

# BlowFly Cricket

## Bi-Annual Report Seasons 2013-15



# Mission Statement

To promote BlowFly Cricket as the summer sport for children and young people between the ages of 5 and 18 years who have special needs by:

- a) Providing the opportunity for each participant to learn and develop the skills associated with the game of cricket in a constructive and positive setting.
- b) Establishing an environment for each family member to enjoy their involvement in the game, including coaching, umpiring, administration and support.
- c) Encouraging all participants to realise their own potential in, and enjoyment of, cricket.
- d) Enabling carers, parents and siblings the opportunity to share interests in the game and interacting with other participating families; and
- e) Fostering relationships with mainstream and adult cricket, in order for players with disabilities to be provided with clearly defined pathways to National and International representation in cricket, for players as the sport develops.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

*"We recognise our Shire's rich cultural and religious diversity and we acknowledge and pay respect to the beliefs of all members of our community, regardless of creed or faith."*

#### ABORIGINAL RECOGNITION

*"We acknowledge we are on the traditional lands of the Darug and Guringai Peoples. We pay our respects to elders past and present."*



# Management Committee



**Davina M MacKenzie**  
*Honorary President*



**Michael J Rolleston**  
*Honorary Vice-President*



**Mark W Rushton**  
*Honorary Treasurer*



**Leigh A Drummond**  
*Honorary Secretary/  
Public Officer*



**Andrew J Bayles**  
*Historical Officer*



**Brian D Binfield**  
*Publications Officer*



**Marcia Allman**  
*Website Officer*

## Roll of Honour

### **PRESIDENTS**

2012-13 Mrs NJ Cooke  
2013- Mrs DM MacKenzie

### **VICE-PRESIDENTS**

2012- Mr MJ Rolleston

### **SECRETARIES**

2012- Ms LA Drummond

### **TREASURERS**

2012- Mr MW Rushton

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

2012-13 Mr B Gussey  
2012- Mr A R Bayles  
2012- Mr B Binfield  
2013- Mrs MA Allman

### **CLUB CAPTAINS**

2012- Master R F MacKenzie

### **AMBASSADORS**

2012- Mr Craig McDermott OAM

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

#### **COACHES**

Ronnie MacKenzie  
Paul Parsons  
Matt Lidgard  
Jamie Tippet  
Brian Binfield  
Julie Davis  
Mark Rushton  
Craig Stubbs

# Wow what a wonderful season it has been for the "Blowies"



The season started with a refurbished James Park where the kids were able to enjoy a snag cooked on the new permanent BBQ's, covered picnic area complete with a Ping-pong table and magnificent play area with acoustic dishes . . . just the environment to get rid of some of the week's frustration,,'. . . having a good old fashioned yell into them'.

At the start of the season, Northern District Cricket Club invited delegates from Blowfly Cricket to their Cricket Luncheon, where we were warmly welcomed by their Committee and members alike.

December saw the "Jolly fat one with a red suit" grace us with his presence at the end of year Christmas party/ BBQ where the Blowies, their siblings and parents had a wonderful afternoon. The presents received were a great source of delight to all the kids. Thank you to Mark and Leigh (Santa's lovely helper) for organising, shopping and wrapping all the gifts.

Also, a very big thank you is extended to everyone who participated and worked at the extremely popular December fundraising "Bunning's BBQs".

Furthermore, we have held other successful fundraising BBQs at Officeworks Hornsby, Hornsby Mall (using the Hornsby Shire Council Community BBQ Trailer), and many, many BBQs at the Northern Suburbs Football Association's Summer Twilight 6-A-Side Soccer Competitions at St Ives Showground (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings). These fundraising activities would not be the success they are without the efforts of our hard working volunteers . . . thank you!

January 2014, saw us off to the SCG, to have a game on the hallowed turf of this magnificent ground, we were afforded seats in the shade this year and given the most wonderful welcome by the crowd.

We also came to the attention of Cricket Australia, there were photos, interviews and the very professional video clip promoting BlowFly Cricket (<http://www.cricket.com.au/news/blowfly-cricket-an-avenue-for-the-autistic/2015-01-08>) released on 7 January 2015. In fact, the ABC News24 channel aired our video on the hourly news cycle for the day . . . WOW!



Congratulations to the six Blowies who have reached their 5 year milestone over the past two seasons, being:

- 2013/14 Season: Ben Parsons, Keira Parsons and Ronnie MacKenzie.
- 2014/15 Season: Courtney Buczek, Jacob Buczek and Luke Lidgard.

A story published in the ABC Grandstand book of "Unsung Sporting Heroes" was a highlight for our Club Captain Ronnie as it gave a very creative account of Ronnie's introduction to BlowFly Cricket. The story even featured our very own Mark Rushton, and a big thank you goes to Helen Bersten for writing this story as well as congratulations for winning the competition and having the story published and yes, I do have a lovely panorama of the SCG March 1963 on the wall across from my highly prized picture of the 1948 Invincibles.

The kids had a very successful year learning new skills and making new friends. It was great to see them negotiate the social highway that is so difficult for all our kids, the support and friendships formed with parents and carers was equally as important and an absolute pleasure to be part of.

The other highlight was our Club Captain Ronnie, meeting Michael Clarke on behalf of BlowFly Cricket.

