



BlowFly Cricket

Annual Report 2017/18

Mission Statement

To promote BlowFly Cricket as the summer sport for children and young people between the ages of 5 and 25 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."

COVER:

The cover graphically reflects the success of BlowFly Cricket through its winning photographic entrant in the Cancer Council NSW "Healthy Sports Photo Challenge".

Photographer: Kate Guild

Management Committee



Davina MacKenzie
Honorary President



Bill Peterkin
Honorary Vice-President



Mark Rushton
*Honorary Treasurer/
Public Officer*



Kate Guild
Honorary Secretary



Craig Stubbs
Coaching Consultant



Andrew Bayles
Historical Officer



Brian Binfield
Publications Officer



Marcia Allman
Website Officer



Ben Gussey
Grants Officer

Roll of Honour

PRESIDENTS

2012-13 Mrs NJ Cooke
2013- Mrs DM MacKenzie

VICE-PRESIDENTS

2012-14 Mr MJ Rolleston
2014-15 Mr P Parsons
Mrs S Parsons
2015- Mr BW Peterkin

SECRETARIES

2012-15 Ms LA Drummond
2015-16 Miss LA Cuming
2017- Mrs KE Guild

TREASURERS

2012- Mr MW Rushton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2012- Mr BR Gussey
2012- Mr AR Bayles
2012- Mr BD Binfield
2013- Mrs MA Allman
CLUB CAPTAINS
2012- Mstr R F MacKenzie
2015- Mstr N Callanan-
Williams
2015- Miss M Jones

AMBASSADORS

2012 Mr C McDermott OAM
2015 Mrs D Annetts OAM
2016 Mr M Connell
2016 Mr E Hyde
2018 Mr A James OAM

LIFE MEMBERS

COACHES

Amanda Bardon
Emily Bardon*
Andy Bayles
Brian Binfield
Gabrielle Callanan
Ned Callanan
Nick Callanan-Williams*
Tom Casey
Jen Crockett
Julie Davis
Patricia Guild
Maddie Jones*
Sarah Lind
Ronnie MacKenzie*

Amir Marashian

Marnie Nissen

Steve Perry

Mark Rushton

Maddie Shortte

Kirsty Smith

Craig Stubbs

Akanksha Swarup***BLOWFLY*

CRICKET PLAYERS

President's and Vice President's Report

It is always lovely to watch kids playing sport as it is where they learn social skills, team work, ethics and morals. For our special needs kids this is especially important as it gives them a sense of purpose and in time a better understanding of these skills.

Blowfly cricket has given these kids the opportunity to participate in a mainstream activity modified to cater for their respective needs. It also gives parents a chance to meet up with other parents in an informal and relaxed environment.

There are so many people I would like to thank, including our key volunteers who show up on a regular basis, including: Tom Casey, Jen Crockart, Julie Davis, Dougal Graham, Jenny Majers, Marnie Nissen and Maddie Shortte. And of course we must thank Mark Rushton for his tireless work and dedication every week of the summer season so that our kids get to enjoy this glorious game we call cricket.

Keep well everyone over the winter period and see you all in October.



Davina MacKenzie
Club President

2017/18 saw another extremely successful year for Blowfly Cricket. We are so proud to see the program and most importantly the players going from strength to strength. The skills, confidence and friendships developed through Blowfly Cricket is what sport in Australia is all about.

This year we once again saw an organic development of the club from within itself with players and their families taking increasing ownership which in turn creates more involvement from all concerned. Excitingly and most pleasing we now have 5 players with their Community Coaching qualification (3 girls and 2 boys). This will only lead to further growth and creates new pathways for our young competitors.

Another fantastic development this year was the introduction of the weekly newsletter. As someone that is unable to get to the weekly sessions I loved seeing what was happening and how much fun was being had. To its creator and "editor in chief" Kate Guild thank you for this fantastic initiative.

To all the volunteers, a thank you never seems enough but without you guys Blowfly Cricket would not be what it is today. Every single one of you has made a huge contribution to the ongoing success of this amazing Cricket Association.

Finally, last but in no means least Mark "Marky Boy" Rushton. I don't really know how to express my gratitude, amazement and respect that I have for him. What was a dream has now become a reality making a difference to so many and creating this amazing "family" that is Blowfly Cricket. The passion and drive that is shown by you is a direct influence and an example for so many of our young cricketers on what can be achieved if you put your mind and wheels to it!!!

From All of Blowfly Cricket Mark – THANK YOU Mate. I hope to see everyone out there again next year playing cricket and having fun with their friends.



Bill Peterkin
Club Vice-President

Secretary's Report

Overview:

It is with great pleasure that I provide the following Secretary's Report for the club. This was my family's first season with Blowfly Cricket Club and it has been most enjoyable being part of such a great organisation.

From week one when we arrived it was all systems go. There was a meat tray raffle, lots of registrations and new people to meet that I can now call my friends. I realised very quickly we were all there for the same reason; to get our children outside, active, socialising, learning new skills and having fun in a safe and caring environment.

Events from the season:

- The 'Coaches' Association' Coaching Clinic was held at the Mark Taylor Oval in Waitara during the January school holidays. There was a fantastic turn out of players and we now have three newly qualified coaches; Maddie, Emily and Akanksha, who successfully completed their Cricket Australia Community Coaching qualification in November at the James Park Cricket Ground (JPCG)
- We also participated in the Cancer Council NSW Healthy Sports Challenge, where we were named "Winner of the Week" in which we entered, as well as the over all competition winner. The prizes won included a \$50 Rebel Sport voucher, a \$2000.00 Rebel Sport voucher, a 3m x 6m Cancer Council logo gazebo and signed cricket merchandise. The vouchers will assist the club in purchasing much needed new cricket equipment for our players.
- This season saw the start of the "Blowflies Bulletin" newsletter. This is a great way to keep everyone in touch with what is happening week to week as well as providing some photos and other important information that is relevant to our club and members.

- During the month of February, we held meat tray raffles every week and all money raised went to the McGrath Foundation Pink Stumps Fundraiser.
- We were fortunate enough to have held 3 Bunning BBQ fundraising days at Thornleigh before Christmas. These are a fun and delicious way to raise funds for the club as well.

Final note:

I would like to express my thanks to all our volunteers, carers, parents and of course the players who turn up every week. Without your support and commitment, Blowfly Cricket Club wouldn't be what it is today. Thank you to Dougal for doing a fantastic job on the BBQ every week and making sure the players are fed at the end of the game.

My final thanks are to Mark Rushton for throwing me in the deep end and getting me involved in this amazing club. I look forward to the 2018/2019 season.



