enthusiastic volunteers, the inspiring and inclusive rugby league community and our loyal sponsors and supporters. The volunteer and supporter base grew, aiding with the original long-term dream of creating a national entity that could provide Physical Disability Rugby League throughout the nation.



**Shaun Spence**, the Wests Tigers (Fan Engagement and Community Manager) had been volunteering and supporting us for some time. He was a person the whole membership valued and respected and in 2018 he became **our first patron**. Shaun could relate to the adversities faced by our membership. His dream career, playing rugby league, came to a halt early; after being concussed more than once. If he continued playing, he risked permanent brain injury. When an opportunity to further his career interstate opened-up, we were all

very pleased for him and wished him well. But also, very disappointed that PDRLA had lost such a significant person.

In 2018 **George Tonna, PDRLA founder**, was nominated by Patricia Spennati to become **our first life member**. She valued and was enthused by his impact and influence in establishing and advancing Physical Disability Rugby League in Australia since 2010. He continually sought opportunities - working hard to promote and seek donations, sponsorship and support - ensuring the Association grew and members were able to play the game they loved. The Board and members all agreed by their vote and he accepted life membership on the 19/04/2018.



Another first happened in 2018 thanks to the collaboration between Adam Hills (comedian – The Last Leg), England's Warrington PDRL Team, George Tonna and the 2018 Board with huge support from our sponsor NOVA Employment.

Warrington and our 2018 Premiers, PDRLA South Sydney Rabbitohs team, played a Club Challenge. This involved two games, played at - ANZ Stadium 30/8/2018 and Redfern Oval 2/9/2018. Rugby League legends such as Andrew Johns, Shaun Briscoe and Matt King played with Warrington and Roy Assotasi and Bruce Longbottom joined our Premiers. Adam Hills played with Warrington in the first game then in the second game he played with our PDRLA Rabbitohs team. The Challenge went to Warrington who, without a doubt, won both games.

## PDRLA Representing Australia

In October 2018, the PDRLA participated at an international level, representing Australia in the Physical Disability Test series as part of the Rugby League Emerging Nations World Championship. Australia beat New Zealand 14-8 to claim a hard-fought series 2-1. Earlier that year, in February, our representative players also competed successfully in the Rugby League Commonwealth Championships.

This was a rugby league nines tournament organised by the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF), played in Moreton Bay Queensland as one of the exhibition sports for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Australia were declared the gold medallists due to having a better pool result.

## PAST RECORDS

### Note:

Northern Sydney Pirates became Manly Sea Eagles  
Southern Sydney Cavaliers became South Sydney Rabbitohs

Year	Premiers	Runners-up
2012	Northern Sydney Pirates	Southern Sydney Cavaliers
2013	South Sydney Rabbitohs	Manly Sea Eagles
2014	Sydney Roosters	Newtown Jets
2015	Manly Sea Eagles	Newtown Jets
2016	South Sydney Rabbitohs	Manly Sea Eagles
2017	Newtown Jets	Manly Sea Eagles
2018	South Sydney Rabbitohs	Wests Tigers
2019	Newtown Jets	South Sydney Rabbitohs

## Player of the Year

Year	Player	Club	Points
2012	Kyle Lloyd	Southern Sydney Cavaliers	6
	Josh Nohra	Southern Sydney Cavaliers	6
2013	Dylan Jobson	Manly Sea Eagles	25
2014	Che Fornusek	Newtown Jets	17
2015	George Tonna	South Sydney Rabbitohs	16
2016	Kyle Lloyd	Manly Sea Eagles	10
2017	Marco Spennati	Sydney Roosters	9
2018	Kyle Lloyd	Manly Sea Eagles	
	Peter Mitchell	South Sydney Rabbitohs	
2019	Kyle Lloyd	Manly Sea Eagles	
	Daniel Frost	South Sydney Rabbitohs	



### KARI Heritage Shield

Year	Result		Man of the Match	
	NSWPDLRA All Stars	Indigenous Combined Nations	NSWPDLRA All Stars	Indigenous Combined Nations
2014	28	16	Nick Riches	Kyle Lloyd
2015	10	8	Mitch Gleeson	Tristan Gibbs
2016	22	16	Marco Spennati	Jim Doolan
2017	20	20	Rylee Lowe	Brad Hardman
2018	30	8		
2019	12	6		

### NSWPDLRA City vs Country

Year	Result		Man of the Match	
	City	Country	City	Country
<b>Apex Oval, Dubbo</b>				
2014	14	4	Bill Bussell	David Grech
<b>McDonald Park, Wagga Wagga</b>				
2015	28	12		Johnathan Day
<b>Shillington Park, Tamworth</b>				
2016	16	12		Mitch Gleeson
<b>Glen Willow Sports Complex, Mudgee</b>				
2017	12	12	Bow Lennon	

### Player - 50 Game Tally

2012-2016	Kyle Lloyd	63
2012-2016	Dylan Jobson	55
2012-2016	Geoff Clarke	53
2012-2016	Jono Smith	60
2012-2016	Nick Riches	52
2012-2016	George Tonna	55
2012-2016	Bill Bussell	52
2012-2016	Che Fornusek	56
2012-2016	Ed Sharp	56
2012-2017	Marco Spennati	53
Reached in 2018	Garry Kingi	
Reached in 2018	Rylee Lowe	
Reached in 2018	Joel Pragnell	
Reached in 2018	Marco Quintao Jnr	
Reached in 2019	Todd Dorward	
Reached in 2019	Peter Mitchell	

### Player - 100 Game Tally

2012-2019	Ed Sharp	
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**SECTION 1****ABOUT US****ABOUT US**

NSW Physical Disability Rugby League Association (ABN 59 780 863 640) is the trading name of Physical Disability Rugby League Australia – Inc.9894610 (the Association or PDRLA). We are a not-for-profit with a Charitable Fundraising Licence - No.24460 and are affiliated with NSWRL.

We are run solely by volunteers, who are not remunerated. Each year our finances come from a combination of applying for grants, being sponsored by businesses and NRL Clubs or individuals, registration/membership fees, fundraising and donations.

We cater for players with a physical disability. There are other associations that cater



for varying types of intellectual and sensory disabilities. Sporting activities, including Rugby League, provide benefits to health and well-being and assists in fostering a positive social environment.

We welcome players from all backgrounds, cultures, genders and abilities and currently play an open age competition. The safety of all players is foremost, and our “Red Shorts” rule safeguards the safety and well-being of players.

**Who can Play**

Children, women and men who never thought they could!

The rules and competition are true to the game. But have been modified to cater for those with a passion for rugby league and with a physical disability that affects their strength, speed or coordination – to safely play the game they love.

The most common disabilities of participants include conditions such as cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury (ABI) and stroke but other physical disabilities qualify as well. Eight of the 10 impairment classes in the Paralympic Movement are eligible to play in PDRLA: impaired muscle power, athetosis, impaired passive range of movement, hypertonia, limb deficiency, ataxia, leg length difference and short stature.

These impairments should be directly related to the condition and not due to secondary deconditioning due to an inactive lifestyle or usual wear and tear of aging.

**First step to Join PDRLA as a Player**

If you wish to join our competition – use the [CONTACT US FORM](#) on our website – and request to start the process by completing the medical assessment form. Include your email address in the message so we can send you the medical assessment form.

