



This was the ninth such tour undertaken by the Australian Schools Rugby Team—but it was very different in significant ways.

The major difference was that, except for one game, our team was playing professional Under 19 Teams—organised by the Senior Rugby Unions—not by the Schools Rugby Unions.

Each National, or regional, team that we played consisted of players in each of England, Wales and Ireland who are part of the preparation for the World Under 19 Championships to be held in South Africa (??) in April 2006.

Hence their teams were not selected with the usual (in our experience) requirement that they be current school students.

Whilst the age limit was theoretically the same—viz Under 19 on 1st January 2006—their teams were consistently made up of players near the upper limits of that age date.

Our team—as has always been the case—had a range of players with ages of 16, 17 and 18 years.

The other aspect to point out was that these professional Under 19 teams were just that—professional—that is their full time occupation has been Rugby for at least some months—ours, of course, had

to fit their Rugby into their normal school life.

So - why did we play these teams ?

- they were the only ones available for us to play

- we still believe that the UK Ireland Tours are one of our most valuable activities

- a number of our team would be leaving school and, hence, available for consideration in Australia's Under 19 team for 2006.

So - what is our conclusion ?

- we would still prefer to play schools' teams

- our team showed they were, even given all of the above, were more than respectable—winning 5 of the 7 games played (one was frozen out)

- they won against both the England and Ireland Under 19 teams, losing to the Welsh Under 19 Team.

- we were still able to get a significant amount of billeting—through our friends in the schools—we regard this as a vital part of the educational experience that these tours provide.

- hence we believe that such tours are still valuable and feasible for us.

Combined States

The introduction of the Combined States team to the Novotel Championships has been a very successful innovation.

This team is selected from the Division II Championships and in 2005 defeated ACT in Canberra.

It has produced some fully fledged Australian Schoolboys in the past few years.

Will Brock WA was the outstanding blindside flanker who toured Samoa and New Zealand in 2004.

Christian Lealiifano VIC was also on this tour and this year was a member of both the Australian Under 19 and Under 21 touring teams.

John Ulugia – a current member of the Brumbies – also toured in 2004. He is also in the Under 21 team.

Joey Egan NT – had the distinction of playing for the NT Mosquitos against Samoa as a schoolboy. He toured UK and Ireland in 2005.



Some developments of the ARFSU meetings with New Zealand and the Pacific nations:

- Australia and New Zealand host or tour one of Samoa, Fiji and Tonga each year. In 2006 Tonga will visit Australia and we will tour Fiji.
- We have already sent two of our senior coaches to Fiji this year to run clinics for schools rugby coaches.

THE TWO YEAR WINDOW

The Australian Schools and the ARU have been in heavy negotiations during 2005 and early this year about a policy that the ARU announced on age limits.

This proposed policy, as it affected schools, said that a player could not play against anyone more than 2 years beyond his age group—viz if a First XV had 17 and 18 year olds in it, then no 16 year olds could play in that team.

The Australian Schools has a long and strong history of supporting and devising appropriate safety rules and measures.

Our problem with this proposal is that it is too simplistic and even counter productive for safety.

Other factors such as size and skills level have been shown in research to be equally, or more important, than just age. For example a large and skilled 16year old is often better suited to the open schools age group than the 16 years group –he could be a risk to safety in the lower age group

Fortunately the ARU has agreed to allow an exemption procedure for those who can be certified by a qualified coach to be capable of playing outside the two years limit.

This will be monitored over the current season and reviewed well before the 2007—so that schools can plan—as they need to—for next year.

SCHOOLS RUGBY FOUNDATION MOVES INTO A NEW ERA

As reported last year the Foundation is spending down most of its capital for Schools Rugby activities on the understanding that the ARU will cover the full costs of the ARFSU. It is expected that this will occur in 2009.

The ARU is already—as they have done for some time—providing very significant financial assistance.

The Foundation has decided to continue with a number of means of assistance for schools rugby.

These aims will include:

- The Foundation will aim to provide for the Australian schools Rugby Union (ARFSU) resources and support for programmes and activities that are not available to it from the senior unions, sponsorship or elsewhere.
- The Foundation will provide for the ARFSU ideas, challenges, suggestions or constructive criticisms that will help -
 - 1 - improve its activities and programmes
 - 2 - provide ways forward for topical issues e.g. safety, promotion, etc.
 - 3 - the undertaking of new initiatives
 - 4 - other areas—as raised either at the Foundation or by the ARFSU.
- **The Foundation will aim to safeguard the activities, programmes and future of the ARFSU through the above means, but also through the Foundation's relations with the State Senior Unions and the Australian Rugby Union.**

In the professional era this will be of increasing significance and importance—given the tendency of professionals to want to run everything and to assume that they have a monopoly on what they think is best for all parts and levels of Rugby.

