

Queensland sport fights back after spate of natural disasters

As our part of the world has reeled from one major natural disaster after another these past few months, most sporting bodies in Queensland impacted on by floods and cyclones since last Christmas are well on the road to recovery, assisted by government, businesses and their own communities.

With typical Queenslanders grit, the task of restoring sporting activities and facilities, where possible, is well underway, assisted by the State's Flood Fightback for Sport \$24 million package and complemented by local governments in affected areas – not forgetting the Commonwealth contribution to wider infrastructure rebuilding over time.

And as most Queenslanders have reflected on how relatively fortunate they are compared to those who lost loved ones and friends, homes and businesses, media have reminded us at the front of newspapers and the top of news bulletins of the subsequent tragedies of Christchurch and in Japan and at the back of those papers and end of those bulletins of how sport can, temporarily at least, distract and uplift its communities to go on to deal with what has to be done.

It's happened before and will happen again but has there been a more stark example than the night of Sunday 13 March in Brisbane, when the world watched the horror of the death and destruction in parts of Japan as many Queenslanders also kept an eye on what turned out to be one of the all time great uplifting sporting moments in our history as the world game's Brisbane Roar "roared" back from the jaws of defeat to clinch a very well deserved A-League crown?

With each passing week following such events, the impact on those not directly involved lessens as media attention inevitably moves on to more topical fare, including sport,

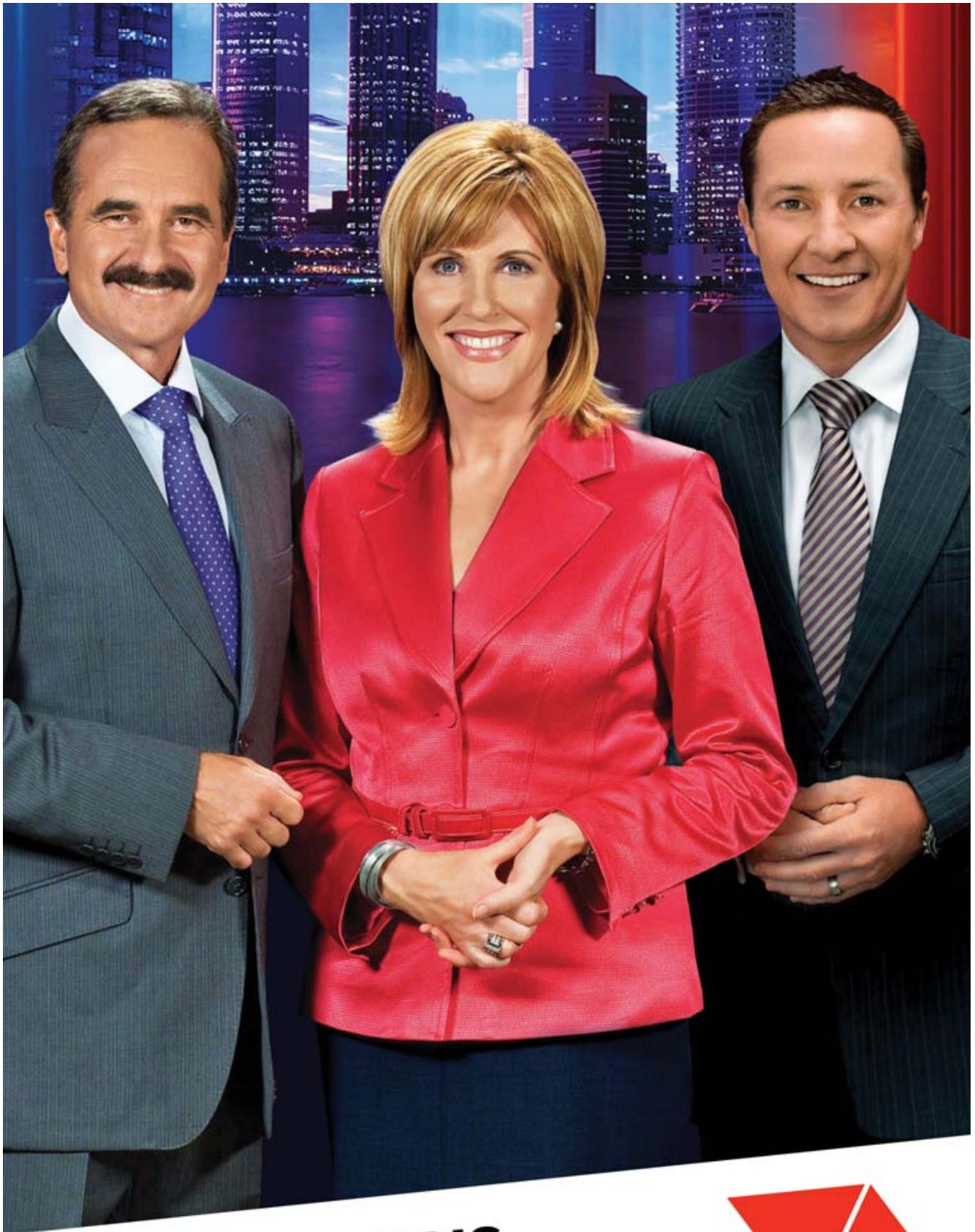
and there's been plenty happening on that front to pull us all back to pre disaster event times.

