

*Girl
Power*



BlowFly Cricket 2018-19 Annual Report & 10 year History

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Davina MacKenzie
Honorary President



Bill Peterkin
Honorary Vice-President



Mark Rushton
*Honorary Treasurer/
Public Officer*



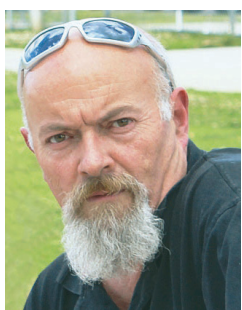
Kate Guild
*Honorary Secretary/
Director of Operations*



Marnie Nissen
Fundraising Manager



Ben Gussey
Grants Officer



Andrew Bayles
Historical Officer



Brian Binfield
Publications Officer



Craig Stubbs
Coaching Consultant



Marcia Allman
Associate Member

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/DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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

TREASURERS

2012- Mr MW Rushton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2012- Mr AR Bayles
2012- Mr BD Binfield
2012- Mr BR Gussey
2013-18 Mrs MA Allman

COACHING CONSULTANT

2015- Mr CJ Stubbs

ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2018- Mrs MA Allman

LIFE MEMBERS

2018 Mr Jacob K Buczek (# 26)
2018 Mr Ronnie F MacKenzie (# 007)

LEADERSHIP GROUP (JPCG HORNSBY CENTRE)

2012- Mr RF MacKenzie (*Cpt*)
2015- Mr N Callanan-Williams
2015- Miss M Jones
2018- Miss A Swarup

LEADERSHIP GROUP (WPHCCC DURAL CENTRE)

2018- Mr T Erickson (*Cpt*)
2018- Mr A Lezon
2018- Miss A Walshe

AMBASSADORS

2012 Mr C McDermott OAM
2015 Mrs D Anderson OBC
2016 Mr M Connell
2016 Mr E Hyde
2018 Mr A James OAM
2018 Mr B Wood
2019 Mr M Gillies

"UNCOACHABLE COACHES"

2015 Mr RF MacKenzie
2016 Mr N Callanan-Williams
2017 Miss E Bardon
2017 Miss M Jones
2017 Miss A Swarup
2018 Mr N Baker
2018 Miss A Lazaros-Cameron (*WPHCCC Dural Centre*)
2018 Master M Perry

CENTRE COORDINATORS

Mrs Kate Guild (*Hornsby Centre*)
Mrs Irish Lewis (*Hornsby Centre*)
Mrs Bec Peterkin (*WPHCCC Dural Centre*)
Mr Mike Kinchington (*WPHCCC Dural Centre*)
Miss Maddie Shortte (*Jennings Street School, Victoria*)
The Jones Family: Nicola, Rick, Maddie, Jordan, Bronte and Dominic (*Winter Indoor Cricket*)

FIRST AID OFFICERS

Miss Marnie Nissen
Miss Maddie Jones

CLOTHING COMMITTEE

Mr Damian Chigwidden
Miss Maddie Jones
Mr Mark Rushton
Miss Maddie Shortte
Miss Akanksha Swarup

FROM THE LEADERSHIP GROUP



We had a good 2018/19 season at BlowFly Cricket. There were lots of people at Friday night Cricket with yummy sausages to finish off the evening.

Saturdays were just as good and there were lots of new people coming to play and be part of BlowFly Cricket (BFC). We even had Dougal cooking a great sausage for all of us to eat after a big afternoon on the field.

I can remember going to Cameron Cameron Reserve on a Saturday to play cricket, it was a little different then but I am happy to see it has grown into something that lots of kids can enjoy.

The highlight of the year (although it was a long day) was the plane trip to Melbourne. Maddie, Akanksha and I went to the Jennings Street School and showed them how to play BFC. Thank you Mark for inviting us and to Marnie for looking after us.

I also walked around the SCG and was interviewed for TV, that was exciting.

Happy 10th Anniversary BlowFly Cricket.



Ronnie MacKenzie
Club Captain

This 2018/2019 season has been another great one. Full of laughter and fun! We have been blessed to have such wonderful coaches and players who love BlowFly Cricket and coming each Friday night or Saturday afternoons. I have enjoyed each and every moment within the club.

But my favourite highlight of the season was when Marnie, Mark, Ronnie and myself got to fly to Melbourne and join up with Akanksha to do some coaching with some children at the Jennings Street School. They were all welcoming and fantastic hosts to BlowFly Cricket so thank you to everyone at the Jennings Street School in Melbourne.

The moments at James Henty Reserve were brilliant too. We have had lots of new players join BlowFly Cricket they are all settling in nicely. At James Park we love coming every Saturday come rain or sunshine we still manage to hit ball and have a great time.

Thank you coaches, players and coaching staff for your hard work and a big thank you to Mark, BlowFly cricket would never be the same without your happy smile.



Maddie Jones
Co-Club Captain



I'm Nick and I'm the Co-Club Cricket Captain at BlowFly. I love going to cricket on a Saturday, it's the best part of my week!

I enjoy seeing all of my friends and hitting the ball as hard and fast as I can. I like to help the younger kids out. We all have a lot of fun.

I also like the delicious BBQ sausage sizzle that we eat for lunch. Yum!

I have lots of friends there, Tim, Mark, Ronnie, Angela and Cameron and really enjoy being part of a team. It's really sad at the end of summer because I know I will miss my afternoons at James Park. But I'm really forward to next year and would like to thank our co-team captains, coaches, parents and all of our supporters for their kindness and encouragement.



Nick Callanan-Williams
Co-Club Captain

Last season was an exciting time for BlowFly Cricket Club. We commenced a new location at Dural in partnership with West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club.

We supported the Jennings Street Special School in Melbourne to start a cricket program. I even went to Melbourne with two friends and two carers to coach the new cricket team at the Jennings Street School in Melbourne.

The James Park Club continued to grow and we had fun with the BBQ, including the several fundraising events at Bunnings Thornleigh.

I am excited and can't wait for the next season.



Akanksha Swarup
Co-Club Captain

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone, what a wonderful and busy 10th year for BlowFly Cricket.

Who would have thought from the humble days at Claude Cameron Grove in Wahroonga to a nearby purpose built facility like James Park in Hornsby, that BlowFly would evolve into such a wonderful activity for kids/adults and parents and are now looking to expand - watch this space!

The concept was simple, an activity that kids with disabilities could participate in, be active, learn new skills – socially and physically, but most of all have fun. I have also found over the years that it has helped parents to understand their child's disability and not feel so isolated, we are all in it together.

Highlights of the year were... there are so many!

- The Big trip to Melbourne to assist with conducting a coaching session at the new "BFC" at the Jennings Street School (JSS), our first interstate program. Well done Maddie Shortte in getting this up and running. Maddie volunteered at James Park for four years before her family relocated to Victoria in July, 2018. It was at this point Maddie expressed interest in establishing a BlowFly Cricket Centre in Victoria . . . the rest is history.
- Friday night Cricket at James Henty Reserve in Dural. This was such a success and a big thank you is extended to the community oriented West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club (WPHCCC). Bill Peterkin (Vice-President), Bec Peterkin (Centre Coordinator) and Master Harry Peterkin are to be sincerely thanked for their enormous 'family' effort in ensuring the success of this new BlowFly Cricket Centre by leaving no stones unturned. Master Harry, being 4 years of age, is our youngest volunteer...CHAMPION!!!
- The increased number of participants at both Friday and Saturday games has exceeded expectations.
- The Sony Foundation Camps which BlowFly Cricket continues to support, being: St Andrew's College (Sydney University); Pymble Ladies College (PLC)/ Shore College and ABBOX of FUN (a joint initiative between Abbotsleigh School and Knox College, held at Abbotsleigh School).

- Bunnings Thornleigh Fundraising BBQ's.
- 'Return and Earn' cans/bottles collection fundraising.
- SCG – a walk on the hallowed turf for several of our volunteers during the Sydney Test, January 2019.

There are so many people to thank, parent helpers every Friday and Saturday and the BBQ gurus at the many Bunnings Thornleigh fundraising days. To Ben Gussey (Projects Manager) and Mark Rushton (Founder/ Treasurer) who wrote and submitted grants on behalf of BlowFly Cricket and Kate Guild (Director Operations/ Secretary) who has been proactive in promoting BlowFly Cricket via the newsletter, the website and Facebook page while Marnie Nissen (Fundraising Officer) has been managing the BlowFly Cricket Fundraising Instagram account. To the remaining committee members who have been proactive and readily available when hands on support is needed.

There is absolutely no way in the world that BlowFly Cricket could continue to thrive and prosper without the outstanding generosity of so many people, businesses and organisations. I understand these will be listed later in the Report. I join with all associated with BlowFly Cricket in sincerely thanking you for your generous support and interest.

Again BlowFly Cricket would never happen unless the Captain of the ship wasn't in full control. Thank you Mark Rushton and his super assistant Marnie Nissen for all the wonderful efforts you have put into BlowFly Cricket for our children in order for them to have a wonderful activity they can call their own.

Hope to see you all (kids and parents) at the 10th Anniversary Dinner Friday 7 June Hornsby RSL at 6.30pm. Looking forward to another 10 years, yours in BlowFly Cricket.



Davina MacKenzie
President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an amazing year we have experienced. This has been a year of growth, not only with player numbers but with new centres opening up in Sydney and Melbourne! The friendships that develop from this program is just exceptional and what we are all about.

Players have become close friends, as well as players and the volunteers and this then organically grows into volunteers forming great relationships as well!!!

Like last year we watched the players taking more and more ownership of BlowFly Cricket and this couldn't be more evident than via the Coaching opportunities offered to our Community (formerly Level 1) Coaches.

Excitingly we had another group of players and volunteers complete their Community Coaching qualification. This will only lead to further growth and creates new pathways for our competitors. We must thank Craig Stubbs for his outstanding work as our long term coaching consultant who works amazingly with the players to help them obtain their certificate. Let's hope that next year we have our first candidates looking at starting their Level 2 coaching certificate!!

Our newsletter has continued to grow this year and we must offer huge thanks to our Director of Operations and in this case Editor Kate Guild for preparing and sending this out to everyone each week. I have really enjoyed receiving this and is also a nice way for us to recognise our sponsors for all that they do to help BlowFly.

This year Kate introduced a Get to Know the Players section – This was a great read and something I hope continues!

I cannot thank ALL our sponsors enough for their contribution – it is all your generous support that allows this association to continue to grow and just get bigger and better every year!

To our 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. It is amazing to think of just how many people help out in some way to make this what it is.

As the year closes I reflect on what Mark continues to do for the association, turning his dream into reality and now growing it to where we are today. It is hard to express my admiration for you. You really do live by the rule that when life gives you lemons – you make lemonade (or Jam, or Chilly Salt or Marmalade!!)

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
Vice President

DIRECTOR OPERATIONS REPORT

Overview:

The 2018/2019 BlowFly Cricket season has been another enjoyable one and it is with great pleasure that I provide you with the following Secretary's report for the club.

I had a slight job title change at the start of this season to now include "Director Operations" I think this just means the lovely Mark Rushton can delegate more work to me!

Events from the season:

- Mark and I worked together before the season commenced to get our BlowFly Cricket Club website up and running so we can use it as a central information tool and another way of sharing information with our members, their family and friends.
 - The BlowFly Bulletin newsletter continued again this season, helping to keep our members informed of the goings on of the club.
 - Thornleigh Bunnings BBQ Fundraisers were another success over this past season. We were lucky enough to be a part of 10 BBQ's from June 2018, raising much needed funds for the club. This included a Bandaged Bear Campaign Fundraising BBQ. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who assisted with the smooth running of these BBQ's.
 - Once again, BlowFlies supported Mark Rushton throughout the month of February to raise money for Pink Stumps Day through raffles, donations and purchasing of "Roller Boy's" chutney's and jams. The goal was \$600 and we well and truly achieved that plus some.
 - Our "Uncoachables coaching the Uncoachables" program commenced this year and we even had three of our Coaches travel to Melbourne to help instruct and implement the BlowFly Cricket program at the Jennings St School in Melbourne. This is an amazing initiative and we look forward to the growth of this program over the coming years.
- This season was the first for our new BlowFly Cricket Centre on Friday evenings at James Henty Reserve, Dural run by the community focused West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club (WPHCCC).
 - We had quite a few grants allocated to us, thanks to the hard work of Ben Gussey (Projects Manager) and Mark Rushton this season. This money will assist with the development and equipment purchases for the "Uncoachables Coaching the Uncoachables" program. We now also have a defibrillator for the club.

