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MEDIA BRIEF

MANNING JUNIORS AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL CLUB

‘Manning Rippers’ – 10 years re-formed

The 2015 winter season marks 10 years since the Manning Juniors Australian Rules Football Club, also known as the Manning Rippers, was ‘rebooted’, after being temporarily non-operational between 1996 and 2004 due to a substantial drop-off in participation.

According to Manning Rippers, Year 9 Coach and Club Committee Member, Mat Bateman, drop-off in the mid-90s was largely attributed to changing local demographics that saw fewer kids living in the Manning area.

In 2005, an increase in the number of young families in the area inspired local parents and senior players to drive the resurrection of the juniors program, with one of the club’s integral members, Ian Drennan securing local agency, Jones Ballard Property Group as major sponsor.

With Jones Ballard Sales Manager and Director Shaun Yeo a Manning Rippers junior player himself from 1971 and 1980, and Principal Nik Jones also playing from 1975 to 1981, the firm very willingly got behind the push to encourage the area’s local kids to get involved with the club.

In the club’s first season back in 2005 they fielded a team of between 10 and 15 kids, with Jones Ballard committing to provide the uniforms for the new team, and each subsequent year moving forward.

Mr Yeo said, “The focus then was just encouraging participation; it was about spreading the word and getting local parents and kids engaged with the club again. Due to my personal history with the club it was an honour to have been able to play a part in getting the juniors back off the ground again.

“We also wanted to be able to contribute something physical and meaningful, that’s why we committed to provide the club with a new set of jumpers for this first lot of kids, every year throughout their junior career.

“So each year Jones Ballard bought that same group a bigger set of jumpers, and they handed their jumpers from the previous year down to the group following them,” said Mr Yeo.

Two years ago due to the club’s growth and retention of membership, new jumpers were no longer an immediate requirement. So in response to this changing need, Jones Ballard installed a new tradition, providing a football for every Manning Rippers Auskick kid as a way to ‘kick start’ their junior football experience. On top of this, Jones Ballard also gifted a football to all existing junior members.

Mr Bateman said, “Of that first group of kids in 2005, we have six still with us in juniors, currently playing in the Year 9 team, and they have very much outgrown their first set of uniforms!

“It is a testament to the club’s culture that those players have continued on and grown with the juniors program. It is a great symbol of how far we have come in 10 years.

“Manning is forging a strong reputation as leaders in the local football community, and it is fantastic to see how our culture of not only being good sports on the field, but also good citizens off the field is really well supported by the kids and parents alike,” said Mr Bateman.

Manning Rippers re-formed with 10 to 15 kids in 2005, and today has 350 players across junior and youth divisions, with the club growing in leaps and bounds.

“Today the Rippers are the third largest junior footy club in the Perth district, and it really has been a massive community effort getting there.

Last year the Manning Rippers Year 8 team, featuring six of the original kids from 2005, took out the Perth District Year 8 Premiership against South Perth, a sign of the club returning to past days of glory, according to Mr Yeo.

“Manning Rippers juniors have always been among the strongest performing youth teams in the Perth district, even back when I was a junior, there has always been a legacy of top performance.

“The club has been home to some real footy icons in its time and we’re looking forward to continuing this tradition and contributing to a whole new generation of AFL stars,” said Mr Yeo.

Since the re-launching of the juniors program in 2005, Jones Ballard has also been active with sponsorships and engagement with local primary schools on the club’s behalf in an effort to drive recruitment, particularly Manning Primary School, Aquinas and St Pius X Catholic School.

“Manning Primary School, Aquinas and St Pius have been our main source of players to date, and their support has really gone a long way helping the club’s resurrection and success.

“Supporting the Manning Rippers is a cause very close to our hearts at Jones Ballard and we’re thrilled to be able to celebrate 10 great years with the club. We only hope the juniors continue to go from strength to strength for another 10 years and beyond,” said Mr Yeo.

Manning Rippers and the Carlton Football Club

The Carlton Football Club’s Director of Coaching, Robert Wiley, also a former player and Patron of the Manning Football Club, has been a huge supporter of the club and juniors program over the last 10 years.

On 10 April Carlton plays West Coast at Domain Stadium, and then on the Saturday, 11 April Robert Wiley will bring the whole Carlton team to James Miller Oval to meet with and sign autographs for Manning Rippers players, their families and supporters from 9.00am until 10.00am.

“There are around 400 people expected to attend on the day, and it very much a community event, it’s not just for our club, so we really encourage the public to come down and join in,” said Mr Bateman.

About Manning Rippers

Manning Rippers is an Australian Rules Junior Football Club with a strong culture of active participation at all levels of the sport.

Both the junior and senior arms of the club support a football community with a ‘One Club’ philosophy, working together to forge relationships that work and encourage a strong sense of community.

The Manning Rippers Year 8 team won the 2014 Perth District Year 8 Premiership against South Perth. This team includes six members of the original team from 2005.

Also in 2014, the Demons District Football Umpires Association (DDFUA) named the Manning Juniors as the best club in the Demons District in a unanimous vote, an award that is a testament to the club’s strong community spirit and in acknowledgement of their providing ‘the best game day environment and behaviours at both home and away games’.

In the 2015 season the Rippers will also be fielding a team in the Perth District Girls’ Junior Football Competition, for girls aged 9 to 12 years.

The club will also be launching a ‘Footy Champs’ program, designed as an inclusive program for kids with disabilities, among the first of its kind in junior footy and a program in keeping with the club’s culture of giving back.

“The Footy Champs program presents an opportunity for our juniors to volunteer their time to work with kids with disabilities, teach them some footy skills and help spread a love of the game,” said Mr Bateman.

As part of the Manning Hub redevelopment, the club will also get to enjoy a brand new sporting facility in 2017, meaning the future looks bright for the club and the hundreds of children who will benefit in the football community.

For more information, visit the Manning Rippers Junior Football Club website:
www.manningrippersjfc.com.au.

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Notes to Editors:

About Jones Ballard Property Group - Jones Ballard Property Group is one of Perth’s most successful independent property sales and management firms. The firm employs more than 45 staff at offices in Como and Bull Creek and provides residential sales, property management, development consultancy and marketing, and access to financial and conveyancing services.

For more information on Jones Ballard Property Group visit: www.jonesballard.com.au.

For further information:

Shaun Yeo

Sales Manager and Director

Jones Ballard Property Group

Tel: (08) 9474 1533

Mobile: 0417 836 667

Carly Wise

Consultant

Riley Mathewson Public Relations

Tel: (08) 9381 2144

Mobile: 0435 002 895

Mat Bateman

Year 9 Coach and Committee Member

Manning Rippers Junior Football Club

Mobile: 0429 993 396