



CARING FOR THE
MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN
OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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OUR MISSION

To support the men, women and children of the rugby league community who are in necessitous circumstances, be they volunteers, official, referees, long-retired players at all levels and their dependent families. We do this by providing essential welfare and social support in a timely effective and efficient manner underpinned with dignity.

OUR HISTORY

On 11 July 2002 a meeting was held at the New South Wales Leagues Club to launch the Men of League Foundation. The name Men of League was kindly given by Narelle Hughes, wife of former Canterbury player, Graeme Hughes. She had used the name for a calendar she had published for a number of years. It is a name befitting the organisation.

The idea of forming the Men of League Foundation began with discussions between tough prop and the then Judiciary Commissioner Jim Hall and Canterbury, Manly back Max Brown and 'Team of the Century' back-rower Ron Coote who expressed his concerns for former players he had discovered who were doing it tough. One of these was his hero Doug McRitchie, physically weak in a hospital on the South Coast of New South Wales. Touched by what he had learnt and what he saw, Ron with former players, set up the meeting. At this meeting 140 players, officials and referees joined up to become the founding members.

Ron Coote AM became the first Chairman and another former player and past Premier of New South Wales, retired Federal Cabinet Minister and former head of the World Anti-Doping Authority, the Honourable John Fahey AC was asked to become the Patron.

In a very brief time a committee was formed and the first major fund raising event was organised. This was the Men of League Foundation Gala Dinner, a black tie affair attended by over 700 people. The Gala Dinner was held in September just a few months after the first meeting and proved to be an outstanding success. It is now a highlight of the rugby league social calendar in Sydney.

OUR VISION

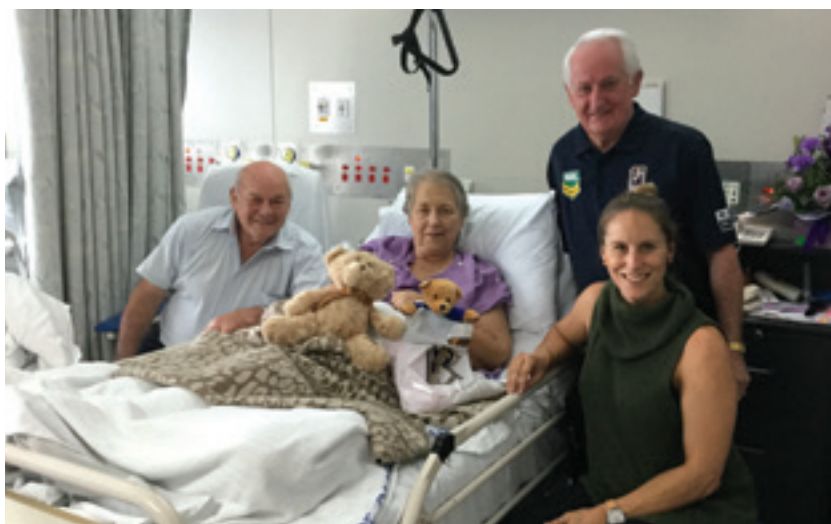
To be the charity of choice in the rugby league community and the aspired, benchmark support organisation in the Australian and global sporting context.

This gala dinner, along with the hugely successful annual Queensland Luncheon, act as celebrations of the great work done by the Foundation. Both events draw ever-growing crowds who delight in the unique rugby league experiences they offer and salute outstanding contributors to the Foundation by awarding Life Membership, the Steve Calder Queensland Volunteer of the Year Award and also acknowledge honourees. The Gala Dinner always carries a rugby league theme and greats from the past are honoured as part of the Foundation's Honouree announcements. This theme forms the basis of our memorabilia.

Men of League Foundation has distributed over \$4,500,000 in benevolent support to those from the rugby league family in need. Support is given to those from all levels of the game who have suffered an injury or illness and are in financial hardship, from grass roots canteen staff through to former players. Foundation memorabilia is made available to junior rugby league clubs and benefits each year.

