



GOLD COAST TITANS
2019 COMMUNITY WRAP

TOGETHER



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2019

TITANS COMMUNITY WRAP.

The Gold Coast Titans Community Foundation celebrated numerous success stories and milestones in 2019, connecting further with the local community and working with new and existing corporate partners to create a better life for the people in our region that need a helping hand.

This year, the Titans continued our support of local schools, clubs, charities and community organisations through our programs, appearances and donations. In 2019, the Titans' playing group spent 1,955 hours at 335 appearances, and donated more than \$300,000 worth of merchandise, memorabilia and tickets.

These success stories were recorded and celebrated during the year on titans.com.au – from the "Come and Try Day" for players in our Physical Disabilities Rugby League Program in February, through to the

donation of a new surfboard to the Disabled Surfers Association in October.

These are only some of the donations, hundreds of volunteer hours devoted to educational, social improvement and rugby league programs the Titans deliver every year in support of the Gold Coast and Northern Rivers communities.

The Titans are very proud of the Titans Community Foundation's reputation and recognition throughout the National Rugby League for the initiatives it delivers, and the results it achieves.

But this hard work and the success it delivers could only be achieved with the support of our incredible family of sponsors, partners and donors, who share our passion and commitment to make a better life for the people of our community.

Here is a brief run-down of some of the success stories enjoyed by the Titans Community Foundation in 2019.



There's a place in the game for everyone.

PDRL.

One of the major success stories of the season was the continued rise of the Gold Coast Titans Physical Disabilities Rugby League team.

The dream of the Gold Coast Titans PDRL side playing in a full-scale competition took another leap forward this year, starting with the hugely successful PDRL "Come and Try Day" at Parkwood.

Every player that makes their debut for the Titans is celebrated with a special ceremony, welcoming them to their place in the club's history.

In April, the PDRL team were honoured in the same way, officially becoming Titans as they were presented with their jerseys ahead of their first exhibition game for the year against a Gold Coast Legends Invitational team.

The players received their jerseys from Titans Executive Chairman Dennis Watt, former Titan Clinton Toopi, and Lee Masters and Andy Baxter from Condev Construction – who came on board as the major sponsor of

the Titans PDRL team through the company's charity arm, Condev Cares.

Titans apparel partner Dynasty Sport also threw their support behind the Titans PDRL team by donating the squad's playing kit.

The team won that first game 16-4, with the Cbus Super Stadium transformed into a field of dreams on Easter Sunday as the Titans PDRL team turned it on in just their second game together.

In July, the team won its first "international" – beating visiting English side Wakefield Trinity.

September saw the team chalk up one final win in their magical season.

Returning to where it all began some 12 months ago, the team put together a solid effort against Northern United Invitational to secure a quality 28-10 win.

The heartwarming success of the Titans PDRL team's creation was captured by the ABC's Compass program, which aired its special "Leagueability" documentary on the team in May.

This behind-the-scenes look at the team's creation, leading up to their first game, was a credit to the extraordinary men and their proud families who now call themselves Titans, and was nominated for a Walkley Award for excellence in journalism.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS.

Hundreds of kids joined their Titans heroes during the school holidays to participate in clinics to learn new skills, make new friends and have a lot of fun playing rugby league.

Over 100 kids headed to Coolangatta beach for our clinic in January. Participants and players mingled in the sand and surf mixing up footy activities with learn to surf and beach safety provided by Walkin' on Water. Corporate partner Zambrero, ensured everyone received a great meal during the day.

During the Easter break, nearly 300 kids converged at either the Titans High Performance Centre at Parkwood or Tweed Heads Seagulls to catch up with the Titans players. The Titans of the future were able spend a day being put through training drills and exercises to improve their skills on the same field where their modern-day NRL heroes go through their paces every week.

In July, the Titans playing group headed to Burleigh Bears to help put the Titans of tomorrow through their paces. It continues to be the biggest clinic of the year with over 220 kids taking part in the day. The Titans team were kept on their toes by the exciting participants showing off their skills and doing their best impressions of their favourite players.

The Titans partnered with NRL Development to run the clinics during the year with each participant receiving a great NRL Titans pack. Each clinic had a series of drills and exercises, where the emphasis was on fun, working as a team and improving individual skills.

