

New South Wales Junior Rugby Union Incorporated

Annual Report
& Financial Statement
2007

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2007 Office Bearers

— NSW JUNIOR RUGBY UNION —

PRESIDENT

John Spana

Vice President - CJRU

Sam Reid

Vice President - SJRU

Stuart Murray

Honorary Secretary

Brad Weyland

Honorary Treasurer

Charles McCarthy

Delegate - CJRU

Brad King

Delegate - SJRU

Graham Roberts

Life Members

Messrs J.B. Carroll (Dec.), D.T. Andrews, R. Allan, P.H. Joseph, K.J. Mulherin, N. Murray, N.A. Williams, R. Levett, K. Clifford, J. Russell, J.C. Degotardi, A.S. New, Mrs B.J. Mawer, R. Faulks, J. Goddard, B. Killham & D. Paul

Delegate to NSW Rugby Union

John Spana

Honorary Auditor

The Firm of Brazier, Martin & Barnett

— NSW COUNTRY JUNIOR RUGBY UNION —

President

Sam Reid

Vice President - Administration

Penny Shephard

Vice President - Competition & Development

Garry Gates

Secretary

Brad King

Treasurer

Charles McCarthy

Publicity Officer / Website

Julie King

Registrar

John Starr

— SYDNEY JUNIOR RUGBY UNION —

President

Stuart Murray

Vice President - Commercial

Paul Taylor

Vice President - Competition

John Spana

Vice President - Development

Richard Hayward

Vice President - Representatives

Graham Roberts

Northern Zone Chairman

Bill Briffa

Southern Zone Chairman

Gus Gutteridge

Western Zone Chairman

Geoff Ferris

Northern Zone Delegate

Greg Rowntree

Southern Zone Delegate

Kerry Brady

Western Zone Delegate

Neil Gledhill, Michael Debreczini,
Mark Montgomery



Left to right: Brad King, Stuart Murray, John Spana, Sam Reid, Brad Weyland, and Graham Roberts

Photo Courtesy of Lachlan McBain

2007 NSWJRU President's Report

When I commenced my term as President I undertook, at the request of various groups, to introduce in 2007

- a new and more effective Code of Conduct
- a uniform judiciary process for all events run by NSW Juniors
- a replacement of our existing but antiquated constitution

All these matters were actioned during the season. Other changes introduced at the beginning of the season included the appointment of Project Managers for each of our major events and tighter budgetary controls for each event and representative program run by NSWJRU. I believe these changes were successful with improving accountability and financial control and will be continued in 2008.

The start of our calendar witnessed our largest carnival being adversely affected by some of the worst storms and torrential rain to affect NSW in decades. Faced with the unavailability of most fields, the State Championships for the 11's to 14's were rescheduled to the July school holidays while we continued on with the 15's, 16's and 17's to avoid impacting other rep programs. The flexibility and resourcefulness of the volunteers ensured that this carnival took place in 2007. It was a huge effort by our rugby community and our sincere thanks go to all involved, especially Rockdale Rugby Club, Parramatta Seniors, NSWRU for providing additional financial support and to the district and village clubs of Warringah, Randwick, West Harbour, Blacktown, Wakehurst, Manly, Central Coast and Parramatta for their outstanding support and assistance.

This year the NSWJRU State Championships were sponsored by the Waratahs. During the championships, over 1900 players representing 82 teams from Sydney, NSW Country, ACT and Victoria participated in the Championships.

Following are the 2007 State Champions:

Under 11's:	Gordon
Under 12's:	Parramatta
Under 13's:	Sydney University
Under 14's:	Southern Districts
Under 15's:	Gordon
Under 16's:	Manly
Under 17's:	Warringah



Left to right: The Hon. Alan Cadman MP (Federal Member for Mitchell), Max Beer (Manly Under 15 Captain), Scott Goodman (Gordon Under 15 Captain), Nick Farr-Jones, and John Spana (NSWJRU President) prior to kick off in the Under 15 State Championships.
Photo Courtesy of John Spana



A review of the 2007 State Championships has been conducted and feedback, including changes proposed for 2008, will be provided at the conclusion of this year's AGM on 24 November.

The NSWJRU under 15 Regional Championships were held at Maitland and they were won by a very strong and talented Metropolitan Northern Zone. Sincere thanks to Maitland Juniors for all their hard work and support to make both the Regional and City vs Country carnivals a great success.

The annual City vs Country carnival was also held in Maitland this year with the following results

Under 14's (Tim Gavin Shield): Country
Under 15's (Steve Tuynman Cup): Sydney
Under 16's (Ella Cup): Sydney
Under 17's (Michael Brial Cup): Country

Following the City vs Country matches, NSWJRU under 15 and 17 rep sides were selected. Our 15's travelled to Queensland and played a curtain raiser at Ballymore against Queensland 15's. The side lost narrowly in a thrilling, open game of rugby before a very parochial but appreciative Queensland crowd. Our 17's played against the Samoan Schoolboys and toured New Zealand, where they won their game against Canterbury Country Under 17's, they beat Buller Under 18's and lost 26 - 25 to Christchurch Metro Development Under 18's. The boys played excellent football throughout the tour, developing further as footballers and men.

Discussions with our counterparts in Queensland took place this year to further enhance the representative program for our under 15's and 17's. I am pleased to advise that agreement has been reached in principle with QJRU for annual matches between QJRU and NSWJRU under 15's and 17's. These games will now form part of our representative program with NSWJRU travelling to Brisbane in 2008. In each subsequent year venues will alternate between Sydney and Brisbane. NSWJRU believe this arrangement will assist immensely in providing a quality representative pathway for players involved in Junior Club rugby and also enhance opportunities for Junior Club players across Queensland and NSW. Additionally, our 17's program has also been enhanced with annual games against ACTJRU 17's.

NSWJRU also conducted Mini and Walla Gala Days. Sincere thanks to Parramatta and Wests Juniors for hosting these events.

This year we have been very fortunate to have sponsorship arrangements with SNP Securities, the NSW Waratahs, Spartan and Classic and we thank you for your continuing support.

In terms of higher honours one of our Under 17's Dominic Bower (NSWCJRU) was named NSW Junior Player of the year. Well done! Congratulations to Daniel Alley and Phillip Webb who have been awarded the 2007 Justice Sir Leslie Herron Scholarship sponsored by The Rugby Club.