There is so much for which the Foundation can be proud. Whether it be a wheelchair, medical bills, transport, a hospital visit, flowers or a bowl of fruit, we have made a difference to the lives of so many.

In 2006 the good work of the Foundation was recognised by the Australian Tax Office and was granted status as an Income Tax Exempt and a Deductible Gift Recipient Charity. With this announcement, the Foundation came of age as one of Australia's most significant charities and began its evolution to becoming **the** charity of rugby league.





OUR PEOPLE

2015 National Board Members

Name	Position	Dates acted
Ron Coote AM	Chairman	Whole year
Geoff Thoroughgood	Company Secretary & Treasurer	Whole year
Martin Cook	Director	Resigned
The Hon John Fahey AC	Director	Resigned
Mark Gasnier	Director	Whole year
Brad Howell	Director	Started 18th August
Professor The Hon. Stephen Martin	Director	Started 16th June
Alan Sullivan QC	Director	Started 28th April
Darryl Van de Velde	Director	Whole year
Helen Wood Grant	Director	Started 16th June

2015 Men of League Foundation Team

Name	Position	Dates acted
Ray Beattie OAM	Interim CEO	Started 15th December
Ben Ross	Welfare & Education Manager	Whole year
Emile Assaf	Financial Controller	Started 19th October
Stuart Raper	NSW State Manager	Whole year
Frank Barrett	QLD State Manager	Started 9th March
Sandra Hopwood	Operations Manager	Whole year
Jason Turik	Event & Community Engagement Manager	Whole year
Claire White	Memberships Officer	Whole year
Richard Mills	Database Administrator	Started 3rd November
Tegan Jennings	QLD Events & Operations Manager	Whole year
Louise Uhl	QLD Administration Officer	Resigned 3rd November
Corene Strauss	Chief Executive Officer	Resigned 14th December
Andrew Gifford	Financial Controller	Resigned 4th September
Michael Buettner	NRL Alumni Manager	Resigned 5th November

OUR PEOPLE

2015 Men of League Foundation Committees

Committee	President	Welfare Officer
Brisbane	Ian Gatenby	Vance Rennie
Bundaberg District	Terry Dodd	Chris Sullivan
Canberra Monaro	Noel Bissett	Mark Lynch
		Steven Troth
Central Coast	Don Parish	Denis Culpan
		Leslie Pearce
		Lance Henry
Central Highlands	Michael Roach	Paul Bell
Central West	John Lasker	N/A
Far North Queensland	John McAllister	Bruce Slade
Far South Coast	Terry Dickson	
Fraser Coast	Kevin Embrey	Ian Ninnies
		Gary Pearson
		Sheron Embrey
Gold Coast	Ian Amos	Greg Rousell
		Tom Bishop
		Bob Honan
		Gregory Sylvester
Goondiwindi	Trevor Brown	Ken Millgate
Gympie	Ross Groundwater	Greg Pountney
Illawarra	Peter Fitzgerald	Kevin Holland
Macarthur/Southern Highlands	Ronald McEntee	Gary Munro
Mackay	Paul Hudson	Alf Abdullah
Melbourne	Peter Foreman	Peter Foreman
Mid North Coast	Brian Atherton	Vincent O'Brien
		Desmond Raward
		Jim Swift
		Kevin Hardy
		Warren Kimberley
		John Sullivan
Mid West	Badger Babbage	N/A
Newcastle Hunter	Garry Leo	Peter Corcoran
North Coast	Peter Barrett	Maurie Lonergan
		Terry O'Rourke
		Martyn Phillips
North West	Don Pascoe	Peter Woolaston
Northern Rivers	Phillip Chesham	Phillip Chesham
Northern Sydney	Trevor Bailey	Fred Jackson
		Norm Pounder
		Ken Vessey