**Social Media**

We have a [Facebook](#) page where you can keep up to date with current member and competition information. You can also check us out on LinkedIn and our [website](#) ([www.nswpdrla.com.au](http://www.nswpdrla.com.au)).





**SECTION 1****OUR SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS****FOR THE 2019 SEASON****THANK YOU**

NRL and NSWRL for providing the Association with so much valuable support and assistance each year.

**NSWRL presents annual grants for affiliates programs**

Author NSWRL  
Thu 28 Mar 2019, 04:51 PM

The NSWRL has presented their annual grants for their affiliates programs for the 2019 Rugby League season at the Centre of Excellence on Thursday afternoon.

The affiliates include Push'n'Power Rugby League, Wheelchair Rugby League, NSW Universities Rugby League, NSW Police Rugby League, Physical Disabilities Rugby League, Norfolk Island, ACT Rugby League, and various school groups.



Board members Neil Williamson and Patricia (Trish) Spennati  
Accepting our 2019 NSWRL grant from CEO David Trodden

**THANK YOU**

Cabramatta Rugby League Club for your support and the use of the grounds and facilities each year.

**SECTION 1****OUR SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS****FOR THE 2019 SEASON****THANK YOU**

For your generous longstanding support and sponsorship that has helped the Association to grow and provide opportunities for our members to play the game they love and increased opportunities to play here in Australia and overseas.



Oran Park and South West Sydney



**SECTION 1****OUR SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS****FOR THE 2019 SEASON****THANK YOU**

For your generous 2019 and longstanding support of our teams.

**THANK YOU**

For being Presentation Night sponsors and for joining us to celebrate our year and our members.



Leppington

Bowling Club



Baked & Co Liverpool

Astrum Recruitment

Liverpool Catholic Club

Mitronics



Zanetic Management Pty Ltd

**SECTION 1****OUR SEASON****PLAYING OUR GAME**

Physical Disability Rugby League has modified rules that enables players of all ages and genders with a physical disability to play rugby league - to play the game they love.

**Modified Rules**

Games are played under modified rules of 'The Australian Rugby League Laws of the Game'.

They are modified to suit the abilities of our players and to maintain their safety.

**How the game is played**

The game is made up of two halves, each of twenty minutes and with a ten-minute interval.

As per NRL rules a Try will be worth 4 points and a Goal 2 points.

There are no scrums in the modified game.

An accidental knock on or drop ball is called as a tackle and at the completion of six tackles a change-over applies.

**Modified tackle**

Players wear either Black or Red shorts.

Players wearing black shorts will play the standard NRL tackle rules.

Red shorts are for –

- players whose condition makes them unable to “tackle” or be “tackled”,
- female players and
- players under the age of 16 years.

**Support roles during the game**

Two of the ABs who supported during the Indigenous Round in NAIDOC Week 2019 - 7 July Steve Cremona (left) with Ed Jobson (who has volunteered as an AB since PDRLA started)



Able-bodied (AB) players can play in a support role on the field in physical disability rugby league.

But not more than two AB players per team are allowed on the field at any time.

A tackle is achieved on an AB player by touch or tackle.

Able-bodied players cannot –

- run with the ball for more than 10 metres
- score tries
- kick goals or kick in general play.



Left to right above – Jono Smith and Marco Quintao Jnr



**Getting ready for 2019 Season – training was 23/2 & 2/3/2019  
At our home ground - Cabramatta Rugby League Club**



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**SECTION 1****OUR SEASON****OUR FIRST EXHIBITION GAME OF THE SEASON**

Cabramatta International Nines (Cabra 9s) is a rugby league nines tournament held annually at Cabramatta Rugby League Club in New South Wales since 2003. It is an open age 9-a-side tournament that includes a Physical Disability Rugby League exhibition match.

Teams at the Cabra 9s representing clubs and countries hail from a variety of regions, such as, Europe, Asia, South America and the Pacific Islands. National representative teams that participate include Vietnam, Turkey, Sudan, Africa United, Japan, Colombia, Malta, Italy, Ireland, Niue, Cook Islands, Philippines, Chile, ASEAN South East Asia.

**PDRLA's First Exhibition Game for 2019**

On Saturday 2 February, our first exhibition game of 2019 was held during the Cabra 9s with all our players putting in a great effort to showcase our game!

Thank you to the following - we couldn't do it without you!

- National Rugby League - Tas Baitieri (International Development Manager) for inviting us to play
- Penrith Panthers and Parramatta Eels for allowing us to play in their strip.
- Cabramatta Rugby League Club for supplying our refreshments and fruit
- Our dedicated volunteers and supporters - including our players' families that are always there to support them.



Marco Spennati heading for a try.





Bow Lennon, Jono Smith and Bailey Lodge competing for the ball



Bow Lennon scoring a try for Penrith.



## OTHER PDRLA OPPORTUNITIES IN 2019 FROM NRL CLUBS

PDRLA are very thankful for the support we get from the NRL Clubs including by inviting us to exhibit our modified form of the game. It assists in many ways including with recruitment - one of our players signed up after seeing a mate on TV, playing in a curtain raiser exhibition game at ANZ Stadium.



And of course, it is an amazing privilege for our players too. They get to experience playing the game they love on exceptional grounds, meet their heroes, prepare in similar conditions as professional NRL players and experience the memorable atmosphere that goes along with playing under those circumstances.

In 2019 South Sydney Club liaised with our Chairperson to offer a very special experience for our members participating in the curtain raiser exhibition games.

- Access prior to main gates opening to allow for warmup and orientation
- Designated team change rooms
- Designated team warmup rooms
- General admission for players, carers and support staff attending.







### PDRLA CURTAIN RAISER EXHIBITION GAMES

PDRLA curtain raiser exhibition games at ANZ Stadium, during NRL Rounds, in 2019 included -



- NRL Round 11 (25/05/2019) – PDRLA South Sydney vs Wests Tigers.
- NRL Round 25 (05/09/2019) – PDRLA South Sydney v Sydney Roosters

A PDRLA curtain raiser exhibition game consists of two 15-minute halves with a five-minute half time.

### PDRLA DEMONSTRATION GAME

PDRLA Roosters and Wests Tigers also played a demonstration game in half-time at the NRL Inclusion Round 20 on 1/8/2019 at Leichhardt Oval. Our volunteer Keith Povah officiated.

A demonstration game lasts for 10 minutes and is played across the field. Only tries are tallied for the score due to the direction of play.

### TRAIN LIKE A TIGER VARYING ABILITIES EVENT

PDRLA were invited by Keehan Diamond, Community Engagement Coordinator Wests Tigers, to assist at the Train like a Tiger Varying Abilities event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April at St Luke's Park, Concord. The event was organised for schools from across Western Sydney who had participated in the Train Like A Tiger Program during the school term. Participants participated in modified rugby league activities while appreciating and celebrating each other's differences.

