

NEW SOUTH WALES  
JUNIOR RUGBY UNION  
INCORPORATED

Annual Report

29<sup>th</sup> November 2003

# **New South Wales Junior Rugby Union**

## **Presidents Report 2003**

The 2003 Season will be remembered for the changes that brought on true meaning of the use of the words 'Youth Rugby' within the rugby family in NSW. And in supporting NSWRU's commitment to Youth Rugby, the many volunteers in junior rugby clubs and unions throughout NSW can look forward to a continue and healthy development of the game.

In recent months the NSWRU changed its structure and in doing so created a role for Youth Rugby, covering both schools and juniors. This has seen the reformation of a Youth Rugby Forum and a place on the Board of NSWRU for a Director appointed by and representing Youth Rugby. NSWJRU congratulates this initiative and also the appointment of Mike Brown as Director.

The Youth Forum will provide a conduit between Juniors and Schools and Juniors and the NSWRU.

To the NSWRU we appreciate of the ongoing support provided to NSWJRU and the assistance offered to Sydney and NSW Country Junior Rugby Unions.

The highlights of the season were the State Championships in Sydney, The 15's Regional Carnival in Nowra and the win by our 16's at the Australian Under 16 Championships.

The 2003 State Championships were dogged by wet weather in the early rounds of the 16/17's but finished off in fine style over the June long weekend with a grand final day on the Monday at Pittwater Park. Gordon ran out as champions in the 11's and 12's, West Harbour the 13's, Southern Districts the 14's, Eastwood the 15's and 17's, and Parramatta in 16's.

The 15's Regional Carnival was held at Nowra for a second successful year. Taking high quality games and carnivals to areas other than Sydney is a proven tool in the overall development of the game of Rugby. Thanks to Geoff Shaw for attending and passing on his words of wisdom at the official dinner and congratulations to Sydney Western Zone who won the carnival.

This years Australian Under 16 Championships was the second year that NSWJRU entered a team under its own banner. Selected from the Sydney and NSW Country junior teams, the boys played true to form and again won the carnival by defeating Qld in the final game. Under a revised ARU format over the past 3 years, the teams that the Sydney and NSW Country boys have combined to play in have won the carnival. Our preferred option is to have the Sydney and NSW Country teams reinstated as entrants rather than a combined side. If the

ARU is serious about the development of the game, along with talent identification, then a review of the championships should support our call.

The program for the NSWJRU Under 17 side was dogged by flagging support from some of the traditional sides they play. However the value of this program is not to be underestimated and we have their program for 2004 under review. The season finished with the successful Gala day at Graham Park, Gosford where they played an entertaining game against a more powerful CHS 1sts side.

The PATHWAY continued as priority issue during 2003. Again it has taken up much valuable time for all concerned. However, with the intervention of NSWRU through Ben Whittaker initially and more recently Pat Wilson, and with the support of the Youth Rugby Forum, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Sydney JRU have been the voice of junior rugby on this issue and they have endorsed, as does NSWJRU a model that will provide all constituents and the ARU with a go forward resolution. We look forward to an ARU decision and support before the end of the year.

The annual Juniors march Past and Super 12 Curtain Raisers were again a great success. The march past at the Waratah v Bulls match saw the participation of 36 clubs and 1200 players and officials. Add to this the other parents and supporters in the crowd, it made for a great event. The curtain raisers were tirelessly run by Andrew Knevitt and his team and the 26 clubs that were involved during the year loved the experience.

We all look forward to a healthy 2004 season on the back of a successful 2003 World Rugby Cup.

Barry Killham



# **SYDNEY JUNIOR RUGBY UNION**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2003**

The 2003 Season brought many a challenge for Sydney JRU and we had issues to deal with. Some with great results and others in need of ongoing effort.

### **Representative Programs**

Our representative program remains one of our priorities. For the past five years we have maintained a policy that any player selected in a SJRU representative will not have to pay for the privilege. That has led to some substantial costs over the years and with the inclusion of Zone Under 15 team costs over the past two years, the total amount spent comes under some criticism from time to time. However, the SJRU stands firm on its policy and believe that viable representative programs are a vital link in the development of Junior rugby in Sydney.

The programs for our Representative teams are under review and with committed involvement of Michael Minns, we can look forward to improvements with the 15's match schedule and a lifting of the profile of our 17's. In addition we seek the reinstatement of our 16's to the Australian U/16 Championships.

