



2020 AGM MINUTES APPENDIX A – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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.

Due to COVID-19 there was no rugby league season in 2020.

Under normal circumstances, this report is easy to write. It is a reflection of the past twelve months' work, a chance to review what we did right, celebrate our successes and to analyse any places we can work on, so we can continue to improve the club. When you don't play any rugby league for a season it can be difficult to find the positives, but we do have some and they are definitely worth celebrating.

The Summer of 2019/2020 was another successful season for our touch football family. Thanks to Richard McMurray and Tim Baird for facilitating the season. There were 8 teams with 103 men, women and teenagers registered.

Touch football continues to grow and it has proven to be a great addition to the club. The benefits it provides are more than financial. Not only are we facilitating a great sport that gets people active and fit, but we also have a presence at the club over summer. Playing a version of Rugby league that is visible to the public is a great tool to draw in new members for our regular season.

While we were busy with touch football, our senior men and women were preparing for the 2020 season with a strong pre season program. Little did we know at the time that it would be training for a hectic schedule of netflix and lockdown.

Some Rugby League was played. Not a lot, but some. The senior men's team, some of our senior women and our U13 girls all managed to get some games in before the season was abandoned.

The senior men and women were involved in a preseason nine's tournament at Casey Fields. This was in conjunction with the Melbourne Storm playing their final preseason game at the fields. The calibre of football played on the day was high. Our men won several games against first grade clubs and impressed all. Our senior women were also represented on the day and loved the opportunity to play football in front of a great crowd.

A trial match against Frankston Raiders in March was the only game played at Colchester Reserve this year. The under 13 girls were super excited to be able to play against a brand new team. A great game in beautiful conditions. The senior men impressed again when they managed to hold out the Raiders and win. Unfortunately these were the only games played. Not long after the trial match, we were put into various stages of lockdown and were unable to continue to operate .



Before being shut down due to COVID-19, we were able to train for a few brief periods. To be able to do this we had to implement and adhere to strict safety and hygiene procedures. A massive thank you to Lynne Simpson for liaising with council and VICNRL and preparing all of our paperwork. Thank you also to Rose Ousley, Kevin O'Neil and Jasmine Dalen from the executive committee for overseeing the implementation of the new procedures. Also to the coaches that trained under the covid conditions, thank you. It's not an easy task to make sure your players are maintaining a 1.5m distance at all times.

Although we might not have had many positives on the football field, we do have several positive things to celebrate. Namely, the delivery of brand new change room facilities, a much needed upgrade to our humble clubrooms and a new indigenous jersey for our competition grades.

Keys to the new facility were handed over in May (with an official opening still to come). A brand new facility containing four dedicated change rooms, two medical rooms, a referee's change room, disabled toilet, office and storage space makes sure we are able to provide a safe and clean environment to operate from in the future. The new change rooms will allow us to attract new female members as they have their own dedicated spaces. The clubroom was given a facelift as well. We can't wait to get back and celebrate the new look with all of our members. Thank you to Knox Council for delivering these upgrades.

A new indigenous jersey was introduced for our competition grades. The design was done by one of our members Kristina Kay. The club is so proud to have such a positive representation of indigenous culture on our jersey. We can't thank Kristina enough for her input and we look forward to taking the field in 2021 in these amazing jerseys.

I would like to say thank you to Rose Ousley for her service as Treasurer. Rose has been on the executive committee for four years while also team managing and doing a number of other roles around the club.

Thank you to Alex Pynor for his service as Senior Coach and Ben Smith as Senior Manager. The team wouldn't be here without Alex and Ben's initial input.

We would like to welcome Charles (CJ) Williams as the new senior coach for season 2021. The club is excited to see where CJ takes the team in the coming seasons.

I would like to thank all the executive committee and the general committee for volunteering this year. The club could not function without your time, passion, energy and love.

Trent Ousley