**SECTION 1****OUR SEASON****INDIGENOUS ROUND**

NAIDOC WEEK game played at Redfern Oval - 9.30am kick off  
7 July 2019

**Half time score:** PDRLA All-Stars 8 – Indigenous Combined Nations 0  
**Full time score:** PDRLA All-Stars 12 – Indigenous Combined Nations 6

<b>PDRLA All-Stars</b>	<b>Coach</b>		Luke Muttdon
	<b>A/Coach</b>		Peter Mitchell
	<b>Leaguesafe</b>		Chris Bryant
	<b>Players</b>	Try	Anderson, Craig (Captain) Bryant, Jack Kayla
		Try	Cremona, Steve (AB) Eagleson, Blake Frost, Daniel Gleizer, Marik Gudegeon, Garry Jobson, Ed (AB) Lodge, Bailey O'Connor, Clinton Pittas, Noah (Reserve) Quintao, Marco Jnr Riches, Nick
		Try	Smith, Jono Tonna, George Vukobratovich, Jake
<b>Indigenous Combined Nations</b>	<b>Coach</b>		Dennis Lowe
	<b>A/Coach</b>		Dave Smith
	<b>Leaguesafe</b>		Terry Riches Aldo Spennati
	<b>Players</b>	Try	Bussell, Bill Cross, Bruce Daley, Byron (Co-Captain) Tyson Dargin Dorward, Scott (AB) Dorward, Todd (Co-Captain) Edwards, Denzel Egan, Joe Flint, Bernie (AB) Johnston, Declan Keir, Kel Lennon, Bow Lloyd, Kyle Pragnell, Joel Ragg, Timothy Saliba, Andrew (Reserve) Sharp, Ed Taiba, Fred (Reserve)
		Goal	



## INDIGENOUS COMBINED NATIONS TEAM

Co-Captain Todd Dorward in yellow head gear, Co-Captain Byron Daley far left holding the ball



## PDRLA ALL-STARS TEAM

Coach, Luke Muttdon far right and Assistant Coach, Peter Mitchell in yellow shirt





Above  
Left line in front - Declan Johnston,  
next player Joe Egan and AB in  
orange Burnie Flint



Left  
PDRLA loyal family,  
friends and volunteers



Right  
Indigenous Combined  
Nations Team  
Assistant Coach,  
Dave Smith in blue



Scott  
Dorward  
AB, shaking  
hands with  
Craig  
Anderson

Right  
Indigenous Combined  
Nations Team 2019  
Co-Captain, Byron Daley











Left:  
PDRLA All-Stars Captain,  
Craig Anderson, watching  
that ball

Above:  
Bruce Cross,  
Indigenous Combined  
Nations Team  
kicking the ball



## PDRLA All-Stars 12 – Indigenous Combined Nations 6



**SECTION 1****OUR SEASON****OUR COMPETITION****2019 PDRLA KARI PREMIERSHIP**

New Era Stadium

Tigers vs  
NewtownEd Sharp has the  
ball

Our competition was sponsored by KARI and for the 2019 season and we had five PDRLA teams compete (South Sydney Rabbitohs, Wests Tigers, Newton Jets, Sydney Roosters and Manly Sea Eagles).

Each of the five NRL Clubs supported our teams in 2019 by providing a kit to enable players in the corresponding PDRLA team to play in their strip.

A washout round contingency was set down for April and was used for Round 1 washed out in March. The 5 Rounds were played (between April and July) plus an Indigenous Round during the 2019 NAIDCO Week celebrations in July. Finals were played in August and the Grand Final in September.

Rounds were played on the main field (New Era Stadium) on a Sunday at our home ground - [Cabramatta Rugby League Club](#).

**Coaches and Managers**

In 2019 emails were sent to our members looking for expressions of interest as team coaches and managers for the season.

**The 2019 Draw**

The 2019 Draw considered and avoided any public holidays and community celebrations so the season could run smoothly, allow for maximum participation and provide members and their families with the opportunity to personally connect and celebrate their lives together on public and community celebration days (Easter, (Mothers' and Fathers' Day etc).

In previous years, the draw was modified as details were confirmed, and each version provided to members. It was decided in 2019, with the aim to alleviate confusion, the draw would only go out once. Members were advised in advance of Round 1 details but the whole Draw was emailed to members on Sat 9/03/2019 with the cover email



advising of a couple of mid-year confirmations (time/venue) that were still due from Clubs.

Training and any PDRLA-demonstration games during NRL rounds were also advised in advance as soon as final details were confirmed. Details for the games, training and PDRLA-exhibition or demonstration games during NRL rounds were also advertised on Facebook and via email to members.



Che Fornusek scoring for Newtown

### Filling the teams

Traditionally there are not enough players registered each season to fill all the teams (2019 was no exception). Therefore, players are allotted to a team but also play in other teams throughout the season. This is normal practice. The players in the team with a bye usually join the teams playing the round to ensure the games go ahead.

ABs are not allocated to specific teams.

### OUR SEASON - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE 2020

We will aim to introduce more training sessions for players, including at NSW Rugby League Centre of Excellence. Possibly starting from November and running monthly – dependent on availability of players, venues and volunteers.

We will bring a sixth team into the NSW PDRLA Competition.

We will aim to liaise with the NRL Clubs for more opportunities for playing curtain raiser exhibitions.

We will introduce team coaches and managers and aim to provide members, who are interested, with the training and certification required to coach and manager a PDRLA team. The coach and manager for each team will be there to monitor player well-being first-hand, be the conduit between the Board and players, mentor players and assist them to foster a positive culture and good sportsmanship.

We will look at opportunities to play a City vs Country competition.

We will look at the classification system for players along with eligibility criteria - working with countries who have established PDRL.

We will register as an Active Kids provider to aid recruitment.

## NSWPDRLA TEAMS FOR THE 2019 COMPETITION

 <p><b>BLACK SHORTS</b>          Bill Bussell          Geoff Clarke          Eddie Sharp          Timothy Ragg</p>	 <p><b>BLACK SHORTS</b>          Dylan Jobson          Garry Kingi          Rylee Lowe          Bow Lennon          Marik Gleizer          Tristan Gibbs</p>	 <p><b>BLACK SHORTS</b>          Daniel Koteski          Peter Mitchell          Daniel Frost          Tyson Dargin</p>	 <p><b>BLACK SHORTS</b>          Craig Anderson          Che Fornusek          Kel Keir          Clinton O'Connor</p>	 <p><b>BLACK SHORTS</b>          Kyle Lloyd          Bailey Lodge          Jake          Vukobratovich          Blake Eagleson          Allan Ross</p>
<p><b>RED SHORTS</b>          Marco Quintao Jnr</p>	<p><b>RED SHORTS</b>          Todd Dorward          Garry Gudgeon          Declan Johnston          Bruce Cross          Joel Pragnell</p>	<p><b>RED SHORTS</b>          Nathan Taylor          Jono Smith          Jack Bryant</p>	<p><b>RED SHORTS</b>          Luke Greco          Denzel Edwards          Andrew Saliba          Brett Cross          Tristan Kennedy</p>	<p><b>RED SHORTS</b>          Joe Egan          Kayla          Fred Taiba          Jasper          McConaghy          Byron Daley</p>
<p><b>COACH</b>          Marco Quintao Snr</p>	<p><b>COACH</b>          -</p>	<p><b>COACH</b>          Dave Smith</p>	<p><b>COACH</b>          -</p>	<p><b>COACH</b>          -</p>
<p><b>MANAGER</b>          Neil Williamson</p>	<p><b>MANAGER</b>          Aldo Spennati</p>	<p><b>MANAGER</b>          -</p>	<p><b>MANAGER</b>          -</p>	<p><b>MANAGER</b>          Dylan Jobson</p>





Left to right: Fred Taiba, Kel Keir and Blake Eagleson ready and waiting

Left to Right:

AB Sam Hokin, Byron Daley, Brett Cross, -,  
Fred Taiba, Joe Egan, Doug Keen (Referee),  
Allan Ross (behind), AB Burnie Flint,  
Kyle Lloyd (Manly Captain) and Dylan Jobson (Manly  
Manager)



## RESULTS FOR THE 2019 COMPETITION

### ROUND 1

Round 1 set down for 17 March was washed out and played on 28 April 2019. Tigers vs Newtown, South Sydney vs Manly – Roosters Bye

When we say 'washed out' we mean 'washed away' – in fact, there was a sighting of animals lining up in twos – definitely not safe to play!