All clinics catered for boys and girls, aged 5-12, with Burleigh Bears and Tweed Heads Seagulls hosting a specialised development clinic for boys and girls aged 13-16. The Burleigh clinic also had an all-abilities group join in the activities.





Holly Summers

2019 NRL COMMUNITY AWARDS.

The NRL Community Awards acknowledge the unsung heroes that help to make ours the Greatest Game of All, and this year the Titans had three nominations to celebrate.

The Titans Deadly Futures program was nominated for the Community Program of the Year Award, Michael Gordon was nominated for the Ken Stephen Medal for service to the community, while Holly Summers was nominated for the NRL Community Young Person of the Year Award.

In a proud moment for Holly and the Titans, in September she was named as the winner of this prestigious award that recognises people aged between 12 and 24, who participated in an NRL Community or NRL Club program, and contributed to their community through rugby league.

Holly has participated in the Titans Deadly Futures program and is currently a participant of the NRL School to Work program.

Holly is the school captain of Pacific Pines State High School, and represented the Titans at the 2018 NRL Indigenous All Stars Youth Leadership Summit, where she was voted Female Youth Ambassador runner-up from 30 other female applicants.

"It's amazing, she definitely deserves it. She's a young leader in society, and I don't know if she knows it yet, but she could really have a massive impact in Australia."

- Ryan James





Titans player Jai Whitbread & Michael Singh, winner of the Robina Town Centre Titans Teacher Ambassador of the Year Award

TEACHER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM.

School is most definitely in for the Gold Coast Titans Teacher Ambassador Program, with the number of registrations skyrocketing from 99 to an amazing 200 ambassadors for 2019.

More than 50 of those teacher ambassadors were on hand to enjoy an exclusive invitation-only event at the Titans' trial match against the Broncos at Cbus Super Stadium on Saturday 2 March.

The event was a "thank-you" to the Titans Teacher Ambassadors for their hard work in spreading the rugby league gospel, and delivering the Titans' award-winning community and educational programs to school children in the region.

Our teacher ambassadors were also recognised at the Titans Community Awards, with Michael Singh from Merrimac State School winning the Robina Town Centre Titans Teacher Ambassador of the Year Award.



SCHOOL RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITIONS.

Nine weeks of fantastic footy action culminated with a massive day of rugby league in June, with the grand finals of the Titans Schools Boys Competition and the Karyn Murphy Cup.

The NRL Titans School Boys Competition and NRL Titans Karyn Murphy Cup are both proudly supported by Robina Town Centre, and are a proven breeding ground for rugby league talent.

This year, more than 55 boys and girls teams from across the region started the competitions with dreams of being crowned champions.

Titans School Boys Competition

YR 7/8 Bowl
St Francis 38 d Coombabah B 14

YR 7/8 Challenge
Stretton 22 d Coombabah 18

YR 9/10 Plate
Robina 26 d St Michael's 6

YR 9/10 Shield
Marymount 26 d Keebra 24

YR 11/12 Trophy
Chisholm 26 d Keebra 12

YR 11/12 Cup
Marymount 34 d Keebra 0

Titans Karyn Murphy Cup

Year 7/8 Pool B
Palm Beach Currumbin SHS d Keebra Park SHS - 20-16

Year 7/8 Pool A
Keebra Park SHS d St Francis College (1) 20-4

Year 9/10 Pool B
Beenleigh SHS d Trinity College 24-8

Year 9/10 Pool A
Beenleigh SHS d Keebra Park SHS 24-16

Year 11/12
Keebra Park SHS d Beenleigh SHS 28-4



Ryan James
& Preston Campbell



NAIDOC EVENT.

More than 1,000 people made the most of a pristine winter's day in July by joining the Titans NAIDOC Day celebrations at Firth Park in Mudgeeraba.

With over 100 stalls to visit at this free community event, run in partnership with Kalwun Health and Deadly Choices, the Titans NAIDOC celebration is an opportunity to learn and embrace Aboriginal and Strait Torres Islander culture while having fun with family and friends.

Entertainment and exhibitions, rides, inflatable playgrounds, a touch football tournament, the NRL Munchkin league, a series of cultural performances and indigenous performers kept the crowds entertained throughout the day.

A host of Titans players – past and present – were on hand to enjoy the celebrations, including club legend Preston Campbell, who was presented with his ceremonial jersey for playing 100 NRL games with the Titans.



COMMUNITY KICK-IN.

