

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



ARU PARTNERS



QANTAS

WALLABIES NAMING RIGHTS

Qantas has been a valued supporter of Rugby for over 10 years and we are proud to have had their loyal support as the naming rights sponsor of the Qantas Wallabies since 2004. In 2008, Qantas extended its partnership with Australian Rugby for another four-year term as naming rights sponsor of the Qantas Wallabies. Qantas again demonstrated its proud support of the Team with support at all ARU consumer events, Test Matches, in-flight and throughout Qantas terminals. We thank Qantas for their ongoing support of the team.



BUNDABERG RUM

TEST SERIES NAMING RIGHTS

Bundaberg Rum and Australian Rugby have enjoyed a nine-year partnership, working together to bring the world's best forces of international Rugby to our shores to compete in the Bundaberg Rum Rugby Series. During this Platinum partnership, Bundaberg Rum have inspired and delighted Rugby fans with their irreverent humour and wit in various television executions, consumer events, at ground experiences and on-line competitions.



CANTERBURY

OFFICIAL APPAREL

As a proud platinum Partner of the Qantas Wallabies, Canterbury continued its official apparel partnership in 2008. Amongst other licensing activities, Canterbury took its partnership with the Qantas Wallabies to the community, hosting several intimate coaching sessions with head coach Robbie Deans and some lucky Canterbury guests at schools in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.



vodafone

Panasonic



POWERADE

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OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth
of Australia

PRESIDENT

Mr P McLean MBE

CHAIRMAN

Mr P McGrath

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr R Graham

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr J O'Neill AO

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr JG Bain OAM, Mr CW Blunt MBE*, Mr
EAN Byrne AM, Mr JD Brockhoff OAM,
Mr PL Harry AM, Mr AF Henry*, Mr LJ
Howard OAM, Mr JH Lord MBE*, Mr RW
Meagher, Dr J Moulton OAM, Mr GW
Ramsden*, Sir N Shehadie AC OBE, Mr RI
Templeton MBE*, Dr IR Vanderfield OBE*
[* deceased]

ARU BOARD

Mr M Brown, Mr M Connors, Gen. P
Cosgrove AC MC, Mr R Dalziel, Mr R Lee,
Mr P McGrath, Mr J Mumm (appointed
November 2007), Mr J O'Neill AO, Mr R
McCall

DELEGATES

Australian Capital Territory

Mr S Hammond

New South Wales

Mr A Petersen, Mr G Garland, Mr L
Maher, Mr I Ross, Mr A Williamson

Northern Territory

Mr V Kelly

Queensland

Mr R Williams, Mr P Lewis, Mr K Freer

South Australia

Mr M Miller

Tasmania

Mr M Playle

Victoria

Mr G Gray

Western Australia

Mr G Stooke OAM

NON VOTING DELEGATES

Australian Barbarians Rugby Union

Mr P Johnston

Australian Junior Rugby Football Union

Mr P McCann

Australian Schools Rugby Football Union

Brother RJ Wallace AM

Australian Services Rugby Union

Lt Col DJR Ashton

Australian Universities Rugby Union

Mr L Sampson

Australian Women's Rugby

Ms J Forno

Classic Wallabies

Mr I Robertson

New South Wales Country Rugby Union

Mr B Worboys

IRB REPRESENTATIVES

Mr P McLean MBE, Mr J O'Neill AO

SANZAR REPRESENTATIVES

Mr P McGrath, Mr J O'Neill AO

AUDITORS

KPMG

VISION FOR AUSTRALIAN RUGBY

For Australia to be a real and respected world power in Rugby on an on-going basis, displaying innovation, integrity, professionalism and teamwork, through Australian Rugby:

- developing substantially more mass entertainment presence domestically and internationally;
- a large increase in the playing population;
- a much bigger participation base and with Rugby to be a major influence in developing the values and ability of youth.



2008 MILESTONES

The events that mattered

February 11: Australian Rugby Union confirms Jim Williams and Michael Foley as the assistants to new head coach Robbie Deans.

February 15: Investec Super 14 series opens with the competition played for the first time under Experimental Law Variations.

March 3: Announcement of an historic Bledisloe Cup match in Hong Kong against the All Blacks to be played on November 1.

March 14: Wallabies legends David Campese and Mark Ella are appointed as ambassadors and coaching assistants to Australian Sevens team.

March 17: Qantas extends naming rights sponsorship of the Wallabies until after the 2011 Rugby World Cup in NZ.

April 6: South Africa crowned champions of International Rugby Sevens Adelaide, with the Australian leg of the IRB Sevens World Series attracting more than 32,000 fans over two days.

April 17: ARU announces ground-breaking decision to explore potential for private investment in Super Rugby.

April 22: Seven Australian Rugby Statesmen appointed (Sir Nicholas Shehadie, Dr John Solomon, Ken Catchpole, Mark Loane, Andrew Slack, Nick Farr-Jones, John Eales) in a new initiative as part of the 'Built By Rugby, Forged In Union' rally cry.

May 1: IRB announces a raft of Experimental Law variations to go on global trial from August 1.

May 22: Brumbies flanker George Smith wins his third Investec Super 14 Player of the Series award, edging out Waratahs captain Phil Waugh by two points. Smith's brother Tyrone is named Rookie of the Series.

May 27: Former Wallabies hooker and Super 14 title-winning coach David Nucifora is announced as ARU High Performance Unit General Manager.

May 31: Robbie Deans-coached

Crusaders defeat NSW Waratahs in Super 14 final.

June 1: Seven rookies named in Qantas Wallabies squad as Robbie Deans moves into his new role as the first foreigner to coach Australia.

June 6: Panasonic extends sponsorship with ARU until end of 2011.

June 8: Australia A open Pacific Nations Cup campaign with 42-21 win over Japan in Fukuoka.

June 12: Former Wallaby and decorated World War II hero, the late Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, is announced as the first Wallaby Hall of Fame inductee for 2008.

June 14: Qantas Wallabies open the domestic Test season with 18-12 win over Ireland in Melbourne. Luke Burgess, Peter Hynes and Dean Mumm make Test debuts. Al Baxter becomes most capped prop in Australian Test history.

June 14: Australia A defeat Samoa 20-15 in PNC match in Apia, Samoa.

June 14: England upset Ford Australian Under 20 team 18-13 and knock them out of semi-final contention at IRB Junior World Championships.

June 22: Australia A thrash Tonga 90-7 in third round of PNC at North Sydney.

June 22: Ford Australian U20s finished fifth at IRB Junior World Championships after downing France 42-21. Australia earlier beat Canada and Fiji.

June 28: Qantas Wallabies defeat France 34-13 at ANZ Stadium in Sydney, scoring four tries to one. Test debuts for Ryan Cross and Ben Alexander.

June 29: Australia A make it four from four in the PNC with 50-13 win over Fiji.

July 5: Qantas Wallabies score four tries to down France 40-10 in second and final Test at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. Lachie Turner makes Test debut.

July 6: New Zealand Maori snatch last-

gasp 21-18 win over Australia A to win Pacific Nations Cup title.

July 18: SANZAR confirms its plans to expand Super Rugby in the future, possibly as early as 2010.

July 19: Qantas Wallabies open the Tri Nations series with a 16-9 victory over South Africa in Perth.

July 21: Former Test captain Nick Farr-Jones announced as Hall of Fame inductee.

July 25: Qantas Wallabies defeat the All Blacks 34-19 to win their second successive Tri Nations match and take a 1-nil lead in the Bledisloe Cup series. Timana Tahu makes Test debut.

July 28: Australian Women's Sevens Team win the Oceania crown by upsetting New Zealand 22-15 in the final in Apia, Samoa. In reaching the final, the Australians qualified for Rugby World Cup Sevens in March 2009.

August 2: All Blacks level the four-Test Bledisloe Cup series at 1-all with 39-10 victory in game two at Eden Park in Auckland.

August 15: ARU announces an expression of interest to host the Rugby World Cup in 2019.

August 23: Qantas Wallabies win in South Africa for the first time in eight years with 27-15 win over Springboks in Durban. Australia retains the Mandela Trophy.

August 30: The Springboks take revenge with a sobering 53-8 victory over the Qantas Wallabies in Johannesburg.

September 5: Australian teams given green light to recruit up to two foreign players for 2009 Investec Super 14 season under a Foreign Player Policy change endorsed by the ARU Board.

September 10: Former Wallabies and All Blacks scrumhalf Des Connor, who also coached Australia, is announced as the season's third Hall of Fame inductee.



September 13: All Blacks move to a 2-1 series lead, retaining the Bledisloe Cup, and also claim the Tri Nations title with a 28-24 win over the Qantas Wallabies at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. Richard Brown makes Test debut.

September 19: ARU announces average crowd for 2008 Test season was 50,617 - the highest since the 2003 Rugby World Cup year.

September 26: Suncorp Australian Schoolboys open Pacific tour with a 46-6 win over Tonga Outer Islands.

September 29: Suncorp Australian Schoolboys down Tonga Schools 22-13.

October 3: Queensland Red defeat Queensland White to win Rod Macqueen Shield at the National U16 titles in Brisbane.

October 3: Suncorp Australian Schoolboys open the New Zealand leg of their Pacific tour with a 51-15 victory over Wairarapa Bush Schools in Masterton.

October 6: All Blacks flanker Daniel Braid is signed by the Queensland Reds as the first marquee player recruited by an Australian Super Rugby province under the new Foreign Player Policy.

October 7: Hurricanes Schools defeat Suncorp Australian Schoolboys 24-21.

October 10: Suncorp Australian Schoolboys defeat NZ Schools in New Zealand for the first time in the 30-year history of matches between the two countries at Schools level. The Australians triumph 15-11 in New Plymouth.

October 14: The world champion New Zealand Black Ferns win the opening match of a two-game series against the Paper to Paper Wallaroos, running out 37-3 victors in the women's Test at Viking Park, Canberra.

October 18: The Paper to Paper Wallaroos give the New Zealand Black Ferns a second half scare before going down 22-16 in the second trans-Tasman Test in Canberra.

October 23: Qantas Wallabies flanker George Smith becomes the first dual winner of the John Eales Medal. Peter Hynes is named Rookie of the Year.

November 1: Qantas Wallabies and All Blacks create history by playing a Bledisloe Cup Test offshore for the first time in the history of trans-Tasman contests. All Blacks win the match 19-14. David Pocock makes his Test debut.

November 8: Qantas Wallabies open European leg of the Spring Tour with a 30-20 win over Italy. Quade Cooper, Sekope Kepu and James O'Connor make

their Test debuts. Cooper scores a solo try that puts the match out of reach.

November 15: Matt Giteau kicks seven from eight as Qantas Wallabies defeat England 28-14 at Twickenham.

November 22: Qantas Wallabies retain the Trophee des Bicentennaires won during the two-Test series triumph over France earlier in the year when they score their first win in Paris for eight years with a 18-13 victory over the French.

November 23: Sir Nicholas Shehadie is honoured by the IRB, receiving the Vernon Pugh Award for distinguished service to the game.

November 29: Wales down the Qantas Wallabies 21-18 in Cardiff.

December 1: Qantas Wallabies are drawn in the same pool as Ireland and Italy for the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand. The two yet to be confirmed qualifiers will be Europe 2 and Americas 2.

December 3: Qantas Wallabies end their Spring Tour with an 18-11 win over the Barbarians in the first Rugby match played at Wembley. The match marks the 100-year anniversary of the First Wallabies winning the Olympic gold medal for Rugby at the 1908 London Games.

OFF THE FIELD

Chairman Peter McGrath



It gives me great pleasure to provide my report for the year ended December 31, 2008. In looking back at my first report last year I noted the many changes that took place at the Australian Rugby Union during 2007. These included changes to the Board, a new CEO and changes in senior management.

In reviewing the year just gone, there is an amazing contrast. For the first time in many years there were no changes to Board membership and the senior management of the organisation remains unchanged. This can be seen without question as an extremely positive position as we approach the challenges ahead in 2009 and beyond.

The Board considered many issues during the year with the adoption of the new strategic direction at the first meeting of the year without doubt being the most significant.

The Strategic Imperatives adopted by the Board were presented to Members on and around the Annual General Meeting held in late April.

The response to date has been of overwhelming support for these initiatives and much of the work has commenced in this new direction.

The Strategic Imperatives together with other initiatives adopted by the Board during the year see Australian Rugby adopting the following direction:

- WORKING with our SANZAR Partners in a transformation of Super Rugby;
- TRANSFORMATION plans for Super Rugby including the possible involvement of other National Unions or associated bodies in addition to the existing SANZAR partners;
- EXAMINING other forms of high value competitions to complement Super Rugby;
- PROGRAMS and structural changes to significantly increase participation;
- ENDEAVOURING to gain a share of valuable Rugby economies outside Australia;
- INTRODUCTION of private equity;
- INTRODUCTION of foreign players into Super Rugby; and
- CONSTITUTIONAL review around the role and term of the President.

Of course these are the major issues considered by the Board during the year and time and space does not allow me to cover the many other issues dealt with

in what was a very busy and challenging year on and off the field.

The status of some of these projects that are underway is:

- WORK is continuing with our SANZAR partners on the Super Rugby transformation which involves the potential inclusion of teams outside of the current competition structure.
- COMMUNITY Rugby is being restructured principally as a result of the initial work under the Fundamental Business Review with a new delivery model introduced in NSW commencing in 2009.
- THE historic Bledisloe Cup match in Hong Kong is the first 'toe in the water' to consider economies outside of Australia and New Zealand with similar matches being examined in other economies for 2009 and beyond.
- THE first year of foreign players in Super Rugby will be seen in 2009.
- SOME of the proposed constitutional changes approved by the Board on the recommendation of the Governance Committee will be considered at the Annual General Meeting.

Having noted these many quite major changes, it is obvious that the advancement of private equity is still very much work in progress. Some of the Unions are restructuring the professional and Community Rugby levels of the game partly in preparation for the introduction of private equity, however it is clear the current global economic environment may not be conducive to private equity at this time. This is not to say that it won't happen or that it will be delayed indefinitely as work will continue on this initiative throughout 2009.

Representatives from the Rugby Union Players Association (RUPA) attended a productive Board Meeting during the year and presented the Board with some of the initiatives being considered by RUPA. A number of players presented and it was clear that there was substantial alignment between RUPA and the ARU on the many issues facing the game at this time. The relationship with RUPA is extremely positive illustrated also by the fact that Tony Dempsey (RUPA CEO) is one of the Australian representatives on the SANZAR Working Party examining Super Rugby transformation.

In last year's report I mentioned the

IRB's end-of-year workshop on the Integrated Season. Further meetings were held throughout 2008, the results of which have been in the public arena during this time.

There are still many challenges facing the National Unions in attempting to establish an integrated season considering the timing of the seasons and more particularly the impact of club Rugby especially in England and France and the timing of major competitions in both hemispheres.

Work is continuing and the IRB has established a working group, with representatives of the major Unions, to further explore possibilities in this regard.

As mentioned above, work continues with our SANZAR partners on life beyond the current joint venture agreement.

The relationship between the three SANZAR Unions is incredibly strong as we work together to not only address the direct issues for SANZAR but also at the global level in dealing with the IRB and the other major Unions around the world as a strong cohesive group.

The President in his report will cover the teams' activities in more detail however I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to congratulate all of our national teams for their achievements during the year. I would particularly like to congratulate Robbie Deans and the Qantas Wallabies for their results in 2008.

No doubt there were significant changes to the team personnel both in playing ranks and coaching and support staff.

Robbie and his staff did an outstanding job considering they were only in place literally days before the first Test match against Ireland in June.

The Investec Super 14 results in 2008 were a big improvement on 2007 and congratulations go to the Waratahs for reaching the Investec Super 14 final against the Crusaders in May.

The second of the Adelaide-based IRB Sevens World Series events was held in 2008 under the auspices of the South Australian Rugby Union. With help from the ARU management and staff, the event



was another big success bringing praise from the South Australian Government, sponsors, players and supporters. The current contract for staging this event runs for another three years and I congratulate the South Australian Rugby Union for the success to date and wish it all the best for the next three years.

During the year further work continued on the Fundamental Business Review and I mentioned above the outcomes of the initial stages of the proposed future Community Rugby model.

Other initiatives especially around shared services continue with many changes in this area expected in the early part of 2009.

To meet the challenges ahead, Rugby needs to examine more efficient and effective ways to manage the increasing demands of its business.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the current global financial environment and its effect on the ARU. In December the Board adopted a financial budget for 2009 which was constructed with the economic environment in mind. As a result many difficult decisions needed

to be made and the Board took on the challenge accordingly. Not everyone will agree with the outcomes, however like many businesses at this time, hard decisions need to be taken. We are confident that the decisions made in 2008 will enable the ARU and the game to grow.

Finally I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to the members of the Board for their support and hard work. Many of the outcomes have been mentioned above and I am very proud to be part of the current Board and the way these outcomes and challenges have been managed. Also sincere thanks to CEO, John O'Neill and his management and staff for their hard work during the year and to their continual loyalty to the organisation and the drive to meet the challenges ahead.

There is no doubt many challenges facing the ARU and the game in the next couple of years, on and off the field, internally and externally.

I strongly believe however that we have established a platform on which to meet these challenges.

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OFF THE FIELD

Managing Director and CEO John O'Neill AO



AUSTRALIAN Rugby was in a position at the end of 2007 where change was not only desirable but necessary. On and off the field the business was failing to deliver the success required and expected. The warning signs were inescapable. Australia had fallen to No.5 in the official International Rugby Board rankings and, from there, the Qantas Wallabies could not realistically claim to be a world power.

Also significant was the ongoing strain on ARU's finances. Despite Rugby World Cup funding from the IRB for the 2007 tournament in France, the deficit recorded by ARU in 2007 was \$8.5 million. For the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the code a new direction was required to ensure a more robust and sustainable position.

Rugby is a mainstream winter sport in an extraordinarily competitive entertainment marketplace.

Under the circumstances described above, doing nothing was not - and could never be - an option. Remedial action was needed; hence two major decisions were undertaken during the transition from 2007 into 2008 to start the process. Neither decision was taken without extensive debate and deliberation, whether at Management or Board level.

However, as the American management guru Peter F Drucker once said:

"(Managing) is doing things right - leadership is doing the right things."

Disbanding the Australian Rugby Championship (ARC) and appointing Robbie Deans as the first foreigner to coach the Qantas Wallabies were the correct decisions, the "right things" for the business of Rugby.

The ARC, while conceptually having some appeal, was simply unaffordable.

As difficult and painful as the decision was to discontinue the third tier competition, Rugby Inc's resources could not sustain it. The current economic stress being experienced makes this decision even more responsible.

We also needed a radical solution in terms of leadership and guidance for the national team.

For too many seasons we have not been delivering on our objective of a 75-80 percent win/loss ratio and the lack of silverware has been evident. The Qantas

Wallabies premature exit from the Rugby World Cup in 2007 was also an extremely bitter pill to swallow.

Fortunately, by the end of 2008 it was evident the direction taken on both fronts was returning dividends.

ARU returned a surplus of \$712,000 in 2008 after allocations of \$8.54m to the Member Unions - a huge turnaround considering the multi-million dollar deficit recorded 12 months ago.

Key market share indicators in ratings and attendances showed encouraging improvement also - reversing the downward trend of recent years.

The average attendance for the six domestic Test matches in 2008 was 50,617; the highest since 2003 when Australia hosted the Rugby World Cup.

Whilst participation numbers were slightly down, there was significant improvement in the core areas of Schools One, Juniors and Seniors.

On the field too the signs of improvement have been palpable.

The Qantas Wallabies finished the year as the No.3 side in the world and were re-established as an international power.

The final match of the Tri Nations series, against the All Blacks in Brisbane, was a decider for the title and a live Bledisloe Cup rubber.

Australia won the Nelson Mandela Challenge Trophy against the Springboks and would later annex the Cook Cup with a victory over England at Twickenham.

However, Deans not only helped deliver results. He was also instrumental in exploding the myth that Australian Rugby is bereft of depth.

The coach who built such an enviable record in Super Rugby before heading to Australia entered his first international season with the Qantas Wallabies minus three enormously experienced Test stars.

George Gregan, Stephen Larkham and Chris Latham were stalwarts of the side for a decade or more. Not one of them played in 2008.

Deans, though, not only achieved results without them; he also blooded 13 new caps during the season.

Cricket Australia had to deal with losing Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Adam Gilchrist in short time.

Experienced players departing a team can leave it vulnerable. Time and patience are usually required so the

ranks can be replenished. Yet the Qantas Wallabies farewelled Gregan, Larkham and Latham and still returned their best results, especially in Europe, for several seasons.

It has been a good start under the stewardship of Deans, but ARU is also determined not to get ahead of itself. This is only the start.

In Rugby, the gold standard tends to be our neighbour across the Tasman Sea.

I have long acknowledged the benefits of having such an outstanding rival as the All Blacks as our closest Rugby associate.

If on any given day you can beat New Zealand teams at the national and provincial levels, then you know you're approaching the right space.

Realistically, however, Australia has not won the Bledisloe Cup since 2002 and we need to rectify that situation as soon as possible.

On a broader front, the 2008 Bledisloe Cup series did deliver a significant breakthrough for the game in Australia, and in New Zealand.

While the Wallabies and the All Blacks have engaged in fiercely-contested battles for the trans-Tasman trophy since the 1930s, no Bledisloe Cup match had been played outside of Australia or New Zealand until the historic staging of a game at Hong Kong Stadium on November 1.

The Hong Kong initiative was a stunning success.

Also, strategically it opened the door to the Asian market and the potential for stronger relationships within our region which we believe can grow substantially to the benefit and satisfaction of all concerned.

While decisions taken on ARC and Deans were crucial, there was a further landmark announcement in early 2008 when the Board of ARU signed off on a raft of Strategic Imperatives.

They were the result of a comprehensive and confronting



assessment of where we were and how we could ensure a successful long-term future for the game.

The Board and Management identified the following Strategic Imperatives, with Australian Rugby seeking to:

- BE part of a dramatic transformation of Super Rugby beyond the SANZAR partners; and/or
- COMPLEMENT Super Rugby with some other form of (ultimately) high-value Rugby competition (probably international);
- ACHIEVE significant gains in participation;
- GAIN a share of valuable Rugby economies outside Australia; and
- BRING private equity into the professional part of the game:

a. in a way that is tightly controlled nationally;

b. to provide enduring benefit to the code while recognising the interests of the equity partners; and

c. with clarity about the rules and the potential opportunities for Australian Rugby and its partners.

These Strategic Imperatives also provided ARU with a clear vision for meetings that followed with SANZAR partners New Zealand and South Africa.

SANZAR was determined to find consensus on a way forward for the joint venture as negotiations on a new broadcasting agreement draw closer.

With the existing contract to expire at the end of 2010, it needs to be recognised that all decisions of SANZAR

ARU returned a surplus - a huge turnaround considering the multi-million deficit recorded 12 months ago

must be unanimous, which given our idiosyncrasies, can be very challenging. However, the SANZAR partners worked well and co-operatively to craft what are now known as the 'Perth Outcomes', which were formulated in July.

They included:

- EXPANDING the Investec Super 14 finals to a Top Six play-offs series in 2009;
- CONSIDER alternative competition structures when Super Rugby is revamped - potentially from as early as 2010 - to include further teams;
- CONSIDER alternatives to the current Test schedule and the timing of international matches.

The Boards of the three individual National Unions subsequently endorsed the 'Perth Outcomes', but progress stalled soon after and a lot of the earlier work undone. It was extremely disappointing that, in the end, we were unable to achieve unanimity on a six-team finals series proposal.

At the same time, ARU remains committed to the SANZAR joint venture.

We are confident that representatives from the three countries will progress the 'Perth Outcomes' with a view to having a proposition submitted to broadcasters by June 30, 2009.

The single most important challenge confronting ARU and our SANZAR partners is to ensure the next transaction on broadcasting rights ticks all the boxes and allows ongoing evolution of our game.

Only then can we at ARU achieve our Strategic Imperatives.

On the broader international front, major items to be dealt with at IRB level were:

- EXPERIMENTAL Law Variations;
- THE tendering process for Rugby World Cup 2015 and 2019;
- INTEGRATED global season.

ARU and its SANZAR partners willingly accepted an invitation from the IRB to trial the ELVs, including sanctions, across a range of competitions.

In Australia it involved trials across several tiers of the game - club, ARC, Super Rugby and the Tri Nations series.

By any objective and fair-minded assessment, the game was enhanced

for players, coaches, spectators and referees. There was never any hidden agenda from the ARU in supporting the ELVs, and most particularly the sanctions element of the trials.

Contrary to anti-ARU propaganda in various parts of the world, we were merely a participant in an IRB trial.

The ELVs were and are a laudable and collective initiative of the IRB, not any one Rugby body.

ARU simply co-operated and saw first hand the enhancement they gave the game. It was most unfortunate that some major Unions decided not to participate in the trials.

In terms of the Rugby World Cup issue, we are continuing intense work and deliberations as to whether ARU should bid for the 2019 tournament. The IRB will decide the hosts for both 2015 and 2019 in July 2009.

A major obstacle: the prospect that financial modeling would throw up a conclusion that bidding would be grossly irresponsible from a fiscal perspective. Any recommendation along those lines would no doubt be driven by the IRB's demands for tournament fee guarantees. Initially set at £100 million for 2015 and £120 million for 2019, the IRB later reduced the guarantees to £80 million and £96 million respectively.

Certain major National Unions have publicly foreshadowed that the magnitude of the original guarantees could force them out of the bidding race, particularly during a global economic downturn.

ARU expressed similar reservations from the outset, and even at the decreased figure.

We also made clear our concerns about the decision to announce the 2019 Rugby World Cup host nation at the same time as the 2015 host. It is unprecedented to have a 10-year time frame between awarding the right to host and the staging of the event.

In respect of the 'integrated global season', following on from the Woking Conference in late 2007, a further meeting of the Chairmen and CEOs of the Tier One Unions (i.e. the Six Nations, SANZAR and Argentina) was held in



London on November 11, 2008.

The conclusion was that the June inbound tour window into the Southern Hemisphere is of diminishing value, in part due to the uncertainty over visiting Unions delivering their 'best available' squads as required by IRB Regulations.

Further work is being conducted with a report due to be presented to the IRB Council in May 2009.

I would like to offer a big thank you to my management team and all the people at ARU who have worked so hard and with great dedication to resurrecting the organisation's fortunes.



Congratulations to the entire Qantas Wallabies contingent for their significant contribution and the harmony in which they worked with head office.

The Rugby Union Players' Association is deserving of thanks for its partnership and co-operation.

To the Board, through Chairman Peter McGrath, and to President Paul McLean, my personal appreciation for your support, guidance and dedication in these challenging times.

Paul McLean steps down after four years as President. Well done on an

outstanding term. You will be missed.

The support of our corporate partners, broadcasters, sponsors, participants, fans and volunteers is also thoroughly deserving of recognition, along with the efforts of our Member Unions with whom working relationships are crucial.

In terms of outlook for 2009 and beyond, it would be foolish not to recognise that the global financial and economic crisis and the serious downturn in the Australian economy is going to impact on the finances and fortunes of Rugby generally.

Indeed, the ARU Board and Management took some hard decisions through the budgeting process in late 2008. We intend to be proactive in ensuring we are 'battle ready' and agile in coping with these harsh economic realities.

It is difficult to make predictions in the best of times; however, we are determined to concentrate on the preservation of our capital, in accordance with the Board's approved 'capital management' strategy.

Balanced judgments will be the order of the day.

OFF THE FIELD

President Paul McLean MBE



THERE were unmistakable signs of recovery as Australian Rugby distanced itself in 2008 from the on-field disappointments - at both provincial and international level - of the previous season. This time last year I was lamenting a 2007 bookended by frustration and under-achievement from flagship teams.

While we are not yet back to the position of pre-eminence we enjoyed in the not too distant past, there is encouragement there that prosperity and silverware will soon return in more generous serves.

However, before moving into detail on the Qantas Wallabies, our provincial performances in the Investec Super 14 and the sterling efforts of other national teams including the Australian Schoolboys and Australian Women's Sevens team, it is worth reflecting on other significant events that highlighted the year.

• THE GAME

THERE was the highly-anticipated introduction of the Experimental Law Variations to the Investec Super 14 series. The ELVs, including the sanctions variation where most penalty offences were reduced to free kicks, was a success by anyone's standards.

Reaction was almost exclusively positive. From a spectator's perspective, the game had more flow, less lengthy stoppages, and the media rarely commented on the ELVs initiative with anything but positivity. It was of course an ongoing frustration that other major Unions around the world resisted the IRB's urgings to trial the ELVs, with the sanctions, in major competitions. Global experimentation for a raft of ELVs was approved by the IRB for introduction in August 2008 for a period of 12 months. Unfortunately, support for the sanctions - a key component within the ELVs package - was extremely limited in the North.

During the Investec Super 14, Australian Rugby also had the opportunity to play its role in the global spread of the Sevens game, hosting the International Rugby Sevens Adelaide as part of the IRB Sevens World Series circuit. Over two days of competition in front of more than 32,000 fans, South Africa won the title as the game continued to build what

has been an ever developing relationship with the people of South Australia.

Since the 2003 Rugby World Cup the Adelaide community has embraced Rugby, with the staging of a Test the following year and now with the Sevens - the only Australian leg of the World Series - heading into its third year in South Australia.

My congratulations go to the South Australian Rugby Union, and my thanks to the South Australian Government and the tournament's corporate supporters, for helping establish the event on the Adelaide calendar.

In terms of Australian Rugby fostering the game and seeking out new frontiers, the Bledisloe Cup Test played in Hong Kong was a memorable and historic occurrence that could have far-reaching benefits for the code. Asia is a region where Rugby can grow. Australia is a country that can assist with development.

Hong Kong has long been the spiritual home of Sevens. However, the support for the Qantas Wallabies and All Blacks was a clear indication that the appetite also exists there for the traditional form of the game.

As 2008 progressed there was another ground-breaking move - allowing the introduction of foreign players to Australian teams in the Investec Super 14.

The policy change allowed provinces to sign one 'marquee' player who has already represented an overseas country and will never be eligible for Australia; and a developing player who could eventually represent Australia after serving three years residency.

If a team does not sign a 'marquee' player they can contract two developing players. The thinking is sound and will assist Australian provinces increase the quality and depth of their playing ranks.

It would also be remiss not to mention the final match of the year involving an Australian team; the Qantas Wallabies game against the Barbarians at Wembley in early December.

Rugby was invited to play at the magnificently re-developed stadium in London, in a match supported by the British Olympic Association, to mark the 100-year anniversary of the First Wallabies winning Olympic gold at the

1908 London Games. The occasion was stirring and, fittingly, it fell the week after the International Rugby Board's annual awards night where former Wallabies captain, and ARU past President, Sir Nicholas Shehadie was honoured with the Vernon Pugh Award for distinguished service to the game.