Our Districts continue to assist with the management of the NSWJRU State Championships with hosting and the billeting of country teams. Thanks to those that attended our Forum earlier in the year, that in part addressed issues with the state Championships, and your feedback has formed part of the review that is in place.

### **Growth In Playing Numbers**

Great to see new clubs entering our competitions. And with the notable inclusion of Cambelltown in 2003, thanks must go out to Penrith District and Western Zone for their support. In addition, new initiative this year courtesy of the efforts of Andrew Knevitt, took the form of a girls competition, and bigger and better things are expected, and we look forward to further support from other Districts.

### **Constitution & Rules Updates**

Many thanks go to Paul Morris and the many hours devoted to Constitutional changes, Competition Rules and State Championship Rules. Paul's time at the SJRU has provided invaluable input to the development of Junior rugby and how we administer the game. The process is ongoing and other issues being addressed include first aid standards, weight for age dispensations and game substitution rules.

## **Pathway**

The Pathway again consumed much of our time and that of many affiliates that continued their involvement. At a special meeting during the year we adopted a go forward position that has been supported by the NSWRU. The tone of that meeting was clear, enough is enough, lets agree to the compromise and get on with Rugby. At the time of going to report we wait on confirmation of support from the ARU.

## **Zones Administration**

The structure of the SJRU is built around its eleven District Unions and the competitions managed through our three Zone Unions. It is the later that our Union still struggles to provide the conduit for better administration outcomes. One immediate area targeted for improvement is the how lines of communication can be more effective. After all, the SJRU and its executive are in place to work for all affiliates.

## **NSWRU Support**

Serious thanks must go to John Mackay and his team at NSWRU who have cemented their support of Junior rugby in Sydney and Country NSW. Not so a year or two ago, but we now enjoy a good working relationship that includes financial support through the wages of Andrew and Peter, includes financial support by way of premises and consumables, and provides a will to develop the game with Juniors. Special mention to Pat Wilson who remains a great supporter.

## **Youth Rugby**

Recognition of the initiatives of the NSWRU also for the reformation of the Youth Rugby Forum and constitutional change that provides Youth Rugby with a position on the Board to which the Youth Rugby Forum unanimously nominated Mike Brown. We look forward to the Youth Rugby Forum providing a better working environment between schools and juniors, that will manage issues such as the two that raised concern during the year. The first being the conflict between St Augustines College and Northern Zone over differences between school and Junior competitions. And secondly, the change of some private school competition calendars and the effect on club rugby.

My personal thanks to those who give up their valuable time to be involved with the SJRU and its Zone committees. It is a sometimes thankless task, but your work does not go unnoticed.

Barry Killham



## **NSW Country Junior Rugby Union**

### **Presidents Report 2003**

The Graincorp Country Juniors have just completed their most hectic and successful season on record.

The year started with a bang, the Under 17's preparing for their South African tour, defeated Country Schools at a Waratahs v Crusaders fixture in Newcastle. This tour provided an unforgettable experience and our players were marvellous ambassadors of our Country and our sport. Many thanks must go to the management of Chris and Lucy Lomax, Coach – Carl Emerton and Trainer – Martin Browne. They were greatly assisted by our loyal band of supporters and capably led by their Captain – Bill Johnson (FNC). CAMS were hosted by Doug & Vanda Williams of the Hall's Haven at Jesmond and gave us the opportunity to plan the Carnivals and Representative program. The Under 17 v 16 Carnival was held in Wagga Wagga, where the Nicholson clan came to the fore.

The Under 14 & 15 Carnival was hosted by Coonabarabran the following week. Both Carnivals featured the participation of the local Graincorp management, who could judge the worth of their sponsorship. Our patron Tim Gavin also helped in the preparation of our U/17's and presented trophies to the 14's and 15's.

The All-Age Camp was then held at the Singleton Army Base and this involved 165 people to be fed, bed, outfitted, trained and played. The games were held at Singleton Rugby Park and we appreciate their assistance. The best thing I have seen in my time with Country Juniors was the admission of a "new zone". Southern Highlanders to our Carnivals. This resulted in us fielding 9 teams in each age group from U/14, U/15, U/16 & U/17. That's 36 teams representing their zones and trying to attain Country representative honours. This is a magnificent effort from dedicated players, officials, parents & supporters and we do it all ourselves.

