

NEW SOUTH WALES JUNIOR RUGBY UNION



NSWJRU PRESIDENTS REPORT 2002-10-31

Dear Friends,

It is with a tinge of sadness that I sit to write my final annual report as President of the NSWJRU.

I have some great memories of my past 5 or so years. Working with people such as David Paul and Barry Killham has been a privilege and as long as these two gentlemen stay involved with the game we can say that the Junior movement is in good hands. In both cases their selfless commitment to the young people in their charge is to be commended, although I am grateful to say that I do not have David's petrol bill.

I would also like to say thank you to NSWRU Board member and President of the AJRU Mike Brown who constantly pushes the barrow of Youth Rugby and is a real voice for good on the Board. We continue to receive excellent support also from Ron Graham and Dilip Kumar.

Thank you also to Doug McKenzie who is stepping down after 6 years as our treasurer. Bruce Allen has been a great support as secretary, but he also has asked for a rest so he can concentrate on his role as registrar of the fast growing Central Coast Rugby Union. Thanks also to Pam Short for her strong work as State Championships Secretary.

Thank you also to John McKay and Ben Whittaker, who have worked hard to smooth over troubled waters and get communication between bodies such as the NSWJRU and the NSWRU back on an even keel.

When I accepted nomination as President for this year I did so with some reluctance knowing that I was committed to spend a good part of the year travelling and therefore unable to meet all responsibilities as President. I am grateful to Barry Killham for stepping in while I was away to keep the ship steady.

The State Championships this year were by any measure a great success. It is worrying to see a continuing drop off in the number of clubs entering teams into the under 17s, but apart from this the number of entries in each age group continues to rise. The venues all worked well for each age group and there were many compliments handed around.

This year, due to playing time constraints placed on us by the ARU semi-finals were played for ages 11-15 on the Monday morning of the long weekend. While not suggesting for one minute that this is the perfect solution, there is no doubt that the extra teams participating and the added drama of the day certainly added to the atmosphere.

Thanks also to Steve Frost for his excellent work assisting us at NSWRU. Steve's experience and knowledge added much.

The under 15s Regional Championships, held this year for the first time in Nowra were also an outstanding success. Well done to the Shoalhaven Rugby Union.

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The Under 17s played a shortened season this year. We find it harder to get games each year for this fine team. Yet they continue to astound with the number of success stories that come through their ranks. Much credit should go to John Dunning who has done an outstanding job as coach of this team for the past 6 years. At the end of his report Peter Truscott suggests that we should look to the possibility of arranging a tour for this team at the end of 2004 and I would endorse this suggestion. Peter did an outstanding job as manager, returning to the job after a 2 year break, as did Jarrett Truscott as assistant coach. Trainer, Gordon (Scotchy) Bender and Physio, Justine McCarthy.

This year the NSWJRU under 16s were formed to compete in the National 16s titles now managed by the ARU. It was a good championships and well run, but I have to say that it lacks the atmosphere and spirit of the old AJRU championships. I would much prefer to see the championship run over 5 games where I believe a true champion would more readily emerge. I would also like to see them returned to the management of the Juniors' movement, which would I believe guarantee the future of the tournament.

Having said that the under NSWJRU side emerged worthy champions after they received a lowly seeding (having taken over the seeding of Country Schools from last year). On the way to the championship, they had comprehensive victories over Qld White, and NSW Schools, before beating the strong Queensland Red side by a dozen or so points in the final. It is our belief that the Championships would be better served if Sydney and Country Juniors were to compete as separate entities.

Thanks are due to Coaches Jim Feggans and Carl Emmert and manager Brad Bishop for their outstanding efforts in bringing this team together and moulding them into the powerful unit they have become. I do not want to single out any particular player, but to mind there were a number who showed they have the potential for big things in coming years.

Our Gala day with CHS continues to be a great occasion and I would like to say a special thank you to Glen Clayton the CHS convenor for his great attitude and flexibility. We take great pride in the continued success of CHS teams, featuring many players who have learnt their rugby through the Juniors.

While I now do step down to pursue other commitments, my heart continues to be with Junior Rugby, the lifeblood and future of Australian Rugby. I hope to continue involvement at some level, whether that is as a selector, team manager or simply as a spectator.

