
history
through
time

ABOUT

It was back in September 1957, when like-minded rugby league enthusiasts gathered a meeting together and set on the path of purchasing a property to develop a licensed Leagues Club. From small beginnings, the club was started in what was one of the oldest homes in Griffith on the same site the Southside club stands today. Slowly the old house underwent changes to accommodate the club style required and became a drinking hole of choice for the 242 inaugural members and their guests.

The Griffith Leagues Club is well known and recognised in association with rugby league and still to this day football remains the central part of the club. The rugby league administrators were in charge of the club in the starting years. Enthusiasm and motivation were the key element of running the club. Many of the first presidents, treasurers and managers were astute businessmen in their chosen field as well as avid football fans.



1945



1958



1961



1966



1975

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

1957

14/11/1957 1st Meeting of the Leagues Club held at Griffith Ex-servicemen's Club 177 applications for inaugural membership accepted.

Original trading hours

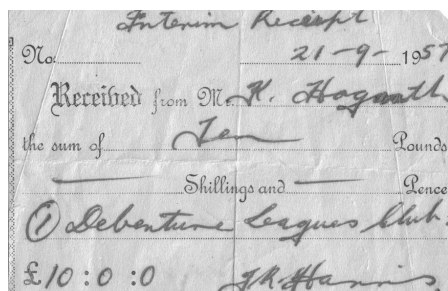
Monday to Friday 4.00pm-6.30pm then 7.30pm to 11.00pm

Saturday 10am to 6.30pm then 7.30pm to 11pm

Sunday 11am to 6.30pm then 7.30pm to 10pm

16/12/1957 Mr Ted Swadling appointed first steward - **Weekly wage 18 pounds**

23/12/1957 Morgan and Olliffe instructed to make application for license



1958

31/1/1958 Ian Johnson (Football Coach) appointed second steward

16/1/1958 Special General Meeting approved constitution

10/2/1958 First Friday night Raffle
1st prize 1 dozen bottles beer

17/2/1958 Name changes to the Griffith Leagues Club

24/2/1958 Monthly committee meeting introduced to replace weekly meetings

17/3/1958 1st Poker Machine installed - Rule men must wear ties to social nights

25/3/1958 Decision to borrow \$9,200.00 from bank

31/3/1958 Club decides to purchase 1st wireless AJ Prendergast appointed to the Board

21/4/1958 Committee decides to look into the appointment of the first Manager

23/6/1958 50 pounds donated to the Hospital appeal

15/5/1958 First application for Liquor License knocked back by the LAB

15/9/1958 Special Meeting fresh application for licence submitted with necessary alterations

29/9/1958 Tennis Court built

4/10/1958 Darts team formed - Club applies for Poker Machines

20/10/1958 Indoor Bowls introduced to the Club

27/10/1958 Jack Davidge resigns as President to take up position as acting manager

29/10/1958 Leagues Club Cricket team formed to play in Saturday Competition

November 1958 Basketball team formed to play in local competition



1959

12/1/1959 First AGM of the Club - Mr Jack Davidge appointed 1st Secretary Manager

13/1/1959 Monthly meeting changes to first Thursday of the month

18/2/1959 Middy glasses introduced to the Club

19/3/1959 Club hours changed too open 12 noon Monday to Friday

16/4/1959 Approved to build new main bar,ladies lounge and snooker rooms

3/9/1959 Life Membership to Mr Ted Sheed

15/8/1959 Life Membership to Mr Ted Moore and Mr Les Gilbert

1960-63

10/12/1960 New Ladies Lounge and Bar opened by Keith Barnes

March 1961 \$1000.00 granted to improve Rugby Oval

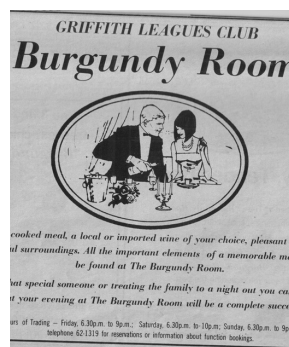
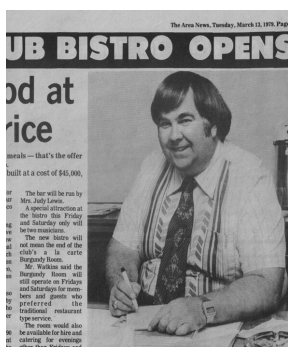
June 1962 Jack Davidge resigns

July 1962 Harry Williams appointed Manager 28 pounds per week 8 pounds' allowances

October 1962 First committee dinner held at the Griffith Hotel

February 1963 Jack Davidge Life Member

November 1963 Committee decided to support Waratahs



"Price of Middy rises to 16 cents"



Pictured above, with manager Mr Watkins are from left, Tony Catanzariti, Ray Hill, John Wooldridge and Pat Calabria.