Sir Nicholas played for Australia against the Barbarians in 1948 and 10 years later farewelled the international arena by playing for the Baa-Baas against the Wallabies. The IRB recognition was thoroughly deserved for a man who has been a massive figure in the playing and administration of Rugby, not only in Australia, but around the world.

Sir Nicholas was also one of seven ARU Statesmen appointed in April 2008 as a new initiative to keep Rugby's traditions and history not only alive but at the forefront of the modern game.

The Statesmen - drawn from every decade since the Second World War - were Sir Nicholas (1940s), Dr John Solomon (1950s), Ken Catchpole (1960s), Mark Loane (1970s), Andrew Slack (1980s), Nick Farr-Jones (1990s) and John Eales (2000s).

Farr-Jones was also one of three inductees into the Wallabies Hall of Fame. The first announced in the countdown to the Test against Ireland in Melbourne was the late Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, an iconic figure in Victorian Rugby history and a former Test forward.

Farr-Jones was inducted into the Hall of Fame before the Bledisloe Cup Test in Sydney and was joined some weeks later by another scrumhalf, the legendary Des Connor, who was welcomed into this most exclusive club at the Australia-New Zealand Test in Brisbane.

• QANTAS WALLABIES

THE appointment of Robbie Deans as Qantas Wallabies coach created enormous interest and his boundless energy to move seamlessly into the role in June after another successful Investec Super 14 campaign with the Crusaders



was inspiring. Australia opened the year with a win over Ireland at Telstra Dome. Two victories followed over the French, and the Tri Nations series kicked off with welcome back-to-back home wins over the Springboks in Perth and the All Blacks in Sydney.

The Qantas Wallabies, under Deans, had won their opening five Tests.

The All Blacks proceeded to win the next three games of an extended Bledisloe Cup series, and a record loss to the Springboks in Johannesburg was major disappointment for Australian Rugby. The irony of that defeat was that it followed just one week after the Qantas Wallabies defeated the Boks on South African soil (in Durban) for the first time in eight years.

By year end, the Australian team had won 10 of its 15 matches including

the Spring Tour finale against the Barbarians at Wembley.

Those statistics in isolation, however, do not tell the full tale or indicate why Deans' first year in charge has left leading figures in Australian Rugby confident that we are on track to continue improving on our world ranking - third at the start of 2009.

Importantly, the Qantas Wallabies started winning again away from home.

The record in recent years has been below par. However, in 2008, Australia claimed on-the-road victories against South Africa, France, England, Italy and the Barbarians.

There was also the bleeding of 13 new Test caps throughout the season.

For the Qantas Wallabies to increase their win-loss percentages while undergoing a reconstruction of that

Importantly the Qantas Wallabies started winning again away from home . . . there was also the bleeding of 13 new Wallabies

magnitude all bodes well for the future. So too did the support shown by the Australian public.

Our average Test crowd for the year was more than 50,600; the highest since 2003 when Australia hosted the Rugby World Cup.

• **INVESTEC SUPER 14**

THE NSW Waratahs won widespread admiration for their turnaround from 2007 when they finished next to last to reach the final just 12 months later.

Credit is due to their playing roster and coach Ewen McKenzie, who has subsequently moved offshore to coach at Stade Francais. The Waratahs remain one of the flagship teams for Australian Rugby, and their fortunes have a significant impact on how our game is perceived in the largest Australian market.

Queensland is the other traditional heartland for Rugby and while the Reds finished 2008 in 12th position, it was an improvement on 2007 when they were two places lower at the tail of the field. The Western Force won seven matches - their best return in three seasons of Investec Super 14 competition - despite dropping from seventh to eighth on the ladder. The Brumbies were in playoffs contention midway through the season but slipped away at the back end to finish ninth. Despite another season out of the semi-finals, Brumbies flanker George Smith again excelled to win the Australian Player of the Series award for the third consecutive year.

George, who has been magnificently consistent for many seasons, took the 2008 prize ahead of his long-standing Waratahs backrow rival, Phil Waugh.

Later in the year George made it a stunning double when he carried off the John Eales Medal - in the process, becoming the first player to win the prestige Award twice.

• **OTHER TEAMS**

WHILE the Qantas Wallabies showed encouraging improvement, there were superb results from other national teams that deserve recognition.

The Suncorp Australian Schoolboys defeated New Zealand Schools for the second year in a row, and for the first time on New Zealand soil in the 30-year history of competition between the two countries at this important level.

The young Australians triumphed 15-11

in New Plymouth to cap a successful season in which they also defeated Fiji and Tonga.

The Australian Women's Sevens team also made ground-breaking progress with a victory over New Zealand at the World Cup qualifiers in Samoa. The Oceania title ensured Australia's qualification for the IRB Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai in March 2009 and confirmed the wisdom of a recruitment strategy that drew several women's touch football stars into Rugby for the first time.

For Women's Rugby the season was also memorable for the two Tests staged in Canberra against the world champion New Zealand Black Ferns. While the Black Ferns won both matches, they were the first Women's Tests played in Australia for seven years.

There was disappointment at the U20 level with Australia failing to reach the semi-finals of the IRB Junior World Championship following an upset loss to England.

At the National U16 Championship in Brisbane, it was an all-Queensland final with Queensland Red defeating Queensland White to claim the Rod Macqueen Shield.

It is also important to recognise the achievements of the Australian wheelchair team at the Olympic Games in Beijing.

While not affiliated with the ARU, all in the game were delighted by their gold medal success in China.

• **OBITUARIES**

ON a sad note, Australian Rugby paid its respects following the passing of several luminary figures including former Test prop Roy Prosser and former international referee, ARU President and IRB Chairman, Dr Roger Vanderfield. Their contributions to our game over a long period of time were enormous.

Australian Rugby also lost four other former Wallabies - Jim Stenmark, Fabian



McCarthy, Lt. Col. (Ret) Malcolm van Gelder and Laurie Johnson - and the much-loved former Queensland and Wallabies physiotherapist Col O'Brien.

As my term as President comes to an end at this year's AGM, I'd like to thank the various Board members who have supported our great game during that period, and also recognise the efforts of Gary Flowers and John O'Neill, who have held office during this time. Only a few will understand the difficulties our game experienced during Gary's term. His integrity and courage through that time was exemplary.

Also, in difficult times, and for different reasons, John O'Neill and his team continue to lead the way for all in Australian Rugby, and their drive to achieve the highest possible standards will hold the game in good stead.

It has been an honour to serve as your President.

THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WALLABIES



THEY named themselves the Wallabies - but it could so easily have been the Wallaroos, the Kookaburras, the Waratahs or even the Rabbits - as the first Australian Rugby team to tour Britain docked at Plymouth in 1908.

As the Australians headed to the UK by ship, aboard the Omrah, the British media pre-empted their arrival by slapping the 'Rabbits' moniker upon a squad captained by Sydney University forward Dr Herbert 'Paddy' Moran.

Moran wrote home in a letter that his players were horrified to learn UK newspapers were trying to impose upon them a nickname that not only represented a pest that bred in plague proportions but an animal initially foisted on Australia by the British.

"The position demanded a conference," Moran explained in his letter. "For a brief day we, who for six weeks have been Rabbits, were Waratahs, but that was only emblematic of NSW. All were agreed that any name



would be preferable to Rabbits."

So the players held a vote on board and, as Moran noted, "Wallabies won by a couple of votes".

The First Wallabies played 31 matches during a six-month assignment, winning 25 of them and splitting the two Tests against England and Wales. The tour also included an Olympic Games gold medal decider against English county champions Cornwall.

Rugby had been included on the roster of sports for the London Olympics in 1908 and eight teams were initially

locked in to compete. By the time of the Games, however, the numbers were down to three - Australia, England (represented by Cornwall) and France.

The Australians were given a bye through to the final with Cornwall to play France for the other place in the gold medal match. France then withdrew, citing an under-strength team, leaving the Wallabies to play the pride of the UK county scene.

Australia won the final 32-3.

A Century later the 2008 Wallabies flew to Europe for a Spring Tour that included a commemorative match against the Barbarians to mark the 100-year anniversary of Australia's gold medal success. It was also the 100th anniversary of the iconic name under which the Australian Rugby team now plays. While the first Test involving Australia was played in 1899 against a touring British team, the Wallabies name only surfaced nine years later - when an angry squad of players refused to be branded the 'Rabbits'.

ON THE FIELD

Qantas Wallabies report

WE'RE underway! While the 2008 season might have contained a few more on-field fluctuations for the Qantas Wallabies than we'd have liked, we've come out of the year with a solid platform from which we can build on in the coming seasons. Results-wise, we've buried a few demons, gaining our first wins for eight years in South Africa and France.

Those performances as well as that at Twickenham, which has been another venue where Australia has found winning an elusive art in recent times, were significant from a confidence perspective.

They were also – and especially on the Spring Tour where back-to-back victories were achieved in challenging conditions in Italy, England and France – an indicator of the progress we had made as a group.

Performing consistently and being able to overcome adverse conditions, such as those posed by playing away from home, are two of the key components that are required for success in a competitive environment.

You only have to study the history books to discover that winning is a habit. The most successful eras have been created by teams that have been able to perform consistently on the field, both home and away.

While we've ended our first season together as a group, most definitely still in the work in progress category, I cannot fault either the commitment or the effort shown by the players. They are proud men; proud both of the people they represent and what the Qantas Wallabies stand for.

The work they have put in both on the field, but even more significantly off it was starting to return a dividend by the time our campaign finished.

This was highlighted by the willingness of the players to back their skills and play what they saw in front of them, but also the growing composure which became evident in their decision making

under pressure, especially during some of the tight contests on the Spring Tour.

Their work in the area of physical preparation and conditioning brought rewards too, as evidenced by our ability to outlast many of our Northern Hemisphere opponents during the Spring Tour.

These are all indicators of the growth that has taken place from when we first came together as a unit at the start of June. Encouragingly, from my perspective, the scope for improvements that remain in all of the above mentioned areas is significant. We have really only just got started. Much of the obvious potential is still untapped.

By the end of our Spring Tour, the playing base that is available to the Qantas Wallabies had been broadened by the introduction of 13 newcomers to the jersey this year. A number of others, such as Benn Robinson, Berrick Barnes and Adam Ashley-Cooper, had added to previous limited experience gained playing for their country.

Australian Rugby lost a number of its most senior and Test-hardened players at the conclusion of the 2007 Rugby World Cup. That experience and know how can't be replaced overnight.

While a number of players have stepped forward in 2008, opportunities remain for others next year to stake their claims. An increased level of competition for Qantas Wallabies places is a healthy phenomenon.

We want players from all of the States to be excited about what we are doing, and knocking the door down to try and be a part of it. Most importantly, we want all of our players aspiring not just to be the best players in their positions in Australia, but the best players in the world. A standard has been set in 2008. Our collective challenge now is to push that bar upwards, and keep raising it.

ROBBIE DEANS

Qantas Wallabies Head Coach

These are all indicators of the growth that has taken place from when we first came together as a unit at the start of June



FIRST 2008 QANTAS WALLABIES SQUAD



QANTAS WALLABIES JUNE 2008

FRONT ROW (from left): Wycliff Palu, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Brett Sheehan, Phil Waugh, Luke Burgess, Robbie Deans (Head Coach), Stirling Mortlock (Captain), Matt Giteau, Benn Robinson, George Smith, Adam Freier, Ryan Cross. **MIDDLE ROW**: Peter Harding (Strength & Conditioning), Phil Thomson (Team Manager), Sam Cashman (Assistant Team Manager), Ed Fitzgerald (Physiotherapy Coordinator), Lote Tuqiri, Dean Mumm, Rocky Elsom, Mark Chisholm, James Horwill, Nathan Sharpe, Stephen Hoiles, Cameron Shepherd, Stephen Moore, Jim Williams (Assistant Coach) Andrew Sullivan (Analyst) Matt McIlraith (Team Media Manager), Warren McDonald (Team Doctor), Lizzie Farmer (Operations Coordinator) **BACK ROW**: Michael Foley (Set Piece Coach), Digby Ioane, Peter Hynes, Sam Cordingly, Matt Dunning, Lachlan Turner, Richard Brown, Al Baxter, Berrick Barnes, Ben Alexander, Tatafu Polota-Nau, James Sutherland (Physiotherapist)

2008 QANTAS WALLABIES SPRING TOUR



QANTAS WALLABIES SPRING TOUR

BACK ROW (from left): Michael Foley (Assistant Coach), Andrew Sullivan (Analyst), Jim Williams (Assistant Coach), Dean Mumm, Peter Kimlin, Hugh McMeniman, Nathan Sharpe, Mark Chisholm, Lote Tuqiri, Al Baxter, Ryan Cross, Drew Mitchell, Matthew Giteau. **MIDDLE ROW**: Matt McIlraith (Team Media Manager), James Sutherland (Physiotherapist), Edward Fitzgerald (Physiotherapy Co-ordinator), Warren MacDonald (Team Doctor), Brett Sheehan, David Pocock, Quade Cooper, Luke Burgess, Digby Ioane, Berrick Barnes, Stephen Moore, Lachlan Turner, Peter Hynes, Peter Harding (Strength & Conditioning), Lizzie Farmer (Operations Co-ordinator). **FRONT ROW**: Sam Cashman (Assistant Manager), Ben Alexander, Timana Tahu, Tatafu Polota-Nau, Matt Dunning, Richard Brown, Phil Thomson (Team Manager), Stirling Mortlock (Captain), Robbie Deans (Head Coach), James O'Connor, Benn Robinson, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Sam Cordingly. **INSERTS**: Adam Freier, Sekope Kepu, Wycliff Palu

ON THE FIELD

Test by Test



2008 BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES



Lansdowne Cup / Australia 18 d Ireland 12 / Telstra Dome, Melbourne, June 14, 2008

AUSTRALIA regained the Lansdowne Cup and kicked off the Robbie Deans era with a win, but only after a hard-fought contest where each side scored two tries. It took just five minutes for Berrick Barnes to post the first Qantas Wallabies' try of the year, but Ireland proved a tenacious opponent, keeping the result in the balance until the very end. Ireland captain Brian O'Driscoll scored the only try of the second spell to get the visitors to within six points, but they could close no further during a scoreless final 18 minutes. The win was the Qantas Wallabies' ninth consecutive success against Ireland in home matches dating back to the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987, having lost the first three meetings on home soil: in 1967, and twice in 1979.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Berrick Barnes and James Horwill; conversion and 2 penalty goals by Matt Giteau.

IRELAND: Tries by Denis Leamy and Brian O'Driscoll; conversion by Ronan O'Gara.

Halftime: Australia 15, Ireland 7

Referee: Christophe Berdos (France)

Goal kicking: Matt Giteau 3 from 4 (season: 3 from 4)

Crowd: 41,478

AUSTRALIA: Cameron Shepherd, Peter Hynes, Stirling Mortlock (captain), Berrick Barnes, Lote Tuqiri, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess (replaced by Sam Cordingley, 77 min), Wycliff Palu (replaced by Phil Waugh, 73 min), George Smith, Rocky Elsom, Nathan Sharpe (temporarily replaced by Dean Mumm, 46 min), James Horwill, Matt Dunning (replaced by Al Baxter, 58 min), Stephen Moore (replaced by Adam Freier, 73 min), Benn Robinson.

IRELAND: Robert Kearney, Shane Horgan, Brian O'Driscoll (captain), Paddy Wallace, Tommy Bowe, Ronan O'Gara, Peter Stringer, Jamie Heaslip, Shane Jennings, Denis Leamy, Paul O'Connell, Donncha O'Callaghan, John Hayes, Rory Best, Marcus Horan.

TEST NOTES

- Luke Burgess, Peter Hynes and Dean Mumm all made their Test debuts - becoming Qantas Wallabies 821 (Burgess), 822 (Hynes) and 823 (Mumm) respectively.
- When he replaced Matt Dunning, NSW Waratahs prop Al Baxter earned his 52nd Test cap, advancing ahead of his former State coach Ewen McKenzie as the most capped Australian prop in Test history.
- This represented Australia's 19th success from 27 Test matches played against Ireland - reversing a 6-21 defeat from the previous meeting, at Dublin during November 2006. Six Qantas Wallabies featured in both matches.

TROPHÉE DES BICENTENAIRES

First Test / Australia 34 d France 13 / ANZ Stadium, Sydney, June 28, 2008

A STRONG second half paved the way for a comfortable Australian win in the first Trophée des Bicentennaires Test, after the Qantas Wallabies had been held to a 10-6 halftime advantage following an error-ridden opening period. All four Australian tries were scored during a 26-minute period either side of the break where the home side appeared a class above its French opponents. The 21-point winning margin was a record for Australia against France until it was eclipsed the following weekend.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Matt Giteau, Nathan Sharpe, Rocky Elsom and Stirling Mortlock; 4 conversions and 2 penalty goals by Giteau.

FRANCE: Try by Alexis Palisson; conversion by Francois Trinh-Duc, 2 penalty goals by Dimitri Yachvili.

Halftime: Australia 10 France 6

Referee: Marius Jonker (South Africa)

Goal kicking: Matt Giteau 6 from 7 (season: 9 from 11)

Crowd: 48,899

AUSTRALIA: Cameron Shepherd, Peter Hynes, Stirling Mortlock (captain), Berrick Barnes (replaced by Ryan Cross, 58 min), Lote Tuqiri (replaced by Adam Ashley-Cooper, 31 min), Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess (replaced by Sam Cordingley, 70 min), Wycliff Palu (replaced by Phil Waugh, 40 min), George Smith (replaced by Dean Mumm, 65 min), Rocky Elsom, Nathan Sharpe, James Horwill, Al Baxter, Stephen Moore (replaced by Adam Freier, 70 min), Benn Robinson (replaced by Ben Alexander, 60 min).

FRANCE: Pepito Elhorga, Alexis Palisson, Damien Traille, Francois Trinh-Duc, Benjamin Thiery, Benjamin Boyet, Dimitri Yachvili, Imanol Harinordoquy, Louis Picamoles, Fulgence Ouedraogo, Sebastien Chabal, Lionel Nallet (captain), Benoit Lecouls, Sebastien Bruno, Lionel Faure.

TEST NOTES

- Ryan Cross and Ben Alexander made their debuts off the bench, becoming Qantas Wallabies 824 and 825 respectively.
- This was the 11th Test between France and Australia in Sydney, and the Qantas Wallabies' seventh win - as against a draw and three defeats.



TROPHÉE DES BICENTENAIRES

Second Test / Australia 40 d France 10 / At Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, July 5, 2008

RYAN CROSS scored his first two tries in Tests as Australia sealed the Trophée des Bicentennaires with a record 40-10 victory in the second international. Queensland winger Peter Hynes also posted his first Test try as the Qantas Wallabies opened strongly to advance to a 26-3 halftime advantage. The result was never in doubt from this point; with the score blowing out to 40-3 on the back of the Cross second half double, before the French saved some face with a try in the final minute of play.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Ryan Cross (2), Peter Hynes and James Horwill; 4 conversions and 4 penalty goals by Matt Giteau.

FRANCE: Try by Francois Trinh-Duc; conversion by Dimitri Yachvili, penalty goal by Trinh-Duc.

Halftime: Australia 26 France 3

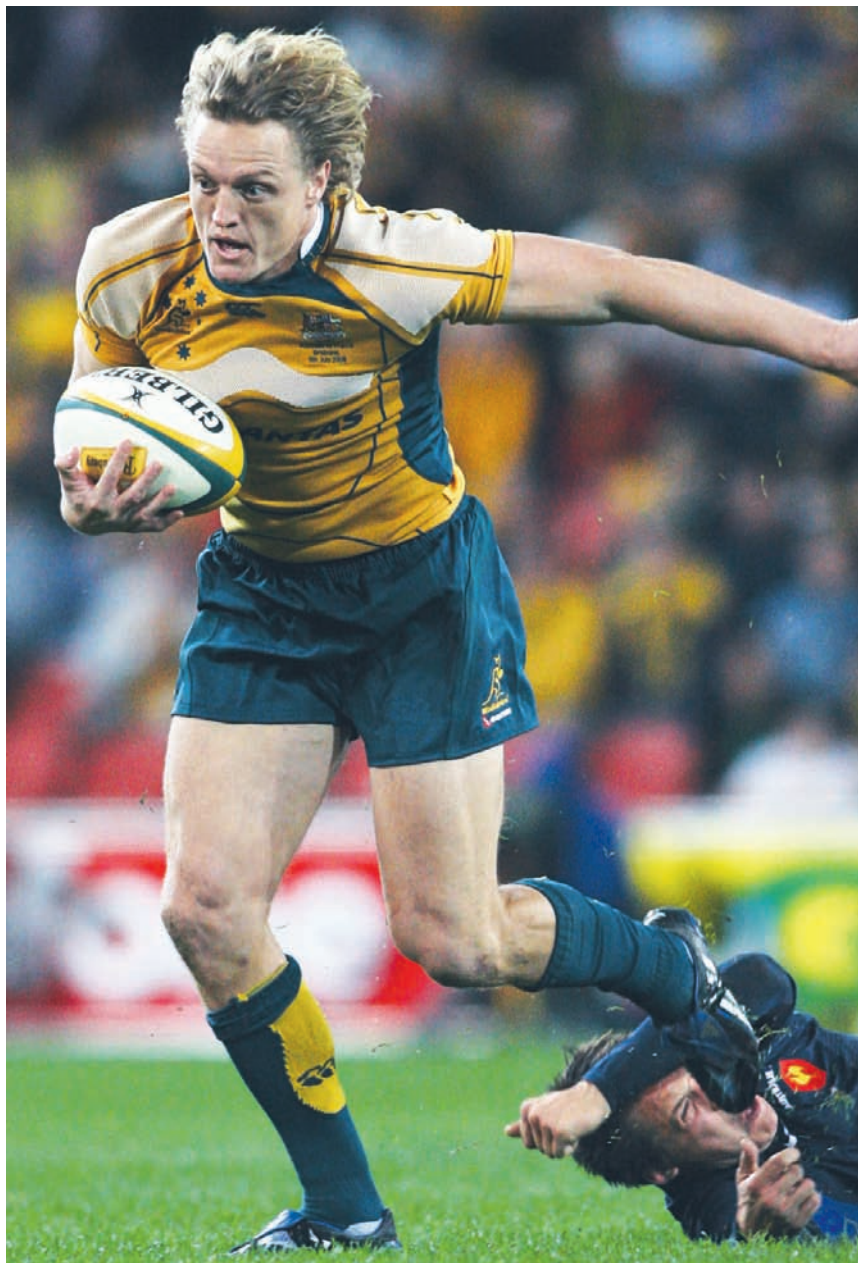
Referee: Paul Honiss (New Zealand)

Goal kicking: Matt Giteau 8 from 8 (season: 17 from 19)

Crowd: 40,218

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper, Peter Hynes, Stirling Mortlock (captain, replaced by Cameron Shepherd, 72 min), Berrick Barnes (replaced by Ryan Cross, 52 min), Lachie Turner, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess (replaced by Sam Cordingley, 73 min), Stephen Hoiles (replaced by George Smith, 50 min), Phil Waugh, Rocky Elsom, Dean Mumm, James Horwill (replaced by Hugh McMeniman, 38 min), Al Baxter, Stephen Moore (replaced by Adam Freier, 73 min), Benn Robinson (replaced by Ben Alexander, 60 min).

FRANCE: Benjamin Thierry, Alexis Palisson, Maxim Mermoz, Thubault Lacroix, David Janin, Francois Trinh-Duc, Sebastien Tillous-Bordes, Imanol Harinordoquy, Fulgence Ouedraogo, Matthieu Lievremon, Lionel Nallet (captain), Sebastien Chabal, Renaud Boyoud, Sebastien Bruno, Pierre Correira.



TEST NOTES

- Lachie Turner made his Test debut - the sixth to debut for the Qantas Wallabies in three 2008 Tests, and the 826th Australian representative.

- When Matt Giteau kicked his third penalty goal in the 28th minute, he became just the fifth Australian to move beyond 300 Test points.

- This was the 38th meeting between Australia and France, with the Qantas Wallabies victory being Australia's 20th, as aside 16 defeats and two draws.



TRI NATIONS

Tri Nations #1 & Mandela Trophy / Australia 16 d South Africa 9 / At Subiaco Oval, Perth, July 19, 2008

AUSTRALIA made a perfect start to the Tri Nations outlasting the reigning Rugby World Cup holders in a fierce confrontation which saw the Qantas Wallabies captain Stirling Mortlock knocked out in the act of scoring his team's second try. The win came a week after South Africa had beaten New Zealand in Dunedin for the first time in 100 years, which was also only the Springboks second win on New Zealand soil in the 13 years of the Tri Nations. The Qantas Wallabies scored the only tries of the match, but were forced to withstand some strong South African pressure in the second spell before closing out the game with a Berrick Barnes dropped goal a minute from fulltime. The win was just Australia's second success from five Tests against South Africa in Perth, while the seven-point margin represented the greatest gap between the two sides from those games.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Lote Tuqiri and Stirling Mortlock; penalty goal by Matt Giteau, dropped goal by Berrick Barnes.

SOUTH AFRICA: Penalty goals by Francois Steyn (2) and Butch James.

Halftime: Australia 5, South Africa 3

Referee: Bryce Lawrence (New Zealand)

Goal kicking: Matt Giteau 1 from 3 (season: 18 from 22)

Crowd: 41,838

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper, Peter Hynes, Stirling Mortlock (captain, replaced by Ryan Cross, 49 min), Berrick Barnes, Lote Tuqiri, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess (replaced by Sam Cordingley, 72 min), Wycliff Palu (replaced by Phil Waugh, 78 min), George Smith, Rocky Elsom (temporarily replaced by Hugh McMeniman 21-28 min, replaced by Drew Mitchell, 79 min), Nathan Sharpe (replaced by Hugh McMeniman, 72 min), James Horwill, Al Baxter (replaced by Matt Dunning, 72 min), Stephen Moore (replaced by Tatafu Polata-Nau, 72 min), Benn Robinson.

SOUTH AFRICA: Conrad Jantjies, JP Pietersen, Francois Steyn, Jean de Villiers, Bryan Habana (replaced by Peter Grant), Butch James (replaced by Ruan Pienaar), Enrico Januarie, Pierre Spies, Juan Smith, Schalk Burger (replaced by Ryan Kankowski), Bakkies

TEST NOTES

- In featuring in his 87th Test, George Smith became the fourth most capped Wallaby of all-time, going beyond John Eales and Joe Roff. He also established himself as the most capped Wallaby Test forward.
- Stirling Mortlock's 45th minute try was his sixth in Tests against South Africa. Only New Zealanders Christian Cullen (10) and Joe Rokocoko (9) have scored more.
- This was Australia's 50th Tri-Nations Test since the annual series kicked off in 1996.

Botha (replaced by Andries Bekker), Victor Matfield (captain), Guthro Steenkamp (replaced by Tendai Mtawarira), Schalk Brits (replaced by Adriaan Strauss), CJ van der Linde (replaced by Brian Mujati).

ON THE FIELD



TRI NATIONS

Tri Nations #2 & Bledisloe Cup / Australia 34 d New Zealand 19 / ANZ Stadium, Sydney, July 26, 2008

AUSTRALIA recorded its highest winning total against New Zealand as the Qantas Wallabies rallied from 17-19 down just after halftime to complete back-to-back Tri-Nations wins within seven days. Australia led 17-5 after 31 minutes but conceded two quick tries to fall behind, before a try by Rocky Elsom in the 55th minute decisively turned the game. A dropped goal by Matt Giteau 13 minutes from time pushed the Qantas Wallabies out beyond the seven-point barrier, before James Horwill scored with six minutes remaining to earn just Australia's fifth try-scoring bonus point from 26 Tri-Nations matches against the All Blacks. The win was Australia's sixth from nine matches against NZ at the Olympic stadium - following on from wins in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003 (Rugby World Cup semi-final) and 2004. This was the first Bledisloe Cup match in Sydney since 2005.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Ryan Cross, Peter Hynes, Rocky Elsom and James Horwill; 4 conversions, a penalty goal and a dropped goal by Matt Giteau.

NEW ZEALAND: Tries by Malili Muliaina, Andrew Hore and Andrew Ellis; 2 conversions by Daniel Carter.

Halftime: Australia 17 New Zealand 12

Referee: Craig Joubert (South Africa)

Goal kicking: Matt Giteau 5 from 5 (season: 23 from 27)

Crowd: 78,944

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper, Peter Hynes, Ryan Cross, Berrick Barnes, Lote Tuqiri, Matt Giteau (replaced by Timana Tahu, 77 min), Luke Burgess, Wycliff Palu, George Smith (captain), Rocky Elsom (replaced by Phil Waugh, 59min), Nathan Sharpe (replaced by Daniel Vickerman, 62 min), James Horwill, Al Baxter (replaced by Matt Dunning, 76 min), Stephen Moore (replaced by Tatafu Polata-Nau, 59 min), Benn Robinson.

NEW ZEALAND: Malili Muliaina, Sitiveni Sivivatu, Richard Kahui, Ma'a Nonu (replaced by Conrad Smith), Anthony Tuitavake, Daniel Carter, Andrew Ellis (replaced by Jimmy Cowan), Jerome Kaino, Daniel Braid (replaced by Sione Lauaki), Rodney So'oialo (captain),

TEST NOTES

- Timana Tahu became the 827th player to represent Australia in Tests.
- George Smith led Australia for just the second time, having become the country's 75th Test captain when he led against Canada at the 2007 Rugby World Cup. Australia has won both Test matches under Smith's charge.
- This was the 49th Test between Australia and New Zealand to have been played in Sydney, and Australia's 18th win, alongside 29 defeats and two draws. It was Australia's 45th win from the 153 Tests between the two trans-Tasman rivals.

Ali Williams, Brad Thorn, Greg Somerville (replaced by John Afoa), Andrew Hore (replaced by Keven Mealamu), Tony Woodcock.

TRI NATIONS

Tri Nations #3 & Bledisloe Cup #2 / New Zealand 39 d Australia 10 / At Eden Park, Auckland, August 2, 2008

AUSTRALIA sank to its first defeat of the Robbie Deans' era after succumbing by 29-points against an inspired All Black side at Eden Park. New Zealand was defending a 19-game unbeaten run in Auckland dating back to 1994, while it hadn't lost to Australia in the city since 1986. Neither of these statistics appeared under threat after the All Blacks pushed out to a 21-10 halftime advantage, with a miserable night for the visitors being completed when they were held scoreless during the second period.

NEW ZEALAND: Tries by Tony Woodcock (2) and Ma'a Nonu (2); 2 conversions and 5 penalty goals by Daniel Carter.

AUSTRALIA: Try by Adam Ashley-Cooper; conversion and a penalty goal by Matt Giteau.

