

BEARS NEWSLETTER

WILLAGEE BEARS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB INC.

2020 SEASON DELAYED - NOW BACK ON TRACK!

With the Covid-19 pandemic putting a hold on everything worldwide, our great game was looking like it too wasn't going to happen. Thankfully, non-contact training resumed at the start of Phase 2 near the end of May as we followed the Covid-19 safety guidelines and entered into Phase 3, contact training mid-June 2020. Phase 4 saw us all returning to play in early July 2020.

As we all eagerly await the completion of our club's refurbishment, granted by the City of Melville, our teams have all been training at Thomas Oval, Medina - thanks to City of Kwinana and NRL WA.

Monday and Wednesday nights saw steady numbers training throughout all ages from the Juniors and Seniors. This showed just how much love there is for the sport, having to travel the distance and train on off normal training days.

The 2020 season officially started on the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of July.

With our Premiership & Val Murphy Grades unfortunately pulling out for the season, we have our Women's Tackle and Women's League Tag players to look forward to see playing, as well as our Juniors of 13 teams.



Willagee Club Refurbishment
Credit: Facebook Willagee Bears Page



First training at Thomas Oval, Medina
Credit: Jason Miller

**TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:
Get to know the Volunteers! - pg 5**

PREMIER GRADE NEWS - 3RD JULY 2020 RELEASE

OFFICIAL STATEMENT



Dear Members and Supporters,

Willagee Rugby League Club has made the difficult decision to withdraw our Premier Grade from the **2020 WA Smarter Than Smoking Premiership Competition**.

We appreciate this decision will be disappointing to our members our players and staff who are not able to participate in front of our supporters.

However, regular consultation with staff, players, club officials is one that has been made based on what is best for our club. The ongoing uncertainty surrounding attendance, how to generate revenue, the uncertain responsibilities to comply with necessary protocols, guidelines, concerns for health and wellbeing, concerns for short term financial sustainability concluded our decision.

Willagee Rugby League Club will review the impact of this decision and will continue to work towards development and participation opportunities for our future WRLC Senior players.

Willagee Rugby League would like to take this opportunity to thank our major club sponsor SJS Wealth Solutions. Thank you, Steele, for your passion, commitment, investment and belief in our Premier Grade players.

In conclusion, I appreciate your understanding and hope you continue to support our Willagee Rugby League Club Val Murphy, Womens Senior Grade teams and our Junior League throughout the 2020 season.

Steve Bannister

President

Willagee Rugby League Club Inc.

JUNIORS

Over the last few seasons, we saw the Juniors numbers climb from an all time low to exploding considerably under the guidance of now former Junior President, Shae Smith and his gorgeous wife, former Junior Registrar, Jordie Barrett-Brown.

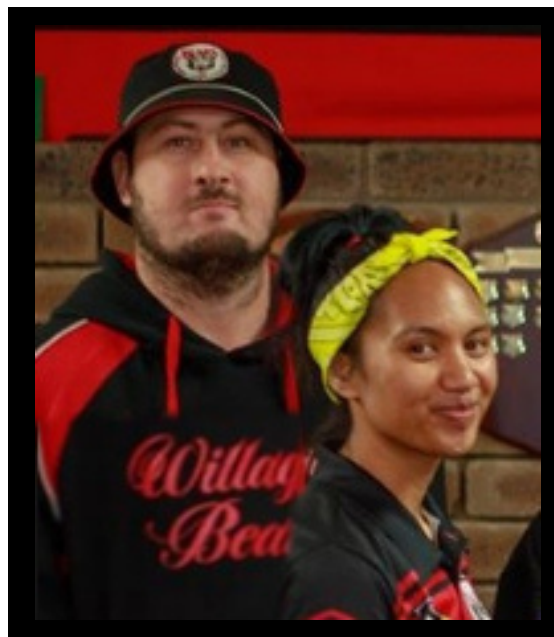
Those who have had the privilege to work alongside Shae & Jordie and develop friendships with, would agree that had it not been for them both, it would have been an easy task for many families to walk away.

'Both of you have such huge shoes to fill and although you have both stepped down from your roles, we are thankful that you are both remaining at the club as a Coach and a Manager.'

A big thank you to you both for your tireless efforts throughout the seasons. Thank you to your boys Tane and Xavier for sharing their parents with us and the rest of the rugby league community.'

2020 sees the introduction of an Interim Junior President, Jason Miller and Interim Junior Registrar, Anna Tapu. Their familiar faces can be seen throughout our club and also other clubs with roles as part of the Referee Association WA & Women Of League WA,

With returning players and volunteers and almost fielding teams in all of the age groups (from U6s to U17s - girls and boys teams) the Bears are looking strong this season.



Shae Smith & Jordie Barrett-Brown
Credit: Lisa Hill



12/07/2020 Game Day
Credit: Lisa Hill



**Boys & Girls
Can Play!**

**LEARN
PLAY
LOVE
LEAGUE**

**MEET OUR CAPTAIN
MANUEL KOIA**

Sessions every
Tuesday and
Thursday
6pm Webber Reserve

playrugbyleague.com
Club: Willagee Bears

SENIORS

Taking on the Coaching role for the Premiership Men's Grade for the second time (as well as coaching the U14s & U17s Girls teams), Lenoir Tairea has had to work through the logistics of non-contact training, contact training without equipment and temporarily relocating to another training ground. Premiership Captain (and U10s Coach) Manuel Koia, was no doubt keen to get back on the field and lead his team to victory!