NSWJRU, together with its two member Unions, SJRU and CJRU, provide structured rugby competitions and representative programs for approximately 19,000 registered Junior Club players. Whilst our Union collectively represents a third of all Community Rugby participants across NSW, our competitions lack adequate / basic funding and administrative resources to maintain and service them. Likewise many volunteers at the club level are increasingly concerned at the large amounts of money and resources being applied in their backyards by AFL, Soccer and Rugby League. They see very little tangible benefits being provided for development of junior club rugby by either the ARU or NSWRU despite the allocation of \$1.95 M pa from the ARU to NSWRU for Community Rugby. During 2007, NSW Juniors strongly advocated for an improvement in existing funding and a more equitable and fairer allocation of existing grants. Some of the initiatives pursued included:

- to address the lack of development resources, an application was made this year to the Federal Govt for the funding of 6 development officers. Unfortunately our application was rejected and further applications will now be directed to the NSW State Govt.
- requests to the ARU to require the establishment of documented criteria for the distribution of \$1.95M community rugby grants to NSWRU – there is a reluctance to agree to this
- considerable effort by the 3 Unions to provide input into the ARU Fundamental Business Review for Community Rugby. To date, there has been no feedback or tangible benefits arising from our input.
- negotiations with the CEO and Chairman of NSWRU to improve funding and resources

In pursuing these funding issues, an outstanding level of co-operation existed between the 3 Junior Unions of NSWJRU, SJRU and NSWCJRU. This mutual support assisted immensely our efforts with NSWRU to finally deliver a more equitable distribution of funding and resources for Junior Club Rugby in NSW. Arising from these discussions, we will see a better alignment of development resources for Junior Clubs in NSW and the provision of additional administrative support for SJRU and CJRU. We are grateful for the support of the new CEO Jim L'Estrange and Arvid Petersen in achieving these outcomes. Whilst still short of the mark, we recognise that NSWRU has some enormous challenges to *get it right with Juniors* and are encouraged by improvements being implemented in 2008.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members Sam Reid, Stuart Murray, Charles McCarthy, Graham Roberts, Brad King and Brad Weyland for all their help and support in 2007. Special thanks also go to Lachlan McBain for his efforts throughout the year.



John Spana
NSWJRU President



A Beecroft player being tagged by a West's Juniors player in an Under 6 match at the NSWJRU State Walla Gala Day.

Photo Courtesy of Instant Photos Australia



The NSW Under 17's hard on attack against Christchurch Metro Under 18 Development.

Photo Courtesy of Red Glehill



2007 CJRU President's Report

Our season never ends, as one season closes, we are already planning for our next season 2008.

I often ask myself, 'How did David Paul do this job for the last 10 years, and still hold onto some sort of life outside of NSW CJRU? Some may say there is no life outside of Country Juniors. I guess we push forward and see, from the bush to beyond.

From our first gathering at Kincumber, (Coaches/ Managers weekend) with our guest speaker John McKee(ARC Champions CC Rays Coach), and with the assistance of the NSW RU Training & Development department, we set some solid foundation planning for season 2007.

With a designated plan for our Selectors, Coaches, and Managers, NSW CJRU initiated a positive direct pathway forward, under the control of Garry Gates, our new Vice President development. Within this process, our training camps were very focussed and I believe our results this season against City vindicated our approach for season 2007.

Another great indicator is the amount of extra volunteers inquiring about positions within NSW CJRU for Selectors, Coaches, Managers, Officials, and Referees. It is great to see people putting their hands up for the kids.

Results are not the only criteria we assess. We are constantly looking at ways to improve, as we invite positive feedback, encourage proactive comment, and seek active involvement. We will never tolerate tokenism, personal attacks, and agendas contrary to the NSW CJRU mission statement:

To make rugby available to all eligible junior players in Country NSW on an equal footing at all levels of ability.

NSW CJRU has enjoyed a great year of rugby development within NSW JRU, in association with SJRU. The communication and positive representation has been second to none, and I would like to thank John Spana (NSW JRU President) and Stuart Murray (SJRU President) for their efforts and undeniable support this season.

The redevelopment of the Australian Junior Rugby Union is a positive pathway for a strong voice for Junior Rugby at the National and ARU levels. We have an active input to the AJRU, and it is well led by David Paul. As the tree is shaken, the fruits will fall.

The appointment of NSW RU CEO, Jim L' Estrange this year, has revitalised the communication between Juniors and the NSW RU. Our relationship had been languishing at a low level, so much so that it was feared that we may have to seek another pathway forward to ensure the continued growth of GRASS ROOTS Junior Rugby.

The President's Forum was direct result of Junior Clubs across NSW lobbying to be heard. The long term results from the forum will continue to benefit Juniors for many years.

The Country Carnivals were again a great success across all the events. The referees were well represented and were of a high standard. We thank them all.

The U16 & 17's at Dubbo brought the rain to town (only one other bloke can do that). Thanks to Central West. The U14 & 15's were held at beautiful sunny Port Macquarie and was another success story from MNCJRU President Paul McLean, and his team of helpers. Then we were off to the U12, 13, & 18 's inaugural event down in Shoalhaven. This was another huge weekend for all, thanks to Lee Wallace and crew from Illawarra. These events can only be as successful as they are by the continued positive support from all our zones.

Congratulations to the selected zones for next year as our hosts for the 2008 Country Carnivals.

Congratulations to all our representatives who have made Country, NSWJRU, Schools, or Australian Schoolboys. No matter what team, what zone, what country, you are still NSW Country Juniors at heart.

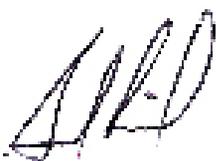
We have had some extraordinary achievements this season: Congratulations to Dominic Bower (Central North) for his Country Player and NSWJRU Player of the Year awards; and Jessie Parahi (Central Coast) for his selection in the Australian Schoolboys 1st XV. This was a great effort, finally recognised with due selection (te mana O to kaha Kia Ora). Congratulations to both boys' families as these awards could not be achievable without the support of family, friends, and team mates.

Growth and development across Country Juniors is always at the forefront of our vision. We need to ensure positive and active open communication between zones. What may be a concern in your zone may have already been resolved by another, so keep the information flowing. I would like to thank Hunter, Central Coast, and Illawarra. They continue to seek more for Country Juniors. Keep the momentum going.

Again a season as we have enjoyed in 2007, could not be achieved without the support of our alliance partners, Grain Corp, Discovery Tours, Victor Sports, Sapphire Computers, Central Coast Photographic, NSWRU, NSWCRU, ARU and our new partner for season 2008, Spartan Balls. Their continued support will always be appreciated by Country Juniors.

I would like to thank all of you for your involvement, support, and help. In particular, thanks to our executive who work tirelessly, the zone executives, the parents, the volunteers, the players, my family, and everyone who has had any input into Junior Rugby. If I have missed anyone I apologise. Again I challenge you all for season 2008 - continue to push the boundaries forward, Be safe over the Christmas break; and I look forward to seeing you all next season.

From the Bush to Beyond



Sam Reid
President
NSW Country Junior Rugby Union



Photo Courtesy of Melba Studios



2007 SJRU President's Report

Reflecting upon the 2007 season, I believe all of us involved in Juniors can look forward to 2008 with optimism. This optimism is founded in changes to the leadership at both NSWRU and NSWJRU which has brought a new focus and determination to tackle and resolve many of the fundamental problems that have confronted Juniors in Sydney in recent years. After two years of SJRU arguing for a fairer distribution of resources, I am confident that 2008 season will herald a new deal for Juniors in Sydney, but more of that later.