All the best until our next season commences in October.

Kate Guild
Club Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Financial Reporting

The Associations Incorporation Act 2009 divides associations into two tiers for reporting purposes. Larger, or **Tier 1** associations, whose gross receipts exceed \$250,000 or current assets exceed \$500,000 are required to submit audited financial statements each year to the members at the AGM.

Smaller, or **Tier 2** associations, are required to submit a summary of their financial affairs to the members at the AGM. BlowFly Cricket is a Tier 2 association. Tier 2 associations must lodge annual financial summaries in the approved form with the Director-General, NSW Government Fair Trading, within one month after the AGM.

Reassuringly, BlowFly Cricket remains in a healthy financial position when one considers the small scale of the association. Our funding is strictly through a number of fundraising initiatives, assorted grants, donations, sponsorship and the generous support of many local businesses who take such a keen and active interest in the ongoing development of BlowFly Cricket.

Acknowledgements

Encourage, lift and strengthen one another. For the positive energy spread to one will be felt by us all. For we are connected, one and all. Deborah Day

Our sincere thanks and gratitude are extended to the following for their ongoing support of our association: Abbas Aly (Triforce); All Seasons Trophies; Andy Bayles; Bite me Bakehouse; Brian Binfield (Fullpoint Graphics); Bunnings Warehouse, Thornleigh; Cancer Council NSW; The Coaches' Association; Commonwealth Bank (CBA), Hornsby; Cricket Australia; Cricket NSW; Crofty's; Les Libbesson (Guardian Interlock); Noel Moig (Kookaburra); Kathy Morris; Mt Kuring-gai Village Butchery; Bill Peterkin; Mike Rolleston; Craig Stubbs and Toyota Good for Cricket.



Mark Rushton
Treasurer

A message from our Leadership Group

We had a good 2017/18 BlowFly season. There were lots of new faces this year and it was good to see all my old friends return.

Thank you to Julie Davis for all her support, Steve Perry for coaching each Saturday afternoon, Dougal Graham for cooking the weekly barbecues, Bruce Wood for running the cricket clinic and of course Mark Rushton for all his hard work.

Regards Ronnie.



Ronnie MacKenzie
*Club Captain
Cricket Australia
Community Coach*

My name is Nick Williams and I am co club captain with Ronnie. I love cricket and Ronnie used to pick me up in his car, Maddie (volunteer) now picks me up each week from the station. We are friends and we have a lot more friends at cricket too.

I like helping all the little children at the nets. I bowl little soft balls so they can hit them easily.

Ronnie, Mark and I are tall and the oldest. Ryan is smallest. Pat likes helping Jacquie. We all take turns in batting and bowling.

At the end we always have a sausage sizzle and drinks with all our friends. Sometimes we have cakes and sing Happy Birthday.

Happy times at BlowFly cricket.



Nick Williams
*Co-Club Captain
Cricket Australia
Community Coach*

I am here to give my co club captain report.

I have really enjoyed playing for the BlowFly Cricket club this year. The team have showed improvement in their skills and how they play the game. I would like to thank the team and Mark for selecting me to be your co club captain at BlowFly Cricket. I would also like to thank the coaching staff who help us with our skills and improvement in the game. I have also loved being coach at BlowFly Cricket showing the kids new skills everyday.

The team have really worked hard this season showing their skills in the field and in the game. This season has been a blast as the volunteers and players are incredible. My favourite moment was when the team met Steve Smith Australian captain of the Australian cricket team and he showed us so many brand new skills . . . he was wonderful. Thank you Mark Rushton you have done wonders at BlowFly Cricket.

Cheers Maddie



Maddie Jones
*Co-Club Captain
Cricket Australia
Community Coach*

A word from Mark



With our ninth season coming to an end on Saturday 17 March it is time for me to reflect on what has been one of our most successful seasons to date. There have been many highlights but firstly it is important to remember that BlowFly Cricket would not be where it is today without the level of community and corporate support we continue to receive, including the following:

All Seasons Trophies; Bite me Bakehouse; Bunnings Thornleigh; Cancer Council NSW; CBA (Hornsby); The Coaches Association; Cricket Australia; Cricket NSW; Fullpoint Graphics; Guardian Interlock; HK & HDCA; Hornsby Shire Council; Kookaburra Sports; Mt Kuring-Gai Village Family Butchery; and Triforce.

Craig Stubbs, our elite Coaching Consultant held our third Community (formerly Level 1) Coaching Course where we saw three of our young charges attain this qualification. Congratulations Akanksha, Emily and Maddie! I am sure your parents and other family members and friends are as thrilled as I am with your success.

And to our wonderful band of volunteers who show up with so much energy and enthusiasm at our weekly Saturday sessions at James Park (JPCG) we are not only appreciate of your support but we are in total awe of your collective efforts.

Many many thanks to the following wonderful people for their respective time, energy and efforts: Andy Bayles, Brian Binfield, Tom Casey, Jen Crockart, Julie Davis, Jeni Goddard, Dougal Graham, Errol & Chelsey Hyde, Jenny Majers, Marnie Nissen, Maddie Shortte and Kirsty Smith.

To all of our other volunteers, many thanks for all of your support and interest in BlowFly Cricket as we are extremely thankful. Furthermore, I sincerely thank all those parents who take on key voluntary roles within our club to ensure all runs smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you Amir, Davina, Jason, Karen, Kate and Steve. Who can forget the awesome efforts put in by our leadership group: Nicko, Maddie and Ronnie . . . thanks ever so much for all that you do as you are all fantastic role models for our younger players.

In closing, our Presentation Day is all about our players who are all improving so much in all areas of our wonderful game. Please be very happy with what you have achieved at BlowFly Cricket as your parents will join me in being so very proud of you all. Have a great Presentation Day and I hope to see you all later in the year on the first Saturday in Term 4 (October).

Blowfly Cricket at Abbox (Knox/Abbotsleigh)*



High value is placed on social justice at Knox Grammar School and Abbotsleigh. For 8 years, Knox and Abbotsleigh have collaborated with the sponsorship of the Sony Foundation to provide a four-day respite camp for children with physical and intellectual disabilities. Our camp is now one of the biggest Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camps in Australia and it is always the highlight of the year for all involved.

The camp is run at the conclusion of Term 4. Our year 11/12 students give up the beginning of their holidays to move into the Knox Boarding Centre and become the full time companions of 28 children providing 24/7 care for the duration of the camp. The camp is filled with many activities including swimming, magic shows, arts and craft. This year, we were lucky enough to have Mark Rushton and his team (Patricia Guild & Brian Binfield) from Blowfly Cricket visit our camp on the last day to run a morning of cricket.