In closing I would like to thank Mark for all the time, effort and love he puts into the Blowies along with the wonderful Leigh. We can't thank them enough for keeping the kids engaged and giving them, along with their parents/carers, the opportunity to socialise, teaching them new skills and just being there for all of us.

It has been a rewarding two years with many more to come and I can't wait for the new BlowFly Cricket season to get underway on the first October Saturday afternoon later in the year.



**Davina MacKenzie**  
President



# A message from the Club Captain



Hello I'm Ronnie MacKenzie, and I'm the Club Captain for BlowFly Cricket at James Park Hornsby. Throughout the past two seasons I helped the smaller kids with their cricket techniques . . . we worked on how to bowl a cricket ball and how to hit the ball using a cricket bat, so they can defend or learn how to hit a four or a six.

As we were finishing our game I checked to make sure everyone had batted and bowled, I would call every one over to enjoy a good lunch in the new barbeque area on the west side of the park.

I was also lucky enough to be asked to meet with the Australian Test captain, Michael Clarke.

I was a bit nervous about meeting him, because I have never been that close to anyone famous before, I have seen famous people before but only from a distance. I received a cricket bat signed by him.

**Ronnie MacKenzie**  
*Club Captain*  
*Community (Level I) Coach*

# Secretary's Report

The BlowFly Cricket 2013/14 and 2014/15 seasons have been wonderfully successful with many highlights, not to overlook the individual improvement shown by all of our players as the seasons progressed. For me the following highlights need to be acknowledged:

- The once in a lifetime SCG on-ground entertainment experience in early January 2014, where our hearty band of players and parents were able to join in the Milo in2CRICKET on-field activities during the lunch break of the Sydney Test Match. . . once again, in front of a huge crowd of 30,000+ spectators.

- A continued close working relationship with Cricket NSW who has been extremely supportive and generous in providing Milo in2CRICKET equipment for our players.

Furthermore, the guest player appearance (Wayne Seabrook) was well received and popular amongst our members.

- Two new BlowFly Cricket Centres have recently been established at:
  1. Camp Breakaway, San Remo (Central Coast, NSW) – respite camps held its first session in early March 2015; and
  2. Mary Brooksbank School, Rosemeadow (Campbelltown, NSW) – Term 2 will see a 10 week program commencing in late April 2015 with weekly 1-2 hour sessions for 30-50 children.
- The support of local cricket clubs including: St Ives Wahroonga CC and West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook CC (A Grade team).
- Hornsby Shire Council are to be thanked for the use of James Park, a quality sports field suitable for both active and recreational user groups . . . the kids love the playground equipment.

- The ongoing generous support of Abbas Aly (Triforce Sports), in supplying BlowFly Cricket with various equipment/goods.
- The generous support of many individuals and organisations in the Sponsor a Player program – what fantastic gestures of kindness and good will.
- The ongoing support and interest of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket Association (HK & HDCA).
- The end of season players trophies have been kindly supplied by Brad and Donna Caldwell of All Seasons Trophies, Hornsby at cost price.
- Thank you to all the families and volunteers for their wonderful support at the various fundraising BBQs . . . as we greatly appreciate your help.
- It is so wonderful to see the families coming together, and supporting each other every Saturday afternoon.
- It is wonderful to see new people coming along to join in the fun and games we offer.
- Ronnie's doing a fantastic job as Club Captain, now completed 3 years in this role.
- It is wonderful to see the kids shine and improve on their skills and to be part of the wonderful BlowFly Cricket family.
- The once in a lifetime 'on-field' SCG experience – many thanks to Cricket NSW for allowing the Blowies entourage of 47 to be part of this incredible experience.
- The special free Coaching Clinic, kindly put on by Bruce Wood and Justin Epthorp from HKHDCCA (local Coaches Association) in the January school holidays. From all feedback, our players have had a wonderful time and greatly benefitted from these skills sessions.

## Secretary's Report *continued*

What is the longer term benefit to the sport and our community!

Six years on and it is difficult to imagine a grassroots cricket program that has more potential than BlowFly Cricket to provide long term benefits to children with special needs and/or intellectual disabilities and their respective families and support networks. The model that has been created for BlowFly Cricket is easily replicated and Cricket NSW have unveiled plans to expand the 'All Abilities' program to create 10 new centres state-wide in the coming 2015/16 season. Additionally, BlowFly Cricket will further expand and modify the program to accommodate children in other special needs schools and/or suitable respite facilities. We as an association firmly believe it is a tremendous opportunity to work closely with community groups to facilitate a safe and nurturing environment for children with special needs and/or intellectual disabilities.



**Leigh Drummond**  
*Secretary*



# Parent's Perspective



## Keira and Ben's story

This was our fifth year of "BlowFly Cricket" since its inception in 2009 and what a successful program it is. Ben (555) and Keira (butterfly girl) look forward to the game every week and this year has seen great improvement in their games.

Looking back over the 5 years we have watched kids like Ronnie, Xavier and Jack grow up to be young men. And it has been a great delight to watch the improvement and enjoyment of the game that the two Ryan's, Cameron and Zac have shown.

It is also great to see other kids coming out and enjoying the afternoon. We met young Ty for the first time this year. We enjoyed helping and encouraging him to have a go and socialising with the other players.

Again we enjoyed our excursion out onto the SCG. It was even better this year because we managed to get seats in the shade.