The changes to the club over this season have been amazing and I am excited to see what develops over the off season and the up-coming 2019-2020 season.

Finally, thank you to all our volunteers for your assistance week in and week out with cooking BBQ's, helping on Bunnings fundraiser days, buying and selling raffle tickets and just being involved so our kids can enjoy their cricket club. Wishing you all the best until next season.



Kate Guild
Director Operations / Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Reporting

BlowFly Cricket is a Tier 2 association required to submit a summary of our financial affairs to the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). 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.

Tier 2 associations must ensure their financial records correctly explain their financial transactions and financial position.

Tier 2 associations are those whose:

- total revenue as recorded in the income and expenditure statement (i.e. gross receipts) for a financial year is \$250,000 or less, and
- current assets are \$500,000 or less.

Current assets refers to assets (other than real property or assets that are capable of depreciation) held by the association as at the end of the association's last financial year. It includes amounts held in financial institutions, stocks and debentures.

Reassuringly, BlowFly Cricket remains in a strong and healthy financial position when one considers the small scale of our association. Our funding is strictly through a number of 'volunteer driven' 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. A special word of thanks is extended to:

- Ben Gussey (Projects Manager) for his diligence, attention to detail and commitment to the task at hand (Grant submissions) is exemplary. Grants are the lifeblood of our organisation . . . thank you Ben.
- Kate Guild (Director of Operations/Secretary) for her amazing enthusiasm, support, tireless behind the scenes hard work and attention to detail is second to none.

- Marnie Nissen (Fundraising Manager) for her amazing energy levels, motivation and tireless efforts in promoting so many fundraising initiatives . . . thank you Marnie, and
- Kirsty Smith and Christine Muir (Westfield Hornsby Christmas Gift Wrapping) for their amazing efforts in volunteering and coordinating four days of this successful fundraising initiative.

Acknowledgements

"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." Mother Teresa

Our sincere thanks and gratitude are extended to the following for their ongoing support of our inclusive All Ability community association; ACE Electrical Services (Boris Brownlee), All Seasons Trophies (Brad and Donna Caldwell), Andy Bayles, Bite Me Bakehouse (Anthony Courtney), Bunnings Thornleigh, Cancer Council NSW, Caring Approach (Dinushi Herath), CBA Hornsby, Coaches' Association (Bruce Wood), Cricket Australia, Cricket NSW, Cricket Victoria, Fullpoint Graphics (Brian Binfield), Hornsby Shire Council (Parks & Recreation), Kookaburra Sport (Cameron Eve), Kathy Morris, Mt Kuring-gai Village Butchery (Graham and Diane Frankel), NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, Craig Stubbs, Toyota Good for Cricket Raffle, Westfield Hornsby and WPHCCC (Bec and Bill Peterkin).



Mark Rushton
Treasurer

FUNDRAISING REPORT



Reflections on my first full year as BlowFly Cricket's Fundraising Officer. Working hard at 10 Bunnings Thornleigh Fundraising BBQ since 11 June 2018 proudly raising \$5,500.00. With the ongoing support of Bite Me Bakehouse supplying us with in excess of 450 loaves of bread while the friendly staff of Mt Kuring-Gai Village Family Butchers bagged over 4,500 par-boiled thick beef sausages and wrapping over 20 meat trays which were raffled (free) for our hard working volunteers. This season's effort for the McGrath Foundation Pink Stumps Day far exceeded our fundraising goal of \$600.00. Together, we delightfully raised \$1,130.00, being an outstanding achievement.

Additional raffles in partnership with Toyota's Good for Cricket Fundraising Campaign raised \$1,350.00 and countless paper cuts as the raffle ticket stubbs got ripped out and sold. Bunnings Warehouse Gift Cards were met with excitement. The Gift Cards with the combined value of \$300.00 quickly resulted in over \$1,100.00 in weekly raffle ticket sales for BlowFly Cricket's spending on long sleeved shirts and long legged pants as part of the Blowies upgraded club uniform.

The 2018/2019 season has seen an increasing amount of Return and Earn collecting. Plastic bottles, glass bottles and aluminium cans continue to be collected at Bite Me Bakehouse, Anglomoil, Granville Diggers Club, P V Construction as well as the BlowFly Cricketers at our weekly Saturday afternoon James Park, Hornsby Centre helping to collect after enjoying a refreshment at the social BBQ. We also saw many parents, families, friends, volunteers and neighbours all working in partnership to fundraise and also continue the important War on Waste.

Our fundraising Return and Earn campaign has seen me walking dangerously the wrong way down one way streets, freeway on and off ramps and extending my arm into the Ku Ring Gai National Park bins at Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay where I proudly display my permit as BlowFly Cricket's Dumpster Diva. Since March 2018, this fundraising initiative has increased BlowFly Crickets bank balance by \$2,200.00 and crucially, helps to keep our environment clean and free of waste.

My role as Blowfly Cricket's Fundraising Officer has brought me excitement and has been a fantastic conversation starter but most importantly it has brought together people who were once strangers, working towards a common goal.



Collecting and enjoying the rewards and seeing first hand how the rewards are enriching lives, being the collective lives of the BlowFly Cricketers, their families and friends. I feel in what is a relatively short period of time that what has been achieved to date is only the beginning of greater things to come.



Marnie Nissen
Fundraising Officer

NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

CONSENT FOR ACTIVITY
Consent is hereby granted in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009 [Clause 22 (3)(a)] for the following activity, subject to the following conditions:

NAME OF GROUP: Blowfly Cricket Club
ADDRESS: 41 Oxley Dve, Mt Colah NSW 2079
CONTACT PERSON: Mark Rushton (Founder, Treasurer)
CONTACT DETAILS: m.rushton555@gmail.com; 0401 743 747
RESERVE: Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park
SITE: Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay precincts
ACTIVITY: Collection of Return and Earn eligible containers
PERIOD OF ACTIVITY: 1st November 2018 – 31st October 2019













CONDITIONS:

- Return and Earn eligible containers may be collected from any sulo/wheelie bins within the identified visitor precincts
- Collection may occur on Wednesdays or after 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays
- Vehicles must display a valid annual pass or day entry ticket
- A copy of this consent must be available during the activity and be provided to an NPWS officer if requested
- No waste is to be left on the ground as a result of collecting eligible containers
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment must be used, including but not limited to suitable gloves and a high-visibility vest
- Emergency response and first aid procedures that are independent of NPWS must be in place
- Any incidents are to be reported to NPWS within 48 hours.
- This consent will no longer apply under extreme weather conditions such as Total Fire Bans or severe storm events.

Tegan Burton
Tegan Burton
Ranger, North Western Sydney Area
30th October 2018

PO Box 3009 Lindfield West NSW 2070
Lady Grove One Chatswood West NSW 2067
Tel: (02) 8468 0420 Fax: (02) 8468 0444
ABN 30 941 387 071
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

GRANTS REGISTER

FUNDING BODY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Office of Sport <small>Supported by the</small> 	Defibrillator Grant	\$1,250.00
 	Equipment Grant for Blowfly Cricket Club's "Uncoachables Coaching the Uncoachables" Development Program	\$2,300.00
    <small>Linking people and communities with opportunities.</small>	HomeWorld Helpers Grant for clothing for the "Uncoachables Coaching The Uncoachables" Development Program	\$1,500.00
	Category 2 "in kind Grant for Blowfly Cricket Club's 10 Year Anniversary Dinner	\$420.00
  	Volunteer Grants 2018	\$2,267.00
	Bunnings Paint your Community "in kind" Grant to repaint James Park storage shed, park benches and BBQ furniture.	TBA

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our local inclusive All Ability community sporting organisation. BlowFly Cricket is proud to recognise all of the outstanding volunteers in our Association. We are collectively thrilled to have been successful in receiving the Grants listed below and are extremely grateful for this injection of funding and support.

The Federal Government continues to support volunteers efforts nationwide with \$20 million for the 2018 Volunteer Grants round, which we were successful in securing a Grant to further support our wonderful volunteers. Across Australia there are more than 8.7 million volunteers who make an estimated annual economic and social contribution of \$290 billion.

Volunteers help people into employment and reduce social marginalisation. Volunteers assist with increasing community participation across all spectrums of modern society. By helping people come together and work alongside each other, volunteers help in building a stronger and safer community, which the BlowFly Cricket community is testament to.



Ben Gussey
Projects Manager

A WORD FROM OUR AMBASSADORS



It's certainly enjoyable for Chelsey and I to be a part of the BlowFly Cricket program, to join the players on Saturday afternoon and see the enjoyment, the fun, and the continual improvement in skill and self confidence. There's plenty of catches and near misses, some very 'classy' batting, wickets taken, and many run outs, often followed by an excited high five!! With everyone given the opportunity to bat and bowl, to be involved, all receiving great coaching, encouragement and friendship.

Mark, his brilliant friends, the wonderful volunteers and the families provide a invaluable opportunity for the players to get together and participate. The sit down and sausage sizzle afterwards also provides us all even more special time to chat, to laugh and to interact.

Great work Mark.

Errol and Chelsey Hyde

Our Newest Ambassador

Michael Barry Gillies was born in Wagga Wagga hospital on 8th October 1984. He actually lived in a very small town called Wallendbeen and the nearest hospital was Wagga Wagga.

At the age of 1 Michael received his first cricket bat, and he hasn't put them down since. Michael's grandfather and uncle both had a love of cricket, so his passion could be stated as being in his blood.

At the tender age of 12, Michael started to play junior cricket and has continued every season to play outdoor cricket. He had a passion for bowling and was a fearsome pace bowler. Like many former quicks, as he got older he changed to a spin bowler. He still loves to get out and slog the ball and on the odd occasion, he may very well "slog sweep" a four or even a six.

When Michael was 26 he was diagnosed with Asperger's and this puts him on the Autism spectrum as a high functioning adult. With many therapy sessions and support from his extended family, he has gained the understanding of how to think and understand life in a different way. His wife says it's like she runs on a Apple Mac system and he runs on a Windows system. Both do the same thing, but in a different way.



With a newfound knowledge of why he felt different, and the understanding of how a mental illness works, Michael pursued his dream of playing cricket. He took up winter indoor cricket and played most weekends of the year, practicing and learning his craft to play at a higher level. In the spring of 2016, Michael was selected to play for NSW in the team for intellectually disabled for outdoor cricket and was chosen to be captain.

The following winter saw Michael play in the indoor competition for intellectually disabled, representing NSW on numerous occasions.

Michael has been very fortunate as in March 2019; he has been selected by Cricket NSW to be the Intellectual Ambassador for NSW. As this role is currently in its initial stages of being established, exciting times lay ahead. Michael is also a proud Ambassador for BlowFly Cricket in Hornsby NSW and also for Lend a Hand to Hugo in Tasmania.

With two current sponsorships from Bluetongue Sports in Richmond New South Wales and Aura Cricket in Melbourne Victoria, Michael one day hopes to play for Australia with the support of these great organisations.

Darlene Apps *(Wife)*

BlowFly Cricket Anthem
(sung to the tune of "Six White Boomers")
 BlowFly Cricket, BlowFly Cricket,
 With a bat and ball in the Aussie sun,
 BlowFly Cricket, BlowFly Cricket,
 Come along and join us and
 You'll have some fun.
 Plenty of verses could be added, such as:
 Put on the sunblock and a floppy hat,
 Grab a cricket ball or a cricket bat,
 Some may take a Catch or maybe a Wicket,
 But it's always lots of fun at BlowFly
 Cricket... ha ha
 Adapted by Errol & Chelsey Hyde

2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



“This year we are celebrating 12 years of acknowledging the work of volunteers in NSW through the Volunteer of the Year Awards. We at The Centre for Volunteering are pleased to be able to promote the importance of volunteering to the community through this program and we are thrilled to announce that in 2018 the Awards are acknowledging over 110,000 volunteers right across the state.

There are more than 2.4 million volunteers in NSW who generously give more than 235 million work hours each year in NSW, contributing billions of dollars in value to the State’s economy.

Across Australia more than 5 million people engage in volunteering activities and programs. It’s estimated their energies contribute \$290 billion in economic and social value every year.”