### ROUND 2

7 April 2019

Game 1 Manly 26 - Newtown 16  
Game 2 South Sydney 30 - Roosters 10  
Bye - Tigers

*Thanks for the overwhelming amount of support from family and friends and to the volunteers who take time out of their weekend to help run the day. The BBQ was on fire!*

### WASHOUT GAME FOR ROUND 1

28 April 2019

Game 1 Newton 30 – Tigers 10  
Game 2 Manly 30 – Souths 14  
Bye - Roosters

Round 5 – A comment from the Tigers' Coach, Marco Quintao Snr.  
*Very proud to be coaching the Wests Tigers team as we played against another quality team the Roosters. The effort by everyone today playing for the Wests Tigers team on the field was outstanding as we showed lots of resilience and quality teamwork playing as a united team. Thanks to everyone involved.*

### ROUND 3

19 May 2019

Game 1 South Sydney 28 - Tigers 12  
Game 2 Manly 6 - Roosters 0  
Bye - Newtown

**A comment from the Roosters Manager, Aldo Spennati.**  
*'Although we lost against Manly 6-0, we played in the right spirit in a tough game and we never gave up. Great effort and very proud of my boys/MEN!'*

### ROUND 4

16 June 2019

Game 1 Roosters 4 – Newton 0  
Game 2 Manly 16 - Tigers 16 DRAW  
Bye - South Sydney

**A comment from the Newtown Captain, Craig Anderson.**  
*In the wet weather, we defended our backside's off. Our boys played very well given the conditions. Congratulations to the Roosters on their victory. The Jets are more determined for the victory next time!*

**A comment from the Manly Manager, Dylan Jobson.**  
*Today was a good effort by the Manly team, difficult conditions and spirited Tigers opposition set the perfect stage for our team to stand up. The game came down to the wire and a sideline conversion in the dying moments of the game ensured that Manly had worked successfully as a team to secure a draw & remain undefeated.*

### ROUND 5

7 July 2019

Game 1 South Sydney 30 – Newton 14  
Game 2 Tigers 14 – Roosters 8  
Bye – Manly





Garry Gudgeon with his mother and father



Volunteer Referee Doug Keen with Rylee Lowe



Above: Playing for the Roosters

Left to Right

Back Row - AB Scott Dorward, Rhys Sullivan, Marik Gleiser, Ben Taprell, Garry Gudgeon, Bruce Cross and Rylee Lowe

Front Row - Bow Lennon, Declan Johnston, Joel Pragnell, Todd Dorward





Above  
Left to Right

Playing for South Sydney  
Marik Gleizer, Jono Smith, Daniel Frost

Playing for Manly  
Blake Eagleson and Bailey Lodge with his hand up

Daniel Frost kicking goals







### West's Tigers NRL Club – Support PDRLA West's Tigers Team

Keehan Diamond, Community Engagement Coordinator for West's Tigers and a media team attended the game on 16 June 2019 to shoot a video piece around PDRL to assist with promotion of our competition.

They also presented the PDRLA West's Tigers team with additional gear.

Left to Right

Back with hat: Neil Williamson (Manager)

Middle: Geoff Clarke, Marco Quintao Jnr, George Tonna, Tim Ragg, Bill Bussell, Ed Sharp

Front: Noah Pittas



Right: Playing for West's Tigers

Left to Right

Back Row – Marco Quintao Jnr, Geoff Clarke, Tim Ragg, Drew Gibbs (AB in fluoro vest), Tristan Gibbs and Noah Pittas

Front Row – Marik Gleizer, Andrew Saliba (Newtown player)





Above: Playing for Newtown

Left to Right

Back Row – Nathan Taylor, Kel Keir, Che Fornusek, Tristan Kennedy, AB Sam Hokin (fluro vest), Craig Anderson, Denzel Edwards, Brett Cross

Front Row – Peter Mitchell with the ball and Andrew Saliba (standing)

Below:  
Craig Anderson tackling Manly player Jake Vukobratovich  
Clinton O'Connor in the background







Playing in their registered team – South Sydney

Left to Right

Front Row: Jack Bryant, Peter Mitchell (Captain), Daniel Frost and on the end Daniel Koteski

Back Row: Jono Smith next to AB Steve Cremona



Playing for Roosters

Left to Right

Back Row Middle: Geoff Clarke, Nick Riches

Middle: Marik Gleizer, Garry Gudgeon (thumbs up), Bruce Cross, Todd Dorward, Joel Pragnell and Declan Johnston on the end

Front Row: Bow Lennon standing, (supporting his Dad and holding the ball - Bruce Cross' son) and Garry Kingi kneeling



## RESULTS FOR THE 2019 COMPETITION cont'd

Winner between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> go straight to the Grand Final  
 Runner up from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> plays winner from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

WEEK 1 FINALS 4 August 2019	WEEK 2 FINALS 18 August 2019	GRAND FINAL 8 September 2019
1 <sup>st</sup> v 2 <sup>nd</sup> South Sydney 18 v Manly 12  3 <sup>rd</sup> v 4 <sup>th</sup> Newtown 24 v Tigers 16	Newtown 22 v Manly 20	Newtown 16 – South Sydney 4

Referee Keith Povah - Kel Keir (No 21) with the ball - playing for Newtown



KARI  
Premiership Cup

Left to Right

Outside:  
Touch Judges  
Daniel Povah and  
George Tonna

Inside:  
Referees  
Keith Povah and  
Doug Keen



**SECTION 1****OUR SEASON****2019 KARI PREMIERSHIP WINNERS****NSWPDRLA NEWTOWN JETS**

Left to Right

Back Row:

Clinton O'Connor, Aldo Spennati (Team support), Kel Keir (behind the Cup)  
 ABs - Ed Jobson (orange top) and Michael White, Tristan Kennedy,  
 Brett Cross and Geoff Clarke (red cap - Team support)

Front Row:

Andrew Saliba, Denzel Edwards, Craig Anderson holding the Cup (Captain),  
 Che Fornusek, Luke Greco (kneeling) and Joe Egan

**SECTION 1****OUR SEASON****CELEBRATING OUR SEASON****PRESENTATION NIGHT****LIVERPOOL  
CATHOLIC CLUB**

21<sup>st</sup> September 2019  
6.30pm

This beautiful cake was made by player's mum, Amanda Pittas and generously donated for all to enjoy.