The 2007 season has again had more than its fair share of drama. Off the field, the year had barely begun when SJRU's focus was diverted by issues relating to the conduct of the former MNZ President. The ripple effects from this continued to have a negative impact on the conduct of the competitions within MNZ well into the season. Competition from Football (soccer), AFL and Rugby League resulted in the first significant decrease in registrations since the 1999 World Cup, with the total number of village club teams in SJRU competitions decreasing by approximately 5% from 2006. I have no doubt that Junior Rugby will continue to feel the pressure from these other codes in the ongoing competition for the players of tomorrow in the immediate future.

SJRU undertook a number of major initiatives during the year. Early in the season SJRU conducted a survey of its village clubs. The publication of its findings provided a compelling insight into the struggles faced by volunteers trying to run the local village clubs and supported many of the arguments SJRU had been advancing over the past two years. Its recommendations contain practical solutions and a pathway for the immediate future. The Survey was warmly received by Jim L'Estrange, the new CEO of NSWRU, and SJRU are involved in ongoing discussions aimed at implementing key recommendations.

SJRU also commenced the roll out of its new registration system ("Buddha"). The development of this system was a direct response to ARU's unwillingness to address various problems with MRA identified by SJRU and village club registrars in a timely manner. These problems were causing heartache for many and significantly increased the workload required. Although the initial roll out was somewhat chequered, the response and acceptance has been very positive since conducting road shows across the Zones later in the season.

SJRU also rolled out just under 2000 footballs for all U6 and U7 registered players in 2007. This initiative could not have been possible without the efforts and support of the SJRU Official Ball Supplier - Spartan Sports. Thanks to Graeme Bradley for his efforts.

Finally, SJRU established a Project with the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF). The purpose of this Project is to raise funds to underwrite improved Representative programs and initiatives aimed at growing grass roots participation. Monies donated to the Project are tax deductible and promotional flyers have been prepared to assist the marketing campaign.

On the field, inclement weather during June caused havoc with the organisation of the NSWJRU State Championships and it was a testament to the flexibility and resourcefulness of the volunteers that this event was eventually completed over both the June Long Weekend and the first weekend of the July holidays.

On the same weekend that the U/11-14s State Championships were being completed, the Under 15 Regionals were held at Maitland and the Under 16 Zone Championships were being played at St Ives. Congratulations to Metropolitan Northern Zone who won both events and went through the competitions undefeated. After these events, SJRU selected their U/15 and U/16 Representative teams.

Sydney returned to Maitland later in July for the City vs Country Gala Day for matches for the U/14s to U/17s. SJRU won the Under 15 and 16's in convincing fashion. It was the first time since 2002 that Sydney has won the Under 16's.

This match for the U/16s was the beginning of their preparation for the ARU National Under 16 Championships. Aply coached by Michael Bell and led by Captain Evan Olmstead, the team performed admirably finishing third after only losing one very tight match against NSW Schools. Also, as a consequence of the reformation of the AJRU, the Rep program for both SJRU and NSWJRU U/15s and U/17s expanded to include games against ACT, Victoria and Queensland, a very positive development.

The Zone Grand Finals were a wonderful example of all that is good about Junior Rugby, great competitive rugby played in the right spirit watched and keenly supported by family members. Congratulations to the Zones for their organisation of these events.

The new ARC competition provided an opportunity to showcase the Zone U/15 teams before a larger audience. This proved to be a positive experience for the boys and congratulations to Metropolitan Western Zone for winning the inaugural competition.

What we have and continue to achieve could not be done without the financial contribution from our Sponsors. I would like to acknowledge the support SJRU receive from Cooper Sports, Imagetec, Mazda, Spartan Sports, Melba Studios and NSWRU. Their contribution is invaluable.

The effort and dedication of the SJRU Administrator, Michael Bell is appreciated by all across Sydney. For the past two years he has toiled tirelessly to assist all from village clubs through to the SJRU Executive. From 2008 he will not be alone as NSWRU has finally acknowledged that more resources are required to administer our competitions. These resources will be deployed to assist the Zones administer the competitions, significantly decreasing the burden on the volunteers.

A special Thanks to all on the SJRU and Zone Committees for their hard work in 2007. SJRU will be very different in 2008 with none of the Executive nominating for their current positions. To Paul Taylor, Graham Roberts, Richard Hayward and John Spana, thanks for your contribution and support over the past year. Enjoy the off season and I hope to see you around the grounds again in 2008.



Stuart Murray
SJRU President



Photo Courtesy of Melba Studios



2007 Honorary Secretary's Report

2007 has been a very successful year.

The State Championships, U/15 Regional Championships, Sydney/Country Gala Day and the Walla/Mini Gala day were all conducted well.

The NSWJRU U/17 team performed exceptionally well under the guidance of Tony Munro. Tony puts a lot of time and effort moulding individual players into a team.

The training camps conducted were very successful, teaching the players advanced skills they will need in the future.

I would like to thank Warringah and Northern Suburbs for agreeing to play the U/17's.

The NSWJRU U/17 team had the opportunity to play an international game against Samoan Schools, although not winning this game they played with a lot of determination. It was good to see ARU Deputy Chairman, Peter Cosgrove, accepting the invitation to come and watch the game and address the NSW boys prior to taking the field.

The New Zealand tour to Christchurch was very successful. I would like to thank Lachlan McBain for his assistance with the tour team.

I would also like to thank the Country Junior Committee for allowing me to tour to Samoa and New Zealand as the U/15 Tour Manager. This was a great experience. Watching these teams tour for the last ten years, I can understand why country promotes this as a development and cultural tour.

To finish I would like to thank Lachlan McBain and the rest of the committee for the amount of work undertaken this year.

Brad Weyland
Secretary

Jake Walker attacking with support of his team mates.

Photo Courtesy Red Gledhill



Mini Rugby Gala Day

Photo Courtesy NSW Action Photos

2007 Honorary Treasurer's Report

The President, Executive and Members NSW Junior Rugby Union of NSW

I would submit my Treasurer's Report of our Union for the Season ended 31.10.2007.

Bank Position

Our Union ended the year with the sum of \$16,510.00 in the Bank. Our only creditor left to pay amounts to (\$820.00). Invoice has not yet been received.

I would advise as follows on some areas on income & (outgoings):-

NZ Tour

	\$	
Tour Income	44922.00	
Tour Expenses	(42591.00)	
Net Outcome	<u>\$2331.00</u>	* See Sponsorship - later

Brisbane U15's Tour

	\$	
Monies Received	8664.00	
Tour Expenses	(8795.00)	
Net Outcome	<u>\$131.00</u>	* See Sponsorship - later

Sponsorship

	\$	
NSW Rugby Union	5500.00	
SNP Security	5000.00	
Knight Frank - Anglican Church	3000.00	
Net Outcome	<u>\$13500.00</u>	* See Sponsorship - later

Some of the above sponsorships were made to assist with the Brisbane Under 15's Tour and the NZ Under 17's Tour. I have reported the separately.