Gemma Rygate
CEO The Centre for Volunteering

Volunteer Award Recipients – “Young” Award Category

Emily Bardon	North Shore	Tara Lewis	Central Sydney
Courtney Buczek	South Western Sydney/Macarthur	Ronnie MacKenzie	Central Sydney
Jacob Buczek	South Western Sydney/Macarthur	Cameron Marashian	North Shore
Tom Casey	Central Sydney	Kiahna Marashian	North Shore
Jared Guild	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Marnie Nissen	Hornsby/North Western Sydney
Chelsey Hyde	Outer Western Sydney/Blue Mountains	Mark Perry	Northern Beaches
Maddie Jones	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Akanksha Swarup	North Shore
Aaron Lewis	Central Sydney	Nick Callanan-Williams	Hornsby/North Western Sydney



Marnie Nissen
Fundraising Officer



Chelsey Hyde
Volunteer



Nick Callanan-Williams
Volunteer



Jared Guild
Volunteer

Blowfly Volunteer Award Recipients – “Adult” Award Category

Denise Anderson	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Kevin Lewis	Central Sydney
Andre Bali	North Shore	Irish Lewis	Central Sydney
Andrew Bayles	Central Coast	Davina MacKenzie	Central Sydney
Karen Buczek	South Western Sydney/Macarthur	Amir Marashian	North Shore
Jason Buczek	South Western Sydney/Macarthur	Kathy Morris	Hunter
Gabrielle Callanan	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Steve Perry	Northern Beaches
Michael Connell	Northern Beaches	Bill Peterkin	Hornsby/North Western Sydney
Jennifer Crockart	North Shore	Maddie Shortte	Hornsby/North Western Sydney
Jeni Goddard	Central Sydney	Kirsty Smith	Hornsby/North Western Sydney
Kate Guild	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Craig Stubbs	Hornsby/North Western Sydney
Ben Gussey	North Shore	Bruce Wood	Hornsby/North Western Sydney



Kevin and Irish Lewis with Mark Rushton
Volunteers



Andy Bayles
Historical Officer



Kate Guild
Director of Operations/Secretary



Ben Gussey
Grants Officer



Jeni Goddard **Ronnie MacKenzie** **Tom Casey**
Volunteer *LM/Club Captain* *Volunteer*

Blowfly Volunteer Award Recipients – “Adult” Award Category

Brian Binfield	Central Coast	Dougal Graham	North Shore
Jan Brock	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Patricia Guild	Central Coast
Jock Brock	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Errol Hyde	Outer Western Sydney/Blue Mountains
Carol Coyle	Hornsby/North Western Sydney	Alfred James OAM	North Shore
Margaret Cropper	North Shore	Jenny Magers	Hornsby/North Western Sydney
Julie Davis	Central Coast		



Carol Coyle
Volunteer



Dougal Graham
Chief of BBQ Operations



Errol Hyde
BlowFly Cricket Ambassador
and former Paralympian



Mark Rushton
Receiving awards on behalf of:
Brian Binfield, Pat Guild and Julie Davis



Brian Binfield
Publications Officer

BLOWFLY AWARDS 2018-2019

Life Membership

Life membership is the most significant award that can be bestowed by our association.

Jacob Buczek

Jacob has been attending BlowFly Cricket ever since its inception, some 10 seasons back and always plays to the best of his ability, continuing to show improvement and enjoying himself immensely.

With Jacob's continued improvement and excellent attendance record, the BlowFly Cricket Coaching Committee anticipate he will be able to complete his Cricket Australia Accredited Community Coaching qualification in the 2019/20 Season and join our progressive "Uncoachables Coaching The Uncoachables" program, he will then be able to mentor, coach and assist other All Ability BlowFly Cricketers in the years ahead.

Jacob's family drive from Menangle (outer-western Sydney) most Saturday afternoons . . . a 190 kilometre round trip to the BlowFly Cricket Centre at James Park, Hornsby . . . which is an amazing level of commitment and dedication volunteering for long shifts at some of our Bunnings Thornleigh Fundraising BBQs.

With further maturation, development and confidence Jacob will continue to be an integral part of BlowFly Cricket for many years to come.

In closing, thank you Jacob for our inclusive All Ability Sport of BlowFly Cricket, as the game was modified and created to suit your needs and to provide you with a healthy sport in an accepting, friendly and non-judgemental environment. To put it bluntly, without you, BlowFly Cricket would not be in existence.

Ronnie MacKenzie

Ronnie is a pioneer of BlowFly Cricket, attending over 95% of sessions held over the past 10 years. Appointed "Club Captain" in the 2012/13 Season, it is a position he still holds. He also volunteers for most of our Fundraising BBQs.

Ronnie became our first Cricket Australia (CA) Accredited Community (Level 1) Coach, hence our founding participant in our unique, inclusive All Ability "Uncoachables Coaching The Uncoachables" program.

His other roles include:

- CA "A Sport For All" Community Ambassador.
- Attended many SONY Foundation Children Camps assisting with the delivery of BlowFly Cricket coaching sessions.
- Assisted with the delivery of a BlowFly Cricket coaching session at the inaugural AbilityOptions (Hornsby) 2018 Christmas Function.
- Attended a demonstration clinic at the Ability Links Expo (Warrina Street Oval, Berowra).
- Attended a demonstration clinic at the Northern Sydney Participation Expo (Norman Griffiths Oval, West Pymble).
- Attended demonstration clinics at Camp Breakaway Respite Camps (Central Coast, NSW).
- Attended Special Needs Schools programs at: Les Powell School (Mt Pritchard, NSW) and Jennings Street School (Laverton, Victoria).
- Participated and presented special needs coaching fundamentals and philosophies at a joint CA/Cricket NSW forum held at the SCG Auditorium/Indoor Nets.
- Ronnie continues to be actively involved in most BlowFly Cricket functions and/or activities, which sets a positive role model for all of our members.
- Ronnie acquired his NSW Driver Licence in 2014 and drives to and from all of the James Park sessions. Ronnie's driving skills and ability promotes his independence and functioning in the broader community which is a key motivating factor for many of our members.

- Ronnie is a progressive and proactive change agent, for the betterment of our club and members. For example, the BlowFly Cricket “away shirt” was a wonderful addition to our club’s uniform and is now our preferred playing shirt. Additionally, BlowFly Cricket is now in the process of adding tracksuits and shorts in club colours which will further develop our Community . . . well done Ronnie.

Coaches’ Association Coach of Year Award (Bruce Wood Cup)

Nominations – 2018/19

Maddie Jones

Maddie is one of BlowFly Cricket’s leading CA Accredited Community Coaches. Maddie is a member of our unique “Uncoachables Coaching The Uncoachables” program, who flew to Melbourne to present a Coaching Centre for 11 (9 girls) special needs high school children in early March . . . a fantastic accomplishment as the day trip was a 17 hour ordeal away from her family, accompanied by 4 other BlowFly Cricket coaches and volunteers.

Maddie has Fragile X Syndrome (also called: FXS, Martin-Bell syndrome) together with high levels of anxiety and social phobias, amongst other symptoms of the disorder. Despite these obstacles, Maddie has taken on the onerous role of Co-Club Captain for the third season taking it all in her stride, meeting sponsors, supporters and performs admirably when public speaking on behalf of BlowFly Cricket.

Maddie is a wonderful role model for all of our members, especially our younger female players. Well done Maddie.

Ronnie MacKenzie

Ronnie is one of BlowFly Cricket’s leading CA Accredited Community Coaches, who coaches at both of our local BlowFly Cricket Centres, SONY Foundation Camps (PLC and Abbotsleigh College) and a one-off Hornsby Ability Options ‘WorkReady’ (for young adults with mental illness and/or intellectual disabilities or special needs) Christmas Function held at James Park, Hornsby.

Ronnie is also a member of our unique and progressive, inclusive All Ability “Uncoachables Coaching The Uncoachables” program, he also flew to Melbourne to present a Coaching Centre for 11 (9 girls) special needs high school in early March .

Ronnie has Autism Spectrum Disorder (also called: ASD) accompanied by a crippling Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (also called: OCD) together with high levels of anxiety and social phobias. Despite these obstacles, he has taken on the role of Club Captain for a seventh successive season, meeting with sponsors, supporters and public speaking on behalf of BlowFly Cricket. Ronnie was also interviewed live on the SCG during the tea-break of the 2019 Australia vs. India 4th Test Match (Day 4) in front of tens of thousands of people. Ronnie continues to be a wonderful role model for all of our members... well done Ronnie.

Westfield Hornsby – 2019 Local Heroes

Nominations

Kate Guild and Marnie Nissen

Both Kate and Marnie have been nominated for these highly considered awards in recognition of their outstanding voluntary contributions to BlowFly Cricket and the broader community. There respective tireless efforts do not go unnoticed and we are so incredibly grateful to the both of these fine women for their ongoing support, enthusiasm and efforts.

Thank you ladies!

WPHCCC BLOWFLY CRICKET CENTRE



This year has been an extremely exciting year for all those involved with West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club. Whilst in the past we have been involved with BlowFly from a distance this year we finally got together and established a second weekly session. We decided that Friday nights would be the best option offering an alternative / second session for the players without taking away from headquarters at Hornsby on a Saturday.

After a lot of worrying and annoying Mark we kicked off mid-October and from the first session we realised that all the hopes and hard work we had put in was coming to reality and that everyone was having a great time and really enjoying their cricket.

We were very lucky to be joined from the first week by some of our Coaches from the Hornsby sessions. We are extremely thankful for their participation and their development as players, mentors and coaches was evident throughout the season. Many thanks to Ronnie, Maddie, Akanksha, Nicko and Nathaniel for coming down and kicking off your coaching careers.

We also had our first WPHCCC players and volunteers that went along and obtained their Community Coaching course a huge congratulations to Alethea, Annabelle and Ammar. We thank West Penno 'Old Boy' Craig Stubbs for facilitating the course.

With this being a start-up year we were unsure on what sort of funding we would need so we put our feelers out there to see if there was any sponsors in the local area that were willing to help out.

We were blown away with the immediate response!!! It is with a full heart we would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Veri Shades
- Sommers Clothing
- The Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook
- George's Fine Meats
- West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook A Grade
- Alan O'Baidi
- Thortz

Without you guys and your generous donations and support we would not have been able to deliver the sessions we did.

To our Club Captain, Tim and Our Co-Club Captains, Angela and Adam congratulations on a stellar first year. You all conducted yourselves so well and helped out wherever needed I was blown away with the volunteers we had step forward to help out for the season. Trying to name them all will be difficult so my apologies if I have missed anyone.

Mike Kinchington, Alex & Paris Robinson, Bailey Meidler, Riley Meidler, Danielle Shivers (and Dad Graham!), Bec and Harry Peterkin are all involved with WPHCCC and made it to most if not all weeks.



To our head chef Nicola Jones and her son Dom who plays and helps out each week, BlowFly Fundraising extraordinaire Marnie, BlowFly's Director of Operations Kate and the many, many parents and carers that played or help cook the BBQ each week we say a massive THANK YOU.

We had a fantastic visit from the State Member for Epping, Damien Tudehope. This wasn't your usual visit with a quick get a photo and leave!!! Damien got right in a batted and bowled with the players for well over an hour! It was very much appreciated from all at BlowFly and we hope he makes this a regular visit. I think he took great pleasure in dispatching his nephew (Damian) to all parts of the ground!!!!

We cannot go on without acknowledging the tireless effort and work of Mark Rushton. We are so lucky to have someone with the drive and passion that Mark has. He battles his own health issues on a daily basis but never lets this get in the way of progressing the association. I think we can both confirm the fun that was had each and every Friday. Neither of us had planned to be regular attendees due to other commitments, however on many occasions when we have been talking we just had to accept that being there was just too much fun to miss!

I could go on for many pages on how proud and excited for the future of BlowFly Cricket and the relationship with WPHCCC. In my opinion our Friday night sessions have been a huge success.

Personally I want to thank each and every player that has come along and had a bat and a bowl. All we did was find a place for the games to take place, but it is YOU GUYS that make BlowFly Cricket seriously the best cricket there is. Cricket, sport and in fact life is not about how many wickets, or how many runs we score (although Akanksha seems to keep a good count on her 6's);

- it is about Robbie's routine before he has a bat,
- it is about Duck being happy simply cause we call him duck,
- it is when Jaz gets his shirt and my animals are finally safe,
- it is when Angela says she will only have 1 hit and we get her to have 3 or 4, and
- it's when Ronnie hits 3 in a row over the fence.

And who can forget Sebi . . . his first hit being helped by Mike, to his first hit by himself and then to presentation night . . . Sebi not only let out the biggest woohoo when his name was announced but greeted me with the biggest (and probably best) hug I have ever had!!