The boys and girls all gathered down on Knox 1 Oval to have a hit of cricket. There was a chance for everyone and anyone to get involved and the children embraced batting and bowling in all shapes and forms.

The atmosphere was very special. It was a fantastic way of bringing the children together, and the companions had an absolute blast. All children received very special medals engraved with their names, what a fantastic token – thank you Mark Rushton for this particularly personal touch!

Thank you to Mark and the team for their generous time, their encouraging presence and their kind donation of cricket equipment that will be enjoyed by many more children in camps to come!



Andrea Carter

*Teacher | Languages and Cultures Mentor
Knox Grammar School*

** Pleasingly, ABBOX will be at Abbotsleigh College in 2018 (8 - 11 December), and BlowFly Cricket has been invited to provide a clinic on one of the days. Our plan will be to take along a number of our 'player/coaches' to help out with the program on the day . . . a fantastic initiative for our developing players.*

BlowFly Cricket visits Mary Brooksbank School (MBS)



MBS is a special needs school, catering for 85 students from ages 4 to 18 years with moderate to severe physical and /or Intellectual disabilities, challenging behaviours or Autism living in the Macarthur area. MBS is located in Rosemeadow just outside of Campbelltown.

In term 2 of 2015 MBS had an opportunity to participate in the BlowFly Cricket Program. We were also lucky to have the founder of BlowFly Cricket, Mark Rushton to come and set up this program along with two special volunteers – Brian Binfield and Julie Davis. Over 10 weeks our students learnt new skills based around the cricket concept in a modified environment. Our students enjoyed learning how to hold a bat, bowl a ball and many more skills. Our students had so much fun that by mid-way through the term our students were able to set up the equipment each week and were ready to play by the time Mark and his volunteers had arrived. "I want to play cricket everyday" said one student. Another student said "I can now hit a ball".

Many of the families of our students that I spoke to about the BlowFly Cricket Program had noticed a difference in their child / children's positive behavior and the enjoyment of learning new skills. They were also surprised to learn that the equipment; hats and BlowFly Cricket shirts were all donated.

One of our parents was delighted to say that on the mornings before school on cricket day their child was so excited to put on his "Blowie" shirt and hat.

Our teaching staff and Principal at MBS were grateful for the BlowFly Cricket Program and were amazed by all the students. "Just watching our kids interacting and giving it a go makes me love teaching in special education even more, they just look awesome in their BlowFly shirts" said one teacher. "Even our wheelchair kids who have limited mobility have a go" said another teacher.

On behalf of the Staff, Parents and most of all our students at Mary Brooksbank School, I would like to thank all the sponsors of BlowFly Cricket, Mark Rushton and volunteers for this wonderful program. As a mum, Parent and Citizen Association (P&C) member and a volunteer at MBS, to see our kids learn new skills and have fun while doing it is just priceless.



Karen Buczek
*Mary Brooksbank School Parents
& Citizens (P&C)*

BlowFly Cricket at Camp Breakaway



Camp Breakaway has had the pleasure of BlowFly Cricket visiting us on two occasions. It was great that your group travelled up from Sydney to the Central Coast to help us entertain our families.

The BlowFly team with all their enthusiasm and equipment interacted with the children and their families, ensuring all had great memories to share of the fun they had at Breakaway. The donation of cricket memorabilia, medals and backpacks was thrilling for all the children to receive and greatly appreciated.

In June 2015 we held a three day camp for families who had one or more children with autism. BlowFly cricket was a great hit even with children who had to date, shown no interest in joining in any activity.

In April 2016 we held a very unique camp (only one in the world) for families from all over Australia with a child with Smith Magenis Syndrome (SMS) a very rare syndrome, only about 70 known cases in Australia. Once again, the team from BlowFly Cricket were a great hit and one young ladies' first reaction all weekend was when her medal was hung around her neck, it was awesome to see.



Pauline Maniskas

BlowFly Cricket at Les Powell School



Last year 13 students from Les Powell School at Mount Pritchard participated in a cricket program for the first time and were privileged to be coached by Mark Rushton. We received Mark's contact details through the Milo in2 Cricket Skills Program and were hoping that he could give the teachers some ideas about teaching cricket skills to students with a range of disabilities.

Although some students were able to bat if the ball was bowled to them by a staff member, they had a lot of difficulty throwing, catching and bowling. Mark was able to secure some engaging cricket resources for the school including the crazy catch, rebound net and even balls with bells to enable a vision impaired student to participate.

He also invited the school to join BlowFly Cricket. With the assistance and patience of Mark, Julie Davis and Ronnie MacKenzie, our students have progressed from batting the cricket ball off a T ball stand to being able to bat and bowl in pairs and play a game of cricket.

We are still working on fielding skills, and although the cricket season is over, the students are still excited to participate in a weekly cricket session. We look forward to continuing our membership with BlowFly Cricket and thank all the volunteers for instilling our students with a passion for cricket.



Gina Wheeler
Sports Coordinator – Les Powell School

Sony Foundation St Andrew's College Childrens Holiday Camp



An afternoon of Blowfly Cricket was the perfect addition to the fourth Sony Foundation St Andrew's College Childrens Holiday Camp. Our camp is one of twenty-eight cost-free respite camps across Australia sponsored by the Sony Foundation. The College student residents as well as University of Sydney students become the full time carer-companions of 18 children with special needs over an unforgettable four-days. This Sony Camp not only provides children with the opportunity to try something different, whether that be sailing, dancing or CRICKET, but also to form new friendships, gain a sense of independence, and most importantly have fun. Equally as important, this camp allows parents and families to enjoy a well-earned break in the lead up to Christmas.

This year, our sunny Friday afternoon was blessed to have the company of Mark and Julie from the Blowfly Cricket Club. Arriving with open arms and incredible enthusiasm, their smiles were infectious among the curious and excited children.

Dear Mark & the team
from Blowfly Cricket,
Thank you so much for
coming back to the SSA CCC
again in 2017. We are ever
grateful for your continued
support and your
dedication. The kids love
Blowfly Cricket every year
(and so do the companions
and helpers! We are
incredibly lucky to have you
return and are just so
touched by your ongoing
support.
Many many thanks,
love the SSA CCC team '17

The afternoon of cricket created an environment of inclusion and belonging. We were overwhelmed by the array of equipment that Mark and Julie brought along, including the noisy-cricket-ball for children with vision impairments which was a huge hit for Luca who is totally vision impaired. The smile and erupting giggle as he heard the ball jingle through the air after he had hit it was truly a delight and a highlight.