One of the real successes of the whole BlowFly concept is the social BBQ after the game each week. We have enjoyed the social aspect of this for us and the kids. We appreciate the advice that is shared between parents as many of our kids have had similar experiences.

We also cannot forget the Christmas Party that is held each year. This season Santa had pink pads on and the kids were so excited to try and get Santa out that they almost forgot about the presents.

Finally a big thank you to all the volunteers who give up their time to ensure we have an outlet for our kids to shine. Mark, Davina and Leigh thank you for your tireless efforts in getting everything organised and keeping this great concept functioning. We look forward to doing it all again next year.

**Paul, Susan, Ben, Keira and Pepper (Club Mascot)**

## Cameron's story

Cameron has loved ball sports since the time he could walk. It didn't matter what the game or sport, rugby, soccer, tennis, golf, cricket, squash, basketball – if there was a ball involved, he was there, having fun and enjoying himself.

When he was 4½ years old, Cameron was diagnosed with Fragile X syndrome which is the most common form of genetically acquired autism and cause of intellectual disability.

## Parent's Perspective *continued*



That didn't change anything for Cameron. He was still passionate about ball sports and was always emulating his sporting hero's in the backyard immediately after watching a test match or a game of NRL. As he got a little older, he would see other kids, dressed in their cricket uniforms, having fun as we drove past the local park. He was always asking me to pull over so he could go and join them in a game. All Cameron wanted was what all kids want – to participate and have fun.

This is what led me to search the internet to see what organized sport was available for kids with special needs. We found out that there was an organization called "BlowFly Cricket" which catered for kids with special needs. Needless to say Cameron was very excited when I told him he could finally play cricket like the kids he had envied so much.

On our first day at BlowFly cricket, Cameron was buzzing – he could not contain his excitement. Watching Cameron and the other kids take guard, go back 20 metres to their bowling mark, polish the plastic cricket ball on their trousers to extract a little more swing and generally copying what they see on TV was fantastic and hilarious to watch.

For the parents, such scenes are priceless, not to mention the friendships formed with other parents and discussing the highs and lows of parenting kids with special needs. It really is difficult to put into words the sensation you get watching the joy on these kid's faces when they hit a ball to the boundary, take a wicket or execute a run out; kids who can have trouble being accepted in the mainstream.

That was three years ago and he rarely allows us to miss a week. The icing on the cake was that the kids (and lucky parents) also got to go to the SCG and play BlowFly cricket during the lunch break, high fiving the crowd as they were leaving the field. The entire day was amazing!!

As a parent, I could not finish such an article without acknowledging the gratitude felt to those who created the Blowfly cricket concept. There is so much unappreciated work to keep BlowFly Cricket going. All we wanted for Cameron was an opportunity for him to participate and join in the sports he loves and we feel blessed in having BlowFly cricket which delivers on this and much more. Without the tireless volunteers and organisations like BlowFly cricket, maybe Cameron would still be watching the other kids play cricket through a car window.



Fragile X will never define who Cameron is or what he is capable of and, who knows; maybe someday someone from the BlowFly Cricket class of 2014/15 will go on and represent Australia. I look forward to that day.

### **Amir Marashian**

### **Jacob becomes a BlowFly**

It was a warm sunny day on Saturday 22 February 2014, standing in the middle of the field he looked at me and said "my turn mum"; I replied with "yes mate its Jacob's turn". He picked up his bat, walked onto the pitch. I said to him "stand here, wait for the ball to come to you, then hit it." He replied with "OK mum".

As the ball comes down the pitch towards us, all I kept thinking was 'please let him hit one'. I quickly jumped out of the way as I didn't want to be hit by the ball. He swung his bat and 'POP'; that was the sound of the bat connecting with the ball, we both stood there looking at each other stunned. Then we hear "run, Jacob, run". I took his lead and we ran to the other end of the pitch. Everyone cheered. I looked over and saw my husband Jason and daughter Courtney clapping and cheering too. It was at that moment I realised that our boy just played his first ever game of BlowFly Cricket.

Jacob is 11 years old and he has autism. He was diagnosed at 3 years old. Jacob attends a special needs school in Rosemeadow and is in year 6. Jacob is an active kid but not 'sporty'. To see Jacob joining in and playing cricket with the other children is a big step for him.

Blowfly cricket was set up about 5 years ago by a very remarkable, non-judgmental friend, Mark Rushton. It was through Mark, that children with special needs and their families have the opportunity to come together and enjoy a friendly game of cricket, without worrying about what other people may think about how our special needs children act, say or do.

It has taken Jacob 5 years and many visits to the park watching these very special Blowfly Cricket matches. Although Jacob didn't play the whole match, it didn't matter. To have Jacob finally have a go at cricket was an exciting day.

After the match everyone came together to enjoy a sausage sizzle and a cupcake. Jacob was happy to sit with the other kids and enjoy their company. Jason, Courtney and I were so proud of Jacob that day. To see him run, laugh and join in on the fun was priceless. That was the day Jacob became a 'Blowie'.

### **Karen Buczek**



## Our Ambassador – Craig McDermott OAM



Craig McDermott OAM had initially been invited in October 2012 to become the Ambassador for BlowFly cricket and to help lift the profile nationally. BlowFly cricket promotes cricket as a summer sport for children and young people between the ages of 4 and 20 who have special needs and/or intellectual disabilities.