OUR PEOPLE

Northern Territory

Henry John White

Kazik Jurek

Penrith

Daniel McKinnon

Riverina

Dave Mulrooney

Dave Mulrooney

2015 Men of League Foundation Committees

Committee

President

Welfare Officer

Rockhampton

Shane Nipperess

Greg Reynolds

Roma

Owen Lingard

Lyle Cherry

South Coast

Carol Weller

Syd Weller

Southern Division

Andrew O'Brien

Neale O'Brien

Les Toleman

Southern Sydney

Terry Hughes

Alan Webb

Sunshine Coast

Bob Hagan

John Bourke

Sydney Metro

Henry Morris

Peter Grounds

Cyril Peel

Warren Thompson

Alan Webb

Townsville

Mark Williams

Greg Winter

Tuggerah Lakes

Denis Smith

Terry Wand

Tweed District

John Strong

Mick Kennedy

Neil Pengilley

Arthur Sauverain

Neil Pringle

Upper Hunter

Paul Medd

Anthony Witt

Janice Thompson

Western Australia

James Sullivan

Peter Walker

Matt Fuller

Western Region

Martin Cook

John Croft

Wayne Burgess

Ken Campbell

Danny Hawkins

Joe Bellgardt

Dean Leach

Chick Maiden

Bill McAnally

Robert Pilon

Nelson Smith

Tony Wilson

Buzz Noonan

Western Sydney

Steve Winbank

Noel Willick

John Billings

OUR SUPPORTERS

The Men of League Foundation would like to thank the following sponsors for their invaluable support and close partnership in 2015.



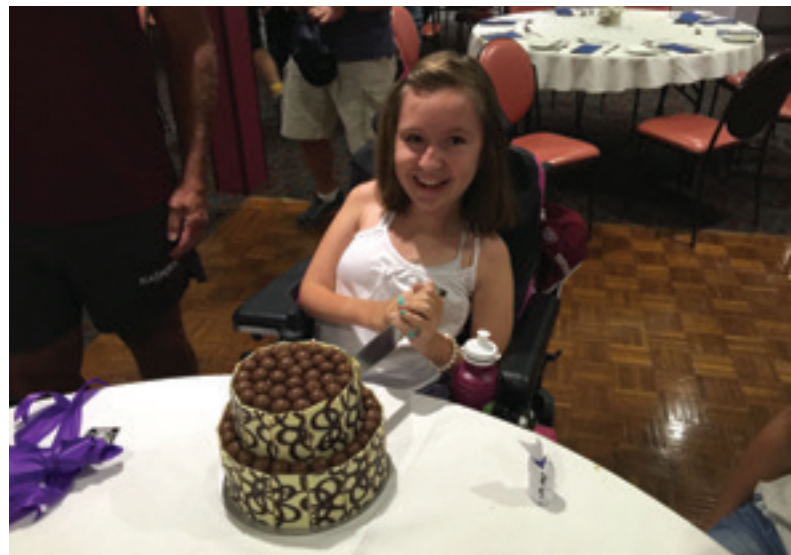
2015 CLUB GRANT DONORS

We are most grateful to the following clubs who have selected the Foundation as one of their beneficiaries.

Asquith RL Club
Bathurst Panthers
Blacktown Workers Club
Canterbury Leagues Club
Central Charlestown Leagues Club
City of Sydney RSL
City Tattersall's Club
Club Sapphire Merimbula
Collegians RLFC
Dapto Leagues Club
Earlwood Bardwell RSL

East's Leagues Club
Everglades Country Club
Kingsgrove RSL
Merimbula RSL
Mortdale RSL
North Sydney Leagues Club
NSW Leagues Club
Queanbeyan Kangaroo RLFC
Sharkies
South Sydney JRL
Souths Newcastle

St George Leagues Club
St John's Park Bowling Club
St Mary's RL Club
The Bowlers Club
Tigers Group
Warilla Bowling Club
Wenty Leagues
Wests Ashfield Leagues
Wests Group - Lake Macquarie





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - RON COOTE AM



The Men of League Foundation continues to pursue its ideals for the betterment of the rugby league community, with great success. Our aim is to be 'the' charity of the rugby league community and we are taking significant steps towards achieving this. We are dedicated to our continuing to focus on our core business of identifying genuine need within the rugby league community and to effectively respond to that need by welfare distribution including services, funds and referrals including responding to mental health needs in our recipients.