WHO IS ON THE FOUNDATION BOARD ?

Paul McLean (Chair); Ross Cribb; Greg Cornelsen; Bill Ross; Col Maxwell; Br. Bob Wallace; Richard Harry; Guy Reynolds; Ken Grover; Chris Chapman; John Rae; John Howard; Edwin Zemancheff; Gavin Horsley; Bob Dalziell; David Mortimer; Rob Tunchon; Bernie Carberry.



Australian Capital Territory

ACT TEAM FOR SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS STAFF

Opens	Coach	Mr Baden Stephenson (Vikings)
	Assist Coach	Mr Neil Roberts (St Edmunds's College)
	Manager	Mr Peter Bailey (Canberra Grammar School)
	Physio	Mr Dave Berg

ACT will host the Australian 'A' fixture v the touring Tongan Schools team. See details elsewhere.

Representative Teams

The Brumbies continue to support the ACTSRFU in several ways. The use of their facilities for training sessions and meetings and of coaching personnel, assist greatly the running of sides and committee functions. The provision of playing kit (shirts, shorts, socks, track suits, bags) ensures the representative teams are always turned out very smartly and reduces significantly the financial burden to the Union.

New South Wales

The Officials elected for the NSWSRU Representative Teams to contest the 2006 ARFSU Championships are as follows:

Firsts <i>Manager</i> Paul Geddes Central Coast Grammar School	Seconds <i>Manager</i> Jed Hogan Trinity Grammar School
<i>Coach</i> Graeme Dedrick The Scots College	<i>Coach</i> Chuck Ardron Knox Grammar School
<i>Assistant Coach</i> Geoff Melville St. Stanislaus College	<i>Assistant Coach</i> Tim Wallace Shore School
<i>Physiotherapist</i> Narelle Veverka	<i>Physiotherapist</i> Andrew Ryan
<i>Selectors</i> Greg Bamford Narrabeen SHS Greg Gerrard Balgowlah BHS Geoff Melville St. Stanislaus College	Andrew Elliot Waverley College Denis Kelliher St. Joseph's College Matthew Tink St. John's College, Dubbo

The predicted fall out from the ridiculous decision by the Board of the ARU to endorse the equally ridiculous decision to implement the "Two Year Window" Law, and its procrastination in re-assessment of its decision looks as though its has manifested in two ways:

- The Country Schools' RU doubts that it will conduct its long standing and successful KO Competitions in 2006. A number of schools have indicated that they are not prepared to wait any longer for a definitive answer on the Law and have entered other competitions, most notably Rugby League.
- AICES has indicated that some of its smaller schools will not be able to field teams in their competitions.

C. Murray

AROUND THE STATES

Northern Territory

NT produced a member of the Australia Schools team in 2005
– Joey Egan.

Coming up in the Territory this year.

9 July	Strathhallan School (Scotland)
18 July	Old Swinford Hospital School (England)
8 August	Tonbridge School (England)

Queensland

Coaching Clinics run by ARFSU sponsor Suncorp were successfully held in May.

Gregory Terrace and Marist Ashgrove ran afternoon clinics run by Suncorp Ambassador (and now Reds Coach) Eddie Jones.

Among those assisting were Greg Martin, Tim Horan, Elton Flatley plus current Reds players Rodney Blake, Berrick Barnes, Nic Berry and Lloyd Johanssen.

South Australia

Schools' Domestic Competition

As usual we will commence the weekly competition in week 2, Term 2. Juniors will play on Wednesday afternoon and seniors on Thursday.

Representative Program

This year, after trying without success for several years to merge the Club Under 18 representative squad with the schools squad, we have agreed with the SARU that we should focus all attention onto preparation of the schools team for the Div2 championships. Training will commence in week 2 term 2.

Western Australia

Western Force having a big influence.

Season 2006 has started with great interest in rugby in Western Australia. Although the Western Force haven't had the success on the playing field they have had a huge impact off the field. The awareness of rugby union has risen remarkably. Rugby W.A has gone from employing 6- 10 people to an organisation of about 100 and with that a tremendous spin off for schools.