The guys have been looking sharp in their training tops from their sponsor, SJS Enterprises. The team unfortunately pulled out of the 2020 Smarter Than Smoking Premiership Men's Competition just before it officially started.

The Women have also been training hard under the guidance of their Coach, John Leach. The start of 2020 saw the ladies, band together to fundraise for a new kit and low/affordable fees. Then Coronavirus hit, leaving the women to rethink their strategy. The women have eagerly returned to the field and shown everyone just how tough they are.

2020 also saw the season start with the return of a Val Murphy Trophy team. Coached by Jerry Faimuina, this team was the fastest recruited Bears Seniors team of the season. Unfortunately, much to the sadness of all of the players, coaching, managing and support staff, after only playing the first two games of the season in the fierce competition amongst the Reserve Grade, they too pulled out of the season.

NRL WA THIS IS OUR HOUSE

SMARTER than smoking healthway

BULLY FREE ZONE **NO SMOKING**

NO SWEARING **NO HARRASSMENT ZONE**

WELCOME

THIS IS MY FAMILY WE HAVE RULES IN OUR HOUSE, JUST LIKE YOU DO

REFEREES
PLAYERS
VOLUNTEERS
CLUB OFFICIALS
SPECTATORS

- 1. NO BULLYING**
DO NOT YELL ABUSE AT, SWEAR AT, OR BELITTLE OUR FAMILY
- 2. RESPECT AND ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILY MEMBERS**
- 3. RESPECT OUR PROPERTY**

IF YOU CANNOT ABIDE BY OUR HOUSE RULES, YOU ARE NOT WELCOME

RETURN TO LEAGUE GUIDELINES

What can I do to make sure I am helping the league community stop the spread?

- Do not attend training or games if you are unwell.
- Practise good hygiene at home.
- Shower at home with soap and water.
- Arrive at the venue ready to be screened and to isolate when required.
- Avoid unnecessary hand contact. Use hand sanitizer or soap.
- Bring all participants for temperature check if you are unwell.
- Wipe & clean your mobile devices.
- Wipe & clean your hands before & after your training.

And don't forget:
Wipe & clean footies before and after training and games.

Keep an eye out for symptoms:
Cough, Sore throat, Runny nose, Fever, Headache, Loss of taste or smell, Fatigue, Shortness of breath, Diarrhoea, Vomiting.

be safe, be smart.

OUR VOLUNTEERS



The AMAZINGLY Wonderful, Ailaoa Aiona.

Willagee Bears Club Administrator/Senior Registrar 'The Fixer' - Ailaoa Aiona.

Having joined the club in 2017, we can all agree that we are part of a 'winning team' when we have incredible people like Ailaoa.

Many people only see the kind, smiley face - without fully realising and understanding the hard work she puts in to our club (as well as her many other voluntary commitments). She is always doing things in the background for everyone.

Not one to blow her own trumpet, we are glad that we can put notices in to recognise her ongoing efforts.

Thank you Ailaoa!

The PHENOMENAL Pop Frank Bannister.

Willagee Bears Club Pop.

Frank Bannister has been everyone's Pop since the early 80s and is easily one of, if not, the most recognised person at our club to those young and old.

The ever popular, lovable and dependable person, Pop has always lent a helping hand to all grades throughout the club - rain, hale or shine. You will always see Pop at home games doing our Time Keeping. We appreciate you.

Thank you Pop!



2020 Club Committee

Club President - Steven Bannister, Vice-President - Danielle Parker, Junior President - Jason Miller, Club Administrator/Senior Registrar - Ailaoa Aiona, Club Secretary - Ursula Tauroa, Treasurer - VACANT, Junior Registrar/Media Manager - Anna Tapu, Bar Manager - Melissa Drage, Canteen Manager - Danielle Knaggs, Merchandise Manager - Jessica Metekingi, Events Co-ordinator - Jessica Fletcher, Sponsorship Manager - Cassandra Bannister, Member (Darts) - Daniel Larsen, Member - Patricia Phelan, Member - Leslie Stevens.

SPACE VACANT FOR NEW SPONSORS

Are you wanting to see your business displayed around our club or on our players?

Be one of the first Sponsors to see your name around our club for 2021.

Would you prefer to Sponsor certain age groups? Do you envision your brand travelling throughout WA during game days? Do you wish to see your business reach our many followers over our various platforms?

Please feel free to contact us at: secretary@willageebears.com.au

2020 Juniors Grade Sponsor



2020 Premiership Grade Men's Sponsor



BECOME A BEAR TODAY!

Sign up and become part of the Bear Family!

Become a Member and enjoy our newly refurbished club with us. Be it a player, a volunteer or just a club member - we welcome you and your family to become part of ours.

Please feel free to contact us at: secretary@willageebears.com.au