

# REF-A-READ



Volume 1

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## FROM THE CEO'S DESK

BY STEVE BETTS (CEO - ARLRA)

Welcome to this edition of the ARLRA's official newsletter, Ref-A-Read, the first for 2003.

As most of you will know, Bob Styles has relinquished his position as Hon Chief Executive Officer of this Association. Bob had held the position since the Association was first formed. On behalf of all Referees and in particular the Board of the ARLRA, I would like to thank him for all the work he has done for the Association as CEO. We wish you well, Bob, with all your new adventures.



This year has been designated as the "Year of the Official". The Australian Rugby League is one of seven major, national, sporting bodies who are supporting this concept. We are currently in discussions with the Australian Sports Commission, the ARL and other interested parties regarding what we can do to celebrate the importance of referees in our game in 2003.

We would also like to give our members the opportunity to submit their ideas. If anyone in the refereeing community has an activity that they believe we can use, please forward it to your local Association for their consideration. I would ask that local Associations pass any ideas of merit to their State Association for further consideration. State Associations can forward these suggestions to us. All affiliated bodies will get the opportunity to participate in sanctioned activities. We will keep you informed of developments.

By now the football season has well & truly commenced in most areas. I would like to wish all referees a successful season and hope that your games go the way you (and your coaches / advisers) would like them to run.♣

Please address all correspondence directed to the ARLRA to:

**Mr Steve Betts**  
**The Honorary Chief Executive Officer**  
**Australian Rugby League Referees' Association Inc.**  
**32 Parnell Avenue**  
**QUAKERS HILL NSW 2763**

## THREE NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF THE ARLRA

The Annual General Meeting of the ARLRA conducted at the end of February saw three gentlemen awarded with life membership of the Association in recognition of their contribution to refereeing over many years. In accordance with ARLRA rules, each of these has already held life membership of his own group, district, or state association for twenty years or more. Thus to have been recognised as worthy of life membership of the national body at least twenty years after the same recognition by their own associations demonstrates a commitment beyond that of most people involved in our sport.

The first recipient for 2003 is Kevin Jeffes from the Parramatta District Rugby League Referees' Association who has made an outstanding contribution to not only his local association but also to the NSWRLRA over a period exceeding forty years. He has been a coach at junior and senior levels, Advisory Board member at district and representative levels and held numerous positions in refereeing development.

Bruce Chapman is currently a development officer with the NSW CRLRA and a life member of Canberra & District Referees' Association, NSW Group 8 Rugby League and the NSW CRLRA. He is also a recipient of the Denis Braybrook Award "For Service to the Game and for Junior Referees". As well as an outstanding record of on field achievements including numerous representative NSW Country representative fixtures, City v Country and matches featuring visiting international touring teams, Bruce's contribution on the administration side has also been enormous. He is a former Deputy Chairman of the NSW CRLRA and member of the former NSWRL Exam Board. He has held the positions of President and Secretary of NSW Group 8 Referees as well as being the Chairman of the NSW CRLRA Coaching Panel. His involvement in the organisation of the NSW CRLRA annual workshops is legendary.

Tony Young's rugby league resume is awesome and covers nearly sixty years from the time he started his playing career in country NSW. His life memberships include NSW Group 9 Referees, NSW Group 9 Rugby League, NSW CRLRA, Riverina Referees, Riverina Schoolboys' Football Carnival, Boorowa Junior Rugby League Club, NSW Group 9 Junior Rugby League, Young & District Junior Rugby League, NSW Woodbridge Cup Rugby League, Young Junior Rugby League Club, NSW Group 12 Referees and NSW Woodbridge Cup Referees. Truly a remarkable record and deserving of life membership of the national Association.♣

## NSW CRLRA REFEREES ON THEIR WAY TO TARGET

BY KEVIN RIOLO (ARLRA Director)

Over the past two months, the Country Rugby League Referees' Association, in conjunction with the ARLRA, has run two Level 2 Referee Coaches' courses and one Level 1 course.