Tasmania

Schoolboys Team 2005

Manager – Ray Burgess
Coach- Terry Marsden
Assistant Coach – Rod Smith

The Schoolboys team has been training since the 5th February and have a squad of 33 players. The management are delighted with the numbers after struggling for numbers in the previous two years. The morale in the squad is high after selection of Daniel Aualiitia in the Brumbies Bolter Squad. The Tasmanian Schoolboys team will play in the curtain raiser against University Colleges before the Australian Rugby Shield match between Tasmania and Perth Gold in May. This will give the team a good hit out prior to the championships at Geelong Grammar.

Tours In

- Singleton Under 16's at Easter
- Victorian Schools U14 and U16's in August

Tours Out

- Schoolboys Division II Championships Geelong grammar
- Under 14's Victoria in September
- Under 16's National Championships, St Ignatius College Riverview in October.

Victoria

The very solid position of the game in Victorian needs consolidation and expanding in order to continue to develop. The VSRU embarked on a further education campaign earmarking large schools both state and independent that may become involved in rugby. There has been some success as initially from the sign ups at this stage of the season we have expanded within the existing member schools and enrolled many more schools in the VRU Rugby 10s events. We welcome them to the union and wish them every success in their new venture. Great heart has been taken from the development at the new schools of 2005 and we herald the expansion of the number of teams by a further 5 teams at Patrick's College, Ballarat, Haileybury College and Mentone Grammar School. This should expand the union from 65 (final number) teams in 2005 to 71 teams in 2006. Some schools have expanded their numbers in the order of 20 % increase in playing numbers which sees several schools being able to sustain two and three teams per age group. Xavier College has leapt to 8 teams while nearly all others have gone from 2 to 3 teams or alike. A school such as Marcellin College has not increased the number of teams but players per team have increased from around 17 to 25 per team. If these schools are indicative of all the schools the VSRU hopes to increase its player population in 2006 by approximately 20+ % and the number of teams by approximately 4.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The recently concluded Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games had a spectacular rugby 7s tournament as part of the program where 16 teams competed in 42 matches over two days at the Telstra Dome (Docklands Stadium). The crowd for the final under the closed roof was a confirmed IRB record for an international rugby sevens tournament. The awareness of rugby and its benefits in the general public will benefit all schools trying to develop the game. It is imperative that programs are generated that harness this new enlightened awareness for promotion and increased participation.



DATES 2006

Sat 24 June	Day 1 Division II championships Geelong
Thu 29 June	Final Day Division II championships Geelong
Tue 4 July	Day 1 Division I Championships St Ignatius' College, Sydney
Sun 9 July	Final Day Division I Championships St Ignatius' College, Sydney

TONGAN TOUR

Thu 10 August	Tonga v NSW CHS - Sydney
Tue 15 August	Tonga v Aust 'A' - Viking Park Canberra
Sat 19 August	Tonga v Aust - St Josephs College - Sydney

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS TOUR

Wed 27 Sept	Game 1 v Fijian XV Suva Grammar, Suva
Sat 30 Sept	Game 2 v Fiji Schools Lautoka
Tue 3 October	Game 1 v "Hurricane" Schools, Wellington
Fri 6 October	Game 2 v Bay of Plenty Schools, Rotorua
Tue 10 October	Game 3 v New Zealand Schools, Auckland Grammar, Auckland

CHAMPIONSHIPS DIVISION II 2006

GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Pools A - WA, NT, LMCD B - VIC, SA, TAS

Day 1(Sat 24/6)	12 noon LM v V *, 1.15 pm SA v T [B] 2.30 pm WA v NT [A]
Day 2 (Sun 25/6)	11 am NT v SA, 12.15 pm WA v LM [A] 1.30 pm V v T [B]
Day 4(Tue 27/6)	11 am WA v T *, 12.15 pm NT v LM [A] 1.30 pm V v SA [B]
Day 6(Thu 29/6)	Redraw: 9.30 am TBA9.30 am TBA10.45 am FINAL 1 v 1

* indicates non-comp game played first each day.