John Wooldridge, who was formerly a shearer, took on a new profession when he commenced work at the Leagues club six years ago as a casual barman.

He graduated to the full time staff three years ago and has become well known by the frequent members.

The two very popular barmaids at the Leagues Club, Judy Lewis and Myree Webb both had previous bar experience before taking their present positions. Judy has been employed over three years and Myree over two years.

The girl who greets Leagues Club members and guests is Gladys Fabris and she has held the position for four years.

Ray Hill had many years of hotel experience before commencing full time work at Leagues Club.

He has now been employed there for thirteen years and is well known to most of the clubs patrons.

Pat Calabria commenced employment at the Leagues Club after managing of the Club for more than two years. He has been a familiar



1964-66

19/3/1964 Harry Williams resigns

25/3/1964 Jack Davidge appointed Manager

November 1964 Leagues Club decides to support the development of Jubilee Park

March 1965 Graham Correll appointed Assistant Manager

August 1965 Schooner 2/3 8oz 1/3

November 1965 Bob Turner appointed Groundsmen

December 1965 Graham Correll resigns

December 1965 Graeme Watkins appointed Assistant Manager

December 1965 Jack Davidge resigns as Manager

December 1965 Graeme Watkins appointed Acting Manager

February 1966 First cigarette machine installed in the Club

April 1966 Ray Black Appointed Manager

July 1966 Max Milller Club Architect first engaged to design Banquet Room

August 1966 Leagues Club sponsors Griffith High School Team in University Shield and they in the state championship

October 1966 Price of Middy rises to 16c

"Middy of beer jumps to 20 cents



1967-72

January 1967 Tender for Banquet Room let to Jim Ford at a cost of \$56,091.00

May 1967 Percy Cole appointed Chef

August 1967 Official opening of the Burgundy Room

February 1968 Draught Reschs Beer introduced to the Club

April 1968 Formation of the Griffith Leagues Club Fishing Club

May 1968 Formation of the Griffith Leagues Club Social Golf Club

July 1969 Dining Room leased to Bob Schier

January 1970 Dining Room Lease Cancelled Club to run Dining Room

April 1970 Jan Cooper appointed to run Dining Room

1970 Minimum age for Club membership has been reduced from 21 years old to 18 years old

1970 Membership was in the form of medallions, they must be carried and produced at the door

January 1971 South Sydney Cricket Club pay a visit

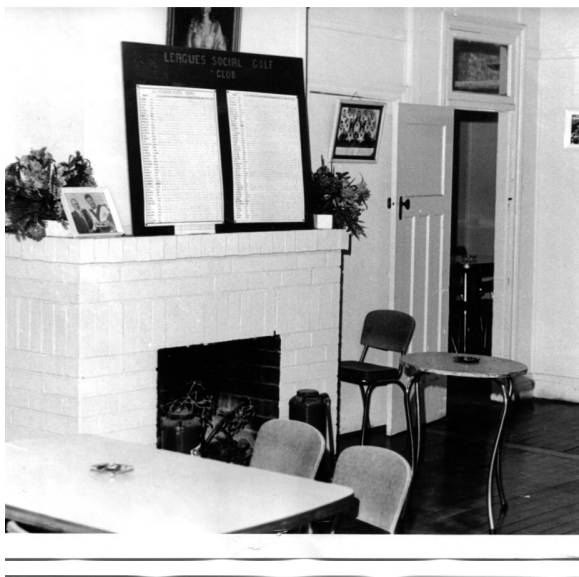
September 1971 Ray Black resigns as Manager

September 1971 Graeme Watkins appointed as Manager

October 1971 Port Kembla Flying Sportsman Visit

February 1972 Board reduced from 16 members to 14 members

December 1972 Middy of Beer jumps in price to 20c



1973-83

Land next door to the Club purchased from Collier and Miller at a cost of \$90,000.00

March 1973 The Club becomes an incorporated company

June 1973 Jim Theodore retires as Head Steward

1974 Jack Davidge passed away, one of the founders of the club.

May 1975 Len Bertoldo represents New South Wales in Rugby League

June 1975 Griffith Leagues Club buys land at Darlington Point for Fishing Club Lodge

1975 Leagues Club Social Bowling Club forms

February 1976 Lights for Rugby Oval installed

March 1976 Land next door to the Club purchased from Collier and Miller at a cost of \$90,000.00