The people of the Gold Coast showed theirs is a city with heart, with an amazing total of more than \$66,000 raised for the local community in the inaugural Gold Coast Titans Community Kick-In fundraiser.

The Titans Community Kick-In was a seven-week fundraising initiative run in conjunction with our radio partners 102.9 Hot Tomato to raise money for the people in our community that need our help, and also for the people and charities that work so hard to care for them.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Gold Coast community, the initial donation target of \$50,000 was well and truly surpassed – with a final tally of \$66,241.47 raised going directly to the local schools,

clubs, charities, programs and community organisations funded by the Titans Community Foundation.

The remarkable generosity of The Coghlan Group pushed the Titans Community Kick-In to the next level, with their fantastic \$30,000 donation helping to support worthy programs like the Titans' Leagueability program built around Physical Disabilities Rugby League.

Funds raised by the Titans Community Kick-In were used to create a new "Life-Craft" surfboard for the Disabled Surfers Association in October.

The Titans partnered with former Australian surfer Wayne McKewen to create the specialist board, designed to give everyone the opportunity to catch a wave.

DEADLY FUTURES.

As part of Reconciliation week, the Titans held a whole-of-club training day at Dreamworld Corroboree, this coincided with the opening session for the northern cohort of 2019 Deadly Futures participants.

With one of the highest representations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players in the NRL, students witnessed the importance that the Club places on the understanding and mutual respect for our history, while standing united with our local Gold Coast Community.

In August, rugby league legend Preston Campbell was on hand at Currumbin Sanctuary for the final workshop for the term of the Titans Deadly Futures program – an experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students that covers Indigenous Timelines, Cultural Identity and Career Aspirations.

Delivered in partnership with the Preston Campbell Foundation, and backed in 2019 by our partners at Buyrite Steel, Titans Deadly Futures guides students on a pathway to a greater understanding and sense of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture.

"The Titans Deadly Futures program encourages people to go out and learn not just how to get a job, but learning about themselves and the broader community"

- Preston Campbell



TITANS COMMUNITY AWARDS.



Outstanding performances in the service of the Gold Coast and Northern Rivers community were officially recognised at the 2019 Gold Coast Titans Community Awards.

The gala event, held at the Southport Yacht Club, made its return to the Titans' social calendar to honour the people that go beyond the call of duty to support the community that supports the Titans.

Seven awards were presented to individuals who made outstanding contributions to their community, with the awards presented by Gold Coast NRL stars, led by captain and the night's co-host, Ryan James.

The work of the Titans Community Foundation and the life-changing results being achieved would not be possible without the support of our corporate partners The Coughlan Group, Dreamworld, Robina Town Centre, See Civil, Condev Constructions, Buyrite Steel, Zambrero restaurants, and Deadly Choices, who share our commitment to creating a better community.

2019 Titans Community Awards Winners

**Titans Teacher Ambassador of the Year Award,
presented by Robina Town Centre**
Michael Singh from Merrimac State School

Titans Indigenous Student of the Year Award
Holly Summers

Titans V-Crew Member of the Year Award
Terrence Hoare

**Touch Football Specialised Female Player
of the Year, presented by the Robina Lions Club**
Courtney Lokeni

**Touch Football Specialised Male Player
of the Year, presented by the Robina Lions Club**
Jordan Shepard

**Robina Town Centre Titans Sports
Person of the Year Award**
Jodi Nathan

**Robina Town Centre Titans Volunteer
of the Year Award**
Kerry Lee



DOWN SYNDROME RUN OUT.

Some young Gold Coast rugby league fans had the greatest day of their lives at the Titans' game against the Melbourne Storm at Cbus Super Stadium in July.

Thanks to our community partners Condev Cares, the Titans were proud to welcome our friends at Down Syndrome Queensland to the game, with some very special Gold Coasters living the dream by escorting the two teams onto the field.

Every year for the past six years, the Titans have partnered with Down Syndrome Queensland (DSQ) to create an amazing opportunity for people with Down Syndrome

The Titans enable young people with Down syndrome to experience a wonderful day at the heart of the Gold Coast community, as they run out on the pitch with the players at the start of the game.

COMMUNITY VISIT BLITZ.

The Titans' commitment to the local community was exemplified in September when nearly the entire NRL playing group hit the road for a host of engagements ranging from school visits and coaching clinics to assisting with bushfire relief efforts in the Gold Coast hinterland.