It's worth remembering, though, that for those directly affected and in many cases, still dealing with the results of floods, cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis, sport is still just a distraction – but, hopefully, a welcome one.

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**QUEENSLAND'S
LEADING NEWS HOUR**



Well, what a year it's been to date for Queensland, some other parts of Australia and the wider Pacific Rim, what with floods in Victoria, fires in WA and catastrophic events in Christchurch and Japan following on Yasi and the biggest floods here since the 1970's.

With Mother Nature reminding us all of her power, sport has been confronted by difficulties that in turn required optimism as a core feature of how we go about the task of restoring sport's overall stocks before settling back into the more routine, long haul job of expanding its reach for the benefit of our communities, now and into the future.

Fixing up disaster impacted sporting bodies has its difficulties and in the end, an optimistic result for sport will be a sum of parts affected declaring "we're back in business".

Thankfully, there is cause for optimism, given the response to the task in the sport sector.

The State, to its credit, has responded well to the crisis, with Sport Minister Phil Reeves having visited many of the affected clubs and moved quickly to consult QSport on relocating funds in his Sport and Recreation allocation towards flood recovery.

Local governments in affected areas have responded to different degrees, with Brisbane and Ipswich City Council representatives meeting with QSport members in the early post flood stages to discuss impacts and how assistance was being / can be delivered.

In sport itself, there have been many examples of sports and sponsors assisting others affected by recent natural disasters and while to single out some above others has its risks, what about well known Queensland rugby union man Greg Martin and friends putting together the Classic Bledisloe fundraiser at Ballymore on 10 March attended by over 20,000 and raising some \$400,000 for our Kiwi cousins in Christchurch.

And sticking with things Canterbury, how about QSport sponsor Canterbury International providing

\$10,000 worth of gear to ten affected clubs?

Only at the Federal level has the brawl over the Flood Relief Levy reminded us that the floods were in Queensland, not Canberra.

Much of the past few months has been anything but normal but it has reminded us all that despite the pace at which we live our lives pushing community further back in some minds, "community" in various shades is alive in most.

The QSport Office was not negatively impacted on physically by the Brisbane floods. None of its three staff were seriously disrupted, albeit the premises at Sports House were out of bounds for close to a week – small change, indeed, in the overall scheme of things.

The impact on Queensland sport, by and large, will be dealt with over time. Dealing with the impact on the State of Queensland, its economy and its fiscal position, though, will play out on a much tougher and longer road.

As the year rolls on and the next State election looms closer, we'll hear all about that and while one can be loath to proffer advice, recent events bring to mind a couple of one liners, as cooperation in emergency turns inevitably to confrontation, particularly in election campaigns, as follows:

- "a pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity"
- "an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty"

Sport and politics are about difficulty and opportunity and as history suggests there's no significant prize for pessimists, you can expect to hear a fair bit about optimism, notwithstanding any difficulty inherent in our collective lot.

Sport and politics are also about plans and programs, personalities and policies but as history also suggests, not in that order and not necessarily in equal measure.