Halftime: New Zealand 21 Australia 10

Referee: Mark Lawrence (South Africa)

Goal kicking: Matt Giteau 2 from 2 (season: 25 from 29)

Crowd: 42,000

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper (replaced by Drew Mitchell, 40 min), Peter Hynes, Stirling Mortlock (captain), Berrick Barnes (replaced by Ryan Cross, 74 min), Lote Tuqiri, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess, Wycliff Palu, George Smith (captain), Phil Waugh (replaced by Hugh McMeniman, 57 min), Nathan Sharpe (replaced by Daniel Vickerman, 43 min), James Horwill, Al Baxter, Stephen Moore (replaced by Tatafu Polata-Nau, 43 min), Benn Robinson.

NEW ZEALAND: Malili Muliaina, Sitiveni Sivivatu, Conrad Smith (replaced by Anthony Tuitavake), Ma'a Nonu, Richard Kahui (replaced by Stephen Donald), Daniel Carter, Jimmy Cowan (replaced by Piri Weepu), Rodney So'oialo, Richard McCaw (captain), Jerome Kaino (replaced by Adam Thomson), Ali Williams, Brad Thorn (replaced by Anthony Boric), Greg Somerville (replaced by John Afoa), Andrew Hore (replaced by Keven Mealamu), Tony Woodcock.

TEST NOTES

- The loss was Australia's eighth consecutive defeat in Tests on New Zealand soil, and its 15th consecutive away loss in Tri-Nations matches.
- Tony Woodcock became the first All Black prop to score two tries in a Test against Australia for 50 years, following on from Sir Wilson Whineray in 1958.



ON THE FIELD



TRI NATIONS

Tri Nations #4 & Mandela Trophy #2 / Australia 27 d South Africa 15 / The ABSA Stadium, Durban, August 23, 2008

EIGHT years of frustration and near misses was brought to a close as the Qantas Wallabies ground out a 27-15 win over South Africa in Durban to secure the Mandela Trophy. On a day where George Smith became the most capped loose forward in Test history by appearing in his 90th Test – one more than Frenchman Olivier Magne, Australia led 10-0 at halftime and held its goal-line in tact until the 66th minute. The result was never really in any doubt after Australia's captain, Stirling Mortlock, barged through for his seventh try from 16 Tests against South Africa to take his side out to 27-10 entering the final 10 minutes. The win was just Australia's eighth from 35 Tests in South Africa, was its first since 2000 and was only its second in the country during the Tri Nations era (1996-2008). The win also snapped a sequence of 15 consecutive away defeats for Australia in the Tri Nations.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Benn Robinson, Lote Tuqiri and Stirling Mortlock; 3 conversions and 2 penalty goals by Matt Giteau.

SOUTH AFRICA: 2 tries by Adrian Jacobs; conversion by Percy Montgomery, penalty goal by Butch James.

Halftime: Australia 10 South Africa 0

Referee: Lyndon Bray (New Zealand)

Goal-kicking: Matt Giteau 5 from 6 (season 30 from 35)

Crowd: 49,000

AUSTRALIA: Drew Mitchell, Peter Hynes (replaced by Timana Tahu, 58 min), Stirling Mortlock (captain), Berrick Barnes (replaced by Ryan Cross, 20 min), Lote Tuqiri, Matt Giteau, Sam Cordingley (replaced by Brett Sheehan, 55 min), Wycliff Palu (temporarily replaced by Phil Waugh 48-51 min, replaced by Waugh, 78 min), George Smith, Rocky Elsom, Daniel Vickerman (replaced by Dean Mumm, 38 min, Mumm replaced by Tatafu Polota-Nau, 80 min), James Horwill, Matt Dunning (replaced by Al Baxter, 55 min), Stephen Moore, Benn Robinson.

SOUTH AFRICA: Conrad Jantjies, Jonge Nokwe, Jean de Villiers, Adrian Jacobs, JP Pietersen (replaced by Percy Montgomery), Butch James (replaced by Francois Steyn, temporarily replaced by Pierre Spies), Fourie du Preez (replaced by Enricio Januarie), Pierre

TEST NOTES

- In completing their third win of the competition, the class of '08 matched the feat of Australia's most successful Tri-Nations side – in 2000 – for the most wins in a single championship. These are the only two Australian teams to have won Tri-Nations matches in South Africa.
- Benn Robinson scored his maiden Test try – in his 13th appearance.
- In scoring his 30th Test try, Lote Tuqiri tied Joe Roff and Tim Horan as the third most prolific try-scorers in Australian Test history. Stirling Mortlock's try took him into fifth position on the same list with 28, one in arrears of Matthew Burke.

Spies (replaced by Joe van Niekerk), Juan Smith, Schalk Burger, Andries Bekker, Victor Matfield (captain), Tendai Mtawarira (replaced by Brian Mujati), Bismarck du Plessis, CJ van der Linde.

TRI NATIONS

Tri Nations #5 & Mandela Trophy #3 / South Africa 53 d Australia 8 / Coca Cola Park, Johannesburg, August 30, 2008

AS WITH the New Zealand experience, a week after the ecstasy, the Qantas Wallabies endured the agony, after slumping to a record 8-53 loss in Johannesburg. Australia opened the scoring with a penalty goal in the sixth minute, but thereafter produced an abject performance littered with mistakes, which allowed an under pressure Springbok outfit to rediscover its confidence. The 45-point losing margin was the biggest in Australian Test history, while the Cheetahs winger Jonge Nokwe became the first player to score four tries against the Qantas Wallabies in a Test, as well as the first to post four tries in a Tri Nations match.

SOUTH AFRICA: Tries by Jonge Nokwe (4), Andries Bekker, Adrian Jacobs, Akona Ndungane and Ruan Pienaar; 3 conversions and a penalty goal by Butch James, 2 conversions by Percy Montgomery.

AUSTRALIA: Try by Drew Mitchell; penalty goal by Matt Giteau.

Halftime: South Africa 27 Australia 3
Referee: Bryce Lawrence (New Zealand)
Goal-kicking: Matt Giteau 1 from 2 (season 31 from 37)
Crowd: 54,291

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper, Peter Hynes (replaced by Drew Mitchell, 50 min), Stirling Mortlock (captain), Timana Tahu (replaced by Ryan Cross, 50 min), Lote Tuqiri, Matt Giteau, Sam Cordingley (replaced by Brett Sheehan, 52 min), Wycliff Palu, Phil Waugh (replaced by George Smith, 47 min), Rocky Elsom, Hugh McMeniman (replaced by Dean Mumm, 68 min), James Horwill, Matt Dunning (replaced by Al Baxter, 31 min), Tatafu Polota-Nau (replaced by Stephen Moore, 48 min), Benn Robinson (replaced by Matt Dunning, 60 min).

SOUTH AFRICA: Conrad Jantjies, Jonge Nokwe (replaced by Percy Montgomery), Jean de Villiers, Adrian Jacobs, Odwa Ndungane, Butch James (replaced by Ruan Pienaar), Fourie du Preez (replaced by Enrico Januarie), Pierre Spies (replaced by Luke Watson), Juan Smith, Schalk Burger, Andries Bekker (replaced by Danie Rossouw), Victor Matfield (captain), Tendai Mtawarira, Bismarck du Plessis (replaced by Adriaan Strauss), Brian Mujati (replaced by Jannie du Plessis).



TEST NOTES

- This represented just the third occasion in history that Australia had conceded in excess of 50-points in a Test match. Ironically the most recent occasion, in 2003, had been against a New Zealand side that had Qantas Wallabies coach Robbie Deans on its coaching staff.
- This was the 10th match between

the two countries in Johannesburg, and South Africa's ninth win. Defeat extended Australia's run of losses in Johannesburg to 45 years, with the only win in the city having been achieved in 1963.

- Timana Tahu and Tatafu Polota-Nau both started a Test match for the first time.

ON THE FIELD

TRI NATIONS

Tri Nations #6 & Bledisloe Cup #3 / New Zealand 28 d Australia 24 / Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, September 13, 2008

AUSTRALIA fell desperately short in a thrilling Tri Nations series decider, after a disastrous 15-minute spell saw the All Blacks post three tries to turn a 7-17 deficit into a match-winning 28-17 lead. Despite conceding the opening try, Adam Ashley-Cooper scored on the stroke of halftime to give the Qantas Wallabies a lead, which they then consolidated after the break through a try by lock James Horwill. The injection of four fresh players after the Horwill try provided the All Blacks with impetus as the Qantas Wallabies lost their way and cracked defensively. Although a converted try by Ryan Cross, two minutes from time, set up a grandstand finish, the All Blacks held on to retain the Bledisloe Cup for a fifth successive year, while also securing NZ's fourth straight Tri Nations.

NEW ZEALAND: Tries by Malili Muliaina, Tony Woodcock, Piri Weepu and Daniel Carter; 4 conversions by Carter.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Adam Ashley-Cooper, James Horwill and Ryan Cross; 3 conversions and a penalty goal by Matt Giteau.

Halftime: Australia 10 New Zealand 7

Referee: Jonathan Kaplan (South Africa)

Goal-kicking: Matt Giteau 4 from 5 (season 35 from 42, 83%)

Crowd: 52,328

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper, Peter Hynes, Ryan Cross, Stirling Mortlock (captain), Lote Tuqiri, Matt Giteau, Sam Cordingley, Wycliff Palu (replaced by Richard Brown, 34 min), George Smith, Rocky Elsom (replaced by Hugh McMeniman, 70 min), Nathan Sharpe, James Horwill, Al Baxter, Stephen Moore (replaced by Adam Freier, 72 min), Benn Robinson.

NEW ZEALAND: Malili Muliaina, Richard Kahui, Conrad Smith, Ma'a Nonu (replaced by Stephen Donald), Sitiveni Sivivatu, Daniel Carter, Jimmy Cowan (replaced by Piri Weepu), Rodney So'oialo, Richard McCaw (captain), Jerome Kaino, Ali Williams, Brad Thorn (replaced by Anthony Boric), Greg Somerville (replaced by John Afoa), Andrew Hore (replaced by Keven Mealamu), Tony Woodcock.



2008 TRI NATIONS RESULTS

July 5:	New Zealand 19, South Africa 8 at Wellington
July 12:	South Africa 30, New Zealand 28 at Dunedin
July 19:	Australia 16, South Africa 9 at Perth
July 26:	Australia 34, New Zealand 19 at Sydney
August 2:	New Zealand 39, Australia 10 at Auckland
August 16:	New Zealand 19, South Africa 0 at Cape Town
August 23:	Australia 27, South Africa 15 at Durban
August 30:	South Africa 53, Australia 8 at Johannesburg
September 13:	New Zealand 28, Australia 24 at Brisbane

2008 TRI NATIONS POINTS TABLE

	PI	Won	Lost	-7	4T	Points
New Zealand	6	4	2	1	2	19
Australia	6	3	3	1	1	14
South Africa	6	2	4	1	1	10

TEST NOTES

- Queensland-raised Western Force loose forward Richard Brown became the eighth player to debut in 2008, and the 828th Wallaby.
- Stirling Mortlock led Australia for the 20th time in Test matches, surpassing the 19 games that ex-centre Andrew Slack (who presented the Australian players with their

jerseys for this Test) captained the Qantas Wallabies. Only George Gregan (59), John Eales (56) and Nick Farr-Jones (36) have led the team on more occasions.

- Defeat snapped an 11-match unbeaten run by the Qantas Wallabies on Australian soil - which dated back to 29 July 2006, when the side lost 9-13 to New Zealand in Brisbane.



THE CENTENARY SPRING TOUR

Bledisloe Cup #4 / New Zealand 19 d Australia 14 / Hong Kong Stadium, November 1, 2008

THE Qantas Wallabies surrendered a halftime advantage to lose to New Zealand for the second consecutive Test, after the All Blacks scored the only two tries of the second half to win the historic Bledisloe Cup Test in Hong Kong. Although the All Blacks dominated territory in the opening period, Australia scored two slick tries through winger Drew Mitchell to lead 14-6, before a Daniel Carter penalty goal from halfway cut the advantage to five points at halftime. The All Blacks then scored straight after the break through winger Sitiveni Sivivatu, before gaining what proved to be the match-winning score in fortunate circumstances when Richie McCaw scored off a pass that appeared to float forward.

NEW ZEALAND: Tries by Sitiveni Sivivatu and Richie McCaw; 3 penalty goals by Daniel Carter.
AUSTRALIA: 2 tries by Drew Mitchell; 2 conversions by Matt Giteau.

Halftime: Australia 14 New Zealand 9
 Referee: Alan Lewis (Ireland)
 Goal-kicking: Matt Giteau 2 from 3 (season 37 from 45)
 Crowd: 39,682

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper, Peter Hynes, Ryan Cross (replaced by Berrick Barnes, 53 min), Stirling Mortlock (captain), Drew Mitchell, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess, Richard Brown, George Smith (replaced by David Pocock, 75 min), Dean Mumm, Nathan Sharpe (replaced by Phil Waugh, 64 min), Mark Chisholm, Al Baxter (replaced by Matt Dunning, 71 min), Stephen Moore, Benn Robinson.

NEW ZEALAND: Isaia Toeava (replaced by Cory Jane), Hosea Gear, Conrad Smith, Daniel Carter, Sitiveni Sivivatu, Stephen Donald (replaced by Ma'a Nonu), Jimmy Cowan (replaced by Piri Weepu), Rodney So'oialo (temporarily replaced by Adam Thomson), Richie McCaw (captain), Jerome Kaino (replaced by Adam Thomson), Ali

TEST NOTES

- This was the first Bledisloe Cup Test to be held outside of Australasia, and just the second trans-Tasman Test to be played on neutral territory. Australia had won the first, at Dublin in the semi-finals of the 1991 Rugby World Cup.
- Flanker George Smith became the sixth Australian player to feature in 20 Tests against the All Blacks.
- Zimbabwean-born Western Force flanker David Pocock became the 829th player to be capped by the Qantas Wallabies.

Williams, Brad Thorn (replaced by Anthony Boric), Neemia Tialata (replaced by Greg Somerville), Andrew Hore (replaced by Keven Mealamu), Tony Woodcock.

ON THE FIELD



SPRING TOUR

Australia v Italy / Australia 30 d Italy 20 / Stade Euganeo, Padova, Italy, November 8, 2008

AUSTRALIA came from behind to extend its unbeaten run in Tests against Italy to 10, with new cap Quade Cooper scoring the game-breaking try. One of three to make his Qantas Wallabies debut in the game, alongside Sekope Kepu and James O'Connor, Cooper scored his try 10 minutes after taking the field to break a 20-20 deadlock that had had the parochial Italian crowd sensing an historic upset. Winger Lachie Turner had earlier also scored his maiden Test try, in what was his second game for the Qantas Wallabies. The match saw O'Connor, who was aged 18 years and 126 days, become the second youngest Wallaby of all-time. This was the first Test to be hosted by the Northern Italian city of Padova in a decade. The previous match had also featured Australia, and had witnessed Wallaby great David Campese play his 100th Test after a stellar career.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Lachie Turner and Quade Cooper; conversion and 5 penalty goals by Matt Giteau, penalty goal by Stirling Mortlock.

ITALY: Try by Mirco Bergamasco; penalty goals by Andrea Marcato (2) and Luciano Orquera (2), dropped goal by Marcato.

Halftime: Australia 14 Italy 14

Referee: Bryce Lawrence (New Zealand)

Goal-kicking: Stirling Mortlock 1 from 2 (season: 1 from 2), Matt Giteau 5 from 5 (season: 42 from 50)

Crowd: 30,000

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper (replaced by James O'Connor, 72 min), Lachie Turner, Stirling Mortlock (captain), Timana Tahu (replaced by Quade Cooper, 62 min), Digby Ioane, Berrick Barnes (replaced by Matt Giteau, 17 min), Luke Burgess, Richard Brown, Phil Waugh (replaced by David Pocock, 72 min), Dean Mumm, Hugh McMeniman (replaced by Wycliff Palu, 67 min), Mark Chisholm, Matt Dunning, Stephen Moore (replaced by Tatafu Polota Nau, 76 min), Ben Alexander (replaced by Sekope Kepu, 67 min).

ITALY: Andrea Masi, Kaine Robertson, Gonzalo Canale, Gonzalo Garcia, Mirco Bergamasco, Andrea Marcato, Pablo Canavosio (replaced by Giulio Toniolatti), Sergio Parisse (captain), Mauro Bergamasco, Josh Sole (replaced

TEST NOTES

- Quade Cooper, Sekope Kepu and James O'Connor became Wallaby numbers 830, 831 and 832 respectively.
- While he had been capped twice previously in the year against France as a replacement, in starting a Test match for the first time, prop Ben Alexander also made the maiden start of his professional career. All of his previous Super rugby appearances for the Brumbies had also been obtained coming from the bench.
- Italy's tally of 20 points was its highest at home in Tests against Australia.

by Alessandro Zanni), Marco Bortolami (replaced by Tommaso Reato), Carlo Antonio Del Fava, Carlos Nieto, Leonardo Ghiraldini (replaced by Fabio Ongaro), Salvatore Perugini (replaced by Matias Agüero).

SPRING TOUR

Cook Cup / Australia 28 d England 14 / Twickenham Stadium, London, November 15, 2008

AUSTRALIA retained the Cook Cup, while recording just the second win from its last eight visits to Twickenham, after overpowering England in the final 25 minutes. The home side, which was rebuilding under the guidance of the 2003 Rugby World Cup-winning captain Martin Johnson in his new role as team manager, hit the lead 14-12 after 52 minutes. It was then held scoreless for the remainder of the contest as the Qantas Wallabies eased out to Australia's second biggest winning margin on English soil. Flyhalf Matt Giteau kicked 20 of Australia's points, which represented the second highest individual tally by a Wallaby against England, being bettered only by the 22 accumulated by Matthew Burke during the 76-0 rout at Brisbane in 1998.

AUSTRALIA: Try by Adam Ashley-Cooper; conversion and 6 penalty goals by Matt Giteau, penalty goal by Stirling Mortlock.

ENGLAND: Try by Nick Easter; 2 penalty goals by Danny Cipriani, dropped goal by Delon Armitage.

Halftime: Australia 12, England 11

Referee: Marius Jonker (South Africa)

Goal-kicking: Matt Giteau 7 from 8 (season: 50 from 58), Stirling Mortlock 1 from 1 (season: 2 from 3)

Crowd: 80,688

AUSTRALIA: Adam Ashley-Cooper, Peter Hynes, Ryan Cross, Stirling Mortlock (captain), Drew Mitchell, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess, Richard Brown (replaced by Wycliff Palu, 45 min), George Smith, Hugh McMeniman (replaced by Tatafu Polota-Nau, 79 min), Nathan Sharpe, Mark Chisholm (replaced by Dean Mumm, 64 min), Al Baxter, Stephen Moore, Benn Robinson.

ENGLAND: Delon Armitage, Paul Sackey, Jamie Noon, Riki Flutey, Ugo Monye, Danny Cipriani (replaced by Harry Ellis), Danny Care (replaced by Harry Ellis), Nick Easter (replaced by Jamie Haskell), Tom Rees (replaced by Michael Lipman), Tom Croft, Tom Palmer, Steve Borthwick (captain), Phil Vickery (replaced by Matt Stevens), Lee Mears (replaced by Dylan Hartley), Andrew Sheridan (temporarily replaced by Matt Stevens, replaced by Phil Vickery).



TEST NOTES

- This was the 36th Test between the two nations and Australia's 21st success, eight of which have been gained from 19 matches in England.
- The 28 points represented Australia's biggest winning score

on English soil - eclipsing the points scored in a 23-11 success in 1967. The 14-point winning margin had been bettered only by the 19-3 success achieved by the 1984 Grand Slammers.

ON THE FIELD



SPRING TOUR

Trophée des Bicentennaires / Australia 18 d France 13 / Stade de France, Paris, November 22, 2008

THE Qantas Wallabies completed back-to-back tour victories over England and France for the first time in a decade after hanging on to win by five in Paris. The win retained for the Qantas Wallabies the Trophée des Bicentennaires after it had won the series earlier in the year in Australia. Although Australia did benefit from an errant display from David Skrela, who missed six shots at goal, the Qantas Wallabies only trailed once in the match, and responded with a try by winger Peter Hynes as soon as they fell behind. The win was Australia's first in France for four Tests - & eight years - with the score-line being identical to the previous win at the Stade de France in 2000. Only Stirling Mortlock, George Smith and reserve halfback Sam Cordingley survived from that match. Qantas Wallabies' forwards coaches Jim Williams and Michael Foley had also figured as players on that occasion.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Stephen Moore and Peter Hynes; conversion and 2 penalty goals by Matt Giteau.

FRANCE: Penalty try; conversion and a penalty goal by David Skrela, dropped goal by Maxime Medard.

Halftime: Australia 10, France 7

Referee: Craig Joubert (South Africa)

Goal-kicking: Matt Giteau 3 from 5 (season: 53 from 63)

Crowd: 79,231

AUSTRALIA: Drew Mitchell, Peter Hynes, Adam Ashley-Cooper (replaced by Quade Cooper, 75 min), Stirling Mortlock (captain), Digby Ioane, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess (replaced by Sam Cordingley, 64 min), Wycliff Palu (replaced by Mark Chisholm, 57 min), George Smith, Dean Mumm, Nathan Sharpe, Hugh McMeniman, Al Baxter, Stephen Moore, Ben Alexander (replaced by Sekope Kepu, 64 min).

FRANCE: Maxime Medard, Julien Malzieu (replaced by Alexis Palisson), Yannick Jauzion, Benoit Baby (replaced by Damien Traille), Cedric Haymans, David Skrela, Sebastien Tillous Borde (replaced by Julien Tomas), Imanol Harinordoquy, Fulgence Ouedraogo, Thierry Dusautoir (replaced by Louis Picamoles), Lionel Nallet (captain, replaced by Romain

TEST NOTES

● This was the 39th official Test between teams representing Australia and France, dating back to the inaugural meeting between a touring NSW side and France in Paris in 1928. This match was awarded Test status by the ARU. In total, Australia has won 21 matches and France 16, with two draws. It was Australia's seventh win from 20 Tests in France.

● When he kicked his second penalty goal, Matt Giteau surpassed 400 Test points, becoming the fourth Wallaby beyond this landmark, following on from Michael Lynagh, Matthew Burke and Stirling Mortlock.

Millo-Chluskii), Sebastien Chabal, Nicolas Mas (replaced by Benoit Lecouls), Dimitri Szarzewski (replaced by Benjamin Kayser), Lionel Faure.

SPRING TOUR

James Bevan Trophy / Wales 21 d Australia 18 / Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 29 November 2008

SIX Nations champions Wales prevented Australia from completing its first unbeaten Test tour of Europe since 1996 on a dramatic afternoon which saw the Qantas Wallabies skipper Stirling Mortlock knocked unconscious in just the second minute. The Qantas Wallabies recovered from his loss, and the concession of a fourth minute try to the new IRB Player of the Year Shane Williams, to lead 10-5 before hooker Stephen Moore became the first Wallaby to be yellow carded for the season in the 27th minute. His ejection proved pivotal, with Wales scoring 10 unanswered points in his absence to establish a supremacy Australia was unable to break. The Qantas Wallabies closed to within three when Digby Ioane scored his second Test try a minute before the end, but Wales held on to register the only win for a northern nation against one of the Tri-Nations countries during the Northern Hemisphere autumn Test window.

WALES: Tries by Lee Byrne and Shane Williams; conversion, 2 penalty goals and a dropped goal by Stephen Jones.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Mark Chisholm and Digby Ioane; conversion, penalty goal and a dropped goal by Matt Giteau.

Halftime: Wales 15, Australia 10

Referee: Alan Lewis (Ireland)

Goal-kicking: Matt Giteau 2 from 4 (season: 55 from 65, 85%)

Crowd: 74,314

Yellow Card: Stephen Moore (Australia) 27-37 min

AUSTRALIA: Drew Mitchell, Peter Hynes (replaced by Lote Tuqiri, 33 min, Ryan Cross, Stirling Mortlock (captain, replaced by Quade Cooper, 2 min), Digby Ioane, Matt Giteau, Luke Burgess, Richard Brown, Phil Waugh (temporarily replaced by Adam Freier, 36-38 min, replaced by George Smith, 62 min, Hugh McMeniman (replaced by Dean Mumm, 69 min), Nathan Sharpe, Mark Chisholm, Al Baxter, Stephen Moore (replaced by Adam Freier, 68 min), Benn Robinson.

WALES: Lee Byrne, Mark Jones, Tom Shanklin, Jamie Roberts (replaced by Andrew Bishop), Shane Williams, Stephen Jones, Gareth Cooper, Andy Powell (replaced by Dafydd Jones), Martyn Williams, Ryan Jones (captain), Alun-Wyn Jones, Ian Gough, Adam Jones, Matthew Rees, Gethin Jenkins.



TEST NOTES

● This was the 28th meeting between the two sides and Wales' 10th win; eight of which have been achieved on Welsh soil.

● This represented the third Spring Tour visit to Cardiff in succession where Australia had failed to win - following on from the 22-24 loss of

2005 and the 29-29 draw in 2006.

● In featuring in his 77th Test, Phil Waugh moved beyond Matthew Burke and into outright ninth position among the most capped Qantas Wallabies. Stirling Mortlock joined Burke on 76 Tests, as the 10th most capped Wallaby.

ON THE FIELD

1908 OLYMPIC GAMES COMMEMORATIVE MATCH

Australia 18 d Barbarians 11 / Wembley Stadium, London, December 3, 2008

AUSTRALIA closed out its Spring Tour on a successful note, finishing its 2008 campaign with 10 wins from the 15 matches, after a tenacious young Qantas Wallabies line-up fended off a star-studded Barbarians XV 18-11. The Barbarians featured four of the last five IRB World Players of the Year, as well as a solid core of players from the world champion Springboks, but they were unable to break the will of an Australian side which featured 11 first-year players. The Qantas Wallabies scored tries in each half of a match that was marred by a collapsed scrum in the 46th minute which forced both starting props - Sekope Kepu and Matt Dunning - to retire with injury. This saw the last 34 minutes played with uncontested scrums.

AUSTRALIA: Tries by Lote Tuqiri and Lachie Turner; conversion and 2 penalty goals by James O'Connor.

BARBARIANS: Try by Jerry Collins; 2 penalty goals by Percy Montgomery.

Halftime: Australia 13, Barbarians 6

Referee: Chris White (England)

Goal-kicking: James O'Connor 3 from 3, Quade Cooper 0 from 1

Crowd: 43,800

AUSTRALIA: James O'Connor (replaced by Drew Mitchell, 64 min), Digby Ioane, Ryan Cross (replaced by Lachie Turner, 57 min), Adam Ashley-Cooper, Lote Tuqiri, Quade Cooper, Brett Sheehan (replaced by Luke Burgess, 50 min), Richard Brown (replaced by David Pocock, 46 min), George Smith (captain), Dean Mumm, Hugh McMeniman, Mark Chisholm (replaced by Peter Kimlin, 77 min), Matt

Dunning (replaced by Adam Freier, 46 min), Tatafu Polota-Nau, Sekope Kepu (replaced by Ben Alexander, 46 min).

BARBARIANS: Percy Montgomery (South Africa, replaced by Shane Williams, Wales, 38 min), Joe Rokocoko (New Zealand), Rico Gear (New Zealand, replaced by Ollie Smith, England, 50 min), Jean de Villiers (South Africa), Bryan Habana (South Africa), Francois Steyn (South Africa), Fourie du Preez (South Africa, replaced by George Gregan, Australia, 59 min), Jerry Collins (New Zealand), Richard McCaw (New Zealand), Schalk Burger (South Africa), Johann Muller (South Africa, replaced by Chris Jack, New Zealand, 50 min), Bakkies Botha (South Africa), Census Johnston (Samoa, replaced by Nick Koster, Western Province, South Africa, 50 min), John Smit (South Africa, captain), Federico Pucciarelli (Italy, replaced by Rodney Blake, Australia, 23 min, replaced by Mark Regan, England, 59 min).

MATCH NOTES

- This was the 10th meeting between Australia and the Barbarians and Australia's seventh win; the last six of which have been achieved consecutively.
- Former Qantas Wallabies George Gregan and Rodney Blake appeared against their countrymen.
- While it was a non-cap match, Peter Kimlin's appearance off the bench was his first match for the Qantas Wallabies. The Brumbies lock became the 13th player to make his maiden appearance for Australia during 2008.
- The match, which was the first Rugby game to be held under the arch at the new Wembley arena, was supported by the British Olympic foundation and commemorated the Rugby gold medal won by the foundation Wallabies team at the 1908 Olympics in London. The Australian players were awarded gold medals at the conclusion of the match.



2008 JOHN EALES MEDAL

George Smith becomes first dual winner

QANTAS Wallabies openside flanker George Smith became the first dual winner of the John Eales Medal for Australian Rugby's player of the year when he carried off the prestige prize at a function in Sydney on October 23.

Smith won the inaugural Medal in 2002 and added the 2008 award to his long list of career achievements after polling 205 votes to finish ahead of fellow backrower Wycliff Palu (184) and utility back Matt Giteau (183).

The John Eales Medal is determined by Qantas Wallabies players, who vote on a 3-2-1 basis after each Test. The 2008 Medal took in 14 Test matches - five at the 2007 Rugby World Cup in France and nine in 2008 as part of the Bundaberg Rum Rugby Series. The count did not include the end of season Spring Tour.

Flanker Rocky Elsom was named Australia's Choice - 2008 Wallaby of the Year after the public was asked to vote on their favourite player from the top five contenders for the John Eales Medal (Smith, Palu, Giteau, Elsom and Stirling Mortlock).

In other awards, Qantas Wallabies winger Peter Hynes was named Rookie of the Year. The Queensland speedster made his debut against Ireland in the opening Test of 2008.

Try of the Year went to Matt Giteau for his lead-up work to the five-pointer scored by second row James Horwill against France at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

Brother Bob Wallace, a leading figure in Australian Schoolboys Rugby for more than 30 years, won the Joe French Award for outstanding contribution to the game.

