

EXTRA TIME



The Official Magazine of the McDonald's Kanga Cup
Issue 3, Wednesday 6 July 2022
Canberra, ACT



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KEEP AN EYE OUT EACH MORNING FOR THE NEW EDITION OF EXTRA TIME, THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MCDONALD'S KANGA CUP AND SEE IF YOUR TEAM IS FEATURED!

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ROWVILLE EAGLES SET TO SOAR AT KANGA CUP



Amongst the 244 teams that have nominated for the 2022 McDonald's Kanga Cup, three are making the trip up from Victoria to take part, and one of those trio is Rowville Eagles from the South-East suburbs of Melbourne. The club, which was established by Romanian Migrants in 1985, currently boasts one of the best junior set ups in Victoria and are excited by the prospect of lining up against teams from across Australia this July.

"We entered the Kanga Cup looking for a challenge," Claude Dinca, Junior Coordinator of Rowville Eagles told the Kanga Cup. "Our team is a mixture of under-9 and under-10 players, and we feel we are one of the better under-10 teams in Victoria. We would like to test ourselves against the best in Australia, and it is important for the kids for them to know where they stand against their peers in other states."

As well as the chance for the players to pit their skills against their peers from across the country, the whole ethos of the Kanga Cup resonates well with Dinca and his team as they prepare for the fun and the opportunity that being away for a week in a different state can provide.

"We are looking to give the kids the best possible experience and make this a fun week away from Victoria," Dinca said. "We would like to give the kids the opportunity to see and explore Canberra. The Kanga Cup is renowned to be one of the better competitions in Australia. We wish to play the best teams in Australia to ensure we give our Kids the best possible experience as they develop as soccer players."

As per the norm with any team that has made the decision to travel from interstate to Canberra for the McDonald's Kanga Cup, the Eagles have been busy raising the funds to do so, and Dinca is thankful to the sponsors and parents, who have provided this opportunity for the Eagles to soar. "We had a few key sponsors within the team that funded some of the cost," Dinca revealed. "But I would primarily like to thank the parents, that are taking a week off work and funding a large amount of the cost to travel and participate."

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SA GSAP AIMING HIGH AT 2022 CUP



SUTHERLAND
SHIRE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

Speaking about why the club were making the trip to Canberra for the competition, Natasha Simpson, who has been organising most aspects of the team's entry into the competition was effusive in her praise of the tournament.

"The opportunity was too exciting to pass!" Simpson said, "This a chance for the girls experience a competition on another level. It will be exciting for the girls and families to get away and bond.

"As we are yet to experience the Kanga Cup, we are completely aware that this will be a great experience and being part of the competition in its 30th year. Covid took away creating memories

last year. This comp is going to be a great ride!"

The Sutherland Shire Football Association U11 GSAP girls have been together for two seasons and have been very successful in their short time-span. The GSAP program is aimed at player development and, with only one defeat in their formative years as an organisation, it's fair to say the development is working well.

"The girls are a great group of young players and have beautiful friendships with one another that will last a lifetime," Simpson told Kanga Cup. "We are also very blessed with our amazing and talented Coach Christina Dendrinos, Manager Belinda Laverance and passionate Head Coach for the girls Jonathan Dmoch."

Joining the 243 other teams that will compete in the 30th Anniversary edition of the McDonald's Kanga Cup was very much a last minute decision this Sutherland Shire Girls team as they didn't finalise their registration until two days before the cut-off point closed. That doesn't stop them from dreaming big however!

"I won't lie, winning the Cup would be the ultimate!" Simpson remarked. "The girls are excited to see how they go in this large competition. They are willing to put themselves to the test. They also just want to have a great time away creating memories.

"Once we know our itinerary, we are hoping to lock in Corin Forest Snow Sports, a visit to Questacon, Lunches and Dinners and definitely thawing by the fire!"

The latter of those might just be the most important if they are to fulfil their Kanga Cup ambitions as Canberra in July can be a bitter experience. Yet, where would you rather be in the first week of July? Sutherland Shire U11 GSAP can answer for you!