Stellar Experiences ([stellarexperiences.com.au/](http://stellarexperiences.com.au/)) donated an experience for one of our lucky registered members, between the ages of 16 and 35, to go to the 2019 Grand Final. Kel Keir's name was drawn on the night as the lucky winner (below: Jet's shirt and hat). At the Grand Final, it looks like he was set to have some fun with Luke from Stellar Experiences and Kyle and Marco from PDRLA.



Check out the Stellar Experience website and Facebook page to see some more Grand Final fun!

Our major raffle, for the first time was - *Unlock the padlock by purchasing the code.*

Zanetic Management Pty Ltd and Global Getaways combined to provide a travel prize worth \$900. The lucky winner also got to take home a new suitcase!

Our second raffle also had some amazing prizes.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**

Lenox 9' Twin Screen Portable DVD  
Player donated by Liverpool Catholic  
Club

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

\$50 Chan Chinese Restaurant Voucher

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**

Avon Ladies Beauty Pack, Chocolates &  
Knitted Throw

Thank you to all our wonderful Presentation Night sponsors and supporters, including businesses that purchased tables as a night out for their employees.

A list of our 2019 sponsors and supporters can be seen on pages 13 to 15.



<b>JUNIOR PLAYER AWARDS</b>	<b>Denzel Edwards Luke Greco Jasper McConaghy Jack Bryant Noah Pittas</b>
<b>JOE HEDGE JUNIOR MEMORIAL PLAYER</b>	<b>Luke Greco</b>
<b>ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – FIRST YEAR SENIOR PLAYER</b>	<b>Fady (Fred) Taiba</b>
<b>MOST IMPROVED</b>	<b>Nathan Taylor</b>



Volunteers Trish Spennati and Michelle Povah  
About to hand out the 2019 Participation Medals to players and ABs

#### 2019 ABs

**Ed Jobson  
Anthony Pittas  
Steve Cremona  
Bernie Flint  
Scott Dorward  
Sam Hokin**

Representatives at the table:  
Sponsor Mictronics Sylvia Leigh,  
supporter Newtown Jets Board  
Member Jeff Gabriel and Tas Baitieri  
(RL International Federation).



**Leading  
Try Scorer  
Goal Kicker  
Points Scorer  
for their registered team**

**Daniel Frost**

Award presented by Courtenay Neaverson, Membership and Match Day Manager for South Sydney Rabbitohs. (Below: standing on the left next to her sister)



Left: Garry Gudgeon

## **Referees Encouragement Award**

For always playing in the spirit of the game,  
being committed, taking part and  
supporting the Association.

**GARRY  
GUDGEON**



Presented by Keith Povah, PDRLA Volunteer Referee

## **Captains**

Rylee Lowe (Sydney Roosters)

Geoff Clark (Wests Tigers)

Kyle Lloyd (Manly Sea Eagles)

Peter Mitchell (South Sydney Rabbitohs)



Craig Anderson (Newtown Jets)

## **Captain's Best**

**GARRY GUDGEON**

(Sydney Roosters)

**TIMOTHY RAGG**

(Wests Tigers)

**JAKE VUKOBRATOVICH**

(Manly Sea Eagles)

**JACK BRYANT**

(South Sydney Rabbitohs)

**DENZEL EDWARDS**

(Newtown Jets)



Tas Baitieri (Rugby League International Federation) presented the awards to the Most Improved Player (Nathan Taylor – p28), 50 Game Veterans (Todd Dorward and Peter Mitchell) and our 100 Game Veteran (Edward Sharp).

## **2019 50 Game Veterans**

**Todd Dorward  
Peter Mitchell**



Left: Todd Dorward



Right:  
Facing in green  
Peter Mitchell



## **2019 100 Game Veteran**

**Edward Sharp**

Martin Shanahan (NSWRL)  
presented the Player of the Year  
Award



## **Player of the Year**

**Kyle Lloyd**



**Daniel Frost**



## OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN THANK YOU!

The annual presentation night is also a great opportunity to thank and celebrate our volunteers and other members who pitch in during the year to 'make it all happen'!

<b>TERRY RICHES</b>	<b>KEITH POVAH</b>	<b>MICHELLE POVAH</b>
<b>REBECCA</b>	<b>DOUG KEEN</b>	<b>DAVE SMITH</b>
<b>CHRIS BRYANT</b>	<b>MICHAEL WHITE</b>	<b>MARCO QUINTAO</b>
<b>ALDO SPENNATI</b>	<b>NEIL WILLIAMSON</b>	<b>PATRICIA SPENNATI</b>
<b>GLEN SMITH</b>	<b>DENNIS LOWE</b>	<b>MARIANNE CADDY</b>
<b>VASKO KOTESKI</b>		<b>VESNA KOTESKI</b>

### 2019 Association Volunteer of the Year

**KEITH  
POVAH**

Right:  
Dylan Jobson and Craig  
Anderson

Far Right:  
Joel Pragnell and Nick  
Riches



### THANKS

**DYLAN JOBSON** – for stepping in when needed and performing at an outstanding level as Manly Team Manager and Association Treasurer.

**CRAIG ANDERSON** – for being a dedicated front-line person, catching all those Messenger questions.

**TODD DORWARD** –  
for positively promoting the game and the Association every chance you get.

**JOEL PRAGNELL** – videographer extraordinaire – for his talent, positivity and nothing is a problem attitude.

**PETER MITCHELL** – for being our resident authority on 'dad jokes' and promoting the Association and assisting with social media.

## SECTION 1

## OUR PEOPLE

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the backbone of our not-for-profit. Without their time, insight and hard work PDRLA would not be able to run. Some volunteers are family members of players and others do not have a connection with a player. They come from businesses, the community and the Rugby League community - to just lend a hand.

Each year and the 2019 season was no exception, our volunteers assisted in a variety of areas - at game days, exhibition and demonstration days and other player events, in committees or on the Board.

2019 Referees Doug Keen in pink and Keith Povah (2019 Association Volunteer of the Year)



Volunteers assist with registration and insurance, promotion, fundraising and recruitment, legislative requirements and finances, training and scoring, photography, at the canteen or BBQ, purchasing player sustenance and equipment, organising the grounds including

booking medical assistance and running the game day, refereeing, liaising with - businesses, NRL, NSWRL, and NRL Clubs - also organising presentation nights and competitions played in other states or countries. All this hard work is done without any remuneration and commonly without wanting thanks or recognition.



Above: Volunteer, and our first Australian Coach (in green) Shaun Spence, chatting with player Bill Bussell.

Right: Volunteer Aldo Spennati, sharing a laugh with player, Declan Johnston as he passed.





## THE NSWRL VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2019

### NSWRL Inclusive Volunteer of the Year

NSWRL Inclusive Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to someone that has shown a measured contribution to one of the many NSW Inclusive Rugby League programs.



Left to Right:

Martin Shanahan (NSWRL Football Projects Officer), Keith Povah (NSWPDLA), Steve Hewson (NSW Wheelchair RL), Dave Smith (NSWPDLA) and John Mannah (Como Jannali Jnr RL Club).

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the NSWRL Volunteer Awards in 2019. A BIG CONGRATS to Association volunteers - Keith Povah and Dave Smith.