The Under 16 team defeated Sydney, so did the Under 17's, but the Under 15's fell away to lose their game after leading 3-0 at ½ time. They have the opportunity to complete both halves of football when they go on a 3 match tour of Cook Islands and NZ.

Thanks again go to Merewether Carlton for hosting the annual Daniel Harrower day, Maitland for hosting the memorial "WIZZ" Golledge day, (even though we encountered some minor obstacles) and Shoalhaven for again hosting the NSWJRU Regional U/15 Championships, attended by Mike Brown from NSWRU and Geoff Shaw from ARU.

The NSWJRU Gala Day hosted by Central Coast Juniors was extremely well organised and we thank Ian Grinham & the Coasties.

The NSWJRU U/16 team won the Australian Rugby Union Championships held at Riverview, being undefeated. This side contained 14 Country Boys

and was coached by Sam Thompson and "Sports Trained" by Janice Weir of Moree. This is the second win in a row for this team and it shows the foresight of people who pushed for our entry into what is described as a "School" Carnival. This event was run by the Australian Junior Rugby Union and Country Juniors have opposed the takeover, but once again we have to do as we are told by people who know better than us.

The Cook Islands and NZ tour was an outstanding success, due to the efforts of the Manager Warrick Wannan, Coaches, Dave Conyers and Scott Leighton and the indefatigable trainer – Paul Jordan.

The hospitality of everyone at Aitutaki was unbelievable and Scott reminded the boys that they were not Hollywood movie stars and to keep their heads the same size as their hats! They won all their three (3) matches, but each were typified by fierce defence from the opposition in the opening stages, but better fitness, organisation and coaching saw them dominate the second half. Their final game of the tour and the season, was against TEPUNA at Tauranga and the second half was awesome, to use a NZ term. They really turned on an amazing display of running Rugby. We are doing a tour program with all details of this unforgettable, exciting adventure.

We were again fortunate to receive sponsorship from Graincorp and we appreciate their support and the involvement of Terry "Doc" Orman. Classic Sportswear's Slade Adjukovic is always on hand to provide us with quality & efficient service and our home in Sydney, the Cambridge Park Inn has hosted and accommodated many of our members.

Once again, I would like to thank Peter Alcock, Ian Grinham and Charles McCarthy who put up with an enormous amount of pressure, mostly from me. We couldn't function without them. This year, Ann Belcher came forward with an offer to administer our Country Juniors web-site which had been dormant for a while. Anne's interest and expertise has allowed us to get our message out. Thanks Anne.

NSW Rugby's Pat Wilson, Manu Sutherland, Anna Loneragan, Andrew Cleverley and Shannon Frazer have helped us out whenever possible and we appreciate their assistance.

The Country Juniors Player of the year is Andrew Glover from Cootamundra. Next year's Carnival hosts are Hunter U/16 & U/17's and Illawarra U/14 & U/15's. The winner of our major raffle, two tickets to the RWC 2003 final was Cathy Pyke of Wagga Wagga.

I have enjoyed this season so much that I intend to stand for re-election next year.

David Paul  
President



## NSW Junior Rugby Union Under 16 Representative Report

I'd firstly like to take this opportunity to thank NSW Junior Rugby Union for allowing me this opportunity to be involved with such a rewarding experience. Season 2003 for the under 16 team was certainly a memorable and victorious one.

The coaching/management team this year comprised of:

Coaches	Michael Kelynack and Sam Thompson
Physiotherapist	Janice Weir
Trainer	Greg McCormack

I would like to thank the members of this team for a fantastic effort.

The team were successful at the ARU championships in retaining the Rod Macqueen Shield for 2003. The results leading to this victory are as follows:

Monday	29/09/03	Vs Western Australia	32-0 win
Wednesday	01/10/03	Vs NSW Schools	14-10 win
Friday	03/10/03	Vs Queensland Red	3-0 win

There are a number of key points that the coaches and I have agreed on which we believe lead to the success of the team in the ARU championships.

Great spirit within the team: from the moment the boys from Country and Sydney met at first training camp they gelled together. The following training/game camps simply built this bond. When the team was faced with injuries the team welcomed new players as if they had been together all along. So that by the time the championships came along there was an amazing team spirit amongst the boys and a mutual trust and respect amongst the whole team including staff.

