



2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – APPENDIX A

I would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nations, on whose land we play and gather. I pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

What a year! Our club has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 2012 at Sasses Ave. Back then we were a junior club fielding three teams, carting all our equipment in a trailer and were managed by a handful of volunteers. Skip forward to 2019 and we're now a senior club with more men, women and children playing than ever before.

The 2019 season has been the biggest season in our small club's history. We had 145 registered players and 41 volunteers across the Rugby League club. There was another 110 men, women and teenage players registered in our 2018-19 summer touch competition and our Switch program doubled in participants.

This year we had a complete Executive Committee and general committee. I would like to formally acknowledge and thank Lynne Simpson (Secretary), Kevin O'Neill (Vice-President), Rose Ousley (Treasurer), Benjamin Smith (Coaching Director) and Alex Pynor (Facilities Director) for all their hard work and huge efforts this season.

I'd like to extend that thank you to our general committee, touch football committee and team of fantastic volunteers. To all our Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, Assistant Team Managers, Sports Trainers, Water Runners, Canteen/BBQ helpers, Ground Managers, Fundraising and Events coordinators/contributors, Merchandise, Uniform, Sponsors and any other volunteers I have missed, THANK YOU. Without your involvement and enthusiasm we would not be able to operate.

Thanks to our Sponsors: Ian Knight Photography, Jackson Taylor MP and Knox City Council. At last years AGM we welcomed three new Life Members to the club. Congratulations to Benjamin Smith, Kevin O'Neill and Simon Lindberg on your induction. As I reflected on the year it became more and more apparent that we are not just a rugby league club and touch association. We are a team of determined, strong and supportive people. We are a family. WE ARE RAPTORS.

Over the summer months we held our second season of Touch Football. There were 9 teams registered in our social mix comp. The Switch program was facilitated by Emma Smith and a big hit with the ladies in the area. Great job by Richard McMurray and Tim Baird for running the season.

We have females represented in most our junior teams, a dedicated U13 girls tackle team, 3 U17 girls on permit (just so they could get a game) and our inaugural senior women team who stepped up this year into the big leagues. Congratulations to Jenna-Lee Roberts on her selection into the Victorian U16 Girls Team (They also won the tournament). We now have a clearly defined path way for our girls to play from Juniors to Seniors.

One of our first social events happened before the season kicked off. We were finalists in last years VICNRL Spirit of League. All the finalists were invited to attend the Indigenous All Stars v Maori All Stars. 30 lucky raptors took a chartered bus into AAMI Park and had a DEADLY night.



We all got together again a couple days later to do some filming for our CLUB RESPECT partners, Nirodah and the ABC. Lots of our raptors getting the opportunity to make their prime time debut... February was a busy month for us considering we don't launch until late March.

Just as we were getting into the swing of preseason, we had our 5 seconds of fame! Our Club respect ABC feature aired nationally on March 1 on the brekky show and repeated all day! We've had a few of our squads representing us on the hallowed turf at AAMI. Some of our U7/8's, along with our U9/10 and 13 girls all getting the opportunity to get on the main stage. Our U13 girls were involved in banner duties at Cam Smiths 400th. A squad of four Girls/Women represented us at the annual Club Sprint Challenge. During the Storms finals campaign we had various kids doing banner duties, as well as our U10 & U9 play pre game and doing sprint races! Well done to everybody that has had the opportunity to play at AAMI Park and represented us the way you would expect raptors too!

In June the club was invited along to the Knox Councils annual Sporting Clubs Awards night. Raptors were finalists in Best Club Initiated Program - SWITCH, Club Of the Year, Club Person of the year - Trent , Club person of the year - Emma Smith (Junior). It was great to be nominated and make the finalists for each category, but the best part of the night was when Emma took out Club Person Of The Year - Jnr. Congratulations again Emma, we appreciate all that you do.

One of the biggest social events for the Raptor community was our annual trivia night. This years went into overdrive with not much knowledge shared or gained, but at least a fair old crack at being out past bedtime. Thanks to Prue and the fundraising team for making it a huge success.

A majority of our storm crazed junior members would argue that the BIGGEST night ever happened on 16th July.... Storm in Your Club seen the GOAT Cam Smith and his mates Tom Eisenhuth and Ryan Hoffman come to our club for the evening. The looks on the kids' faces when they realised it was Cam was priceless. A great night getting tips and hearing stories (and maybe a few selfies/autographs) from the GOAT and Co. A huge thank you to the Storm crew, Cam, Tom and Raptor Ryan for making the night one our kids won't forget in a hurry. Our masters got together for a series of 3 Gala Days. The Masters definitely love getting the chance to dust off the boots and pull a hammy or pop a shoulder. Four of our masters have progressed through to the VicStormers State team. Hopefully next year we can get a few of our Raptor mums in for Women's Masters.

We've hosted various programs, had most of the state teams train at our grounds, holiday activities and school events outside of our regularly scheduled games on Saturday. We've had Lenny Mason host a NJPP (National Junior Participation Program), League Stars and tackle safe programs throughout the year. We've also been fortunate enough to host the Kenny Bromwich and Cam Munster Shields. Thank you Lenny, NRL Victoria and our volunteers for making all these things possible.

The major highlight for 2019 though, is the guaranteed upgrade and delivery of our brand new change room facilities! In March we held a press conference at Colchester Reserve with the Local council, Cricket Australia and State government attending to make the significant funding announcement. This just doesn't happen. It has taken years for us to be able to get to this stage. Several committees' later (and a proven girls/women program) and we are achieving those big dreams of our founders. On August 28 the car park was fenced in and works begun. We are expecting a completion date of late October. We're all looking forward to seeing the final product. We also had professional goal posts added to the international Pitch. Next step is our social space.

The game of rugby league is why we are all here. We played 18 rounds of seniors and 14 rounds for our juniors. Whether it be taxi-ing our children, volunteering, playing, barracking in wind, rain and hail or supporting the club with purchases and donations, thank you for making the commitment to your club, and your Raptors.