And the winner was Dave Smith – well deserved!

PDRLA appreciates Dave's and Keith's support and time; and the integral part both play throughout the season. We also thank their families - who give up time with them, so they can make game day happen for the players.

### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS ADVERTISED IN 2019

In March 2019 Expressions of Interest were advertised for coaches and team managers, notetaker for the Board meetings and photographers. We did not manage to fill all the positions and will advertise again in 2020 for photographers.



## VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Each year in December, PDRLA celebrate and say thanks to our members that have signed up to be volunteers by providing a Christmas Lunch or Dinner.

In 2019 the Volunteer Christmas Lunch was successfully organised by Board Members, Josh Maxwell and Trish Spennati. It was held on 14 December at Strathfield Golf Club and was a very enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

## SECTION 1

## OUR PEOPLE

## OUR LIFE MEMBERS

Association Life Membership is bestowed on individual PDRLA members and natural persons. It acknowledges and gives recognition to those whose continuous and outstanding contribution has had a significant impact to the Association and/or Physical Disability Rugby League in Australia – providing a measurable benefit and advancement.

### 2019

In 2019 Patricia and Aldo Spennati were nominated by Dennis Lowe and seconded by Dylan Jobson (Board Members) to become life members. They were voted in by the members at the AGM on 28 April 2019 and accepted to be life members on the 5/5/2019.

Life Member George Tonna (see page 9) presenting Trish and Aldo with their Life Membership plaques at the June 2019 Round.



**The two motions put to the members at the AGM:** The board recommends, that Aldo Spennati who has rendered distinguished service and loyalty to the Association in various volunteer roles for approximately six years be appointed as a Life Member.

He has assisted the advancement of physical disability rugby league in Australia through continued game day work, organisation, player support and personal donations to ensure the Association thrives and members are able to play each season. Also, by promoting the Association and physical disability rugby league within his workplace and securing regular and ad hoc donations.

The board recommends, that Patricia Spennati who has rendered distinguished service and loyalty to the Association in various volunteer roles, including as a Board and subcommittee member, for approximately six years be appointed as a Life Member.

She has assisted the advancement of physical disability rugby league in Australia through her values and actions while dealing with other Board members and members of the association and their families. Also, by advancing the association and physical disability rugby league within the NRL, NSWRL and the wider Australian community and promoting within her family and securing regular and ad hoc donations. She has also been recognised by the NSWRL for her contribution to Physical Disability Rugby League in Australia by becoming Volunteer of the Year in the NSWRL Inclusive Award category for 2018.



**SECTION 1****OUR PEOPLE****OUR BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members are also volunteers, and just like the other PDRLA volunteers, provide their time, skills and service free.

**Reporting timeframe 1/11/2018 to 31/10/2019**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>AGM 22/7/18 to 31/10/19</b>	<b>Meetings Attended 2018/19 *</b>
Neil Williamson	Chair	Elected - started first term 22/7/18	11
Craig Anderson	General Board Member	Re-elected for a third term 22/7/18. Retired 30/1/2019	1
Daniel Frost	Secretary/ Public Officer	Elected – started first term 22/7/18. Resigned 24/9/2019	7
Patricia Spennati	General Board Member	Re-elected for a third term 22/7/18	11
Peter Mitchell	General Board Member	24/1/2017 - Retired at AGM 28/4/2019	4
Dennis Lowe	General Board Member	24/1/2017 - Retired at AGM 28/4/2019	1
Dylan Jobson	Treasurer	Acted in casual vacancy position from 27/06/2018 until 28/4/2019. (Due to resignation of George Tonna.)  Nominated and elected at AGM 28/04/2019. Resigned 18/09/2020	8
Marianne Caddy	General Board Member then Secretary from 24/9/2019	Acted in casual vacancy position from close of meeting 30/1/2019 - AGM 28/4/2019. (Due to resignation of Craig Anderson)  Then again from 29/05/2019. Resigned 16/7/2020.	10
Joshua Maxwell	Appointed Board Member and Public Officer	Commenced appointment from 30/09/2019	1

\*There were 11 Board Meetings held during the reporting period. 2 meetings were held electronically. Apologies were provided by Board members who could not attend a meeting.

**Board Meetings**

Board meetings were held at Cabramatta Leagues Club Board Room or electronically, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. As traditional, no meetings were held in November and December. The April 2019 meeting was moved to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to take into account ANZAC Day.

**Board Training**

To increase Board effectiveness with running meetings and during discussions, the Board and committee members attended a professional development workshop on 1/12/2018 - Effective Meetings and Debono's 6 Hat Thinking Techniques. It was run by Liz Paine from Learning Insight at Cabramatta Rugby Leagues Club.

**OUR BOARD - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE 2020**

We will continue with the steps to change the legal structure to enable PDRLA to grow and govern nationally to take our modified form of rugby league to the whole of Australia.

We will increase the number of annual Board meetings to cater for the organisation of the Association's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, World Cup 2021 organisation and the provision of increased player training and exhibition games.

**Board Skills**

We will aim to appoint Directors to the Board with specific business, people and disability experience and expertise required as we head into our second decade - marketing, sponsorship, governance, legal, NRL and disability sports.

We will recruit Board members mindful of our value for inclusion and consider both business and member needs.

**Board Charter**

The Board strives to manage PDRLA with values that have a foundation in those of the Australian Rugby League Commission – ARLC and National Rugby League – NRL. In 2020 a Board Charter will be created reflecting these values. The Board believes by working in this way it will provide members with a united, positive and inclusive culture and solid associations within the wider Rugby League family. We will set aside a day in November for annual Board planning.

We will survey the members for feedback/ideas on the competition and business.

**OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Under the Constitution the Board can also create subcommittees or taskforces to assist with projects. In 2019 there were three subcommittees running.

**Committee members commencing 1/11/2018**

Administration and Finance Subcommittee – Board Members Neil Williamson – Chair and Dylan Jobson, PDRLA Members Marianne Caddy and Glen Smith

Competition Subcommittee – Board Members Dennis Lowe – Chair and Daniel Frost, PDRLA Members, Che Fornusek, and Keith Povah

Marketing, Events and Sponsorship Subcommittee – Board Members Neil Williamson – Chair and Patricia Spennati



**SECTION 2****GOVERNANCE****LEGAL STRUCTURE**

NSW Physical Disability Rugby League Association Inc. (ABN 59 780 863 640) is the trading name of Physical Disability Rugby League Australia – Inc.9894610 (the Association or PDRLA) and is an incorporated association. We are a not-for-profit with a Charitable Fundraising Licence - No.24460 and are affiliated with NSWRL.

As an incorporated association the PDRLA legal entity is separate from the individual members. We do not operate as a business or provide monetary gains to members.

Our purpose and activities (objects) are set out in our Constitution and we are governed by that and our By-Laws. We are also governed by the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 that NSW Fair Trading administer.

**Change of entity structure**

During 2018 and 2019 the Board have had the assistance from an accredited specialist in business law at Marsdens Law Group to understand the pathway to enable the association to grow nationally. To enable this, the Board and members adopted at special meetings to change the legal structure to a company limited by guarantee. The Board then approved the constitution, created by Marsdens, relating to the company limited by guarantee structure and completed other actions required for the process.