The Foundation achieved substantial growth across a number of key performance indicators, with more than 2,000 welfare visits annually, equating to about \$75,000 annually in real costs. These numbers can be supported by the simple fact we increased our welfare expenditure by 25 per cent in 2013-14, increased it another 57 per cent in 2014-15 which, overall, equates to an 85 per cent increase in grant applications since 2013. Additionally, our membership number has reached a milestone with over 29,000 members having joined since 2002. We are a genuine grassroots organisation with 42 active committees nationally and over 500 volunteers, with the latest committee established in Penrith, NSW.

Our former CEO, Corene Strauss has moved on to a new role. We thank her for her contribution and also Ray Beattie for his time as interim CEO prior to the appointment of our new CEO, Peter Collins.

The Foundation continues to grow and become a more relevant voice in the rugby league community. This role has been enhanced by the five year funding deal from the NRL which has helped the Foundation reinforce its role as **the** charity of rugby league. This secured funding will help to ensure that the Foundation remains in a strong financial position to enable our welfare activities to meet the ever increasing need.

Throughout the year we have continued to improve our governance model and associated procedures including financial controls, human resources and industrial relations processes. We have also made a significant investment in our new database. This new membership database will ensure that we have improved security of information and membership tracking details. Our appointment of a contracted health care specialist for three months has improved our understanding of what was needed in regard to the duty of care for our welfare officers and recipients.

Our connection to the rugby league community has been strengthened by our focus on the role of women in the Men of League Foundation. We have achieved greater success and new perspectives from their contribution. Helen Wood Grant was appointed as a National Board member in June 2015. Women are increasingly involved as committee members, event guests, professional advisors and the focus of key magazine articles. They also comprise a significant percentage of our welfare recipients. Continued engagement with women in the rugby league community must remain a focus.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Board, sponsors, supporters, staff and volunteers. Our goals would never be achievable without their contribution and dedication. The Foundation is in a strong position to provide an ever more professional service to those men, women and children most in need in the rugby league community.

Ron Coote AM

INTERIM CEO'S REPORT – RAY BEATTIE OAM



SUMMARY

In 2015 we had:

- 2438 new members
- 225 Gold Members
- 13 Corporate Members
- 5563 members pay their annual fee
- We had three main membership competitions last year
 - Junior membership competition - \$10 joining fee for children under the age of 18 and each junior member received a Gods of Coaching print signed by Wayne Bennett
 - State of Origin Membership Competition
 - Grand Final Membership Competition

WELFARE

2015 welfare assistance was focused on providing quality support to the challenges of the rugby league community. Men of League Foundation have implemented a Welfare and Grants Committee consisting of five committee members.

It consists of a Board member, mental health manager, welfare manager, local committee member and CEO which allow discussion of welfare and the nature of the welfare system. Welfare in the broadest sense refers to the wellbeing of people, for our situation the rugby league community in necessitous circumstances.

Men of League Foundation's Kick Off Clubs also support our isolation prevention initiatives with 40 conducted in 2015.

GRANTS

106 applicants:

- Amputee 4
- Cancer 17
- Dementia 6
- Other 12
- Financial hardship 12
- Mental health 9
- Spinal Injury 9
- Stroke 4
- Heart failure 6
- Orthopedic 21
- Death/suicide 6

Over 2400 social isolation approaches conducted:

- Social visits
- Phone calls
- Emails

LOCAL COMMITTEES

Number of events:

- QLD 66
- NSW 82
- Other States 9

ACHIEVEMENTS

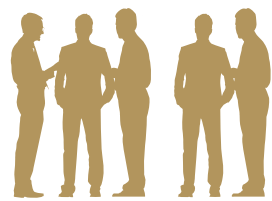
- Communications were continually addressed and have been enhanced by the Locker Room, committee email address, teleconferences, State Manager's newsletters.
- Communications continue to be the essential requirement of committees, old fashioned face to face and telephone conversations remain the preference, the challenge is the time factor this takes to facilitate. We continue to enjoy gradual improvement with iPads, Locker Room and generic email helping with consistency.
- Windows of opportunity exist to deliver regular emails, especially with links from our website to highlight weekly focus stories, which can then be tracked to better understand our reach.
- Need a full content plan from committee submission right through to regular and consistent communications across all portals, centered on the website as the hub.