Craig has stated “that he is honoured and delighted to be able to help as the Ambassador for the BlowFly cricket program which obviously gives these children with disabilities and autism much pleasure and excitement in learning some of the basic skills in cricket and in life.”

Craig has been kept up to date with the progress and development of BlowFly Cricket and is especially thrilled to hear of the players’ skills improvement and also that two of the older players have now attained their Community Coaching qualification (formerly Level 1). This augurs well for the future of BlowFly Cricket with clearly defined pathways now established. Well done to all concerned with this fantastic initiative.

Craig is looking forward to catching up with the BlowFly Cricketers at future sessions or even the Test Match on the Sydney Cricket Ground in January 2016 when the Blowies will once again be able to display their skills on the hallowed turf of the famous ground.

For further information please contact Craig McDermott on 0406 770 306.



**Craig McDermott** OAM  
*International Cricket Academy  
CMICA Pty Ltd*



In seasons 2013/14 and 2014/15 Cricket Australia were lucky enough to form a relationship with BlowFly Cricket. Cricket Australia is always looking to expand the game and make cricket accessible to all Australians, and with BlowFly Cricket, we found a program that was doing just this.

BlowFly Cricket offers cricket in a safe, fun and inclusive environment to those that may not be able to participate in traditional cricket formats.

Mark Rushton, along with the BlowFly Cricket Management Committee Members, other volunteers, parents, grandparents and siblings provided a great experience on a weekly basis for the dedicated BlowFly in2CRICKET participants which Cricket Australia have taken note of and used as a case study which has been shared with many of our stakeholders around Australia.

The highlight of our involvement last year was the video production composed by Catherine Ellis, Cricket Australia's Digital Content Producer. The video package highlighted BlowFly in2CRICKET participants joining in the On Ground Entertainment at the Sydney Test Match in January 2014. This opportunity gave volunteers, parents and children a once in a lifetime, unforgettable experience on the SCG.

The video production was played on ABC News Breakfast throughout the day on the 7 January 2015 on ABC News 24: <http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-07/blowfly-cricket-giving-kids-with-autism-down/6004016?section=sport> gaining significant coverage for BlowFly Cricket.

Cricket Australia's vision is to make cricket Australia's favourite sport and to do that, we need to make cricket a sport for all Australians including those with disabilities. Without the support of grassroots programs like BlowFly Cricket and their dedicated group of volunteers, this would not be possible.

I would like to thank everyone involved in BlowFly Cricket, including all volunteers and in particular Mark Rushton who has been the driving force behind this very successful program. I look forward to working with Mark to grow the program over the coming seasons.

Sincerely,



**Aaron Dragwidge**  
*Multicultural and All Abilities Officer*

# Working in Partnership – Cricket NSW



CRICKET NSW



Cricket NSW's strategy is to ensure that Cricket is a sport for all. BlowFly Cricket Club is a best practice example of this in action and we are delighted to support and promote the activities of the Club. The many hours of work from Mark Rushton, the Committee, Coaches and Volunteers is fully appreciated by all at Cricket NSW in providing a pathway for young people with a disability. This was evidenced in the promotion of BlowFly Cricket Club across Australian Cricket and in the media.

Cricket NSW were pleased to support the Club this year by providing equipment and player appearances and will be continuing their support in the coming years.

As validation of the success of the BlowFly Cricket program, in 2015 Cricket NSW will be utilising the experience and expertise of Mark and the Committee Members to create a *"How to Guide"* for Cricket Clubs to set up and deliver All Ability In2CRICKET centres in locations across NSW.

This will leave a lasting legacy across NSW and provide opportunities for more Clubs to learn from the success of BlowFly Cricket.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved at Blowfly, from Committee Members to Coaches to Volunteers. Your work is truly appreciated.



**Julie Stafford**

*Community Engagement Leader,  
Game Development Department –  
Cricket NSW*



# Camp Breakaway

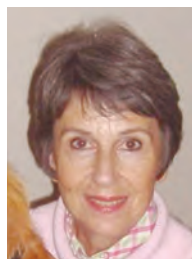


As I am fast learning it is very difficult to say “no” to Mark. I agreed to go with Mark and Brian as a volunteer to Camp Breakaway (San Remo, Central Coast, New South Wales) on Sunday 1 March 2015.

Again, wow, what a fantastic experience. We were met by Marilyn Bailey – Camp Co-ordinator and introduced to the children. The majority of these children, in my opinion, were severely disabled but their smiles and eyes and enthusiasm said everything. Not sure whether it was the running between markers, catching balls, hitting balls off markers or their genuine pleasure of now owning their own bat.

I was very impressed with our BlowFly Cricket Club Captain, Ronnie MacKenzie. There he was showing these children how to hold the bat and how to best hit a ball. He was very patient with them. I do consider myself very lucky to have been invited.

The other volunteers who cheerfully gave up their morning on a very hot Sunday were: Marcia Allman, Brian Binfield, Davina MacKenzie, Ronnie MacKenzie, Mark Rushton, Declan Vergano and Llandan Vergano.



