





## Centenary of Rugby League Profile – Don Elphick.

Don Elphick joined South Sydney Referees in March 1960 after completing his Referee examination. At the time, Don was 28 years old and in his sixth year in the Regular Army where he belonged to the Royal Australian Engineers.

*“I vividly remember my first appointment of some littlees at Booralee Park.” Don recounts. “Surrounded by well wishing mums and dads, I blew on my whistle to commence the game. The first seconds were quite exciting as I followed the boys around the field wondering why the referee wasn’t doing something about the forward passes and the knock-ons. After receiving a number of suggestions from the mums and dads as to where I could put my whistle if I wasn’t going to use it, I commenced my refereeing career by awarding a penalty. At that moment at least half the spectators thought I was a pretty good referee, for a blind man.”*

The following year, Don was posted to Wewak in New Guinea for 12 months. At that time, he was the only referee in the Australian Territory with a NSW referees ticket. With the Army’s arrival, there were six teams playing in the Wewak competition. Don explains, *“Every Sunday I would pull on my gear and referee three matches at what was known as the Native Compound. The one good thing about it, there was no argument as to who would referee the finals.”*



Above: Don speaking to the Captains of the Army and Eastern teams prior to the 1961 Grand Final at the Native Compound in Wewak, New Guinea. There were plenty of natives there for the game but they accumulate at the end of the ground behind the dead ball line with their stone axes etc..

The top competition in New Guinea was the inter-town competition known as the Kearin-Sheargold Cup. Don was fortunate to referee three of these matches, one at Wewak, one at Lae and the other in the highlands at Goroka. The Goroka team was Captain/Coached by an ex-Australian Rugby International, Brian Johnson.

Don returned to Souths in mid 1962 and managed to get appointed as a touch judge to the F Grade Grand Final which was refereed by Noel Chesher, who Don describes as one of nature’s true gentlemen.

For the next two years, the Army left Don alone to pursue his refereeing. In 1963, Don refereed the C Grade Grand Final with John Bowe and Bill Pride on his line.

Don describes 1964 as his ‘golden year’. He refereed nine A Grade matches of the day in a row, was appointed Touch Judge in three President Cup matches, one of which was a knock-out, another a semi-final and the other the Final, all played at the SCG. He also reached the last round of selection trials to be graded but missed out on being selected.

From November ’64 to July ’66, Don was posted to 32 Small Ships Squadron as part of Australia’s efforts in the Vietnam War. Whenever his ship returned to Sydney, Don would continue refereeing. In 1967, Don was posted to Army Headquarters in Canberra, which would begin his long association with this city. He refereed mainly First Grade in the Group 8 and Molonglo Shield competitions, before returning to Sydney in March ’69 for his second tour of Vietnam. For part of 1970, Don assisted the Appointments Board before being posted once again to Army Headquarters as a Warrant Officer Class 2.

Don continued refereeing in the Group 8 and Molonglo Shield competitions in 1971 and 1972 but was forced to retire in the latter due to a knee injury he sustained in Vietnam. Don turned his attention to administration, becoming the President of the Australian Capital Territory Rugby League in 1973. By now, Canberra had become his permanent home and Don’s interest in Rugby League was firmly in the game’s development in this region.

In later years, Don was to become one of the founding fathers of the Canberra Raiders Rugby League Club, evening designing their famous ‘green machine’ playing strip that they wore to their first premiership. *“I was the Junior League representative on the successful deputation to the New South Wales Rugby League for the inclusion of the Canberra Raiders in 1981. Later in that year, I became the first Junior League*

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## 2008 Mod League Grand Final Appointments

The Grand Finals of the Souths Juniors Mod League competition were played at Erskineville Oval on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Congratulations to all those members who were appointed to officiate those games.

120-1 – **S Teuma** (Ref) M Skinner & L Touma (Touch Judges)

120-2 – **L Touma** (Ref) J Thomas & M Kelso-Symonds (TJs)

110-1 – **M Skinner** (Ref) M Kelso-Symonds & S Teuma (TJs)

110-2 – **J Thomas** (Ref) L Touma & D Makk (Touch Judges)

100-1 – **M Kelso-Symonds** (Ref) M Skinner & A Cavanaugh (TJs)

100-2 – **D Makk** (Ref) S Kelly & H Collins (Touch Judges)

90-1 – **A Cavanaugh** (Ref) D Collins & D Makk (Touch Judges)

90-2 – **J Pitscheider** (Ref) H Collins & S Kelly (Touch Judges)

90-3 – **S Kelly** (Ref) J Pitscheider & D Collins (Touch Judges)



## **REFEREES GOLF DAY Friday 17th October 2008. Marrickville Golf Course**

The Centenary Referees Golf Day will be held at Marrickville Golf Course on Friday 17 October 2008.

Organisers promise a fun filled day, with plenty of entertainment and prizes for all. Four ball ambrose with plenty of novelty holes and entertainment.