Dominant forward pack: our forward pack were very dominant in the tournament. Not only were they physically tough but also mentally tough, being able to meet and beat many of the opposing packs we came up against.

Backs: The backline consisted of very talented individuals with pace to burn out wide. Unfortunately, handling and some poor options let us down at crucial times. Weather conditions at the Championships were not ideal for running rugby with Monday and Friday being very windy and raining on Wednesday. All teams tended to kick with the big winds, which meant attacking opportunities were very limited.

Good preparation: the 3 camp/game weekends (19/20 July – Vs Eastwood u17's; 2/3 Aug – Vs CHS 3rds; 6/7 Sept – Vs Singleton 18's) certainly proved beneficial at the championships. We were by far one of the most match prepared teams in the tournament and the unity amongst the boys showed, particularly in the two



tougher games against NSW Schools and QLD Red. The coaching of the team was of a very high standard.

Boys involved in decision-making processes; in the camps leading up to the tournament and even during the tournament the players were involved in the decision-making process during training. A number of training sessions/runs were directed entirely by the players themselves, giving them a sense of responsibility, ownership and confidence when it came to performing on the field.

Toughness of defence in all games only 1 try scored; the intense training prior to the tournament, along with the aforementioned mental and physical toughness, made the boys particularly tough in their defensive games, proven by the fact that they only had one try scored against them during the three games played in the tournament.

Discipline; the discipline level of the boys was commented on a number of times throughout the tournament, some saying that was what won them the shield. This level of discipline and self-discipline was enforced throughout the preparation for the championships. The whole team should be congratulated on their sportsman like conduct throughout the tournament and the months leading up to the championships.

This opportunity and experience to play against state teams can only help to improve their individual game.

I'd like to thank the players and their parents for all their efforts, the coaches, physio and trainer, ARU and NSW RU staff and NSWJRU committee, for all their efforts. A truly combined effort by all involved which made such a success possible.

Irem Kurangil (Manager)

## NSWJRU STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

This year saw a wet start to the under 16 and 17 Championships showing a need to have a week available for deferring a round because of ground closures. Also to have the semi finals on the day before the Final put a lot of pressure on teams at this level of football.

Gordon Under 17 need to be commended for showing up each game with up to 10 players dropping out just before the rounds began and then after injuries chasing up extra players to keep the games going on. It was very disappointing that Warringah could not provide a side against West Harbour at their home ground.

The new forms that were sent out this year for nomination, sign on and programs worked well where teams did the right thing and kept the players in the same order for the long weekend. This needs to be made clear that once the jersey numbers have been nominated on the form it can not be changed.

The draw was sent out for the 11 to 15 age groups without any changes which was a great improvement on previous years.

Over the June long weekend a lot of great football was seen by all just showing what depth of talent we have in NSWJRU.

The finals were no exception the standard was high in all age groups, who would have thought an Under 12 would kick a field goal in the final minutes to take the match.

Under 11's	Gordon	15	Parramatta	Nil
Under 12's	Gordon	8	Eastwood	7
Under 13's	West Harbour	22	ACT	12
Under 14's	Southern Districts	17	ACT	5
Under 15's	Eastwood	24	Parramatta	10
Under 16's	Parramatta	45	West Harbour	12
Under 17's	Eastwood	18	Parramatta	17

Thank you to all Districts that hosted games and the volunteers that helped over the time making things run smoothly.

The Regional's were again hosted by Shoalhaven Rugby Nowra. This was three days of exceptionally high standard of football, with every match played to its fullest.

With	Western Zone	1 <sup>st</sup> place
	Northern Province	2 <sup>nd</sup> place
	Northern Zone	3 <sup>rd</sup> place



The Sydney and Country sides were picked from this weekend to play each other in August for the Tuynman Cup, which was won by Sydney. It was very disappointing that ACT did not compete this year for the George Gregan Shield. There would appear to be a need to pressure ACT to compete at this level. If they cannot guarantee to participate on a permanent basis they should be excluded from the State Championships in this age group and another match found for the Sydney Under 15 side to play.

The Under 16 NSW side played well at the Under 16 ARU Championships taking out 1<sup>st</sup> place again this year.

Well done to all the players throughout the Representative season as well as their coaches and managers as without them there would be no teams.