Volunteer of the Year was Glen Byrnes, nominated by the Northern Territory Rugby Union.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

- 2008** George Smith
- 2007** Nathan Sharpe
- 2006** Chris Latham
- 2005** Jeremy Paul
- 2004** David Lyons
- 2003** Phil Waugh
- 2002** George Smith



2008 TEST APPEARANCES

(Overall Test career appearances in brackets)

Ben Alexander	4	(4)
Adam Ashley-Cooper	13	(23)
Berrick Barnes	9	(13)
Al Baxter	13	(64)
Richard Brown	5	(5)
Luke Burgess	11	(11)
Mark Chisholm	5	(40)
Quade Cooper	3	(3)
Sam Cordingley	8	(22)
Ryan Cross	11	(11)
Matt Dunning	7	(43)
Rocky Elsom	8	(40)
Adam Freier	5	(25)
Matt Giteau	14	(65)
Stephen Hoiles	1	(16)
James Horwill	9	(10)
Peter Hynes	13	(13)
Digby Ioane	3	(4)
Sekope Kepu	2	(2)
Hugh McMeniman	9	(21)
Drew Mitchell	8	(29)
Stephen Moore	14	(34)
Stirling Mortlock	13	(76)
Dean Mumm	10	(10)
James O'Connor	1	(1)
Wycliff Palu	11	(28)
David Pocock	2	(2)
Tatafu Polata-Nau	7	(10)
Benn Robinson	12	(18)
Nathan Sharpe	10	(74)
Brett Sheehan	2	(3)
Cameron Shepherd	3	(9)
George Smith	13	(96)
Timana Tahu	4	(4)
Lote Tuqiri	9	(67)
Lachie Turner	2	(2)
Daniel Vickerman	3	(55)
Phil Waugh	11	(77)

2008 TEST POINT-SCORING

	Tries	Con	Pen	DG	Total	[Test Career]
Matt Giteau	1	26	29	2	150	[409]
Stirling Mortlock	3	-	2	-	21	[484]
Ryan Cross	4	-	-	-	20	[20]
James Horwill	4	-	-	-	20	[20]
Adam Ashley-Cooper	3	-	-	-	15	[35]
Peter Hynes	3	-	-	-	15	[15]
Drew Mitchell	3	-	-	-	15	[85]
Rocky Elsom	2	-	-	-	10	[35]
Lote Tuqiri	2	-	-	-	10	[150]
Berrick Barnes	1	-	-	1	8	[24]
Mark Chisholm	1	-	-	-	5	[30]
Quade Cooper	1	-	-	-	5	[5]
Digby Ioane	1	-	-	-	5	[10]
Stephen Moore	1	-	-	-	5	[10]
Benn Robinson	1	-	-	-	5	[5]
Nathan Sharpe	1	-	-	-	5	[35]
Lachie Turner	1	-	-	-	5	[5]
TOTALS	33	26	31	3		319

Opposition sides scored 32 tries, 19 conversions, 24 penalty goals and 4 dropped goals

ON THE FIELD

Australia A & IRB Pacific Nations Cup



2008 AUSTRALIA A

BACK (from left): Mark Gerrard, Mitchell Chapman, Peter Kimlin, Van Humphries, Al Campbell, Leroy Houston, Timana Tahu, Drew Mitchell, Hayden Masters (Athletic Performance Manager)
MIDDLE: Adam Crane (Assistant Manager), Andrew Ryan (Physiotherapist), Nick Scrivenor (Assistant Coach - Backs), Sam Norton-Knight, John Ulugia, Sean Hardman, Digby Ioane, Julian Salvi, Matt Carraro, Daniel Halangahu, Mark Bell (Assistant Coach - Forwards), Dr Sharon Flahive (Team Doctor), Justin Wray (Physiotherapist)
FRONT: Salesi Ma'afu, Guy Shepherdson, Brett Sheehan, Chris Webb, (Team Manager), Morgan Turinui (Captain), Phil Mooney (Head Coach), Richard Brown, Ben Lucas, Sekope Kepu

AUSTRALIA A and New Zealand Maori staged a thrilling finale to the 2008 IRB Pacific Nations Cup in a July 6 showdown at Sydney Football Stadium.

The two sides met in round five after advancing unbeaten through earlier matches against Pacific Island neighbours Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, and Asian heavyweights Japan.

In the title deciding game, New Zealand Maori snatched a 21-18 victory with a try two minutes from fulltime by backrower Thomas Waldrom.

The Maori success followed the Junior All Blacks winning the PNC in 2007.

While the Waldrom score proved heartbreaking for the Australians, their tournament statistics made for impressive perusal. Australia A scored 31 tries with NZ Maori next best with 18.

The Australians also collected four bonus points from five matches, with three for try hauls of four or more, and one for the narrow loss in the final game.

Australia A opened its campaign in Fukuoka with a 42-21 win over Japan, running in four first half tries.

Lock Peter Kimlin scored two tries

on his debut while centre Timana Tahu made his first appearance against an international opponent since switching from rugby league.

The Australians were also on the road in week two, downing Samoa 20-15 on an Apia Park pitch where torrential rain had left lake-like pools of water covering more than half the field.

Tahu and Australia A captain Morgan Turinui scored the Australian tries in the exceptionally difficult conditions.

In their first match on home soil, Australia A crushed Tonga 90-7 on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Sydney where a crowd of more than 8000 turned out at North Sydney Oval to witness a 14-tries extravaganza.

Number eight Stephen Hoiles crossed for four tries, including a first half hat-trick, while Digby Ioane, Drew Mitchell



and Sam Norton-Knight grabbed doubles.

A week later in Brisbane, Fiji was seen off 50-13 with winger Lachlan Turner scoring twice.

The victory pitched Australia A and New Zealand Maori into their final round decider, again played under sunny skies at Sydney Football Stadium.

Australia A opened the scoring through a Timana Tahu try in the seventh minute. New Zealand Maori replied with two tries in three minutes to lead 14-7 at halftime.

Two penalty goals to Mark Gerrard and another try to Tahu pushed Australia A to a lead of 18-14 until Waldrom settled the issue in the closing stages.

Of the 34 players named in the Qantas Wallabies end-of-season Spring Tour squad, 18 had played in the Pacific Nations Cup during 2007 or 2008.

2008 PACIFIC NATIONS CUP FINAL STANDINGS

	PI	Won	D	Lost	F	A	TF	TA	Bonus Pts	Total Pts
NZ MAORI	5	5	0	0	134	62	18	6	1	21
AUSTRALIA A	5	4	0	1	220	77	31	10	4	20
SAMOA	5	2	0	3	95	117	12	13	2	10
FIJI	5	2	0	3	94	117	12	15	2	10
JAPAN	5	1	0	4	121	181	13	25	3	7
TONGA	5	1	0	4	71	181	6	23	2	6

AUSTRALIA A v JAPAN

Hakatano Mori Stadium, Fukuoka
Sunday, June 8, 2008
Australia A 42 defeated Japan 21

Australia A 42 (Peter Kimlin 2, Morgan Turinui, Mark Gerrard, Van Humphries, Sam Norton-Knight tries; Mark Gerrard 6 cons) **Japan 21**.

Half-time: Australia A 28-3

Referee: Willie Roos (South Africa)

Australia A

Mark Gerrard, Matt Carraro, Morgan Turinui ©, Timana Tahu, Francis Fainifo, Ben Lucas, Josh Holmes, Julian Salvi, Matt Hodgson, Mitch Chapman, Peter Kimlin, Van Humphries, Guy Shepherdson, Sean Hardman, Pek Cowan.

Reserves: Tai Mclsaac, Salesi Ma'afu, Alister Campbell, Poutasi Luafutu, Patrick Phibbs, Tyrone Smith, Sam Norton-Knight.

AUSTRALIA A v SAMOA

Apia Park, Apia
Saturday, June 14, 2008
Australia A 20 defeated Samoa 15

Australia A 20 (Timana Tahu, Morgan Turinui tries; Mark Gerrard con, pen goal, Matt Carraro con, pen goal) **def SAMOA 15**.

Half-time: Australia A 10-3

Referee: Keith Brown (NZ)

Australia A

Sam Norton-Knight, Mark Gerrard, Morgan Turinui ©, Tyrone Smith, Timana Tahu, Daniel Halangahu, Patrick Phibbs, Julian Salvi, Matt Hodgson, Poutasi Luafutu, Peter Kimlin, Alister Campbell, Salesi Ma'afu, Sean Hardman, Pek Cowan.

Reserves: John Ulugia, Guy Shepherdson, Van Humphries, Leroy Houston, Josh Holmes, Scott Daruda, Matt Carraro.

AUSTRALIA A v TONGA

North Sydney Oval
Sunday, June 22
Australia A 90 defeated Tonga 7

Australia A 90 (Stephen Hoiles 4, Digby Ioane 2, Sam Norton-Knight 2, Drew Mitchell 2, Morgan Turinui, Timana Tahu, Patrick Phibbs, Lachlan Turner tries; Matt Carraro 4 cons, Daniel Halangahu 3 cons, Sam Norton-Knight 2 cons, Brett Sheehan con) **def TONGA 7**.

Half-time: Australia A 43-0

Referee: Paul Honiss (New Zealand)

Australia A

Lachlan Turner, Matt Carraro, Morgan Turinui ©, Timana Tahu, Digby Ioane, Sam Norton-Knight, Brett Sheehan, Stephen Hoiles, Richard Brown, Hugh McMeniman, Peter Kimlin, Mark Chisholm, Sekope Kepu, Sean Hardman, Ben Alexander.

Reserves: John Ulugia, Guy Shepherdson, Alister Campbell, Julian Salvi, Patrick Phibbs, Daniel Halangahu, Drew Mitchell.



AUSTRALIA A v FIJI

Ballymore, Brisbane
Sunday, June 29
Australia A 50 defeated Fiji 13

Australia A 50 (Lachie Turner 2, Digby Ioane, Ben Lucas, Drew Mitchell, Morgan Turinui, Stephen Hoiles tries; Daniel Halangahu 6 cons, pen goal) **FIJI 13**.

Half-time: Australia A 31-3

Referee: Jonathan White (NZ)

Australia A

Drew Mitchell, Lachie Turner, Morgan Turinui ©, Timana Tahu, Digby Ioane, Daniel Halangahu, Ben Lucas, Stephen Hoiles, Richard Brown, Hugh McMeniman, Peter Kimlin, Mark Chisholm, Sekope Kepu, Sean Hardman, Ben Alexander.

Reserves: John Ulugia, Guy Shepherdson, Van Humphries, Julian Salvi, Brett Sheehan, Sam Norton-Knight, Mark Gerrard.

AUSTRALIA A v NEW ZEALAND MAORI

Sydney Football Stadium
Sunday, July 6, 2008
New Zealand Maori 21 defeated Australia A 18

New Zealand Maori 21 def Australia A 18 (Timana Tahu 2 tries; Daniel Halangahu con, Mark Gerrard 2 pen goals).

Half-time: New Zealand Maori 14-7

Referee: James Bolabiu (Samoa)

Australia A

Mark Gerrard, Drew Mitchell, Morgan Turinui ©, Timana Tahu, Digby Ioane, Daniel Halangahu, Brett Sheehan, Richard Brown, Julian Salvi, Hugh McMeniman, Peter Kimlin, Alister Campbell, Guy Shepherdson, Sean Hardman, Sekope Kepu.

Reserves: John Ulugia, Salesi Ma'afu, Van Humphries, Leroy Houston, Ben Lucas, Sam Norton-Knight, Matt Carraro.

TOP POINTS SCORERS

James Arlidge (Japan)	56
Callum Bruce (NZ Maori)	50
Taniela Maravunwasawasa (Fiji)	44
Mark Gerrard (Australia A)	28
Gavin Williams (Samoa)	28

TOP TRY SCORERS

Stephen Hoiles (Australia A)	5
Timana Tahu (Australia A)	4
Morgan Turinui (Australia A)	4
Callum Bruce (NZ Maori)	3
Hosea Gear (NZ Maori)	3

ON THE FIELD

Australian U20s World Cup



2008 AUSTRALIA U20s

BACK ROW (from left): Luke Rigney (Physiotherapist) Sam Wykes, Ratu Nasiganiyavi, Tom Murday, Robert Simmons, Peter Betham, Dane Haylett-Petty, Ben Coridas, Brynley Abad (Strength and Conditioning Co-ordinator). **MIDDLE ROW:** John Manenti (Assistant Coach), Brian Melrose (Head Coach), Albert Anae, Tetera Faulkner, Quade Cooper, Robert Horne, Nathan Charles, Blair Connor, Daniel Palmer, Angus Bathgate (Doctor), Andrew Cooke (Physiotherapist). **FRONT ROW:** Matt Taylor (Assistant Coach), Sam Latunipulu, Rowan Kellam, Richard Kingi, Jeremy Sua, David Pocock (Captain), Junior Sovala, Seilala Lam, Ben Daley, James Hanson, Luca Liussi (Team Manager)

THE Australian U20s side travelled to Wales during June for the inaugural IRB Junior World Championships. This prestigious tournament, involving 16 nations, followed the amalgamation of the U19 and U21 World Championships.

The depth of Australia's junior Rugby talent was highlighted at these Championships, with 10 players in the 26-man squad possessing Super 14 experience.

These players included Waratahs regulars Kurtley Beale and Rob Horne, Reds' Quade Cooper and Will Genia as well as the Force's Sam Wykes and David Pocock.

Australia began their World Championship campaign with some strong performances. In their first pool match they downed Canada 81-12, with Western Australia's Dane Haylett-Petty scoring four tries.

Four days later they continued their winning streak, defeating Fiji 53-17 after a convincing display of speed and athleticism, with both wings scoring

doubles (Junior Sovala-Futi and Blair Connor). Arch rivals England proved to be a difficult obstacle for Australia in their final pool match.

After a slow start, England scored from an interception but Australia hit back with two penalty goals to Quade Cooper. With seconds remaining in the first half, England flyhalf Alex Goode kicked a penalty goal to extend his side's lead to 11-6.

The second half was testing for the Australians but they retaliated with a try to flying wing Ratu Nasiganiyavi, which was converted by Cooper to take the score to 13-11. In the closing minutes, England charged down an Australian kick and scored to seal an 18-13 win.

In the playoffs, Australia found themselves in a tough first half battle against Samoa. The Australians only scored

one try and led 8-0 at the break. After making significant changes the Australians dominated the second stanza to win 32-0.

Australia met France in the 5th place play off at Cardiff Arms Park. During an impressive first half, with three tries to Ratu Nasiganiyavi, the Australians opened a lead of 30-0. France fought back after the break; however two

further tries carried Australia to a 42-21 victory.

New Zealand went on to win the World Championships with a comfortable 38-3 victory over England. The end result was bitter sweet for the Australians. They finished outside the tournament top four but on a positive note the Australian captain, David Pocock, and flyhalf, Quade Cooper, made their Qantas Wallabies debut later in the season on the Spring Tour.

FINAL STANDINGS

1	New Zealand
2	England
3	South Africa
4	Wales
5	Australia
6	France
7	Samoa
8	Argentina
9	Ireland
10	Scotland
11	Italy
12	Canada
13	Tonga
14	Fiji
15	Japan
16	USA

2008 IRB JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

New Zealand, Tonga, Argentina, Ireland, South Africa, Samoa, USA, Scotland, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Japan, Wales, Italy.

Friday, June 6, 2008

POOL A

New Zealand 48 defeated Tonga 9
Argentina 17 defeated Ireland 9

POOL B

Samoa 29 defeated Scotland 17
South Africa 108 defeated USA 18

POOL C

England 41 defeated Fiji 17

AUSTRALIA V CANADA

Friday, June 6, 2008

Australia 81 (Dane Haylett-Petty 4; Ben McCalman 2; Ratu Nasiganiyavi 2; Junior Sovala Futi 2, David Pocock, Rob Horne, James Hanson tries, Quade Cooper 5 cons, Jeremy Sua 3 cons)

Canada 12 (Matt Evans, Sean White, Nathan Hirayama con)

Half-time: Australia 50-0

Referee: Phillip Bosch (SAF)

POOL D

France 53 defeated Japan 17
Wales 29 defeated Italy 10

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

POOL A

Argentina 30 defeated Tonga 10
New Zealand 65 defeated Ireland 10

POOL B

Samoa 20 defeated USA 6
South Africa 72 defeated Scotland 3

POOL C

England 60 defeated Canada 18

AUSTRALIA V FIJI

Australia 53 (Junior Sovala Futi 2, Blair Connor 2, David Pocock, Peter Betham, Seilala Lam, Will Genia, Quade Cooper, Quade Cooper 3 cons, Rowan Kellam 1 con)

Fiji 17 (Wiliame Umu, John Stewart, Sakiusa Malai Bulivakarua 2 cons, pen)

Half-time: Australia 41-15

Referee: James Jones (CAN)

POOL D

France 32 defeated Italy 14
Wales 33 defeated Japan 10

Saturday, June 14, 2008

POOL A

Ireland 45 defeated Tonga 27
New Zealand 60 defeated Argentina 0

POOL B

Scotland 41 defeated USA 14

POOL C

Canada 17 defeated Fiji 10

AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND

Australia 13 (Ratu Nasiganiyavi try, Quade Cooper 2 pens, con)

England 18 (Miles Benjamin 2, Alex Goode 2 pens, con)

Half-time: England 11-6

Referee: Romain Poite (ITA)

POOL D

Italy 24 defeated Japan 20
Wales 23 defeated France 19



PLAY-OFFS Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Tonga 17 defeated Japan 5
Scotland 15 defeated Canada 10
France 30 defeated Argentina 6
Fiji 27 defeated USA 22
Ireland 9 defeated Italy 6

AUSTRALIA V SAMOA

Australia 32 (Rowan Kellam, Ben Daley, Ratu Nasiganiyavi, Quade Cooper tries, Cooper 3 cons, 2 pens)

Samoa 0

Half-time: Australia 8-0

Referee: James Jones (CAN)

SEMI-FINALS

New Zealand 31 defeated Wales 6
England 26 defeated South Africa 18

15th Place Play-Off

Japan 44 defeated USA 8

13th Place Play-Off

Tonga 28 defeated Fiji 20

11th Place Play-Off

Italy 33 defeated Canada 10

9th Place Play-Off

Ireland 39 defeated Scotland 12

7th Place Play-Off

Samoa 30 defeated Argentina 10

5th Place Play-off

AUSTRALIA V FRANCE

Australia 42 (Ratu Nasiganiyavi 3, Junior Sovala Futi, Ben Daley, Rob Simmons tries, Quade Cooper 2 pens, 2 cons, Daniel Palmer con)

France 21 (Louis Madaule, Arthur Chollon, Mathieu Bastareaud tries, Mathieu Belie 3 cons)

Half-time: Australia 30-0

Referee: Phillip Bosch (SAF)

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

South Africa 43 defeated Wales 18.

FINAL

New Zealand 38 defeated England 3.

2008 IRB JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

New Zealand, Tonga, Argentina, Ireland, South Africa, Samoa, USA, Scotland, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Japan, Wales, Italy.

Friday, June 6, 2008

POOL A

New Zealand 48 defeated Tonga 9
Argentina 17 defeated Ireland 9

POOL B

Samoa 29 defeated Scotland 17
South Africa 108 defeated USA 18

POOL C

England 41 defeated Fiji 17

AUSTRALIA V CANADA

Friday, June 6, 2008

Australia 81 (Dane Haylett-Petty 4; Ben McCalman 2; Ratu Nasiganiyavi 2; Junior Sovala Futi 2, David Pocock, Rob Horne, James Hanson tries, Quade Cooper 5 cons, Jeremy Sua 3 cons)

Canada 12 (Matt Evans, Sean White, Nathan Hirayama con)

Half-time: Australia 50-0

Referee: Phillip Bosch (SAF)

POOL D

France 53 defeated Japan 17
Wales 29 defeated Italy 10

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

POOL A

Argentina 30 defeated Tonga 10
New Zealand 65 defeated Ireland 10

POOL B

Samoa 20 defeated USA 6
South Africa 72 defeated Scotland 3

POOL C

England 60 defeated Canada 18

AUSTRALIA V FIJI

Australia 53 (Junior Sovala Futi 2, Blair Connor 2, David Pocock, Peter Betham, Seilala Lam, Will Genia, Quade Cooper, Quade Cooper 3 cons, Rowan Kellam 1 con)

Fiji 17 (Wiliame Umu, John Stewart, Sakiusa Malai Bulivakarua 2 cons, pen)

Half-time: Australia 41-15

Referee: James Jones (CAN)

POOL D

France 32 defeated Italy 14
Wales 33 defeated Japan 10

Saturday, June 14, 2008

POOL A

Ireland 45 defeated Tonga 27
New Zealand 60 defeated Argentina 0

POOL B

Scotland 41 defeated USA 14

POOL C

Canada 17 defeated Fiji 10

AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND

Australia 13 (Ratu Nasiganiyavi try, Quade Cooper 2 pens, con)

England 18 (Miles Benjamin 2, Alex Goode 2 pens, con)

Half-time: England 11-6

Referee: Romain Poite (ITA)

POOL D

Italy 24 defeated Japan 20
Wales 23 defeated France 19



PLAY-OFFS Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Tonga 17 defeated Japan 5
Scotland 15 defeated Canada 10
France 30 defeated Argentina 6
Fiji 27 defeated USA 22
Ireland 9 defeated Italy 6

AUSTRALIA V SAMOA

Australia 32 (Rowan Kellam, Ben Daley, Ratu Nasiganiyavi, Quade Cooper tries, Cooper 3 cons, 2 pens)

Samoa 0

Half-time: Australia 8-0

Referee: James Jones (CAN)

SEMI-FINALS

New Zealand 31 defeated Wales 6
England 26 defeated South Africa 18

15th Place Play-Off

Japan 44 defeated USA 8

13th Place Play-Off

Tonga 28 defeated Fiji 20

11th Place Play-Off

Italy 33 defeated Canada 10

9th Place Play-Off

Ireland 39 defeated Scotland 12

7th Place Play-Off

Samoa 30 defeated Argentina 10

AUSTRALIA V FRANCE

5th Place Play-off

Australia 42 (Ratu Nasiganiyavi 3, Junior Sovala Futi, Ben Daley, Rob Simmons tries, Quade Cooper 2 pens, 2 cons, Daniel Palmer con)

France 21 (Louis Madaule, Arthur Chollon, Mathieu Bastareaud tries, Mathieu Belie 3 cons)

Half-time: Australia 30-0

Referee: Phillip Bosch (SAF)

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

South Africa 43 defeated Wales 18.

FINAL

New Zealand 38 defeated England 3.

ON THE FIELD

International Rugby Sevens Adelaide



THE IRB Sevens World Series returned to Adelaide in 2008 for the second year. The historic Adelaide Oval was again the venue for the International Rugby Sevens Adelaide - a prestigious, fast-paced tournament which saw 16 nations go head to head across 44 games.

After a testing journey to the deciding round, South Africa were crowned the 2008 champions when they defeated New Zealand 15-7 in the Cup final.

Australia finished second in their pool, but they were later defeated by Tonga 21-7 in the semi-final of the Plate competition.

The IRB Sevens World Series continued to be the place to see emerging Rugby talent during 2008.

James O'Connor, the 18-year-old youngster of the Qantas Wallabies Spring Tour squad was an integral member of the Australian Sevens side during the season. The national team competed at each of the eight tournaments

throughout the world. The International Rugby Sevens Adelaide grew again in 2008. More than 32,000 people attended the two days of competition, which was a notable increase from 25,000 the previous year.

Over 3000 interstate and overseas visitors descended on Adelaide for the Sevens festivities and the event had a significant economic impact on the South Australian capital that saw \$4.9 million tipped into the local economy.

Research results revealed that families made up around 27 percent of the spectators in 2008 and 99 percent of attendees thought the event delivered a fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

Additionally, 91 percent of spectators believed the event was world-class and 94 percent thought the tournament will enhance Adelaide's reputation to host more major events.

Event volunteers were again another core ingredient to the success of the tournament. More than 200 people

volunteered their time to assist with the daily operations in Adelaide. About 90 percent of these volunteers were from Adelaide or around South Australia, but the event also attracted interstate and international help.

2008 International Rugby Sevens Sponsors:

Government of South Australia
Fairmont Homes
Direct Interiors
Coopers
Panasonic
The Advertiser / Sunday Mail
Hilton Adelaide
Adelaide City Council
Kukri
Summit
Fitness First
Fox Sports (Broadcaster only)

ALL THE RESULTS IN ADELAIDE

International Rugby Sevens Adelaide (April 5-6, 2008)

DAY 1

POOL A

New Zealand 21 v Argentina 14
Scotland 22 v Cook Islands 17
New Zealand 31 v Cook Islands 7
Scotland 17 v Argentina 19
Argentina 21 v Cook Islands 38
New Zealand 36 v Scotland 10

POOL B

Samoa 28 v Wales 17
Tonga 53 v Japan 0
Samoa 31 v Japan 26
Tonga 19 v Wales 17
Wales 26 v Japan 17
Samoa 14 v Tonga 12

POOL C

South Africa 43 v USA 0
Australia 21 v Canada 14
Australia 31 v USA 19
South Africa 21 v Canada 17
USA 19 v Canada 17
South Africa 19 v Australia 7

POOL D

Fiji 31 v England 12
Kenya 16 v France 17
Fiji 33 v France 12
Kenya 17 v England 10
England 12 v France 19
Fiji 29 v Kenya 15

AUSTRALIA IN ADELAIDE

SQUAD: Shawn Mackay ©, Ben Batger, William Bishop, Caleb Brown, Blair Connor, Ross Duncan, Dane Haylett Petty, Rob Horne, Luke Inman, Mitch Inman, Luke Johnson, James Lew, Damon Murphy, James O'Connor, Peter Owens, Andrew Walker, Tim Wright.

Coach: Bill Millard.

DAY 2

Quarter-final Bowl Argentina 24 v Japan 12
Quarter-final Bowl France 28 v Canada 19
Quarter-final Bowl USA 19 v England 17
Quarter-final Bowl Wales 12 v Scotland 17
Quarter-final Cup NZ 19 v Tonga 14
Quarter-final Cup Fiji 28 v Australia 7
Quarter-final Cup South Africa 19 v Kenya 5
Quarter-final Cup Samoa 48 v Cook Islands 0
SF Shield Japan 19 v Canada 24
SF Shield England 14 v Wales 19
SF Bowl Argentina 24 v France 12
SF Bowl USA 29 v Scotland 14
SF Plate Tonga 21 v Australia 7
SF Plate Kenya 26 v Cook Islands 14
SF Cup New Zealand 17 v Fiji 14
SF Cup South Africa 17 v Samoa 12

FINALS DETAILS

SHIELD FINAL

Canada 7 v Wales 12

BOWL FINAL

Argentina 26 v USA 21

PLATE FINAL

Tonga 14 v Kenya 12

CUP FINAL

South Africa 15 v New Zealand 7



ON THE FIELD

IRB Sevens World Series

2007-2008 IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES

ALL THE DETAILS

DUBAI, UAE

November 30 - December 1, 2007

Dubai Exiles Rugby Ground

Australian Squad

Tim Cornforth, Ross Duncan, Scott Higginbotham, James Lew, Shawn Mackay, Alfi Mafi, Pat McCutcheon, Kacey Mitchell, Damon Murphy, Junior Sovala, Ant Sauer, Tim Wright.

Coach: Bill Millard

Results

Australia 28-21 Zimbabwe, Pool B, Argentina 19-12 Australia, Pool B, Fiji 46-12 Australia, Pool B, Australia 36-5 Arabian Gulf Quarter Final Bowl, Australia 22-19 Wales, Semi Final Bowl, Australia 31-0 Canada, Final Bowl.

Cup winner: New Zealand 31-21 Fiji.

GEORGE, SOUTH AFRICA

December 7-8, 2007

George Rugby Ground

Australian Squad

Tim Cornforth, Ross Duncan, Scott Higginbotham, James Lew, Shawn Mackay, Alfi Mafi, Pat McCutcheon, Kacey Mitchell, Damon Murphy, Junior Sovala, Ant Sauer, Tim Wright.

Coach: Bill Millard

Results

Australia 12-12 Tunisia, Pool D, Scotland 21-10 Australia, Pool D, Samoa 20-19 Australia, Pool D, Australia 34-7 Uganda, Quarter Final Bowl, England 29-14 Australia Semi Final Bowl

Cup winner: New Zealand 34-7 Fiji.

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Westpac Stadium, Wellington

February 1-2, 2008

Australian Squad

Blair Connor, Tim Cornforth, Scott Higginbotham, Luke Inman, Mitchell Inman, Ed Jenkins, Danny Kroll, James Lew, Shawn Mackay ©, Kacey Mitchell, Peter Owens, Tim Wright.

Coach: Bill Millard

Results

South Africa 24-14 Australia, Pool C, Australia 19-0 Kenya, Pool C, Australia 24-14 France, Pool C, Australia 31-7 Scotland, Quarter Final Cup, New

IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES 2007/08

Final overall standings after the eight tournaments worldwide

Team	DUB	GEO	NZL	USA	HKG	AUS	LON	SCO	Total points
NEW ZEALAND	20	20	20	20	30	16	8	20	154
SOUTH AFRICA	12	12	8	16	24	20	6	8	106
SAMOA	6	4	16	12	18	12	20	12	100
FIJI	16	16	4	8	18	12	16	4	94
ENGLAND	12	0	2	4	8	0	12	16	54
ARGENTINA	8	12	0	6	3	2	12	0	43
KENYA	4	8	0	12	8	6	0	0	38
AUSTRALIA	2	0	12	0	8	4	2	2	30
WALES	0	2	6	2	8	0	0	12	30
SCOTLAND	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	6	26
TONGA	0	0	12	0	2	8	0	0	22
FRANCE	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	8
USA	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
COOK ISLANDS	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
PORTUGAL	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
CANADA	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
RUSSIA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
ARABIAN GULF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUNISIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UGANDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key: DUB - Dubai, United Arab Emirates; GEO - George, South Africa; NZL - Wellington, New Zealand; USA - San Diego United States of America; HKG - Hong Kong, China; AUS - Adelaide, Australia; LON - London, England; SCO - Edinburgh, Scotland

Zealand 32-7 Australia, Semi Final Cup

Cup winner: New Zealand 22-17 Samoa.

SAN DIEGO, USA

February 9-10, 2008

Australian Team

Blair Connor, Tim Cornforth, Scott Higginbotham, Luke Inman, Mitchell Inman, Ed Jenkins, Danny Kroll, James Lew, Shawn Mackay
Kacey Mitchell, Peter Owens, Tim Wright.

Coach: Bill Millard

Results

Fiji 26-7 Australia, Pool B, Samoa 15-7 Australia, Pool B, Australia 45-5 West Indies, Pool B, Wales 19-12 Australia, Quarter Final Bowl, Australia 63-0 Mexico, Semi Final Shield, Australia 24-12 Chile, Final Shield

Cup winner: NZ 27-12 South Africa.

HONG KONG, CHINA

Hong Kong Stadium

March 28 - April 1, 2008

Australia Squad

Shawn Mackay ©, Ben Batger, William

Bishop, Caleb Brown, Blair Connor, Ross Duncan, Dane Haylett Petty, Rob Horne, Luke Inman, Mitch Inman, Luke Johnson, James Lew, Damon Murphy, James O'Connor, Peter Owens, Andrew Walker, Tim Wright.

Coach: Bill Millard

Results

Australia 24-12 Hong Kong, Pool F, Australia 17-12 France, Pool F, Australia 17-Tonga 15, Pool F, South Africa 19-14 Australia, Quarter Final Cup

Cup winner

New Zealand 26-12 South Africa.

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

Adelaide Oval

April 5-6, 2008

Australia Squad

Shawn Mackay ©, Ben Batger, William Bishop, Caleb Brown, Blair Connor, Ross Duncan, Dane Haylett Petty, Rob Horne, Luke Inman, Mitch Inman, Luke Johnson, James Lew, Damon Murphy, James O'Connor, Peter Owens, Andrew Walker, Tim Wright.



