

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

O F F I C I A L S T A T E M E N T



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.

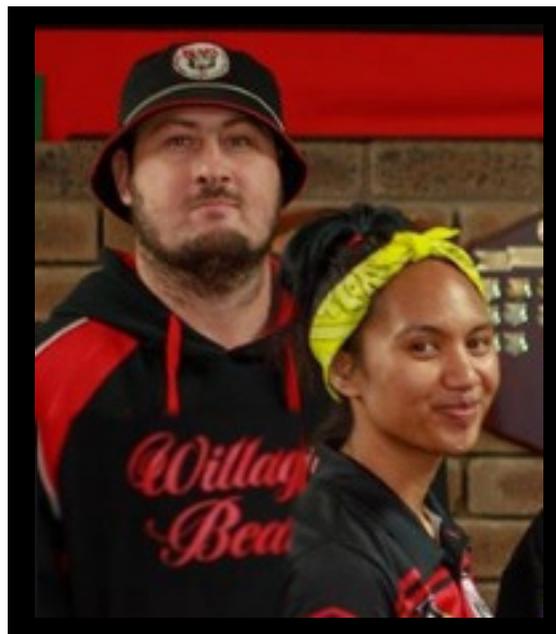
Those who have had the privilege to work alongside Shae & Jordie and develop friendships with, would agree that had it not been for them both, it would have been an easy task for many families to walk away.

'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!**

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