Pam Short  
State Championship Co-ordinator

# New South Wales Junior Rugby Union Inc.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS 1.11.2002 - 31.10.2003

INCOME		\$	2002 \$
State and Regional Championship Sponsorship Received		13,150.00	12,200.00
(1) Carbine Club	2,000.00		
(2) Titan Investments Pty Limited	300.00		
	<u>\$2,300.00</u>	2,300.00	2,000.00
Interest Received		33.19	10.00
Under 17's - Mount Penang Camp	3,660.00		
Under 16's - Team Receipts	1,400.00		
	<u>\$5,060.00</u>	\$5,060.00	
Raffle Proceeds		2,425.00	
Write Back - Ground Rental/Other Income		276.00	186.00
<b>TOTAL ALL INCOME AND ADJUSTMENTS</b>		<u>\$23,244.19</u>	<u>14,396.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Bank Fees		0	-\$7.00
Audit Fees (2002)		-\$480.00	
Trophies		-\$4,953.26	
Rugby World Cup Tickets to Raffle		-\$840.00	
Team Expenses - Travel, catering, other	-\$2,556.12		
Team Accommodation	-\$5,273.50		
	<u>-\$7,829.62</u>	-\$7,829.62	-\$7,187.00
Photographs		-\$690.02	
Medical and Physio Supplies		-\$207.90	
Printing and Raffle Tickets		-\$242.00	
Team Manager, Officials Expenses		-\$531.20	
Gear Purchased		-\$8,943.21	
<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENSES AND OUTGOINGS</b>		<u>-\$24,717.21</u>	<u>-\$7,194.00</u>
<b>NET (DEFICIT) FROM TRADING</b>		<u>-\$1,473.02</u>	<u>\$7,202.00</u>



<b>BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31ST OCTOBER, 2003</b>
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OPENING BALANCE 1.11.2002	\$ \$7,540.75
<u>ADD</u>	
Total Receipts for 12 months to 31.10.2003	<u>\$22,968.19</u>
	\$30,508.94
<u>ADD</u>	
Write back of Ground Rental (2002)	<u>\$276.00</u>
	\$30,784.94
<u>LESS</u>	
Total payments for 12 months to 31.10.2003	<u>-\$24,717.21</u>
NET FUNDS AT 31.10.2003	<u>\$8,067.73</u>

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This is represented by the following;

Funds in Bank Account - Commonwealth Bank - Five Dock Account No. 10009541	\$ \$8,588.89
<u>LESS</u>	
Unpresented Cheques	<u>-\$2,521.16</u>
NET RECONCILED FUNDS AT BANK	<u>\$8,067.73</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER, 2003****ASSOCIATION'S FUNDS**

OPENING BALANCE

\$7,590.00

**LESS**

Trading deficit for the year 2003

-\$1,473.00

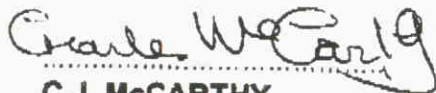
\$8,117.00**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash at Bank

\$8,067.00

Department of Sports and Recreation

\$50.00

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS****\$6,117.00****TOTAL NET ASSETS****\$6,117.00****C.J. McCARTHY****Treasurer**

Dated at Tamworth this 28th Day of November, 2003



# COACH'S REPORT NSW UNDER 17s 2003

## **Introduction**

This year's program started out somewhat disjointed and finished as, what the management and players considered to be, a very successful and fruitful campaign.

As a management team we had to balance our responsibilities to our program along with the player's pathway to Australian Schoolboy representation through the CHS, GPS, CAS, ISA and Country Schools programs. We made a decision up front that we would be as flexible as possible and allow players the freedom to play in their respective school programs but also made it quite clear that as soon as they were free of those commitments they were to attend our weekend camps. This issue was discussed with the players at the beginning of the program and all players respected the decision and adhered to the team policy to the degree that players would travel to the relevant camps as late as 10.30 pm to ensure they were part of the team.

## **Objective**

Our five main objectives were as follows:

1. Improve the individual skill level of the players and prepare them for the tough contests they would encounter throughout the program.
2. Educate them with regards to the new level of skill, commitment and intensity they needed to rise to compete at the next level.
3. Provide them with the opportunity to showcase their abilities to the talent scouts and selectors of their relevant school programs
4. Create an environment that would blend the different backgrounds and playing styles and skills into a team that they were proud to be a part of and would call their own.
5. To be competitive against all opposition.