This is what it is about . . . Cheers



Bill Peterkin
Organiser

WPHCC BLOWFLY CRICKET CENTRE 2018-19 REVIEW



COMMUNITY (LEVEL 1) CRICKET COACHING COURSE



Another season over and once again plenty of achievements by all players, coaches, families and most of all the administration of BlowFly Cricket. From the Saturday afternoons at James Park Hornsby a few years ago to now a number of other venues BlowFly has now not only given a sport for those with disabilities but given them the ability to become coaches in their own right and other important life skills to participate in society with confidence. I can only see BlowFly Cricket growing further throughout New South Wales and Australia in the years ahead particularly with the continued support of everyone involved.

The continued success of BlowFly Cricket has surpassed even Mark Rushton's (the founder) dreams when he first thought of this wonderful organization. This year he added a new concept for the player / coaches called 'Uncoachables Coaching the Uncoachables'. This program has seen Maddie, Ronnie and Akanksha experience travel to Melbourne to coach the Uncoachables. This is an incredible achievement by them and everyone involved.

Last November was the fourth time we have run a community coaching accreditation course with Cricket NSW for those interested in helping BlowFly cricketers. Again, we had a diverse group of people in attendance and I would like to thank Billy Peterkin and Marnie Nissen for supporting me on the day.

I continue to be amazed at the different abilities and experience of those who attend the course on the day. But to see Mark Rushton take this coaching and organization to another level with 'Uncoachables Coaching the Uncoachables' program it gives all of us great satisfaction that we can all help change people's lives.

This year we had eleven (11) attendees to our community cricket coaching course which was organized by Cricket NSW and BlowFly Cricket.

In closing, I would like to wish my great friend Mark Rushton all the best with his health and acknowledge the wonderful person you are in helping so many in all parts of life . . . you are a real champion.

Happy coaching to everyone . . .



Craig Stubbs
Cricket Australia High Performance
(Level 3) Coach

JPCG CENTRE – COACH’S REPORT



To all Blowies and families.

I've been watching and helping out at BlowFly's for five years now (since my son, Mark, was under 5ft tall).

It's such a buzz for me to see the kids gain in confidence with the encouragement they get from everyone involved. Apart from the really competitive kids there is generally encouragement from each other which is really great to see (otherwise the banter can be quite hysterical).

The kids are all unique in themselves and unique as a squad. They obviously develop at their own pace, but having a son with autism (seeing progress one step forward then two steps back) it's easy to see who is improving their hand/eye skills and/or social confidence. Sometimes it's just the social confidence that really shines through.

I feel privileged to be entrusted to this position by all the parents and especially Mark Rushton (who thinks I'm doing OK) and for his strength and determination to make this gig BIG!



Steve Perry
CA Accredited Community Coach

Coaches

- Amanda Bardon
- Andy Bayles
- Brian Binfield
- Karen Buczek
- Madison Buck (2018)
- Gabrielle Callanan
- Ned Callanan
- Tom Casey
- Nicola Cooke
- Jen Crockart
- Julie Davis
- Natasha Freudling (2018)
- Patricia Guild
- Chelsey Hyde (2018)
- Errol Hyde (2018)
- Isolde Kamerman (2018)
- Sarah Lind
- Amir Marashian
- Marnie Nissen
- Steve Perry (*Hornsby Centre Club Coach*)
- Bill Peterkin (2018)
- Mark Rushton
- Maddie Shortte (*Jennings Street School, Victoria*)
- Kirsty Smith
- Craig Stubbs
- Ammar Tanveer (*WPHCCC Dural Centre*)(2018)

CRICKET NSW – WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



I have been aware of the great work that BlowFly Cricket does for All-Abilities cricketers for a long time now, but seeing the amazing turn out at the James Park presentation day on the 16th March really made me proud to be a part of our local cricketing community.

A quick head count of around 50 players, parents, volunteers and supporters shows the positive impact that BlowFly Cricket has on families and a turnout of this magnitude was great to see. The action out in the middle was the perfect combination of fun and competitiveness and it was good to see some of the parked cars in danger after some big shots that wouldn't be out of place in the Big Bash. I observed a real sense of team spirit during the day and it was good to see how the players interacted and helped each other when it was required. These are skills that transfer into everyday life and are a big part of the reason that we all play the game.

With the BlowFly Cricket 10-year anniversary dinner being held this year it gives us a chance to sit back and reflect on how far the concept has come, but also to look forward to the future and start to plan how far we can go with it. This growth couldn't be achieved without the hard work of the amazing volunteers that BlowFly Cricket is so lucky to have.

Over the past 10 years Mark and his team have done an outstanding job of providing a safe and inclusive environment for all so that everyone has the opportunity to learn and experience the greatest game on earth. I won't name all the volunteers (there are literally too many to name!) but I would like to thank you all on behalf of Cricket NSW for all that you do to help grow the game.

Finally, I would like to thank Mark Rushton for his amazing commitment to developing Cricket in the local community. I have known Mark since I was a young kid playing Cricket for the first time and am lucky enough to still be able to work with him in my new role as the Cricket Manager for the North Shore. Mark is an inspiration to us all and his passion for the game and for everyone at BlowFly is the reason that we are all involved in the game. Cricket NSW is dedicated to making Cricket accessible to all and having local champions like Mark make that goal much more achievable.

I hope that everyone has a great off season and can't wait to see you all again at the start of next season.



Daniel Anderson
Cricket Manager – North Shore

WOOLWORTHS CRICKET BLAST



Hi BlowFly Cricket.

We have come to the end of a huge summer of cricket and our first Woolworths Cricket Blast season.

We want to THANK YOU for facilitating the fun for the BlowFly Cricketers throughout your community who learned how to bat, bowl, field and catch this season. We know you've made some great connections and initiated friendships and skills for these kids that will hopefully last a lifetime.

Despite some challenges in the roll-out of the program this year that may have impacted your centre, we're excited for an even bigger and better 2019/20 season.

We appreciate your patience and support in making Woolworths Cricket Blast in your community the best it could possibly be.

Out of all the activities families could choose to involve their child, they chose cricket! There's something special about the game and no better way for kids to have fun and get active.

We look forward to your continued involvement in Woolworths Cricket Blast next season!

The Woolworths Cricket Blast team



BLOWFLY CRICKET SUPPORTED BY THE COACHES' ASSOCIATION



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 Vice-President) 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 people of all ages, although the majority are in the 6 – 18 years bracket.

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 children and adults 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 and 1 (cricket season), followed by a family BBQ.

Bruce Wood, President of the Coaches' Association, usually attends a couple of Saturday afternoon sessions at James Park each season to help out when he's not umpiring cricket elsewhere. It's pleasing that BlowFly Cricket has expanded to Friday evenings in the West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook area, as well as other sites.

The Blowies 'club' has grown and Mark now has over 50 volunteers who work with him. The numbers keep expanding and children with special needs now who come from as far away as Campbelltown and the Central Coast, plus a 46-year-old man joined the fun this season. After working with Cricket NSW and Cricket Australia, a new resource has been developed based on the BlowFly model, to help other clubs establish cricket teams for special needs children.

Mark is continually developing the BlowFly Cricket brand, to the extent that they now have some older players who have been able to complete their Community (Level 1) Coaching accreditation and participate in the innovative "Uncoachables Coaching the Uncoachables" program. With the assistance of Grants and funding, the club is able to 'employ' these young adults, which gives them a sense of inclusion and self-worth, while passing on skills and encouragement to the newer members.

The Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA) is proud of its association with BlowFly Cricket, which commenced at the inception of HKHDCCA in 2010-11.



The Coaches' Association was pleased to hold a free coaching session for the BlowFly cricketers on 16 January 2019 (see group photo below), led by coaches Bruce Wood, Cooper Davenport and Joe Hiley. HKHDCCA held another coaching session for the Blowies in 2018, which was coached by (Ms) Jamie Matson, as well as Bruce and Cooper. It was astounding to see the massive improvement in their batting, bowling and catching skills since our previous coaching sessions. The enthusiasm and sheer joy of the children was evident and it's clear that the Blowies program is a great success under an outstanding leadership team.

The young HKHDCCA coaches, Cooper, Joe and Jamie, commented that it was initially a challenge coaching these children with special needs, as it was so different to their usual coaching, however once they understood their needs and abilities, it was an absolute pleasure to coach them and play a small part in their participation and love of the game.



Bruce Wood
Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA)

Variety Heart Scholarships

Variety Heart Scholarships, giving Aussie kids a fair go!

Calling all kids with an existing talent living with a disability, chronic illness or financial hardship. Variety - the Children's Charity wants to help Aussie kids achieve their full potential and follow their dreams. Variety Heart Scholarships, proudly presented by the Grahame Mapp Family Foundation in honour of the late Gillian Mapp, are awarded up to the value of \$5000 in areas of education, sports and the arts.

Eligibility

- ♥ Be Australian citizens or permanent residents
- ♥ Residents of NSW or ACT
- ♥ Aged between 6 to 18 years
- ♥ Demonstrate an existing talent in one of these areas; education, sports and the arts

How to apply?
Apply on our website variety.org.au/scholarships from 1st June to 31st July, 2018

For more information email kidssupport@variety.org.au or call 02 9819 1000

Grahame MAPP Family Foundation

variety
the children's charity

“UNCOACHABLES COACHING THE UNCOACHABLES”



SPONSORED BY:



It is difficult to imagine a grassroots cricket program that has more potential than BlowFly Cricket to provide long term benefits to children and adults with special needs and/or intellectual disabilities; their respective families and support networks. The model that has been created for BlowFly Cricket is easily replicated and there are plans to expand the program by opening new centres and creating new programs.

The continued success of BlowFly Cricket has surpassed even Mark Rushton’s (Founder) dreams. This year he added a new concept for the player/coaches called *Uncoachables Coaching the Uncoachables*. This unique program has seen some of our Community (Level 1) Uncoachable Coaches, Maddie, Ronnie and Akanksha, experience travel to Melbourne to coach 11 Uncoachables (9 girls/2 boys) at the Jennings Street School, Laverton. This is an incredible achievement by these outstanding young ambassadors and everyone involved.

This unique BlowFly Cricket program received two very generous grants for our All Ability community organisation. This funding has been used specifically for the purchase of essential equipment and uniforms for our eight (8) *Uncoachables Coaching the Uncoachables*.

Our young superstar coaches directly benefit from:

- 2018 Uniting Ability Links Funding of Community Ideas Project Grant of \$2,300, specifically for the purchase of eight Master Blaster Junior Kits (caters for up to 16 participants); and
- 2018/19 Sydney Thunder Nation HomeWorld Helpers Grant of \$1,500, specifically for the purchase of eight uniform and clothing packs.

With Mark’s vision now a reality, we find the pathway for a meaningful and purposeful role for all our participants is well and truly established. To continue to thrive and prosper over our next 10 years we need to continue to raise appropriate funding for ongoing training and development of not only our players but also those very important family members and/or Carers, who actively support our players to obtain their coaching qualifications.



Craig Stubbs
CA Accredited Elite (Level 3) Coach
Coaching Consultant

SONY FOUNDATION CAMPS



St Andrew's College

Thursday 29 November, the day after Sydney's horrendous day of extreme weather. Mark, Marnie and I headed to St Andrew's College, Camperdown, for a BlowFly interactive demonstration. The 'campers' had arrived earlier in the day and were still developing rapport with their allocated carers.

The Cricket was a bit slow at the start but interest and interaction soon developed. Batting became a real challenge with more fun than expertise. Hitting, retrieving and placing the ball back on the cone or 'T', then striking it again, was a great success. Mind you, one camper wanted a special coloured ball every time she batted. We even had one girl who joined in and had her right arm in plaster. She was so proud of her one-armed efforts at all activities.

Throwing the ball at the 'Crazy Catch' was most popular, the laughter from the campers at the fast ball Return was delightful.

Much laughter, fun, friendly interaction and many 'high fives' from smiling faces was our reward for an afternoon well spent.

PLC / Shore College

I was privileged to attend the PLC / Shore SONY Camp on Sunday 9 December, as this was a very special occasion in our BlowFly history.

Our very own supposedly 'Uncoachable Coaches' who have all passed the coaching course received their first payment for participating in a coaching role, external to our BlowFly Centres.