Time will tell which teams get the balance right when the caper's up and the final scores go on the board.

By the time this edition of Sportswatch reaches readers in mid autumn, we'll be a month past the QSport AGM for 2010 held in March and staring at a longer Easter break than usual, given Anzac Day falls this year on Easter Monday.

The QSport Board elected at the AGM is unchanged from the previous year for the first time in some years and will have held its first meeting since the AGM, including hold discussions with Minister Reeves on restoration of sporting clubs and facilities impacted on by the abovementioned natural disasters.

Reiterating QSport Chair Richard Griffiths' annual report to QSport members at the AGM, the QSport Board of ten continues "to have a useful blend of several longstanding members and other relatively new faces and as such, has seen no great need to change the way in which Directors come and go from the Board, a Board that was pleased to receive a very positive 'report card' from State Government auditors who reviewed and assessed the performance of the Board and staff against

funded outcomes and deliverables" this time last year.

With the State Government consequently extending core support for QSport into 2011-13, my task - assisted by the other two QSport staffers - will be to maintain and enhance support for both QSport members and other key stakeholders to assist the development of sport in this State.

There are some new deliverables here and there for QSport in return for continued State support and QSport members in attendance at the first round of Sport Group meetings for this year in March have been apprised of what's required these next few years.

There is nothing unreasonable in any of this and QSport members overall can be assured that provided there is continued reasonable support from the majority of members, as in years past, QSport can be expected to meet its core objectives.


PETER CUMMISKEY
Chief Executive Officer.



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BCEC Bounces Back

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, the venue for key QSport fundraisers such as the annual Queensland Sport Awards Presentation took only two weeks - while media reports of Brisbane's floods were still current - to confirm its fast paced recovery by hosting four events and welcoming 5,000 guests for Australia's national day.

The impact of flooding at the Merivale Street Centre was significantly less than we anticipated with the Centre's event spaces unaffected and water intrusion limited to car parking and service areas.

The centre hit the ground running and hosted 48 events in February including five headline concerts by Kenny Rogers and Billy Connolly with attendances of over 17,000 people and four conferences which each averaged over 1,000 delegates.

And BCEC is looking forward to a busy calendar

for the remainder of 2011 with a record 112 conventions, of which 19 will each bring in excess of 1,000 delegates to Brisbane.

This year's annual Sport Awards Presentation in November / December will be enhanced by the elevation of Queensland Sport Hall of Fame inductees to Legend status – once again, making for another night to remember for Queensland Sport and longstanding supporter in BCEC.

Just once in the past fifteen years of the Awards has there been a need to move from the intimate surrounds of the Centre's Plaza Ballroom, that occurring in 2009 when the inaugural Hall of Fame induction swelled the usual average attendance of 800 by 50% to 1,200 and the Great Hall was required.

Time will tell whether the Legends necessitate such a move once again in 2011.

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Sporting Wheelies Annual Sports CONNECT State Sporting Organisations (SSO) Forum

The annual Sports CONNECT State Sporting Organisations (SSO) forum is coming up on Wednesday 25 May 2011 at the Indooroopilly Golf Club.

This forum is an opportunity for both those new to, and experienced in, the Sports CONNECT framework to explore best practices, challenges and key elements for success in the inclusion of people with disabilities in sport and active recreation.

This year, the forum will be split into two different sessions. The morning session is for those new to the Sports CONNECT framework (5.45am- 12.40pm) and the afternoon session (12noon – 3.45pm) for those experienced in Sports CONNECT. There will be a networking lunch from 12noon – 12.40pm to provide a chance for the two groups to meet, network and share experiences and ideas.

For more information contact Kylie Walker on phone no. 3253 3333.



Minister launches new partnership between Child Safety and Sport

The Hon. Phil Reeves MP, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport helped launch a unique partnership between Softball Queensland and ACT for Kids at Brisbane's Downey Park on Saturday 12 March.

The launch was scheduled to coincide with the Brisbane Softball grand finals which draw together hundreds of softball fans and players.

A key component of the partnership will see elite Queensland softball players perform as

ambassadors for ACT for Kids, who provide free professional therapy for children who have experienced the trauma of abuse and neglect.