Raffle Monies

Received from NSW Rugby Union.

	\$	
(1)	1358.69	
(2)	4690.60	
Total	\$6049.35	

State Championship and Regional Dinner Receipts

	2007	2006
Income Received	31548.00	25311.00

Secretary's Expenses - \$2030.00

Outstanding amounts due to the secretary for previous years, remaining unpaid to him, amounted to \$1691.35. Vouchers, receipts and invoices were examined by me and our Auditors. I recommend to President John Spana that payment be made to the Secretary. Payment occurred.

The Executive, at the start of the Season, formulated an Income & (Expenditure) Budget. This Budget was adhered to with regard to planning tours, gear purchases and all other operational activities. It worked well during Season 2007. I hope it is again used to plan Season 2008.

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Total Income	114241.00	108032.00
Total Expenses	(99472.00)	(94889.00)
		\$
Budgeted Closing Bank Balance was set at:		<u>14769.00</u>
Actual Closing Bank Balance is:		<u>16510.00</u>

I wish to express my appreciation to President John and the Executive for their assistance in working to the Budget set.

Particular thanks to Graham Roberts whose assistance (sometimes several times a day) ensured the NZ Tour met the financial parameters set – both in Income and (Expenditure) areas.

There was still a lot of deposits made during the year without detailed advice having been supplied which caused frustration and confusion. Hopefully this will be eliminated in Season 2008.

Yours in Rugby



Charles McCarthy
Treasurer

NEW SOUTH WALES JUNIOR RUGBY UNION INC

TRADING, PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2007

	This Year	Last Year
OTHER INCOME		
State & Regional Championships	31,548	25,311
Walla Mini Income	2,109	2,505
Donations Received	-	5,000
Sponsorship Received	13,500	15,422
Advertising	900	200
State Championship Naming Rights	-	5,000
U/17 Support Program	-	5,500
Levies Received	44,922	22,622
Miscellaneous	261	200
Interest Received	59	65
Raffle Proceeds	6,049	-
U/15 Support Program	8,664	-
	108,032	81,825
EXPENDITURE		
Auditor's Remuneration	820	770
Bank CHarges	6	7
Footballs Purchased	1,006	-
Ground Hire Fees	-	3,908
Legal Costs	610	-
Medical & Physio Supplies	292	1,081
Player Expenses U15's	8,795	-
Player Expenses U17's NZ Tour	42,591	45,639
Printing & Stationery	5,366	11,744
Purchases - Gear	14,345	13,273
Regional Dinner	3,743	1,275
Registration Fees	-	68
Scholarships Paid	-	2,500
Secretarial & Typing Expenses	2,030	334
Sponsor Related Expenses	-	418
Sports Recording Services	-	440
State & Regional Championships	1,240	-
Team Expenses - Travel, Catering etc.	8,673	5,581
Team Manager, Officials Expenses	378	860
Trophies	4,994	4,492
	94,889	92,390
PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	\$13,143	(\$10,565)



NEW SOUTH WALES JUNIOR RUGBY UNION INC

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets		<u>16,510</u>	<u>2,547</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>16,510</u>	<u>2,547</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>16,510</u>	<u>2,547</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Other Creditors		<u>820</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>820</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>820</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>15,690</u>	<u>2,547</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Profits		<u>15,690</u>	<u>2,547</u>

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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

2007 NSWJRU Administrator's Report

The election of John Spana as the new NSWJRU President saw a renewed sense of purpose and drive for the NSWJRU Committee. It was a good year for Junior Rugby with great cooperation between SJRU, CJRU and NSWJRU.

Following all the wet weather dramas with the State Championships in 2006, who would have thought we would have had the dramas of 2007? The 2007 State Championships had to be held over multiple weekends after all but half a dozen grounds in Sydney were closed due to rain. Fortunately Granville Oval, thanks to the support of the Parramatta Rugby Club and Don Musson, hosted the two Under 17 matches for the weekend. The Under 16's played under lights at CA Redmond Oval at Rockdale Rugby Club on the Saturday night. We had a pressing representative schedule which meant we needed to have the Under 15's, 16's and 17's State Championships completed on that weekend. So with a revised program the Under 15's played all of their pool games at Rockdale. Ironically, the sun was shining for the Grand Final day and we were entertained by an exhibition match between the Victorian and Gordon Under 14's before the three grand finals.

Due to wet weather, the Under 11's - 14's State Championships were held on the first weekend of the school holidays, at the same time as the Under 15 Regional Championships. Amazingly, the rain again tumbled down. However, the matches went on; the Under 11's were split between Blacktown and Wakehurst, the Under 12's were at Randwick, the Under 13's were at Narrabeen and the Under 14's were hosted again by Andrew McLachlan and the Rockdale Rugby Club. As Concord was unavailable the Grand Finals were hosted at Pittwater Rugby Park, thanks to the support of the Warringah Rugby Club. Unfortunately, due to the extra cost, Victoria and ACT were unable to participate in the revised dates, however, the NSW Rugby Union were very generous in providing the funds to assist some of the Country Zones to enter teams. Congratulations to all of the winners in the State Championships.

2007 NSWJRU State Championships Grand Final Results

Under 11	Gordon	28	def	Manly	12
Under 12	Parramatta	12	def	Manly	10
Under 13	Sydney University	31	def	Warringah	20
Under 14	Southern Districts	21	def	Gordon	12
Under 15	Gordon	15	def	Manly	0
Under 16	Manly	25	def	Gordon	17
Under 17	Warringah	19	def	Parramatta	15



The Victorian Rugby Union Under 14 State Team with The Hon. Alan Cadman MP (Federal Member for Mitchell) (middle), Nick Farr-Jones (right), John Spana (NSWJRU President) (far right). This was taken in the rooms at Concord. The Under 14 State Championships had been washed out and the Victorians had not played a game, however a non-competition match was organised between the Gordon Under 14's and the Victorians. Nick Farr-Jones presented the Victorians with their jerseys prior to their match.

Photo Courtesy of John Spana



Participation in the 2007 State Championships							
District/Zone	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SJRU							
Eastern Suburbs					✓		
Eastwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gordon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manly	✓	✓	✓	✓ (1/2)	✓	✓	✓ (1/2)
Northern Suburbs	✓	✓*		✓ (1/2)			
Parramatta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Penrith				✓	✓	✓	✓
Randwick	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Southern Districts	✓(x2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sydney University	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Warringah	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓ (1/2)
West Harbour		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CJRU							
Central Coast		✓	✓*	✓		✓	
Central North		✓*	✓	✓			
Central West				✓*	✓		
Hunter		✓	✓*	✓			
Illawarra	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Mid North Coast			✓				
Northern Province					✓		
Southern Province					✓		
Other							
ACT Juniors		✓*		✓*			
ACT Schools			✓		✓		
ACT Provincial		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Victoria		✓*	✓*	✓*			

* - denotes were to participate in the original weekend however could not make it to the revised State Championships weekend.