NOVOTEL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006

ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE, RIVERVIEW, SYDNEY

Pools A - NSW I, QLD II, CS and B - QLD I, NSW II, ACT

Day 1(Tue 4/7)	12.00 pm CS v Q1*, 1.30 pm NI v QII [A] 3.00 pm N2 v ACT [B]
Day 2 (Wed 5/7)	12.00 pm N1 v ACT*, 1.30 pm Q1 v N2 [B] 3.00 pm CS v Q2 [A]
Day 4(Fri 7/7)	12.00 pm Q2 v N2 *, 1.30 pm N1 v CS [A] 3.00 pm Q1 v ACT [B]
Day 6(Sun 9/7)	Redraw: 10.00 am TBA, 11.20 pm TBA 12.40 pm 1 v 1

* indicates non- comp game played first each day.



RESULTS OF REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES 2005

JAPAN

Sat 6 Aug
Japan High Schools 27 def North Queensland 22 Hugh Street Field, Townsville
Wed 10 Aug
Japan High Schools 30 lost to Queensland Schools 69 The Southport School
Sun 14 Aug
Japan High Schools 33 lost to NSW Combined High Schools 41 Chatswood Oval
Thu 18 Aug
Japan High Schools 5 lost to Australia 103 The Scots College, Sydney

SAMOA

Wed 21 Sep
Samoa 6 lost to Australia 'A' 12 Anglican Church Grammar School, Brisbane
Fri 23 Sep
Samoa 14 def Queensland Schools 10 Noosa Junior Rugby Union Field. Noosa
Wed 28 Sep
Samoa 6 lost to Australia 43 Ballymore, Brisbane
Sat 1 Oct
Samoa 57 def NSW Country 0 Tallebudgera Outdoor Rec. Centre, North Palm Bh

NEW ZEALAND

Tue 4 Oct
New Zealand 13 lost to Australia 'A' 14 Victoria Barracks, Sydney
Sat 8 Oct
New Zealand 22 def Australia 19 Viking Park, Canberra

TOUR OF UK and IRELAND

Sat 26 Nov
Australia 26 def Regional Academy 12 Maidenhead RFC
Tue 29 Nov
Australia v Midlands Academy U18 Cancelled - frozen pitch
Fri 2 Dec TEST
Australia 24 def England U19 12 Kingsholm, Gloucester RFC, Gloucester
Tue 6 Dec
Australia 7 lost to Welsh Regional U19 Team 14 Llandoverly RFC
Sat 10 Dec TEST
Australia 7 lost to Wales U19 27 Sardis Road, Pontypridd RFC,
Wed 14 Dec
Australia 24 defeated Munster Schools 16 Clifford Park, Greenfields Limerick
Sat 17 Dec
Australia 51 defeated Ireland U19 A 18 Donnybrook, Dublin
Wed 21 Dec TEST
Australia 17 defeated Ireland U19 11 Ravenhill, Belfast

DIVISION II Australian Schools Championships 2005 Geelong Grammar School

Day One - Saturday 25 June 2005

Game 1
WA 45 (Tony Mladenovski, Rory McCarthy, David Mafi, Brad McLean, Angus Neilson, Ben Lindegaard, David Weir tries; Tony Mladenovski 5 conversions) defeated LMRDT 5 (Trent Rose try)

Game 2
Victoria 38 (James Loza 2, Jared van Heerden 2, James Tupai, Alex Conannon tries; Christian Lealiifano 4 conversions) defeated SA 0

Game 3
NT 24 (Tyson Doughty, Leigh Chisholm, Josai Vodo, Shane Walker tries; Tyson Doughty 2 conversions) defeated TAS 5 (Daniel Aualiitia try)

Game 4
Western Australia 32 (Rob Malaney, Andrew Farquharsan, Tim Carslaw, Angus Neilsen, Byron Sparg, Rory McCarthy tries; Barry Mansfield conversion) defeated South Australia 5 (Nathan Satala try)

Game 5
Victoria 22 (Fa'afetu Seu, Jared van Heerden, Christian Lealiifano, Laurence Clarken tries; Tom Mataika conversion) defeated Tasmania 3 (Wally Dare penalty)

Game 6
Northern Territory 33 (Elijah Peart 2, Josaia Vodo 2, Joey Egan tries; Matty O'Brien 4 conversions) defeated Lloyd McDermott Development Team 5 (Neils Kirsten try)

Day Three - Tuesday 29 June 2004

Game 7
Victoria 36 (Tuvao Lua 2, Dane Costello, Jared van Heerden, Laurence Clarksen, Fa'afetu Seu tries; Jared van Heerden 2, Tom Mataika conversions) defeated Lloyd McDermott 0