Coach: Bill Millard

Results

Australia 21-14 Canada, Pool C, Australia 31-19 USA, Pool C, South Africa 19-7 Australia, Pool C, Fiji 28 - 7 Australia, Quarter Final Cup, Tonga 21-7 Australia, Semi Final Plate.

Cup winner: South Africa 15-7 NZ.

LONDON, ENGLAND

Twickenham

May 24-25, 2008

Australian Squad

Shawn Mackay ©, William Bishop, Caleb Brown, Ross Duncan, Scott Higginbotham, Matthew Hodgson,

Damon Murphy, Peter Owen, Afusipa Taumoepeau, Andrew Walker, Tim Walsh, Andrew Wiles.

Coach: Bill Millard

Results

Portugal 28-12 Australia, Pool C, Australia 38-5 Canada, Pool C, Fiji 12-10 Australia, Pool C, Australia 17-0 Kenya, Quarter Final Bowl, Australia 21-7 France, Semi Final Bowl, Australia 19-12 Wales, Final Bowl.

Cup winner: Samoa 19-14 Fiji.

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Murrayfield, Scotland

May 31 - June 1, 2008

Australian Squad

Shawn Mackay ©, William Bishop, Caleb Brown, Ross Duncan, Scott Higginbotham, Matthew Hodgson, Damon Murphy, Peter Owen, Afusipa Taumoepeau, Andrew Walker, Tim Walsh, Andrew Wiles.

Coach: Bill Millard

Results

Scotland 33-7 Australia, Pool B, Australia 19-12 Argentina, Pool B, South Africa 17-12 Australia, Pool B, Australia 19-5 Portugal Quarter Final Bowl, Australia 24-0 Spain, Semi Final Bowl, Australia 24-14 Canada, Final Bowl.

Cup winner: NZ 24-14 England.

ON THE FIELD

Australian Rugby Football Schools Union



TNT TOUR OF TONGA AND NEW ZEALAND 2008

BACK: (from left) Olby FAINGAA (St Edmund's College ACT), Kotoni ALE (St Augustine's College NSW), Michael Mc DOUGALL (The King's School, NSW), Eddie QUIRK (Brisbane State High School QLD), Dylan BRASS (The King's School NSW), Luke JONES (St Pius X College NSW), Nick BUCHANAN (St Joseph's Gregory Terrace QLD), Dom SHIPPERLEY (St Joseph's Nudgee College QLD), Luke RISSMAN (Knox Grammar School NSW), Jarrad BUTLER (The Southport School QLD), Josh ELLICE-FLINT (The King's School NSW),

MIDDLE: Robbie COLEMAN (St Edmund's College, ACT), Eddie BREDANHANN (Anglican Church Grammar School QLD), Stefano HUNT (St Joseph's Nudgee College QLD), Siliva SILIVA (Narre Warren South College VIC), Salesi MANU (St Augustine's College NSW), Tim BENNETTS (Pennant Hills High School NSW), Sam ROBERSON (St Stanislaus' College NSW), Nicky PRICE (St Joseph's Nudgee College QLD), Josh DALEY (The Southport School QLD), Mr Tim NEEDHAM (Physiotherapist)

FRONT: David FEAO (Brisbane State High School QLD), Dr Michael McLEAN (Medical Officer), Mark JOHNSON (Knox Grammar School NSW), Mr Rob NOWLAN (Coach, Kumbhari School QLD), Cameron MITCHELL (Captain, The King's School, NSW), Mr Graeme DEDRICK (Manager, The Scots College, NSW), Mark SWANEPOEL (The Southport School QLD), Mr Tim WALLACE (Assistant Coach, Shore School NSW), James AMBROSINI (St Laurence's College QLD), Mr Andrew ELLIOT (Assistant Manager, NSW), Tyler STEVENS (St Edmund's College ACT)
Absent: Mr Paul CAROZZA (Technical Advisor ARU), Chris EDWARDS (Hunter Valley Grammar NSW), Ken ROBERTSON (Ipswich Grammar QLD)

THE Australian Rugby Football Schools Union had a noteworthy and historical season in 2008.

Following their first victory over New Zealand in 10 years in 2007, the Suncorp Australian Schools team recorded an inaugural victory on New Zealand soil after 13 previous attempts, stretching back to 1975.

Australia retained the Novotel Trans Tasman Trophy 15-11 in an exciting Test match at Yarrow Stadium, New Plymouth. The youngest member of the touring party, Ed Quirk from Brisbane State High, was awarded the *Rugby News* Bronze Boot Award for his outstanding performance in the match.

This victory was the final game of a five-match tour of Tonga and New Zealand.

The tourists lost against Hurricane Schools, but won the other four games. The first tour match was a highlight as the first visit by a national team of any sport to the northern outer island of Vava'u in Tonga. The Australian side experienced some incredible hospitality

and generosity from the people of Vava'u. The Test match against Tonga at the National Teufaiva Stadium in Tongatapu was won 22-13 by Australia after the locals led at halftime.

Lock Nick Buchanan of Gregory Terrace, Queensland - the son of former Australian cricket coach John Buchanan - was named player of the match.

Earlier in the season the Australian side defeated Fiji's U18s 24-18. This game was played at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane as the curtainraiser to the Bledisloe Cup.

On the day before the match, the team was also invited by Qantas Wallabies coach Robbie Deans to the Australian side's captain's run at Suncorp Stadium. Each Schoolboy was presented his Test

jumper by his equivalent numbered Qantas Wallabies player, many of whom were former Australian Schoolboy players.

Pictured on P45 is Cameron Mitchell receiving his jersey from Qantas Wallabies captain Stirling Mortlock.

Tyler Stevens from St Edmund's College ACT was named Australia's best player in the win over Fiji.

The Australian Division II Championship was again held at Geelong Grammar School in Victoria from June 28-July 3.

From this tournament a Combined States team was selected to compete in the National Championships.

The 34th Australian Championships were hosted by the Tuggeranong Club at Viking Park in Canberra from July 8-13. The Combined States' 10-7 win over NSW I was one of the tournament highlights.

In the final Queensland I retained the 'Jika' Travers Shield by downing NSW I 23-21.

The Queensland side was also named Junior Sports Team of the Year at the Queensland awards.

Patron P McLean MBE
President Br R J Wallace AM
Vice President D Barker
Hon Secretary J Rae
Hon Treasurer/Administrator B Carberry

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS SEASON DETAILS

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS REP SIDE RESULTS

Domestic Test Match

TEST MATCH - SUNCORP

Suncorp Australian Schoolboys v Fiji
Under 18s
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, Australia
September 13, 2008
Suncorp Australian Schoolboys 24 (Mark Johnson, Salesi Manu, Tyler Stevens, Dom Shipperley tries; Robbie Coleman, Eddie Brendanham cons) defeated Fiji Under 18s 18

Tour of Tonga and New Zealand

MATCH 1

Suncorp Australian Schoolboys v Tonga Outer Islands
Saineha High, Vava'u Island, Tonga
September 26, 2008
Suncorp Australian Schoolboys 46 (Dom Shipperley 2, Michael MacDougall 2, Colby Faingaa, Stephano Hunt, Siliva Siliva tries; James Ambrosini 3 cons, Faingaa con, pen) defeated Tonga Outer Islands 6

MATCH 2 - TEST

Suncorp Australian Schoolboys v Tonga Schools
Teufaiva Stadium Tongatapu, Tonga
29 September, 2008
Suncorp Australian Schoolboys 22 (Kotoni Ale 2, Michael McDougall tries; Eddie Brendanham 2 conversions, penalty goal) defeated Tonga Schools 13.

MATCH 3

Suncorp Australian Schoolboys v Wairarapa Bush Schools
Masterton, New Zealand
October 3, 2008
Suncorp Australian Schoolboys 51 (Mark Swanepoel 2, Kenneth Robertson 2, Chris Edwards, Tim Bennetts, Dom Shipperley, Tyler Stevens, Michael McDougall tries; Robbie Coleman 2 cons, Colby Faingaa con) defeated Wairarapa Bush Schools 15



MATCH 4

Suncorp Australian Schoolboys v Hurricane Schools
Araena Manawatu, Palmerston North, New Zealand
October 7, 2008
Hurricane Schools 24 defeated Suncorp Australian Schoolboys 21 (Josh Ellise-Flint, Tim Bennetts, Robbie Coleman tries; James Ambrosini 2 pen goals.

MATCH 5 - TEST

Suncorp Australian Schoolboys v New Zealand Schools
New Plymouth High School, New Plymouth, New Zealand
October 10, 2008
Suncorp Australian Schoolboys 15 (Kotoni Ale, Kenneth Robertson tries; Eddie Brendanham pen, James Ambrosini con) defeated New Zealand Schools 11

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

DIVISION I

At Viking Park Canberra
Combined States, Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales I, New South Wales II, Queensland I, Queensland II
DAY 1 (July 8, 2008)
ACT 25 d Combined States 16, NSW I 25 d Queensland II 10, Queensland I 22 d NSW II 10
DAY 2 (July 9, 2008)
NSW I 17 d NSW II 10, Queensland II 13 d

Combined States 11, Queensland I 33 d ACT 19

DAY 3 (July 11, 2008)

Queensland I 12 d Queensland II 6
Combined States 10 d NSW I 7, NSW II 15 d ACT 7

DAY 4 (July 13, 2008)

NSW II 50 d Combined States 13, Queensland II 27 d ACT 12, Queensland I 23 d NSW I 21

FINAL STANDINGS

Queensland I	10
New South Wales I	6
Combined States	5
Queensland II	4
New South Wales II	4
Aus Capital Territory	0

DIVISION II

Geelong Grammar School
Victoria, Northern Territory, Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia, Lloyd McDermott Development Squad

DAY 1 (June 28, 2008)

Vic 40 d Lloyd McDermott 0, NT 19 d Tasmania 8, WA 44 d SA 6

DAY 2 (June 29, 2008)

WA 45 d NT 3, Vic 36 d Tasmania 0, Lloyd McDermott 7 d SA 6

DAY 3 (July 1, 2008)

Tasmania 15 d SA 14, Vic 50 d NT 0, WA 30 d Lloyd McDermott 0

DAY 4 (July 3, 2008)

Tasmania 5 d Lloyd McDermott 0, NT 24 d SA 17, Vict 29 d WA 14

FINAL STANDINGS

Victoria	10
Western Australia	10
Northern Territory	4
Lloyd McDermott	4
South Australia	1
Tasmania	0

ON THE FIELD

Australian U16s and Indigenous U16s



2008 AWARDS

2008 BEST TEAM MAN (Bob Dwyer Plaques): Alistair O'Riain (Brumbies), Robert Longbottom (National Indigenous), Blaine Jarvis (Tasmania), Luke Beauchamp (Qld White), Liam Gill (Qld Red), Dane Atkinson (NSW Schools), Hartley Pike (NSW Country), Henry Carmichael (Sydney Juniors), Tristan Ashford (Western Australia), Justin Marsters (Victoria), Liam Walker (Northern Territory) & Braydon Tapara (South Australia).

FORD PLAYER OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP: Liam Gill (Queensland Red)

TEAM MANAGER'S AWARD (Nigel Stiff Memorial Shield): Robert Smethills (Brumbies)

BEST REFEREE (Tony Lacaze Memorial Shield): John Christopherson.

THE 2008 National U16 Championships were hosted for the second consecutive year in Brisbane at St Joseph's Nudgee College with matches played on Monday September 29, Wednesday October 1 and Friday October 3. The championships united the finest young Rugby talent from around Australia. Twelve teams participated in the tournament across two divisions and a total of 18 matches were played.

The Division 1 knockout competition consisted of eight teams - three from NSW, two from Queensland, and one from each of ACT, Western Australia and Victoria. The Division 2 round-robin competition was comprised of four teams - one each from South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania, plus the National Indigenous XV (Lloyd

McDermott Rugby Development Team).

The ARU subsidised the cost of travel, meals and accommodation for players, coaches, physiotherapists and team management to give all participants an equal opportunity and to ensure that the best players could attend.

The championships also provided an excellent opportunity for professional development education for all players, coaches, managers, and match officials, through a series of practical and theory-based workshops that were delivered by ARU and State Union HPU/NTS staff as well as a number of external professionals. The professional development topics included player/coach/referee development, nutrition, hydration and recovery, physical preparation, skills development, anti-doping education and training practices.

2008 U16s CHAMPIONSHIPS

NATIONAL UNDER 16S CHAMPIONSHIP

St Joseph's Nudgee College, Brisbane
Monday September 29 to Friday October 3, 2008

Division One

NSW Schools, NSW Country, Queensland Red, Brumbies, Sydney Juniors, Western Australia, Queensland White, Victoria

Division Two

Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, National Indigenous

DAY ONE (Monday September 29, 2008)

Division One

NSW Schools 20 (Roach 2, Brent, Franklin tries) defeated NSW Country 16 (Van Dartel try; Trindall con, 3 pens)

Queensland Red 39 (Gill, Setu, Auva'a, Seumanutafa, May, Sautia tries; Matahaere 2, Shleck cons, Matahaere pen) defeated Brumbies 17 (O'Riain, Jones, Finau tries; Mathews con)

Sydney Juniors 22 (Michael, O'Sullivan, Sullivan, Alexander tries; Carmichael con) defeated Western Australia 7 (Goodwin try; Rameka con)

Queensland White (Frisby, Beachamp, Turner, Marama tries; Taumata 3 cons) defeated Victoria 12 (Uini, Saxon tries; Schmidt con)

Division Two

South Australia 21 (Aldred, Taylor, Hellaby tries; Seuteni 3 cons defeated Northern Territory 3 (Walker pen)
National Indigenous 86 Jacko 4, Temple 3, Hodges 2, Kennedy, Pearce, Wellington, Jones, Morgan tries; Bell 4, Kennedy, Longbottom, Buchanan, Pearce cons) defeated Tasmania 0

DAY TWO (Wednesday October 1, 2008)

Division One

Brumbies 6 (Burey, Dale pen) defeated Western Australia 3 (Dawson pen)
Queensland Red 21 (Frank, Edwards, Sautia tries; Matehaere 3 conv) defeated Sydney Juniors 13 (O'Sullivan try; Carmichael conv & 2 pen)

NSW Country 36 (Trindall 2, Healy, Mather, Flakelar, Hansen tries; Trindall 3 conv) defeated Victoria 17 (McDonald, Sa, Brown tries; Schmidt conv)

Queensland White 22 (Law 2, Beauchamp tries; Taumata 2 conv and 1 pen) defeated NSW Schools 12 (Wallace, Roach tries; Latu conv)

Division Two

South Australia 36 (Van Wyk 2, Wilkin, Jones-Parry, Aldred, Deck tries; Seuteni 3 conv) defeated Tasmania 12 (Wills, Roberts tries; Russell conv)

National Indigenous 31 (Jones, Fuller, Morgan, Jacko, Pearce tries; Morgan, Buchanan, Bell conv) defeated Northern Territory 7 (Smith tries; Walker conv)

DAY THREE (Friday October 3, 2008)

Division One

1st & 2nd Play Off

Queensland Red 29 (Matehaere, Lucas, Garland, May tries, Matehaere 3 cons, pen) defeated Queensland White 10 (Foley try, Taumata con, pen)

3rd & 4th Play Off

Sydney Juniors 22 Larkin, Alexander, Sutton tries; Carmichael 2 cons, 1 pen) defeated NSW Schools 7 (Latunipulu try, Vaka con)

5th & 6th Play Off

NSW Country 11 (Muller try, Trindall 2 pen) defeated Brumbies 7 (O'Riain try, Dale con)

7th & 8th Play Off

Western Australia 13 (Valentine try, Godwin con, 2 pen) defeated Victoria 12 (Masters, Tipelu tries; Schmidt con)

Division Two

Northern Territory 40 (Smith, Lewis, Staunton, Johnson, Burns, Noble tries; Walker 5 cons) defeated Tasmania 3 (Russell pen)

National Indigenous 29 (Hodges 2, Jacko 2, Wellington tries; Bell 2 cons) defeated South Australia 20 (Van Wyk, Wilkin tries; Seuteni 2 cons, 2 pen)

FINAL STANDINGS

Division One

1	Queensland Red
2	Queensland White
3	Sydney Juniors
4	NSW Schools
5	NSW Country
6	Brumbies
7	Western Australia
8	Victoria

FINAL STANDINGS

Division Two

1	National Indigenous
2	South Australian
3	Northern Territory
4	Tasmania

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS U16S CHAMPIONSHIP

Location: Surfers Paradise Rugby Union Club

Teams: Northern NSW, Northern Territory, Southern NSW/ACT, Combined States, South East Queensland, North Queensland

Round 1 (August 3 2008)

Northern NSW 35 defeated Northern Territory 7

Southern NSW/ACT 32 defeated Combined States 0

Round 2 (August 3 2008)

South East Queensland 14 defeated Northern NSW 5

North Queensland 29 defeated Southern NSW/ACT 5

Round 3 (August 3 2008)

South East Queensland 34 defeated Northern Territory 5

North Queensland 46 defeated Combined States 10

FINALS (August 4 2008)

Northern Territory 17 defeated Combined States 10 (5th place playoff)

Southern NSW/ACT 12 defeated Northern NSW 10 (3rd place playoff)

South East Queensland 15 defeated North Queensland 5 (1st place playoff)

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS U16S FINAL PRELIMINARY STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP 4t	BP<7p	Pts
NORTH QLD	2	2	0	0	75	12	60	2	0	10
SOUTH EAST QLD	2	2	0	0	48	12	36	1	0	9
NORTHERN NSW	2	1	0	1	40	21	19	1	0	5
SOUTHERN NSW/ACT	2	1	0	1	37	29	8	1	0	5
NORTHERN TERRITORY	2	0	0	2	14	69	-55	0	0	0
COMBINED STATES	2	0	0	2	10	78	-68	0	0	0

KEY: P=Played, W=Wins, D=Draws, PF=Points For, PA=Points Against, PD=Point differential, BP 4t= Bonus Point-Four Tries, BP<7p=close losses, Pts=Ladder Points

ON THE FIELD

Wallaroos & Women's Sevens



2008 WALLAROOS

BACK ROW: (from left) Danielle Mesckell, Melissa Rowe, Lindsay Morgan, Dalena Dennison, Kate Porter, Debby Hodgkinson, Se'ei Sa'u, Carla Moore, Kim Wilson, Margaret Watson **MIDDLE ROW:** Maja Markovic (Team Doctor), Selene Thornton, Iliseva Batibasaga, Tui Ormsby, Sharni Williams, Tasieta Bethell, Kylie Pennell, Nicole Beck, Silei Poluleuligaga, Simonne Spooner (Team Physiotherapist), Tessa Pentony (ARU Liaison) **FRONT ROW:** Tricia Brown, Mark Rowe (Team Manager), Alex Hargreaves (Vice Captain), Brendan Allardyce (Asst Coach), Cheryl Soon (Captain), Steven Hamson (Head Coach), Selena Tranter, Shirley Russell (Skills Coach and Analyst), Alana Thomas

It was a season of milestones for Australian Women's Rugby on the international stage with a triumphant campaign at the Oceania Sevens and a two-match series against New Zealand representing the first Tests played on home soil since 2001.

The Sevens title in Samoa on July 28 also secured for the Paper to Paper Australian Women's Sevens team a berth at the IRB Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai, set down for March 2009.

The representative season opened in early July with the National Women's Championship on the Gold Coast.

Eight teams competed - Queensland, Sydney, NSW Country, Brumbies, Victoria, Western Australia, National Indigenous and Australian Services - over three days of competition.

Sydney successfully defended its title, downing Queensland 6-5 in the final. Rachelle Pirie kicked two penalty goals for Sydney while Selena Tranter scored a try for Queensland.

Sevens took centre stage the following week with the naming of a 12-woman squad for the Oceania event in Samoa which doubled as World Cup qualifiers.

Four players - Nicole Beck, Amanda

Judd, Rebecca Tavo and Selene Thornton - won selection at national level for the first time following a successful transition from touch football.

Under the coaching of men's Australian Sevens captain Shawn Mackay, the Australians made a clean sweep of their Pool rivals at the Oceania championship and thrashed host nation Samoa 29-0 in the semi-finals, with Ruan Sims scoring two tries. Australia went on to defeat the highly fancied Kiwis 22-15 in the decider.

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND

Test Match 1 - Tues 14 Oct 2008

New Zealand Black Ferns 37 (Carla Hohepa 2, Olivia Coady, Anna Richards, Halie Hurring tries; Hannah Porter 3 cons, 2 pen goals) d Wallaroos 3 (Alana Thomas pen goal).

Test Match 2 - Sat 19 Oct 2008

New Zealand Black Ferns 22 (Huriana Manuel, Fiao'o Fa'amausili, Carla Hohepa tries; Hannah Porter 2 cons, pen goal) d Wallaroos 16 (Debby Hodgkinson try, Alana Thomas con, 3 pen goals) at Viking Park Canberra.

Scores were level at 5-all, 10-all and 15-all before Nicole Beck scored on fulltime to secure the victory.

The two-Test series for the Paper to Paper Wallaroos against the New Zealand Black Ferns was staged in Canberra in October.

They were the first home Tests for the Wallaroos since taking on England in 2001.

New Zealand won the opening Test 37-3 at Viking Park, scoring five tries including three in the first half.

The Kiwis led 19-3 at the break.

The second Test followed four days later, again at Viking Park, where the Wallaroos gave the world champion Black Ferns a scare before losing 22-16.

Australia led 10-8 early in the second half after a converted try to No.8 Debby Hodgkinson.

However, the New Zealanders maintained an unbeaten record against the Wallaroos - the Kiwis have won all 10 Tests played between the two countries since the first in 1994 - by hitting back with two unanswered tries.

The final margin of six points was the closest result in Tests between the Wallaroos and Black Ferns.

ON THE FIELD

Wallaroos & Women's Sevens



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The final margin of six points was the closest result in Tests between the Wallaroos and Black Ferns.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP, At Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre, Queensland

NSW Country, Western Australia, Queensland, Australian Services, Sydney, National Indigenous/Sydney, Victoria, Brumbies

DAY 1 (July 1, 2008)

NSW Country 22 d WA 5,
QLD 79 d Australian Services 0,
Sydney 52 d National Indigenous/Sydney 0,
Vic 22 d Brumbies 5.

DAY 2 (July 3, 2008)

WA 36 d Australian Services 0,
Brumbies 34 d National Indigenous/Sydney 5,
QLD 17 d NSW Country 7,
Sydney 45 d Vic 0.

FINALS (July 4, 2008)

Australian Services 22 d National
Indigenous/Sydney 7 (7th place playoff),
WA 17 d Brumbies 0 (5th place playoff),
NSW Country 11 d Vic 0 (3rd place playoff),
Sydney 6 d QLD 5 (1st place playoff).

OCEANIA WORLD CUP SEVENS QUALIFIER IN APIA, SAMOA 25/26 JULY 2008

Pool and Championship Rounds

Match 1 (July 25, 2008)

Australia 21 (Tricia Brown 2, Ruan Sims tries, Tricia Brown 3 cons) d Fiji 7.

1. Ruan Sims, 2. Alex Hargreaves, 3. Debby Hodgkinson, 4. Cheryl Soon (c), 10. Amanda Judd, 6. Rebecca Tavo, 7. Tricia Brown, 8. Iliseva Batibasaga; 9. Selena Tranter (Sub), 5. Tui Ormsby (Sub), 11. Selene Thornton, 12. Nicole Beck (Sub)

Match 2 (July 25, 2008)

Australia 46 (Tricia Brown 2, Ruan Sims, Rebecca Tavo, Amanda Judd, Selena Tranter, Debby Hodgkinson, Iliseva Batibasaga tries; Tui Ormsby 2, Tricia Brown cons) d Samoa 0.

1. Ruan Sims, 9. Selena Tranter, 3. Debby Hodgkinson, 4. Cheryl Soon (c), 10. Amanda Judd, 6. Rebecca Tavo, 7. Tricia Brown, 2. Alex Hargreaves; 8. Iliseva Batibasaga (Sub), 5. Tui Ormsby (Sub), 11. Selene Thornton, 12. Nicole Beck (Sub)

Match 3 (July 25, 2008)

Australia 59 (Nicole Beck 3, Debby Hodgkinson 2, Selena Tranter 2, Alex Hargreaves, Iliseva Batibasaga tries; Tui Ormsby 7 cons) d Niue 0.

2. Alex Hargreaves, 9. Selena Tranter, 3. Debby Hodgkinson, 4. Cheryl Soon (c), 5. Tui Ormsby, 7. Tricia Brown, 12. Nicole Beck, 1. Ruan Sims; 8. Iliseva Batibasaga (Sub), 10. Amanda Judd, 11. Selene Thornton (Sub), 6. Rebecca Tavo

Match 4 (July 25, 2008)

Australia 15 (Alex Hargreaves, Tricia Brown, Debby Hodgkinson tries) d New Zealand 5.

1. Ruan Sims, 2. Alex Hargreaves, 3. Debby Hodgkinson, 4. Cheryl Soon (c), 10. Amanda Judd, 7. Tricia Brown, 12. Nicole Beck, 8. Iliseva Batibasaga; 9. Selena Tranter (Sub), 5. Tui Ormsby, 11. Selene Thornton, 6. Rebecca Tavo (Sub)

SEMI FINAL (July 26, 2008)

Australia 29 (Ruan Sims 2, Tricia Brown, Amanda Judd, Selena Tranter tries; Tricia Brown, Tui Ormsby cons) d Samoa 0.

1. Ruan Sims, 9. Selena Tranter, 3. Debby Hodgkinson, 4. Cheryl Soon (c), 10. Amanda Judd, 6. Rebecca Tavo, 7. Tricia Brown; 2. Alex Hargreaves (Sub), 8. Iliseva Batibasaga, 5. Tui Ormsby (Sub), 11. Selene Thornton, 12. Nicole Beck (Sub)

FINAL (July 26, 2008)

Australia 22 (Ruan Sims 2, Debby Hodgkinson, Nicole Beck tries; Amanda Judd con) d New Zealand 15.

1. Ruan Sims, 2. Alex Hargreaves, 3. Debby Hodgkinson, 4. Cheryl Soon (c), 10. Amanda Judd, 6. Rebecca Tavo, 7. Tricia Brown, 8. Iliseva Batibasaga; 9. Selena Tranter (Sub), 5. Tui Ormsby, 11. Selene Thornton, 12. Nicole Beck (Sub).

AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND TWO TEST SERIES

FIRST TEST

1 Lindsay Morgan (ACT), 2 Silei Poluleuligaga (VIC), 3 Kylie Pennell (NSW), 4 Dalena Dennison (NSW), 5 Kate Porter (Australian Services), 6 Selena Tranter (QLD), 7 Alexandra Hargreaves (vc) (NSW), 8 Debby Hodgkinson (WA), 9 Cheryl Soon © (NSW), 10 Alana Thomas (NSW), 11 Nicole Beck (NSW), 12 Tui Ormsby (NSW), 13 Sharni Williams (ACT), 14 Iliseva Batibasaga (QLD), 15 Tricia Brown (QLD). Reserves: 16 Margaret Watson (NSW), 17 Danielle Meskell (NSW), 18 Tasileta Bethell (QLD), 19 Se'e'i Sa'u (QLD), 20 Kim Wilson (ACT), 21 Selene Thornton (NSW), 22

SECOND TEST

1 Lindsay Morgan (ACT), 2 Silei Poluleuligaga (VIC), 3 Kylie Pennell (NSW), 4 Dalena Dennison (NSW), 5 Kim Wilson (ACT), 6 Selena Tranter (QLD), 7 Alexandra Hargreaves (vc) (NSW), 8 Debby Hodgkinson (WA), 9 Cheryl Soon



2008 AUSTRALIAN SEVENS SQUAD

BACK ROW: Shawn Mackay (Coach), Simonne Spooner (Physiotherapist), Selene Thornton, Tui Ormsby, Rebecca Tavo, Ruan Sims, Alex Hargreaves, Debby Hodgkinson, Amanda Judd, Matt Grimison (Manager) **FRONT ROW:** Karen Bucholz (Technical Assistant), Tricia Brown, Selena Tranter, Nicole Beck, Cheryl Soon (Captain), Iliseva Batibasaga

© (NSW), 10 Alana Thomas (NSW), 11 Nicole Beck (NSW), 12 Tui Ormsby (NSW), 13 Sharni Williams (ACT), 14 Iliseva Batibasaga (QLD), 15 Tricia Brown (QLD). Reserves: 16 Margaret Watson (NSW),

17 Danielle Meskell (NSW), 18 Tasileta Bethell (QLD), 19 Se'e'i Sa'u (QLD), 20 Kate Porter (Australian Services), 21 Selene Thornton (NSW), 22 Melissa Rowe (WA).

ON THE FIELD

2008 Investec Super 14 competition



A SECOND appearance in the grand final for the NSW Waratahs highlighted an Investec Super 14 season that provided promise, if not total fulfilment, for the Australian participants.

Although the Waratahs were unable to take the last step against the Crusaders, in a match that was a repeat of the 2005 tournament showpiece; finishing as runners-up represented a grand recovery given the side had languished in 13th the previous season.

NSW won nine and drew another during the regular season, after having won just three the year before. A significant factor in the side's resurgence was its work in defence, where only the Crusaders finished the preliminary rounds with a better defensive record.

The on-field leadership provided by Phil Waugh, who became just the fourth Waratah to surpass 100 appearances for the state during the tournament, also contributed richly to the team's success.

Coach Ewen McKenzie bowed out by taking his third Investec Super 14 Coach-of-the-Year award. 2008 represented the third occasion from the last four campaigns that the Waratahs have featured in the post season play-offs. The challenge for the new look brains trust for 2009, headed up by new coach Chris Hickey and Waugh, who is back for a third season in charge, is to complete the side's graduation by landing a maiden title.

While the Waratahs provided Australia's headline act, there was merit in the performances of the Western Force, ACT Brumbies and the Queensland Reds.

Although in finishing eighth, the Force dropped one place on last year's standing, the West Australians' tally of seven wins represented the best return from their three Super 14 seasons. At least the Force bowed out on a positive note, over-turning a 7-22 halftime deficit to shade the Brumbies 29-22 in the final round of the competition.

The reverse represented a disappointing end to Laurie Fisher's four-year tenure at the Brumbies, as they fell back to ninth after missing the semi-finals due to a lack of bonus points in each of the last two seasons.

The Brumbies won six matches, but lost their last three away from home which ended any hope of a playoff position.

Even so, the campaign was not without its highlights, which included the remarkable George Smith claiming his third consecutive Investec Super 14 Player-of-the-Year award.

Smith edged his great rival Waugh by two votes on a memorable awards night for both the Brumbies and the Smith family, as younger brother Tyrone Smith captured the Rookie-of-the-Year title, receiving double the amount of votes gained by his closest challenger, NSW centre Tom Carter.