Softball Queensland General Manager Sue Nisbet said there are meaningful synergies between the values of Softball Queensland and ACT for Kids which the organisations look forward to promoting through their newly formed union.

Other QSport members could well consider a similar linkage.



(Left to Right) Queensland Patriots player Luke Van de Greindt, Softball Queensland General Manager Sue Nisbet, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport Phil Reeves, ACT for Kids executive manager Kathryn Lambert, and Queensland Heat co-captains Melinda Weaver and Jodie Bowering.

Blue Card Ten years on

The State's Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian is to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Blue Card system in Queensland on 6 May.

The system is an important part of the State's efforts to establish and maintain safe service environments for children and young people across a range of child-related organisations throughout Queensland, not the least of which are sporting bodies.

Sport has had its issues with aspects of the system over the years and there have been significant scope changes since its inception in May 2001.

The number of applications for checks of an applicant's past police and disciplinary information (if any) in order to be deemed eligible to work with

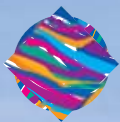
children and be issued with a Blue Card quickly escalated from some 1,100 applications received in the first two months to over 58,000 in the first full year of 2001-02.

By 2009-10, the annual number received had reached nearly 280,000.

Since its inception, over 1.5 million Blue Cards have been issued and over 4,200 people prevented from working with children.

Host of a function on 6 May acknowledging the tenth anniversary will be Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser. Also present will be the Commission's Employment Screening Director Michelle Miller who has worked from day one on the Blue Card system with whom QSport and many member organisations have dealt with over the years.

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Premier to travel to Kuala Lumpur to lodge Commonwealth Games bid

Premier Anna Bligh will travel to Kuala Lumpur in May with Gold Coast Lord Mayor Ron Clarke and representatives from the Federal Government to officially lodge the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid.

"After the summer of natural disasters it is important that we continue to seek out new opportunities for our State," said Ms Bligh.

"That is why I remain absolutely committed to our Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid.

"I will travel to Kuala Lumpur in May with the Australian Commonwealth Games Association to officially submit the Bid Book for Games Bid.

"The timing of the bid means I will miss at least

one question time at Parliament and this is a measure of just how important I see this event for the Gold Coast and Queensland.

"I will be joined by Gold Coast Lord Mayor Ron Clarke and representatives from the Federal Government and Games executives and we will formally present the Bid Book at an official ceremony attended by guests from the Commonwealth Games Federation."

The Premier said the 51,000 word, 240 page 'Book' is almost finished and the bid team are currently putting the final touches to the Queensland entry.

"The bid has been delivered over the last 12 months and covers 15 themes from transport, health and security through to accommodation,

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The management of risk and insurance in the sports and leisure industry gets more complicated every year. New legislation and legal precedents have had a large impact on the ability of associations and sporting bodies to be able to develop a safe framework for their members.

More than ever, it is now vital that all Principals of organisations in the industry get expert advice to enable them to continue operating effectively by minimising exposure to litigation and financial costs. It is no longer enough to simply presume you have enough insurance cover or that there will not be a problem if something goes wrong. The penalties, to both the organisation and its Principals, of a mistake can be crippling.

Each sport or activity is different and carries with it different risks. Any insurance and risk management program must be designed for the inherent risks of each specific sport.

Getting the advice you need

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sports and venues and the Games Village," said Ms Bligh.

"I have been impressed with the enthusiasm and contribution of so many stakeholders involved in the bids publication.

"This is one very detailed and technical document outlining exactly how we would deliver the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and the end product will be very impressive.

"Planning and coordinating the appropriate contributions from so many stakeholders for an event of this size and prestige in 2018 was thorough and professional and their collective support has been outstanding - it is indicative of the support in the community for the Bid.

"I am excited and proud for Queensland and Australia - we see the potential to host the Commonwealth Games as a major catalyst for development, growth and international recognition and a positive move forward for our state."

The Bid Book lodgement on 11 May 2011 will be closely followed by a visit to the Gold Coast by the Commonwealth Games Federation Evaluation Commission in June.