Yours in Rugby

PHIL WARNER
PRESIDENT

Basilair(Bruce Allan)

From: David Paul [dkpaul@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2002 16:56
To: Bruce Allan; Dennis Neader; Terry Woodward
Subject: Presidents Report 2002

NSW COUNTRY JUNIOR RUGBY UNION

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2002

Another busy year began with a Budget & Program planning meeting held at Mudgee over the January long weekend and this provided the platform for our 2002 Season.

The Coaches & Managers Seminar at Tamworth proved successful and this included a Necksafe Course attended by our Sports Trainers.

Before I go any further and run the risk of overlooking them, I would like to acknowledge and thank all our Sports Trainers from the Under 14's to Under 18's. They have combined together to ensure that all our players receive the best attention possible. We couldn't do without you.

Carnivals were held at Port Macquarie for U/16 & U/17 and Forbes for U/14 & U/15.

Both these events were hosted successfully and the hardworking committees can feel rewarded for their efforts. These Carnivals are viewed as social events as well as sporting contacts and that's why we are committed to having them held on a rotating system in different zones, instead of at a sanitised and impersonal central location.

The All-Age Camp at Singleton proved another winner and the positive effect of some of our sponsorship mainly Graincorp, Classic, Summit and NSW Rugby figured prominently in the reduction of Levies and issue of representative gear.

Our VICE PRESIDENT Peter Alcock somehow works a miracle by arriving with a van full of gear and within 24 hours, outfitting 5 football teams! No one else knows how. Good on you Bishop.

The staff at Singleton Camp goes out of their way to help our players, just think how you would manage 170 people for three days.

We are indebted to Manu Sutherland and Ben Whittaker for administering the training program with our V.P. Ian Grinham.

With some other separate team training camps, the Representative program began.

- 1) Country U/17 were successful against Sydney at the Daniel Harrower Memorial Day hosted by Merewether Carlton JRU. All who attended were impressed by the organization and hospitality and we hope it is possible to make this an annual event, including Country U/18 v Lloyd McDermott XV. The U/17's then attended the Gold Coast Schools Carnival and reached the semis only to be defeated (in dubious circumstances) by the eventual winners, St Ignatius Riverview.
- 2) Country U/16 defeated ACT on a cold day in Canberra, but then suffered an ignominious defeat at Stadium Australia Sydney. This huge loss led to ongoing selection problems in the ARU

Championships at Riverview. We have to provide direction to this team to show that one “shocker” does not define their future development. They can improve and they will.

- 3) Under 15. It's hard to hold back on the praises for our Development year. The Southern Province team capably coached by David Conyers and Keith Ferrier and managed by Brian Midgely, won the NSW State Championships. The northern Province team, coached by Danny Gresham and Greg McCormack, then replied by winning the NSW Regional Championships at Nowra. The Country side coached by Sam Thompson, with the assistance of the above gentlemen, then defeated the Sydney U/15 at Vikings Wollongong. They had two other lead-up games and then were off to FIJI where they played 3 games, which they won. An undefeated Country Season. Our appreciation is also extended to Leigh Wallace and his merry band of Shoalhaveners who conducted a fantastic Regional Carnival at Nowra. One of the highlights of the year was the dinner at Shoalhaven Golf Club.
- 4) Under 14. Our “Mighty Ducks”. You should have seen the improvement in this team of little Champions. Illawarra Juniors showed their organization and efficiency by hosting the Under 14 Carnival at Berkley Val, thanks June Barrett and her small band of willing worker. Our Under 14's ran out winner over the bigger more aggressive ACT. At the NSWJRU Gala Day hosted by Illawarra Junior the U/14's inflicted the first defeat ever on the Parramatta District Team.

The good people of Illawarra this year hosted 3 events, the Under 14 Interstate Carnival, the Under 15 Regional (Interstate) Championship and the NSW JRU Gala Day.

It wasn't really planned to hold these in the one Zone, but it just worked out that way, by circumstance.

The result was a huge amount of pressure and workload on all the people involved in Illawarra Junior (and Ron Wood).

Take a bow, ladies and gentlemen, well done.

I have briefly mentioned our Major Sponsor, Graincorp, Charles McCarthy can confirm in his comprehension financial report, the benefit we get to our bottom line from their support.