**2438 NEW
MEMBERS**

**225 GOLD
MEMBERS**

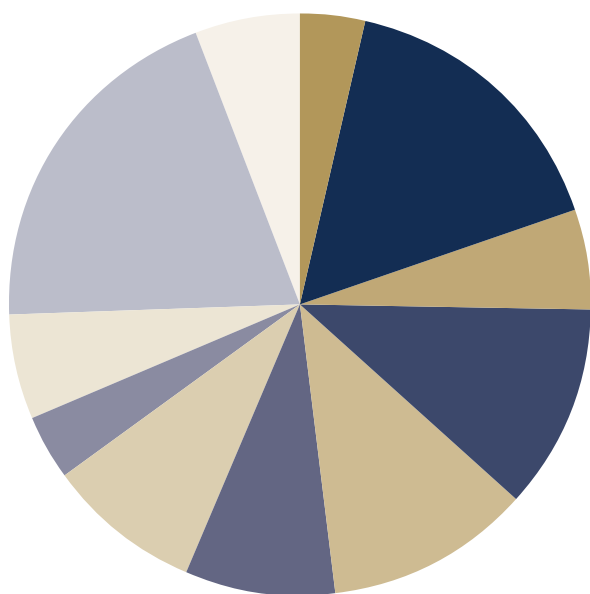
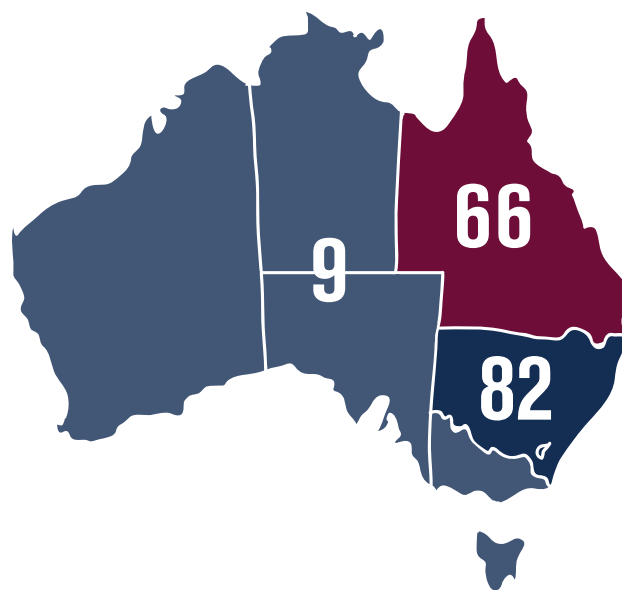
**13 CORPORATE
MEMBERS**

**5563 PAID
ANNUAL FEES**



**OVER 2400
SOCIAL ISOLATION
APPROACHES**

LOCAL COMMITTEE EVENTS



CATALYST FOR ASSISTANCE

Amputee	4	4%
Cancer	17	16%
Dementia	6	6%
Other	12	11%
Financial Hardship	12	11%
Mental Health	9	8%
Spinal Injury	9	8%
Stroke	4	4%
Heart Failure	6	6%
Orthopedic	21	20%
Death/Suicide	6	6%
Total	106	100%

SUCCESSSES

- The continued reactiveness of our committee volunteers to visit those is the rugby league community who have fallen on hard times
- The involvement and enthusiasm committees have shown towards new initiatives and procedures that have been presented over the past 12 months
- Content reporting has improved considerably, especially events and welfare
- Understanding of the need for compliance is firmly on committees agendas.
- Improved accounting and reconciliation of events, with plenty more improvement required.

