Canberra North Bowling and ACT Rugby Union Club Community Contributions

The CNBACTRUC brought together two of Canberra's oldest and smallest clubs in 2014. It was established to "Foster and encourage interest and participation in sport in the ACT, particularly the game of Lawn Bowls and the Rugby Union Football Code; and promote social intercourse amongst the members and guests of the Association."

It is a direction that has seen lawn bowls, both competitive and barefoot, flourish in the last ten years, and an approach that sees more than 10 community sporting clubs now calling The RUC their home.

The Club's initial application to the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission required us to detail the extent to which the Club has contributed to the community, how this has supported and benefited the community, a statement of beneficiaries, and our harm minimisation measures, as well as our constitution and objects.

Clubs in the ACT are set up by people with common interests and common objectives and distribute funds in line with these interests and objectives. Recent political statements from some groups have sought to redistribute club funds away from rugby and lawn bowls towards ACT Government preferred community projects.

The Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) included requirements that Clubs must exist for member benefit and Government-directed diversion to a charity, changes the purpose of the association without member approval. The club's lawful purpose is defined by its objects and Government-mandated diversion of funds to a charity forces the club to operate for a purpose other than its own objects contradicts the Act.

Associations are required to have rules governing how member funds are used and Club funds must be used for club purposes, not government purposes. Government diversion would override the club's constitution, which is unlawful unless members vote to change it.

The RUC is a base for amateur sporting organisations - these organisations support the RUC and we support them. They are all relationships that have been established for more than 60 years, and they are relationships that we look forward to continuing for many years to come.

Our Community Contributions go to lawn bowling, rugby union, local cricket, soccer, the Turner School, Black Mountain School, The O'Connor Cooperative School as well as many raffle prizes for Charities, sport and community fundraisers. Our meeting room is provided free of charge for not-for-profit organisations. Here is a list of some:

- Canberra North Bowling Club
- ACT & Southern New South Wales Rugby Union Brumbies First Nations Program
- ACT & Southern New South Wales Rugby Union Get Into Rugby Program
- ACT & Southern New South Wales Rugby Union Coach Mentor Program & Digital Coaching Platform
- ACT & Southern New South Wales Rugby Union Development Tournaments and Competitions
- ACT & Southern New South Wales Rugby Union ACT Kestrels Amateur Women's Representative Program
- ACT & Southern New South Wales Rugby Union Female Youth Participation Program
- Owls Rugby Union Club
- Owls Junior Rugby Union Club

- ACT Rugby Referees Association
- Wests Rugby Union Club
- ANU Cricket Club
- Canberra City Soccer Club
- UC Stars Football Club
- ANU Women's Soccer Club
- Turner School
- Black Mountain School
- O'Connor Cooperative School
- Plus many free raffle prizes and vouchers worth $200 -$500and free board room hire to musicians, support groups and other community organisations

Each year the club distributes well in excess of the mandated 8% community contributions required by the legislation because we are extremely proud of, and we believe in our affiliated groups. In fact, this year we distributed 38% of our net gaming revenue, resulting in $400,699 to local community organisations. Over $360,000 of this went to community sport in Canberra, particularly lawn bowling and rugby union.

Revenue from our Club helps pay for our bowling greens, amateur rugby programs and other community sports in the Inner North. At a time when obesity rates are soaring and other social and mental health challenges permeate the media, there is undoubted community value in sport, exercise, inclusion and social interaction.

We are very proud of all of our hardworking club volunteers who help raise money for the objects of our constitution and our original purpose. They have a significant impact on community sporting groups affiliated with our club.

For applications to the Clubs Community Contributions program, please visit our website: http://theruc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Community-Contributions-Guidelines.pdf