**Julie Davis**  
*Volunteer*



# CRICKET

## A SPORT FOR ALL

**FREE COME & TRY DAY**  
FOR KIDS WITH A DISABILITY



**ACTIVITY:**

**WHEN:**

**FOR:**

**TIME:**

**DURATION:**

**WHERE:**

**CONTACT:**



# A day at James Park with the Blowies





# BlowFly Cricket supported by HKHDCCA



The Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA) supports the endeavours of BlowFly Cricket and commends the work of the volunteers and officials who facilitate these programs.

The BlowFly Cricket organisation was founded in 2009 by HK&HDCA Life Member and former Vice-President of HKHDCCA, Mark Rushton, who had a vision that all children with special needs deserve the opportunity to enjoy cricket and improve their eye/hand co-ordination and confidence by learning new skills and interacting with other children and families in a supportive, sporting environment. BlowFly Cricket is a summer sport for children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years who have special needs. The children play a hybrid form of cricket in which all players are on the field actively involved in fielding, batting or bowling. The players constantly change fielding positions and usually get three opportunities to bat in an hour, with coaches and adult chaperones assisting on the field as required.

The program provides an opportunity for each participant to learn and develop the skills associated with the game of cricket in a constructive and positive setting. It establishes an environment for each family member to enjoy their involvement in the game, including coaching, umpiring, administration and support.

All participants are actively encouraged to realise their own potential in, and enjoyment of, cricket. Carers, parents, siblings and coaches have the opportunity to share interests in the game and interact with other participating families.

The BlowFly Cricket sessions take place at James Park, Hornsby on Saturday afternoons during the school terms. The program has come a long way since it started six years ago, as highlighted in a magnificent video on the Cricket Australia website (<http://bit.ly/BlowFly-Cricket-2014-15>), which shows the inspiring story about bringing the joy of sport to children with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, visual and hearing impairment. The short video outlines the great work done by Mark Rushton, his committee and friends in establishing and developing BlowFly Cricket, culminating in the children playing cricket at the SCG in front of a crowd of 30,000 people at an Ashes Test in January 2014.

HKHDCCA puts on an annual free clinic for the BlowFly cricketers at Mark Taylor Oval, Waitara and this season's clinic was held on 21 January 2015, which was attended by five young players and other family members, plus two HKHDCCA Level 2 coaches, Bruce Wood and Justin Epthorp.



HKHDCCA held its annual Cricket NSW Community (Level 1) accredited coaching course at the Sportsbliss Active Indoor Centre, 17 Sefton Road, Thornleigh, on Sunday, 20 July 2014. Ronnie Mackenzie (BlowFly Cricket Club Captain) successfully completed the Level 1 course, which was a terrific effort.

HKHDCCA is delighted to learn that BlowFly Cricket has recently opened two new centres, Camp Breakaway at San Remo on the NSW Central Coast (from March 2015), and the Mary Brooksbank School at Rosemeadow (near Campbelltown). BlowFly Cricket committed to a 10 week program of weekly 1 – 2 hour sessions on Thursdays in the Mary Brooksbank School grounds, which commenced in April 2015.

It is fantastic to see the growth of the Blowfly Cricket model, which has the potential to positively change the lives of so many children with special needs.



**Bruce Wood**  
*HKHDCCA President April 2015*

# The Local Cricket Community

Cricket, in some parts of the world, has suffered from an image problem. It has traditionally been stereotyped as a game that is targeted towards the 'elite'. Whilst we have moved on from that archaic stereotype, I've always believed that more can be done to truly embrace the entire spectrum of the community.

Sport is a microcosm for the community and the marginalisation of children with special needs in society has been mirrored in cricket and other sports. BlowFly cricket is a significant step to ensuring cricket is available to all in a truly inclusive environment.

I commend Mark Rushton for having a vision of inclusiveness and embracing the differences in our community, to drive BlowFly Cricket in to what it is today and to continue to drive to what it could become tomorrow. Craig McDermott OAM coming on as ambassador has been deserved, formal validation of Mark's work, the work of all of the volunteers and the BlowFly Cricket program as a whole.

It was a little over three years ago, the St Ives Cricket Club committee made the decision to take our club in a new direction. Player numbers had been stagnant for over a decade, our relationship with St Ives Junior Cricket Club was fractured and financially the club needed a rethink. Rather than consider how to fundraise or recruit new senior players we required a sea-change. We needed to decide what our values were and what kind of club we wanted to be.

The values that I wanted to espouse for our club were also those of inclusiveness, embracing our differences, providing an enjoyable environment and fostering a love for cricket. I believe that if we promoted these values success would follow.

We have since formed the Wahroonga Junior Cricket Club as we could not claim to be an inclusive environment without providing an opportunity for the young members of our community. We took on 39 players in our first season and only three seasons later we cater for over 140 players in in2CRICKET through to Under 11s. Success has followed in our senior ranks with team numbers growing from six to eight and our general performance on the field improving markedly.

I like to highlight the success that has followed through the realignment of our values because I believe that BlowFly Cricket espouses the very best of these values. In time, it is my hope that St Ives Wahroonga CC will be able to con-solidate its own growth and focus on providing substantial assistance to Blowfly Cricket. Together we can ensure that it grows geographically and is financially and administratively sustainable.



**Ben Gussey**

*Committee Member 2011-13*



# A word or two from our Committee



Looking at the time I have spent with the players and families of BlowFly Cricket I have gained an insight into what can be achieved by taking time, giving care and showing the players how much sport can enhance and motivate them to develop skills which do not come naturally.

