

2020

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT



CONTENTS

1. CONTENTS (1)
2. NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2)
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (3-6)
4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT (7-10)
5. NRL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (11)

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to eligible members of Wheelchair Rugby League Australia that the 9th Annual General Meeting of Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Incorporated will be held:

Where:

Join Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82505134820?pwd=d2d1U1lhaWZTZVFTY0c4UE5ma2lSZz09>

(Click on link)

When:

Thursday, May 27, 2021

7:00 pm

Agenda

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Welcome and Chair Report

2. Order of Business

2.1 To consider the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th of March 2020, and if thought fit, to accept the minutes.

2.2 To receive the report from the Board, the Financial Statements and independent Auditor's Report for year ending 31 October 2020

2.3 'Notice for inclusion'

The motion for the members of Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Incorporated to consider and vote on.

1. The changing of the corporate structure of Wheelchair Rugby League Australia from a incorporated association to a Company limited by guarantee.

2. The adoption of a new Constitution.

3. The name of the Company to be Wheelchair Rugby League Australia.

2.4. To consider, and if thought fit, approve the following resolution:

"That Paul Jiffkins be re-appointed as auditor of Wheelchair Rugby League Australia"

3. General Business

4. Question Time

5. Close of Meeting

2020 Wheelchair Rugby League Annual Report

2020 was indeed a challenging year for all Australians with the outbreak of COVID 19 across the world resulting in all States across Australia closing borders, introducing Community lockdowns, changing the way we work, updating personal cleanliness and enforcing Social Distancing rules across all activities.

Indoor Sports such as Wheelchair Rugby League was hit very hard with the cancellation/suspension of all our various Competitions and training sessions and Come n Try events During this period of 2020 the Board's priority has been the overall Health & Safety of all our Participants in our Community and the Player Well Being Even through 2020 was a Challenging Year we had some highlights – with the most notable achievement from last year was the NRL Volunteer of the Year Award for 2020 being presented to our very own Joseph Chidiac. Congratulations to Joseph on this wonderful achievement.

The other Major Achievement in 2020 was our Wheelaroos player Corey Cannane being nominated in the International Rugby League Annual Golden Boot Awards for recognition of his great performances in the Test Match Series v England Wheelchair Rugby League in 2019.

Another highlight in 2020 was the successful application of a NDIS Grant provided to Wheelchair RL – under this grant the WRLA received funds to employ a part time person for a fixed term contract.

I am pleased to announce that Mr Ben Cheeseman was recently appointed as Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Participation Coordinator in April 2021. Welcome aboard Ben and congratulations on your appointment

Special mention must go to the National Rugby League for their ongoing support of the Wheelchair Rugby League however due to an internal restructure of the NRL Business in late 2020 we have had to enter into a new relationship phase especially in and around our current Brand /Marketing and Digital Media programs

Also we single out both NSWRL and Queensland RL for their ongoing wonderful support to the during the Season for each of their respective programs – NSWRL under the guidance of Dave Trodden has been a fantastic supporter for all our activities especially our Annual Interstate Representative fixture

Our membership base continues to expand with increasing interest from Queensland with new programs launched in Brisbane and Townsville - the new Queensland Wheelchair Branch has been successfully established under the Inaugural Chair Mr David Nugent.

A tremendous amount of work and effort has been put into preparing the Wheelaroos team for the upcoming 2021 Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup with all key roles now appointed under the Guidance of Coach Brett Clark – however it should be noted with COVID 19 still very evident across the globe we still have some uncertainty surrounding the 2021 RLWC event. However we will continue to push on with negotiations with key stakeholders in both Australia and England - it also needs to be noted that our primary objective is that the health and wellbeing of our players is paramount. Yes, we want the Wheelaroos to participate in the 2021 RLWC event however every endeavour is currently being investigated to ensure all our players & officials are safe and healthy during this upcoming World Cup tournament.

Last year we also have spent time on our Structure and Governance. The purpose of this work is to ensure our ongoing viability and relevance in the Sporting landscape – under our current structure we have encountered a number of limitations in such areas as the following:

- applying for grants/sponsorship
- growing our sport
- establishing a National footprint
- protecting the brand
- Enabling the Board to function to capacity

Finally the Board needs to be acknowledged for showing confidence to expand our capability and capacity to represent and support the Wheelchair Rugby League game both in Australia and abroad. Special mention to Joanne Ryan & Brendan Lucas for their professional advice and wonderful support throughout a very challenging year.