**LEGAL STRUCTURE - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE 2020**

The constitution relating to changing the structure to a company limited by guarantee will be taken to the members for adoption at the AGM.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS - 2019 SEASON**

The Board operates under the 2012 Constitution updated on 18 June 2019 to reflect changes to Life Membership - the addition of 5.3, adopted at the 28/4/2019 AGM.

This amendment to the Constitution in the 2019 Season was brought about initially to address the voting rights of Life Members. It also addresses creating a consistent process and consistent criteria - on merit - when assessing life membership nominations over the long-term. To create the final document, research included: other rugby league organisations' procedures and policies and sector recommended templates.

The procedure and guidelines were adopted by the Board and under section 38.4 of the Constitution the corresponding By-Law containing the process became binding on members on 2 April 2019.

**Constitution 2012 (18 June 2019)****5.2 Life Members**

- (a) The Board may recommend to the Annual General Meeting that any natural person, who has rendered distinguished service to the Association or Physical Disability Rugby League, where such service is deemed to have assisted the advancement of Physical Disability Rugby League in Australia, be appointed as a Life Member.
- (b) A resolution of the Annual General Meeting to confer life membership (subject to **clause 5.2(c)**) on the recommendation of the Board must be a Special Resolution.
- (c) A person must accept or reject the Association's resolution to confer life membership in writing. Upon written acceptance, the person's details shall be entered upon the Register, and from the time of entry on the Register the person shall be a Life Member.

**5.3 Life Membership Selection**

Life Members are to be nominated, considered, ~~appointed~~ and regulated in accordance with the procedures and guidelines regarding Life Membership set out in the Regulations.

Below: Extract from Member Bulletin – Regulation Matters No 1.



Physical Disability Rugby League Australia Inc.  
trading as NSW Physical Disability Rugby League Association Inc.  
ABN - 59 780 863 640

## Member Bulletin – Regulation Matters

**No 1.**

**2 April 2019**

Under section 38.4 of the Constitution the matters in this Bulletin are binding on members.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION, CONSIDERATION, APPOINTMENT AND REGULATION

This Bulletin looks at the matters surrounding Life Membership to Physical Disability Rugby League Australia Inc. (the Association) - nomination, consideration, appointment and regulation.

The Board adopted by circular motion (Board Minutes No. 95) that -

*The Procedure and Guidelines - Life Membership* document 28/03/2019 be adopted and be included in the Regulations.

Following is the contents of *Procedure and Guidelines - Life Membership* and under the Constitution it is binding on all members.

#### **Procedure and Guidelines - Life Membership 28/03/2019**

**Purpose**

Life membership is an honour bestowed on individual Association members and natural persons. Whose continuous, loyal, meritorious and outstanding service and contribution to the Association or Physical Disability Rugby League has provided a measurable benefit and advancement to the Association or Physical Disability Rugby League in Australia over an extended period.

It is recognised as the highest recognition awarded by the Association in acknowledgement of exceptional service and contribution; it should retain its prestige and not be awarded easily. These procedures and guidelines will assist in retaining the award's status and support the processes/criteria set out in the Association Constitution.



## DOCUMENTS

**Our 2019-2023 Strategic Plan** – Developed during this reporting period, to provide focus and direction, for PDRLA to be pro-active in achieving a strong and significant second decade. (See page 54.)

Below is a list of more governance and operational documents either reviewed, formally adopted, created, and adopted or became redundant in the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial years.

NRL Privacy Policy
NRL Member Protection Policy
NRL National Code of Conduct
By-Law - Procedure Guidelines - Life Membership
Board Position Description - General Member
Board Position Statement – Chairperson
Board Position Statement - Secretary and Public Officer
Board Position Statement - Treasurer
Board Position Statement - Vice Chairperson
Policy Procedure Agreement - Board and Committee - Attendance at Meetings
Policy Procedure Agreement - Board and Committee – Confidentiality
Policy Procedure Checklist - Board - Board Conflict of Interests
Procedure - Board - Minute taking and meeting document procedure
Policy - Financial - Fuel Reimbursement
Volunteer Position Description - Welfare Officer
Policy - Board - Board Committees
Terms of Reference - Competition Sub-committee
Terms of Reference – Finance and Administration Sub-committee
Terms of Reference – Marketing, Events and Sponsorship Sub-committee

### POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE 2020

The following governance and operational documents are being drafted and will be adopted by the Board in 2020.

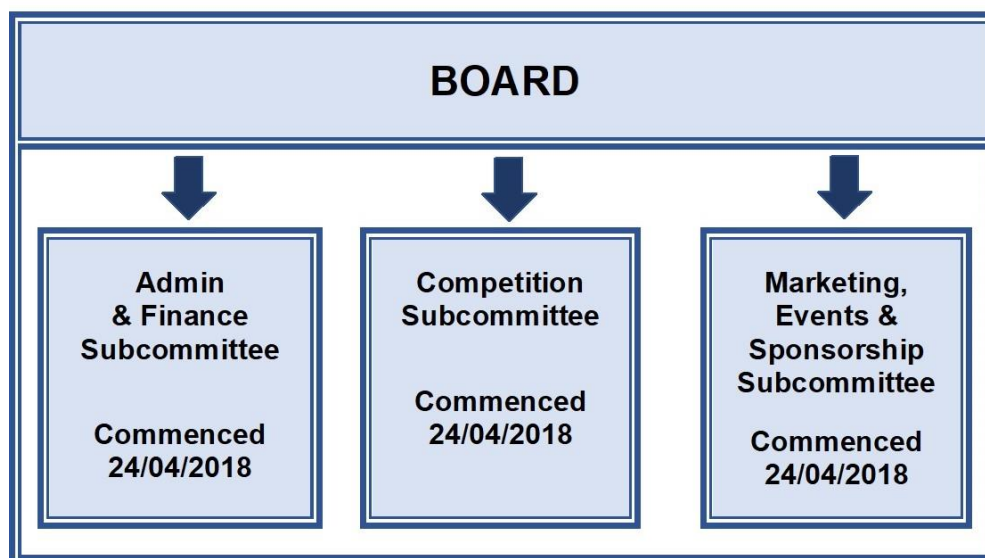
Volunteer positions will be formalised, advertised and training will be offered to members who wish to apply for the positions.

Board sub-committees' terms will undergo their annual review.

Policy - Board - Board Charter  
 Policy - Financial - Financial Management  
 Terms of Reference - 10-year Anniversary Event Organisation Taskforce  
 Policy - Volunteer Appointment - Team Coach/Manager/Trainer  
 Volunteer Position Description - Team Coach  
 Volunteer Position Description - Team Manager  
 Volunteer – Team Coach/Manager/Trainer Eol Form  
 Volunteer Position Description – Member Protection Information Officer  
 Volunteer Position Description - Registrar  
 Policy Procedures - Members - Change Room Use

## ENTITY STRUCTURE

The Board manages the entity on behalf of the members, using the Constitution and objects as the parameters.



### Board

Under the current Constitution up to seven Board members can be elected from our membership. If not all elected positions are filled or a Board members resigns during their term the Board may fill that vacant position if needed. Another three Board members (that do not need to be from the membership) may be appointed by the Board for skills required at the time to run the business, which includes member wellbeing. There is also a place for a member appointed by the affiliate National Sporting Organisation responsible for the administration and conduct of Rugby League in Australia.