State Championship Grand Final action between Paramatta and Warringah in the Under 17's. Photo Courtesy of Djuro Sen

Gordon vs Manly Under 15 State Championship Grand Final. Photo Courtesy of Djuro Sen



While the revised State Championships were taking place in Sydney, at Marcellin Park in Maitland, the Under 15 Regional Championships were held. The event was successfully run thanks to the great work of Lisa Fernie of the Maitland Rugby Club. Congratulations to Metropolitan Northern Zone who won their second consecutive championship.

2007 Under 15 Regional Championships - Competition Table								
	Aggregate Summary				Comp Points	Points Diff	Tries	Place in Pool
Metropolitan Northern Zone	Win/Draw/Lose	5	0	0	21	92	16	1st
Metropolitan Western Zone	Win/Draw/Lose	4	0	1	19	88	21	2nd
Metropolitan Southern Zone	Win/Draw/Lose	2	1	2	10	-32	7	3rd
ACT	Win/Draw/Lose	2	0	3	9	-56	6	4th
CJRU Southern Province	Win/Draw/Lose	1	0	4	6	-70	2	5th
CJRU Northern Province	Win/Draw/Lose	0	1	4	5	-22	4	6th



A CJRU Northern Province player breaking an ACT tackle at the Under 15 Regional Championships in Maitland.

Photo Courtesy of Michael Santer



Metropolitan Western Zone have this Metropolitan Northern Zone player wrapped up at the Under 15 Regional Championships in Maitland.

Photo Courtesy of Michael Santer



On the 22nd of July everyone returned to the Maitland Rugby Club where we were treated fantastic rugby at the City vs Country Gala Day. Thanks to Tim Gavin, Steve Tuynman and Gary Ella, all of whom travelled to Maitland to present the trophies named in their honour. As was the case in 2006, the honours were split two each between SJRU and CJRU. Congratulations to the victors.

2007 City vs Country Gala Day Results		
Tim Gavin Shield - Under 14's		Steve Tuynman Cup - Under 15's
CJRU 26 def SJRU 0		SJRU 38 def CJRU 0
Ella Cup - Under 16's		Michael Brial Cup - Under 17's
SJRU 36 def CJRU 13		CJRU 31 def SJRU 26



The victorious SJRU Under 15s with the Steve Tuynman Trophy.
Photo Courtesy of Melba Studios

In the lead up to the NSW Under 15's program, Sydney and Country Under 15's played a second match at Concord Oval, as a curtain raiser to the Premiership Colts Grand Finals. Congratulations to Country who avenged their earlier defeat by scoring a try after the siren to snatch victory 15 - 12.

Following the City vs Country Gala Day, the NSW Under 15 and Under 17 sides were selected. Congratulations to all those boys. The NSW Under 15's played a match against the Queensland Under 15's on the legendary Ballymore turf in Brisbane as a curtain raiser to a Mazda Australian Rugby Championship match. Unfortunately the boys suffered their second consecutive defeat to the Queenslanders, however they can hold their heads high after representing their state so proudly.

The NSW Under 17's were more fortunate. The boys had a successful domestic campaign defeating Warringah and Norths colts, as well as Country Under 18's. The boys stumbled in their final match in Sydney against the Samoan Schoolboys, losing 35 - 15. I was fortunate enough to tour New Zealand with the Under 17's and I thank NSW Rugby as well as the NSWJRU for the wonderful opportunity. I would also like to thank coach Tony Munro, manager Red Gledhill and coach/manager/trainer/video analyst Bob Harrison for allowing me to tour with the team and to work so closely with them. The team did well in New Zealand, defeating Canterbury Country Under 17's and Buller Under 18's, only going down to Christchurch Metro Under 18's Development in the final match of what had been a long campaign.

The highly successful Walla and Mini Gala Days were also run again. The Walla Gala Day hosted by West's Juniors was held in fantastic conditions on St Lukes Oval, whilst the Mini Gala Day hosted by Parramatta Juniors at Granville was played, on a cold and wet winters day, the kids loved it! Thanks to both committees for their support and for contributing to these successful events, both played in the true rugby spirit.

2007 saw a number of initiatives from the NSW Rugby Union regarding juniors. These initiatives included:

- Providing Waratah shorts and socks to all registered Under 6 and 7 players across NSW.
- The establishment of the Junior Rugby Championships (JRC) which saw the three Sydney Metropolitan Zones and a team from ACT playing curtain raisers before the Mazda Australian Rugby Championships and wearing the uniforms of their senior counterparts. Congratulations to the Western Zone Rams for winning the inaugural Championships.
- Enlisting a professional raffle ticket company who sold tickets at all NSW home Super 14 matches with the monies earned being directly reinvested into Junior Rugby initiatives.
- Project Funding was also made available for Junior Unions. Successful applications saw the purchase of new computers, and administrative support to Metropolitan Western Zone, transport to the State Championships for some Country Zone teams and representatives apparel. All of these projects assisted in reducing the costs to Junior Rugby.
- The staging of the inaugural Junior Conference with representative from over 70 clubs across NSW. A number of new initiatives and strategies have come from this forum and are being implemented.

2007 has been a successful and enjoyable year for the NSWJRU and myself. Thank you to the team at NSW Rugby, particularly Mark Green, Michael Doyle and Michael Bell. Thank you to the NSWJRU Committee, particularly John Spana and Brad Weyland. Finally thank you to the many volunteers who made this year so successful. I am sure we are all looking forward to a big and successful 2008.



Lachlan McBain
NSWJRU Administrator



The NSW Under 17 team at the airport prior to departure on the tour of New Zealand.

Photo Courtesy of Red Gledhill



2007 Player Participation

District/Zone	Club	2007	2006	2005	2004
Gordon District JRU	Chatswood JRUFC	229	175	164	184
	Hornsby JRUFC	146	93	0	0
	Hunters Hill JRUFC	392	334	215	308
	Killara - West Pymble JRUFC	82	107	76	23
	Lane Cove JRUFC	161	186	173	192
	Lindfield JRUFC	457	460	388	435
	Roseville JRUFC	267	200	194	106
	St Ives JRUFC	309	380	5	67
	Wahroonga JRUFC	461	475	527	612
Northern Suburbs District JRU	Drummoyne JRUFC	31	86	0	25
	Mosman JRUFC	471	426	427	408
	Norths Pirates (Norths Juniors) JRUFC	240	213	262	296
Manly District JRU	Forest JRUFC	257	240	227	192
	Harbord Harlequins JRUFC	324	280	197	138
	Roos (Manly) JRUFC	246	244	111	230
	Seaforth Raiders JRUFC	208	261	246	306
Warringah District JRU	Collaroy Cougars JRUFC	241	289	269	257
	Dee Why JRUFC	225	150	158	162
	Wakehurst JRUFC	238	94	146	115
	Narrabeen JRUFC	231	230	167	219
	Newport Juniors RUFC	541	452	295	373
	Terrey Hills Juniors	204	15	24	23
Eastern Suburbs District JRU	Bays JRUFC	96	90	182	166
	Bondi JRC	0	36		
	Easts - Wallaroes JRUFC	155	179	192	250
	McAuley JRUFC	90	76	122	90
Randwick District JRU	Clovelly JRUFC	224	266	272	239
	Coogee JRUFC	127	87	117	148
	Eastgardens JRUFC	63	72	86	87
	Saints JRUFC	0	0	100	159
	South Coogee JRUFC	119	118	66	82
	Blakehurst JRUFC	67	56	58	54
Southern Districts JRU	Burraneer JRUFC	227	333	341	306
	Canterbury JRUFC	223	225	167	124
	Menai JRUFC	82	91	57	49
	Oatley JRUFC	186	179	210	226
	Rockdale JRUFC	101	102	90	26
	South Hurstville Royals JRUFC	0	0	25	12
	St George Juniors RC	0	0	0	0
	Sylvania JRUFC	163	213	208	224
Sydney University District JRU	Petersham JRC	33	-	-	-



