

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2017-2018**

Members

I am pleased to report to you on the activities of the Jones Park Board of Management for the period 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018.

To say this has been a hectic and challenging 12 months would be an understatement.

1. **Legal Issues:**

The collapse of a privately owned tower on CDJRL property has brought to the fore the need to have stringent Safety Policies in place. Board member Nigel Tillett has done a tremendous job in this respect and we now have in place excellent policies that will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The event in question occurred in May 2017 and is far from over, as it will most likely go to court over the next two years.

The CDJRL Ltd has authorised myself to act on their behalf and to date it has consumed quite a lot of time personally.

In the aftermath of the event the Board resolved to construct its own engineer-designed structure that now stands proudly between Field 1 and Field 2 allowing for videoing of both fields.

1. **2018 Board:**

Your 2018 Board continued the hard work of previous boards. Throughout the year it met regularly and carried out its assigned charter:

*To manage the finances of the CDJRL Ltd*

*To manage the facility*

*To develop the facility*

Although not always given the appreciation it deserves I believe it has performed well.

Chair Hon Warren Pitt AM

Deputy Chair Nigel Tillett

Secretary John Bingham

Treasurer Lisa Takai-Rapira

Directors John Brennan Bruce Slade Phil Cassell

Garry Smith Jodi Stevens Ian Lydiard

Pat Bailey Laurie Henley Peter Doolan

Graham Vickers

1. **Development 2018**

The past 12 months have once again seen significant development of the facility. It must be reiterated that this has all been done at no cost to our young players. The Board has obtained government and non-government grants; sponsorship; advertising; raffles; donations both personal and corporate.

Storage Sheds: Two x 2-bay storage sheds have been constructed between Field 2&3 through a GCBF Grant on behalf of Cairns Wanderers Rugby Union.

Of these, two were set-aside for CDJRL use; one for OZTAG and one for Scorpions Junior Rugby League.

The Board has committed itself to securing grants to construct two more such sheds between Field 2&3 as well as a shed to cover Field 5&6 to service our mini grades.

Two shade shelters were constructed on the grass mound between Field 2&3 through a GCBF Grant on behalf of CDJRL. These are proving popular with spectators.

Work has been commenced on the establishment of the “Oasis Kiosk” to provide a convenient refreshment spot for players and spectators using Field 2&3. More outfitting will be undertaken in 2019 with a covered seating area developed as funds become available.

The Doreen Rice Boardroom is now completed and in use by all affiliates. It provides a quality meeting space complemented with the necessary IT to cater for teleconferencing and AV display.

The John Bingham Hall of History is rapidly taking shape. The necessary outfitting has been achieved with next stage being the populating the room with historical material including photographs and a reading library and USB library.

The long awaited Media Tower is now in place between Field 1 and Field 2. It offers a videoing platform for both fields.

Being engineer-designed the structure meets all WH&S requirements.

Our thanks to Mr John Richardson and Ken Frost homes for their generous donation towards its cost.

Construction of our new Medical Centre has already begun. A 5-bay structure it will accommodate a garage for a medi-cab; a Health Check Room and a 3-bay First Aid Room.

Funds for this project have been sourced as follows:

Stage I Shell - GCBF grant by Gindaja

Stage 2 Electrical; plumbing and flooring – BACC grant

Stage 3 Furnishing and medical Equipment – Cairns Regional Council

The First Aid Room will contain A HIA room and a general space for walk-in clients.

Being fully air-conditioned and insulated the facility is one-of-its-kind in Queensland Junior League circles.

We are in the process of negotiating access for Gindaja healing and Wu Chopperin to service the Health Check Room offering diabetes, blood pressure and cardiac checks to players and spectators who use the Park.

The construction of the Geoff Apps Priority Car Park has met with immediate success. The Car Park gives priority access to Sports Trainers; CDJRL and JPBM Board members; Club Officials; Referees and Game Day Officials.

The other parking initiative has been to set aside a number of Reserved Parking bays for those individuals who need access to the facility. It includes a drop off zone and a number of disability parking spaces.

Our Parking Officer has done a good job educating vehicle owners. A much more strict approach will be implemented in 2019.

