

# REF-A-READ



Volume 1

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## FROM THE CEO'S DESK

BY BOB STYLES (CEO  
- ARLRA)



Welcome to this our third edition of the Newsletter. In this regard I must congratulate Steve Brown, our new Director responsible for communications, for his untiring efforts in successfully setting up this important link in our communications Australia wide.

Thanks also to our "team" of State Association Secretaries who have helped with the distribution of hard copies to the various District Associations.

A Board Meeting was held on Saturday 6/7/02 in Sydney generating the following items of interest:-

Michael Stone addressed the meeting and presented an Executive Summary of the proposed Level 2 course for the registration of Referees' Coaches. The structure of this course has been devised by Michael in association with Richard Johnston. The Board endorsed the concept and congratulated both Michael and Richard for their input. This course will now be made available to the State Associations, with further details available on the website.

The NRL is in the process of introducing a referee recruitment advertising campaign utilising pay television by way of "Foxtel" and the "Big League" Magazine.

With these ads promoting the Recruitment Solutions / ARLRA website and the new 1800 phone number for enquiries it is anticipated that a very healthy result will be achieved. Steve Brown has been in constant touch with all State Secretaries and we ask that you participate actively in this promotion by providing the necessary follow-up and feedback to Steve. The NRL is providing a great deal of funding to this project, so it is essential that we do our part.

Copies of these Advertisements are available should any Association wish to carry out localised advertising – e.g. local paper, clubs etc. Contact Steve for details.

An Administration Fee will apply to all applicants who attend Coaches Registration Courses conducted on or after November 1st 2002. This has been found necessary to offset the cost of producing training manuals and other

course costs which up until now have been met by the NRL with Michael Stone's assistance.

The current fee that was set by the Board is

Level 1 \$30

Level 2 \$50

Payment of these fees to the ARLRA will be required to accompany the participant's application.

Full details are provided on the website.

We understand that some Associations are having difficulty in obtaining details of the proposed standard referees uniform from the nominated preferred supplier - Squeegie Clothing Co.

Darren Winningham has undertaken to incorporate a merchandising bulletin incorporating all available products and a price list on to the website as soon as possible. ♣

## ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE IN OFFICIATING

BY RICHARD JOHNSTON (QRL Referees' Coaching & Development Manager)

All match officials during their career, however long, have one of those games they hope to forget. When one such game arises it leaves a particular taste in your mouth and a hole in your stomach. This is the time a match official must focus and work on his game and set reasonable goals that can be realistically achieved. Many match officials want to be number one, but if this is not attained it does not mean you haven't been successful. As long as you have given of your best you have achieved.

In officiating many suffer from the illusion of fear. The fear of failure. However if you adopt a positive approach you can find fuel in any perceived failure. Quite often failure can get you closer to where you want to be. If you are not committed, you can say all the right things but all you will be doing is looking for reasons instead of answers. Part of this commitment is responsibility.

Finally, never overlook the fundamentals as they will always be the most crucial part of the craft of officiating. You can't skip the fundamentals if you want to be successful. Match officials must monitor the fundamentals constantly, as the only thing that changes is their attention to them. Get the fundamentals down and the level of everything you do will rise. ♣

## AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS' RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

BY KEVIN RIOLO (ARLRA Director)

I was fortunate to witness the Australian Secondary Schoolboys' Under 15's Years' Championships played at St Mary's from 30th June to 5th July, 2002.

The Championships were hosted by Combined Catholic Colleges, whilst the NSWRLRA was responsible for inviting and appointing referees. Two members of the NSWRL Referees' Advisory Board, Peter Bungate and Max Dunn, did a superb job in selecting referees and advising them on ways to improve their refereeing. Max and Peter were available each day of the Championships and all the referees benefited from their expertise.

Besides NSWRLRA Graded referees and Development Squad Junior Representative referees, there were also referees from the CRLRA Development Squads and a Queensland representative. The standard of all the referees involved was particularly pleasing, and just as the playing strength of these Championships improves each year, so does the ability of the referees controlling the games.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the magnificent facilities at the new St Mary's ground. The grandstand, the electronic scoreboard and the overall appearance of the ground were a credit to the St Mary's Football Club.

The Under 18 Championships were played the following week at Queanbeyan hosted by the ACT Rugby League Schools' Committee, whilst the referees were invited and appointed by the Canberra and District RLRA. They were indeed fortunate to have the services of Noel Bissett, Canberra RL Director of Referees and a member of the NSWRL Referees' Advisory Board. Noel was able to view and advise referees from Canberra, NSWRLRA, CRLRA, Queensland, Northern Territory and Victoria. He was very impressed by the professionalism and high standard shown by all referees and he was delighted to hear the positive comments from the ASSRL officials.

The ARLRA now has a close working relationship with the ASSRL, and it is our intention to involve as many referees from various states to develop the potential that obviously exists. This will undoubtedly mean a close liaison with all referees' Associations throughout Australia. ♣

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY NICK EUCLID (Chairman ARLRA)

Train the Trainer courses have been successfully carried out in NSW, NSW Country and Queensland with level 2 completed in NSW Metropolitan. That state is also in the process of organising a Level 2 programme for the CRLRA and in November a Level 1 Course will be conducted for the emerging states. The Board of the ARLRA congratulates the two consultants, Mick Stone and Richard Johnston, for the magnificent efforts resulting in the overwhelming success of the courses and the whole registration process.

The next ARLRA Board Meeting will be held on Friday 15 November 2002 at Sydney and it is anticipated that the two recipients for life membership of the ARLRA (Ian McCall and Eric Cox) will be in attendance at the meeting to be formally bestowed with this great honour.