George Smith and skipper Stirling Mortlock became the fifth and sixth



2008 INVESTEC SUPER 14 AWARDS

2008 Investec Super 14 Player of the Series **GEORGE SMITH**

2008 Investec Super 14 Rookie of the Year **TYRONE SMITH**

2008 Investec Super 14 Coach of the Year **EWEN MCKENZIE**

TNT Super 14 Referee of the Series **STUART DICKINSON**

2008 Investec Super 14 Try of the Series **PETER HYNES**

entries into the Brumbies centurion club during the competition.

Although Queensland finished as Australia's lowest-placed representative, the Reds did make encouraging progress, climbing to 12th after having tailed the field in 2007. If anything, the loss of the last four matches disguised the progress new coach Phil Mooney made.

Queensland also provided the Investec Super 14 Try-of-the-Series, which was scored by winger Peter Hynes. The Reds were also responsible for the biggest turnaround in Super Rugby's 13-year history, as they crushed the defending champion Bulls of South Africa 40-8 in Brisbane. This result was a remarkable 121-point swing from 2007 where the Bulls had inflicted a 92-3 humiliation. For the second year in a row, the TNT Super 14 Referee of the Series award was won by Stuart Dickinson.

SUPER 14 MATCH RESULTS

ROUND 1

15 February 2008

Crusaders	34	Brumbies	3
Reds	22	Highlanders	16
Sharks	17	Force	10

16 February 2008

Blues	32	Chiefs	14
Waratahs	20	Hurricanes	3
Stormers	9	Bulls	16
Cheetahs	22	Lions	23

ROUND 2

22 February

Hurricanes	23	Reds	18
Cheetahs	15	Force	16
Bulls	19	Crusaders	54

23 February

Chiefs	20	Waratahs	17
Brumbies	22	Highlanders	20
Sharks	12	Stormers	10
Lions	10	Blues	55

ROUND 3

29 February

Hurricanes	39	Chiefs	19
Lions	16	Force	18
Stormers	0	Crusaders	22

1 February

Highlanders	12	Waratahs	15
Brumbies	43	Reds	11
Cheetahs	26	Blues	50
Bulls	15	Sharks	29

ROUND 4

7 March

Highlanders	6	Hurricanes	10
Waratahs	24	Brumbies	17
Bulls	31	Lions	17

8 March

Chiefs	22	Cheetahs	20
Reds	16	Stormers	34
Sharks	22	Blues	17
Force	24	Crusaders	29

ROUND 5

14 March

Chiefs	26	Stormers	35
Brumbies	15	Hurricanes	33

15 March

Blues	17	Force	27
Crusaders	55	Cheetahs	7
Reds	40	Bulls	8
Lions	8	Sharks	16

BYE: Waratahs/Highlanders

ROUND 6

21 March

Crusaders	34	Waratahs	7
Brumbies	29	Cheetahs	23

22 March

Highlanders	28	Force	36
Blues	17	Stormers	14
Chiefs	43	Bulls	27
Lions	24	Reds	24

BYE: Hurricanes/Sharks

ROUND 7

28 March

Hurricanes	13	Crusaders	20
Waratahs	23	Cheetahs	19
Force	16	Stormers	32

29 March

Chiefs	39	Highlanders	24
Blues	23	Bulls	21
Sharks	22	Reds	10

BYE: Brumbies/Lions

ROUND 8

4 April

Highlanders	29	Lions	20
Brumbies	28	Chiefs	42
Force	15	Bulls	14

5 April

Hurricanes	13	Sharks	13
Waratahs	37	Blues	16
Cheetahs	29	Reds	14

BYE: Crusaders/Stormers

ROUND 9

11 April

Highlanders	17	Sharks	19
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12 April

Crusaders	31	Lions	6
Blues	11	Brumbies	16
Force	12	Waratahs	17
Stormers	34	Cheetahs	22
Bulls	22	Hurricanes	50

BYE: Reds/Chiefs

ROUND 10

18 April

Chiefs	18	Crusaders	5
Reds	29	Force	12

19 April

Waratahs	26	Lions	3
Brumbies	27	Sharks	21
Bulls	47	Highlanders	17
Stormers	20	Hurricanes	12

BYE: Blues/Cheetahs

ROUND 11

25 April

Crusaders	26	Blues	22
Brumbies	28	Lions	21

26 April

Chiefs	32	Reds	20
Waratahs	25	Sharks	10
Cheetahs	10	Hurricanes	38
Stormers	26	Highlanders	16

BYE: Force/Bulls

ROUND 12

2 May

Crusaders	18	Sharks	10
Reds	22	Blues	35
Cheetahs	28	Highlanders	31

3 May

Hurricanes	38	Lions	12
Force	22	Chiefs	21
Bulls	16	Waratahs	13
Stormers	20	Brumbies	10

ROUND 13

9 May

Hurricanes	21	Force	10
Bulls	28	Brumbies	17

10 May

Highlanders	15	Blues	40
Reds	21	Crusaders	27
Sharks	33	Cheetahs	14
Lions	33	Chiefs	27
Stormers	13	Waratahs	13

ROUND 14

16 May

Blues	19	Hurricanes	17
Force	29	Brumbies	22

17 May

Crusaders	14	Highlanders	26
Reds	11	Waratahs	18
Lions	13	Stormers	22
Cheetahs	20	Bulls	60
Sharks	47	Chiefs	25

ROUND ROBIN FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	BONUS POINTS		Points
								4 tries	+7/loss	
CRUSADERS	15	13	0	2	422	210	212	8	0	60
WARATAHS	15	10	1	4	295	219	76	4	2	48
SHARKS	14	9	1	4	284	237	47	3	1	42
HURRICANES	14	8	1	5	332	237	95	5	2	41
STORMERS	13	8	1	4	269	211	58	4	3	41
BLUES	13	8	0	5	354	267	87	5	3	40
CHIEFS	13	7	0	6	348	349	-1	4	2	34
FORCE	13	7	0	6	247	278	-31	2	3	33
BRUMBIES	13	6	0	7	277	317	-40	4	2	30
BULLS	13	6	0	7	324	347	-23	2	2	28
HIGHLANDERS	13	3	0	10	257	338	-81	2	5	19
REDS	13	3	1	9	258	323	-65	1	3	18
CHEETAHS	13	1	0	12	255	428	-173	3	6	13
LIONS	13	2	1	10	206	367	-161	0	2	12

SEMI FINALS

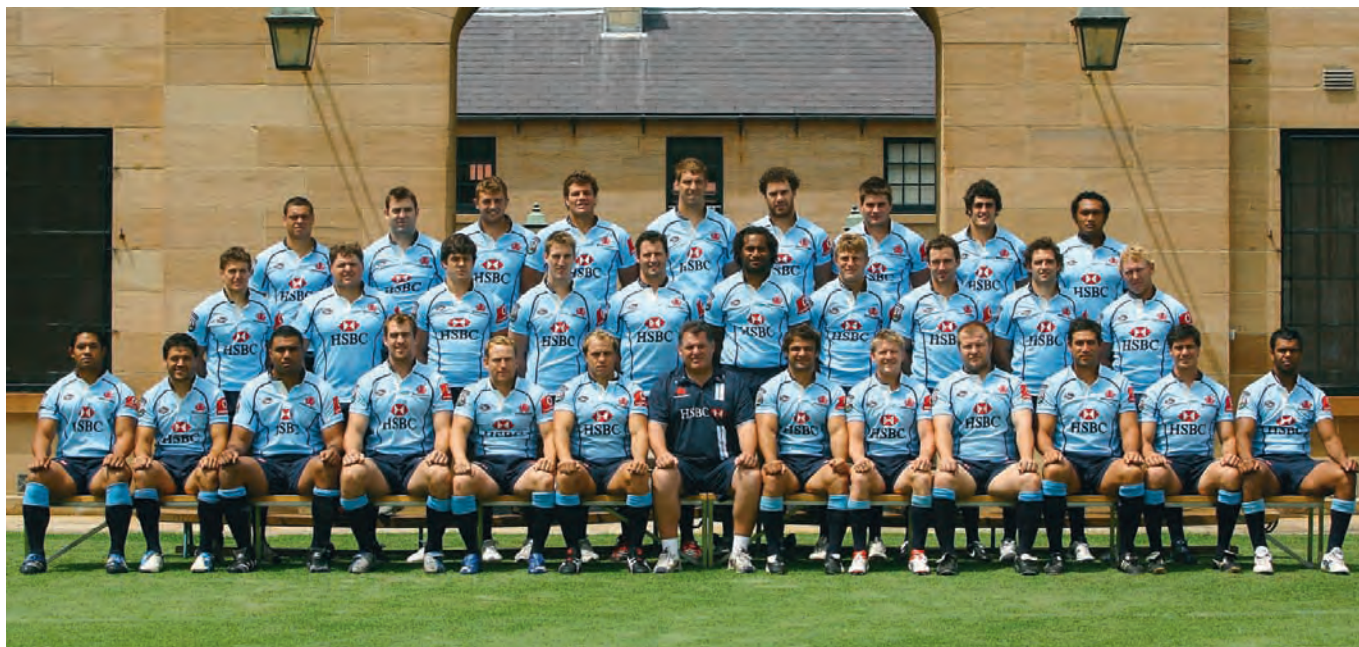
23 May				
Crusaders	33	Hurricanes	22	
24 May				
Waratahs	28	Sharks	13	

FINAL

31 May				
Crusaders	20	Waratahs	12	

ON THE FIELD

Member & Affiliated Unions



2008 WARATAHS

BACK ROW: (from left) Timana Tahu, David Lyons, Dean Mumm, Will Caldwell, Dan Vickerman, Al Kanaar, Ben Mowen, David Dennis, Sekope Kepu.

MIDDLE ROW: Luke Burgess, Matt Dunning, Tom Carter, Sam Norton-Knight, Al Baxter, Lote Tuqiri, Lachie Turner, Matt Carraro, Ben Batger, Beau Robinson.

FRONT ROW: Tatafu Polota-Nau, Daniel Halangahu, Wycliff Palu, Rocky Elsom, Brett Sheehan, Phil Waugh (Captain), Ewen McKenzie (Head Coach), Adam Freier, Josh Valentine, Benn Robinson, Sam Harris, Ben Jacobs, Kurtley Beale.

NSW RUGBY UNION



A TOUGH season on the field in 2007 brought about tough challenges for 2008, and NSW Rugby met them front on.

From the outset it was evident the Waratahs were set for a positive campaign, with a blend of experience and new blood providing the impetus for success in the Super 14 competition.

By the middle of the season, eight players had made their Super Rugby debuts for the Waratahs - Tom Carter, Timana Tahu, Alfi Mafi, Luke Burgess, Sekope Kepu, Dan Palmer, Rob Horne and Matt Carraro - while the likes of Phil Waugh, Dan Vickerman and Lote Tuqiri led from the front.

A second place finish after the regular season earned the Waratahs a home semi-final at the Sydney Football Stadium against the Durban based Sharks, with more than 37,000 fans supporting the home team.

The Waratahs easily accounted for

the Sharks to earn a place in the Final, however the Crusaders were just too tough in Christchurch and after scoring two-tries-to-one the Tahs succumbed 20-12.

The team's consistent form throughout the Investec Super 14 series was rewarded when 13 Waratahs were named in Robbie Deans first Qantas Wallabies squad of the 2008 season.

The end of the Investec Super 14 season saw the handover of the coaching reins of the Waratahs to Chris Hickey from Ewen McKenzie who headed to the northern hemisphere to coach Stade Francais in the French Top 14

competition after a five-year tenure.

Hickey was soon into stride and along with a host of new faces the Waratahs toured Fiji on the development tour in October setting up an exciting season with two solid wins over quality opposition in sometimes trying circumstances.

The return to a full home-and-away fixture list in the Tooheys New Shute Shield was extremely positive.

Sydney Uni ran out victors once again, but the emergence of clubs such as West Harbour and Parramatta as genuine contenders augers well for the overall depth of the competition.

Off the field NSW Rugby's marketing campaign urging all supporters to Get Tah'd was extremely successful and junior numbers were on the rise.

All participants in Rugby throughout NSW deserve a huge vote of thanks, from the players and referees to the volunteers that keep clubs going strong.

NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY UNION

Founded 1874

Chairman Arvid Petersen

CEO Jim L'Estrange

President Peter Medway



2008 BRUMBIES

BACK ROW: (from left) Dan MacFarlane (Performance Analyst), Tyrone Smith, Huia Edmonds, Peter Playford, Peter Betham, Peter Kimlin, Richard Stanford, Francis Fainifo, Julian Salvi, Afusipa Taumoepeau, Matt Toomua, John Ulugia, Tim McGrath (Physiotherapist). **MIDDLE ROW:** Rod Lindsell (Athletic Performance Coach), Mal Daisley (Assistant), Dr Warren McDonald (Team Doctor), Damian Marsh (Athletic Performance Coordinator), Anthony Faingaa, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Stephen Hoiles, Mark Chisholm, Alister Campbell, Adam Wallace-Harrison, Mitchell Chapman, Mark Gerrard, Jone Tawake, Joshua Holmes, Ed Hollis (Physiotherapist), Garry Quinlivan (Assistant Manager), Owen Finegan (Forwards Coach), Nick Smith (Media & Communications Co-ordinator). **FRONT ROW:** Matt O'Connor (Assistant Coach), Gene Fairbanks, Patrick Phibbs, Clyde Rathbone, Julian Huxley, Nic Henderson, Laurie Fisher (Head Coach), Stirling Mortlock (Captain), Ray McNicol (Manager), George Smith, Guy Shepherdson, Salesi Ma'afu, Christian Lealiifano, Saia Faingaa, Nick Scrivener (Assistant Coach).

ACT RUGBY UNION



THE year 2008 marked a change for Brumbies Rugby. The Brumbies faced one of their most challenging seasons in the wake of the departure of stalwarts George Gregan, Stephen Larkham and Jeremy Paul. The side was also forced to contend with the highest injury toll in the club's history, with four senior players ruled out for six or more matches.

This constant changing roster resulted in an inconsistent year for the side, finishing ninth on the Investec Super 14 ladder with six wins and seven losses.

However, a number of players rose to the fore in their debut Super 14 seasons including Ben Alexander, Christian Leali'ifano, Afusipa Taumoepeau, Matt Toomua and Tyrone Smith, who was recognised as the tournament's Rookie-of-the-Year.

In other achievement George Smith and Stirling Mortlock became the fifth and sixth players respectively to play 100

Super Rugby matches for the Brumbies. Smith finished the season by deservedly claiming his seventh Brett Robinson Award for the Brumbies Players Player, his third consecutive Australian Investec Super 14 Player-of-the-Year, his second John Eales Medal and becoming the most-capped Test flanker of all time. All up an exceptional year for George.

During the year the Brumbies also appointed a new coaching staff for 2009.

Former ACT fullback and Harlequins (UK) coach Andy Friend will take on the position of Head Coach until 2011, with Tony Rea, Owen Finegan, Bill Young and

Julian Huxley also joining the coaching staff for next season.

Rob McQuade has taken on the role of Team Manager from 2009, while Darren Coleman will take up the position of Academy Head Coach.

The re-development of the Brumbies Rugby site in Canberra has concluded with the final product providing facilities of a suitable standard and a great home for elite Rugby in the nation's capital.

Participation remained fairly constant throughout the ACT and Southern NSW in 2008, with significant increases in the Southern Inland and the regions of the Far South Coast.

Local club Rugby continues to command significant interest throughout the ACT & Southern NSW and that is likely to grow significantly in 2009. In 2008 the Queanbeyan Whites made it back-to-back John Dent Cups after edging out Easts, 22-15, who were playing their first grand final since 1973.

ACT RUGBY UNION

Founded 1937

President Geoff Larkham

Chairman Sean Hammond

CEO Andrew Fagan

ON THE FIELD



2008 WESTERN FORCE

BACK ROW (from left): Scott Anderson (Performance Analyst), Adrian Blacker (Team Support Officer), Mark de Cruz (Assistant Team Doctor), Pek Cowan, Scott Fava, Nick Cummins, Sam Wykes, Tom Hockings, Dane Haylett-Petty, AJ Whalley, Adam Clarke, Brendyn Appleby (Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach), Damien Pacecca (Assistant Analyst). **THIRD ROW:** John Mulvihill, (Attack Coach), Peter Steele (Team Doctor), Greg Mullings (Physiotherapist), Gareth Hardy, Troy Takiari, Pat O'Connor, Sitaleki Timani, Scott Fardy, David Pusey, Josh Tatupu, Tom Fearn (Defence Coach), Rob Naish (Senior Physiotherapist), Daryl Halligan (Kicking Coach). **SECOND ROW:** Richard Trend (Team Manager), Kieran Longbottom, Matt Hodgson, Junior Pelesasa, Haig Sare, Matt Henjak, Luke Holmes, Scott Daruda, David Pocock, James Stannard, James O'Connor, Haydn Masters (Manager Sports Science). **FRONT ROW:** James Hilgendorf, Ryan Cross, Drew Mitchell, Cameron Shepherd, Scott Staniforth, John Mitchell (Head Coach), Nathan Sharpe (Captain), Matt Giteau (Vice-Captain), Tai Mclsaac, Lachlan MacKay, Richard Brown.

RUGBY WA



RUGBY pushed further into the hearts and minds of West Australians during 2008, as the professional game enjoyed its third year in the West. The Western Force once again broke new ground in the world's pre-eminent provincial competition and emerged as a legitimate Investec Super 14 title contender.

A symbolic bridging of community and professional Rugby was also achieved in 2008, when the first home-grown Academy product, local-born prop Kieran Longbottom ran out for his Super 14 debut against the Chiefs in May.

Later in that same match, another RugbyWA Academy graduate, Hale School product, Dane Haylett-Petty, also made his debut to cap off a watershed night for Australia's newest franchise.

The Western Force continued to progress on the field in a season where it also endured a serious off field incident, which resulted in the sacking

of scrumhalf Matt Henjak. The team won seven matches during the season, which was a major improvement when compared to their past two Super 14 campaigns. Their first victory was achieved on NZ soil when they downed the Blues 27-17 in Auckland. A week later they continued their winning form and defeated the Highlanders in Queenstown.

Nathan Sharpe became the ninth Australian player to achieve 100 Super caps, while 10 players made their debut in the ocean blue jersey. It was at the completion of the Investec Super 14, that the biggest statement about the team's

progress was made. After having five players represent the Qantas Wallabies at the previous year's World Cup, a record eight players ran out in the gold jersey during the winter and spring. Ryan Cross and Richard Brown made their first appearance in the Qantas Wallabies side during the winter, while 20-year-old flanker David Pocock and teenage back James O'Connor made their debuts during the Qantas Wallabies' Spring Tour. O'Connor became the second youngest player ever to wear a Qantas Wallabies jersey, after earlier becoming the youngest debutant in the history of Super Rugby. Rugby enjoyed strong support at all levels in WA with participation rising a further seven percent with the Force maintaining the largest membership base of all the Australian provinces. Representations are being made to the new State Government for an upgrade of Members Equity Stadium and for it to be the venue for Super 14 matches beyond 2009.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION (INC)

Founded 1893.

Re-formed 1928.

President A Harvey

Chairman G M Stooke OAM

CEO G Harris



2008 QUEENSLAND REDS

BACK ROW (from left): Rodney Blake, Brynley Abad (Athletic Performance Coach), Quade Cooper, Josh Afu, Ben Coutts, Poutasi Luafutu, Ben Daley, Rob Simmons, Dayna Edwards, Ed O'Donoghue, Charlie Fetoai, Hugh McMeniman, AJ Gilbert, Van Humphries, Greg Holmes, Scott Higginbotham, Leroy Houston, Geoff Clark (Physiotherapist), Herman Hunt, Peter Hynes, Stephen Moore **MIDDLE ROW**: Ben McGahan (Performance Analysis), Andrew Walker, Henari Veratau, Brando Va'aulu, Chris Siale, Lloyd Johansson, Ben Lucas, Digby Ioane, Will Genia, Caleb Brown, Berrick Barnes, Geoff Abram, Ole Avei, Dirk Spits (Athletic Performance Co-Ordinator). **FRONT ROW**: Damon Emtage (Backs Coach), Sean Hardman, Morgan Turinui, John Roe, Phil Mooney (Head Coach), Sam Cordingley (Captain), James Horwill, Brendan Morris (Team Manager), Chris Latham, David Croft, Clinton Schifcofske, Mark Bell (Forwards Coach).

QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION



A NEW head coach in Phil Mooney and a more attacking, dynamic approach showed that the 2008 Queensland Reds were a markedly different side to the previous year, even though they improved only two places on the Investec Super 14 ladder in finishing 12th.

Convincing and morale boosting victories over the Western Force and Bulls were offset by the disappointment of near misses against the Blues and Crusaders, but on balance the Reds showed they would be a team to watch in 2009 and beyond.

The Reds scored 32 tries in 2008, the most since 2002, and blooded six players in Super 14: Ben Daley, Dayna Edwards, Scott Higginbotham, Leroy Houston, Ben Lucas and Poutasi Luafutu. Another three players earned their first caps for the Reds: Digby Ioane, Chris Siale and Morgan Turinui.

The elevation of James Horwill to the captaincy further signalled a changing of

the guard, as a number of senior players decided to make 2008 their last season with the Reds: Chris Latham, David Croft, John Roe, Sam Cordingley, Stephen Moore and Clinton Schifcofske.

With 10 Queensland players selected in the Australian U20s squad and the State's junior teams enjoying one of their best years on record, the future of Queensland Rugby looks to be in very good hands.

Two Queensland teams contested the final of the National Under 16 Championships (won by Qld Red), Queensland Combined Secondary

Schools beat a NSW Combined High Schools team 24-19 in Sydney after coming back from 19-0 down in the second half, Queensland Schools 1 won the national championships for the second year running and South East Queensland won the National U16 Indigenous Championship.

Corporately, Queensland Rugby pressed ahead with plans to redevelop the Ballymore complex into a national sports centre, with a lengthy community consultation process prior to lodgement of a Development Application with the Brisbane City Council.

The Queensland Government contributed \$4.2m to the project, to fund the construction of a new 25m swimming pool and the development of a third training field. The redevelopment of Ballymore into an asset that earns money rather than losing it is regarded as essential for the future financial well being of Queensland Rugby.

QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION

Founded 1883

President David Crombie

Chairman Peter Lewis

Vice Presidents

Tom McVeigh, Dick Marks

CEO Ken Freer

ON THE FIELD



2008 MELBOURNE AXEMEN

BACK ROW (from left): John Browne, Simon Carmont, Peter Erueti, Lotu Aiuta, Michael Thompson, Basil Api, Gidion Taelangi, Haimona Stevenson, Samiuela Taufa. **MIDDLE ROW:** Junior Sa, Moses Haukinima, Scott Baker, Cameron Fitter, Bob Windle, Liam Roach, Remiana Pirika, Daniel Concannon, Michael Breen. **FRONT ROW:** Mark Fitzgerald, Paul Percy (Physiotherapist), Dai Edwards (Co-Coach), Ollie Williams (Vice-Captain), Christian Brown (Captain), Josh Philpot (Co-Coach), Mark Rowe (Team Manager), Steve Dellabarca. **ABSENT:** Mitchell Botle, Leighton Heslop, Max Lucmont, Tom Whitchurch, Lewis Leamoana, Charlie Sale, Justin Braver, Tim Finau, Vea Mahina, Farrell Rogan, Israel Likiiki, Jacques Joubert, Adrian Garvey, Justin Botha, Dr Tracy Peters, David Rundle (Physiotherapist).

VICTORIAN RUGBY UNION



THE year 2008 was year of change for Rugby in Victoria.

After the excitement and success of professional Rugby in Melbourne via the Melbourne Rebels, the season after the Australian Rugby Championship presented necessary changes to the game in Victoria.

A significant reduction in staff saw some good friends move on to other opportunities in Rugby and beyond. We wish them all well and thank them for their contribution. Our long time CEO Ron Steiner also decided to move into a new phase of his professional career after 10 years of excellent service.

On the field, our representative teams had a very good year, winning both U16 and U18 levels in the Southern States Championships. The U12s and U14s also exceeded expectations in their various competitions.

While the Axemen did not enjoy the success of 2007 in the Australian Rugby Shield, many young men were provided with valuable experience that will be a solid foundation for our centenary year

representative program in 2009. The Bundaberg Rum Cup was taken out by the Eastern Suburbs Pillar in style, and Power House was successful in winning the Dewar Shield in the club competition for the third time in succession.

During 2008 the VRU Board focused on developing strong and sustainable clubs at both junior and senior level, while at the same time investing in programs that provide a pathway for the development of young players.

In this regard, the VRU has put in place the BankWest Centre of Excellence (COE), a program to ensure that identified talented young players are provided the maximum support in terms of skills and strength and conditioning training. As a result, every young player

who aspires to play at a higher level will know that the foundation training necessary can be accessed in Victoria. Further to the COE initiative, Victorian Rugby executed a Memorandum of Understanding with Brumbies Rugby that will see the already effective liaison between Victoria and the ACT developed into an even closer relationship.

A highlight for Melbourne during 2008 was hosting the first Test match of the season, which saw the Qantas Wallabies take on Ireland at the Telstra Dome.

Weary Dunlop Rugby continued to draw big numbers to our luncheon events. The Weary Test match lunch, in particular, is a major success every year.

Thanks to our volunteers, players, coaches, referees, administrators, committee members, supporters and VRU Directors for their efforts this year in developing Victorian Rugby. Our commercial partners also provide outstanding support. Heading into the 2009 season, we do so with much excitement and expectation as we mark 100 years of Rugby in Victoria.

VICTORIAN RUGBY UNION

Founded 1909

President Gary Gray

CEO (Acting) John Marshall

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION



SOUTH AUSTRALIA BLACK FALCONS

BACK ROW: (from left) Alex Wright, Martin Matthews, Matthew Connor, Pat Williams, Tom Moon, Ross Duncan, Ryan Lupton, Tevita Raiikiwasa, Simon Bermester, Logan Brown, Richard Czeglik, Ben Suttell, Mika Leawere, Christian Tedge, Inosi Tukana, Clayton Collier, Tom Wright, Michael Lowe, Rob Sadler, Bec Manson, Huw Bowen

FRONT ROW: Tom Ramanamanu, Shaun Coulter, Jon Collins, Gareth Brown, Warren Duff, Leigh Rebbeck, Tim Mattin.

RUGBY in South Australia enjoyed a season of immense progress in 2008, with the ratification of the 2009-2013 strategic plan, the appointment of new CEO Lachlan Clark, and a record number of juniors turning out to play our game.

Administratively, the Union made significant progress with the development and publication of the five-year strategic plan - a document that maps out the future of Rugby in South Australia - and the completion of the Club Development Strategy that has developed a foundation from which all SA Clubs will strengthen and grow.

SA Rugby found a new home in 2008, having moved to the Memorial Drive Tennis Complex, next door to Adelaide Oval. Rugby's new home gives our

staff, players and administrators access to first-class facilities in the midst of Adelaide's central sporting precinct.

SA Rugby's junior development programs remained a key focus in 2008, with more than 1,000 juniors in over 40 teams participating in Rugby throughout the year - a record number for SA.

In a slightly higher age group, our teenage Junior Falcons did us proud on their tour of NZ, with the highlight a 13-7

win over the Wellington Centurions.

On the senior competition side, the Black Falcons showed the rest of the country that they were a truly competitive force within the Australian Rugby Shield, with 2,500 locals turning out to cheer on their side at Parkinson Oval.

Once again, the highlight for many was the second International Rugby Sevens Adelaide held during the first weekend of April that attracted more than 32,000 fans to Adelaide Oval.

Adelaide Sevens continues to be an invaluable shopfront for Rugby in South Australia and we look forward to a bigger and better Sevens in 2009. Special thanks to the Government of South Australia and the ongoing generosity of Mark Pickard for making this great event come to life.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION

Founded 1932

President Geoff Holdich

Chairman Wally Bell

CEO Lachlan Clark

NSW COUNTRY RUGBY UNION



NSW Country Rugby Union has enjoyed a very successful 2008 season. The Union encompasses Seniors, Juniors, Women, Referees and School affiliates, as well as representing 17,809 players.

Success was achieved with a minimum of fuss and a lot of hard work by a band of volunteers who continue to back up year after year in the face of increasing hardships in rural NSW.

The traditional Country Championships saw Newcastle Hunter win the Caldwell Cup and made it a double in the U19s, while New England secured the Richardson Shield. Hunter Women completed a clean sweep for the area

by winning the Women's title. The performance of the representative teams was the highlight of the season, with the Cockatoos winning the Australian Rugby Shield for the fourth time in the history of the competition.

NEW SOUTH WALES COUNTRY RUGBY UNION

Founded 1954

President Bruce Worboys

Vice President Laurie Maher

Directors Col Jeffs, Phil Payne, Steve Rosa, Peter Veenstra, Garry Warfield

CEO Terry Woodward

The U19s had a short program, while the Women won the Southern Championships and finished third at the national titles.

Rugby Competitions across the state saw participation numbers increasing overall in sometimes hard times.

Thanks are owed to the family of sponsors and the NSWRU for their ongoing financial support to the Union and Zones, which are the life blood of Country Rugby.

The introduction of a Memorandum of Understanding next season will see an enhancement in the co-operation between the NSW Country Rugby Union and NSW Rugby.

ON THE FIELD

NORTHERN TERRITORY RUGBY UNION



THE growth of Rugby in the Northern Territory (NT) has been significant over the last 12 months and the numbers show we are making inroads on the other major sports in the Top End. In 2008, Rugby in the NT achieved growth for a third consecutive year with Seniors, Juniors and Schools.

Key programs and outcomes for the year included:

- AUSTAR Friday Night Juniors competition continued to be a solid platform for the future growth of the game in Darwin. Extra playing fields are now required for the 2009 season.
- POSITIVE signs in 2008 with increase in members for the Smart Rugby program and coach education courses.
- A PARTNERSHIP with Miwatj Health and East Arnhem Rugby Union has seen the development of a healthy lifestyles Rugby Union program start for Indigenous

Communities in the Gove region.

- AN U14 age group was added to the NT Junior Championships, alongside the U16 and U18 divisions.
- THE Heineken Hottest 7's in the World continues to grow and is gaining international recognition and stature,

NORTHERN TERRITORY RUGBY UNION

Founded 1975

President Vince Kelly

Vice Presidents Dan Panapa, Dennis Bree

Secretary Brian Anderson

Treasurer Ryan O'Hanlon

Executive Chandra Seneviratne, Dan Bree, Tim Curran

CEO Tim Heath

with the 2009 event holding \$60,000 in prizemoney.