Sport is defined in Wikipedia as:

**Sport (or sports)** is all forms of usually competitive physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim to use, maintain or improve physical ability and skills while providing entertainment to participants, and in some cases, spectators.

What a wonderful definition this is and how relevant to Blowfly Cricket!

The children who attend our Saturday afternoon games certainly are growing and improving. Many started at BlowFly unable to catch, hit a ball or interact with other children in a team environment, and now with the assistance of their parents and Mark's watchful eye and guidance, are now able to throw or hit the ball, whether it be a short or long distance, and have a wonderful smile to show just how much they are enjoying the interaction with their peers.

Parents have played such an important part in the children's growth at BlowFly. Every weekend parents bring their child along, watching and motivating them to play.

The parents armed with the knowledge that their child leaves the field excited and happy they have played 'Sport'. Of course the wonderful BBQ at the end of the day helps everyone to mix socially, a play on the swings is always fun and so ends another great day at Blowfly for another week!

Ronnie, the Club Captain, this year achieved a personal best, and also a first for BlowFly Cricket, achieving his Cricket Australia Level 1 Coaching qualification. This I am sure will help players and parents to know that anything is achievable. Well done Ronnie!!!

Well done Mark, parents and helpers, we can all look forward to developing skills, and having fun along the way in the 2015/16 season.



**Marcia Allman**  
Management Committee Member  
(Website)

# 'All Kids Can Play' Day



On Sunday 7 December 2014 I participated in a rewarding experience, attending the 'All Kids Can Play' Day at Livvi's Place, Timbrell Park, Five Dock. This special event enlightened me more to the need for special children to be able to participate and experience the exhilaration of playing sport.

Many codes in the sporting world – soccer, netball, Little Kickers, cricket – attended the day bringing with them the sporting equipment associated with their sport, for children to 'have a go' and for the parents to talk to the various clubs to gain knowledge into how they can integrate their child to play in mainstream sport.

Sometimes this is not always an option, however many of the codes offered the players the opportunity to train with children of similar physical abilities. Demonstrations were held and it was absolutely wonderful to see children playing soccer with their walking frames, playing 'Sticky Wicket' Cricket and throwing balls into a hoop.

The kids' smiles gave way to laughter as they played with their mates. Jay Laga'aia from Play School sang and the parents and children of all abilities joined in. The music could be heard all over the beautiful surrounds of Timbrell Park.

The "All Kids Can Play" website gives a wonderful insight into the "Touched by Olivia" Foundation who supported and organised the day. Here is the link for more information: <http://allkidscanplay.com.au/>

**Marcia Allman**  
*Management Committee Member*

# Blowies v Santa



Having issued the challenge last year “Santa would return to the crease, bigger, beefier and better”, my boast was about to be tested on Saturday afternoon XX November at 2.30pm.

After hours of practice at the nets, in the off-season, Santa was mentally prepared, technically proficient and confident to handle any bowling attack that the ‘Blowies’ could throw at him.

Cometh the moment, cometh the Santa, emerging from the dressing shed resplendant in pink keeper pads, (*kindly donated by the Glen McGrath Foundation*) striding out with my trusty Elf in support. Nearing the batting strip I could see my stint at the crease wasn’t going to be a walk in the park.

Club Captain Ronnie, gave the younger kids the opportunity to test out the bowling skills they acquired over summer. Bowling on a shortened pitch Santa was aware of a **BIG** improvement in their bowling technique. There was the guile of the spinners followed by a medium paced bowling attack, to soften up Santa and get him on the back foot. However he was a much improved batsman, able to block, cut, hook and drive most deliveries.

At this stage the weather was my only hope of surviving until tea, looking at the sky in the hope of rain, it wasn’t to be. Then, out came the Blowies big guns, Ronnie and XOXOXO XOOXO bowling off a substantial run-up started sending down rockets. Fortunately I was able to survive and we all retired for a well earned BBQ followed by our customary Christmas present hand-out. What a great way to end an afternoon of BlowFly Cricket.

With the Blowies occupied eating and playing with their new gifts Santa retired to the dressing shed to prepare for Christmas Eve and his return to James Park next year.

**Brian Binfield** (*aka Santa*)



# BlowFly Cricket – 6 years on



Six years ago Mark Rushton asked me to get involved with a group he was setting up, to be called BlowFly Cricket. He had come upon the idea of creating a form of cricket for those boys and girls who would struggle to “fit” into the normal parameters of the game of cricket.

After the first day of this modified game, Mark and I went for a coffee to discuss matters. I made various comments (none of them derogatory.....but too “un PC” to make here LOL), and Mark’s response was along the lines of “...all those smiling faces...”. And that is the beauty of this “BlowFly Cricket”. It’s all about giving the boys and girls, no matter what their ages are, and no matter what their “disability”, an outlet for some enjoyment on the hallowed turf of a cricket field.

After six years, the same smiling faces keep coming back. And new faces appear every year. I reckon Mark is onto something with this cricket outlet.

A few years ago I suggested that suspended players in the HK&HDCA should spend some time at “Blowies”, to see, as my late mother would say “there but for the grace of God go I”. Unfortunately, that didn’t eventuate. But that proposal will again be put to the HK&HDCA.

Competition is one thing; enjoyment is a totally different issue. To the parents, your sons and daughters who play here probably have more fun than many other cricketers.