The first Level 2 course in late February, presented by Michael Stone was held over three days in Port Macquarie for candidates ranging from the Central Coast to the Queensland border. All in attendance commented most favourably on the program and enthusiastically embraced the content. Michael Stone's clever and knowledgeable presentations together with his legendary "networking" sessions ensured that the weekend was a huge success. The hospitality from the Hastings referees also was appreciated. Fifteen Level 1 coaches completed the course on the weekend and Wayne Wilson, CRLRA Central East Development Officer, was elected coordinator for the group which will meet again, possibly in June, as well as coming to Sydney to produce a Coaching video.

The Level 1 course took place in Wollongong in mid-March. Barrie Keenahan and David Jay lectured to nineteen very keen prospective Level 1 coaches. The Evaluation sheets proved how enormously successful this course was. The fact that David Jay attempted to emulate Mick Stone's "networking" session on the Saturday night proved the undoing of some of the candidates on the Sunday morning. Group 21's Mark Bowditch can attest to this. Refereeing is indeed fortunate to have quality people such as Barrie and David available.

On the last weekend in March, thirteen brave souls ventured to the wilds of Jindabyne, under the expert tutelage of Michael Stone again, together with Richard Johnston, Kevin Riolo and Nick Best. The locals were pleased to see us as we brought rain to the district, something they had not seen a lot of for quite a while. All in attendance praised the weekend. This was only natural when you get two such dynamic speakers as Mick and Richard together. All candidates agreed to meet again during the year, and CRLRA South East Development

Officer, Bruce Chapman agreed to co-ordinate their activities and plan the video day.

By the time all Business Plans are completed, the CRLRA should have 28 Level 2 coaches and 34 Level 1 coaches. It is intended that by the end of 2004, there will be at least one Level 1 and one Level 2 coach in each CRLRA affiliated Association.♣

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY NICK EUCLID (Chairman ARLRA)

Firstly I'd like to sincerely welcome Steve Betts on board as our new Honorary CEO and I'm sure that you will all give Steve the support that he needs to carry out this onerous task. The ARLRA is fortunate that a person with such high credentials, both on-field and off-field, has put up his hand to take over from our former CEO, Bob Styles, who served us with professionalism and dedication and for this we are extremely grateful.

Next on the congratulations list are our three newest life members, Kevin Jeffes, Bruce Chapman and Tony Young who join last year's recipients in Eric Cox and Ian McCall. Each of these new life members has an exceptional record as far as service to refereeing goes and all are truly worthy of the recognition bestowed on them by the members of our Association.

The past twelve months has seen a tremendous response to the Training Referees Coaches program with in excess of 150 Level 1 coaches now registered and some 30 Level 2's. This is an exceptional result and full credit must go to those who are driving it in Michael Stone, Richard Johnston, David Jay and Barrie Keenahan along with those within the individual Associations who are encouraging their members to be part of the process. The end result will be better coached referees and therefore a higher standard of officiating throughout the nation.

To all referees throughout Australia may I wish you good luck for 2003 and I hope that your goals are fulfilled by year end.♣

*Just a reminder of upcoming representative fixtures that will involve some of our members:-*

- *Affiliated States (State Open representative teams) Perth 6th to 8th June 2003 (referees contact Martin Weekes)*
- *Under 15's Schoolboys Championship. Cabramatta, Sydney 28th June to 5th July 2003*
- *Under 18's Schoolboy Championship. Darwin, NT 12th July to 18th July 2003*

**NOTE that the next Board of Directors meeting of the ARLRA will be held on 14 June 2003. Any issues that members wish to refer to that meeting should be addressed to the CEO on e-mail "aaus5576@bigpond.net.au" or on fax number (02) 8437 5886 before 31 May 2003.**

***Have you paid a visit to the ARLRA website at [www.arlra.org.au](http://www.arlra.org.au)? Also have a look at the new NSW CRL website at [www.nswcrl.com.au](http://www.nswcrl.com.au)***