The 71 Commonwealth Games Association representatives from Oceania, Europe, Caribbean, Americas, Asia and Africa will commence their visits to assess the City's capabilities from July through to the end of October.

"If we do win the games, and I am confident that we can, it will be the only major international sporting event in Australia for the next decade," said the Premier.

"Like the rest of the State the Gold Coast has been through difficult times and these games would be a major boost in morale and an indicator of the better times that lie ahead." concludes the Premier.

A successful bid also would see the latest piece of Queensland sporting infrastructure in the Carrara Stadium further upgraded in a scenario similar to the 2006 Melbourne Games which resulted in a major upgrading of the northern side of the MCG.

Such upgrades are of significant long term benefit to sports other than those involved in the Commonwealth Games and further enhancing the legacy aspect of a festival of sports that will feed such across sport support.

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BCC Package to assist Community and Sports Groups

Former Lord Mayor Campbell Newman unveiled an \$11.83m package in March to assist all Brisbane community and sporting groups damaged in the January floods.

Cr Newman said the Community Facility Flood Recovery Package would provide direct financial assistance, free rent periods and capital funding to the many Brisbane sporting and community groups affected by the flood.

"Eight-four community and sporting clubs across 46 suburbs were devastated by flooding in

January, and more than 220 fields, courts, greens and sheds were affected," Cr Newman said.

"Brisbane City Council's Community Facility Flood Recovery Package will aid in the recovery of clubs' facilities along with the Lord Mayor's Community Disaster Relief Fund," Cr Newman said.

"Clubs will receive a one-off \$5,000 payment and can apply for additional grants funding of up to \$150,000 for facilities to assist with their rebuilding, as well as free rent periods.



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Canterbury International winners of the "Uniforms for Disaster Affected Sports Clubs" Program

In support of local sports groups across Queensland recently affected by natural disasters, Canterbury International together with QSport has given away \$10,000 worth of free uniforms distributed among 10 disaster affected clubs across Queensland.

The ten clubs are spread across Queensland's disaster affected areas and represent seven different sports. The winning clubs are:

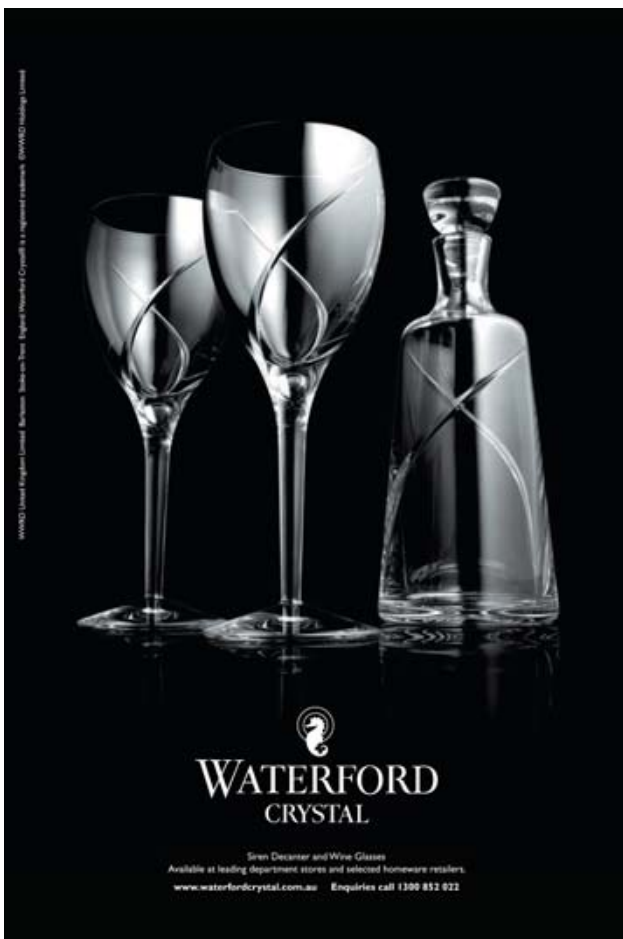
- Warwick Hack and Pony Club
- Pine Rivers AFL Club
- Goodna Junior Rugby Union Club
- Glenore Grove Cricket Club
- Kilkivan Pony Club
- Goodna and Districts Junior Rugby League and Football Club

- Brisbane Basketball Association
- Karalee Tornadoes Rugby League
- Warwick Hockey Association
- Mission Beach Cricket Club

General Manager of Canterbury Team Wear Clayton McErlane said Canterbury look forward to playing a significant role in helping local sports groups get back on their feet following the devastation experienced earlier this year.