Game 8
Northern Territory v Western Australia
Western Australia 20 (Bradley McLean, Barry Mansfield tries; Tony Mladenovski, Brad McLean conversions; Rory McCarthy 2 penalties) defeated Northern Territory 13 (Josaia Vodo try; Tyson Doughty conversion and 2 penalties)

Game 9

South Australia 26 (Golden Gepp 2, Nathan Satala, William Jenkins tries; Nathan Satala 2, William Jenkins conversions) defeated Tasmania 14 (Jake Snepuangers, Wally Dare tries; Wally Dare 2 conversions)

Day Four -Thursday 30 June 2005

Game 10

Northern Territory 10 (Josaia Vodo, Joey Egan tries) defeated South Australia 5 (Nacanieli Yanuyatawa try)

Game 11

LMRDT10(Luke Prosser-Dodd try and conversion; Trent Rose penalty) defeated Tasmania 7 (Tim Cleary try; Wally Dare conversion)

Game 12 FINAL

Victoria 12 (Fa'afitu Seu, James Tupai tries; Christian Lealiifano conversion) drew with WA 12 (Glyn Edwards, David Mafi tries; Rory McCarthy conversion)

WINNERS CHARLES BLUNT TROPHY

- Victoria and Western Australia (shared)

31ST NOVOTEL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

Viking Park, Tuggeranong, Canberra

Day One - Tuesday 5 July

Game 1

ACT 19 (Masi Tusitala, John Gibson, Andrew Burrell tries; John Gibson 2 conversions) defeated QLD I 15 (James Hanson, Ben Lucas tries; Ben Lucas conversion, penalty)

Game 2

NSW I 53 (Nathan Sievert 2, Codie Medway 2, Alistair Clifton, Daniel Roach, Kurtley Beale, Andrew Barrett, William Gresham tries; Alistair Clifton 2, Nathan Sievert 2 conversions) defeated QLD II 7 (Rota Setu try; Michael Zovko conversion)

Game 3

NSW II 12 (Michael Delore, Chris Yarrington tries; Travis Robinson conversion) defeated Combined States 10 (James Tupai try; Rory McCarthy penalty, conversion)

Day Two - Wednesday 6 July

Game 4

NSW I 46 (Lachlan Rosengreen 2, Junior Palou 2, Tom Dunworth, Tom Norval, Matthew Day, William Gresham tries; Alistair Clifton 2, Rowan Kellam conversions) defeated NSW II 12 (Patrick McCabe, Robert Reilly tries; Travis Robinson conversion)

Game 5

QLD I 33 (Brett Stapleton 2, David Pocock, Malo Lauti, Steve Hillman tries; Ben Lucas 4 conversions) defeated Combined States 5 (Andrew Farquharson try)

Game 6

ACT 22 (Chris Harkins, Masi Tusitala, Alec Bishop tries; John Gibson 2 conversions, penalty) defeated Queensland II 6 (Michael Zovko 2 penalties)

Day Three - Friday 8 July

Game 7

Queensland II 22 (Andrew Rossiter, Rota Setu, Cameron Jones tries; Andrew Krelle 2 conversions, penalty) defeated Combined States 10 (Lewis Leaumona, Elijah Peart tries)

Game 8

Queensland I 26 (Will Genia, Malo Lauti, Ben Daley, Ben Gillespie tries; Ben Lucas 3 conversions) defeated NSW II 0

Game 9

New South Wales I 15 (Matthew Day, Kurtley Beale tries; Nathan Sievert conversion, penalty) defeated ACT 5 (Chris Harkins try)

Day Four - Sunday 10 July

Game 10

NSW II 12 (Peter Betham 2 tries; Travis Robinson conversion) defeated Queensland II 0

Game 11

Combined States 15 (Adam Scarie, Jared van Heerden tries; Christian Lealiifano conversion, penalty) defeated ACT 3 (John Gibson penalty)

Game 12 - Championship Final

NSW I 20 (Andrew Barrett 2 tries; Alistair Clifton 2 conversions, 2 penalties) defeated Queensland I 10 (Quade Cooper try; Quade Cooper conversion; Ben Lucas pen)