NEW TUGGERANONG ADDING TO KANGA CUP TRADITION



Tuggeranong United are no strangers to the McDonald's Kanga Cup. Indeed, the 2022 batch, led by Head Coach Laura Jennings, will be following in the footsteps of their forebears who appeared in the very first competition back in 1992 in Sydney.

United were one of a handful of clubs that travelled from interstate and overseas for that first edition and they have been regular participants since, enjoying everything that the tournament has to offer. So much that their current coaching staff know first-hand

the experiences involved.

"I played Kanga Cup from 1994-1997 and absolutely loved it, I also worked as a volunteer in subsequent years, as did my Mum," Jennings told Kanga Cup. "I then returned as a coach in 2015 and 2016 and now in 2022.

"As a player, I understand the magic of Kanga Cup. I've played against different states and Countries. One year, we even billeted a player from one of the American women's teams. Those experiences are priceless. It's more than football, it's the friendships built within your team and outside of your team. I absolutely love Kanga Cup. That's why I've returned as a coach, because I want to see these young players get the same experiences."

Having tasted the action on the pitch, from the sidelines and from the stands, Jennings is in a position to know what to expect, and she is excited for the latest youngsters to understand what the Kanga Cup is all about.

"I love seeing the players and team grow through the tournament," Jennings commented, "They learn and develop so much by playing in a tournament against teams they are not always playing against locally.

"I hope the bond in my team grows even more and they have the best time playing football. If they do well enough to progress to finals, that's a bonus. But the development they get is far more important.

“There is no tournament like it, that has for 30 years, consistently brought together all these teams for an amazing and fun tournament. It’s has grown since I was playing and it’s awesome to see it back again after a couple of rough years.”

Tuggeranong, who are based in the Southside of Canberra and play their home junior matches at Wanniasa and Kambah, have been blessed in 2022 with some supportive parents and sponsors that have helped to make their participation in the competition possible, something that Jennings acknowledges.

“I’d like to thank the sponsors ‘Employ Me’ for assisting by purchasing the kit for the kids,” she said. “I’d also like to thank Stan Mitchell the president of the club for helping us arrange the purchase of the kit, providing us with playing shirts and in general supporting the team. Also, Nicole, the Miniroos coordinator, who works tirelessly to ensure all the kids are enjoying their football.

“We were fortunate to have a sponsor to assist in purchasing the kids team tracksuits and a bag each. They have their initials on them and it really assists with that feeling of unity.

“The parents and carers need some thanks too, for supporting their child to participate, all the driving, washing, and feeding etc. The kids can’t do it without them. On a personal note, my partner is an amazing supportive person of my football dreams.”

Following Jennings prime example would be a good path for these aspiring Tuggeranong juniors. Who knows? They may be inspired to be coaching a group of youngsters of their own in the tournament in the 50th Anniversary event!



AROUND THE GROUNDS



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CANBERRA OLYMPIC AIMING HIGH AND SMILING AT THE CUP



It was all smiles for Grant Peelgrane and his Under-13 Canberra Olympic side at the McDonald's Kanga Cup. After a very successful day one, picking up two wins from their two games, Olympic were surprising underdogs as they faced the Adelaide Croatia Raiders, a strong interstate team.

After a big penalty save and two late goals, Olympic would cause a major upset and continue their strong form, winning 2-1. Manager Grant

Peelgrane knew it would be a tough contest.

"We knew we were probably behind the 8-ball with them today, and they are a really strong team from Adelaide and from what happened yesterday," he said. "So, we set up a bit differently today with some solid defence and waited for our chances today.

"We had two chances from corners and scored twice so doesn't often happen like that. They missed a penalty too so was a big win, probably the underdogs won there."

After three wins from three games, Peelgrane believes that his young Olympic side can take themselves all the way to the final, and maybe even win the competition, especially with the determination they showed against Adelaide today.