November 1976 Middy now 37c and Schooner 50c

January 1977 Griffith Leagues Club Sponsors Intercity Night Football Competition with Wagga at the Griffith Rugby Oval

May 1977 Disco comes to the Leagues Club Wednesday and Saturday nights

January 1978 Paddy Keenan takes 10 wickets in an innings playing for Leagues Club a Grade Cricket

February 1978 Griffith Leagues Club commences showing films weekly

March 1978 Letter of reference required with new member's applications

July 1981 Squash Club formed

August 1981 Squash courts and gym opened

January 1982 Members subs increased to \$5.00 per year

February 1982 Clubs purchases Power Generator

September 1983 Middies reach 80 cents in price



1984-1995

— FEATURE SUPPLEMENT — The Area News, Thursday, October 10, 1991, Page 11.

PRESENTING GRIFFITH LEAGUES CLUB NORTHSIDE NEW LOOK PRESENTING

The Griffith Leagues Club Two Great Locations

THE Griffith Leagues Club offers you two great locations Southside and Northside. Northside has been given a facelift and can now provide improved facilities.

The Board of Directors are very pleased with the two great locations that are now available for their patrons.

Leagues Club Northside provides residents on the north side of town an alternative venue to the Leagues Club Southside to enjoy a relaxing drink in pleasant surroundings.

The location of the Northside makes it more convenient for people who live on that side of town. Especially being only walking distance from a large residential area.

The one club with two locations is great for members and any new members who may be interested in joining the Griffith Leagues Club to take advantage of the excellent facilities available. After paying the initial \$21 to join for only \$9 per year you can be a member of two great clubs.

The Northside Leagues Club which was formerly the Women's Club was designed in a Mediterranean theme and the new look Northside has carried this affect throughout the renovations.

To keep the same look, carpets had to be specially made to match the carpets that was in the club prior to the changes.

The architect for the Northside was Max Miller who has done architectural work for the Leagues Club for the last 20 years.



The new look Leagues Club, Northside.

Relaxing Bar

KEITH Woodbridge is the man who handles the day to day running of the Leagues Club Northside and he has had three years with the Leagues Club, coming from the Southside Leagues Club.

The bar at the Northside Leagues Club has three icy cold draught beers on tap, Carlton, Reschs, and Tooheys Blue Light Bitter.

The prices are still \$1 a middy and \$1.40 a schooner, making it the best value beer in town. There is also a full range of spirits and wines for every occasion.

There is 14 up to date poker machines offering great jackpots and added bonuses, of course there is the ever popular prize cabinet that you can swap your winning stamps for something in the cabinet.

A weekly raffle will be held each Thursday night to be followed by a family barbecue for the whole family to enjoy.

The Leagues Club Northside has three toilets for the disabled and easy access at the front entrance to enable everyone to enjoy the facilities at the club with the least amount of hassle.

New members are very welcome at the Leagues Club so call in today and see Keith and the friendly staff at the club and pick up your nomination form to become a member of a great club with two very convenient locations for their members.



The function area at the Northside set for a recent wedding.

January 1984 New dressing sheds at the Oval

March 1984 Noel Gale and Les Holmes are made Life Members

September 1985 Bob Turner retires

September 1985 Burgundy Room closes as an A La Carte Restaurant

September 1987 New Sun Deck completed

March 1988 Management plans for second Leagues Club in Driver shelved

September 1988 Link Poker Machines introduced into the Club

September 1988 New formula introduced for Sporting grants

April 1989 Women's Club make initial approach to merge

June 1989 The Board agrees to take over the Women's Club

December 1989 Court approves merger with Women's Club

January 1990 Northside Leagues Club opens

December 1990 The Griffith Leagues Club buys land in Binya Street

1990 Record Net Profit of \$541,315

1992 Two new amenities were introduced to the club; Keno and Tab.

1992 Members switch from badges to membership cards to fit in with the new computer system

1993 Noel Gale resigns as President after 26 Years on the Board.

1995 Peter Payne becomes president, the commencement of the courtesy bus and a focus on Northside "The best little drinking hole in town".



PETER PAYNE MADE A LIFE MEMBER OF THE CLUB SERVED ON THE BOARD FOR 27 YEARS AND WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE DECISION MAKING AND FACILITY UPGRADES THAT TOOK PLACE DURING HIS TENURE.

1996 The board has engaged with contractors to include a new and larger Bistro, a completely new kitchen, a multi-purpose function room, new toilets in the front area of the club and new entry and foyer.