Eastwood District JRU	Beecroft-Cherrybrook JRUFC	271	306	315	343	
	Dural JRUFC	217	276	252	241	
	Epping JRUFC	227	237	236	232	
	Hillview-St Kevins-Marist JRUFC	217	256	230	251	
	North Rocks JRUFC	181	155	215	245	
	Redfield-Dural JRUFC	113	28	122	156	
	Ryde JRUFC	115	113	101	92	
Penrith District JRU	Campbelltown Harlequins JRUFC	105	146	130	119	
	Nepean Blue Emus JRU Club	78	66	76	77	
	Blue Mountains JRUFC	42	-	-	-	
Parramatta District JRU	Blacktown JRUFC	145	155	111	38	
	Casula JRUFC	81	77	84	118	
	Dundas Valley JRUFC	100	109	122	187	
	Hawkesbury Valley JRUFC	180	175	219	246	
	Liverpool JRUFC	0	0	0	28	
	Merrylands JRUFC	75	53	49	76	
	Norwest JRUFC	106	85	66	67	
	Rooty Hill JRUFC	190	123	133	137	
	The Hills JRUFC	212	225	255	249	
	Wests JRUFC	262	260	283	314	
West Harbour District JRU Central Coast Zone JRU	Avoca Beach JRUFC	199	218	212	173	
	Gosford JRUFC	131	139	169	157	
	Kariong Wanderers JRUFC	38	91	89	76	
	Northlakes United JRUFC	53	53	62	85	
	Ourimbah JRUFC	130	109	64	69	
	Southern Lakes JRUFC	39	100	111	78	
	Terrigal Trojan JRUFC	256	253	233	220	
	The Entrance JRUFC	126	145	107	86	
	Warnervale JRUFC	179	210	205	176	
	Woy Woy JRUFC	206	194	148	61	
	Far North Coast Zone JRU	Ballina JRUFC	108	87	80	78
		Bangalow JRC	21	-	-	-
		Brunswick Valley JRUFC	100	79	69	96
		Byron Bay Junior Rugby Club	0	25	0	0
Casino JRUFC		163	149	99	100	
Evans River JRC		60	-	-	-	
Grafton JRUFC		139	139	120	97	
Lennox Head JRUFC		115	175	138	135	
Lismore JRUFC		190	177	168	171	
Southern Cross University Juniors		56	45	18	0	
Wollongbar/Alstonville JRUFC		228	221	201	208	
Yamba Buccaneers JRUFC		102	120	108	94	
Hunter Junior RU		East Maitland Eagles JRC	0	-	-	-
		Eastern District JRUFC	35	0	18	13
		Hamilton Hawks JRUFC	0	10	11	29
		Lake Macquarie JRUC	78	57		4
	Maitland JRUFC	206	189	187	198	
	Medowie JRUFC	35	60	49	62	
	Merewether Carlton JRUFC	107	108	96	131	
	Muswellbrook JRUFC	123	115	119	139	
	Nelson Bay JRUFC	168	101	54	50	
	Newcastle Dragons JRC	29	-	-	-	
	Singleton JRUFC	234	206	162	131	
	Southern Beaches JRUFC	171	181	177	151	



	The Waratahs JRUFC	107	183	164	152
	Wanderers JRUFC	196	162	146	120
Central North Zone JRU	Barraba JRUFC	75	49	59	50
	Coonabarabran JRUFC	59	71	52	59
	Gunnedah JRUFC	93	89	92	95
	Inverell JRUFC	129	95	91	110
	Moree JRUFC	104	94	107	124
	Narrabri JRUFC	84	93	85	103
	Peel Valley JRUFC	0	0	54	64
	Quirindi JRUFC	86	55	74	73
	Tamworth JRC	146	134	54	
	Walcha JRUFC	63	42	22	22
Mid North Coast Zone JRU	Bellinger Valley Tigers JRUFC	52	46	42	18
	Bishop Druitt College JRUFC	58	94	84	93
	Coffs Harbour JRUFC	94	132	94	93
	Dorrigo JRUFC	38	0	51	45
	Kempsey JRUFC	3	4	0	16
	Port JRUFC	291	377	380	317
	Woolgoolga Junior RC	0	0	0	23
New England Zone JRU	Armidale JRUFC	243	0	23	69
	Armidale School JRUFC	0	0	0	0
Central West Zone JRU	Bathurst Burrs JRUFC	0	61	86	57
	Bathurst Highlanders Junior RC	0	7	28	101
	Canowindra Juniors RC	14	23	33	39
	Cowra JRUFC	106	115	91	71
	Dubbo JRUFC	219	228	237	233
	Dubbo Rhinos Junior RC	55	71	50	80
	Forbes JRUFC	147	102	100	86
	Molong JRUFC	40	40	78	101
	Mudgee Wombats JRUFC	176	224	232	192
	Orange City JRUFC	119	122	126	85
	Orange Emus JRUFC	135	124	89	137
	Parkes JRUFC	85	46	95	90
	Wellington JRUFC	111	131	153	162
Illawarra Zone JRU	Avondale JRUFC	27	11	19	0
	Bowral Blacks JRUFC	89	117	93	133
	Camden JRUFC	156	173	151	128
	Kiama JRUFC	105	103	118	106
	Shellharbour City Junior Cougars RC	0	0	29	19
	Shoalhaven JRUFC	144	157	177	179
	Tech Waratahs JRUFC	86	95	81	113
	Vikings JRUFC	106	87	94	111
	Wollondilly White Waratahs Junior RUC	31	27	14	15
	Wollongong Uni JRUFC	52	38	25	0
	Woonona Shamrocks JRUFC	145	144	116	108
Western Plains Zone JRU	Bourke JRUFC	0	0	33	0
	Coonamble JRUFC	57	41	37	0
	Lightning Ridge JRUFC	0	0	0	0
	Macquarie Emus JRUFC	60	68	79	90
	Walgett JRUFC	22	18	29	37
	Total Players - SJRU	10834	10358	9563	10129
	Total Players - CJRU	8033	7849	7441	7187
	Total Players	18867	18207	17004	17316

2007 NSW Under 15's Report

After many weekends of travelling to trials in places such as Maitland, the selectors came up with the NSW team to play Queensland at Ballymore on Sunday 23 September.