"I'm confident we can make the final now, three wins now," Peelgrane commented. "We are underdogs, but the boys are here to learn and it's a good chance to learn with games like that so yeah, I think we can do it."

Although it might be a young age group, the level of tactics is still quite high, with Olympic changing their playing style to grind out a win against a difficult interstate opponent. Focusing on the next fixture, Peelgrane and his Olympic side will now face local rivals Canberra Croatia. This is sure to be a clash of the titans match as both sides are strong contenders in their local Canberra competition. Peelgrane is keen for the match, and excited to see what his side can offer.

“We did have to change our tactics, due to their high press,” Peelgrane revealed. “In the first half, we knew we had to get rid of the ball and use our long ball a bit more. But with the wind in the second half, it allowed us to play our game a bit more, but yeah it wasn’t pretty, but we did it.

“Croatia a big rival, especially in our local competition. I think of form, we probably should win, but you never know. It’s the Kanga Cup, it’s about who wants it the most, so anything can happen. Hopefully we can win and go on with it.”

Olympic have had an incredible run in this year’s Kanga Cup, winning all three of their matches so far and are hoping to be able to take it all the way to the final. It won’t be easy, but Peelgrane and his young, tough Olympic side might have what it takes to make it all the way.



RAMS DEPLOYED INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING APPROACH



Doughnuts played a part in getting the Rouse Hill Rams to the McDonald's Kanga Cup. Okay, it might not have been a massive part but without those Krispy Kreme's being consumed by the Rams football community, their teams might not

have been taking to the field in Canberra this week, being part of the 30th 'Anniversary of the largest youth football tournament in the Southern Hemisphere.

It wasn't just the sugary treats that paved the way for the club to make the trip down the Highway to Canberra, the club also came up with a more innovative way to raise funds, and reward one lucky tipster at the end, as Tanya Vanags, Manager of the U14 team explained to the Kanga Cup Magazine.

"We set up a "Last Man/Woman Standing" footy tipping competition," Vanags revealed. "In this competition we charged a \$20 entry fee to anyone who wanted to be involved, chose an NRL match every Friday that everyone had to tip on, and each week if your team won you would move to the next round. If your team lost, you were out. The "Last Man/Woman Standing" would win \$500! This was hugely successful and got everyone talking and creating a bit of fun banter each week!"

Based in Sydney, the Rams are a grassroots club that offers football for all levels from U6 to seniors. Established in 2006 with 186 players, Rams Soccer is now one of the largest clubs in the newly formed Hills Football Association. The club is focused on junior development and offers programs and support to assist all players improve.

The club aim is to allow all players and coaches to reach their full potential in a positive and inclusive environment. Many Rams players have graduated from the small-sided football program into outstanding players at elite level and a few of those even graced the fields of the Kanga Cup.

"We entered the Kanga Cup, and have done for many years, because it's always been such an amazingly run event which is filled with team pride and spirit," Vanags said. "Anyone who has ever attended has come away with incredible memories of mateship and talks about it fondly for many years. Having the opportunity to come together in one place from all over Australia to play a game we all love while creating unbelievable memories, fun and team spirit is priceless.

"We're looking forward to giving our new team members (that have never attended Kanga) an amazing experience of fantastic competition, making new friends and reminding all our boys and girls that amazing things can happen when bringing a large group of competitors all over the country together."

For a group of youngsters heading down to the National Capital for Sydney, the matches are just part of what they are looking forward to. It's not often that the group would have the chance to travel together and create lasting memories on and off the field and Canberra provides plenty of opportunities to do just that.

"We have talked about taking our teams going go-karting or bowling to create some team bonding," Vanags commented. "We're also excited to experience some lovely restaurants together creating some fun memories to take home with us. We would love to thank our Rams community for getting behind us. Every coach, manager, committee member, parent & friend Our trip to this wonderful event would not be possible without an army of these people! Every person had one thing in mind, the kids!"



AROUND THE GROUNDS



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