



## **Dear Griffins family and rugby community of Newcastle,**

Not everything is Coronavirus related at the Griffins right now.

I just thought I would share some exciting news that your committee continues to work on even though games are not currently being played.

### **The Griffins are going west!**

Following some careful consideration by the committee and input from members, a decision was made to move The Griffins to the west. The west being Wallsend, Jesmond or similar. This decision was one that was made easier by the halt in play and the closing of our major sponsor as we had serious considerations about damaging relations with The Hamilton Station Hotel.

The Griffins have enlisted the help of a professional mentor to help with this move and so far already, a business plan and proposal has been drawn up along with several meetings conducted and an action plan made to make the move happen.

The key benefits and opportunities of moving west that have been identified are:

- Moving to an untapped area of Newcastle where there are no other rugby clubs
- The west is the biggest growth area in Newcastle with a State Government driven plan to grow the area by 20,000 people over the next 20 years
- There is already enough people in the west to sustain 90 plus registrations per season with potential for juniors
- Some schools in the west already have a rugby program and being there provides a place for these kids to play

The action plan has 5 focus points. We are now seeking help from volunteers to form a working group to head up each of the areas. If you would like to be a part of this working group and be recognised as a founder of the move, please get in touch with myself. The 5 focus points are:

1. Council Liaison and acquiring a location

2. Junior development. Here is our first draft logo... What do you think??
3. Sponsorship
4. Marketing and promotion
5. Retaining current members



The plan to go west depends obviously on when the pandemic clamps are lifted but it would be great to have our working group identified by the middle of April so some telephone meetings can be conducted. All involved will meet our mentor (perhaps not in person initially) and will be shared the vision and the clear plans for each working group to achieve.

If you do not want to be a leader of a working group, but can help out in some way, please contact myself and I will include you in any amount you can spare.

## Fake News

Fake news continues to be a great drawcard to our website as it is the most read item week after week.

We are currently running a Fake News competition. Over the next 6 weeks, a fake news story will be published each week. The winner will receive a great prize. If you want to enter, send me a message by Messenger, email or text. The Fake News can be about a player, Coronavirus, a scandal or conspiracy. Give your Fake News a headline and make it funny. Keep it clean too please.

## A new website

In the next couple of weeks our new Griffins website will be up and running. There will be a shopping cart, a mobile phone optimised version and easier navigation. Stay tuned!

## Sponsor Shout Outs

**The Hamilton Station Hotel** might be closed, and we might be going west, but we will never leave *The Station!* A second home for many of our guys, we are all looking forward to the re-opening of our major sponsor.

**Guardian Traffic Services** continue to operate during these tough times. If you need the traffic stopped out the front of your job or home, call Troy Robinson on 49537313

**Our Town Car Clinic** is still open and will service your car! Go see Col for a great service. Tell him you are a Griffin to avoid getting a dead fish hidden under the back seat.

**Piggotts Pharmacy** are flat out. Having been in several times recently myself, I can tell you first hand that the staff at Piggotts are as professional and friendly as ever. If you need anything from the chemist, keep Piggotts in mind as they are a 2020 sponsor and a great bunch of people.

**Piddington Carpets** are still open. If you are working from home, get the floors spruced up at the same time. You can call Nick Piddo. He will come around to your place while maintaining social distance and sort out that crappy carpet or floating floor. Phone 49558749

Cheers to everyone. Hopefully some of you will come forward to assist with the move west. Otherwise, I am happy for your input on any other area of the club and how we can continue to grow and thrive.

Call or text me 0447491221

Email me: [nigeldmifsud@gmail.com](mailto:nigeldmifsud@gmail.com)

Find me on Facebook or messenger – there's not that many Nigel Mifsud profiles

Best Regards, **Nigel Mifsud, President, Newcastle Griffins RUFC**