NSW COMMITTEES (INCLUDING WA)

- South Australia Rugby League partnered with Men of League Foundation to raise money for a local rugby league player. It is hoped that in 2016 Men of League will have a committee in South Australia.
- Men of League Foundation Penrith Committee launched on 27th August 2015 with a kick off club and have since held multiple successful events and welfare visits. We are very proud and excited by the opportunity created in a strong rugby league heartland.

QLD COMMITTEES AND AFFILIATED STATES (VIC AND NT)

- Reinvigorated some committees – Gympie, Fraser Coast, Rockhampton, Southern Division and Townsville with some minimum requirements/ processes around kick off clubs, AGM and welfare involvement with their volunteers.
- Brisbane committee made some huge improvements by planning to change the committee structure and move their events around the city in 2016, away from the traditional location of Broncos Leagues.
- Melbourne utilised Origin to capture great awareness and fundraising at a kick off club and raffle at State of Origin function at Crown, along with big success in Storm corporate events at a selected home game at AAMI Park.

The 2016 Local Committee conference is set to re-invigorate and re-educate on the Foundation's operating procedures and plans for the future.

MAJOR EVENTS

- **Gala Dinner**
 - 538 people
 - Held at Le Montage
 - Magnificent 7 public and independent panel vote
 - Supported by Fox Sports NRL 360 and News Limited
- **Cox Plate Race Day**
 - 250 people
 - Moved to Royal Randwick (from Rosehill)
- **QLD Luncheon**
 - 804 people
 - Held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
 - Celebrating Trans-Tasman Rivalries between Australia and New Zealand across Rugby League and Rugby Union
- **QLD Golf Day**
 - 136 players
 - Held at Brisbane Golf Club
- **QLD Race Day at GC Turf Club**
 - 100 people
 - Five race sponsors
- **Men of League Foundation Round**
 - NRL Game Day Activations
 - Awareness through all media
 - Men of League Foundation Socks
 - Media and brand exposure
 - Engagement with NRL clubs
- **Season Launch Thank You Event**
 - Thanked 200 VIP supporters
- **Steak 'n' Shiraz Lunch at Caxton with Bulls Masters**
 - 200 people
- **QLD Christmas function at Darling Co**
 - Thanks our key stakeholders and sponsors
 - 100 people



SPECIFIC CAUSES

- **Ray Blacklock**
 - 800 people
 - Funds raised to assist Ray Blacklock
- **Russell Fairfax**
 - 600 people
 - Funds raised to assist Russell Fairfax
- **Cowan Family Specific Cause**
 - Funds raised to assist Cowan family
- **Rian Smith – Rian Angels**
 - Over 700 attended event in Mackay to raise funds for the Rian Smith Trust
 - Have since purchased a fully modified vehicle, home improvements and rehabilitation items
- **An Afternoon with Steve Calder at Broncos Leagues Club**
 - 370 people
 - Raised funds to help with treatment and medical costs for Steve Calder

THIRD PARTY EVENTS

Multiple events held in 2015, the major ones were:

- AHA Golf Day
- NSW Leagues Club held three events
- Arana Leagues Club Brisbane donated \$10k
- Kokoda trail walk with ex NRL Players
- Footy Show arm wrestle
- Yellow Brick Road donated \$20k

CLUBGRANTS

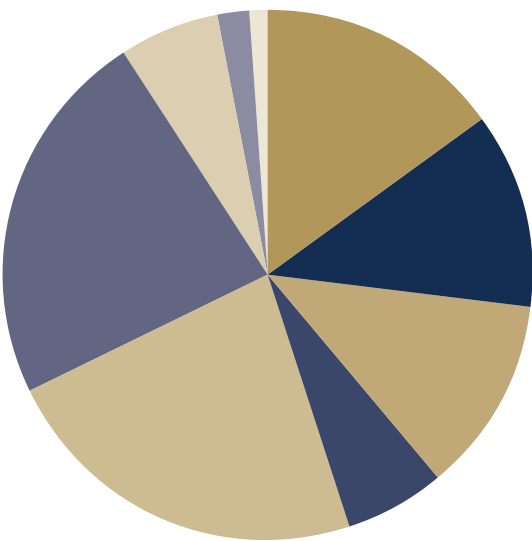
The ClubGRANTS scheme is a funding source provided by clubs throughout NSW. Clubs that earn over \$1 million annually in gaming revenue provide funding for community projects and services. In 2015, we received a total of \$228,280 from 31 clubs, for our Advantage Line program.