As we approach the conclusion of another season I sincerely hope that all affiliated members of the ARLRA are able to look back on the year with a strong sense of achievement in having reached the goals that they set for themselves in the new year of 2002. If such is the case then it is nearly time to set new ones for the coming year. If this year's goals weren't achieved then it is now time to analyse the reasons for this and to seek out the ones who may be able to help us to establish realistic and achievable ones for next year. A good source of such assistance is within the group of registered ARLRA referees' coaches that has been set up during this year and who have the knowledge and the desire to assist all referees in their growth and development. ♣

*Please address all correspondence directed to the ARLRA to:*

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The Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Rugby League Referees' Association Inc.  
8 Copeland Road  
ENGADINE NSW 2233

**NOTE that the next Board of Directors meeting of the ARLRA will be held on 15 November 2002. Any issues that members wish to refer to that meeting should be addressed to the CEO on e-mail [ceo@arlr.org.au](mailto:ceo@arlr.org.au) or on fax number (02) 95486607 before 30 October 2002.**

## COACHES' CORNER

One of the major spin-offs of the ARLRA Referees' Coaches Registration Scheme or "Coach-the-Coaches" has been the networking that has evolved among the people who have had the good fortune of being able to attend the courses thus far. Learning to coach is a never-ending journey of learning for the coaches themselves and consultants Mick Stone and Richard Johnston have set up a networking infrastructure that makes continuous learning for our coaches a much easier task. The amount of information that is being shared among these people is invaluable as is the personal involvement of both of these learned men.

The networking largely takes the form of a fortnightly memo from Mick Stone to all registered coaches via e-mail. This memo usually contains some "controversial" issue that has popped up during one of the NRL games telecast around the country or as a query that has been raised by one of the registered coaches. Many of them are real "brain-teasers" regarding the rules of the game or their interpretation but in every case Mick is able to shed light on the relevant part of the rule book that applies and how it applies.

With this type of interaction between the various district associations through their registered coaches the standard of refereeing and, in particular, consistency of rule interpretations, must improve as we all have access to the same knowledge.

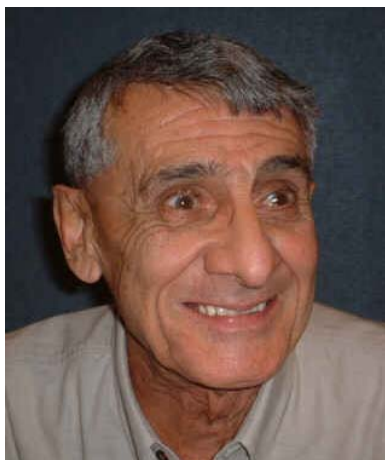
For those who would like to be part of this process and maybe haven't as yet had the opportunity to attend one of the courses then you can still have access to the networking material. All you have to do is visit the ARLRA web site at [www.arlra.org.au](http://www.arlra.org.au) and click on "Coaches' Corner" to see the communications that Mick Stone has been sending out to all of the registered coaches. You can also view the database of all of our ARLRA Registered Coaches along with the associations to which they belong as well as how you can apply to become a registered ARLRA Referees' Coach. ♣

## RECRUITMENT UPDATE

By now everyone has probably heard of the NRL's Refereeing Recruitment Campaign which commenced back in June of this year. This initiative has been funded by the NRL and is focused on recruiting more people into refereeing at the grass roots where many of our affiliated associations are doing it really tough in attracting and retaining new referees. This was more than evident in the national survey conducted by ARLRA Director Martin Weekes and reported on in the last edition of "Ref-A-Read".

In response to that survey along with other calls for support from some of the NSW Metropolitan associations, the NRL offered the Board of the ARLRA all of the support they could muster in the form of financial assistance and also the involvement of consultancy firm "Recruitment Solutions" who are specialists in the procurement of people for specialized positions. In turn, Recruitment Solutions co-opted the support of Jobfit, a company that specializes in the on-line recording of job attributes and performance monitoring. Between the two of them they came up with a Refereeing Recruitment Web Site which can be accessed through the front page of [www.arlra.org.au](http://www.arlra.org.au). This website enables potential referees to undertake a self assessment to determine whether they might make good referees and then in turn refers them to their relevant state association for further information. To date there have been more than 1900 people leave their particulars on the site's database and some associations have already commenced the process of accrediting some of these people.

The NRL is also in the process of embarking on a television advertising campaign to attract new referees into the grass-roots areas of the game in conjunction with a national 1800 number telephone system where callers who wish to pursue refereeing are able to contact their relevant state secretary at the touch of a button. The state secretary then refers the caller to the appropriate district association based on their location. ♣



ARLRA Chairman – Mr Nick Euclid

**CONGRATULATIONS** to two well known identities in Australian refereeing circles in the form of ARLRA Chairman, Mr Nick Euclid, and long time refereeing administrator, Mr Eric Cox, both of whom have been awarded the Order of Australia Medal in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Nick has been a tireless worker for rugby leagues refereeing and is currently the Queensland State Director of Referees having been a member of the Queensland Referees' Board for the past 13 years. Prior to that he spent 25 years with Herbert River Referees and is a life member of that body as well as that of the North Queensland Rugby League and the North Queensland Rugby League Referees'.

The name Eric Cox has been synonymous with rugby league for many years and in particular he has devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to the betterment of rugby league and in particular refereeing. This year his dedication to refereeing was also acknowledged by the ARLRA when he was elected as one of its first two life members with that honor to be formally bestowed at the upcoming board meeting in November. The whole Australian rugby league refereeing fraternity congratulates these two gentlemen on their very worthy awards.