On the same subject, Terry (Doc) Orman works tirelessly for Country Rugby Union to service and improve our sponsorship arrangements. Doc doesn't get too much credit or assistance in carrying out his honorary role, but he can be assured that we do.

Next years carnival hosts are Southern Ireland for 15's and 16's and Central North, U/14 and U/15. More details will be provided when to hand. May I thank everyone involved this year for their time and effort, on behalf of all the young players you have assisted.

Acknowledgments

Graincorp	Tom Keen
Classic	Slade Adjukovic
Central Coast Photographics	Martin Gallagher
Advance Design	Brett Heasman
Ariela Travel	John Kavanagh
NSW Rugby	Manu Sutherland
Breakaway Print	Chris & Dennis Neader

Regards

31/10/02

New South Wales Junior Rugby Union

Secretary's Report 2002

As secretary I have little to report that is not already covered by the President and respective Vice Presidents reports.

I have found this year very frustrating and disheartening due largely to the fact I have taken to much on in accepting positions within rugby and underestimating the amount of time required to carry out the associated duties with at least some degree of success.

I must apologise to the Executive of the NSWJRU as I feel that I have not been able to be a contributing member of the executive and this puts extra load on the other members and makes their jobs harder.

This is due to the large amount of time that the position of Central Coast registrar has demanded of me due to a few people doing most of the work instead of all people contributing.

I thank you all for your support and assistance during the year, especially David Paul who slowed the barrage of directives and motions down to a snails pace at our meetings so this poor old Secretary that has not yet mastered the ancient art of short hand would be able to take minutes that vaguely resembled the meetings.

I thank Phil for his patience during the many times I have asked for an explanation on issues that the NSWJRU cover of which I had little comprehension. The only time I recall Phil losing patience was when a "mother" fronted him at a final day to inform him that the P.A. being used for the after game presentations was distracting her son and his team on the paddock.

The participation by others and myself at the State Championships, I found rewarding and interesting. It is pleasing to work in an environment where everybody works for a common goal that is a successful championship weekend. Although we had some problems with uniform rules regarding player ID cards this problem was highlighted to our embarrassment but then promptly addressed so not to be an issue again.

Overall I consider that all tasks undertaken by the NSWJRU in co ordination with NSWCJRU and SJRU and CHS a success due mainly to the many people who donate their time and efforts without financial reward but for the reward of providing a safe and challenging sport for our youth, that provides them with the disciplines of teamwork and encourages acceptable social behaviour and sportsmanship.

I also wish to thank Barry Kilham for the many times he has extended a friendly hand of experience with suggestions on protocol etc, as has Mike Brown, You have helped to make my "baptism of fire" survivable .

To Doug, David B and Pam thanks for friendly help and the effort put in to make me feel comfortable in my short tenure as Secretary.

In my wish to see the Central Coast Zone continue to grow and be managed successfully for the future , I will not be standing for any other positions within the Rugby administration other than with the Central Coast Zone. I consider that the new Committee that I endeavour to be part of will build on past achievements of the previous committee and help consolidate Rugby's growth on the Coast, to do this properly, I can only take on one position of office so I sadly say goodbye to the many people I have met and have had the pleasure to work with.

Regards

Bruce Allan
NSWJRU Secretary 2002
October 2002

NSWJRU UNDER 17 2002

TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT

The 2002 team promised so much and despite losses to some exceptional teams, we still believe that the players from this team will be a highly successful group in years to come. There are most certainly a number of stand-out players who will go on to join other former NSW Under 17's players who now play for The Wallabies and our Super 12 sides.

TEAM SELECTION

The final selection trial was played at Merewether Carlton on Sunday June 16 with a match between NSW Country Under 17's and Sydney Under 17's. Prior to this encounter the selectors took several opportunities to watch Sydney and Country players in action so that some prior knowledge of the players was obtained. The team initially selected was:

JOE LYNCH	MAITLAND	COUNTRY
DREW BOGDANOV	MEREWETHER-CARLTON	COUNTRY
MATT LEONARD	TAMWORTH MAGPIES	COUNTRY
CHRIS EDWARDS	MUSWELLBROOK	COUNTRY
JACK WRIGHT	EASTWOOD	SYDNEY
JOSH STEWART	TAMWORTH MAGPIES	COUNTRY
DAN LEWINSKI	MEREWETHER-CARLTON	COUNTRY
SOANE POLUTELE	SOUTHERN DISTRICTS	SYDNEY
JOSH MUNRO	MEREWETHER-CARLTON	COUNTRY
PAUL DAN	HAMILTON	COUNTRY
CHRIS CAWTE	BURRANEER	SYDNEY
CHRIS MC MAHON	WELLINGTON	COUNTRY
JASON CHAPMAN	EASTWOOD	SYDNEY
MATT JARRETT	MAITLAND	COUNTRY
SIMON GREALLY	EASTWOOD	SYDNEY
DAVID GOULTER	EASTWOOD	SYDNEY
SIMON MINNS	EASTWOOD	SYDNEY
MICHAEL CUNNEEN	GORDON	SYDNEY
ANGUS BREWIN	TERRIGAL	COUNTRY
TATAFU POLOTA-NAU	PARRAMATTA	SYDNEY
LUKE SCHEIN	PARRAMATTA	SYDNEY
ALEX NICHOLSON	EASTWOOD	SYDNEY
TREVOR THOMASON	SHOALHAVEN	COUNTRY

Although 23 players were initially selected, David Goulter withdrew after consultation with his Barker 1st XV Coach. We then added David Feketi who played all games for us.

When one of our players, Tatafu Polota-Nau was selected to play for the CHS 1st XV against us, we took the opportunity to add Jay Steele from Terrigal for that game.

DAVID FEKETI	PARRAMATTA	SYDNEY
JAY STEELE	TERRIGAL	COUNTRY

Our team personnel was:

John Dunning – Coach
Jarrett Truscott – Coach
Justine Mc Carthy – Physiotherapist
Gordon (Scotchy) Bender – Trainer
Peter Truscott – Manager

The following weekend, June 22 and 23 we held a training camp at Eastwood which was highly successful. We were fortunate to have a very evenly matched game against the outstanding Sydney Under 16's which proved to be an excellent encounter for both teams with all coaches learning a great deal about their respective players. Sydney players again assisted with billets for their country cousins.

We came together again for the weekend of July 13 and 14, spending Saturday afternoon training. On Sunday we played a Lloyd McDermott Team and this proved to be an excellent display of running rugby which we won 38 to 10. After the game we enjoyed an after match function with good food and some fine speeches.

On Saturday July 20 we met at Maitland Rugby Club where we trained with their excellent facilities. That night we stayed as a team at the Morpeth Conference Centre and enjoyed an excellent Team Dinner at a local hotel where we watched the All Blacks v France Test. On Sunday we played NSW Country Under 18's and this proved to be a very tough and physical game with the big Country forwards dominating possession and much of the territory. Despite Country winning 28 to 11, our boys maintained their focus and played a courageous game. The after match function saw the inaugural presentation of the Michael Golledge Memorial Shield. It is hoped that this game will become an annual event at Maitland Rugby Club.

Neither of our traditional games against ACT Under 18's or Combined Southern States Under 18's could be arranged this year and so it was that we went into our final game, which we saw as our Test Match, against the CHS 1st XV, a little under prepared. The game was held at the Vikings Rugby Club Wollongong. We lost Tatafu Polota-Nau to CHS for this game and Jay Steele came into the team for the weekend and acquitted himself very well indeed.

CHS were overpowering in the first half with their outstanding back row and strong running inside backs making significant breaks. At half time we were down 35 to 6 and prospects looked grim. However, in the second half we began to hold more ball and made some strong raids which almost scored several times. Eventually Jack Wright got over the line. The final score was 42 to 11 and our season was over.

It is interesting to note the following:

- Tatafu Polota-Nau and Matt Leonard made NSW Schools along with 7 other former NSWJRU U/17 players.
- Tatafu went on to make the Australian Schoolboys Team
- Of the 25 players selected, 4 have already left school, so this was the only representative rugby open to them
- 13 players are in year 11 this year and so have a chance to make significant Schoolboy teams next year, and both Tatafu and Matt are Year 11

- The planned game against the Schools Development Team did not eventuate. We have kept the Best and Fairest Award going and in 2002 the winner was Simon Grealey from Eastwood, an inventive inside back with a big future but some tendencies to play another code on occasions. This is a player who must be nurtured and protected from League. Other strong contenders were Tatafu Polota-Nau, Soane Polutele, Jason Chapman, Chris Edwards, Chris Cawte, Matt Jarrett and our very able captain Josh Munro.