Unfortunately, I don’t have the time available these days to put in regular appearances on a Saturday afternoon, but I am there in spirit.

As a man without children, I can’t imagine your respective family lives BUT I do see the enjoyment you get out of your children playing cricket on a Saturday afternoon.

See you all next year.

**Andy (Uncle Andrew) Bayles**  
*Management Committee Member*

# Community Cricket Coaching Course (formerly level 1)



Course Participants: Marcia Allman, Andy Bayles, Gabrielle Callanan, Ned Callanan-Williams, Nick Callanan-Williams, Jenny Crockett, Julie Davis, Amir Marashian, Paul Parsons, Steve Perry, Michael Thomsett and Jamie Tippett.

9.00am, Sunday the 19th April 2015, saw threatening skies herald the commencement of the inaugural BlowFly Cricket Community (formerly Level 1) Coaching Course with 12 very keen and hardy course participants in attendance. We were also fortunate to have the BlowFly Cricket Club Captain, Ronnie MacKenzie (Level 1 Coach), Management Committee Members Brian Binfield (Level 1 Coach) and Mark Rushton (Level 2 Coach) all volunteer their time to help out throughout the day.

All course attendees participated willingly and gained a lot of knowledge and skills on the day, which will hold them in good stead for the coming years. And what a wonderful initiative for BlowFly Cricket as this augurs well for the progressive development of this unique form of our national summer sport.

A very special mention must be made of Nick Callanan-Williams, being the second BlowFly cricketer to attain his Level 1 Coaching qualification.

Congratulations Nick... you need to be proud of your achievement with this qualification and we are all so very, very proud of you and pleased for your success.

I understand Nick is following in the footsteps of Ronnie MacKenzie who attained his Level 1 coaching qualification mid-2014. Well done Ronnie!!!

Many thanks to the BlowFly Cricket Management Committee who kindly put on a fantastic BBQ lunch for all in attendance.



**Craig Stubbs**  
Cricket Australia High Performance  
(Level Three) Coach

# McGrath Foundation



Together we can make a difference

54 Chandos Street  
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Fax: +61 2 8968 0140  
www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au  
ABN: 231 5566624

05 May 2014

Supporter ID:  
95297

Mr Mark Rushton  
Blowfly Cricket Association Inc.  
41 Oxley Drive  
Mount Colah NSW 2079

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the McGrath Foundation, I would like to say thank you for hosting your Pink Stumps Day in 2014. Donations raised by your Pink Stumps Day event will allow us to continue Jane's legacy by helping to fund McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities right across Australia. Your generosity will help ensure that every Australian woman diagnosed with breast cancer, and her family, have access to the support of a Breast Care Nurse, regardless of where they are as well as encouraging all young Australian women to be breast aware.

We have been incredibly touched by the phenomenal efforts of all clubs that participated in Pink Stumps Day this year, and are thrilled to have received such a positive response to the initiative. We were so proud to see all clubs and their communities get into the pink spirit and demonstrate their support for the McGrath Foundation.

We encourage you, if you have not already done so, to send through any media coverage or photography from your Pink Stumps Day via email ([Cassandra@mcgrathfoundation.com.au](mailto:Cassandra@mcgrathfoundation.com.au)), so we can post them up on our Facebook page, ([www.facebook.com/mcgrathfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/mcgrathfoundation)) and share your success with our online community.

Once again, we'd like to express our gratitude to everyone involved in your clubs' Pink Stumps Day as we know we couldn't do what we do without the amazing support of the Australian community.

We can't wait to do Pink Stumps Day again next year, so stay tuned to our website [www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au](http://www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au) for more information.

As we say at the McGrath Foundation, together, we can make a difference!

Yours in pink,

Cassandra Rhodes  
Community Friends Manager



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#### McGrath Foundation Tax Receipt

ABN: 231 5566624

Received from:	Blowfly Cricket Association Inc. 41 Oxley Drive Mount Colah NSW 2079	Receipt No:	129730
		Date issued:	09/04/2014
		Supporter No:	95297
For:	Donation to McGrath Foundation Applied to: PSD03468	Amount:	\$ 465.00



# Volunteers Register

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."*

**Sherry Anderson**

Marcia Allman	Joe Fearon	Ronnie MacKenzie
Andre Bali	Michelle Fry	Amir Marashian
Sue Bali	Rob Fry	Peter O'Sullivan
Andrew Bayles	Jack Foster	Benjamin Parsons
Ally Binfield	Rob Foster	Keira Parsons
Brian Binfield	James Frawley	Paul Parsons
Pippa Binfield	Jeni Goddard	Susan Parsons
Joe Bracken	Stan Grace	Bill Peterkin
Jan Brock	Timena Grace	Mrs Perry
Jock Brock	Pat Guild	Steve Perry
Courtney Buczek	Ben Gussey	Andrew Reeves
Jason Buczek	Chelsey Hyde	Hamish Reeves
Karen Buczek	Errol Hyde	Mike Rolleston
Mike Burgin	Alf James OAM	Mark Rushton
Gabrielle Callanan	Adam Kellerman	Russell Schreiber
Ned Callanan-Williams	Tim Kent	Maninder Singh
Nick Callanan-Williams	Bruce Kimberley	Mr Singh
Daniel Comparini	Erika Lidgard	Craig Stubbs
Mick Connell	Matt Lidgard	Lauren Taylor
Nicki Cooke	Ryan Lidgard	Mike Thomsett
Steve Cooke	Sarah Lind	Jamie Tippet
Jenny Crockart	Ty Lind	Declan Vergano
Margaret Cropper	Amy Lomax	Llandan Vergano
Louise Cuming	Callan MacKenzie	Ian Wall
Julie Davis	Davina MacKenzie	Bruce Wood
Leigh Drummond	Nyeve MacKenzie	John Yanniotis
Amanda Fearon	Ronald MacKenzie	Kitsa Yanniotis

