



Around the Grounds

It is with a great deal of sadness that I write to tell you that Nathan Ridd, aka "The Riddla" has been diagnosed with Motor Neurons Disease. Riddy has played 3 – 4 seasons of rugby for Vikings. While he hasn't played a great deal in recent times, he remains an avid follower and supporter of the club and a great mate to many. Riddy is the life of the party and the mate you can always call on. Now he needs the help of his mates and the local Wollongong rugby community. With money for ongoing treatment required and a little daughter to support, the wheels are in motion to create some much needed funds. Please see "Upcoming Events" for some of the details of Vikings first round plans as well as two major events that have been organized by his close mates in Sydney. The more people we can get to support these events, the better. His Wollongong mates are also in the process of organizing a fundraising event in the near future. More details will follow when dates and a venue are confirmed.

With pre season training well under way, things are shaping up nicely for another cracking season. Numbers have been very promising, with lots of new and old faces turning up. With 6 weeks out from the beginning of the season the boys are working hard at ensuring they are in the best possible shape to defend two premierships and a club championship. I can't wait!!

Attached is a 2011 draw to get you salivating. Feel free to print it off and stick it on your fridge. The full draw is now available on the Illawarra rugby website at <http://www.illawarrarugby.com.au/> for those interested.

Our latest news below, on the whole, has been contributed by Phil Green. Loads of information there for you to take in to give you a taste of how things are looking and will look in 2011.

Please see "Latest news" for some important upcoming dates. Included are two working bees which will go a long way to getting our field up to scratch for the impending season. If you have a few hours to spare, get down to the ground and help out.

Enjoy the last few months of warm weather, but more importantly, look forward to the cooler days, which with it brings warm pies, cold beers, good mates, rugby widows and the "Blue Rash!!"

Latest news...

Congratulations to Daniel and Carli Lawson. Little Andie Jean Lawson came into the world a little ahead of time on Thursday 10th Feb. We look forward to seeing her down at Vikings as the season progresses.

A second congratulations must also go to Chris Rooskie and his fiancée Bianca who welcomed a not so little son Oskar into the world on Tuesday 22nd Feb. Wonderful news for two guys who played a huge role in our first grade premiership in 2010. Well done to everyone and good luck!!

Pre-season training is going well, we are in week 6 at the moment. Jay and Phil are happy with the attitude shown by the players thus far. We have about 9-10 new faces. Some have rugby backgrounds, others mates of mates who want to be a part of it all. We have lost a few obviously, but that is a positive for the Club as it provides opportunities for others. We are confident we will be more than competitive across the grades once again.

Jay and Phil will continue with Hector and Dave Cav as managers. Critta and Craig will continue as trainers. Dan Lawson is the Club strength and conditioning coach.

Mark Foster has taken on the job as 2nd Grade coach, and will be supported by Todd Goodwin. Mark has the boys respect and will do a great job taking over from Dan. Josh Moran will be the manager.

Andrew Wilson will continue as coach of 3rds, with Michael Crane as his co-coach. Marcus Claridge will be the manager. They will be an invaluable addition to the coaching/management staff.

No Kiama 7s team will be entered by Vikings this year. The boys were not interested in playing. There will be a working bee on at Vikings instead - see "Upcoming Events" for specific details.

Nick Matts has been appointed as the Clubs Junior Coaching Coordinator. He will be responsible for upskilling all of our junior coaches and ensuring there is continuity from juniors through to Grade on the coaching and learning of basic skills. He will also run weekly sessions with the junior teams to support their coaches. This is a paid position, fully covered by sponsorship. We are seeking additional funding however, with the aim of expanding Nick's role into the schools in our catchment area to provide a Junior Development and Recruitment



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type role to ensure we continue to attract junior players to Vikings. Jay and Phil are excited about this initiative and confident we will see the benefits from this role.

This Friday (25th February) there will be a Junior registration afternoon at the Club. Registration time is 4pm to 6pm and for new registrations we require a copy of the birth certificate.

Junior training is commencing on Wednesday March 2nd. Training for all junior age groups will be from 4:30pm with the exception of U17's which will train from 6pm.

Currently Vikings will have teams in U7, U10, U11, U14, U15 and U17 age groups and will enter more teams if the players are available. Registrations will be accepted at training from March 2nd.

There is no Junior Draw available as however the District has set a start date with the competition due to commence on Sunday April 3rd.

Upcoming Events

What: Vikings Pre Season Training

Date: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 6:30pm

Details: At the dog track next to Vikings RFC. Training will continue on the dog track until the time comes to move to the field in the coming weeks.

What: Working Bee 1

Date: Saturday, 26th February

Time: From 8am-lunch

Details: The working bees will aim to complete extension and beautification works to the spectator viewing areas at the North and North-Eastern ends of the ground, fence repairs and additions, and completion of the dry-area enclosure to the home dressing room. There is a lot of work to be done, and all assistance will be appreciated.

What: Junior Sausage Sizzle

Date: Wednesday 2nd March

Time: From 6pm

Details: At the first Junior training session Vikings will hold a free sausage sizzle for all Junior players and volunteers.