Congratulations to Ronnie MacKenzie, Maddie Jones, Emily Bardon, Mark Perry and Akanksha Swarup for demonstrating and sharing their own expertise and abilities but primarily the fun they demonstrated in getting 'Campers' to participate. Well done to all of you as it was a proud day for BlowFly!





ABBOX

Following on from the experiences at PLC the SONY Camp held at Abbotsleigh on Tuesday 11 December was an end of year extravaganza attended by Ronnie MacKenzie and Emily Bardon.

Participation in the short BlowFly session prior to lunch again showed their ability to entice Campers to participate in a fun atmosphere. Ronnie even slowed his bowling to allow big hits and gave lots of "good shot . . . well done" praise to the batters. Emily fielded with gusto and encouraged batting time being equally shared by the Campers.

Particularly pleasing was watching Emily showing initiative by showing one of the Interested Campers how to hold a bat.

Lots of laughter surrounded this session. A lovely lunch was shared in the hall by all persons involved in the days activities.

The day ended with Ronnie and Emily having a photograph taken with David Campbell, who was the guest entertainer. A wonderful experience to be part of such a great program.

Keep on encouraging, supporting and growing BlowFlies.



Pat 'Spud' Guild
(Volunteer)



PYMBLE LADIES' COLLEGE / SYDNEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL



I was fortunate enough to meet Mark at the 2016 St Andrew's College Sony Camp at the University of Sydney and was so impressed by his wonderful workshop that I was quick to recommend him for the 2017 Pymble Ladies' College/Sydney Church of England Grammar School Sony Camp that I helped to organise. It was an absolute pleasure to have Mark and his fabulous team run their workshop for the second time at our camp in 2018, and we look forward to hopefully having them back for 2019!

The emphasis on participation is one of Blowfly Cricket's wonderful characteristics – each and every camper, regardless of their level of ability, is given the chance to participate and learn new skills, all while enjoying the overall experience. The workshop is fantastic for encouraging the use of hand-eye coordination and gross motor skills, and gives campers the opportunity to develop skills they may not normally be able to practise. It is also a fantastic way of getting campers to enjoy the outdoors and have fun engaging in physical activity.

During both years, it was such a delight to witness campers that we perhaps didn't expect to participate getting involved and absolutely loving it!

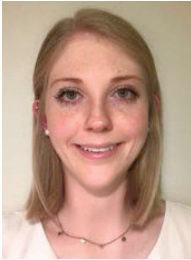
The workshop has a variety of activities that campers can take part in – the 'Sticky Wicky All Rounder Pop Up Stumps' was a particular favourite, as was the 'Crazy Catch' trampoline.

Of course, the rounds of classic cricket that took place on our lawn, involving not just the campers but also the companions, staff members and members of Mark's team, proved to be a massive hit both years! As a result of the diverse range of activities and equipment available, every camper that wanted to get involved could try something, even if that meant throwing a ball around with their companion. It was a particularly lovely gesture that each camper received a medal acknowledging their participation at the conclusion of the workshop – our campers were thrilled to receive these, and it made for a wonderful keepsake that they could take home as a reminder of their camp experience.

We are extremely thankful for the enthusiasm, patience, kindness and encouragement demonstrated by each member of Mark's team. It is wonderful to see how BlowFly Cricket is encouraging young people with disabilities to achieve personal goals and develop their skills as both excellent cricketers and as members of society.



We were especially grateful for BlowFly Cricket's very generous donation of a 'Sticky Wicky All Rounder Pop Up Stumps' and cricket bats after our 2017 camp, and would like to sincerely thank them and Cricket NSW for supplying a brand-new cricket kit after our 2018 camp that we very much look forward to using at our 2019 camp! Blowfly Cricket has been a highlight of our camp for the past two years, not just for our campers, but also for the companions and staff – we look forward to the next game of cricket together!



Sam Bear
Co-Activities Coordinator

WORKREADY ABILITY OPTIONS CHRISTMAS FUNCTION



The WorkReady team at Ability Options Hornsby, Chatswood and Brookvale had the absolute pleasure of joining BlowFly Cricket for a training session (and more than a few games!) for our Christmas Party in December.

Ability Options is a not-for-profit organisation that supports people with disability and mental health barriers to develop lifestyle and employment skills. Our belief is that every person has the capacity to achieve their goals, become active contributors to their community, and live their best possible life through gaining meaningful and enjoyable employment. We do this by offering skill-building sessions through small group workshops, as well as tailored one-on-one sessions. Best of all, our goal is to create opportunities for real-world work experience in the workplace, community settings or tertiary education environments.

We believe it is important to connect with organisations within the local community who share similar values and to participate in experiences where participants can develop skills they are passionate about and build friendships. We discovered BlowFly Cricket through the Hornsby Library directory and immediately wanted to know more! When WorkReady approached Mark Rushton, BlowFly's passionate and tireless Founder, about getting together for a Christmas match, he could not have been more welcoming.

Mark organised for four of BlowFly's certified coaches to work with the WorkReady team at our Christmas party.

Even those of us who promised we could not throw a ball before the party, could not help but get caught up by the enthusiasm and talent of BlowFly's coaches. Emily, Ronnie, Akanksha and Nathaniel demonstrated how to hit a ball and how to master that awkward cricket bowl!

They helped us to bat, bowl and field like pros – there was some serious talent displayed on the field. WorkReady participant Maxime expressed how much he enjoyed what he had learned on the day from the coaches;

"We played cricket and it was very interesting because I learned how to throw a cricket ball, properly, how to hit with a cricket bat and we played a game which was fun. I had a really enjoyable experience."

Mark then gave all of us at WorkReady the opportunity to join the BlowFly team on the 17th January for the local Coaches' Association free training day at the Mark Taylor Oval in Waitara. Tom and Maxime joined the team where they played cricket under the hot summer sun with their new teammates.

Tom enjoyed the two coaching sessions so much that he is soon to be one of BlowFly's newest recruits. Tom is very excited to join the team, to continue developing his raw talent and make new friendships along the way.



Tom spoke for us all at WorkReady when he said;
*"Thanks everyone to the guys at BlowFly, what can I say?
It was fantastic. They've been excellent. I can't wait to
catch up with them soon!"*

Thank you so much to every member of the BlowFly Cricket team and to all who make it such a success. It is incredible to have such a brilliant, inclusive sporting team in the local community. You made our Christmas party one to remember, and I have no doubt that our 2018 Christmas Party with BlowFly Cricket will mark the start of a very fun, much anticipated annual Christmas tradition.



Hannah Wharton
*WorkReady Consultant at Ability Options –
Hornsby*

BLOWIES FLYING VISIT TO JENNINGS STREET SCHOOL



Monday 4 March 2019 saw Maddie Jones, Ronnie MacKenzie, Mark Rushton and my new 25 year old self awake before the sunrise to board a 0830hrs plane to Melbourne. The cabin crew Manager, Bridget and Flight Attendant Sophie giving the safety and instructions to all on board. Following on shortly afterwards was our raucous laughter as Maddie called out “ . . . hit! Feel that thrust...” as the plane took off. The food cart was met with wide eyes and smiles as Maddie and Ronnie read over their choices. Landing was smooth and Maddie and Ronnie were introduced to the Captain and Co-Captain in the planes cockpit. I asked the question if my NSW Driver License is enough to fly the plane home, which Maddie and Ronnie quickly asserted they did not want to be on that flight.

From plane to rental car we began the second leg of our journey. With time to spare we detoured to the Melbourne Cricket Ground and at the nearby 7Eleven for lunch and tram spotting. Back on the road missing an exit or two along the way we arrived at the Jennings Street School wearing our BlowFly Cricket shirts and hats with pride. Through the gates we walked with pride and a buzzing excitement together with our very own Maddie Shortte, who had been a key volunteer at our James Park Hornsby Centre for the past four seasons.

After our hello hugs we met our newest BlowFly Cricketers who were all so excited to play cricket. My coaching focus was underarm and overarm throws to the stumps encouraging the participants to knock the stumps over. This was done by simplifying and breaking down the throwing.....using their pointing hand to direct where Jacob, Travis, Emily, Jess, Kayla and Ebony wanted the ball to go.

Other skills coached by Akanksha Swarup, Maddie and Ronnie, while Mark Rushton joined in the fun and games amongst the school kids/participants just like a wheelie, wheelie big kid. The final test of their cricket skills was the coming together in a circle for a throwing and catching exercise as well as my name recall. Hi-5s shared by all-as BlowFly Cricketers hi-5 each other in all our Centres.

Back in the drivers seat we re-trace our tracks to return the car to Bargain Cars, not far from Tullamarine Airport (Melbourne). Walking through the doors of the airport to be scanned by airport security. Maddie and Ronnie having a quiet laugh as Mark sets off all the security alarms together with lights, alarms bells and whistles. The four of us are asked to come aside to be swabbed for traces of illegal substances, together with our baggage . . . “I assure you I don’t carry drugs” . . . Maddie polity said along with Ronnie . . . “who would think they could get away with it?”



Patiently we waited for our rescheduled flight boarding at 20:00hrs. The time flew as we enjoyed dinner together and conversed about the day. Assigned to our seats we watched the safety tutorial. Landing back in Sydney airport after what was a truly magical day.



Marnie Nissen
 Volunteer
 Cricket Australia (CA) Accredited Community
 (formerly Level 1) Coach

Jennings Street School Melbourne Trip

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. *What three words would you use to describe the BlowFly Cricketers at the Jennings Street School?*

Maddie: Wonderful, Brilliant

Ronnie: New, different and fun

Akanksha: Friendly, Good coaching experience

2. *What surprised you the most about the Jennings Street School?*

Maddie: The students.

They listened well and played well.

Ronnie: Where it is located from the city itself.

I knew it was west of the city.

Akanksha: Jennings Street School provides great opportunities in sports.

3. *What was your favourite part of the visit to Melbourne?*

Maddie:

- The fact we were representing Blowfly cricket.
- The Cockpit, seeing the captain at his station.
- Seeing the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
- Flying in the plane.
- All the friendly crew members.

Ronnie:

- Stopping nearby the MCG.

Akanksha:

- My Favourite part of the visit to Melbourne is teaching the children learning how to play cricket.



Jennings Street School (JSS) is located in Victoria's west. There are approximately 120 students in the school ranging from 5-18 year olds. JSS is a school for Autistic children that focuses on teaching the students skills they can use in everyday life.

I recently moved to Victoria and started working at JSS. I saw an opportunity to develop a BlowFly Cricket program at the school. Following discussions with the Principal and the Physical Education teacher the ball started rolling.

Cricket Victoria and BlowFly Cricket Sydney have kindly donated some equipment for the students to use. JSS is grateful and excited to see how BlowFly Cricket will develop in the curriculum.

Whilst working at JSS I have had the opportunity to start BlowFly Cricket which is a program designed to teach cricket to children with additional needs.

The program commenced with the basic skills of throwing and catching with a partner to develop motor skills and coordination. The students are able to use equipment donated to JSS by BlowFly Cricket Sydney and Cricket Victoria. These include wickets, nets and crazy catch.

Each session ends with a game of catch where everyone stands in a circle. However there is a twist and you aren't able to throw the ball to the people on either side of you.

This games challenges the students and teaches them communication, memory and motor skills.

The students were so excited when they heard that Mark, the founder of BlowFly Cricket, as well as Ronnie, Marnie, Maddie and Akanksha from BlowFly Cricket Sydney were coming to JSS to experience a session. On 4 March they came to JSS and the students were able to sit and listen to Mark speak about cricket and they had the opportunity to ask a lot of questions.

Following this, a series of cricket stations were set up including:

- Bowling and catching to the cricket stumps with Marnie;
- The Sticky Wicket with Ronnie;
- Using bats to hit balls with Akanksha and Maddie; and
- At the end of the session they finished with the circle game and everyone got involved.

It was a terrific opportunity and the JSS students loved meeting Mark and the BlowFly Cricket Sydney representatives.



Maddie Shortte
Education Support
Jennings Street School, Laverton, Victoria

WINTER INDOOR CRICKET



The icing on the cake for the 2018/19 Season and our future direction has been the inception of our newest venture, being the 2019 Winter Indoor Cricket Season.

The first of 12 sessions was held on Sunday 5 May, 2019. The evening was a resounding success with close to 20 participants in attendance. The noise level was deafening and so many smiling faces. To put it mildly, it was a wonderful event to be part of. Congratulations to the Jones family (Rick, Nicola, Maddie, Jordan, Bronte and Dominic) for initiating this wonderful program. Our warmest thanks are extended to Austin Morey (Action Indoor Sport Centre, Mt Kuring-gai) for hiring the indoor venue to our organisation at a substantially discounted rate.