It was remarkable to see children who had been somewhat withdrawn and shy in previous activities have a go at cricket, they were drawn to the fun and a sense of accomplishment batting and bowling. Additionally, especially for us to see was the fun of cricket as a sport, with the unique encouragement of both Mark and Julie they brought the children together in a way we had not seen before. The children bowled and batted back and forth to each other growing an amazing new sense of team-work and confidence.

We sincerely thank Mark, Julie and the BlowFly Cricket organisation for their generous time and creating the truly magical sense of fun and inclusion from an afternoon of cricket. Thank you for the cricket equipment that was irresistible for many of the children in the days of camp to follow, the medals and certificates presented to the children. Thank you for lighting up the world for these beautiful children through a sport that is so loved in our nation.



Cristina Carter



Thank you all so much for supporting our Sony Camp 2017. The campers had a great time and their parents received some much-needed respite, so many moving stories that came out of the week.

We had teachers and students from both Pymble and Shore, countless Pymble and Shore parents as well as so many other community volunteers including those on our Medical Team. It was simply a huge community effort and the outcomes of the camp could not have been achieved without the sum of all parts.

Our Year 12 students were amazing! They persevered when things were tough, found strength when they didn't think they could find it, were patient when they felt frustrated and always put the needs of their camper before their own demonstrating resilience, courage and kindness. They protected and nurtured our campers, whilst creating an atmosphere of fun and festivity. What remarkable young people we have.

Warmest wishes

The Sony Camp Committee 2017

Northern Sydney Participation Expo



On Sunday 16 August at Norman Griffiths Oval, West Pymble a number of winter soccer clubs offering special needs football got together with BlowFly Cricket and other providers to create a combined event of activities and services for the disabled. The goal of the Northern Sydney Participation Expo was to help those with disabilities connect with the community. Furthermore the aim of the Northern Sydney Participation Expo through a fair/expo to promoting sport, recreation and leisure activities for people with a disability.

By having a range of providers together in the one place participants could meet and in some cases participate in activities to see if they suited, all at no charge to those involved. There were a range of activities to experience, booths and information.

Organisations involved included:

- St Ives and West Pymble Football Clubs
- BlowFly Cricket
- Softball NSW
- Ability Links
- Riding for the Disabled
- Special Olympics
- Sunshine
- Palsy Alliance
- Studio Artes

The day was a great success with over 100 people playing games and exploring opportunities they may never have otherwise considered. As this was held leading into summer competitions, cricket was attracting a great deal of interest. Perhaps the standout session was a dance performance from Studio Artes that ended the day with everyone entertained and with an appreciation of possibilities.

There are many changes happening in the way services will be provided to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. The NDIS in particular will impact the lives of those in need. Activities like the Participation Expo have set the standard and will introduce those involved to opportunities and sports. The event promoted sports like BlowFly Cricket as a leader and a standout provider of options.



David Howard
*Northern Sydney Participation Expo –
Organiser*

A Volunteer's Perspective



Mary Brooksbank School – Campbelltown

This was my first experience in participating with Mark Rushton and Brian Binfield at a school for children with special needs. We attended during the winter term for 8 weeks on Thursday afternoons.

First day I found it a little daunting as each door we went through was locked immediately after entry. This was a first for me. I also found it a little daunting to be faced with 36 children, while looking at me, but not looking at me and I felt they were not very trusting. I mention this only as each week passed and I found I had entered each individual child's space this trust became so strong and special and something that will stay with me forever. Each following week we were greeted with shrieks of delight and impatience to start cricket.

The children were drawn to Mark Rushton. I have a sneaky suspicion that Mark doesn't need the wheelchair at all – it is just a ploy to get every child motivated into helping him, listening to him and wanting one of his huge "high-fives". One instance will always stay with me was when Mark, trying to catch a ball with one hand over a metre to the right of his chair, the chair went over, I heard squeals of delight and looked up from my group to see the children all trying to get the chair and Mark upright. These were children on the first day that were quite withdrawn and suspicious of us.

I was fascinated that every child was unique. I realised that you could not even find a pair that were similar. Every week became more and more rewarding. My final personal reward was on the last day when I was assisting the sports mistress (Alison Dingwall) handing out the BlowFly Medals, each engraved with the event and name of each child's name. One child (aged 16) put their arm around my shoulders from the stage and called out to their mother, "Mum, this is Julie" followed by an arm pointing to their mother "that's my mother", where the mother then said to me "Julie we have heard so much about you". Wow!!!

Les Powell School – Mt Pritchard

I felt very special when Mark Rushton asked if I would attend with him and Ronnie MacKenzie (BlowFly's Junior Assistant Coach and Club Captain) for a summer term of 8 weeks at this school for children with special needs.

I thought, no trouble, done this before. I know what to do. Wrong. There were 13 children again eyeing our arrival with suspicion. A number of these children had severe disabilities and I wondered how this was going to work. I could feel Ronnie's apprehension. This was so different from our regular children that attend Saturday afternoons at James Park, Hornsby.



I saw Ronnie's expression at the size of the area we were to coach cricket, the area being about the size of 3 small classrooms. How was this going to work?

We had tremendous support from the staff, Gina Wheeler, Kim and a couple of helpers. Their enthusiasm was contagious. Once we had set up the equipment (donated by Cricket NSW, Cricket Australia and Triforce Sports) which included a crazy catch, sticky wickets, 'zing' stumps and bails that lit up, bats and balls, a form of cricket slowly eventuated. For me I worked with Kevork (aged 18, legally blind, 3 feet tall and very fragile). I bowled hundreds of balls with bells inside to Kevork over the 8 weeks and Kevork was able to bat these balls as his advanced hearing enabled him to hear the ball approaching. When Kevork hit the ball with force and he could hear the ball rolling way past me he would clap his hands with joy. At the final session I got down on my knees to thank Kevork and he said "Julie you are very proud of me aren't you". I was so glad Kevork could not see the tears in my eyes as it might have taken away his huge smile.

The staff encouraged all children to participate as best the children could. With this level of support we all really had an amazing 8 weeks.

I was very impressed the headmaster joined in a couple of sessions and the level of squeals, delight and laughter was a memory I have locked away forever. Again, once you have entered each child's space you are rewarded with, and I am going to say it, such love that it is quite overwhelming.