In addition it would be remiss not to thank the tireless work of the AWRL Board members Simon Bedard /Pearl Forrester /Margot Zaska /Deb Bacon/Paul Moujali/Susie Mills and Joseph Chidiac is greatly appreciated.

The team's knowledge, drive, expertise & passion ensures we will continue to improve our standing within the broader community and deliver on the Strategic objectives and new Governance model

We look forward to building on this momentum as we commence planning for the 2021 Season

Martin Meredith
Chairman



WRLA Structure and Governance

Motion

1. That the corporate structure of Wheelchair Rugby League be changed from a incorporated association to a Company limited by guarantee
2. That the new Constitution be adopted
3. That the name of the Company be Wheelchair Rugby League Australia

Reasons

1. To facilitate raising of funds across Australia
2. To improve professionalism of organisation and sport
3. To improve governance
4. Align with best practice sports governance to assist funding



Proposed Objects of the New Company

A. Be the single controlling body and administrator of the Game of Wheelchair Rugby League throughout Australia

B. Foster and develop government, commercial and public recognition of the Company as the controlling body for the Sport across Australia

C. Foster, develop, extend and provide adequate funding for the Game from the junior to elite levels;

D. Be the single controlling body and organiser of competitions and/or teams at all levels including State of Origin, Australian and international representative games;

E. Liaise with the ARLC, ISF, State Rugby League Bodies and other Rugby League organisations in the fostering, development and control of the Game throughout Australia and the World;

F. Develop and Implement sponsorship, marketing and social media strategies and activities that promote the Sport and the Company

G. Promote and encourage either directly or indirectly the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare of people of all abilities in the community and, in particular, the Rugby League community

H. Adopt , issue and implement policies and regulations as may be developed in conjunction with affiliate rugby league bodies for the control and conduct of the Sport, the Company and its Members

I. Review and determine when required, all matters referred by Members or Affiliates pertaining to the conduct of the Sport or the Company and its Members across Australia

J. Ensure the maintenance and enhancement of the Company, the Members and the Sport, its standards, quality and reputation for the benefit of the Members and the Sport; and

K. At all times act on behalf of, and in the best interests of, the Members and the Sport across Australia.

Major Constitution Changes

	Current	Proposed
1.	Incorporated Association	Company Limited by Guarantee
2.	Individual Members	State and Regional Members with \$1 Guarantee
3.	NSW Operation	National Operation
4.	Charitable Status	No Change
5.	State Regional Bodies no Corporate Structure	May be Incorporated
6.	No State Accreditation	Annual Accreditation Process
7.	Individual Voting Rights	Voting Rights Held by State Bodies Based on Membership
8.	Maximum of 8 Directors; 4 Elected , 3 Appointed , 1 ARLC	5-9 directors; 4 Elected , 5 Appointed , 1 ARLC
9.	Term 2 Years. No Maximum	Term 3 years, Maximum 9 Years Elected , 6 Years Appointed
10.	State and Regulations	Updated Member and State Policies with Induction

Board of Director's Report

Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Inc.
For the year ended 31 October 2020

**Your members of the Board of Directors submit the financial report of
Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Inc. for the financial year ended 31 October 2020**

Members of the Board of Directors

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Martin Meredith - Chairman

Margot Zaska - Ex Officio

Joseph Chidiac

Pearl Forrester

Simon Bedard

Deborah Bacon

Paul Moujalli

Sussie Mills

Operating Result

The surplus /(deficit) from ordinary activities amounted to:

Year ended 31 October 2020: \$88,049

Year ended 31 October 2019: \$32,341

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities. The members of the association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board of Directors.

Signature: Martin Meredith

Director : Martin Meredith

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were the provision of Rugby League to incapacitated persons.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.



Income and Expenditure Statement

Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Inc.