"The wide range of areas and sports represented here truly demonstrate the scale of Queensland's disasters".

"Canterbury is proud to be supplying ten local sports groups with a such a boost when it's most needed".





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Queensland Government

Inductees

(as at end 2010)

ATHLETE MEMBERS

AFL

Marcus Ashcroft
Jason Dunstall
Alastair Lynch
Michael Voss

ATHLETICS

Denise Boyd
Norma Croker
Catherine Freeman
Hec Hogan
Michael Nugent
Glynis Nunn
Arthur Postle
Charles Porter
Geoffrey Trappett

BASEBALL

Dave Nilsson

BASKETBALL

Sandy Brondello
Leroy Loggins
Alison Mosely
Larry Sengstock

BOXING

Elley Bennett
Hector Thompson

CANOEING

Katrin Borchert
Grant Davies
Clint Robinson
Anna Wood

CRICKET

Ron Archer
Allan Border
Bill Brown
Peter Burge
Greg Chappell
Eddie Gilbert
Wally Grout
Ian Healy
Ray Lindwall
Ken Mackay
Craig McDermott
Carl Rackemann
Don Tallon
Jeff Thomson

CYCLING

Kenrick Tucker

FOOTBALL

Frank Farina

GOLF

Ian Baker-Finch

Wayne Grady
Greg Norman
Peter Senior
Norman von Nida
Karrie Webb

HOCKEY

Tracey Belbin
Debbie Bowman
Greg Browning
Renita Farrell
Pam Glossop
Mark Hager
Clover Maitland
Jenny Morris
Don McWatters

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Mick Dittman
Darby McCarthy
George Moore
Mel Schumacher
Neville Sellwood

ICE RACING

Steven Bradbury

LAWN BOWLS

Rob Parrella

MOTOR CYCLING

Mick Doohan

MOTOR RACING

Dick Johnson

NETBALL

Vicki Wilson

ROWING

Adair Ferguson
Gary Lynagh

RUGBY LEAGUE

Cec Aynsley
Arthur Beetson
Kerry Boustead
Mick Crocker
Brian Davies
Denis Flannery
Peter Gallagher
Tom Gorman
Duncan Hall
Noel Kelly
Allan Langer
Wally Lewis
Bob Lindner
Mick Madsen
Mal Meninga
Gene Miles
Barry Muir
Kel O'Shea

Herb Steinohrt
Duncan Thompson
Shane Webcke
Kevin Walters
Steve Walters

RUGBY UNION

Des Connor
John Eales
Roger Gould
Tim Horan
Tom Lawton
Jason Little
Mark Loane
Michael Lynagh
Bill McLean
Paul McLean
Tom Richards
Tony Shaw
Andrew Slack

SOFTBALL

Joyce Lester

SQUASH

Michelle Martin

SURFING

Wayne Bartholomew

SURF LIFE SAVING

Karla Gilbert
Trevor Hendy
Grant Kenny
Peter Lacey

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Brendan Burkett
Brad Cooper
Lisa Curry
Grant Hackett
Steve Holland
Glenn Housman
Hayley Lewis
Nancy Lyons
Susie O'Neill
Kieren Perkins
Samantha Riley
Giaan Rooney
Jon Sieben
Mark Stockwell
David Theile
Mark Tonelli
Tracey Wickham

TENNIS

Mal Anderson
Roy Emerson
Ken Fletcher
Rod Laver
Pat Rafter

Wendy Turnbull

WATER POLO

Naomi Castle
Debbie Handley

TRIATHLON

Brad Beven
Jackie Gallagher
Loretta Harrop

YACHTING

John Anderson
Tom Anderson
John Cuneo

GENERAL MEMBERS

AFL

Leigh Matthews

ATHLETICS

Reg Brandis

BASKETBALL

Brian Kerle

CRICKET

John Buchanan

FOOTBALL

Mark Shield

GOLF

Charlie Earp

MEDIA

Frank O'Callaghan

NETBALL

Deirdre Hyland

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wayne Bennett
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RUGBY UNION