James Park – Hornsby (Saturday afternoons)

I have now completed 2 seasons on Saturday afternoons. My cricket family has grown; the love and caring I absorb from these children will stay with me forever. It is genuine – it is just wonderful. These children grow together, they respect each other, and many have known each other now for around 7 years. As many of these children are now far more advanced with cricket than I am, I tend to gravitate to the children under 7 years of age. We do catching, bowling and batting with soft balls – they love to aim for the centre of my stomach or bottom. Their batting is improving – I love the way they feel down the bat to make sure the flat surface is facing the on-coming ball.

At the end of the sessions on Saturdays I join a couple of the accomplished older boys as a fielder and now and again I hear "okay Julie, are you ready, this one is for you" and the ball goes flying past me.



With all the encouragement I receive from the Blowies I'm slowly improving my fielding and cricketing skills.

Highlight of the season was the BlowFly Christmas Party Day – each child was encouraged to bowl to Santa Claus (Brian Binfield).

One child who has quite severe disabilities shone the light on the event by walking down the pitch to Santa Clause unaided, we all held our breath, he had walked down twice with assistance and then walked down the pitch by himself – wow. Each child was presented with a very generous Christmas present as was I myself – very much appreciated.

Lucky me – I thought my rewards in life had all come, though it seems they are just starting to begin again.



Julie Davis
Community Volunteer Coach

The 2017/2018 Blowfly Cricket season, my first growing from 'MIA' (missing in action) volunteer to never missing a fundraising BBQ and Saturday Game Day at the James Park Cricket Ground (JPCG).

Off the pitch was a hive of energy, from the Bunnings Fundrasing BBQ's to the homes of our volunteers busily collecting aluminium cans and plastic/glass bottles for the 'recycle for cash' scheme.

On the pitch we had full participation from the hitting of sixes to the one handed catching of the fielders. Not forgetting our coaches supporting and building on the BlowFlies skills.

Now having the taste of volunteering and countless sausage sandwiches the 2018/2019 BlowFly Cricket season will be greeted with excitement and glee.



Marnie Nissen
Volunteer



Volunteering

Firstly I wish to thank Mark Rushton for his special contribution made to “BlowFly Cricket” and my introduction to volunteer work within the club.

Working for a living, we expect to get paid, volunteering provides a vastly different but no less important return, the joy of unconditional help. When provided to those less fortunate it opens a personal experience packed with new and exciting rewards.

I have witnessed the enthusiasm other volunteers provide and have no doubt their experiences would be remarkably similar to mine. An acquaintance who spent many years working and lost perspective on life, turned things around through volunteer work. During a recent conversation I saw expressions on their face and a gleam that I had not seen for some years. Volunteering had given them an injection of “living”, if it feels good do it, there is no better feeling than one involved in the helping others.

Working with BlowFlies

Being a volunteer at the Bunnings and Officeworks sausage sizzles increased my intrigue into BlowFly Cricket.

Through Mark’s exuberance and powers of persuasion I was also coerced into taking the Level 1 cricket coaching program (*the only female in a group of 11 men*).

I have assisted at different venues working with kids who have special needs, to improve their batting, bowling, catching, fielding, their own special way to play cricket. Coaching how to hold the bat correctly, hitting the balls off a plastic hat or ‘T’, bowling, batting, fielding are reflected in the looks of satisfaction, laughter of success and the personal accolade of just doing it their way.

At one venue I attended all the kids received a medal recognising their participation and effort, every medal had his/her own name engraved on it. Placing the medals around their necks and the looks of disbelief in their eyes, the pride and honour of getting recognition was amazing. A mum with tears in her eyes said that her son has never received a medal for anything.

Well done BlowFlies, I’m so happy being a volunteer.



Patricia Guild
Community Volunteer Coach

A Volunteer's Perspective *continued*



As the 2017/18 season came to an end, my thoughts were what a pleasure, even a joy it was to have had the privilege of being a small part of it, as a Volunteer.

To see the children, young and older, and many parents come together, with all playing a part each Saturday to make such a success of this wonderful initiative, was quite inspiring. It was very obvious from the actions of the children, and also their interaction with each other, just how much each Saturday meant to them.

I'm sure everyone involved will be counting the weeks and months in anticipation of renewing the friendships which were there in the 2017/18 season.

Well done to the Management of Blowfly Cricket – each and every one of you are champions!!



Dougal Graham
The Cook!

After another year in the nets, Santa once again thought he was mentally prepared, technically proficient and confident to handle any bowling attack that the 'Blowies' could throw at him.

Confronted with a pace and spin attack selected by Club Captain Ronnie and Co-Captains (Nick and Maddie) Santa knew he was going to be in for a busy afternoon, however he wasn't prepared for a new requirement having to RUN between wickets. After a number of overs the bowling attack was being handled with some degree of confidence and a retired NOT OUT was looking like the entry on the scoresheet.

To Santa's surprise the selection committee then sent in the NEW bowling attack which consisted of all the younger brigade, all wanting to make a name for themselves. Not prepared for the second bowling attack, superior fielding and having to RUN to register a score, the lunchtime BBQ call and gift presentation could not have come sooner.

It was another successful afternoon and while the Blowies were occupied eating and playing with their new gifts it was Santa's opportunity to retire to the dressing shed and prepare for Christmas Eve and his return to James Park Cricket Ground next year.

Brian Binfield (*aka Santa*)

Reflections from a Carer . . .



I still remember the first time I attended BlowFly Cricket last year. I had told Mark that I'd bring Angela but we may only stay for a short while. Well that turned into the whole afternoon and subsequently weekly with only the odd one missed. Many things struck me that day about the team and the supporters, but mostly just friendship, friendship and acceptance.

On a hot oval with a group of diverse children to young adults, each there with different strengths but playing together and demonstrating all these skills that you can work on for years, turn taking, sharing, flexibility, acceptance, encouraging and being a good sport, never did I imagine I'd be playing cricket on a Saturday.

Some may think it's about the cricket (very serious about the cricket!), others the bbq (you need something to look forward to after being in the sun!), or even the treats (Mrs Dougal has kept the gym open this season with her delicious treats!) . . . it's not really, it's about the people and the growth of the participants in whichever way they need.

Looking forward to another season, what an awesome bunch of friends I've made.



Kirsty Smith
Carer

Mid season Celebration . . .

Merry Christmas



BlowFly Cricket is all about . . .



Family and Friends . . .



Santa pops in for a game and to deliver pressies . . .



Healthy Sports Initiative



Healthy Sports Initiative: Year Three

Over the last three years Blowfly Cricket Club has been partnering with Cancer Council NSW by participating in the Healthy Sports Initiative. It is a free pilot program designed to help create a healthy, cancer-smart environment for club members and their families.