The Men of League Foundation's "The Advantage Line" program is a specific program tailored for the men, women and children of the rugby league community, who need some assistance, coaching and advice in overcoming, progressing and rebuilding their lives from a challenge, obstacle or breakdown they have encountered.

FINANCIALS

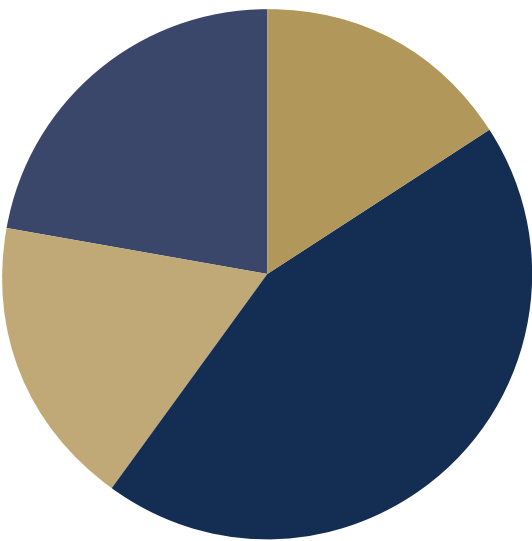
The Foundation had a very successful 2015 year. Our net surplus was \$60,136 compared to \$553,575 in the previous. Our expenditure on welfare increased from \$555,659 in 2014 to a record year of \$910,048 in the 2015 year. It is the intention to structure the Foundation’s finances to quarantine funds each year as insurance against any shortfall of incoming financial support, thus ensuring services to recipients remain unaffected by short term changes in circumstance.

Operating Income and Expenditure Statement for Financial Year to December 2015.



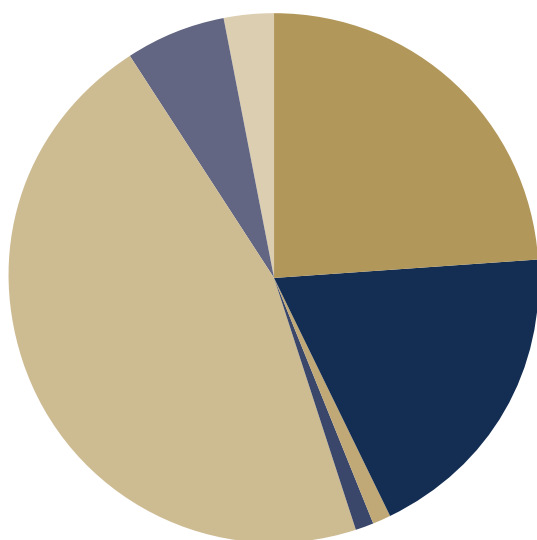
INCOME

Memberships	15%
Donations and Sponsorships	12%
Club Grants	12%
Major Events	6%
Local Committee Events	23%
Specific Cause	23%
Third Party and Direct Mail	6%
Other	2%
Investment	1%



EXPENDITURE % TO INCOME

Website Advertising and Promotion	16%
Benevolence Spend	44%
Employee costs	18%
General Overheads	22%



BENEVOLENCE 44% OF INCOME

Grants and Grant Assistance	24%
Residential and Rehab Care	19%
Flowers and Baskets	1%
Social Welfare Causes	1%
Specific Cause Events	46%
Alumni Costs	6%
Charitable Causes	3%

2015 GOLD & CORPORATE MEMBERS

Men of League Foundation would like to thank our gold and corporate members for their continued assistance in enabling us to support the rugby league community.