February 1997 Northside Fishing Club formed

September 1997 No smoking at the bar was implemented

October 1997 New function rooms named Banquet and State room

February 1998 Peter Payne retires as Board member of the Griffith Leagues Club

March 1998 First car promotion run at the Club - Toyota Starlet

1998 Peter Payne made a Life Member of the Club - G Trevett elected as Chairman of the Griffith Leagues Club

November 1998 Northside holds its first Calcutta

April 1999 Pay TV installed at Southside and Northside

October 1999 Keith Woodbridge retires as Northside Manager

December 1999 New look Raffle commences at Southside

February 2000 Griffith Leagues Club Darts team formed

2000 Negotiations were completed with Alan Tan to establish a Chinese restaurant at Northside venue.

March 2000 Ken Alpen retires from Board

September 2000 Long serving Manager Graeme Watkins resigns from the Griffith Leagues Club

December 2001 Upgrades to the gaming and lounge areas including the Noel Gale Lounge

May 2002 Holden Commodore Major Ute Promotion- Peter Brock at the Club to draw ute - doors closed due to excessive numbers

June 2002 Purchase of Alpen's block, former transport depot adjoining the eastern boundary of the club.

July 2002 Life Member Ted Sheed passes away

2003-2009



February 2003 Griffith Leagues Club sponsor Yoogali Soccer Club

May 2003 Heavy beer prices increase Middy \$1.80 and Schooner \$2.60

September 2003 Billy Thorpe appears at the Southside to a packed crowd

January 2004 New Courtesy Bus purchased

February 2004 Gymnasium closes

April 2004 Sponsorship of Group 20 commences and also Group 20 Referees

November 2004 Jimmy Barnes performs to a packed house

December 2004 Foundation Member Mr Clive May passes away

January 2005 Long serving Assistant Manager Tony Catanzariti retires

May 2005 New Assistant Manager appointed Mr B McAllister

June 2005 Grandstand at the EW Moore Rugby Oval completed which can hold up to 500 spectators

July 2005 50% of the Club now smoke free

2005 Ken Alpen recognised as life member of the Griffith Leagues Club

Jan 2006 Junior membership proposed

August 2006 Shannon Noll appears live at the Griffith Leagues Club Training Oval

September 2006 Jim Mullins becomes the new General Manager after R Zappacosta resigns.

October 2006 Training lights installed at the EW Moore Oval

November 2006 Rugby League Development Office is appointed and is based at the Club

June 2007 Outdoor smoking area completed, after total smoking ban imposed for enclosed areas of clubs

2007 The club celebrates their 50th Anniversary which was punctuated with various promotions and a celebration dinner.

2007 Commencement of "Alpen Terrace" as well as upgrades to existing Sports Bar and TAB.

October 2009 Completion and official opening of the Stage 1 Development at Southside involving new members bar, new TAB and new outdoor family area. Ken Alpen opened the Alpen terrace along with 3 generations of Alpen's at the Grand Opening





2015-16 A MAJOR UPGRADE TO THE NOEL GALE LOUNGE AREA AS WELL AS A NEW ALFRESCO GAMING AREA, WHICH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE CURRENT OFFICE LOCATION AND THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM WILL BE RELOCATED UPSTAIRS ABOVE THE SQUASH COURTS.

2009-2015

2009 Ron Inglis suddenly passed away, served as a board member in the early years

2009 Yoogali Soccer Club celebrate their first-grade premiership win.

2009 The Griffith Leagues Club have passed the 10,000-membership mark.

2010 Matthew Benfield appointed General Manager and resigns in 2011

2012 Dean McCarthy appointed General Manager

2012 The National Gambling Reform act became law in December. Also, legislation for smoking in outdoor areas has been adapted including non-smoking in commercial outdoor dining areas

2013 Plans circulate for renovations to the administration and gaming areas of the club

2013 Yoogali Soccer Club win all 4 grade finals they completed in.

2013 New Gaming System IGT was introduced.

2014 Passing of Club stalwart Noel Gale. Noel was a foundation member of the club, joining the first board of directors on 14/11/1957 and has been an avid supporter of the Griffith Leagues Club for many years

October 2014 Anthony Lico appointment as General Manager

2015 Turnaround in profit from the last two years, with a record net profit of \$671,242 for the year ending 31/12/2015.

2015 Saddened by the passing of former General Manager Graeme Watkins in late 2015.

2015 A major upgrade has been planned to update the Noel Gale Lounge area as well as a new alfresco gaming area, which will be constructed in the current office location and the administration team will be relocated upstairs above the squash courts.

2015-2017

In 2015 we have employed 80 personnel both permanent and casual staff.