For the year ended 31 October 2020

	2020	2019
Income		
Donations received	2,967	23,100
Fundraising income	2,240	12,430
Grants recieved	122,500	158,616
Interest Income	146	510
Membership fees	9,200	7,748
Sponsorship	-	25,000
NDIS Grant - Info', Linkages & Capacity Building (ILC)	41,329	-
Total Income	178,382	227,405
Gross Surplus	178,382	227,405
Expenditure		
Foreign Currency Gains and Losses	1,297	-
Auditor fees	400	400
Bank Fees	81	6
Competition costs	35,673	119,786
Consulting	2,200	18,100
Depreciation	24,792	22,927
General Expenses	480	-
Insurance	2,180	2,755
Meeting expenses	1,280	-
Printing & Stationery	250	245
Repairs & maintenance	4,675	1,059
Promotional expenses	-	10,081
Subscriptions	462	606
Trailer - Rego & Insurance	263	259
Website expenses	297	1,018
Fundraising expenses	106	17,822
Marketing	15,894	-
Total Expenditure	90,332	195,064
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit)	88,050	32,341

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Inc.

As at 31 October 2020

	NOTES	31 OCT 2020	31 OCT 2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
WRLA - CBA #635 Main Acc		48,014	13,516
WRLA - CBA #643 Savings		41,406	50,305
WRLA - Paypal		1,059	-
NSW - CBA #912		89,865	82,167
QLD - CBA #841		70,873	69,790
West Syd - BOQ #067		31,513	27,687
Petty cash		200	200
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents		282,930	243,664
Trade and Other Receivables		25,000	-
Total Current Assets		307,930	243,664
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	1	83,911	94,739
Other Non-Current Assets			
Nth QLD - CBA #373		19	-
SE QLD - CBA #453		4,883	-
Total Other Non-Current Assets		4,902	-
Total Non-Current Assets		88,814	94,739
Total Assets		396,744	338,402
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other creditors		6,000	6,000
Trade and Other Payables		-	29,709
Total Current Liabilities		6,000	35,709
Total Liabilities		6,000	35,709
Net Assets		390,744	302,693
Member's Funds			
Accumulated surplus		390,744	302,693
Total Member's Funds		390,744	302,693

Notes of the Financial Statements

Wheelchair Rugby League Australia Inc.

For the year ended 31 October 2020

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements. The board of directors has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Cash on Hand

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue. Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established. Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Financial Assets

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

	2020	2019
1. Plant & Equipment, Vehicles		
Plant & Equipment		
Plant and equipmenta cost	154,808	140,843
Accumulated depreciation of plant and equipment	(70,896)	(46,105)
Total Plant & Equipment	83,911	94,739
Total Plant & Equipment, Vehicles	83,911	94,739

Joseph Chidiac recognised as 2020 NRL Volunteer of the Year

WRLA was very proud when Joseph Chidiac was named Kayo NRL Volunteer of the Year, as part of the NRL Community Awards 2020

David Parsons, head of partnerships at Kayo, congratulated Joseph Chidiac for making a positive difference within the Rugby League community.

"Joseph couldn't be a more deserving winner of the NRL Volunteer of the Year Award and we congratulate him and all the other selfless volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes," Parsons said.

"By helping establish a version of the game he loves so that people of all abilities can take part, Joseph is an inspiration to everyone in the Rugby League community." The nomination for the award, made by the WRLA board, came as a surprise to Joseph, but he has embraced the opportunity that his win has created to promote Wheelchair Rugby League to the wider NRL audience, especially in the build-up to the 2021 World Cup.

Joseph acknowledges that a lot of the administration and organising of WRLA competitions comes from the efforts of himself and other busy board members. But as Joseph told NRL reporter Troy Whittaker, "I find that I really enjoy doing it because I know the end result is going to be great for everybody involved." [\[link\]](#)

Joseph and WRLA's journey began decades ago when he became involved in wheelchair sports. Asked to coach the Australian team when wheelchair rugby league tag was introduced in 2008, Joseph took up the challenge. "I felt like the game had no barriers. It didn't matter whether you were female, male, able or disabled," he told NRL. "It didn't matter. You could participate. And I think that's what drove me to really push it and get the sport going in Australia."

As a player, coach and then sports administrator, Joseph steered the development of WRLA and devoted much time and effort to promoting the sport and rolling it out to different regions in Australia.

The award is an apt reflection of how Joseph's personal affinity with Rugby League inspired his Wheelchair Rugby League career. He commented that WRL, "gave me an opportunity to be involved in rugby league on a deeper, closer level.

"And that's all I really wanted throughout my life – I wanted to be involved in the game I grew up with.

"Wheelchair rugby league gave me that opportunity . . . I couldn't be happier, I couldn't be prouder and it's a great honour."

