

My memories of Redlands Rugby League Football Club are numerous and go back to 1971 when the Club first commenced at the Cleveland Showgrounds. Our clubhouse was known as the old pavilion which is the old wooden building still in the Showgrounds today.

Junior games were played on the main oval while minor games played on the field beside it. Training was difficult at times for the Juniors because sometimes they trained while trotters were on the trotting track (perimeter of the football field).

Back in those days, we had referees such as Doug and David Manson and on Redlands Ambulance charity days, Bernie Pramberg gave his time to come to the Showgrounds to referee.

Every club in Brisbane sent delegates to represent the Minor League. Redlands delegates were myself, Roz Crouch and Richard Bagnell. At the end of the season, a Minor League dinner was held to present winners of the Presidents' Cups and Grand Finals with their trophies.

For several years, the Mooroondu Teams (Sydney) came up at the end of the football season for a weekend to play against the Redland Teams. They arrived on a Friday, played against our boys on Saturday, went sight seeing and back home on the Sunday. Many fond memories of the district and new friendships were taken back with them because the boys were billeted out and their parents stayed in the only accommodation in those days which was the Redland Bay Hotel.

On two occasions during the year, the Club gave up their Clubhouse, so that the annual Cleveland Show and Strawberry Festival could take place. Our Clubhouse (the Pavilion) was used to hold events in which meant that the Club had to move all of its goods and chattels out of the building before each event, then put them back after. The football teams marched in the Strawberry Festival and had a stand at both events.

Other events that took place at the Showgrounds were the preliminary judging of the Miss Redlands Rugby League and the 1974 World Relay Marathon Record Attempt. The Record Attempt of 100 km in 8 hrs was broken by the minor league players, some who are still associated with the club today.

Now, after many fond memories of the Cleveland Showgrounds, I am able to watch my grandson play football at Pinklands and can enjoy a softdrink with him after the game at the Redlands Rugby League Football Clubhouse.

Norm Ross
Past President