WINNERS BH 'Jika' TRAVERS SHIELD 2005 - NSW I

WINNERS EDWARD 'Weary' DUNLOP TROPHY 2005 - QLD I

AWARDS 2005

"RUGBY PRESS INTERNATIONAL" Bronze Boot Annual Award

(* publishers of "Australian Rugby News & Review" and "Rugby News - New Zealand")

Australia David Pocock, Anglican Church Grammar School, QLD
New Zealand Zarhn Commerer, New Plymouth Boys High

Syd Sugerman Awards

"The Best Team man at the Australian Championships"

ACT	Chris Harkins, Marist College Canberra
NSW I	Patrick McCutcheon, St Josephs College Hunters Hill
NSW II	Dean Smith, Barrenjoey High School
NT	Robert Nuku, Casuarina Senior College
QLD I	Daniel Linde, Ipswich Grammar School
QLD II	Cameron Jones, St Josephs College Gregory Terrace
Combined States	Adam Scari, Kelmscott Senior High School WA
SA	Daniel Waites, Reynella East High School
TAS	Richard Simmons, TAFE Hobart
VIC	Jared van Heerden, St Kevins College
WA	Andrew Farquharson, Aquinas College
LMRDT	Matthew Coombes, Trinity Grammar School NSW

Barclays Corporate Wardrobe Awards

"Captain of Winning Team at Novotel Australian Championships"

Patrick McCutcheon, St Joseph's College, NSW

Players' Player Australia v Japan

Australia	David Pocock, Anglican Church Grammar School, QLD
Japan	Satoshi Oshima, Kokugakuin Tochigi High School

The Macquarie Bank Sports Foundation Award in International against Pacific Island team

Australia v Samoa	
Australia	Patrick McCutcheon, St Joseph's College Hunters Hill NSW
Samoa	Afa Tasipale, St Joseph's College

Merv and Iris Allen Award

1. Best Team Man

"For overall contribution to the Australian Squad"

Brett Gillespie, Ipswich Grammar School, QLD

2. "For Significant Contribution to Schools' Rugby by a Teacher/Administrator"

Dr Tui Aualitia (Tasmania) and Mr John Papahatzis (ACT)

Suncorp Australian Schoolboys' Rugby Team tour to UK & Ireland



Back Row:

DANIEL LINDE (QLD), SAM WYKES (NSW),
PHIL MATHERS (NSW), JOSH AFU (QLD)

Third Row:

CHRISTIAN LEALIFANO (VIC), LACHLAN TURNER (NSW), PETER BETHAM (NSW), GAVIN WARREN (QLD),
BEN McCALMAN (NSW), DANIEL ROACH (NSW),
JACK LAM (ACT), JONATHAN SALVI (ACT),
DAVID POCOCK (QLD)

Second Row:

LACHLAN ROSENGREEN (NSW), ROWAN KELLAM (NSW), BRETT GILLESPIE (NSW), CHRIS HARKINS (ACT), JAMES HANSON (QLD), BEN DALEY (QLD),
KURTLEY BEALE (NSW), BRANDO VAALU (QLD),
QUADE COOPER (QLD), THOMAS TUSITALA (ACT)

Front Row:

Mr DAVID GROGAN (Assistant Manager - QLD),
BEN LUCAS (QLD), Mr GREG GERRARD (Assistant Coach - NSW), ANDREW BARRETT (NSW),
Mr GLEN CRONAN (Manager QLD),
PATRICK McCUTCHEON (Captain NSW),
Mr PAT LANGTRY (Coach ACT),
NATHAN SIEVERT (NSW), Mr ANDREW RYAN (Physiotherapist - NSW), JOSEPH EGAN (NT),
Mr PAUL CAROZZA (ARU Technical Assistant - QLD) Absent MATTHEW SCHWAGER (NSW)



AUSTRALIA RUGBY UNION - our major SPONSOR

The ARU continues to support us very strongly. They are supportive of ARFSU initiatives. As our Major Sponsor they have been supportive through their High Performance Unit, Community Rugby, in particular Geoff Shaw as well as the ARU Media Unit, mainly through Tim Archer. CEO Gary Flowers is also a strong supporter as well as President Paul McLean, new ARU Board Chairman Ron Graham, Financial Controller Ashley Selwood and all administrative staff. The main practical point of contact has been through Ben Whitaker in HPU who also assists with selections with Michael O'Connor. Retiring President Peter Crittle continues as a Patron as he always has been a most loyal supporter behind the scenes.

Others to give strong assistance have been Peter Marshall, Warren Robilliard and Matt Grimison.