Alan Jones
Bob Templeton

SWIMMING

John Carew
Laurie Lawrence

TENNIS

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OTHER

Clem Jones
John Morton
Ruby Robinson

Good Sports' Record Growth in Queensland

The Queensland Good Sports program has significant support from Queensland Health; Office Liquor Gaming & Regulation; Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance; Club Training Australia; Queensland Police Service and Brisbane City Council.

Over the past 12 months Good Sports has recorded a 49.1% growth with 122 clubs entering the program in the past 6 months (September 2010 – March 2011). Consistency in growth is also reflected in a 72.9% increase over the past 2 years or 361 clubs. The program is currently operating at 154.2% capacity or 174 clubs above its projected target set with the Federal Department of Health and Ageing.

The program is staffed by a Queensland Manager; 3 Regional Managers and 12 Project Officers.

"Good Sports" QLD has just announced a 12 month partnership with the Queensland Police

Service. This partnership has a program brief to "increase educational opportunities to local sporting clubs and volunteers through a number of diverse avenues".

The funding will be utilised in various manners including:

- Responsible Service of Alcohol training – subsidised RSA accreditation courses for volunteer committee members etc.
- Alcohol and Community Sports Forums – targeting legal responsibilities and health related issues in sport settings
- Queensland Sports Association workshop – targeting "top 12" Good Sports priority sports
- Good Sports and QEIPP collaboration (Sunshine Coast) – early intervention QPS initiative

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Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



“There was movement at the station”

Sportswatch doesn't usually carry a "who's on the move / new faces in sport" column but regardless of whether it's the recent floods or something else in the water, there's certainly a bit of an exodus of sorts of late from the ranks of member bodies.

Of course, with 100 members, there's always movement in personnel and with "retirement" a bit of a dirty word these days, most are "moving on" to something else, including lesser hours than the demands of paid employment in sport at State level.

From former QSport Chair Ross Livermore to depart his QRL Managing Director role mid year after nearly three decades at the helm to Hockey Queensland CEO Garry West-Bail departing in March after 15 years, the list is longer than usual.

Throw in Keith Long soon to leave Water Polo

Queensland, Mark Priestley departing Gymnastics Queensland along with Fiona Hannan from Womensport Queensland and Geoff Turner from the Queensland Fitness, Sport and Recreation Skills Alliance.

That means there will be six new CEO's / General Managers required taking into account longstanding Queensland University Sport operative Kim Guerin has moved to Hockey Queensland.

And finally and perhaps one of the surprising moves is the sudden departure of former Queensland public servant Matt Miller who ventured south to the Federal arena a few short years back and now departed from the Australian Sports Commission's CEO slot after a couple of months shy of two years in that role.

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EXCITING NEW WEBSITE FOR OUR HOME DELIVERY CUSTOMERS

FIRST TIME LOGIN

When using the website for the first time you will need to register using your customer ID. If you do not know your customer ID you can request one by following the links.

The screenshot shows the website interface with the following elements:

- Navigation:** Home, Subscribe Now, First Time Users, Contact Us, FAQ, Reward Program
- Subscriber Sign In:** Email, Password, SIGN IN, Forgot password?, First time users please sign up here
- Subscriber Management:** Manage your subscription, update your details or opt for a holiday stop
- Subscriber Rewards:** Take advantage of exclusive special offers and more! (with a 'VIEW' button)
- Subscriber Payment:** Sign up to our easy direct debit payment option
- Subscriber Management Menu:** Manage Subscription, Change Subscription Level, Update Details, Submit Feedback, First Time Sign In, Subscriber Rewards, Clean Rewards, Win
- Subscriber Payment Menu:** Change Payment Details
- Subscriber Offers:** Click here to view the latest subscriber offers as part of our exclusive subscriber rewards loyalty program.
- Win:** Click here to view the exclusive subscriber only promotion, each month we will have a new promotion so don't forget to check the site every month for your chance to win.

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