After a very disruptive start to our campaign we were able to assemble the team for three weeks of weekend training sessions at Latham Park at South Coogee.

Coach Wright and his support team knew all too well what to expect when you arrive in Queensland, so the training was very physical and culminated with a trial game against a very strong Scots College team. All of this was very beneficial to our preparation for the Queensland game.

After 3 weeks of training, with the odd BBQ thrown in, we arrived at Ballymore on Sunday with the excitement building amongst the parents and the boys, as they knew we had arrived in enemy territory.

After our arrival and photographs, both coaches set about discussing the game plan and went through what to expect before and during the game as we knew Queensland would be tough to beat at home.

Then came Kick-off:

The first ten saw both teams try to dominate each other and then just when we thought this would be a tough match NSW received a penalty which was kicked by Samuel Muller.

Then it was game on, we had our nose in front of QLD.

At this stage we stepped up another gear and had QLD on the ropes. With 10 to go before halftime Sam Cox crossed for a try which Samuel Muller converted and we were up 10 - Nil. This is when we let QLD in the match, as they scored just before the break.

A further penalty early in the second half saw us extend our lead, but once again we let QLD back into the match with a converted try.

With the score 13 - 12 to NSW and 5 minutes left on the clock, things were pretty tense, and made even more so as we gave away a penalty to give QLD the lead with 21 seconds to go NSW gave away a penalty and QLD kicked the penalty to lead. During the pandemonium that followed the QLD bench ran onto the field to celebrate, NSW kept focused and with 5 seconds left on the clock took a quick kick off and raced down the field chasing the ball. A penalty to NSW after the bell gave NSW a chance to snatch the win, but it was not to be. Final score: QLD 15 def NSW 13.



We could not have put this team together without the help and assistance of many people and on behalf of the boys, I would like to say a big thank you to Stuart Murray for all his help and support, especially with the team kit, selections and travel.

We would also like to thank Scots College for helping in our preparation and also Randwick Rugby Union for the use of the facilities and gear at Latham Park.

Thank you also to our coaches, Alan Wright and Andrew Bloxsom, our trainer Doug Bursill, our runner Ben "Reggie" Armstrong and our Assistant Manager Brad Bishop.

Finally, the biggest thanks undoubtedly goes to the parents of all the boys selected to represent NSW 15's this year. Their support and willingness to travel all over NSW to encourage the boys in their love of football is a marvel and should be noted.

We look forward to 2008.

Yours in Rugby.



Michael Radziowsky
Manager NSW Under 15's

— 2007 NSW Under 15 Team —			
Joshua Calderan	Eastwood	Max Page	Parramatta
Tom Connor	Illawarra	Hartley Pike	Central Coast
Sam Cox	Far North Coast	Daniel Phangnalay	Penrith
Sean Cox	Far North Coast	Jake Smith	Far North Coast
Alex Franklin	Warringah	Blake Sutton	Eastwood
Joshua George	Eastern Suburbs	Siosaia Tanginoa	Penrith
Adrian Haangana	West Harbour	Jordan Thompson	Central Coast
William Hopoate	Manly	Josh Whale	Hunter
Apolisi Latunipulu	Southern Districts		
Junior Leo	Parramatta		
David Lolohea	Parramatta	Alan Wright	Coach
Robbie McNeil	Gordon	Andrew Bloxsom	Assistant Coach
Ben Michael	Eastern Suburbs	Michael Radziowsky	Manager
Samuel Muller	Central West	Doug Bursill	Trainer



Adrian Haangana carries the ball while representing MWZ at the Under 15 Regional Championships.

Photos courtesy of Michael Santer

2007 New South Wales Rugby Union Under 15's



Played Queensland Rugby Union Under 15 at Ballymore 23rd September 2007

Front Row (Left to Right): Josh Whale, Sam Cox, Alan Wright (Coach), Jake Smith, Blake Sutton, Mike Radziowsky (Manager), Sean Cox, Max Page

Second Row: Doug Bursill (Trainer), Adrian Ha'angana, Siosaia Tangiona, Apolisi Latunipulu, Jordan Thompson, Josh George, Alex Franklin, Lunior Leo, Samuel Muller, Daniel Phangnatay, Andrew Bloxson (Assist Coach), Ben Armstrong (Trainer)

Third Row: Ben Michael, Tom Connor, Robbie McNeel, Cameron Roche, David Lolhea, William Hopoate, Hartley Pike, Joshua Calderon

Photos courtesy of Porfyri Photography

2007 NSW Under 17's Report

Program

Date	Event	Location	Result
Sat 4th Aug	Training	Pittwater Park	
Sun 5th Aug	-v- Warringah Academy	Pittwater Park	Win 45 - 10
Sat 11th Aug	Training	Pittwater Park	
Sun 12th Aug	-v- Norths Academy	North Sydney	Win 30 - 17
Sat 18th Aug	Training	Newcastle	
Sun 19th Aug	-v- NSWCJRU Under 18's	Maitland	Win 17 - 14
Wed 19th Sept	-v- Samoan Schoolboys	Granville	Lost 35 - 15
Sun 30th Sept	NZ Tour Start		
Tue 2nd Oct	-v- Canterbury Country Under 17's		Win 40 - 5
Thur 4th Oct	-v- Buller Under 18's		Win 55 - 3
Sat 6th Oct	-v- Christchurch Metro Under 18's		Lost 26 - 25
Sun 7th Oct	NZ Tour Finish		

With the timing of the Country -v- Sydney game in late July the earliest that a game could be scheduled for the program was early August. A break was intended so as to not interrupt the semi finals and grand finals of the players as much as possible.

The players go into camp on the Saturday morning and break camp on the Sunday afternoon for each of these games.

The tour of NZ coincides with the school holidays in October for both NSW and New Zealand.

The philosophy for the management team was 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 allowed a degree of flexibility so the player's could fulfill schoolboy commitments and still be part of our squad which allowed us to retain a high standard of player.

Our biggest disappointment was not playing the NSW CHS First XV this year which in the past has been considered the benchmark for this program (more on this later).

All players received detailed reports on the individual performances and areas which they need to work on. A copy of all 7 games along with a DVD full of memorable moments will have been sent to all the players by the end of November 2007.

Objective

Our five main objectives remained the same and 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 that is needed 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, Sydney Premier Clubs and Super 14 Franchises
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

The experience and knowledge we have gained from the four previous years allowed us to again refine our training program. We placed a great responsibility on the players to digest in detail the information that was contained in the Player and Management Booklets issued in their own time. The booklets again proved successful with the players and allowed our time on the training paddock to be more productive. It also put the onus on players to be aware of what was happening and where they had to be at any given time.