Here are a couple of text messages sent by Rick Jones to me later on the night and the following day;
"We are sooo happy with how much fun all of our beautiful players had!! . . . the smiles and laughter we saw tonight was gold!! . . . gotta say though - you lit up the place when you arrived . . . thank you so much for being there!!!"
"...we had a very happy house last night."

Little Bronte was incredibly moved by all our players enjoying themselves so much. It's an absolute treat to be involved in providing the opportunity for our superstar players to have such fun...there is no better reward than seeing their smiles . . ."

Mark Rushton
 Founder

BLOWFLY CRICKET
 ENRICHING LIFE

**Expressions of Interest
 for
 Winter Indoor Cricket!**

Do you miss your Blowfly cricket buddies in the off-season??
 We have an opportunity to keep on having a ton of fun with Blowfly cricket during autumn and winter!
 If we gather sufficient interest in playing cricket at an Indoor centre, we have a great plan for you!!!

When? Sunday late afternoons from 5th May – 25th August
 (excluding June long weekend and July school holidays)
5:30pm – 7:30pm:
 5:30pm – 6:00pm Sausage Sandwich & Drinks
 6:00pm – 7:30pm Cricket Game

Where? Action Indoor Sport Centre – Mount Kuring-Gai
 7a Gundah Road, Mount Kuring-Gai
aismtkuring-gai.com.au

Cost? \$25 Registration for 12 Sunday sessions (no other costs)

Contact? Please email Rick Jones (Maddie's Dad) if you are interested:
rick.jones@inet.net.au

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Alethea's Story

"It's really, really lovely" my friend Veronika insisted. She had tried many times to convince my daughter Alethea and I to come and experience BlowFly Cricket. Patiently I explained again that although Alethea might agree to go to an activity that was held in the evening, she would never follow through with it, as this was 'settle in at home time' after her busy day. Many times I had signed her up for an activity – dancing, basketball, only to have her refuse to go at the last minute, or to quit after a few weeks. I wasn't willing to waste the co-ordinator's time again. Especially not on a Friday evening.

But when Alethea came home one day in October last year and said: "Mum, I do want to go to the cricket", I agreed to organise it, so long as she went with a support worker. I didn't want to be the one to have to coax her to follow through.

When I rang Mark Rushton, the founder and co-ordinator of the club, and he took all of Alethea's details, I nervously suggested that she may not actually be able to hit the ball with that thin cricket bat (projecting my own complete inability in the sporting arena). He reassured me that absolutely no judgment is made on a participant's ability or disability. Further, he said that for some, just showing up was a huge achievement, while others may find that cricket is their whole life purpose.

Absolutely everything in between is respected. And so Alethea's journey with BlowFly Cricket began.

After, or it may even have been during, her first session, I received some spectacular photos on my phone from Mark. Alethea, with bat in hand, determined expression on her face, waiting at the stumps for the ball to come, another of her running down the pitch. She came home with a fabulous blue cap that just happened to match her windcheater. She was elated. I sent the photos around to friends and family, and the cheers came in thick and fast. Go, Alethea!

The next Friday evening, and the one after that, and on until the end of the season, she was dressed and ready to go. Relationships were forming and she was blossoming. Something was happening that built her confidence in new ways. I wondered what the magic ingredient was. It clearly had something to do with Mark and from my conversations with him, it was evident that he didn't just pay lip-service to his ideals of inclusion of all people regardless of ability, he emphatically practiced it. There is a place in the whole for everyone, and if they wanted to play their part in any area of the club, they were encouraged and honoured and valued. This attitude permeated everything, and everyone who was involved practiced it. The culmination of this attitude is in the Coaching Programme.



Everyone who wants to is supported to become a coach, with all the honours that are associated with it. When Alethea heard about the coaching training, in about week 2 of her involvement with BlowFly, she was ecstatic. *"I'm going to be a coach"* she declared.

There was a Coach Training session coming up, which she attended. Alethea has always aspired to the top job; even as a very small child she had her eye on the CEO's desk, so being a coach fitted this yearning perfectly. She felt like someone important – a reminder for us of just how hard it is to be treated as the 'disabled' person who 'needs help' (or who is so often 'told what to do' as she indignantly expresses it). Just how pervasively this attitude is embedded in our so-called 'helping' culture was revealed in a conversation with my sister. When we told her that Alethea had attended a coaching session with her support worker Annabelle, and was now a coach, her response was: "You mean that Annabelle did the coach training and Alethea went with her?" In fact, Alethea's sense of self grew so much with this award that she then had the confidence to begin to work in a social enterprise café one day a week. This had long been her dream job, but she hadn't until then had the confidence to try it. When she does well at her work, she tells me that she thinks of Mark, knowing how proud he is of her when she achieves the best that she can. I think it is probably like that for a lot of the other players. Because of his pride in their achievements, no matter

how small they may be, they really want to do their best and so their best selves can emerge.

BlowFly Cricket Club is not just a feel-good, take it easy break from life and play a bit of cricket thing. No, it is a labour of love and a lot of hard work for the wonderful and dedicated team of volunteers that have grown around it. As a parent, I am so grateful to these people who all play their part in making it live and breathe, with such a strong sense of social responsibility. I am only just beginning to realize the extent of it, and only when I began to participate. The regular fund-raising sausage sizzles at Bunnings are an example. When I spent a few happy hours with Alethea helping at the last one, I met one lovely gentleman of 85 years who had the hot job of cooking the sausages. So many people, parents and friends, young and old, from 4 years old to 84, contribute through giving their assistance, in whatever way they can. For others, it is many, many hours, over years, and for Mark, at the centre, his whole life. I recently read an inspiring book: *"The Long Ride Home"*, by Isaac Rupertson. His life was dedicated to establishing a centre called New Trails, where parents and their children, those with autism and their siblings, had the opportunity to experience the groundbreaking work that Rupert had developed with his own son, learning and healing on horse-back.



Many times he despaired of his ability to meet the enormous challenges involved in fund-raising, administration and management that were required, but slowly a team of dedicated people formed around him. At one point, Rupert was accidentally over-dosed in hospital and 'died'. As so many who have come back from death have reported, he received this simple yet utterly profound message from 'the other side':

The world, the universe, life as you know it, is all just a big experiment in love. Like a beehive.

Humans are the worker drones. Your job is simply to make the hive get bigger. For this to happen all you are required to do is to love actively. And if possible, help to build collective dreams of love. If you do that you are fulfilling my purpose. That is all I ask..... It is that simple.

Simple it is not – but BlowFly Cricket is a spectacular example of this endeavour to build a collective dream of love, and one which I am really happy to be part of!

Helen Cameron

The Marashian Children – 5 Years Later

Five short (or long) years ago I wrote an article for the BlowFly Cricket Annual Report giving a Parent's Perspective of BlowFly Cricket.

Five years ago only one of my children – Cameron, was playing BlowFly Cricket.

Five years ago, joining BlowFly Cricket was all about inclusion and the opportunity for special kids to participate and have fun playing Australia's favourite summer sport – Cricket.

Fast forward to 2019 and I now have three children who participate in BlowFly Cricket and what it provides is different for each one of them.

Cameron's Story

Cameron has always enjoyed sports and so the last five years became less about inclusion and more about skills and social development. As many of you would know, Cameron is a very active boy who likes to bat, bowl and field. Listening to instructions and making sure he takes turn are some of the behavioural skills that he has been developing.

Under the watchful of eye of Steve Perry (parent volunteer) he has also developed his cricketing skills. His bowling is far more orthodox and straighter and Cameron even attempts to 'spin' the ball. When you hear Cameron yelling and screaming in joy from the BBQ area you know that he has taken a wicket.



Only a couple of weeks ago he came running over to where I was sitting to proudly tell me that he had caught Ronne and got him out. Whilst Cameron can catch a ball, this was the first time he had ever made a catch in a game. It was a very special and proud moment.

I cannot finish on Cameron without recognising and thanking Steve “The Coach” for his time and patience with all the kids. All their skills have developed because of the effort he puts in each week and for that I am grateful.

Kiahna’s Story

Like Cameron, Kiahna also has Fragile X syndrome. However where Cameron enjoys sports, Kiahna does not! We encourage Kiahna to come to BlowFly Cricket simply to allow her to come outdoors and for a few seasons she would go down to the nets with some other younger kids to learn how to bowl and bat.

Whilst Kiahna may not have developed her cricket skills she certainly has developed her social and negotiating skills.

When Kiahna does decide to come to BlowFly Cricket she can be seen chatting to adults and kids alike in the BBQ area or playing with someone’s hair (she loves playing the hairdresser).

She has also honed her negotiation skills as she tells me she will come to cricket if I allow her to have a soft drink with her sausage sandwich – which by the way, Dougal makes the best sausage sandwiches!!

Ryan’s Story

Last but my no means least we have Ryan. Ryan also has Fragile X syndrome and playing sport and socialising with others is far more difficult for Ryan than for Cameron and Kiahna.

For Ryan, BlowFly Cricket allows him the opportunity to get outdoors and if not play cricket then to do some exercise or go on the swings – which he loves.

He is slowly getting more involved in the cricket and enjoys playing catch. This season he has even bowled a few balls to the other kids and learned to hold the bat and hit the ball. These are huge achievements for Ryan and I am very proud of him for applying himself this season.

What I think Ryan loves most about BlowFly Cricket is Dougal’s sausages. He can have two sandwiches on his own and then come back to have a bite of mine. I am sure people think we don’t feed him breakfast on a Saturday – Ryan loves them sausages.



Whilst Ryan tends to keep to himself don't let him fool you. He is a very cheeky, friendly and lovable boy and whilst he may not always seem like he is 'present', if you leave your soft drink unattended he will start sipping from it in a flash.

So there you have it. Three kids all with Fragile X syndrome all with different personalities and all taking something unique from the experience to play and attend BlowFly Cricket.

However none of this would be possible if not for Mark and all the volunteers who come out and help each and every week – many who don't even have children involved in BlowFly Cricket but still are giving of their time so that all the kids have something to look forward to each week in summer. To all of these people I am very appreciative and say thank you.

Amir Marashian

Sohaib's Passion For Cricket

We feel it is worth sending and sharing our thoughts and experience for the season. . . .

It was very pleasing to see Sohaib participate in the game he likes the most. That is the first time he had a chance to play outdoor cricket with the help of Mark, Bill and volunteers.

I would like to say thanks to all the team including volunteers, coaches and management and parents who helped make it a fun evening for the players.

Hope we can continue this every year.

Kind Regards,
Ruby Tanveer (Mother)



From Ammar to BlowFly Club, Mark and Bill

“My younger brother Sohaib joined BlowFly Cricket for his first year during the 2018-2019 season.

For many years we had been searching for a way from him to play cricket since the indoor team he used to play for didn't have sufficient numbers to continue on. Having been the first year we had no idea what to expect and neither did my brother. In the first few weeks being unfamiliar with everyone there and the environment Sohaib was a bit tentative and shy.

This quickly changed thanks to the fantastic people at BlowFly who not only helped him every step of the way but with how friendly and accommodating they were helped ease him in.

Over the weeks that followed Sohaib came out of his shell and grew to be part of the “team” and really enjoyed every moment of it. He would look forward to going to cricket every Friday and would remind everyone that he had to go to cricket.

The team at BlowFly also organised for Level 1 (Community) Coaching Course for the players and also family members. This was brilliant as the skills I learnt from that course/day really helped in coaching Sohaib with his cricket. By the end of the season Sohaib had advanced to batting by himself and this allowed him to grow in confidence. Therefore, the coaching program really helped not only myself and my brother, but it was evident that it made a big impact on all those who took part.

Overall, I believe the hard work and dedication from the team at West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook CC Blowfly Cricket is key to the inviting and encouraging environment they have and as a result my brother will be signing up to play for many years to come”.

Ammar Tanveer *(Brother)*

FROM THE JONES FAMILY

James Henty Reserve, Dural – Friday Nights

After a few rained out first nights we finally got to start our new WPHCCC BlowFly Cricket Centre held at James Henty Reserve, Dural, this season.

Our gallant leader Bill with Bec by his side and 4 year old Harry showed everyone how it was done, along with Tim, Adam and Angela, our club co-captains. Our fabulous coaches, Maddie, Ronnie and Akansha came along every week and were assisted by Nicko and Nathaniel when they were available.

