

President's Foreword

Season 2021 saw the Rosella club turn back the clock to 1953. It was 1953 when club legend Glen "West is Best" Maloney became secretary of the senior club. Glen identified the wealth of talented junior players within the club and set out to create realistic pathways for them to graduate to the senior grade sides. In the remaining years of the 50s, Glen was to play an important part in the gradual rise of the Rosellas from the bottom of the league ladder in Newcastle Football.

1961 saw the Rosellas win both the first and reserve grade premierships with both teams having a fair representation of junior players. The junior under 20s and 18s were also major premiers in their 1961 competitions. Junior development became an important focus of the club for years to come.

An 'emerging Rosella' program was developed and introduced in 2019 to facilitate and maintain the club focus on junior development. Year 2020 saw the appointment of Todd Lowrie as head coach. The 2020 competition was reduced to amateur status due to the advent of the COVID 19 pandemic. The amateur status opened up opportunities for some of our 'emerging Rosella' players to regularly play in the top senior grades.

Junior pathways are the way of the future for rugby league and indeed all sports. This was evident in Todd Lowrie's coaching philosophy by rewarding players for their performance at training and in games.

Season 2021 saw the continuation of the junior pathways program with all coaches committed to applying the processes initiated in 2020. The young players responded positively to the opportunities with strong performances. Experience is not always easy to acquire, but perseverance and belief is necessary in the process. After challenging times early in the season, the experience gained by the players and the positive direction of the coaching staff resulted in a successful season. It was pleasing to see the Club culture maintained by the players who played to improve performance and share in success.

Once again, some of the challenges this season have been unprecedented for the officials, coaches and players. The efforts of all concerned have not gone unnoticed and the club is grateful for the dedication and commitment shown so readily.

The Senior club is grateful to all those people involved in the management and operations of all our affiliated clubs and looks forward to your continued support.

Wayne M Hore
President