The empirical and anecdotal evidence we have collated during the past three years provided the basis of what we believed the players were able to cope with and achieve physically and mentally.

The evenings were used for white board sessions, one on one discussions with players and video analysis sessions 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 was the one on one discussion 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 and advise them on future opportunities and pathways.

Team Meetings

The first time the players came together as a team was at our first camp in Narrabeen. Each player and member of management was required to spend 2 minutes with a member of the squad who they previously had not met. They then had to give a brief verbal overview of that member to the rest of the group. The Player and Management Booklets that had been previously issued to each player were reviewed 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. Our first training session was brutally intense and many of the players commented that it had been the hardest they had experienced but still enjoyable.. A few were surprised at the intensity and high physical fitness content. The more perceptive realized and commented that because of our limited preparation time the session was designed to “bond” the team together as a unit.

Again Nathan Croff’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.

The rest of our sessions were designed to improve areas where deficiencies were exposed from the previous game. The training sessions were designed to provide a balance between fitness, mental drills, individual skills, physical contact and team work with a focus on utilizing the available time we had productively.

New Zealand Tour

The tour to New Zealand was not only a fantastic experience but an enormously steep learning curve for both players and team management. Our hosts from Total Rugby and Christchurch Boy’s High for their incredible hospitality and flexibility.

Our timetable provide a great mix between training, playing, sightseeing and social activities.

The match up against the opposition provided a good mixture. Our first game against Canterbury Country was against an opposition that had been undefeated all year and while we were comfortable winners it gave our team a taste of what to expect in future games. Our next game was against a very aggressive Under 18 team from the West Coast. The game started out in ideal conditions but by half time the weather had turned on us and the game was completed in freezing cold torrential rain. Our final game was against a very slick Canterbury Under 18 Academy team. The first 12 minutes saw our team display a very polished performance which took them to a 17-0 lead which was reduced to 17-9 by half time through ill discipline. The Canterbury team played some constructed and enterprising rugby to take the lead early in the second half and an unconverted try 2 minutes out from full time almost saw us grab victory.

The team is as fine a bunch of young men I have had the privilege of being associated with and I have no doubt there friendships will endure the test of time and they will all achieve success in what ever path they choose.

Unfortunately for the team Nathan Croff was offered an employment position in Queensland 1 week before we were due to tour and had to withdraw however his coaching responsibilities were taken over by Bob Harrison.

Thanks / Sponsors

NSW – website, cash, hats and small footies for hospital

SNP Security – Tom Roche for his support

Classic Sportswear

Spartan

Graham Roberts for his support, understanding and passion

Team selectors with a special mention to Peter Sarroff for his professionalism, commitment to the program and astute judgement

Warringah Rugby for the use of their facilities

North's – Grant Richardson

Merewether Carlton Rugby Club Fiona Strachan

Ewen McKenzie for giving his time so freely to address the players at a team meeting

Total Rugby NZ for their incredible professionalism and flexibility

Lachlan McBain for his support and effort to assist in any manner that was asked of him

The Executive Committee for their commitment to this program and vision to help make it happen

Recommendations

1. A member of the Executive Committee be appointed to work with the Management team as early as possible
2. A meeting with the Management Team and the appointed Executive be held as early as possible to discuss such issues as selection policy, budgets, playing program etc
3. A round robin tri-series competition between NSW, Queensland and ACT be organised
4. Games in Point 3 above should be played as curtain raisers to games such as ARC matches, Test Matches and Grand Finals
5. Sydney Juniors should be selecting their team along the same timetable as Country which would provide greater scope to finding opposition for the NSW such as the annual game against CHS First XV.
6. Create a stronger pathway for the players through the NSW Under 15 and NSW Under 16 programs.
7. Greater interaction between the NSW Under 15-17 teams

Conclusion

Seeing the development of the players through their involvement with the program we are convinced of its place in the development of our young players and believe every effort should be made to expand the program to include games against Queensland, ACT and a possibility of selection to an Australian Under 17 team. The tour to New Zealand should stay as a feature of this program. New Zealand provides the opportunity for the players to live, breath and eat rugby for a week and was a conduit for the improvement of the players as individuals and the team as a whole. No other destination in the world with the exception of South Africa can provide this environment.

This program continues to develop players and provide further opportunities for them. This year's team has already seen the elevation of players to Academy squads.

This program provides an opportunity for them to experience playing rugby at a higher level than they have previously experienced and allows them to showcase their talents in front of selectors of Super 14 and ARC teams.



We have again received numerous thank you emails and letters from parents and players with regard to the program mentioning both on and off field experiences.

We would like to thank the other members of the management team namely 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 2007.

Match reports, tour diary, match videos and pictures are available on request, or can be found on the NSWJRU website www.nswjru.rugbynet.com.au.

A special thank you to my wife for her support and patience – she keeps proving to me that you can be involved in rugby and stay happily married.

Finally my last thank you is to Neil (Red) Gledhill whose support, judgement and tireless hours of work behind the scenes kept the whole program on track - and most importantly I thank him for his friendship.

Yours in Rugby,



Tony Munro
Coach
0407 295 250



Jayson Strachan, Jim Keath, Chris Edwards, Calyn Parkinson and Mitchell Gibson following the game against Norths Academy. Photos courtesy of Red Gledhill

— 2007 NSW Under 17 Team —	
Lewis Adams	Warringah
Dominc Bower	Central North
Joel Crowther	Far North Coast
James Cunningham	Warringah
Mike Dalton	Warringah
Luther Dyson	Central Coast
Chris Edwards	Hunter
Karl Freeman	Central Coast
Liam Gallaher	New England
Mitchell Gibson	Hunter
Richard Graham	Central West
Luke Hanson	Eastwood
Brenden Hartman	Warringah
Cronan Jordan	Parramatta
Hugh Kanaar	Illawarra
Jim Keath	Hunter
Mitchell Laidler	Parramatta
Calyn Parkinson	Hunter
Nathan Rickard	Central North
Tom Sheridan	Warringah
David Stein	Gordon
Jayson Strachan	Hunter
Jake Walker	Illawarra
Tony Munro	Coach
Nathan Croft	Assistant Coach
Neil Gledhill	Manager
Bob Harrison	Trainer



2007 New South Wales Rugby Union Under 17's



Tony Munro (Coach), Peter Sarroff (Selector), Lewis Adams, Jake Walker, Jim Keath, Luke Hanson, Tom Sheridan, Richard Graham, Calyn Parkinson, James Cunningham, Nathan Rickard, Mike Dalton, Joel Crowther, Hugh Kanaar, Nathan Croft (Assist Coach), Red Gledhill (Manager).

Dominic Bower, Liam Gallaher, Mitchell Laidler, Brenden Hartman, Luther Dyson, Chris Edwards, Cronan Jordan, Karl Freeman, David Stein, Jayson Strachan, Mitchell Gibson

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