Thank you to Mark and Marnie we really appreciate all you both do, also our wonderful volunteers who have made some great bonds with our players especially Mike who may have to adopt Sebi. Sorry Ruby! Also the carers who have brought their charges along every week and joined in with the cooking and the fielding. Thank you to all who helped with the BBQ and Ruby for our yummy curry night.

We have watched all our players go from strength to strength each week with improvements in their batting, bowling and fielding. Thanks to Michael Gillies for all his help coaching and we look forward to seeing everyone next season, remember we do have a new BlowFly Cricket Winter Indoor Cricket Centre, see you there.

Nicola Jones

Parent

James Park, Hornsby – Saturday Afternoons

After a 2018-2019 season full of laughs, thrills and spills, BlowFly Cricket has gone from strength to strength at James Park. We have had some very hot weather and a couple of storms but we have pulled through to play nearly every week.

Thank you to the coaches and volunteers as well as the Committee with a special thanks to Kate who has given us a great newsletter every week.

The players have enjoyed skills training as well as a game each week and thanks to Dougal for feeding everyone after the game. We do really appreciate all the help that the carers and parents provide every week. We all love our cricket and we cant wait for next season to start.

Thank you to Marnie and Mark for our trip to Melbourne to help start the centre down there, we enjoyed the long day and the visit to the cockpit on the plane.

We hope to see you at indoor cricket in May then back at James Park in October.

Maddie Jones

Co-Captain and Coach



Another BlowFly season over and what a season it has been. We are so proud of Jacob and his achievements. Jacob enjoys playing cricket and looks forward to Saturdays. With each season he is interacting with his team mates and participating in the game more and more.

This season Jacob's cricket skills have improved so much. His batting technique has come along way. He has been practising his ball throwing and catching skills. Over the season, Jacob has been working hard to control his behaviour and has been able to regulate his moods. He has been walking onto to the pitch independently, he listens to instructions from the volunteer coaches and his team mates. We would like to say a big thank you to Steve Perry for working with Jacob and encouraging Jacob to follow instructions.

We also would like to thank all the BlowFly families and volunteers for their continuous support. We look forward in seeing you all very soon.

Karen, Jason, Courtney and Jacob Buczek

WORLD AUTISM DAY: HOW ONE SYDNEY MUM EMBRACED HER SON'S AUTISM LABEL



When Louise Cummins received a call from the doctor she already had a sneaking suspicion of what she was about to hear. But knowing didn't make it any easier.

At just 18 months old, her son Lachlan was diagnosed with autism and his mum was told by a paediatrician that he would be unlikely to ever have friends or hold down a job.

"It is a really hard journey when you get the call, even if you know there is something not right," she said. "It's so confronting to get that label."

Immersing herself and Lachlan into early intervention therapy in an attempt to "fix" the issue, Ms Cummins says she had her first moment of clarity after four years of trying to prove the specialist wrong.

"We were just both exhausted one day after therapy, and he was watching something on his iPad and he started singing the song True Colours," she said. "He had never really sung before, and I just felt like he was telling me to see his own true colours; I was trying to make him into something he wasn't."

To mark World Autism Awareness Day, the Sydney mum will soon have her first book about Lachlan, who is now seven, utilised in Australian schools to teach kids that being different "can be brilliant".

A Different Kind of Brilliant, was written as a Christmas present to Lachlan and features remarkable people with autism such as Einstein, Michelangelo and Mozart, to show children that a "uniquely wired brain" is a "gift, not a curse".

"Lachlan is just so quirky and just loves problem-solving," she said. "He carried sweet potato for ages instead of a teddy bear; he's like a little professor with so much going on in his head."

Ms Cummins said she hopes it will assist parents struggling on the journey from apprehension to acceptance of their child.

"My biggest tip to other parents is to just think about the next 90 days," she said. "You can get caught in this trap of [thinking] are they going to get married, a thousand different scenarios run through your head, but to just think about the next 90 days is the best thing for you."

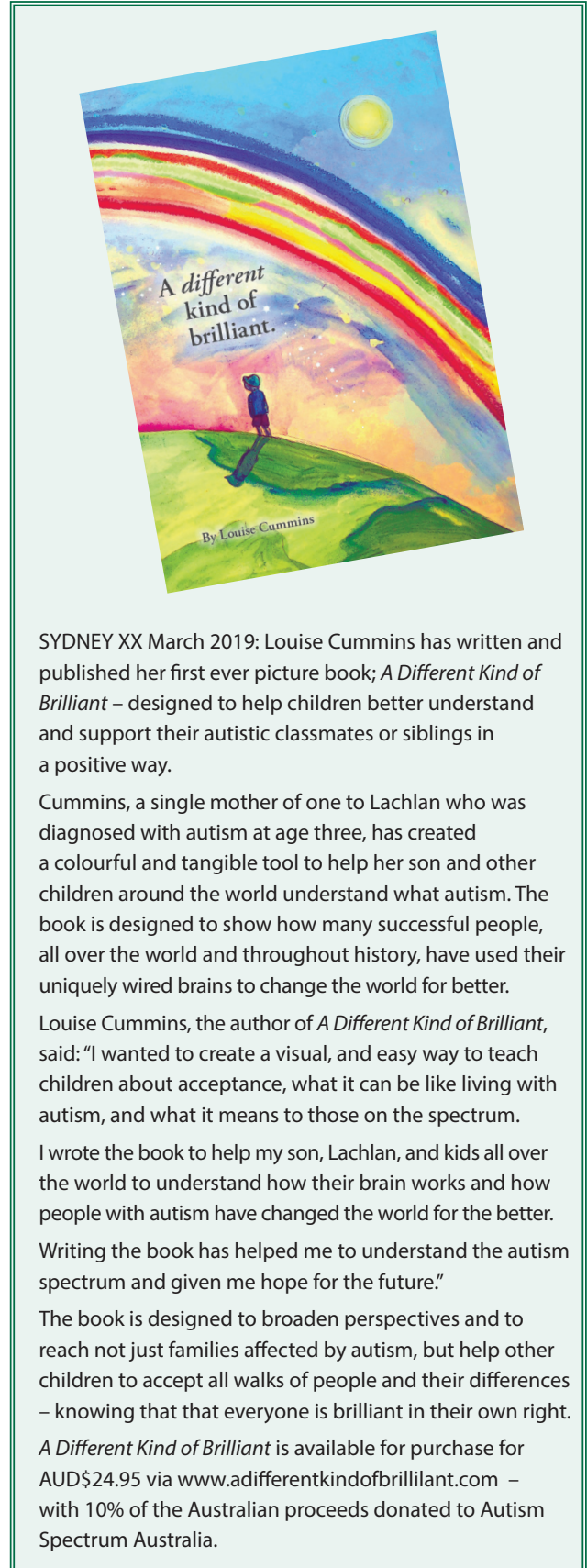
Another part of her journey was learning not everyone will understand the situation, she said. "One time Lachlan was running around acting like Spiderman, just like a normal kid and some guy came up to me and said, 'wow, he's different,'" she said. "I would never do that to somebody, but in time you learn to embrace it more, but it's still a bit jarring."



Her biggest piece of advice to others was to stay away from social media. “Look at academic papers, and talk to professionals with credible advice, stay away from social media and try to mix all the advice up and think about what is best for your child.”



Sarah Keoghan
Sarah is a journalist for
The Sydney Morning Herald.



SYDNEY XX March 2019: Louise Cummins has written and published her first ever picture book; *A Different Kind of Brilliant* – designed to help children better understand and support their autistic classmates or siblings in a positive way.

Cummins, a single mother of one to Lachlan who was diagnosed with autism at age three, has created a colourful and tangible tool to help her son and other children around the world understand what autism. The book is designed to show how many successful people, all over the world and throughout history, have used their uniquely wired brains to change the world for better.

Louise Cummins, the author of *A Different Kind of Brilliant*, said: “I wanted to create a visual, and easy way to teach children about acceptance, what it can be like living with autism, and what it means to those on the spectrum.

I wrote the book to help my son, Lachlan, and kids all over the world to understand how their brain works and how people with autism have changed the world for the better.

Writing the book has helped me to understand the autism spectrum and given me hope for the future.”

The book is designed to broaden perspectives and to reach not just families affected by autism, but help other children to accept all walks of people and their differences – knowing that that everyone is brilliant in their own right.

A Different Kind of Brilliant is available for purchase for AUD\$24.95 via www.adifferentkindofbrilliant.com – with 10% of the Australian proceeds donated to Autism Spectrum Australia.

BAGGY BLUE PRESENTATION DAY – JPCG



A WORD FROM OUR YOUNGEST VOLUNTEER



Young Harry Peterkin (4yo) volunteers every Friday evening at the WPHCCC BlowFly Cricket Centre held at the picturesque James Henty Reserve, Dural. It is fascinating to consider why a child who is so young actively volunteers and how he enriches the lives of all he comes in contact with.

Harry has been asked several questions as to why he likes to be a volunteer who helps out throughout the season? These are how his answers have been interpreted:

- Because his mum and dad volunteer.
- Lots of fun.
- Gets to see Uncle Mark.
- Loves BlowFly Cricket best of the inclusive nature and fun and games

Harry has attended all sessions apart from one where he had a high temperature . . . his nonattendance shattered him, not the high temperatures.

Harry loves going to the shops every Friday arvo to help his Dad get the bread, gluten-free, bread, sausages, condiments, bottles of water and onions – most of all he loves his pop-top juice as a treat.

Makes sure his Dad doesn't forget his WPHCCC Blowies shirt but disappointingly Dad always forgets his small-sized bat which Uncle Mark gave him. In jest,

Harry's Dad is insanely jealous of Harry's developing relationship with dearest Uncle Mark. 'Jilly' (aka Dad or Bill) remains adamant that the pretend 'wheelchair bloke' can still walk . . . just saying!!!

Harry, being the Blowies youngest volunteer and is shaping to be one of the new age volunteers of the future . . . who will be a long-serving volunteer and wonderful asset to the Blowies for the decades to come.

CHAMPION



Bill Peterkin

A WORD FROM OUR OLDEST VOLUNTEERS



Well, another very successful season has gone by and as a volunteer and casual observer I am delighted to say yet again, what a pleasure it has been, and indeed a privilege to have been able to be involved in a small way in this wonderful initiative. I often delight in being able to come home on a Saturday afternoon to Maureen (wife) to tell her about special things that have happened during the past couple of hours – acts of kindness and the obvious pleasure experienced by all the participants. I must admit to shedding a tear or two – everything is so moving and amazing.

Most of my time on a Saturday is spent near the barbecue or drinks department but on a couple of occasions near the end of the season I got out on the field and took in all that was happening out there – quite amazing! A wonderful atmosphere, everyone very happy and great interaction between the children, parents and volunteers and some great cricketing skills by the children on display and so much improvement in these skills. To see the kids enjoying themselves so much makes BlowFly Cricket so worthwhile for everyone involved in one capacity or another. Then, of course, the gettogether at the end of the afternoon for sausage sandwiches, drinks and cakes, rounds off what is, for everyone, a perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

So nice to see so many new parents this year, all of whom, without exception, expressing their gratitude that their children have been able to participate each weekend, and so many wanting to volunteer in many ways as a way of showing their appreciation.

BlowFly has some incredible volunteers – Mark and Marnie of course – Kate for the Newsletter, Jason and Karen who travel from Menangle each week, and of course all the coaches out on the field, just to mention a few. You can all hold your heads very high. We must also not forget everyone who gives their time very generously at the Bunnings, Thornleigh Fundraising Barbecues.

Like many others involved, I can't wait for the start of the 2019/20 season.



Dougal and Maureen Graham
Volunteers

FOOTNOTE: Doug, at 84 years young, is our oldest volunteer who endears himself to everyone who comes into contact with him. His delightful wife, Maureen, is one of our 'invisible' volunteers often cooking cakes and other tasty treats for afternoon tea or to sell at our Bunnings Thornleigh Fundraising BBQs. Wonderful, simply wonderful people who inspire others to greater deeds.

BUNNINGS FUNDRAISING – THORNLEIGH



HORNSBY WESTFIELD CHRISTMAS WRAPPING FUNDRAISING



We were very grateful to Hornsby Westfield for allowing BlowFly Cricket to be part of the Christmas Wrapping fundraising over four days.

Shoppers very very generous donating to have their pressies wrapped beautifully. With the Xmas cheer and spirit alive this awesome bunch of Santa's helpers wrapped gifts with love raising over \$1800!