Over the course of the program a Cancer Council NSW representative has worked with Blowfly Cricket Club to provide assistance in implementing five Health Promotion Standards:

- Sun protection (year 1,2,3 & 4)
- Smoke-free environments (year 2, 3 & 4)
- Healthy eating (year 3 & 4)
- Alcohol Management (year 4)
- Sponsorship and fundraising (year 4)

Each year in Australia, 1 in 3 cases of cancer can be prevented by reducing over-exposure to the sun, not smoking and avoiding second-hand smoke, limiting alcohol consumption, and eating healthily. Participation in the Healthy Sports Initiative demonstrates Blowfly Cricket Club commitment to promoting cancer-smart behaviours to benefit the health of their players and families.

During the 2017-2018 cricket season, Blowfly Cricket Club continued to encourage good sun protection and promote smoke-free environments within the club. Blowfly Cricket Club also began to focus on healthy eating by displaying signage, distributing healthy eating information, and developing a healthy eating policy to assist people to make healthier choices.

Blowfly Cricket Club was also the winning club in the Healthy Sports Photo Competition which saw the club receive a shade marquee, \$2000 voucher for Rebel Sport, and signed cricket merchandise.



Samantha McCloy
*Prevention Project Officer
Cancer Council NSW*



Healthy Sports Initiative

To Blowfly Cricket Association,
Thank you for your support and participation in the Healthy Sports Initiative in 2017-2018.
Your involvement in the program enables you to support your cricket community to live healthy, cancer-smart lifestyles and contributes to Cancer Council NSW's vision of a cancer-free future.

Throughout your time participating in the Healthy Sports Initiative over the last three years you have worked to create a healthier club environment by working towards five health promotion standards including sun protection, maintaining a smoke-free environment, and promoting healthy eating choices.

The Healthy Sports Initiative is important as one in three cases of cancer could be prevented by reducing exposure to the sun, not smoking, reducing consumption of alcohol, and maintaining a healthy weight. The Healthy Sports Initiative works across all areas of cancer prevention to create environments that promote cancer-smart behaviours and reduce exposure to known cancer risks.

We look forward to working with you again next cricket season and will be in contact in August to organise a time to talk about the year ahead!

Sincerely,
Samantha McCloy



Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

Blowfly Cricket Association

In recognition of your valuable contribution to Cancer Council NSW

11 April 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Mitchell".

Jeff Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Council NSW
www.cancercouncil.com.au



BlowFly Cricket at Inclusive Sports Day



On the 21st April, as part of the Hornsby Healthy Living Festival, Ability Links hosted a 'come and try' inclusive sports day event at Berowra. The aim was to encourage community members of all ages and abilities to find out about inclusive sports. The morning events included Sense Rugby and Netball NSW; with BlowFly Cricket and Royal Rehab's adapted bikes taking the afternoon sessions. We were fortunate with the weather with fine and sunny conditions and as a first run event, the turnout of participants was not huge, but there was a steady stream of people keen to try the sports on offer.

After overcoming a few hurdles, Mark and his team soon inspired participants to have a try of BlowFly Cricket, rounding up quite a crowd. The adaptability to the needs of a range of people was quite impressive and it was great to see such a mixture of people in age and abilities all having fun playing cricket together. Poor Mark and his team worked hard all afternoon with not even time for a drinks break! The feedback from the day was really positive and BlowFly Cricket was a highlight of the day; a group from a local day program intended on leaving in the early afternoon and a good half an hour later they were still playing cricket.

As an example of the difference BlowFly Cricket can make, I would like to share a story from the day. A lady who had never played cricket before had a try; well supported by the BlowFly team. At first she struggled to connect bat with ball but in a short amount of time she got the hang of it with support from the team. By the end of the day she had people chasing after some big hits and was enjoying herself so much she did not want to leave. The staff from the centre commented that they did not know that this was something she enjoyed or that this was something she could do.

Thank you to Mark and the BlowFly Cricket team for your support with our first time event. It was great that you could make the day work with all our challenges. It was a fantastic session, well enjoyed by all.



Kat Hastenteufel



Cricket Australia's vision is for Cricket to be Australia's favourite sport and a sport for all Australians and our purpose is to inspire everyone to love the game. This includes creating opportunities and pathways for cricketers with a disability and making cricket more accessible. Over the last three years Cricket Australia have launched the inaugural National Disability Cricket Strategy and the A Sport For All Resource and Training Program.

Through the implementation of participation targets that filter down to Development Officers at grass roots level, the strategy has ensured we are now accountable to increasing the participation rates of people with a disability in cricket. The A Sport For All Resource and Training Program has provided free workshops to clubs and associations to help them to be welcoming and inclusive of all our diverse communities including people with a disability.

We are starting to see the benefits of this work with our participation rates of cricketers with a disability increasing by over 200% over the last five years. The opportunity to progress through to our high-performance pathway has never been more accessible with the establishment of the National Cricket Inclusion Championships and our partnership with the Commonwealth Bank which has seen all three of our National Disability Squads become fully funded.

Most importantly, the success over the last two years would not have been possible without organisations like Blowfly Cricket and the incredible volunteers that give up their own time to drive these initiatives at grassroots level and ensure the kids have an outstanding experience of cricket, which they otherwise wouldn't have been afforded.

The difference it makes to the lives of these kids and their families cannot be overstated. It has also been great to see the pathway into coaching that has been created for participants of the Blowfly Cricket program with five Blowfly participants completing Community Cricket Coaching Accreditations over the last few years including three females which is great to see.

I would like to thank Mark Rushton, along with the Blowfly Cricket Management Committee Members, other volunteers, parents, guardians and siblings who have all contributed to giving the kids in the Blowfly Cricket program such a fantastic experience in cricket.

Sincerely,



Aaron Dragwidge

Disability Engagement Manager



CRICKET NSW



CNSW is extremely pleased to be working with clubs who support inclusion. There has been a number of successful programs across NSW that have achieved some tremendous outcomes for participants. BlowFly is a wonderful example of a club that embraces all the aspects of cricket from playing to coaching. We look forward to continuing to work with BlowFly.



Cassie Langford
*Development Manager
Sydney North Shore – Cricket NSW*

Cricket NSW would once again like to thank Mark Rushton and the Blowfly Management Committee for their dedication to giving young people with disabilities the opportunities to get involved in Cricket.

Mark is an invaluable Advisor to Cricket NSW and Cricket Australia with the design and implementation of our All Ability programs. Mark and the Management Committee were nominated by Cricket NSW for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award and we were delighted that Mark was awarded the highest honour.