GOLD MEMBERS

Christensen Alan	Peter Hall	John Peard
Leigh Anderson	Geoffrey Hamilton	Kevin Perkins
Deborah Ayshford	Steven Harborne	Joe Pickering
Peter Bell	Denis Hayes	Bradley Porta
John Bell	Norm Hazzard	Jade Porter
Ron Bercene	Levi Hegarty	Scott Power
Kevin Boland	Ronald Hopkins	Robert Puckett
Chris Books	Shane Horan	Pat Purcell
Tom Bowden	Bradley Howell	John Quayle
Jeff Bristow	Hilton Hurst	Kieran Reekie
Kenneth Brown	Ian Ingle	John Renshaw
Anthony Bruce	Darryl James	Craig Rigby
Clive Bryant	John Jeffries	Joe Rissman
Dr Simon Buckingham	Vaughan Johnson	Chris Robinson
Peter Burnitt	Kevin Jones	Rod Salan
Brian Burns	Chris Jurd	Mario Saliba
Doug Cameron	Richard Keats	David Samuelsson
Daryl Campbell	Andrew Kippen	Stephen Sanders
Richard Campling	Thomas Larkin	Brian Sanderson
Richard Carr	Dean Lavery	Andrew Saunders
Gary Cherry	Sir Peter Charles Leitch	John Schriek
David Cohen	Gary Lester	Constantin Serban
John Colby	Michael Livingstone	Howard Smith
Stephen Collins	John Lobwein	Gary Smith
David Collins	Geoff Logue	Adam Smith
Paul Collits	Geoffrey Lousick	Ish Smith
William Crane	Brian Love	Richard Somers
Michael Crompton	Aaron Lucas	Rod Somerville
Mark Cullinan	Garry Macdougall	Brian Sommerville
Michael Deane	Scott Mackey	Ted Sorensen MP
Robert Derrick	Gregory Maher	Anthony Stackhouse
John Dick	Jason Markwell	Murray Stalley
Tim Donahoo	Ernest Martin	Bruce Starkey
Frank Drake	Michael Martin	Michael Stephens
Stephen Duclos	John McAllister	Luke Stewart
Jodi Duffield	William McAnally	Anthony Sullivan
Daniel Dwyer	Peter McAuley	Erin Sullivan
Brian East	Ross McDermott	Alan Sullivan
Chris Edwards	Gary McDonell	Peter Sullivan
Peter Egan	Charles McGee	Matthew Sumpter
Craig Elliot	Ted McKay	John Tavener
Luke Ellis	David McLeod	Peter Taylor
John Fahey	Peter McLuckie	David Thomas
Jude Findlay	Michael McVeigh	Terry Thompson
John Fisher	Paul Medd	Peter Turner
Charles Fitzgerald	Wayne Medlyn	Leo Tutt
Denis Fitzgerald AM	Robert Mitchell	Neil Vea Vea
Warren Fletcher	Gerry Mohan	Peter Ward
Dom Fondacaro	Kerry Moore	Neil Welsh
Colin Foran	Kevin Neal	Wayne Wendt
Darryl Foster	Joey Neukam	Garry White
Billy-Joe Francis	Wayne Nicholson	Glen Whiteman
Peter French	Aaron Nicoll	Rob Williams
Jody Gall	Stephen Norrish	Michael Williams
Brett Gallagher	Philip Notaro	Steve Williams
John Georges	Stewart O'Connor	Kevin Wilson
Ben Giblett	Martin O'Rourke	Scott Wood
Glenn Gillroy	Terry Parker	Anthony Wright
Paul Goodsell	Ricki Parry	Helen Wright
Matt Goodwin	Leo Paternoster	Gregory Wright
Glenn Gorick	Mark Pauling	James Wynn

CORPORATE MEMBERS





HOW YOU CAN HELP



**BECOME A MEMBER
FROM \$20 PER YEAR**



**FUNDRAISE IN YOUR
COMMUNITY**

SPONSOR



**JOIN US AS A SPONSOR
OR CORPORATE PARTNER**



ATTEND OUR EVENTS



**MAKE A DONATION
OR LEAVE A BEQUEST**



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME



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