## **Method**

Limited time with the players and the absence of various players at differing time due to schoolboy commitments gave rise for the need to provide the players with a detailed training, playing and management booklet to avoid confusion. We found this to be highly successful as players could digest information regarding playing styles, moves, up coming training sessions and off field activities when time permitted. It also put the onus on players to be aware of what was happening and where at any given time.

Our training time was structured and intense and very rarely deviated from the schedule given to the players which allowed us to achieve a great deal in the limited time available.

The evenings were used for white board sessions, one on one discussions with players as well as social activities crucial to the team bonding together as a unit. One of the most beneficial sessions for both players and coaches were the one on one discussions with the players. It provided us with the opportunity to “get inside the player’s life” as well as allowing us to provide them with constructive feedback on their individual performance.

The game against CHS was viewed as the main event by everybody in the group and to this end the two lead up games were treated as selection trials for a starting position against CHS. Each player was given the opportunity to run on in the lead up games to ensure an equal opportunity for selection.

### Team Meetings

The first time the players came together as a team was at our first camp in Newcastle. Each player and member of management was required to introduce themselves and the team policies were established. The Player and Management Booklets were issued to each player and the relevant points for the weekend discussed.

The evening meeting reviewed the days training and then the one on one meetings were conducted with each player to discuss their aspirations, progress during the program and expectations.

The format for each meeting at our camps did not vary and it provided a good forum for players to express their thoughts and make a commitment to the team as to what they wanted to achieve in each game.

### Training

The experience of our trainer Bob Harrison exposed the players to a new level of intensity and professionalism. His methods and skill sessions were varied and effective and all the players commented on how much they enjoyed them even though some of the physical sessions were tougher than anything they had previously experienced.

Nathan Croft’s experience as a player at the elite level was invaluable and his consistent and productive feed back to the players was greatly appreciated by the players and me.



We made sure that all our sessions had a good balance of fitness, skill and physical content and that we utilized the available time we had productively.

### **Game 1 –v- NSW Country Under 18s -**

We announced the starting team for the day's game at breakfast along with the team leaders. Bill Johnston and Hadley Jackson were named captain and vice captain respectively.

This was always going to be a tough game as we were playing a team that had a nucleus of 12 players that had been playing together at this level since Under 14's and included 7 players from the 2002 NSW Under 17 team.

The team performed well in what was a very physical hit out. We were forced to defend for long periods of time and managed to keep our line intact through some desperate defence which, on reflection, was an attitude we created the day before in our first training session. It wasn't until the second half that we managed to gain the ascendancy and the team started to get some rhythm and continuity and ran out eventual winners.

### **Game 2 – v West Harbour Colt's Academy**

This game tested our set plays and skill level and the coaching staff were more than pleased as to how quickly the players had adapted to our desired playing style. The game was a lot quicker than our first and our fitness levels were tested. Our lineouts were strong and the scrum held their own. The backs initially put down a few passes but as the game went on we were able to string together phase ball and the backs probed successfully to score some impressive tries. Our defence was again strong and we enjoyed another victory.

### **Game 3 – v CHS First XV**

This was by far our toughest game. The CHS team was considerably bigger and played a very robust forward orientated style of game using their big men up the middle as battering rams. CHS scored a soft try early and dominated possession in the first 20 mins. After weathering the initial onslaught the players came to terms with the physical nature of the game and in the second half started to gain momentum. Every player to a man gave everything they had in the tank and you could sense the camaraderie that had been built up during our time together was starting to come through. The CHS team was constantly repelled by desperate defence however, in the end, we went down 35-19 due to a try after full time to CHS.

The most pleasing aspect of this game was to see the improvement in the players both individually and as a team and the praise they were given by the CHS coaching staff. It is worth noting that a number of players were called into the CHS teams after this game. The performance of our team can be put into better perspective when you consider the fact that CHS beat the GPS First XV by 35 points a few weeks later.

### Conclusion

The NSW Under 17 program is a must at this age and fills a gap for players after the Under 16 program. It provides an opportunity for them to experience playing rugby at another level and allows them to showcase their talents in front of school selectors in preparation for next year's school's program.

I would personally like to thank the other members of the management team namely Bill McLaughlin for his amazing organizational skills, Nathan Croft for his insightful contributions and Bob Harrison for his professional approach to our skill sessions and care and maintenance of the players.