LIFE MEMBERS

This year saw the election of two new Life Members. They were the first elected for several years and were elected to recognize their great work for ARFSU over many years.

The two are:

Mr Greg O'Mullane - President NTSRU and

Dr Robert Smethills - the long standing medical officer for ARFSU.

SPONSORS

We thank sincerely the following for their support:

1. Novotel Hotels - a Major Sponsor. Apart from continuing to sponsor our National Championships they have extended their sponsorship as sponsors of the "Novotel Trans Tasman Trophy" for the Annual Test match between Australia and New Zealand. They will also assist with the Pacific Conference held each year for Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.
2. Suncorp Metway - a Major Sponsor. Late in the year this leading financial services group joined as the official sponsors of the "Suncorp Australian Schoolboys". As part of the agreement, Suncorp and subsidiary GIO will help stage coaching clinics in Sydney and Brisbane during the 2006 rugby season. Former Wallabies coach and Suncorp Ambassador, Eddie Jones, will be actively involved in formulating the content and running the clinics.
3. 'Suncorp, providing Australian school children with the opportunity to develop their rugby skills by learning from one of Australia's best coaches - Mr Eddie Jones.'
4. Other sponsors. We continue to receive great support from these organizations:
 - a. Rugby Press International - sponsor of the "Bronze Boot Award" and publisher of our major publication Walla News as well as the match programmes.
 - b. Barclays Corporate Wardrobe - also assist in two of our Awards and outfit our touring teams.
 - c. Gullivers Sports Travel - who make all our touring arrangements.
 - d. The Macquarie Sports Foundation - another Award presenter and great assistance with our Player support Scheme.
 - e. Spotless Catering - who continue to assist with many of our functions. In particular in 2005 they sponsored our UK Fund Raising Dinner in November.

FOUNDATION

Under the leadership of Chairman Mr Paul McLean, the Foundation continues to produce magnificent input both intellectually and financially. It continues to produce funds to match the shortfall from ARU current funding for all our projects. In particular Board Members - Mr Guy Reynolds (Macquarie Sports Foundation) and Mr Ken Grover (Gullivers Sports Travel) have been tireless supporters.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE

ARFSU continues to work closely with our neighbour New Zealand and the Pacific nations. A Conference was held this year in Canberra at which the five nations were all represented. Plans were made for future tours and to assist the Pacific nations.

VALE - W S (Bill) Toft

The very first Australian Schools Rugby Coach, 1969 and 1973, passed away late this year. Bill Toft had a very strong record as an educator and a rugby coach. He was a loyal supporter and many of the Schools Rugby fraternity enjoyed his company when he attended the Japan Test at Scots College in August. He had a long friendship with Br Gerald Burns, who was the first Manager of the Australian touring teams.

PLANS FOR 2006

Both National Championships will be full residential. Division II will again be held at Geelong Grammar School. Division I will be held back at St Ignatius College Riverview.

As this goes to press we have not secured a nation to tour Australia though Japan will visit again, but this time will not play our national Schools team.

Australia will tour Fiji for two matches and then three matches in New Zealand, with the Test in New Zealand.

Bernie Carberry, ARFSU Administrator



Australian Schoolboys' Rugby Australia 'A' v NZ 2005



Back Row:
PATRICK McCABE (NSW), BEN McCALMAN (NSW), DANIEL LINDE (QLD), JOSH AFU (QLD), JUNIOR PALAU (NSW), PETER BETHAM (NSW), GAVIN WARREN (QLD), JONATHAN SALVI (ACT)

First Row:
DANIEL PALMER (NSW), GREG WILLMOTT (QLD), SAM EGAN (NSW), CHRIS HARKINS (ACT), CHRISTIAN LEALIFANO (VIC), HARRY ELLIOTT (QLD), ANTHONY HEGARTY (ACT), ROWAN KELLAM (NSW), DEAN SMITH (NSW), MALO LAUTI (QLD)

Seated:
MATTHEW SCHWAGER (NSW), Mrs NARELLE VEVERKA (Physiotherapist, NSW), JOSEPH EGAN (NT), Mr MATTHEW BRENNAN (ACT), BEN LUCAS (Captain, QLD), Mr GRAEME DEDRICK (Manager, NSW), WILL GENIA (QLD), Mr DAVID MEEHAN (Assistant Coach, QLD), ALEX TALLON (QLD)