Blowfly Cricket Programs, including delivering coaching programs are used as examples of best practice here at Cricket NSW.



Julie Stafford
*Community Engagement Leader,
Game Development Department
Cricket NSW*

Our Ambassadors

When Mark asked me to attend a BlowFly session what struck me was the enthusiasm of the children and the love and support from their parents and carers. The stories that were shared by the families and how cricket has provided a purpose for the players and a chance for the parents and carers to take a moment to enjoy the special gifts that each child offers is inspiring. The children involved with Blowfly Cricket play with all the energy and enthusiasm you see in the T20 Big Bash. To see the smiles on their faces and the pleasure of those around them makes this special. I was told a number of stories by mums and dads that playing cricket has given their children a chance to show skills and abilities that the children were not previously given the opportunity to show. The impact this has had on their confidence for giving things a go and using this self-belief away from the game is obvious.

I started off as a spectator enjoying the whole experience. My enjoyment went to another level when Mark asked me to become involved in a game. To be part of a game and see the children running, bowling, throwing and hitting the ball hard is an experience I won't forget. The more I think about it, I am not sure who had more fun, the children or me. Apart from the games and the incredible opportunity it provides everyone associated with BlowFly Cricket this doesn't happen by itself so a special mention to Mark Rushton who is one of those rare people who only sees opportunity to enhance people's lives and to make a difference.



Denise Annetts OAM
Ambassador

More congratulations are due to the players, committee and coaches of BlowFly Cricket which is about to enter its tenth season.

When Mark Rushton founded the group in 2009 many probably thought that the concept would be a passing phenomenon. The opposite has happened and it has gone from strength to strength. More than 50(??) children now perform each week at James Park at Hornsby and new centres have been established at Camp Breakaway on the Central Coast and at Mary Brooksbank School at Rosemeadow.

Mark has gathered a fine group of parents and friends to act as office-bearers, committee members, volunteers and coaches and has gained the support of CricketNSW, Northern District CC and the HK&HD Coaches' Association.

Of course, the players are front and centre of this enterprise and it is a joy to witness their enthusiasm and excitement as they improve their skills in an atmosphere of complete harmony.

The interleaving of disabled and able-bodied events at the recent Commonwealth Games has put much greater light on the quality of disabled athletes and has also revealed their personalities to the general public.

This undoubtedly will encourage many others to take part in BlowFly Cricket and it will be fascinating to watch the competition rise to new levels.



Alf James OAM
Ambassador

BlowFly Cricket supported by Coaches' Association



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

It has been wonderful to observe the continued expansion of Blowfly Cricket, which was founded in 2009-10 by HK&HDCA Life Member and Patron (former VicePresident) of the Coaches' Association, 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 young people aged between 5 and 25 years and 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 rotate fielding positions and get many opportunities to bat and bowl, with coaches and adult chaperones assisting on the field. They play cricket on Saturday afternoons at James Park, Hornsby during Terms 4 & 1 (cricket season), followed by a family BBQ.

The Coaches' Association was pleased to hold a free coaching session for the Blowfly cricketers on 17 January 2018 (see group photo below), led by coaches Bruce Wood, Jamie Matson and Cooper Davenport.

Bruce was astounded at the massive improvement in their batting, bowling and catching skills since our last coaching session in 2017. The enthusiasm and sheer joy of the children was great to see and it's clear that the Blowies program is a great success.

The children's special needs include Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Asperger's, verbal and hearing deficits, and the coaching techniques needed to be modified to best suit the abilities of each child, which was a valuable learning tool for our young accredited coaches, as is acquiring empathy for the day-to-day challenges their parents deal with so courageously.

The Coaches' Association sincerely thanks Blowfly Cricket and Mark Rushton for kindly sponsoring HKHDCCA with a \$500 cheque in June 2017, which will be put to good use in buying essential equipment.

BlowFly Cricket supported by Coaches' Association *continued*



There have been many highlights for Blowfly Cricket in the past 12-18 months, including a special visit by the Australian Test Cricket Captain, Steve Smith, to James Park, Hornsby for a live TV launch of the Commonwealth Bank's sponsorship program for grassroots cricket clubs. The Commonwealth Bank presented Blowfly Cricket with a \$2,000 sponsorship cheque and Steve Smith spent some time with the Blowies playing cricket. Bruce Wood was on hand to represent the Coaches' Association on that day in November 2016.

Blowfly Cricket appreciates strong financial support from many local corporate sponsors, which helps them update equipment, uniforms, etc.

A popular fund-raiser for Blowfly Cricket are the BBQs at Bunnings, Thornleigh, which are usually held twice each season.

Apart from the money raised, it's great to see all the volunteers working together so well in great spirits and team-work.



Bruce Wood
Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA)

Community Cricket Coaching Course



Well what can I say . . . that dream of Mark Rushton's many years ago to provide an avenue for those with disabilities to play cricket continues unabated with tremendous support from parents, friends, volunteers and both Cricket Australia and Cricket NSW. BlowFly Cricket has become an important part of the cricketing fraternity and is now fully embedded in Cricket Australia's community programs. The success of BlowFly Cricket can only happen with the help of many volunteers, particularly those prepared to help coach and supervise on game days.

Last December was the third time we have run a community coaching accreditation course with Cricket NSW for those interested in helping BlowFly cricketers. I am amazed at the different abilities and experience of those who attend the course on the day. We have parents, community volunteers and of course players with disabilities who are committed to becoming community coaches. This year we had eleven (11) attendees to our community cricket coaching course which was organized by Cricket NSW and BlowFly Cricket.

I was so delighted to have had the BlowFly Cricket Club Captain, Ronnie Mackenzie, help me on the day. Of the eleven, we had two external attendees sent by Cricket NSW who also experienced the different methods and drills that coaches use for cricketers with disabilities. As a high-performance cricket coach, it is rewarding to help everybody interested in becoming a BlowFly Cricket Community Coach.

All attendees received their community coaching accreditation certificates and it was wonderful to have three women/girls gain their accreditation. This shows us that how wide the sport of cricket has become in Australia.

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

Happy coaching . . .



Craig Stubs
Coaching Consultant

Working in Partnership



Triforce Sports has been a proud supporter of BlowFly Cricket for a 7 seasons now. The partnership between Triforce and BlowFly Cricket came through our association with the HK&HDCA and Mark Rushton. A few of our staff members have also been lucky enough to be involved with coaching the Blowies through the HKHDCCA Coaching Clinics at Mark Taylor Oval (formerly Waitara Oval), Waitara.