I also need to mention the support from the NSWJRU Executive for their support, trust and faith in our ability to manage the NSW Under 17 Program for 2003.

Regards

Tony Munro  
Coach



## **NSWJRU U17 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The team was selected after the Annual Sydney versus Country U17 clash at Merewether, Newcastle, on Sunday 22 June 2003. To Team Management's surprise, and subsequent delight, there were only three withdrawals prior to the first camp on 21/22 July 2003. Matthew Bell and Adam Watson both withdrew because of injury. Bell was replaced immediately by Daniel Ella who also had to withdraw because of injury and was subsequently replaced by Pat Dellitt. Watson withdrew on the Friday night and was subsequently replaced by Michael Plain. Pekahou Cowan withdrew because of CHS First commitments. The only other change was precipitated by the withdrawal of Joel Andonopoulous to play against us in the CHS Firsts and the requirement for 6 front rowers necessitated the call up of Sam Holten.

The program was initially designed by Tony Munro, with the assistance of David Paul, to incorporate three weekend camps each culminating in a match against stiff opposition.

Weekend 1: On 20/21 July 2003. At Newcastle and Maitland. Accm. Bimet Lodge in Cooks Hill. Training at National Park Cooks Hill and surrounding facilities. Match against NSWCRU U18s at Marcellan Field, Maitland for the Wiz Golledge Trophy. See result in Coach's Report.

Weekend 2: On 27/28 July 2003. In Sydney. Accm. Scout Camp Pennant Hills. Training at TG Millner Field, Eastwood. Match against the West Harbour Academy team coached by Joe Barakat. See result in Coach's report.

Weekend 3: on 2/3 August 2003. On Central Coast. Accm. Mt Penang Parklands Conference Centre at Kariong. Training at Mt Penang facilities at Kariong. Match against CHS Firsts at North Power Stadium at Gosford. See result in Coach's report.

While the campaign could be deemed a relative success it is felt that it could be executed in a much improved and more sophisticated way to give these very keen young footballers an introduction to the forward edge of senior professional Rugby Union. The reasons for this are stated in our covering letter. As a result of our experience we would like to suggest some recommendations for future U17 campaigns.

### **Recommendations:**

**\*\*Please note that all observations are made with the benefit of hindsight!!!!\*\***

Camps/Matches: All weekend camps and matches should be funded under NSWRU arrangements as another section of the senior program as it is a pathway to U19 and 21 representation. If players can see a pathway for them to senior representative level they will not defect to alternate codes.....a problem we faced this year.

Two weeks after the team has been announced the squad should assemble for an initial 3 day camp at Myuna Bay. This initial camp is designed to bring the team together in a quasi Rugby situation but with no game at this stage. Players would be



divided into teams who, over the 3 day period would participate in water, rope, team activities, conditioning, some individual skills training, classroom sessions, one on one counselling and information sessions. This would be complemented by some leisure activities to round out a bonding weekend.

The camp should be prior to the July school holidays so that the specific camp/match weekends could be basically carried out during weekends in the July School Holidays and beyond. We would recommend that matches be arranged against:

NSW COUNTRY U18  
WEST HARBOUR ACADEMY  
GPS FIRSTS  
CHS FIRSTS

Camps would be centred on the locations used this year:

Bimet Lodge at Cooks Hill Newcastle/adjacent training ground  
Pennant Hills Scout Camp/Training at Concord  
Kariong Parklands McDonalds Cottages/adjacent training ground  
Plus the Myuna Bay facility

Two matches may be played in Sydney, one at North Power Stadium and one in the Hunter Valley. Alternates may be suggested in which case alternate accommodation, meal and training arrangements will need to be sourced

Administration/Planning: Because of late notice of appointments to positions of Management we were a bit disorganised in preparing this aspect of the campaign. Appointments should be made at least six weeks prior to the U17 City/Country selection trials so that management has a chance to observe prospective state players prior to the Annual Country/City fixture [the final selection match for the team].

Information sheets for collection of data should be prepared and include personal detail to ensure management has a full range of communication methods with both players and parents. Personal information should be detailed to ensure all aspects of a players family, education, work, medical situations are available for both counselling and advice/assistance reasons. Email addresses for both players and parents eases the strain on both the Union's and managements finances as far as postage and telephone costs are concerned.

