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Sunshine Coast rugby bodies unite under one banner

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A new body has been formed to run all rugby on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, from juniors and schools through to the region's premier rugby side.

Sunshine Coast Rugby Union Ltd was formally voted into being last night by the four separate constituent bodies that previously administered different areas of the game in the region - the Sunshine Coast and District Rugby Union, the Sunshine Coast and District Junior Rugby Union, Sunshine Coast Rugby Union Referees Association and Sunshine Coast Rugby Union Schools Association.

The process was initiated by Queensland Rugby following the success of a similar amalgamation on the Gold Coast in late 2007 and was driven by a steering committee that developed the framework and constitution for the new entity and late last year sought expressions of interest from prospective board members.

The board of seven formally took charge of the new entity last night under the presidency of Maroochydore solicitor and former Queensland Law Society president Glenn Ferguson, currently president-elect of the Law Council of Australia and a director of a number of private and public companies. The former NSW police detective has played rugby from juniors through to the Over 35s and has been involved in coaching and managing teams at a number of levels.

The finance director is company director, lawyer and corporate amalgamation and merger specialist Michael Arnett. He has played club rugby in Sydney and Perth and is a former president of Sunshine Coast Grammar Rugby Club.

Their fellow directors are: Matthew Murphy, managing director of Australia and China law firm and corporate advisor MMLC Group; Seven Network Sunshine Coast sales executive Peter Brooker; property industry executive, former Brisbane Brothers club stalwart and foundation member of the Stingrays supporters club Jerry O'Reilly; Sunshine Coast Regional Councillor Chris Thompson and energy industry manager Michael Turner.

Mr Ferguson said the new board offered a great range of skills "and they're all dedicated rugby people, which is important".

He said the primary objective of the new body would be to build on the solid foundation already laid down for rugby on the Sunshine Coast and ensuring that those who aspire to play at the highest levels can do so without leaving the area, while also providing strong competitions for players who aren't on the elite pathway.

He said Sunshine Coast Rugby covered a diverse area from Caboolture to the Fraser Coast and the new body would be focused on promoting and building unity of purpose and identity.

"We want the whole region to feel part of one organisation, to give them a sense that we're one club," Mr Ferguson said.



Stingrays to come under new Sunshine Coast body

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