It is often the simple things in life that bring the most joy and seeing the Blowies smile when they catch a ball or throw down the stumps is priceless.

We, as a sporting goods company, have always been keen to be a part of the growth of Blowfly Cricket with the supply of cricketing and sporting gear at discounted or no cost. This was an easy decision when we have seen firsthand the motivation of Mark and the rest of the team at Blowfly Cricket to provide some fun in the lives of the participants and their families.

We believe that everybody should have access to this great game that we all love and if we can help bring this to a wider population we will always endeavour to do so.



Abbas Aly
Managing Director Triforce



Kookaburra Sport are proud to have been associated with the Blowfly Cricket program since its inception nine years ago. During this period it has been rewarding to see the fantastic support and expansion the program provides for young people with a disability.

The establishment of Blowfly centres in a number of special needs schools at no cost to the participants is a wonderful initiative. Blowfly Cricket delivers fantastic programs with Camp Breakaway on the Central Coast and the Sony Foundation children's holiday respite camps: at St Andrew's College in Sydney University; ABBOX at Knox College run in conjunction by the Abbotsleigh/Knox Colleges; and at Pymble Ladies' College (PLC) run in conjunction by PLC/Shore College. Outstandingly, there is no cost to the camp participants, generously funded in full by the Sony Foundation.

On behalf of Kookaburra Sport I pass on my sincere congratulations to all the organising committee at Blowfly Cricket and a firm commitment to continued support.



Noel Moig
Account Manager – NSW Kookaburra Sport

Volunteers Register



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

Sherry Anderson

Marcia Allman
Denise Annetts
Andre Bali
Sue Bali
Amanda Bardon
Emily Bardon
Andy Bayles
Brian Binfield
Jan Brock
Jock Brock
Courtney Buczek
Jason Buczek
Karen Buczek
Gabrielle Callanan
Ned Callanan
Nick Callanan-Williams
Tom Casey
Barb Chigwidden
Christopher Cody
Mick Connell
Anthony Courtney
Canly Coyle
Jen Crockart
Julie Davis
Georgina Fox
Jeni Goddard
Dougal Graham

Maureen Graham
Alan Guild
Damien Guild
Jarrod Guild
Kate Guild
Pat Guild
Ben Gussey
Mr/s Hopscotch
Chelsey Hyde
Errol Hyde
Maddie Jones
Nicola Jones
Rick Jones
Joelle Khayat
Irish Lewis
Kevin Lewis
Sarah Lind
Ty Lind
Jeff Mackay
Davina MacKenzie
Lonnie MacKenzie
Ronnie MacKenzie
Jenny Majers
Mason Marashi
Amir Marashian
Cameron Marashian
Michael McCauley

Nasim Mohammadi
Kathy Morris
Amanda Nissen
Marnie Nissen
Bill Peterkin
Amanda Perry
Steve Perry
Andrew Reeves
Mark Rushton
Shankar Shivashankaran
Sharmila Shivashankaran
Maddie Shortte
Bel Smallwood
Eva Sourian
Evelyn Stevenson
Craig Stubbs
Kirsty Smith
Aditya Swarup
Akanksha Swarup
Brock Thompson
Joanne Thorpe
Angela Walshe
Veronika Walshe
Bruce Wood

Fundraising



Without ongoing fundraising initiatives the running of BlowFly Cricket would not be possible, including both 'on-season' and 'off-season' fundraising projects.

The BlowFly Cricket 2017/2018 Season was filled with various fundraising initiatives supported by the following local businesses: Bunnings Warehouse, Thornleigh; Bite Me Bakehouse, Mount Colah; Mt Kuring-gai Village Butchery; TongDa Convenience Store, Waitara; Anglomoil, Mt Kuring-gai (A Family Owned Business); and Inspire Beauty, Mount Colah.

In 2017/2018 Bunnings Warehouse, Thornleigh turned on their gas Barbecues to BlowFly Cricket three times. Sausages sandwiches being sold for \$2.50 and a drink of your choice for \$1.50. BBQing our way through 40-50 loaves of bread and up to 600 sausages being served up topped with onions and sauce. For \$5.00 (or three tickets for \$10.00) the chance of the draw to win a raffle prize pack, with three lucky winners: Chelsey Hyde leaving with a Nutrimetics pack (\$500.00 value; while the volunteers meat tray raffle winners were Kirsty Smith, Lyn Cleary/Mick Saliwon and Dougal Graham. Meat trays were never in short supply during the month of February whilst we raised money for the McGrath Foundation with winners leaving with their weekly prize.

Local produce fresh out of the oven with Bite Me Bakehouse providing its daily baked bread loaves each Saturday morning and Mt Kuring-gai Village Butchery counting and bagging up the sausages and clad-wrapping the meat trays.

BlowFly Cricket fundraising was very excited to be able to start collecting aluminium cans and assorted plastic/glass bottles. At 10c per can and bottle for the 'Return n Earn' project there has been and continues to be many, many bags and boxes collected ready for the final count and delivery to the TongDa Convenience store in Waitara' Wahroonga. Can and bottle donations continue to grow towards this worthwhile fundraising initiative.

Fundraising has grown in popularity amongst BlowFly Cricket Volunteers, families, friends and chickens! Not forgetting a couple of other fundraising initiatives, being: Free Range eggs laid daily sold by the dozen and an assortment of homemade jams from local produce.



Marnie Nissen
Fundraising Officer

Friends of BlowFly Cricket Register

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

Henry Ford

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

Abbas Ally

Anglomoil

Bite me Bakehouse

Andy Bayles

Brian Binfield

Bunnings Thornleigh

Bradley Caldwell

Cancer Council NSW

CBA (Hornsby)

Coaches' Association

Anthony Courtney

Cricket Australia

Cricket NSW

Crofty's

Fullpoint Graphics

Guardian Interlock

The Gussey Family

HK & HDCA

Hornsby Shire Council

Inspire Beauty

Kookaburra Sport

Legends Under Glass

Jeff Mackay

Samantha McCloy

Noel Moig

Mount Colah Cricket Club

Mount Kuring Gai Village Butchery

Bill Peterkin

Mark Rushton

The Sheehan Family

Sony Foundation St Andrew's College Children's
Holiday Camp (SSACCC)

St Ives Wahroonga Cricket Club

Craig Stubbs

TongDa Convenience Store

Toyota Good For Cricket

Triforce Sports

Business Partnerships

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



KOOKABURRA



**MOUNT COLAH
CRICKET CLUB**



CommonwealthBank



CRICKET NSW

Laing+Simmons | Hornsby



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