Advice from any quarter on accommodation and playing/training was indeed appreciated and in this respect affiliated Unions should be approached about ideas for future games to ensure a complete campaign is capable of being mounted.

The administration by management needs to be co-ordinated at that level with the respective host unions and completed well before each camp takes place. No aspect should be left until the last moment and all accounting should be negotiated prior to the campaign commencing. Equipment and uniforms and strips should be ordered the day after selections are finalised to give the manufacturers sufficient time to place orders and deliver a week before campaign commencement.

The final administrative aspect is that of transport. Funds need to be found to hire either mini buses or a coach for each camp as most players do not have licences at this

age group and rely on parents to move them from point A. to point B. Mini buses do not require special licences as we understand and could be driven by team management members.

**Sponsorship:** While it is appreciated that Canterbury are the NSWRU sponsors for uniforms and playing strips the management will forever be indebted to the assistance of Barry Kilham and David Paul in conjunction with Brad Adjukovic and Amber Thompson at Classic Sportswear for being able to turnaround the provision of playing strip and chambray shirts at such short notice. The quality of the Jerseys, shorts and sox were, along with the Chambray shirt of a high standard. Future years should be provided with both a NSW cap and a tie.

We believe that with careful planning at management level and with the degree of warning mentioned above management and suppliers should have enough time to prepare and deliver the playing strip and uniform of choice on time. The uniform of choice this year was Navy Blue Strip with Navy shorts and NSW hooped sox. The uniform of choice from now on, given planning time, should be navy blue, sky blue and white hoops, navy shorts and regulation NSW Navy and sky blue sox.

Players were also provided with a track suit, fleece and Polo Shirt under internal team funding arrangements sponsored by NSWJRU with the prize, tickets to RWC. The provision of these items of clothing were able to be effected at the last moment by Advanced Designs [polos and fleeces] and Gazza Sports [track suits] whose assistance was greatly appreciated.

Further equipment which could be provided by sponsorship arrangements would be a variety of strapping types and sizes, medical kit, footballs [at least 8], hit pads, tackle bags, cones, poles. Advanced equipment such as scrum machines should be sought from host unions at training venues.

**The issue of Sponsorship is crucial to the success of a campaign such as this** and efforts should be made now to secure a team sponsor which can be kept for 2 or 3 seasons. They would be identified specifically with the development of U17 Rugby in NSW and the team would become known as the "Toshiba" [for example] NSW U17 Waratahs.

**Coaching Assistance:** Beside the standard wish list of officials for the team:

- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Manager
- Trainer
- Strapper
- Physio

it would be invaluable to be able to supplement each weekend training camp with 'guest' coaches. Such high profile figures as Ewan McKenzie [NSW Super 12 coach...the Super 12 is finished at that stage], Andrew Friend [NSW Skills Coach], one of the Ella brothers [all are coaches in their own right], Manu Sutherland and others of this stature can impart invaluable knowledge to young players in their formative stages of development. Manu Sutherland took the team for a session this year and both the management and players appreciated his tremendous help.....the



changes could be seen in subsequent matches when certain areas of players development had been improved. This variety coupled with the coaches' training and strategy makes for quantum leaps in improvement for both the players and the team over the campaign's duration.

On match days a former senior NSW Waratah Rep should be available to hand out jerseys to the selected team.

Selectors: To ensure management of the team is familiar with capabilities, coachability, personalities, strengths and weaknesses it is essential that they be an integral part of each level of selection panel. SJRU/NSWCcountryJRU and NSW RU U17 selection panels should have both the Coach and Manager represented. The shortness of time precludes management from carrying out all facets of successful team building unless they are present and observing players from an early stage.

In conclusion may we address several points. From the management teams' perspective the team members should be congratulated for their exemplary behaviour throughout the month of the campaign. They brought great credit not only to themselves but also to their families and to their clubs. They were a fine group of young men who will, we are sure, go on to better things in Rugby. To the parents who showed dedication beyond the call of duty in transporting the players not only to the camps and picking them up but also for transporting them on match days. To all the hosts who provided facilities for us a special thank you also.

Finally we as a management team believe the potential of this U17 campaign knows no bounds and would strongly recommend its inclusion in the NSW RU program of development of young Rugby Players.

Bill McLaughlin  
Manager 2003