



MEN OF LEAGUE FOUNDATION

Caring for the Game

History and Membership

On the 11th of July 2002 a meeting was held at the New South Wales Leagues Club to launch the Men of League Foundation. The name Men of League was kindly given by Narelle Hughes, wife of former Canterbury player, Graeme Hughes. She had used the name for a calendar she had published for a number of years. It is a name befitting the organisation.

The idea of forming the Men of League Foundation began with discussions between tough prop and the then Judiciary Commissioner Jim Hall and Canterbury and Manly five – eighth Max Brown and gained momentum when legendary back-rower Ron Coote expressed his concerns for former players he had discovered who were doing it tough. One of these was his hero Doug McRitchie, physically weak in a hospital on the South Coast of New South Wales. Touched by what he had learnt and what he saw, Ron with former players, set up the meeting. At this meeting 140 players, officials and referees joined up to become the founding members.

Ron Coote became the first President and another former player and past Premier of New South Wales and retired Cabinet Minister in the Federal Government, the Honourable John Fahey AC was asked to become the Patron.

In a very brief time a committee was formed and the first major fund raising event was organised. This was the Men of League Ball, a black tie affair attended by over 700 people. The Ball was held in October just a few months after the first meeting and proved to be an outstanding success. It is now a highlight of the rugby league social calendar in Sydney and is held the Tuesday before the Grand Final. This Ball is our major fundraising activity and acts as a celebration of the great work done by the Men of League Foundation. The ball always carries a theme such as Great Grand Final Captains, Greatest Kangaroos or Clive Churchill Medal winners and greats from the past are honoured as part of the McDonalds Honouree announcements.

As well as the Ball, the Men of League Foundation host the JJ Giltinan Sailing Regatta, three race days at Hawkesbury, Ballina and Doomben, seven golf days are conducted; one each at Riverside Oaks (Sydney), Illawarra, Coolangatta, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Tamworth, four NSW and 2 Queensland country tour dinners and a host of regional events.

Over the last 6 years the Men of League Foundation has grown to over 6500 members, and has formed Men of League local committees in Brisbane, Illawarra, Northern Rivers, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast and in 2008, new committees will be formed in North Queensland, Canberra, Newcastle, New England, Forbes, and the Central Coast of NSW. More committees will be formed in the future.

There is so much for which the Men of League Foundation can be proud. But most importantly what the Men of League Foundation has been able to do for the ill and disadvantaged has been a standout. Whether it be a wheelchair, medical bills, transport, a hospital visit, funeral arrangements, flowers or a bowl of fruit for the sick, we have made a difference to the lives of so many.

The Men of League Foundation has assisted people like the late St George and Kangaroos legend Ken Kearney with an electric wheelchair and John 'Bomber' Peard with modifications to his house after he suffered a stroke, but our assistance is not limited to the greats of the game. We also assisted the wife and four daughters (aged 18months to nine years) of a struggling country footballer, killed by an out of control truck, with funeral expenses and food vouchers.

In 2006 the good work of the Foundation was recognised by the Australian Tax Office and the Men of League was granted status as an Income Tax Exempt Charity and a Deductible Gift Recipient Charity. With this announcement, the Men of League Foundation felt implored to extend the level of assistance offered.

The Foundation has since launched two new initiatives – **Men of League Scholarship Scheme**, for young players who make career and educational sacrifices but are cut from their club before making the NRL and a **Men of League Residential Care and Rehabilitation Facility** for former Rugby League players, coaches, referees, administrators, officials and executives who cant care for themselves and will benefit from rehabilitation.

If you have a current or previous involvement with the great game of Rugby League, the Men of League Foundation encourages you to become a General Member of the Supporters of the Men of League Foundation (application form below). If you haven't played, coached, refereed or administered Rugby League, but you would like to put your support behind this proud organisation, become an Associate Member (application form below). PLEASE TICK YOUR RUGBY LEAGUE INVOLVEMENT AND APPROPRIATE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL. Membership payment is one off.

'Supporters of Men of League Foundation Ltd' - Membership Application

PLAYER: REFEREE: COACH: ADMINISTRATOR:

ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

General Membership (\$10)

Associate Membership (\$25)

For your one-off payment you will receive:

Benefits:

- Personal ID Keyring
- Bi monthly magazine - general information, great stories on former players, upcoming events and reports to keep you in the loop
- Men of League Events Calendar
- Contact with ex football colleagues
- Country tour events
- Access to the Men of League website

NAME:DATE:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: EMAIL:

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR MAGAZINE VIA POST: or EMAIL: Please tick

MOBILE PHONE: HOME PHONE:

OCCUPATION:.....

BUSINESS PHONE: FACSIMILE:

CLUB/S:YEARS PLAYED: (eg. 1969-1978):

SHORT HISTORY / CV:

Please forward your membership application form together with cash or cheque to:

Men of League Foundation, PO Box 7049 Silverwater BC, Silverwater NSW 2128 OR Fax: 02 8765 2808 Phone: 02 8765 2232

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Come along, join and meet Jim Hall, Ron Costello and

others. Queanbeyan Kangaroo Rugby League Football Club

cnr Stuart Street & Richard Ave Queanbeyan

Friday 20th June 7pm Acacia Room

Tell your mate's come alone have a beer, catch up on the Footy Days.....



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