February 2015 Griffith Leagues Club partnered with Country Rugby League and Group 20 to host an NRL trial match between Canberra Raiders and Melbourne Storm. Approximately 3,800 in attendance.

2015 Solar Energy was introduced to the Southside Premises with a view of reducing power costs.

2015 Currently employ 80 personnel both permanent and casual staff

January 2016 Griffith Leagues Club mobile APP - an innovative way to expand our services and improve communications

2016 Net record profit of \$800,633.

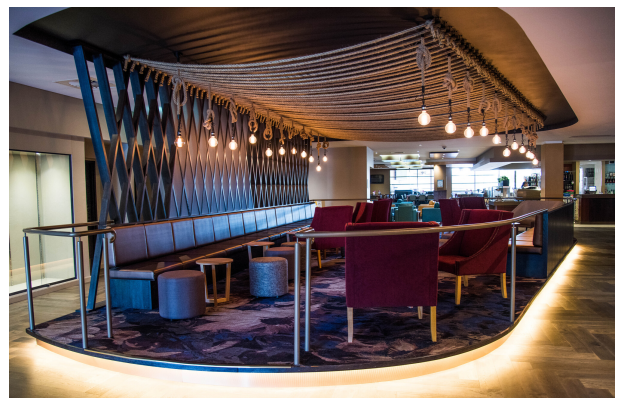
2016 Renovations completed after 9 months of construction comprising of new Gaming Lounge & Noel Gale Lounge

2016 EW Moore Upgrades with the stadium fitted with 500 seats in the grandstand, plus the addition of a new digital score board.

2017 Board discussing plans for a Bistro and Function room upgrade for Southside which will commence in 2018.

2017 Black and Whites win the Group 20 First Grade Premiership. Leagues Cricket Club won both 1-day and 2-day premiership trophies and Yoogali Soccer Club won their first-grade premiership, two years in a row.

2017 Griffith Leagues Club celebrate 60 Years in Business.





2018 Bistro and Function renovation complete, it has been over 20 years since our last Bistro renovation. Introduction of additional booth seating and a speedier ordering service the Bistro continues to be a dining venue of choice.

July 2018 Received the sad news about the passing of life member Peter Payne. Peter served on the board for 27 years and was heavily involved in the decision making and facility upgrades that took place during his tenure.

2018 Tony Tengstrom retires from The Griffith Leagues Club. When speaking about the Southside Bistro, it is difficult not to mention Tony "Tango" Tengstrom. Tony worked at the club for over 18 years and was instrumental in achieving our reputation for quality food.

May 2018 Partnership with local solar supplier SolarMad, as a naming rights sponsor for EW Moore Oval. It is the common goal of improving a community facility which advanced an idea into an agreement.

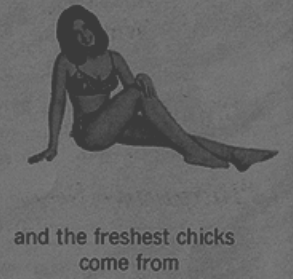
December 2018 Life Membership was awarded to Graeme Trevett. Very few members ever receive this status with only 8 honorary life memberships being awarded in the clubs 61-year history.

March 2019 John McFadzean receives life membership. John has served on the board for almost 30 years

August 2019 Major Car Promotion 140 finalists where we gave away a Hyundai Tucson from Lanham's Motors.



2019-2020



October 2019 Griffith Leagues Club becomes major sponsor of Griffith Relay for Life. The event was a success with 43 teams and 468 passionate participants taking to the track in the fight against cancer.

October 2019 Thirsty Merc comes to the Griffith Leagues Club where 500 members and visitors packed the Terrace. We were thrilled to bring a show of exceptional quality to Griffith but most importantly proud to support our community by donating 100% of the proceeds to Griffith Breast Cancer support group and the McGrath Foundation.

October 2019 Saddened by the news of Tony Tengstrom passing away.



2019 Currently liaising with architect and builder with the intent on completing another section of the building master plan which includes an expansion of the Noel Gale Lounge and an extension of the Alpen Terrace including an outdoor bar and new children's play area.

2019 Record net profit of \$1,360,526.

March 2020 Corona Virus (Covid-19) hits Australia. The Griffith Leagues Club is shut down from the 23rd of March, reopened on the 1st June. This is the first time we have been shut down in the Griffith Leagues Clubs history for 3 months' time.



2020 Marks 100 Years of Rugby League being played in Griffith. Unfortunately, the reunion has been postponed due to Covid-19.

June 2020 Heavy beer prices increase Middy \$4.50 and Schooner \$5.80