If any members, active or inactive wish to team up to represent Souths Referees at this day, nominations should be sent to the Secretary at [andrewjwheeler@yahoo.com.au](mailto:andrewjwheeler@yahoo.com.au)

He will advise the details closer to the event.

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*Development Officer employed by a District Club.” Don speaks with great pride about some of the talent that he unearthed in his time at the Raiders. “In the next ten years, players of the calibre of Laurie Daley, Brett Mullins and our own local juniors Ricky Stuart, Bradley Clyde and Glenn Lazarus, all future Internationals, played in our junior representative teams. Five of the 13 players who took the field in the 1989 Premiership winning team and one of the three reserves were local juniors. It reminded me of South Sydney’s golden years.”*

Don has very fond memories of his time at Souths Referees. *“The best referee I refereed with was the late Dennis Braybrook. The best referee any association could have for his workload and his commitment to his association and refereeing and Rugby League in general, is Joey Griffiths. Thanks mate for all your help over years.”*

Don retired from the Raiders in 1990 after their second premiership win. He still lives in Canberra, where he works as a researcher along with his wife Beverley. Their organisation, Gulambali Aboriginal Research helps people from the ‘stolen generations’ and their descendants access records held by governments and institutions which may help them piece together the missing parts of their lives. Together they have written a number of publications using the information they have uncovered over the years.



Left: Don and his wife Beverley at their home in Page ACT.

## 2008 Mini Football Grand Final Appointments

Congratulations to those referees appointed to the Grand Finals of the Souths Juniors Mini Football competition played on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at Erskineville Oval.

80-1 – **A McIver** (Ref) G Cowan & S Byanjankar (Touch Judges)

80-2 – **S Byanjankar** (Ref) H Collins & G Cowan (Touch Judges)

80-3 – **G Cowan** (Ref) A McIver & S Byanjankar (Touch Judges)

80-4 – **R Arthur** (Ref) A McIver & H Collins (Touch Judges)

70-1 – **H Collins** (Ref) G Cowan & S Byanjankar (Touch Judges)

70-2 – **D Svansfeld** (Ref) R Arthur & M Robbins (Touch Judges)

70-3 – **R Washington** (Ref) D Svansfeld & M Robbins (TJs)

60-1 – **C Locke** (Ref) D Svansfeld & R Arthur (Touch Judges)

60-2 – **M Robbins** (Ref) R Washington & C Locke (Touch Judges)

60-3 – **C Locke** (Ref) M Robbins & H Collins (Touch Judges)

60-4 – **J Purcell** (Ref) A Purcell & C Locke (Touch Judges)

60-5 – **A Purcell** (Ref) J Purcell & D Svansfeld (Touch Judges)

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# Social Committee Report

## Annual Presentation Night - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Owing to the Opening Ceremony of the Rugby League World Cup clashing with the date previously advised for the Presentation Night, it has been moved back one week. Invitations for the Annual Presentation Night will be sent to all members by the last week in September. If any member has not received it by the end of September, you are asked to contact David Field on 0411 612 536.

Invitations will be sent via email as has been the case for the past couple years, however those members who cannot receive emails will have it posted to them.

Senior members will be permitted to bring a guest with them if they chose, while junior members will be permitted to bring both parents. If circumstances exist where a member would like to bring an extra guest, please contact David Field to discuss this with him.

## Family Christmas Picnic at Luna Park - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December



The Association has been offered the opportunity to take advantage of discounted admission to Sydney's Luna Park on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

So we've decided to have a Family Christmas Picnic for those who wish to take up the offer. The day will be open to all members along with their families and friends. Younger brothers and sisters of junior members are welcome if parents come along. Children of senior members are also welcome. Some rides have height restrictions. For more information on these restrictions, go to [www.lunaparksydney.com/](http://www.lunaparksydney.com/)

Those attending will have the option of purchasing a discounted rides band, or the rides band and meal voucher.

- Unlimited rides band costs **\$25** (usually \$43)
- Unlimited rides band and meal voucher\* costs **\$38.50**

\* meal voucher entitles you to a choice of Hamburger/Hot Dog/Pie/Vegie Burger plus Hot Chips, 600ml bottle of Soft Drink and Fairy Floss.

A big thank you to Grant Cowan's mother Nancy for offering this deal to us.

Luna Park will be open from 11am – 11pm. RSVPs are required to David Field by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November so that arrangements can be made to obtain bands and vouchers.

The **PEA SHOOTER** will be published every month during the League Season to keep members informed about important matters. We would welcome contributions from members such as web links, reviews etc. Please send all contributions to David Field at [footyfieldrl@hotmail.com](mailto:footyfieldrl@hotmail.com) by the end of each month.

The **PEA SHOOTER** will be published the week prior to each general meeting and emailed to all on the email list and for those who don't have internet access a hardcopy will be available at each general meeting.