- THE NT Schoolboys finished a respectable third to Victoria and Western Australia in the Division 2 Championships.
- NT U16s continued to impress at the National Championships with a good win over Tasmania and close losses to South Australia and Lloyd McDermott.
- THE NT Indigenous U16s secured their first victory at the National Indigenous Championships.

The year also delivered major recognition of which we are all very proud. Local Swampdogs identity Glen Byrnes was acknowledged as the ARU Volunteer of the Year for all his hard work over the past 15 plus years.

All involved in NT Rugby were delighted he was chosen as the outstanding contender for this award.

TASMANIAN RUGBY UNION



TASMANIA's senior Team, the 'Jack Jumpers', again participated in the Australian Rugby Shield in 2008 and were unlucky not to record their first win against the Darwin Mosquitoes in Hobart.

Thanks must go to head coach Adam Nicholson, who was instrumental in the improved performance seen by the 'Jack Jumpers' this year.

Tasmanian Junior Rugby again participated in the U16 Nationals and U18 Schoolboys Division Two competitions. Whilst the Tasmanian boys performed to the best of their ability and gained

valuable experience to bring back to our local competitions, they suffered from a lack of practice games prior to their respective matches.

The Tasmanian Rugby Union Board of Management would once again like to

thank the ARU for their support with regards to the above competitions.

Two longstanding Tasmanian clubs also reached significant milestone anniversaries in 2008 with the University Rugby Union Football Club and Harlequins Rugby Union Club both celebrating 75th anniversaries.

The TRU would also like to thank the Australian Rugby Union and Sport and Recreation Tasmania for their continuing support of grassroots Rugby.

TASMANIAN RUGBY UNION OFFICE BEARERS

President Mark Playle

Treasurer David Palmer

Secretary Mel Beechey

THE AUSTRALIAN RUGBY SHIELD

THE Australian Rugby Union conducted the Australian Rugby Shield (ARS) in 2008.

The Competition provided affiliate Unions of the ARU with a competitive match schedule against other States for the ARS title.

The competition was run over five weeks in a round robin format with the winners being determined by the highest ladder position after completion of the competition.

The participating Unions in 2008 were: Adelaide Black Falcons, Darwin Mosquitoes, Melbourne Axemen, NSW Country Cockatoos, QLD Country Healers and Tassie Jack Jumpers.

NSW Country Cockatoos (pictured right) were worthy champions in 2008, remaining undefeated and sealing the title with a win in the final match against Adelaide Falcons in Adelaide (pictured right). Matches were played in the capital cities of Adelaide, Darwin, Hobart and Melbourne, as well as regional centres, Warren (NSW), Woonona (NSW), Broadbeach (QLD) and Charters Towers (QLD).



AUSTRALIAN RUGBY SHIELD

Darwin Mosquitoes, Adelaide Black Falcons, Queensland Country Healers, Melbourne Axemen, NSW Country Cockatoos, Tassie Jack Jumpers

ROUND 1 (May 3 2008)

Darwin Mosquitoes 20 defeated Adelaide Black Falcons 18
Queensland Country Healers 37 defeated Melbourne Axemen 7
NSW Country Cockatoos: Bye

ROUND 2 (May 10 2008)

Adelaide Black Falcons 45 defeated Tassie Jack Jumpers 0
Queensland Country Healers 34 defeated Darwin Mosquitoes 8
NSW Country Cockatoos 28 defeated Melbourne Axemen 23

ROUND 3 (May 17 2008)

Darwin Mosquitoes 22 defeated Tassie Jack Jumpers 12
Adelaide Black Falcons 14 Melbourne Axemen 3
NSW Country Cockatoos 19 defeated Queensland Country Healers 11

ROUND 4 (May 24 2008)

Queensland Country Healers 31 defeated Adelaide Black Falcons 8
NSW Country Cockatoos 71 defeated

Darwin Mosquitoes 0

Melbourne Axemen 30 defeated Tassie Jack Jumpers 3

ROUND 5 (May 31 2008)

NSW Country Cockatoos 36 defeated Adelaide Black Falcons 20
Melbourne Axemen 42 defeated Darwin Mosquitoes 14
Queensland Country Healers: Bye

2008 AUSTRALIAN RUGBY SHIELD TABLE

Teams	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	BP 4t	BP<7p	Pts
NSW COUNTRY COCKATOOS	4	4	0	0	154	54	100	2	0	18
QUEENSLAND COUNTRY HEELERS	4	3	0	1	115	42	73	3	0	15
MELBOURNE AXEMEN	4	1	0	3	75	93	-18	1	1	6
ADELAIDE BLACK FALCONS	4	1	0	3	60	92	-32	0	1	5
DARWIN MOSQUITOES	4	1	0	3	42	165	-123	0	0	4
TASSIE JACK JUMPERS	3	0	0	3	15	97	-82	0	0	0

Key: KEY: P=Played, W=Wins, D=Draws, PF=Points For, PA=Points Against, PD=Point differential, BP 4t= Bonus Point-Four Tries, BP<7p=close losses, Pts=Ladder Points

ON THE FIELD

CLASSIC WALLABIES

THE Classic Wallabies have taken strides towards reinvigorating the brand and delivering a greater off-field presence heading into the future.

The Annual General Meeting of the Classic Wallabies was held at ARU Headquarters on 23 October, 2008 where a new-look committee was elected including two former long-serving Test flankers as joint presidents.

Simon Poidevin played 59 Tests in a distinguished career. Jeff Miller wore the Wallabies jersey in 26 internationals.

Together they were accepted unopposed into a presidency role previously filled for many years by the tireless Stuart MacDougall.

Stuart, a former Test prop, retains an active role within the Classic Wallabies as a member of the Committee.

The Classic Wallabies ushered in a



Patron Ken Catchpole

Joint Presidents Jeff Miller,
Simon Poidevin

Treasurer Ken Wright

Secretary Geoff Shaw

Committee Stuart MacDougall,
Peter Carson, Peter Grigg, Bill Ross,
John Eales, Greg Cornelsen,
Ian Robertson, Arthur McGill

hard-working group to the Committee and much is expected in 2009.

Moves to make the Classic Wallabies a more visible entity were rolled out mid-year with functions organised in Sydney and Brisbane to coincide with the two-Test series against France.

The Classic Wallabies welcomed Qantas Wallabies coach Robbie Deans to the job during his first month at the helm by hosting a function at ARU Headquarters on 26 June.

A further event was held the following week on July 3 at the Downtown Queensland Rugby Club in Brisbane.

On the playing front, the Classic Wallabies entered the annual Classic Rugby Tournament in Bermuda in November, supported by the ARU.

The Classic Wallabies, coached by John Ross, won their opening match against Canada 33-0 before going down 21-0 to South Africa in the semi-finals.

AUSTRALIAN BARBARIANS

DURING the 2008 season the Barbarians were invited by the Queensland Rugby Union to play a match against the Queensland Reds XV to acknowledge the retirement of John Roe, a Wallaby and long serving Queensland captain.

The Barbarians team, which included prominent Queensland 1st division players, was managed

by Daniel Herbert and coached by former Wallabies coach and leading broadcaster, Alan Jones.

The match was staged at Ballymore in Brisbane on July 13, 2008 at 3.30pm and the Reds won 61-17.

The availability of those players contracted to the ARU and other Unions impacted the Club's capacity to mount an international match program.

OFFICE BEARERS

President Charles Blunt Jnr

Immediate Past President

Greg Cornelsen

Honorary Secretary Peter Johnson

Honorary Treasurer Andy Conway

ASRU WARRIORS

AUSTRALIAN Services Rugby Union (ASRU) is the vehicle for talented Defence players to gain State and national recognition.

ASRU fields both men's and women's senior teams selected from serving members of the ADF.

ASRU in 2008 achieved many highlights including, LT Kate Porter being named in a 22-woman Wallaroos squad that played against New

Zealand's Black Ferns in Canberra in October.

Leading Seaman Jason Harrington (Navy) and Corporal Zane Mitchell (Army), were selected to play with the Barbarians at Ballymore for a game against a Queensland XV in September.

ASRU launched a new website in November www.servicesrugby.asn.au to promote the game within Defence and to better facilitate communication

President

Comodore Grant Ferguson

Vice Presidents

Brigadier Gus Gilmore,
Colonel Jim Bancroft

Secretary Major Dave Edwards

between supporters, players, sponsors and administrators.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

IT IS evident that Australian Universities Rugby Union (AURU) needs a complete new strategy to maintain and grow its continued participation in the game.

That strategy needs to be visionary so that it gains the support of the IRB, ARU, sponsors and the media.

Such a strategy is to form the International Universities Rugby Union.

The purpose of this organisation would be to foster regular international competitions between countries as well as a Universities Rugby World Cup.

This program of events could be either scheduled with current international events such as the World Cup and International Test matches.

It could also be spaced between these main events to give a more continuous offering of good Rugby to the public.

With this organisation and program of events, attracting funding through these bodies, sponsors and the media would be highly likely.

Initial discussions with an Australia major media company have indicated such an outcome.

The selection of the Australian Universities team would be through supporting the current annual Intervarsity Challenge at Easter.

President Les Sampson (Adelaide University)

Vice President Peter Hone (Melbourne University)

Secretary Peter Hemming (Sydney University)

AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR RUGBY UNION

THE Australian Junior Rugby Union (AJRU) is an affiliated Union of the ARU which represents junior players in the Australian Rugby community. From August 2006, the AJRU underwent a constitutional review which led to unanimous approval of the amendments to its constitution. Each respective member Union is entitled to an equal voice in control of the AJRU, in that each

is entitled to one vote on behalf of each participating State or Territory.

Each delegate to the AJRU holds the position of president, director or appointed office bearer and therefore are directly associated with all the member unions of the ARU.

Some of the objectives of the AJRU include - promoting the game of Rugby for junior players, to assist in the

development and co-ordination of Junior Rugby under the control of member Unions, and promote and/or conduct all games of Junior Rugby and tours for the purposes of developing the standard of Rugby Union.

The AJRU currently represent in excess of 48,000 registered junior players throughout all of the States and Territories member Unions.

OFF THE FIELD

High Performance Unit

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

AUSTRALIAN Rugby Union's High Performance Unit was re-modelled in 2008 with the appointment in May of David Nucifora as the department's General Manager. His arrival coincided with Robbie Deans taking up the role as Qantas Wallabies head coach - giving ARU an impressive pairing of immense credentials to oversee the on-field programs for national teams.

Nucifora, a long-serving Queensland hooker, played for the Wallabies in the early 1990s and was a member of the 1991 World Cup winning squad before transitioning into coaching.

He coached the Brumbies from 2002-2004, was the first Australian coach to steer a Super 12 team to three successive finals series, and guided the franchise to the provincial title in his final season in Canberra.

Nucifora joined the ARU after four seasons with the Blues Super Rugby team in New Zealand and before that with the Brumbies in Canberra.

In the HPU role, his philosophy is built on developing consistency of programs - most notably skills and strength/conditioning - "from the top down and the bottom up".

Introducing players to professional methods and preparation requirements starts at the National Talent Squad (NTS) level where elite players from 15 to 17 years have the benefit of working with

leading ARU coaches and conditioning staff. The pathway continues through the State academies, the national Sevens program (now supported by the Australian Institute of Sport), the U20s program, the Investec Super 14 franchises and eventually to the Qantas Wallabies.

During the season, Deans provided a significant pointer to the affinity developed between the HPU and the country's flagship team for the benefit of the game at all levels.

Throughout the 2008 season he welcomed coaches from various tiers within Australian Rugby to attend and view Qantas Wallabies training runs, while also speaking to them during or after the sessions on a group and individual basis.

Another recruit to the HPU department during the year was former professional coach Anthony Eddy, whose experience within Australia as a head coach at Sydney University and an assistant at the Brumbies has been supplemented by time as a head coach in the UK.

Eddy joined ARU in August with a role based around implementation of programs and adherence to systems.

A further significant appointment was former dual international Michael O'Connor as coach of the Australian Men's Sevens team.

Sevens has also been given a higher priority with its move into the AIS program.



The Women's Sevens program received HPU funding for the Oceania World Cup qualifiers in Samoa, where the Australian team defeated New Zealand to win the regional title and book a berth at the IRB Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai in March 2009.

The Australian Women's Sevens team was seeded second for the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament.

REFEREES REPORT

STUART DICKINSON (pictured right) was recognised as Australia's Referee of the Year in the Investec Super 14 series after some outstanding performances throughout the competition. Dickinson was also appointed to referee an Investec Super 14 semi-final in New Zealand, where he was supported with Matt Goddard and Paul Marks on the touch lines and Geoff Acton as the TMO.

During the year Ian Smith and Nathan Pearce were awarded their first Investec Super 14 matches. Smith and Pearce went on to referee four and three matches respectively.

Smith was also appointed to referee his first Test Match - Tonga v Samoa.

The IRB U20s Junior World Cup

was held in Wales and Australia's representative was James Leckie.

The IRB Sevens World Series also provided opportunity and experience for Julian Pritchard and Smith.

The 2008 season also saw the appointment of Andrew Cole as the HPU Referee Coach which resulted in Australia's top referee being placed in a formal coaching environment. This program will continue through 2009.

ARU also acknowledges and thanks Peter Marshall for his dedication and work in establishing a professional program for the High Performance Unit.

Peter left the ARU during the year. His commitment to the Referee program has positioned many young referees to officiate at the highest level of the game.



RUGBY SERVICES

EXPERIMENTAL LAWS

The Australian Rugby Union continued trialling the International Rugby Board's Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) in 2008 with the program extended to Canberra and Perth club competitions as well as Sydney and Brisbane. The trials were also continued in Super Rugby and Tri Nations Series.

A very comprehensive review was conducted in Australia and the results forwarded to the IRB.

The results provided overwhelming support for the ELVs and the sanction variation.

As a consequence the ARU will extend these trials in 2009 domestic competitions in Australia and continue the evaluation process.

A number of these variations will be extended to U19 level in Australia.

The IRB will make a global decision in May 2009 as to the future of the EVLs.

CITING AND JUDICIAL

In 2008 a SANZAR Judicial Committee consisting of Tim Gresson (Chairman), Mick Mathers and Lex Mpati commenced operation in managing the appointment, training and assessment of all citing and judicial personnel from the NZRU, SARU and ARU appointed to Super Rugby and Tri Nations. The committee was appointed by the SANZAR Executive.

Citing officers and Judicial Officers were appointed to over 110 matches in 2008. Four players were cited and four players sent off.

Australian Rugby thanks all those involved in this crucial area of the game for their time and expertise.

ANTI DOPING

The ARU again conducted a comprehensive anti doping education and testing program in 2008, which was delivered in partnership with the Australian Sports Anti Doping

Authority (ASADA). During 2008 ARU conducted all their education programs using the ASADA Pure Performance program which proved highly successful.

In summary, the following programs were conducted across ARU events:

1. In-Competition match day tests were conducted at all Qantas Wallabies Test matches, Investec Super 14 fixtures, Super 14 Academy programs and Wallaroos Test matches.

2. Out-of-Competition tests including Qantas Wallabies, Investec Super 14 players, Australian Sevens and Academy players (86 tests were conducted).

3. Educational sessions were delivered at professional Rugby events, including Schools competitions, the National U16 Championship, and the Women's National Championship.

All tests in 2008 returned negative results.

OFF THE FIELD

Community Rugby

PARTICIPATION



PARTICIPATION rates showed an increase across key areas in 2008. The number of club players in the senior and junior ranks rose and regular School participants were also up on the previous year.

Junior participation has been growing steadily since 2004 and in 2008 there were 45,611 registered players – an increase of 1.7 percent on 2007.

Senior numbers increased by 2.2 percent for the year to 37,179.

In the Schools I category, where players participate on a regular basis, there were an additional 3289 players compared with the previous year, for an overall increase of 7.8 percent to 45,550.

Overall the number of participants fell 3.48 percent from 189,914 to 183,310, due to a significant drop off in the number of Schools II players – those

who participate in the game only on an irregular basis via one-off gala days or knockout competitions.

In this area, the decrease was 22.8 percent to 38,810. However, a major reason for this was the conscious strategic and budgetary decision to focus more on established participants in clubs and schools.

This focus led to a “conversion” of some players from the infrequent Schools II category to regular Schools I participation.

Schools I figures are now at their highest levels in five seasons.

Overall, this growth is a healthy indicator as it represents frequent player participation across recognised Rugby competitions.

A challenge noted in 2007 was the need to recognise and reward current participants in the game while also

providing opportunities for past and new participants. As a result, a loyalty and members benefits rewards program was established during 2008.

One of the major components of the initiative was the implementation of the Qantas Wallabies Rewards Program

This involved the creation of exclusive opportunities for participants, including: access to Australian Rugby’s flagship team the Qantas Wallabies; Australia A matches in Sydney and Brisbane; and special events in Test match host cities in the lead up to a match and on game day.

The program proved to be highly successful with significant and positive feedback from reward recipients.

During 2009, this initiative will continue to be a focus, with the aim to offer increased loyalty and member benefits.

NATIONAL PARTICIPATION FIGURES

ACT & SNSWRU						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	1,745	1,858	2,986	2,912	2,975	2,827
Juniors	3,077	3,692	4,690	4,969	5,038	4,858
Schools (1) *	2,037	950	1,161	1,041	1,169	1,180
Schools (2) **	600	1,945	5,052	5,460	6,103	6,279
Women	115	162	156	191	175	276
Totals	7,574	8,607	14,045	14,573	15,460	15,420
NSWRU						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	20,456	21,622	18,871	18,949	18,398	18,770
Juniors	15,461	17,784	17,312	18,246	18,867	19,491
Schools (1) *	20,150	22,731	14,303	15,332	13,450	17,390
Schools (2) **	13,500	12,999	22,838	24,778	25,329	19,106
Women	715	1,019	950	783	611	617
Totals	70,282	76,155	74,274	78,088	76,655	75,374
QRU						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	8,169	9,047	8,608	8,633	8,294	8,469
Juniors	10,285	12,363	13,482	14,233	14,194	14,162
Schools (1) *	20,489	22,034	22,731	23,288	21,527	20,140
Schools (2) **	640	809	4,137	4,161	4,983	3,689
Women	200	188	531	490	495	388
Totals	39,783	44,441	49,489	50,805	49,493	46,848
RWA						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	2,433	2,127	2,112	2,412	2,664	2,861
Juniors	1,904	2,529	2,830	3,273	3,178	3,277
Schools (1) *	1,990	2,180	2,240	2,485	3,812	4,933
Schools (2) **	239	0	1,220	6,152	3,005	1,636
Women	104	100	116	149	134	115
Totals	6,670	6,936	8,518	14,471	12,793	12,822
VRU						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	1,981	2,062	2,157	2,378	2,080	2,074
Juniors	992	1,519	1,625	1,761	1,728	1,781
Schools (1) *	1,149	1,140	1,160	1,360	1,420	1,420
Schools (2) **	480	1,591	2,830	3,052	5,150	3,397
Women	88	69	104	134	91	99
Totals	4,690	6,381	7,876	8,685	10,469	8,771
NTRU						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	846	744	625	645	754	837
Juniors	345	487	476	528	613	625
Schools (1) *	50	203	260	251	135	0
Schools (2) **	344	280	471	833	595	530
Women	60	26	0	0	0	46
Totals	1,645	1,740	1,832	2,257	2,097	2,038
TRU						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	358	411	340	478	444	387
Juniors	251	331	314	364	356	394
Schools (1) *			330	0	160	0
Schools (2) **	163	321	0	2,480	2,601	1,575
Women	47	49	43	61	66	55
Totals	819	1,112	1,027	3,383	3,627	2,411
SARU						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	958	1,048	875	871	856	954
Juniors	502	701	804	853	880	1,023
Schools (1) *	214	268	369	524	588	487
Schools (2) **	0	433	335	1,753	2,523	2,598
Women	98	141	96	107	68	64
Totals	1,772.	2,591	2,479	4,108	4,915	5,126
NATIONAL						
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Seniors	36,946	38,919	36,574	37,278	36,370	37,179
Juniors	32,817	39,406	41,533	44,227	44,854	45,611
Schools (1) *	46,079	49,506	42,554	44,281	42,261	45,550
Schools (2) **	15,966	18,378	36,883	48,669	50,289	38,810
Women	1,427	1,754	1,996	1,915	1,640	1,660
Golden Oldies	17,000	17,255	17,115	17,012	14,500	15,000
Totals	150,235	165,218	176,655	193,382	189,914	183,810
	1.0%	10.0%	6.9%	9.5%	-1.8%	-3.2%

* Schools 1 (Regular Rugby) - schools playing in a weekly competition that entails 5 (five) games or more.

** Schools 2 (Irregular Rugby) - schools who competed in one off gala days, knock out competitions or the like.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

THERE were a number of special projects undertaken or delivered during 2008. They included:

- A RESEARCH project conducted on training volumes in adolescents. This was done in conjunction with Australian Catholic University and published in the International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance.
- AN EXTENSION of the 2007 pilot

study on junior coaches - which is run in conjunction with NSW Sport and Recreation, the Australian Sports Commission, the University of Sydney and rugby league.

- A PILOT program was initiated on Sydney's Northern Beaches to trial the establishment of a regional development "hub" that is supported by central services.

A fulltime development officer was

appointed on a six-month contract jointly funded and overseen by the NSWRU and the ARU.

Extensive research was carried out by consultants with Sports Business Partners assisting in understanding of the perceptions of the Rugby community for this particular project.

- IMPROVEMENTS to the online Coaching Centre were also implemented.

EDRUGBY

EDRUGBY continues to provide opportunities for primary and secondary schools, irrespective of their Rugby background, to participate in Rugby activities both on the playing field and in the classroom. Highlights in 2008 included:

- A total of 2730 schools were

registered with EdRugby. This represents 27 percent of all schools in the country.

- 8045 students played Rugby through their school's involvement in the EdRugby Walla Challenge and/or National Play Walla Rugby Day in September.

EdRugby continued to promote the Qantas Wallabies brand and the values of Australian Rugby through the delivery of the annual EdRugby Promoting Values in Sport Forums.

- Over 1000 pre-service teachers were educated on the game.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

THERE are more than 18,000 Community Rugby volunteers who devote countless hours each week at the grass roots level of the game for the ongoing development, promotion and advancement of Rugby in Australia.

The National Volunteer Recognition Program was launched in 2003 to reward the dedication and hard work of Rugby volunteers and to raise the awareness of their contribution to the game. In 2008 volunteers from each

State and Territory were recognised at the prestigious John Eales Medal night where Glen Byrnes of the Northern Territory (pictured right) was named the 2008 Volunteer of the Year.

Glen has been involved in Rugby for approximately 25 years as a player, coach and also has held various committee positions. He even organised a front end loader and took two days off work to clear 15 hectares of bush for the development of new grounds for his club the Swampdogs.



COACH AND MATCH OFFICIAL EDUCATION

THE major priorities for Coach Education during 2008 were refining course content and providing quality assurance for State Union member presenters. This is an ongoing initiative as we attempt to provide coaching volunteers with quality experiences through education courses and seminars.

The ARU initiated a specialist Level 3 coach session with the Qantas Wallabies, and the coaches of the Qantas Wallabies made themselves available for discussion post-training.

During the year 8,170 coaches and referees attended SmartRugby.

Coaching courses have once again been well-attended. All of our accreditation courses are currently

registered with the Australian Sports Commission. Online SmartRugby capabilities have assisted 1,500 coaches and referees re-qualify.

We have also continued to mentor coaches at the Australian Rugby Shield level and provide education to coaches at national championships. The 'Pathway' courses of Walla/Mini/Midi Rugby have been reviewed and piloted at numerous clubs during 2008. The 'Coaching Kids Rugby' courses will be fully implemented during 2009.

MATCH Official education continued across the country. In short, a summary of education activities included:

- THE National Referee Development Program.
- SUPPORT of Academy programs, especially in the major centres.
- REFEREE coaching at ARS and National Championships.
- ONLINE examinations.
- SEMINARS with professional referees on latest trends.
- SEMINARS around the ELVs implementation to club competitions.
- SUPPORT of FORU (Oceania) referee programs.

Finally, Kim Lees retired from the role of Referee Education Manager at the end of July, 2008. Kim worked diligently over many years at a State and national level.

OFF THE FIELD

Commercial Operations Report



CORPORATE partner renewals and a solid Bundaberg Rum Rugby Series ensured the commercial program, in the main, delivered on forecast and provided the Union with a solid revenue platform. Restructuring of the Commercial Operations department continued by merging marketing and partnerships, a consolidation well received by the Union's corporate sponsors.

With the commercial inventory showing few vacancies, no new partners were signed in 2008, though discussions were successfully concluded with at least one company that will come on board in 2009.

The year saw the retirement of Ford Motor Company who had been a partner of Rugby for over 15 years. The decision by Ford not to renew was one caused by the deteriorating global financial environment. Ford was genuinely disappointed and we have parted company on good terms. Vodafone also chose not to renew their association with the ARU, with their business focus shifting to other forms of entertainment.

These retirements by two major corporations brought into sharp focus the challenge facing the Union in 2009

to maintain sponsorship revenue at current levels. To support management in this work we engaged Sports Management and Marketing (SMAM) as the Union's commercial agent in the second half of 2008. SMAM have been the successful agents for the AOC for many years.

Commercial partners also include State Government major event agencies that greatly assisted in delivering Test match promotions in Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane and at the IRB Sevens World Series tournament in Adelaide. Apart from the significant financial and logistical support these partners provide, the alliances are important to the strategic growth of Rugby.

The highlight of the commercial program was the successful staging of the Hong Kong Bledisloe Cup. ARU led the negotiations with Hong Kong. Our control of the planning and implementation of the event also successfully demonstrated the capabilities of ARU to stage matches offshore. The partnership with NZRU worked well and laid a strong foundation for similar joint ventures in the future.

The opening Test of the season

against Ireland in Melbourne produced a better gate than forecast and the near sellouts of the domestic Bledisloe Cup matches in Sydney and Brisbane and the Mandela Plate in Perth underpinned gate receipts and hospitality returns. Ticket sales increased by 30 percent over 2007 driven by the two Bledisloe Cup matches.

While broadcast results improved on 2007 with cumulative audience up by 20 percent, challenges remain. We are still unable to achieve national live broadcast of Test matches through our free-to-air partner Channel 7.

This situation disappoints our fans in States other than NSW and Queensland and is a concern to commercial partners.

Pay TV partner Fox Sports provided live broadcast of all matches across the country and this commitment was reflected in their growing audience share. The Bledisloe Cup match was the highest rating sports event on Fox for 2008 with the Investec Super 14 Final between the Waratahs and the Crusaders emerging as the fourth most watched sports program.

The marketing strategy, positioning and message were completely

OFF THE FIELD

reviewed with the outcome being a new campaign based on the 'Built by Rugby - Forged in Union' tag line.

The staging of two well-attended fan days in Sydney and Brisbane was clear evidence of the message getting through to the heartland.

It is also necessary to acknowledge that a winning team is obviously critical to any marketing campaign.

The commercial hospitality program produced a solid financial return for the Union while undergoing a full review of activities and seeing off threats to ARU business from pirate providers. A key aim was to improve numbers and contain and reduce

costs thereby driving an improved yield. This was achieved and has driven further efficiency measures for 2009, which will be a difficult year for the hospitality business due to the economic downturn.

The year saw the merging of IT, website management and Rugby CRM into one division, Online Business and IT under a new Head, Paul Templeman. This organisational change plus the recruitment of new staff is already bearing fruit, with service levels and functionality improving for Rugby CRM and improved content on *rugby.com.au* driving visitor numbers back to

2003 Rugby World Cup levels. A major project for this division in 2009 is to provide a whole of Rugby IT solution and service which will drive efficiencies and contain costs for ARU and member unions.

Organisationally, Commercial Operations has undergone significant change as staffing and positions are carefully refined to match the demands and requirements of the business. While staff numbers have reduced, retention of quality employees and better use of external contractors have ensured service levels have been greatly improved and the division is set up to meet the challenges of 2009.

CORPORATE HOSPITALITY HIGHLIGHTS

RUGBY Hospitality catered for 11,398 corporate clients in 2008 across the six Test matches, as well as managed functions at other Rugby tournaments for a further 4857 ARU corporate partners and guests.

This generated \$8,037, 549 (ex GST) of commercial hospitality revenue with a net return of \$4,096,353 to the ARU.

An average of 51% profit from revenue was achieved as a result of cost management and higher yield

per function as a result of cross selling arrangements.

In 2008, traditional "off-site" hospitality agents successfully sold into the on-site ARU Platinum Plus Stadium Dining functions for the first time.

Facilitated arrangements during the year also enabled these hospitality agents to cross sell into each other's functions at Rugby matches - in return for commission to increase sales capabilities.

At the Bledisloe Cup in Brisbane on September 13, a new product offering

called the Platinum Lounge Bar Package, was introduced and nearly 400 packages were sold at the cost of \$1320 per person.

This year further developments were also made to the Platinum Plus Function entertainment component, to incorporate key ARU messages into the night's program, to create guest involvement and enhance guest experience. During 2008, the Rugby Lunch Series and John Eales Medal functions were all managed and sold in-house.

LICENSING

IN 2008 a high level of consumer promotional activity was undertaken to retain and increase retail shelf space.

Purchase incentives where consumers received bonus match tickets through Amart, All Sports, Qld and Rebel Sport, NSW included:

- Father's Day promotion - 'Strike Gold for Dad this Father's Day - Win a trip for you and your dad to see the Qantas Wallabies take on the All Blacks in Brisbane' (run through Amart Allsports).
- Retailer staff incentives - implemented to encourage retail staff

to utilise the Point of Sale (POS) sent to their stores. This proved to be a highly successful exercise.

From a new product perspective, we welcomed Gilbert into the Licensing family with their release of replica match balls and supporter balls.

Our new memorabilia partner, Sports Entertainment Products (SEP), successfully marketed and sold all memorabilia allocated for the calendar year.

Kukri's Adelaide Sevens merchandise range also sold extremely well and exceeded expectations.

Another success in 2008 was the

performance of the electronic version of the Qantas Wallabies Test program, *Qantas Wallabies Matchday*.

This was made available online at *rugby.com.au* and could also be accessed through major portals such as *rugbyheaven.com.au*, *foxsports.com.au* and *ninemsn.com.au*.

This initiative gave fans that did not attend the games the opportunity to access the 84-page program, at the same time giving advertising more reach.

By the end of the Bundaberg Rum Rugby Series the programs had totalled close to six million hits.

HONG KONG BLEDISLOE CUP



The Historic Hong Kong Bledisloe Cup match staged for the first time outside Australian or New Zealand proved a great success both financially and operationally.

Building on the success of the annual HK Sevens, the HKRFU invited the Australian and New Zealand Rugby Unions to stage the fourth Bledisloe Cup for 2008 at Hong Kong Stadium. Following the launch in March 2008, the three unions, working with local commercial and hospitality partners in Hong

Kong, were able to deliver a hugely successful event. The delivery of the event built strong partnerships and learning across the three Unions which proved a great benefit for all involved. Both the Qantas Wallabies and the All Blacks participated in grassroots development programs with young Rugby players in Hong Kong. Additionally coaching and referee clinics were held with the visiting teams and local Hong Kong officials.