A total of 63 hours of community work were logged by the Titans players on the day, with 749km covered as the players reached out to all parts of their local community.

Among the venues visited were Coolangatta Tweed Heads Golf Club, St Joseph's College at Banora Point, Helensvale State School, Canungra Showgrounds, Kingscliff High School, Merrimac State School, St Andrews Lutheran College, Coomera Springs State School, Fingal Head Primary School, Hymba Yumba Independent School, Coomera State School, and the Murgon Dragons.

Titans Kevin Proctor and Shannon Boyd visited the Canungra bushfire operations base, meeting with firefighters and volunteers who had been battling the blazes, and delivering donations for the community from the Club's supporters, including meat and bread from IGA Spanos, cartons of water from Coca-Cola Australia, clothing and merchandise from LIVIN and 250 muffins from Little Miss Muffin.

On the way home, Kevin and Shannon stopped in to pay a visit to the members of the Canungra State School's rugby league program before their Kingfisher Cup Carnival campaign.

Canungra State School Principal Kylie Todhunter said the Titans visit had been a welcome boost for a community that has done it tough under the threat of the bushfires, putting smiles on the faces of the children – some of whom had been evacuated from their homes, or had parents fighting the blazes on the front line.





OUR CHARITY PARTNERS

To highlight the amazing work done by charities in our local community, the Titans partner with key charities that contribute to the Gold Coast and Northern Rivers community, and whose values are aligned with those of the Club. In 2019, the Club continued its partnership with the following charities:



The Titans have been working with outstanding community organisation LIVIN, a health movement which encourages young men and women to speak up when they are struggling with mental health issues and life generally.

LIVIN is all about living your life at the top and breaking the stigma of mental health while supporting others to talking about their feelings because "It Ain't Weak to Speak".

September saw club community man Brian Kelly and his partner Marissa join LIVIN for their launch of their "Collective Minds" project at Robina Town Centre.

The pop-up exhibition helped shine a light on mental health by using photographs as the catalyst for public conversation, to make mental illness more visible and better understood within the community.



The Club has led the way in its support of White Ribbon in recent years, with a number of awareness and fundraising campaigns that have used the profile and popularity of rugby league to help drive social change.

The Titans proudly carried the message "In Support of White Ribbon" in the major-sponsor position on the front of the jersey, and also the back of the playing shorts, for the game against the Warriors in April to reinforce the Gold Coast's commitment to ending violence against women.



Gold Coast Titans star and Ronald McDonald House Ambassador Jarrod Wallace again took part in the National McHappy Day celebrations, spending time with the team at the Merrimac store to help raise funds for a cause close to his heart.

As the largest fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House Charities Australia nationally, McHappy Day is crucial in raising funds for the charity, which helps keep families together while their seriously ill child undergoes treatment.



PLAYER FEEDBACK

The responsibility of being a Titan does not finish at the end of the game, or the end of the day. Every year, our players are out in the community making a difference to the lives of others.

The impact of this community engagement is reflected in the smiles on faces, and in the feedback we receive from the people of the Gold Coast and Northern Rivers who are proud to be part of the Titans family.



We recently helped launch the NRL League Stars program at which Jai Arrow was in attendance. I wanted to formally thank and applaud Jai for being a wonderful representative for your club and the NRL. His engagement with the children placed a smile on each and every one of the students and the families were thrilled to see how he interacted happily with them. What a wonderful role model for those students to look up to.

**Glen O'Halloran, Deputy Principal
Ashgrove State School**



Can you pass on how absolutely excellent the coaching staff and the whole Gold Coast Titans squad were with my two boys Cameron and Hayden today. It was our first time on watching the boys train and we absolutely loved it was an awesome experience. The whole squad were with my boys signing their jerseys as well as photos with the boys.

Scott Beckett, Titans Member



Pete and the Titans players who have taken the time to visit our centre have made a difference for the better in the lives of those they have touched. The clients are always excited to have Pete and the players visit. Most players have been up for a visit, and a good proportion of them have reiterated their desire to visit again! It goes unsaid that we value our relationship with the GC Titans and we are always happy to help out if needed.

**Captain Lyndley Fabre
Assistant Manager, Gold Coast Recovery Services Fairhaven,
The Salvation Army**



The work of the Titans Community Foundation and the life-changing results being achieved would not be possible without the support of our corporate partners



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