

Rugby Club of Victoria Newsletter

October 2024



A Note from the President

Welcome to a special edition of the RCV Newsletter. This edition speaks to the core of what the Rugby Club of Victoria is all about; advocating for the game of rugby in Victoria and supporting initiatives that help grow the game in a tangible way.

For the RCV members, member guests, and the guests from the individual projects' teams, our 4th Annual Fundgiving lunch was a thoroughly enjoyable, and for many, rewarding, event.

Each year, the committee are excited by the opportunity to gift funds to projects, particularly when projects are of such as high quality as we saw this time. Thank you to the project leaders for putting in the time and effort to pitch your worthwhile projects to the membership.

It genuinely felt like there was magic in the room – so much so that through the generosity and will of our membership base, not one project went away empty handed.

Although fundraising is a key focus for RCV, it is important that interested people and prospective members know that they can join in the fun and contribute to the club without any expectation at all that they make additional financial contributions.

The club is fully inclusive, it is intended to be a fun experience for everyone, and while we are always grateful for the individual largesse and generosity of individual members who choose to make extra donations, no-one will ever be put into a situation where they feel pressured to do anything other than enjoy the

club and the events for what they are.

As always, should you wish to consider some greater non-financial involvement in helping grow RCV – in whatever form - please get in touch with me to discuss. We are always on the lookout for great ideas and willing hands. What you see in our events is only the surface of what we are building, and we need to scale the involvement to truly increase our significance and impact.

I leave you with the thought of how much better rugby would be if we all shared the same vision of collaborating and creating a single voice to promote what to many is a wonderful sport.

John Anderson



RCV Fund-giving Lunch a Rousing Success

Here's a brief summary of the three pitches and the final outcome.

Pitch #1: Establish a junior rugby club in Mernda

One of Melbourne's largest population growth corridors is to the north of the CBD and includes the Cities of Hume and Whittlesea. Between them, these two LGA have a current population of over half a million people, with 50%+ growth expected over the next 15 years. And yet the area has no rugby club, despite a significant rugby loving migrant population.

Northern Rugby Club, with support from Academy Movement's new Mernda Central College Rugby Academy are looking to establish a new junior's program based initially at Mernda Central College.

The program would draw on the existing club processes and procedures of one of Melbourne's established clubs (Northern Panthers), but be based in a location within 10 minutes' drive of hundreds of kids looking to play club rugby.

With \$10k of funding from The Rugby Club of Victoria for the purchase of jerseys, training & playing equipment and ground hire, the new program aims to enter an u14 (boys and girls) and u16s boys team in the Rugby Vic competition in 2025 and grow from there.

Pitch #2: Run an off-season contact & non-contact junior rugby program

The Eastern Renegades, an amalgamation of four Eastern suburbs clubs, are looking to establish an off-season junior rugby competition that keeps kids playing and having fun, while providing an opportunity for families looking to try out the sport and see if rugby is right for them, without committing to a whole season.

Run in a gala day, carnival format, with music, face-painting, BBQ & ice-cream vans, the comp would aim at boys & girls up to u12, with three to four gala days over the 2024/25 summer, playing touch or modified tackle games as interest and conditions allow.

Thanks to a very generous donor, The Rugby Club of Victoria will also provide \$10k of initial funding towards this idea but we are also asking members to support this initiative with a further funding to make the program free or very low cost to participate.

Pitch #3: Run a pre-season tournament for U10 and below

While there are a number of pre-season tournaments available for u12 and up age groups, no such tournament is currently offered for younger age groups. This is a highly competitive end of the sports market and others like basketball and AFL use pre-season comps to build commitment and sign-ups.

Thanks to a very generous donor, The Rugby Club of Victoria will provide \$5k of funding to help Powerhouse Rugby Club establish a pre-season tournament for age grades up to u10, run over a weekend in March/April 2025. Teams from all over Victoria will be invited to what is expected to be a celebration of junior rugby, with hundreds of boys and girls competing and having fun. It will also provide an opportunity to bring together junior coaches and referees to build connections and cooperation going into the new season.

This initiative is a nice flow-on from Idea #2 and is hoped will provide a way for families to try (and get hooked on) rugby before committing to other winter sports. RCV is looking to members to help raise a further funding to make the program free or at very low cost to participants.

With \$25k committed to these new ideas to grow rugby in Victoria, the total amount invested by RCV's generous members since our founding four years ago is now **in excess of \$100,000**.

If you want to do something to help grow rugby in Victoria, contact Committee member, Justin Bown (vp@rugbyclubvic.com) or make a tax-deductible donation via our website.

What our new members said about RCV's fund-giving lunch

"As a new member, I had the pleasure of attending the Rugby Club of Victoria's 4th annual Shark Tank luncheon, where three impressive teams pitched their innovative ideas to grow rugby in Victoria. Each team was deserving, making it a tough decision, but the winning pitch - a plan to establish a club and development pathway in the rapidly growing northern region - stood out."

Congratulations to RCV for hosting such a fun and inspiring event, showcasing that rugby has a bright and thriving future in Victoria. Just too bad the Wallabies couldn't get over the line to make for a perfect day."

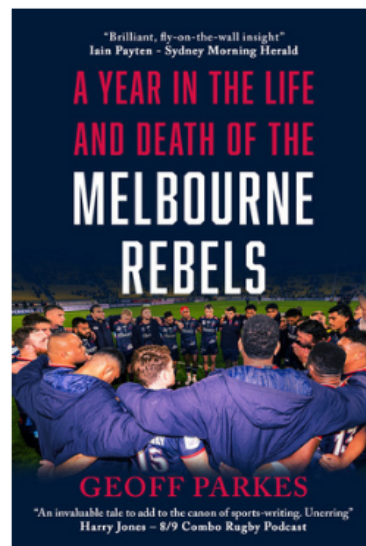
Adam Wood

"RCV brings together a passionate group of people who are not only committed to creating events for rugby people but also dedicated to fostering the growth of community rugby in Victoria. The quality of the projects presented is a testament to RCV's growing impact, and their ongoing support of the community is sparking ideas that deserve to be heard; ideas and actions that are driving real and tangible change."

Cameron McFarlane



New Release!



'A Year in the Life and Death of the Melbourne Rebels'

Granted unprecedented insider access, writer Geoff Parkes set out to document the Rebels' 2024 season and to provide rugby followers with an insight into what makes a professional rugby franchise work. What followed was an extraordinary turn of events: the club tipped into voluntary administration early in 2024, now not only fighting to compete in one of global rugby's toughest elite competitions, but against a governing body intent on shutting it down.

"Brilliant, fly-on-the-wall insight" Iain Payten, Sydney Morning Herald

"An invaluable tale to add to the canon of sports writing. Unerring." Harry Jones, 8/9 Combo Rugby Podcast

Release date Tues 29th October
Available from all major on-line book retailers in paperback and e-book