# Fundraising



BlowFly Cricket maintained a firm commitment to continue a number of fundraising activities throughout the past two seasons. Fundraising allows our organisation to provide a quality community service whilst keeping player fees at a very affordable low cost to our Members.

Our major fundraising initiatives included:

#### **Fundraising Barbeques:**

- NSFA Inc (formerly KDSA) Summer Twilight 6-A-Side Soccer kindly allowed BlowFly Cricket to host the fundraising BBQs held at St Ives Showground on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings for the 13 weeks of competition. Andy Bayles needs to be thanked for his tireless efforts in purchasing supplies and manning the BBQ throughout these competitions.
- Bunnings Thornleigh needs to be thanked for allowing our organisation to run annual fundraising BBQs at their store in early December, 2013 and 2014. Many volunteers showed up to help out on these very busy days and are to be thanked for their collective efforts and commitment.

- Officeworks Hornsby also needs to be thanked for allowing our organisation to host fundraising BBQs each year on the Australia Day weekend.
- Hornsby Shire Council, allowed BlowFly Cricket to hire the new 'Community BBQ Trailer' and to be set up in Hornsby Mall on a Saturday and Sunday. These BBQs were also very popular and manned with a tremendous number of volunteers.

BlowFly Cricket 'Sponsor a Player' program continues to raise funds with several generous supporters, who are to be thanked for their generosity and support.

Other fundraising activities included: the collection and cashing in of aluminium cans; sale of packaged gardening coffee grounds; and the sale of free range eggs.

#### **Mark W Rushton**

*Management Committee Member*

# A Little Spark in Nanna



I was walking to lawn bowls yesterday and met my old landlord. She said, "Julie, something good must have happened, you have a little spark in your eyes. I said, "How perceptive of you". I told her the following.

I saw the end of a program on the ABC with autistic children playing cricket. As I have a very close relative with autism (who I love with all my heart) I was fascinated watching the children. I went on the internet and looked up cricket and autism and there was "BlowFly Cricket". I emailed the contact and received a welcoming reply to come and watch the following Saturday.

I was blown away watching children of all ages participating at all levels, their faces of delight and watching them trying so hard to follow instructions, waiting for their turn to bat and bowl. The way they all encouraged each other, I couldn't help but to join in.

One little girl asked if I had grandchildren and I said yes but they live in another country. She said, "that is so sad". I said "but Mark said you could all be my cricket grandchildren". She looked up at me with a huge smile and wide eyes and said "really".

Last Saturday a new father was there with his 4 year old son and was handed a cricket T-shirt with his son's name on the back. I thought the father was going to cry, you could feel his relief and happiness that there was a sport with a path for his young son to be included.

I attended, as a volunteer, with Mark (the children's idol) at Camp Breakaway (San Remo – Central Coast, NSW) on Sunday morning. These children with autism were each given a 'Milo/Spartan' cricket bat, bag and cricket T-shirt, their enthusiasm for these items was lovely to see. A number of them started off with a very shy approach but gave each basic exercise a try, you could then see their excitement when they hit or caught a ball.

I love being a volunteer – there was something missing in my life – now I feel complete.

Thank you

**Julie Davis**  
*Volunteer*



# Friends of BlowFly Register

*Raising a child with a disability, chronic health condition or learning difficulties can be hard on a family. Without someone to lean on, it can take a heavy physical, emotional and financial toll.*

Source: Mission Australia

With this quotation in mind, the BlowFly Cricket community sincerely thank our many friends, sponsors and supporters. Without your continued interest, support, enthusiasm and encouragement BlowFly Cricket would not be able to survive in today's modern world, let alone prosper.

All Seasons Trophies

Hornsby Shire Council

Marcia Allman

Davina MacKenzie

Andy Bayles

Timothy Mark Kent

Brian Binfield

Laing+Simmons Real Estate, Hornsby

Karen Buczek

Legends Under Glass

Bunnings, Thornleigh

NSFA Summer Twilight 6-A-Side Competitions

Cricket Australia

Officeworks, Hornsby

Cricket NSW

Bill Peterkin

Louise Cuming

Andrew and Hamish Reeves

Julie Davis

Cameron Rushton

Leigh Drummond

Mark Rushton

Four Seasons Plant Bug Nursery, Mount Colah

St Ives Wahroonga Cricket Club

Fullpoint Graphics

Craig Stubbs

Timena and Stan Grace

Tender Gourmet Butchery Hornsby

The Gussey Family

Triforce Sports

HKHDCCA

Ian and Sandy Wall

HK&HDCA

WPHC CC 'A Grade' Team

# Business Partnerships

Blowfly Cricket is extremely grateful for the support and good will of our business partners.





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