Canterbury again proved themselves to be completely incapable of providing any form of acceptable supply and service. We must not support these incompetent opportunists again. As usual, Gary Toynton from Club Rugby Supplies got us out of an impossible position with magic and the attitude of a rugby man who cares about what he does. We eventually ended up with good looking and functional kit. We looked the part and again the pride in the Waratah was so evident the moment the boys put their jumpers on! The fact that there was no player levy imposed this year was exactly how we should look after our State Representatives. I think our total expenditure was reasonable and within budget.

Excellent support was given to the team by John McKay, Ben Whittaker and Anna Lonregan at NSWRU. Ron Graham and Dilip Kumar attended games and our Juniors team of Phil Warner, Barry Killham, David Paul, Pam Short, Bruce Allan, Dave Bavister, Mike Brown and Doug McKenzie lent great support. Also, Bruce Warboys and Eastwood Rugby Club must be singled out for their wonderful hospitality and support.

There appears to be a slight disenchantment with the NSWJRU Under 17's Team and our program. The team is not seen by some players and their advisers as being a significant or prestigious step in their career. Therefore, many of our top juniors do not contest the club and rep rounds as Under 17's, preferring solely their school rugby program or, as we saw this year, playing colts for their district clubs. I believe that we need to raise the profile of the Under 17's by planning and announcing a significant tour for say 2004 in order to give time for planning and acquiring support and funding. A tour to New Zealand or perhaps to Japan would be a significant step to strengthen this team. The more we expose these players to tougher games, the better our Waratahs will be in years to come. With 9 former Under 17's players currently playing Super 12, we can claim some serious legitimacy!

After a 2 year break, it was great to be back managing this team for the fifth time. John Dunning has now completed 6 years coaching this team. Justine, Jarrett, Scotchy, John and myself would like to thank the NSWJRU for their confidence in us and for the support you have given us.

Peter Truscott
Team Manager

First up thankyou for the opportunity to be involved with the first NSWJRU U16 team to compete at the ARU U16 national championships at ST Ignatius riverview.

After Country, Act & Sydney games an extremley well balanced & very talented side, came together for training before our only trial game, down at woollongong aganst NSWCHS 3rd xv, a tough, unexciting win to us resulted.

More Sunday training sessions at Eastwood & the Central Coast "contact hit out" the weekend prior to the championships, had us in , what we felt was good shape.

On the night prior to going into camp, we held a dinner /jumper presentation at North Ryde RSL (with no cost to the players) a small fundraiser was held , with the highlight being the auction of a signed NSWJRU U16 jumper, the night was well attended with family & guests, Mike Brown's speech another highlight.

Settling into Riverview with the structure & regimentation this level of carnival has, took some of our players a little bit longer than others to settle in, with game 1 the next day, the process was moved along quickly.

Game day on monday, pitted us against QLD 2, the perfect start for us was a 48-12 win, people now stood up & took notice.

Game 2 on Wednesday was in most peoples minds, "the grand final", who won this would go on & win the championship, not to mention a grudge match to boot. NSW schools proved not to be what we expected, 27-5 at full time flattered them, considering we lost 15minutes playing time, due to a neck injury on a schools player.

All most injury free we looked forward to Qld 1 with anticipation, game 3 dawned very hot, & injury finally forced changes to our run on side, a hard uncompromising game ultimately saw us come out on top 23-13, we had won the Australian U16 rugby championships.

The trophy & medal presentation took place during lunch, in front of over five hundred officals, players, guests & parents.

The team was superbly coached by Jim Feggen's & Carl Emerton with support from Bill Swain our NSWRU D/O & Nicole Baer (physio) rounding out our successful management team.

Thankyou to the NSWJRU committee especially Phil Warner, Barry Killam & Andrew Knevitt, NSWRU's staff including Ben Whittaker, Manu Sutherland, ARU's Warren Robilliard , Steve Frost & Kim Chang for all their help, support & assistance leading up to & during the carnival which no doubt assisted in our successful campaign

thankyou Brad Bishop NSWJRU U16 Manager 2002

Brad Bishop