What: Trial Vs Kings Old Boys & Epping

Date: Saturday, 5th March

Details: The match will be held in Sydney. More information will follow at training.

What: Working Bee 2

Date: Saturday, 12th March

Time: 8am

Details: Finish preparing our facilities for the season.

This will be followed by a Golf Day at Wollongong Golf Club, and then onto TBH for Rego Day.

What: Illawarriors v Central North

Date: Saturday, 19th March

Details: Vikings RFC are hosting this round of the Country Championships. Many people will be required to help on the day, so if you are available please make yourself known!

What: Weekend off for Vikings. Country Champs finals in Lismore

When: 27th and 28th March

Details: Enjoy your last weekend off for a long time!!

What: 1st round of competition v Engadine + Fundraising day for "The Riddla"

Date: Saturday 2nd April

Time: 3rd grade kicks off at 12:15pm

Details: The 1st round falls at Vikings Rugby Club. The Club has made the decision that all money raised on the day will go towards supporting "The Riddla", so get down to the club and support the boys on the field, while digging deep into your pockets to help a mate off the field.

What: The Riddla Fun and Family Rugby Day

Date: Sunday, 3rd April

Time: 10:00am

Details: Penrith Emus Rugby Club (where Riddy started his "Career") has donated their rugby field for a family fun day. Any one who has played rugby with Riddy is invited to come up and play in a fun, friendly game. Or otherwise all are welcome to come up, and have a good day with him and family. It is going to be a fun day with jumping castle, BBQ, etc from 10am, kick off at 11am.

What: The Riddla Sportsman Luncheon

Date: Saturday, 21st May

Details: ANZ Stadium will host this fantastic event. With 500 seats available, they are expecting a full house. 6:30pm kick off, so the plan is to take off straight after the Kiama game on a mini bus. Guest speakers, raffles, auctions, and lots of good food and beer. Sounds like a cracking night!! Cost will be \$120 per person if you get a table of 10 together or \$150 for individual tickets. Have a chat to your mates and if you think you might be able to make it, contact Tim Fisher on 0408696504 to get your tickets. The sooner you get in, the better, so don't waste time!!



2011 Senior Draw

Rd 1 – 2 April
Vs Engadine / Vincentia @ Vikings
Rd 2 – 9 April
Vs Bowral @ Bowral
Rd 3 – 16 April
Vs Avondale @ Vikings
Rd 4 – 23 April
Vs Uni @ Uni
Rd 5 – 30 April
Vs Tech @ Tech
Rd 6 – 7 May
Bye
Rd 7 – 14 May
Vs Camden @ Vikings
Rd 8 – 21 May
Vs Kiama @ Kiama
Rd 9 – 28 May
Vs Shamrocks @ Vikings
Rd 10 – 4 June
Vs Wollondilly/Bundanoon @ Vikings
Rd 11 – 11 June
Vs Shoals @ Shoals
Rd 12 – 18 June
Engadine/Vincentia @ TBC
Rd 13 – 25 June
Vs Bowral @ Vikings
Rd 14 – 2 July
Vs Avondale @ Avondale
Rd 15 – 9 July
Vs Uni @ Vikings
Rd 16 – 16 July
Vs Tech @ Vikings
Rd 17 – 23 July
Bye
Rd 18 – 30 July
Vs Camden @ Camden
Rd 19 – 6 August
Vs Kiama @ Vikings
Rd 20 – 13 August
Vs Shamrocks @ Shamrocks
Rd 21 – 20 August
Vs Wollondilly / Bundanoon @ TBC
Rd 22 – 27 August
Vs Shoals @ Vikings

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Sponsor Focus

Towradgi Beach Hotel

Towradgi Beach Hotel is the complete package. Offering dining, functions, live entertainment, a children's playground & kid's cove, accommodation, bottle shop, and a relaxing lounge bar area. This makes the Towradgi Beach Hotel the family friendly entertainment hub of the South.

Plus we are proud to boast the largest big screen TV and beer garden in the Illawarra. We offer our patrons 340 car park spaces & 20,000 square meters of licensed premises. With a complete new look after refurbishments; Towradgi Beach hotel has captured an extensive market.

Towradgi Beach Hotel, is part of the Oscars Hotel group with eight other hotels located in Sydney. It's more than a hotel, it was designed as a destination venue with the whole family in mind!

One Three Designer Homes

One Three's design approach is to think about how people live day-to-day and then incorporate a range of features into a home which meet these lifestyle choices.

Our homes reflect our passion in what we do. We pride ourselves in building homes with flair and style which are both comfortable and practical to live in.

One Three Designer Homes is established on a solid foundation of exceptional experience within the building and associated industries. Based in southern New South Wales, One Three Designer Homes build and design homes taking into account the local climate and lifestyle whilst utilizing the latest trends in the housing industry.

We design for urban contemporary living, countryside rustic charm along with medium density developments that showcase our leading innovative designs.

For further information on any of our Sponsors please visit:
www.wollongongvikings.com.au/sponsors.cfm