Parking spaces adjacent to the Doreen Rice Boardroom will be exempt of restrictions when night-time meetings are being held.

Thanks to Hon Curtis Pitt; Marino Quarries: Edge Hill Accountants; Mc Peake Planning and Ronald’s Jewellers for their generous in-kind support

1. **Infrastructure Naming**

On Grand Final day the Board held a morning tea for selected guests.

This was followed by the naming of certain pieces of infrastructure by dignitaries.

The Doreen Rice Boardroom

Hon Curtis Pitt MP

Speaker Queensland Parliament

John Bingham Hall of History

Clive Skarott AM

President Cairns Historical Society

Robyn Chisholm CDJRL Office

Mr Michael Healey MP

Member for Cairns

Denise McHugh Administration Centre

Cr Richie Bates

Division 5 - Cairns Regional Council

Covered Grandstands between Field 2&3 were dedicated for long-standing service to rugby league provided by rugby league families.

Mulley Family

Henley Family

Slade Family

Gil Family

Shade shelters near Field 2&3

GWS Nielsen

Peter Santowski

Fields

Field 4 John Dorge

Field 5 Noel Briggs

It is the policy of the Board to recognise those who have made Jones Park the superb facility it is today.

1. **Leagues Club**

During the year the Board signed a lease agreement with “Jones Park Leagues Club” to operate the leagues club for a period of 5 years.

The lessees operate the club on limited hours on Fridays; Saturdays and Sundays.

The club also caters for small functions. The Board wishes them well and urges the rugby league fraternity to support them

1. **Saints Canteen**

The Central Scorpions Junior Rugby League Club has the lease on the Saints Canteen and they operate it whenever sport is being played a Jones Park.

There are plans to remodel the canteen over the next few years. This year the roller doors have been replaced and cooking equipment upgraded.

The Board has a good working relationship with Scorpions and looks forward to a continuation of that in the years ahead.

1. **Francis Mosby Training Centre**

This Board initiative continues to deliver to the rugby league fraternity. Seminars; coaching courses; and general usage see it booked on a regular basis.

1. **Affiliates**

A number of groups/organisations have affiliated with Jones Park making it the centre of operations. Those of a commercial nature pay lease fees to the Board.

Their financial input of the Board’s Business Operations help drive the development of the Park and subsidise substantially the upkeep of the facility thus saving the CDJRL and its players large costs.

These include:

OZTAG Hitpit Boxing

Coffee “101” QRL

NRL Choice Australia

Scorpions Junior League Cairns Wanderers Rugby Union

FNQ Rugby Union

1. **Facility Data Officer**

Steven Patrick has been employed by the Board to carry out a number of administrative tasks. He has established a new website and is seeking input from clubs and affiliates.

Contact with Steven can be arranged through our Facility Management Officer Lisa Rapira.

**10**. **Facility Management Officer**

Lisa Rapira has taken on this role after the retirement of Maurie Anlezark in June. Lisa is well known to the junior league in her role as CDJRL Treasurer.

Her work includes manning the “front desk” for the CDJRL

**11. CDJRL Cooperation**

The Board thanks the CDJRL for its cooperation throughout the year. We trust its Directors value the work done on behalf of our 2000+ “shareholders” – the registered players.

**12. The JPBM Executive**

I wish to extend my appreciation to my hard working Executive:

Deputy Chair Nigel Tillett

Secretary John Bingham

Treasurer Lisa Rapira

They all give an enormous amount of time to the Board and are motivated by their love of the game and their desire to provide the best for the young boys and girls who play rugby league.

As Chairman it is an honour to be involved with such a group of dedicated men and women.

Our internal debates are sometimes lively.

This is a positive indication of the passion your Directors have both for the junior players and the game as a whole.

We are always looking for new blood and urge people who share our commitment to put their names forward in future years.

With Nigel standing down next year’s Executive will be:

Chairman Hon warren Pitt AM

Senior Deputy Chair Bruce Slade

Junior Deputy Chair Graham Vickers

Secretary John Bingham

Treasurer Lisa Rapira

We will welcome onto the Board our 15th Director, Vicki Jones who brings with her a wealth of experience.

My best wishes to all for wonderful 2019 season.

Hon Warren Pitt AM

Chair - JPBM