As an inclusive organisation, PDRLA strives for a Board with a mix of genders, life experiences, skills and heritages to strengthen the business and ensure its growth and longevity. To have a strong organisation the Board takes the approach that Board members should be appointed or elected for skills that are needed to fulfil core business requirements.

Committees and taskforces are also formed and disbanded by the Board as needed to fulfil business, competition and member requirements.

### Committees

To operate effectively, each subcommittee has terms of reference (ToR) and a Board member as their chair to facilitate Board reporting and minutes should be taken of meetings. Committee members are required to sign the ToR to confirm they have read and understood their responsibilities, commitment and tasks.

Subcommittee performance and function is reviewed by the Board prior to an AGM - the three subcommittees were reviewed by Board member, Daniel Frost and continued to operate during 2019 Season.

**SECTION 2****GOVERNANCE****STRATEGIC PLAN**

The PDRLA first strategic plan covered 2011 to 2013. It addressed key areas such as administration, marketing, participation and player development and finance.



The longer-term vision was for the ability to move into the national forum and becoming a world cup sport, with Australia as a major force. Naturally, the longer-term goals did not have a timeline, as the focus initially, was to give NSWPDRLA a solid foundation to build on in the future.

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023**

The Board and other interested members, in the second half of 2018, created the 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan. This is the PDRLA's second plan and was completed with guidance and support from Martin Shanahan (Football Projects Officer) from NSWRL.

Martin assisted the group to complete a SWOT analysis and summarised the organisation's status within five areas.

1. Football operations
2. Community engagement
3. Our people
4. Financial management
5. Commercial performance

To take PDRLA into its second successful decade the mission and vision were updated. The goals for the five years aim to allow us to grow to provide our teams with more opportunities to play, and two tiers – for more experienced and competitive players and for less experienced, younger or less competitive players.

The goals will also realise the long-term goal from the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan - to grow throughout the nation – supplying an avenue for those living with a physical disability throughout Australia, the opportunity to play the game they love. And perhaps even fulfilling dreams of representing our country at a world cup level.

It will also assist with growing our membership and establishing ongoing relationships within the NRL family - strengthening the ties and prospects for our members.



2019 GOALS	2020 GOALS	2021 GOALS	2022 GOALS	2023 GOALS
5 NSWPDRPL full teams	6 NSWPDRPL full teams			8 NSWPDRPL full teams
Roles included by 2020 - 2 x Referees   6 x Coaches   6 Managers   1 x Game Day Co-ordinator. Positions will continue to be filled each season for each extra team.				
1-2 Open/Come & Try Days	1-2 Open/Come & Try Days	1-2 Open/Come & Try Days	1-2 Open/Come & Try Days	1-2 Open/Come & Try Days
Plan an annual (participation based) City v Country fixture	Participate in City v Country fixture	Participate in City v Country fixture	Participate in City v Country fixture	Participate in City v Country fixture
Annual NAIDOC WEEK Event at Redfern Oval   All-Stars vs Indigenous Combined Nations game   First Sunday in July	Annual NAIDOC WEEK Event at Redfern Oval   All-Stars vs Indigenous Combined Nations game   First Sunday in July	Annual NAIDOC WEEK Event at Redfern Oval   All-Stars vs Indigenous Combined Nations game   First Sunday in July	Annual NAIDOC WEEK Event at Redfern Oval   All-Stars vs Indigenous Combined Nations game   First Sunday in July	Annual NAIDOC WEEK Event at Redfern Oval   All-Stars vs Indigenous Combined Nations game   First Sunday in July
Planning, budget/ forecasting finalised by end of year to establish sponsorship/ grants and fundraising for NSWDRPL season.	Planning, budget/ forecasting finalised by end of year to establish sponsorship/ grants and fundraising for NSWDRPL season.	Planning, budget/ forecasting finalised by end of year to establish sponsorship/ grants and fundraising for NSWDRPL season.	Planning, budget/ forecasting finalised by end of year to establish sponsorship/ grants and fundraising for NSWDRPL season.	Planning, budget/ forecasting finalised by end of year to establish sponsorship/ grants and fundraising for NSWDRPL season.
Club MoU in place with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Club.	Club MoU in place with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Club.	Club MoU in place with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Club.	Club MoU in place with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Club.	Club MoU in place with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Club.
Establish ongoing relationships with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Clubs	Strengthen ongoing relationships with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Clubs	Strengthen ongoing relationships with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Clubs	Strengthen ongoing relationships with each NSWPDRPL team's reciprocal NRL Clubs	NRL Clubs have a stronger link with their reciprocal NSWPDRPL team
Representative eligibility, international rules and player classification being created leading into RL World Cup 2021	Representative eligibility, international rules and player classification finalised, recognised and used worldwide	Participate in the RL World Cup 2021		
	International teams sponsorship secured			
Representative program created	Representative program in place			
Change of legal structure to a national body -PDRLA. Constitution formalised and new affiliations established.	DGR status formalised			
	Sponsorship secured for National teams			
	Interstate and International Challenges created.			
	NSWPDRPL & PDRLA sustainable - growing revenue streams			

**SECTION 3****FINANCE AND AUDIT****FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1/11/2018 – 31/10/2019  
AUDIT REPORT**

The Association's audited report from Kelly and Partners (Oran Park and South West Sydney) and financial statements for the financial year 1/11/2018 to 31/10/2019 are supplied in a separate document.

**FINANCE - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE 2020**

We will finalise and adopt the draft Financial Management Policy.

We will investigate and adopt a banking system that incorporates EFT to pay bills and for use at fundraising events.

**SECTION 4****HOW TO SUPPORT US****HOW YOU CAN HELP**

*Our mission is to provide children and adults with a physical disability the opportunity to participate in a fun, inclusive sport and be a part of the Rugby League family.*

**SUPPORT OR PROMOTE - PDRLA or a PDRLA event**  
**PURCHASE - Play for Purpose Raffle Tickets and nominate PDRLA**  
**DONATE - to us**  
**VOLUNTEER - for a specific task or event**  
 (Positions are *advertised* on our website)

Contact details are listed below

We would be pleased if you...

[REACH OUT](#)

**PLAY FOR PURPOSE (P4P) RAFFLE TICKETS**

*In March 2019 Board member, Trish Spennati, researched and initiated fundraising through the [Play For Purpose](#) Raffle. They are a not-for-profit themselves and are endorsed as a fundraising tool for sporting clubs by [Sport Australia](#).*

When you purchase a \$10 raffle ticket and nominate PDRLA it guarantees a minimum of \$5 back to us.

The rest of the money goes towards purchasing the prizes, bonus payments supporting other charitable causes and running the raffle.

Every ticket also gives the purchaser the chance to [win amazing prizes](#).

A link to P4P can be found on our website on the [Support Us](#) page.

**CONTACT US**

C/- Kelly and Partners (South West Sydney)  
 PO BOX 417, Campbelltown NSW 2560

+61 414 464 719

[www.nswpdrla.com.au](http://www.nswpdrla.com.au)

[members@nswpdrla.com.au](mailto:members@nswpdrla.com.au)





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