Thank you so much to each 'BlowFlyteer' for your time, support and fun!



Kirsty Smith
Coordinator



BlowFlyteers . . .

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Kirsty Smith | Nikki Hunter |
| Chris Muir | Keely Macgregor |
| Sandra Dale | Amanda 'Vivienne' |
| Kym Dyer | Nissen |
| Gen Funk | Jan O'Connor |
| Ashley Funk | Sub Ra |
| Camryn Gower | Lisa Read |
| Lyndsey Green | Ronnie Sparks |
| Nicki Green | Cathy Stephens |
| Scott Hekking | Jaimee Stephens |
| Christine Hindmarsh | |

DINNER WITH A TWIST



On Saturday evening, 9th March 2019, I was proud to attend as Alethea Cameron's special guest at the Inala – *Dinner with a Twist*, at Castle Hill RSL. For the weeks leading up to the dinner it was all Alethea would talk about. She was very excited that Mark Rushton – BlowFly Cricket Founder, would be attending. This unfortunately changed as Mark had an admission to hospital.

Alethea was shattered and expressed her devastation through raw emotion down the phone to Mark the evening before . . . "Alethea I will call you tomorrow (Saturday) morning before my 10am shower" Mark said as Alethea hung up the phone.

The Saturday morning I was on the phone talking to a very excited Alethea while getting her nails polished, spilling the nail polish as she got me to write down the details of the nights dinner. Unlike the phone call the night before Alethea ended the call with excitement.

Arriving on time I took the two escalators to the Luxe Room. I was welcomed to the Table 10 in the centre of the room. I started conversing with the other table guests before Alethea arrived. Alethea dressed in a navy blue dress with gold undertones greeted me with a smile and a warm embrace. I was proudly introduced to her Mum, Auntie and close friend.

Alethea took the seat next to me on the right. Selfies of the two of us were quick to follow. As the dancing began from the special guests from the Champions of Dance in Five Dock, Sydney, Alethea was gaily clapping and commenting " . . . oh look at her hair . . . look at her dress . . ." as the dancers worked the stage. Dinner was gently placed in front of us and Alethea could not wait. Our knives and forks were in our hands and we were ready to begin what turned out to be a delicious main course.



During dinner the dancer floor filled with Inala's dancers. Alethea bumped my arm ready to take the floor. Together we danced, shaking our dresses to the beat and singing every lyric. It wasn't long before the slow song dance came on – Thinking Out Loud by Ed Sheeran. Alethea took my hand and lead the way through our slow dance. We returned to our seats and dessert was waiting.

Alethea gave me her teaspoon and mine to her and together we enjoyed our sweet treat with a cup of tea, so proudly poured by Alethea. With refreshments in our stomachs Alethea was ready to hit the dance floor once again. Together we let the music take us on a journey.

We were kindly asked to return to our tables as the raffle was going to be drawn. "This is for Mark. Mark is going to win". The winners were announced as the tickets were drawn "...third prize winner is Marnie Nissen..." Alethea raised her hands in the air with excitement. "Alethea? Would you like to collect the prize with me?" "No Marnie, Mark did not get called..." she explained.

The night ended on a high note, together we walked to my car down the furtherest end of the RSL car park, with Alethea insisting on "...escorting..." me. Alethea excitedly dived into my purse pulling out my keys while I held the Electric BBQ prize. In no time my car alarm was filling the night air accompanied with our raucous laughter. With my car loaded, Alethea hugged me and gave me a good night kiss on the cheek. I could see her as she left for home, being driven by her mum. As they drove off, Alethea was waving with the most enormous smile covering her face.



Marnie Nissen
Fundraising Officer

COMMUNITY OBSERVATIONS

The question is how does BlowFly Cricket benefit the broader community? This organisation needs to be and is indeed held in high esteem, throughout the broader community – as it should be!

The organisation affords the members an opportunity to participate in sport and it also helps these members interact into the community proper in so many areas of endeavour. Members learn responsibility, acceptance of others, camaraderie and self-worth with the thought that almost anything is possible and/or achievable. Through BlowFly Cricket, members are encouraged and offered appropriate levels of support.

Members are supported to believe that they can accomplish almost anything that they set their respective minds to. Congratulations to all concerned who run this organisation and make it a most worthwhile endeavour for all members, families, supporters, observers and volunteers, all of whom benefit from their experience and/or involvement. This in turn assists with leading a holistic, balanced and fulfilling life and is of great benefit to all who participate.

Onward and forever upward.



Noel Moig
Northern District Cricket Club (NDCC)



PINK STUMPS DAY – JPCG

PINK STUMPS DAY – WPHCCC

VOLUNTEERS REGISTER

"Be of service. Whether you make yourself available to a friend or co-worker, or you make time every month to do volunteer work, there is nothing that harvests more of a feeling of empowerment than being of service to someone in need." Gillian Anderson

Marcia Allman	Paul Chigwidden	Maddie Jones	Hamish Reeves
Arturo Alvarez **	Daniele Chivers *	Nicola Jones	John Rennie *
Daniel Anderson	Graham Chivers *	Rick Jones	Julie Rigby
Denise Anderson OB	Mick Connell	Rosalene Jones	Keith Rigby
Ross Anderson	Gary Cooke **	Isolde Kamerman	Alex Roberston *
Beck Baker	Anthony Courtney	Mike Kinchington *	Paris Robertson *
Keith Baker	Carol Coyle	Roxanne Lamprecht **	Sue Rousek
Nathaniel Baker	Margaret Cropper	Morwenna Landers	Ella Rushton
Andre Bali	Louise Cummins	Aaron 'Duck' Lewis	James Rushton
Laura Bali	Annabelle Dodd **	Irish Lewis	Mark Rushton
Sue Bali	Nat Dolphin	Kevin Lewis	Bridget Sarks **
Amanda Bardon	Caroyn Erickson *	Tara Lewis	Paul Sheehan
Emily Bardon	Keith Fone	Adam Lezon	Tracy Sheehan
Andy Bayles	Georgina Fox	Lidia Lezon	Shankar Shivashankaran
Anthony Beard	Graham Frankel	Davina MacKenzie	Sharmila Shivashankaran
Hannah Beard	Amelia Gazzana	Lonnie MacKenzie	Julie-ann Short
Gemma Bickerstaff	Michael Bazza Gillies	Ronnie MacKenzie LM	Maddie Shortte ***
Brian Binfield	Jeni Goddard	Amir Marashian	Kirsty Smith
Jane Bish *	Camryn Gower	Cameron Marashian	Ronnie Sparks
Peter Brinsley	Dougal Graham	Kiahna Marashian	Danny Starkey
Sue Brinsley	Maureen Graham	Tina Marashian	Cathy Stephens
Jan Brock	Lyndsey Green	Judy Massey **	Jaimee Stephens
Jock Brock	Nicki Green	Alicia Mavurawa	Evelyn Stevenson
Valeria Buccheri	Phil Grindley	George Mathew	Lizzie Stevenson
Madison Buck	Alan Guild	Margaret Mathew	Craig Stubbs
Courtney Buczek	Damien Guild	Michael McCauley	Aditya Swarup
Jacob Buczek LM	Jared Guild	Andrew Meidler *	Akanksha Swarup
Jason Buczek	Kate Guild	Bailey Meidler *	Preeti Swarup
Karen Buczek	'Spud' Pat Guild	Nasim Mohammadi	Ammar Tanveer *
Brad Caldwell	Ben Gussey	Clive Morris	Ruby Tanveer *
Gabrielle Callanan	Azaan Hakim	Kathy Morris	Brock Thompson
Ned Callanan-Williams	Shabana Hakim	Christine Muir	Peter Thomsett
Nick Callanan-Williams	Fiona Hanks	Kate Nipperess	Grace Vanderlaan
Alethea Lazaros-Cameron	Sian Hann	Marnie Nissen	Peter Verduin
Helen Cameron	Scott Hekking	'Vivienne' Amanda Nissen	Ian Wall
Keith Carter	Bim Herath	Amanda Perry	Sandy Wall
Rick Carter	Dinushi Herath	Mark Perry	Angela Walshe
Tom Casey	Jerry Hook	Steve Perry	Fergus Walshe
Keith Carter	Nikki Hunter	Beck Peterkin *	Veronika Walshe
Rick Carter	Chelsey Hyde	Bill 'Jilly' Peterkin *	Bruce Wood
Tom Casey	Errol Hyde	Harry Peterkin *	Diem Yong **
Alethea Lazaros-Cameron	Alf James OAM	Brendan Price	
Helen Cameron	Bronte Jones	Massimo Price	
Barb Chigwidden	Dom Jones	Paul Pulis	
Damos Chigwidden	Doug Jones	Andrew Reeves	

KEY: * WPHCCC Volunteer; ** Carer; *** Jennings Street School, Laverton Victoria

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Bite me Bakehouse and our loyal customers have been a proud supporter of BlowFly Cricket since we started trading.

All our produce is freshly baked on site every day, the folks at Bite Me Bakehouse go about their business – rolling, mixing, baking and whipping up the most delicious treats for you to enjoy when it's time to start your day.

Pies, Sausage Rolls, Quiches, Toasted Sandwiches, Cakes, Pastries and more . . . everything you could wish for in a delicious meal straight from the oven. Choose from a variety of Coffees, Teas, Milkshakes and refreshing Cold Drinks from the fridge.

We cater for mums and dads, families, truckers and 'tradies' who can park their rigs straight out front or just catch up with a friend. Take-away or take-a-seat outside and enjoy a few moments of 'time out'.

If you have an upcoming event, conference or party, let us take care of your function, call Bite Me Bakehouse.

We are situated on the Pacific Highway at Mount Colah, in Sydney's North, just a few minutes from Hornsby and there's ample space for parking.

Remember call Bite Me Bakehouse (02) 9477 1732

BITE ME
BAKEHOUSE



Caring Approach are proud to be part of the team supporting BlowFly Cricket. We offer a full range of services from a half hour duration to 24 hour care.

Disability Care

High-level personal care to domestic assistance or community outings.

Senior Care

Stay in your home, enjoying as much independence as possible.

Dementia Care

Need help adjusting to and living with dementia then our specialist team is here to help.

Recovery Care

Recovering from illness or an operation we can offer you the support you need so you can get on with your life.

New Mums or Mums on the go

Motherhood can be exhausting and stressful adjusting to your new life style.

Respite and help for Carers

Transport

Need transport to and from appointments or social activities we can provide the needed support.

Autism

Autism Spectrum Disorder requires specialised care tailored to suit each patient.

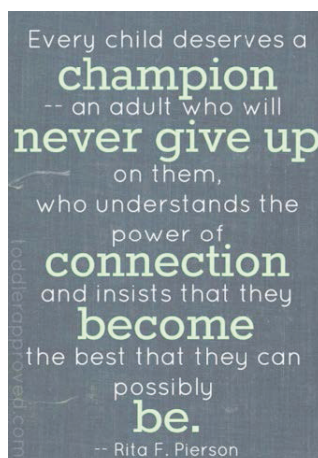


A Registered NDIS Provider in NSW and the ACT

GOOD SPORTS LEVEL 3



FRIENDS OF BLOWFLY CRICKET REGISTER



*Teachers that Rock and How You Can Be One**

With this Quote 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 manage in today's progressive world, let alone prosper.

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Anglomoil	Gussey Family	Mick Saliwon
Andy Bayles	Hakim Family	St Ives Wahroonga Cricket Club
Bite me Bakehouse	Hornsby Shire Council	Sydney Thunder
Brian Binfield	Hornsby RSL Club	Craig Stubbs
Bunnings Thornleigh	Inspire Beauty	Toyota Good For Cricket Raffle
Cancer Council NSW	Jones Family	Uniting Ability Links
Caring Approach	Kookaburra Sport	Veri SHADES
CBA (Westfield Hornsby Branch)	Legends Under Glass	Westfield Local Heroes Hornsby
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Anthony Courtney	Mount Kuring-gai Village Butchery	
Cricket Australia	Nissen Family	
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SOURCE: www.toddlerapproved.com

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

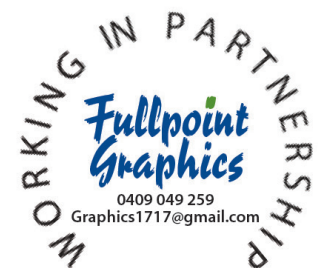
Blowfly Cricket is extremely grateful for the support and good will of our business partners.



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CRICKET NSW