In total 39,682 spectators attended the game, with over 5,000 official

travel packages sold across Australia, New Zealand and Asia. The corporate hospitality program was a near sell out with 6,000 guests attending pre and post match functions in the largest temporary facilities ever built for a sporting event in Hong Kong.

The event reinforced the value the Bledisloe Cup and the Qantas Wallabies / All Blacks brands have in the Asian market and the potential to develop the concept of further Bledisloe Cups offshore in the future.

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION MESSAGE

FOR its small population and remoteness of location, Australia continues to confound the world with its achievements on the international sporting stage.

This position has been reached by the development of a comprehensive and effective national sport system that encourages sport and physical activity and creates opportunities to enable those who are talented and motivated to reach their potential.

This system has evolved with the strong support of the Australian Government, State/Territory and local governments, the private sector

and sporting organisations at all levels. At the national level, primary responsibility for developing and directing sport lies with national sporting organisations. On behalf of the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission plays central leadership, co-ordination, funding and advocacy roles in the operation of the Australian sport system, largely through the national sporting organisations. In 2007-08 the Australian Government, through the Commission, provided the ARU with funding of \$461,000 for the development of the sport and its

continued enhancement at the grassroots and elite levels, including the AIS Rugby program.

The Australian Sports Commission recognises that the ARU has continued to build on the progress it made last year with the launch of a number of key initiatives and key high performance personnel appointments. It is through these initiatives that Rugby will continue to strengthen and grow its membership base and provide increased opportunities.

BRENT ESPELAND
Australian Sports Commission

OFF THE FIELD

MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS

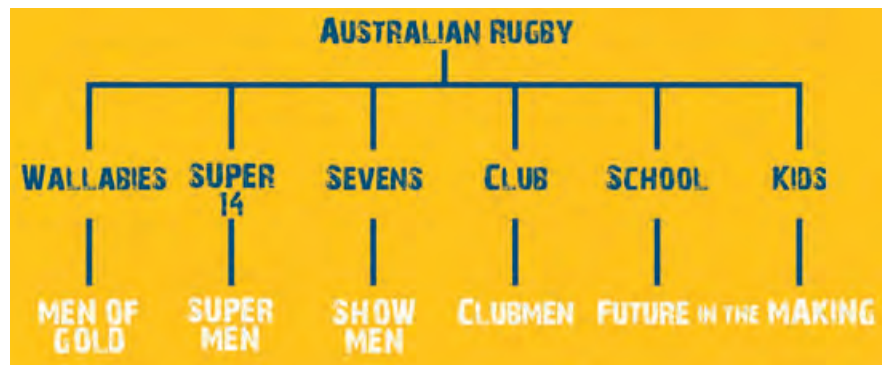
IN 2008, ARU Marketing underwent a strategic assessment of the ARU brand and a re-defining process of its key properties to better understand and demonstrate our core brand values.

One step of the process involved a creative agency pitch process, from which the ARU appointed Singleton Ogilvy & Mather as its major creative advertising agency.

The ARU conducted a fundamental review of its brands and its core brand values. In May, the ARU launched its overarching brand campaign 'Built By Rugby, Forged in Union'.

This brand positioning will provide a consistent and enduring platform across all ARU properties for years into the future.

Further to this, the ARU undertook a detailed analysis of the Qantas Wallabies brand and in May a new 60-second Qantas Wallabies TV commercial was launched to re-engage the hearts and minds of our key passionate fans. The emotive execution reinforces what our passionate fans love about the game.



MARKETING ACTIVITY

PRE-MATCH

IN 2008 the activity before each Test match focused on Rugby messaging with a number of new initiatives implemented to enhance the Rugby consumer's experience and provide leveraging opportunities for our Partners.

ARU HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The inductions occurred on the field of play before Test matches as part of the pre-match entertainment in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The inductees for 2008 were:

- Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop
- Nick Farr-Jones
- Des Connor

BLEDISLOE CUP TROPHY RELAY

For the two Bledisloe Cup matches in

Australia, a trophy relay was launched which provided the opportunity for members of the Rugby community to participate in the pre-match build up.

COMMUNITY RUGBY

During 2008, junior club members participated in Rugby activities on the field of play prior to kick-off and were featured as flag bearers at Test matches.

HALF-TIME PRIZES

A new promotion at half time was launched at each Test match this year. Consumers entered a draw to participate in an on field promotion at half time to win a prize pool made up of products from the ARU Partners.

Prizes included:

- Qantas Club Rugby Pack



- Vodafone - Nokia N95 8GB handset
- Panasonic Blu-Ray System
- Suncorp/Vero/GIO Merchandise Pack & \$500
- Crowne Plaza Weekend Accommodation Package
- Canterbury Ionx Merchandise Pack
- Tooheys New Prize Pack
- Powerade Prize Pack

PRECINCT ACTIVITY

The areas around each Test match venue provided the opportunity for Partners to interact with fans before entering the stadiums. In 2008, precinct activity included:

- Bluetooth message from the Qantas Wallabies captain & coach
- Qantas Bungee
- Qantas Fan Banners
- Vodafone Virtual Kicking Interactive
- Suncorp Slapband Handout and Fundraising Initiative
- Ford Academy Roadshow Trailer
- Canterbury Merchandise outlets
- Crowne Plaza Lucky Seat promotion



BLEDISLOE CUP FESTIVAL - MARTIN PLACE, SYDNEY

A three-day festival of Rugby was conducted in Martin Place in the lead up to the Bledisloe Cup game in Sydney. The activities enabled the general public to interact with our corporate Partners and the Qantas



Wallabies players and coaching staff. This activity assisted in driving awareness of the Bledisloe Cup match being held in Sydney.

MARKETING ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND EACH HOST TEST MATCH CITY

The Men of Gold execution was implemented across a number of media channels including outdoor,

online, print and TV. A number of strategic partnerships were set up with media partners such as Fox Sports, Rugby Heaven, Southern Cross radio and Fairfax digital.

FAN DAYS IN SYDNEY AND BRISBANE

Two Fan Days were conducted at North Sydney Oval and Ballymore, Brisbane. The Fan Days provided interaction with the entire Qantas Wallabies squad for our Corporate Partners to leverage their association with Australian Rugby and to offer fans access to the players. They were extremely well-attended and much appreciated by fans and the players.



DIGITAL ACTIVITY

The *rugby.com.au* website was revamped enabling easier navigation around the site as well as a new exclusive 'insider content' section on *rugby.com.au*. The website provided a key platform in re-engaging the hearts and minds of our passionate fans. The result was page impression levels returning to 2003 Rugby World Cup levels and *rugby.com.au* unique users up 13 percent on 2007 levels.



Rugby.com.au is a very important part of both our marketing and communication activities. It has delivered increased engagement with the Rugby community through



increased content, partner micro-sites (FoxSports.com.au and Rugby Heaven), and increased understanding of popular areas within the site through better analytics.

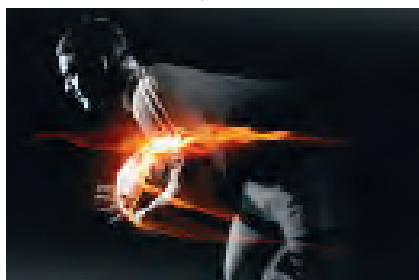
ARU also provides web platforms for the majority of the Australian Super 14 teams and to community Rugby clubs via RugbyNet.com.au.

These sites are critical in providing a strong communication channel within Rugby. 2009 will see an increased focus on these sites by ARU to ensure they deliver and meet the needs of the Rugby community.

In 2008, RugbyCRM processed in excess of \$9,000,000 in membership ticketing and course transactions compared to \$282,000 in 2006 and \$3,500,000 in 2007. One of the significant benefits of this was the ease of financial reconciliation and reporting, where it had previously been a difficult and lengthy task.

2008 INVESTEC SUPER 14

A new TV commercial campaign was launched in conjunction with Fox Sports 'Re-light, Re-ignite, Rugby.' The media schedule focused on pay TV and online during January and February during the lead-up to the 2008 Investec Super 14 season.



OFF THE FIELD

2008 Vales



ROY PROSSER (1942-2008)

ONCE Australia's most capped prop with 25 Test appearances from 1967-1972, Roy learned his Rugby at Newington College in Sydney.

Later at the Northern Suburbs club he played 236 games - including a club record 220 in first grade. Roy played in three premiership winning sides, was capped 24 times for NSW between 1963 and 1972, and on the international stage made his Test debut during the 1966-67 tour to the UK and Ireland.

His first Test was a 23-11 victory over England at Twickenham. Other highlights

included a 13-11 win over France in Toulouse in 1971 and winning selection for a World team to mark the Centenary of English rugby the same year.

After playing in Australian teams captained by Ken Catchpole, John Thornett, Peter Johnson and Greg Davis, Roy made his final Test appearance against Fiji in Suva in 1972. Australia won 21-19.

In the mid-1970s he moved to Brisbane, was captain-coach of Wests in 1975 at age 34 and coached the club to its inaugural top grade premiership in 1977.



DR ROGER VANDERFIELD (1928-2008)

A TEST referee, past ARU President and former International Rugby Board chairman, Roger was one of the game's most influential post-war figures.

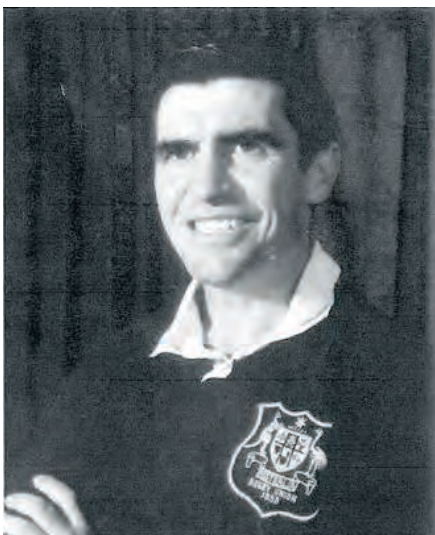
He was also instrumental in helping deliver the first Rugby World Cup, staged in Australia and New Zealand, to the sporting landscape in 1987.

Roger was IRB chairman in 1985 when the game's controlling body met in Paris to consider a joint proposal from the trans-Tasman neighbours regarding a World Cup tournament. His support for the idea was important, as was his later role on the RWC Organising Committee.

During the 1980s, he was also President of the NSW Rugby Union and the ARU. Roger was eventually elected as a life member of both bodies.

As a referee, his career spanned more than 1200 games from 1952 to 1976, including 14 Tests and 18 other international matches.

Roger was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1976 and an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2006 for his services to Rugby Union and to health care through Royal North Shore Hospital, where a building is named in his honour.



Lt. Col. (Ret) MALCOLM VAN GELDER (1933-2008)

MALCOLM represented the Wallabies while serving as an officer in the Australian Army, playing as a flanker against Southland and Manawatu on a tour to New Zealand in 1958.

He also holds a special place in the annals of South Australian Rugby - winning Wallabies selection the season after playing with Adelaide University.

Malcolm entered the Royal Military College Duntroon in January 1952 - he carried off the middleweight boxing title the same year - and graduated into the Engineer Corps in December 1955.

He relocated to Adelaide to continue his studies but was back in Canberra

playing with the Easts club when chosen to tour with the Wallabies - an Australian squad that included John Solomon, John Thornett, Des Connor, Arthur Summons, Kevin Ryan, Jon White, Terry Curley and Beres Ellwood.

As an Army Officer he served in Malaysia, Sarawak, Thailand and PNG, and in Vietnam from February 1968 to February 1969 as the Officer Commanding of the 17th Construction Squadron RAE.

Malcolm left the Army after service in Vietnam and became a lawyer in Canberra, where he also refereed more than 450 matches over 30 years.



JIM STENMARK (1924-2008)

BOASTING remarkable all-round sporting talent, Jim was one of the few men to beat the legendary Walter Lindrum at billiards.

An impressive golfer, he won several club championships at the Wagga Country Club.

He also appeared in the Australian pack in 22 of the 41 matches the Wallabies

played on their 1947-48 tour to the UK, Ireland, France and North America.

A former pupil at St Ignatius, Riverview, he went on to become a leading dental surgeon and a lecturer in dentistry at Wagga Base Hospital.

Jim played for NSW from 1944 to 1946 before winning selection for the first long tour to Europe following World War II.



FABIAN MCCARTHY (1919-2008)

A TIGHT forward born in the Queensland town of Roma, Fabian toured New Zealand with Trevor Allan's triumphant Wallabies of 1949.

After winning both Tests against the All Blacks, they returned as the first Australian team to ever win a series on New Zealand soil. It was also a feat that went unmatched until 1986.

While McCarthy played in a number of matches on the 12-game tour to New Zealand, his Test debut followed in 1950 where at the age of 31 he lined up against the British Isles in Brisbane. The Lions won the game 19-6.

The Australian pack at the time included luminaries such as Nicholas Shehadie, Rex Mossop and Nev Cottrell.



COL O'BRIEN (1947-2008)

THROUGH two decades Col worked with Queensland Rugby teams in the role of physiotherapist, but his duties with the state side in the 1970's and 1980's was only part of his pioneering work with some of the country's leading sportsmen.

He tended to the treatment and rehabilitation of cricket, rugby league, golf and basketball stars throughout his career. He worked on occasions with the Australian baseball team.

Col was on the medical staff of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic team and in

1981 he toured Europe with the Wallabies.

Described as a caring and generous contributor to the Queensland Rugby teams he was associated with, Col took on added responsibility as fitness trainer and toured extensively with state sides.

He was also a frequent source of advice to long-serving coach, the late Bob Templeton, giving insights into the mood and psyche of the players.



LAURIE JOHNSON (1927-2008)

BORN in Sydney's eastern suburbs, Laurie played both Rugby and rugby league as a junior before joining the Navy at age 18 in 1945.

He headed to the Royal Australian Naval College at HMAS Cerberus on the Mornington Peninsula, south of Melbourne, where he continued to pursue his passion for the 15-man code.

In 1951 he was chosen for Australian Combined Services to play against the All Blacks - a selection that attracted the interest of national selectors.

The following year Laurie was named in the Wallabies squad that toured New Zealand under the captaincy of John Solomon.

The Australians won the first of two Tests before going down in the tour finale 15-8 to the All Blacks.

While Laurie returned without playing a Test, he continued playing Rugby in Victoria until the end of the decade. He left the Navy in 1957.

OFF THE FIELD

Financial Analysis & Report

FINANCIAL RESULT

THE attached Special Purpose Financial Report outlines the financial result for the Australian Rugby Union for 2008 and in doing so shows the surplus after allocations to member unions of \$712,000. A better illustration of the result is the surplus before allocations which shows a surplus of \$9,255,000 which represents 12 percent of total revenue. There is no doubt that this is an excellent result and represents a turnaround of over \$9m from the result in 2007.

In terms of performance against Budget, the result was also extremely positive producing an increase on the

budgeted bottom line of over \$500,000. This better than budget performance was driven principally by expenditure savings throughout the year across all departments and includes allowances for the costs involved in the structural and other changes agreed by the Board in late 2008. These required changes are a result of the possible impact of the current global financial crisis.

Revenues for the year were up slightly on the 2007 result but were actually down against budget principally driven out of certain budget sponsorships not being achieved. Hence the expenditure savings for the year were required to

not only achieve a better bottom line but in doing so also had to account for less than budgeted revenue outcomes.

Attached below is the detailed break up of the individual revenue and expenditure lines for the year. From a revenue perspective there has been little change in the splits of the major revenue lines as a percentage of total revenue, however the one major change in expenditure is that Grants and Allocations as a percentage of total expenditure has increased from 27 percent in 2007 to 31 percent in 2008.

BALANCE SHEET

A FIRST glance of the Balance Sheet could be confusing when endeavouring to reconcile the positive result for the year against total equity. As presented total equity has reduced from \$21.6m in 2007 to \$8.1m in 2008.

A further examination of the Equity Section of the Balance Sheet will show that the total ARU Capital Position has actually increased from \$14.4m to \$15.1m with this increase consistent with the net surplus for the year of \$712,000. See

extract from Balance Sheet below.

The reason for the difference is the accounting treatment of the foreign exchange hedges that were put in place in 2007 against the USD inflows from the broadcasting contract. The first and most important point to note is that hedges are in place. The Board's position is to reduce uncertainty as much as possible and to that effect all past and future USD inflows from the broadcasting agreement will be received at the rate of 76c. All budgeting and

future forecasting therefore assume this rate as the actual cash flow from this revenue stream.

For accounting purposes however there is a need to mark the outstanding hedges against the market USD/AUD spot rate on balance day i.e. December 31. At balance date December 31, 2007 the USD/AUD spot rate was at 84c hence causing a positive difference against the 76c hedged rate whereas at 31 December, 2008 the USD/AUD spot rate was at 67c causing negative differences. These differences are shown as the Cash Flow Hedge Reserve. These reserves will disappear as the broadcasting contract comes to a close and for management purposes the rate used for internal accounting and planning purposes is 76c. Therefore members should consider the real capital position of the ARU at December 31 2008 as being \$15.1m.

Equity		2008	2007
ARU Retained Surplus	19	15,138	14,426
Total ARU Capital Position		15,138	14,426
Cash Flow Hedge Reserve	17	(6,992)	7,239
Total Equity		8,146	21,665

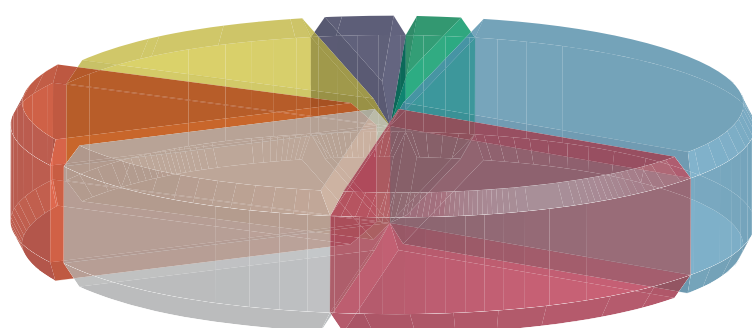
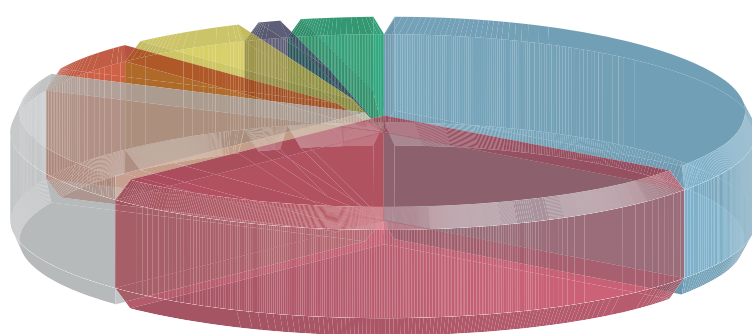
THE FUTURE

As has been widely reported, the Board resolved at its meeting in December 2008 to accept the recommended Budget for 2009 resulting in several changes to the organisation. Staff redundancies, salary freezes, salary cuts, player payment reductions and programme suspensions have resulted

in order for the organisation to achieve a budget surplus for 2009. The 2009 year was always going to be difficult and the impact of the global financial crisis has made it even more challenging. Achieving budget for the year will require constant vigilance.

Having said that the Board is

determined to maintain the current capital position of the ARU at not less than \$15 m and hopefully increase it to higher levels in the future. At this stage the maintenance of the current level would be a positive outcome in the current climate.



Australian Rugby Union Limited

ABN 36 002 898 544

Special Purpose Financial Report

31 December 2008

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DIRECTORS REPORT

(For the year ended 31 December 2008)

The directors of Australian Rugby Union Limited ('the Company') submit herewith their report together with the special purpose financial report of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2008 and the Auditor's report thereon. In order to comply with the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 the Directors' report is as follows:

1. Directors

The names and particulars of the Directors who held office at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

- 1. PETER MCGRATH**
LLB, FAPI MAICD
CHAIRMAN

Peter joined the Board in April 2005 and was appointed Chairman in April 2007. He is Chairman of the Nominations Committee. Peter is one of the Australian Rugby Union's delegates to the SANZAR UJV Executive Committee. He is a solicitor and Managing Partner of Chamberlains Law Firm in Canberra. Peter is a member of the Law Society of the ACT and is a fellow of the Australian Property Institute.
- 2. MICHAEL (MIKE) BROWN**
B.E (HONS) BSC MIEAUST
CPENG
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Mike joined the Board in April 2005 and is Chairman of the Governance and Policy Committee. He is a Civil Engineer with 34 years experience in the Building and Construction Industry. Mike is Chairman of the Rugby Youth Foundation and a former Director of New South Wales Rugby Union.
- 3. MARK CONNORS**
LLB, PS146 ACCREDITED
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Mark joined the Board in April 2007 and is a member of the Audit Committee. He was nominated to the Board by the Rugby Union Players Association (RUPA) having also been a former Executive Committee Member of RUPA. Mark represented Queensland and Australia between 1991 and 2006. He is a former practicing lawyer now working as an investment adviser.
- 4. GEN. PETER COSGROVE**
AC MC
FAICD
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Peter joined the Board in April 2007 and is a member of the Nominations Committee and Human Resources Committee. Peter is a Director of Qantas Airways Limited and Cardno Limited, and a consultant to Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. Peter is also Chairman of the South Australian Defence Industry Advisory Board, a member of the Australian War Memorial Council. Peter retired as the Chief of the Australian Defence Force in July 2005. Peter was Australian of the Year in 2001.
- 5. ROBERT (BOB) DALZIEL**
BEC, FAIM, FAICD
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Bob joined the Board in June 2006 and is a member of the Human Resources Committee. He has held Managing Director positions within the Coles Myer Limited group. Bob's most recent executive position was as Chief Executive Officer of Mayne Nickless Limited. Bob is Patron of the Victorian Schools Rugby Union and a member of the Australian Schoolboys Rugby Foundation. Bob is Chairman of The Colorado Group, Loscam Limited, The PAS Group and Director of the Fred Hollows Foundation.
- 6. RICHARD (RICK) LEE**
BE(CHEM.) MA(OXON.)
FAICD
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Rick joined the Board in June 2006 and is a member of the Human Resource Committee. He was CEO of Rothschild in Australia for nine years. Rick is currently Chairman of Salmat Limited, Deputy Chairman of Ridley Corporation Limited and is a Director of CSR Limited, Newcrest Mining Limited and Wesfarmers Insurance Division. He is also NSW President and National Board Director of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- 7. ROD MCCALL**
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Rod rejoined the ARU Board in April 2007, having previously served as the RUPA appointed Director in 1996. He is Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Governance and Policy Committee. Rod had an extensive Rugby career, representing Queensland and Australia from 1986 to 1995. Rod is currently the Managing Director of IPG Print.
- 8. JOHN MUMM**
MCOM(HONS)
NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

John joined the Board in November 2007 and is a member of the Audit Committee and Nominations Committee. John is currently a Management Consultant with Spencer Stuart, heading the Australian operations, and a former Director of the firm's global board. Previously, John held commercial and marketing management positions with Tasman Pulp & Paper Company Ltd in New Zealand and Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd in Australia and was Managing Director of the Hay Group's Pacific Region and a member of the Hay Group International management board.
- 9. JOHN O'NEILL AO**
DIP LAW(SYD) FAIB FAICD
MANAGING DIRECTOR &
CEO

John rejoined the Board in June 2007, having previously served as Managing Director & CEO 1995 - 2004. He is a member of the Governance and Policy Committee and the Nominations Committee. John is one of Australian Rugby Union's delegates on the International Rugby Board Council and a member of the SANZAR UJV Executive Committee. John is also the Chairman of Events New South Wales Pty Limited and a Director of Tabcorp Holdings Limited. He is a former CEO of Football Federation Australia, from 2004 to 2006, and was MD & CEO of the State Bank of NSW, from 1987 to 1995. John is a qualified solicitor, and a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Australia Institute of Bankers.

2. Company Secretary

Ashley Selwood B.Bus, MBA, FCPA, ACIS was appointed Company Secretary in May 1998 and has held the position since that time following a similar appointment at the Queensland Rugby Union. Ashley is a member of Chartered Secretaries Australia.

3. Directors' Meeting

The number of directors' meetings (including meetings of committees of directors) and number of meetings attended by each of the directors of the Company during the financial year are:

Director	Board Meetings		Audit Committee Meetings		Governance and Policy Committee Meetings		Nominations Committee Meetings		Human Resources Committee	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Mr P McGrath	8	8	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Mr M Brown	8	8	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Mr M Connors	8	8	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr P Cosgrove	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Mr R Dalziel	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Mr R Lee	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Mr R McCall	8	8	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Mr J Mumm	8	8	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Mr J O'Neill	8	8	2	2	1	1	1	1	-	-
A - Number of meetings attended B - Number of meetings held during the time the director held office during the year										

4. Principal Activities

The Company's principal activities in the financial year were the promotion, efficiency, progress, development and general control of the game of Rugby.

No significant change in the nature of this activity occurred during the year.

5. Review of Operations

The operating surplus for the financial year before allocations and other payments to Member Unions was \$9,255,000 (2007: deficit \$466,000).

Allocations to Member Unions for coaching and development were \$8,543,000 (2007:\$8,015,000).

The net surplus for the financial year after allocations and other payments to Member Unions was \$712,000 (2007: deficit \$8,481,000).

Due to the nature of the Company's operations being a not for profit sporting organisation, the directors resolved during the year to adopt Special Purpose Reporting for the purposes of the presentation of the annual Financial Report. In making this resolution, the Board noted that the disclosures outlined in Note 20 (Operating Lease and Finance Lease Commitments) and Note 25 are no longer required under Special Purpose Reporting however agreed to continue the provision of such information for the benefit of the members.

The Balance Sheet reports a negative \$6,992,000 position in equity as a Cash Flow Hedge Reserve which is the accounting treatment for the unexpired hedge contracts in place against future USD inflows. This Cash Flow Hedge Reserve was also in place in the 2007 report however showed a positive position of \$7,239,000 due to the prevailing exchange rates at that time. This accounting treatment values the unexpired hedge contracts at balance date, however for budgeting and forecasting purposes the company treats the cash flows from the contracts at the time of the receipt at the contracted hedge rate. Members should therefore note that the underlying capital position of the company at 2008 year end is \$15,138,000 (2007: \$14,426,000)

6. Events subsequent to reporting date

In the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report no item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature has arisen, in the opinion of the Directors of the Company, to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company, in future financial years.

7. Environmental Regulations

The Company's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State Legislation.

8. Indemnification and insurance of officers

In accordance with the Company's Constitution, the Company must indemnify both current and former Directors for all losses and liabilities incurred by the person as an officer of the Company incurred in defending proceedings whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour of the person or in which the person is acquitted; or in relation to such proceedings, in which the Court grants relief to the person under the Corporations Act 2001.

In respect to this indemnity, the Company has paid insurance premiums of \$14,000 in respect of Directors and Officers of the Company. The insurance policies do not contain details of the premiums paid in respect of individual Directors or Officers of the Company.

9. Lead auditor's independence declaration

The Lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 6 and forms part of the Directors' report for financial year ended December 31, 2008.

10. Rounding off

The Company is of a kind referred to in ASIC Class Order 98/100 dated July 10, 1998 and in accordance with that Class Order, amounts in the financial report and directors' report have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated.

By order of the Board



P. McGrath
Director



J. O'Neill
Director

Dated at Sydney this 27th day of February 2009.

Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To: the directors of Australian Rugby Union Limited

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended December 31, 2008 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Mark Epper
Partner, KPMG

Sydney, 27 February 2009

Income Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Revenue			
Broadcasting licence fees		22,137	21,058
Sponsorships		27,132	25,303
Net gate takings		21,776	14,718
Corporate hospitality		4,860	3,936
Licensing revenue		1,564	2,011
Government grants		465	450
Affiliation fees		21	21
IRB grants		911	7,918
Other income		96	1,578
Total Revenue		78,962	76,993
Operating Expenditure			
Commercial operations		13,605	14,885
Corporate Services		7,272	5,489
CEO's Office		4,419	5,899
Rugby operations and community rugby		3,732	3,916
High performance		11,968	13,598
Super 14 grants and player payments		29,310	28,081
Super 14 costs		3,690	3,342
Australian Rugby Championships		-	5,484
Total Operating Expenditure		73,996	80,694
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before Financing Income		4,966	(3,701)
Dividends received		88	21
Foreign Exchange gain		3,028	2,188
Interest received		1,218	1,133
Borrowing costs		(1)	(7)
Net Financing Income		4,333	3,335
Surplus/(Deficit) after Financing Income		9,299	(366)
Share of loss of jointly controlled entity	23ii	(44)	(100)
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		9,255	(466)
Income tax expense	4	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		9,255	(466)
Allocations to Member Unions	18	(8,543)	(8,015)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	19	712	(8,481)

The income statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes of the financial statements set out on pages (11 to 23).

Statement of recognised income and expense

For the year ended 31 December 2008

	<i>Note</i>	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Change in fair value of cash flow hedge reserve		(14,231)	7,239
Net (expense)/income recognised directly in equity	17	(14,231)	7,239
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		712	(8,481)
Total recognised income and expense for the period		(13,519)	(1,242)
There were no movements in equity arising from transactions with owners as owners.			
The statement of recognised income and expense is to be read in conjunction with the notes of the financial statements set out on pages (11 to 23).			

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	15,849	9,164
Trade and other receivables	6	6,841	17,352
Investments	7	1,407	2,111
Other assets	8	945	3,995
Total current assets		25,042	32,622
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	6	1,792	2,158
Other assets	8	-	3,843
Property, plant and equipment	9	538	973
Intangible assets	10	24	72
Investment in Joint Venture	11	396	349
Total non-current assets		2,750	7,395
Total assets		27,792	40,017
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	7,401	10,579
Deferred revenue	13	3,149	4,627
Other liabilities	14	3,523	37
Employee benefits	15	627	782
Total current liabilities		14,700	16,025
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred revenue	13	1,267	2,084
Other liabilities	14	3,469	-
Employee benefits	15	210	243
Total non-current liabilities		4,946	2,327
Total liabilities		19,646	18,352
Net assets		8,146	21,665
Equity			
ARU Retained Surplus	19	15,138	14,426
Total ARU Capital Position		15,138	14,426
Cash Flow Hedge Reserve	17	(6,992)	7,239
Total equity		8,146	21,665

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes of the financial statements set out on pages (11 to 23).

Statement of cashflows

For the year ended 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts in the course of operations		88,156	69,316
Cash payments in the course of operations		(74,090)	(74,031)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	24(a)	14,066	(4,715)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends received		88	21
Interest received		1,218	1,133
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		1	34
Payments for shares		-	(2,111)
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(85)	(186)
Payments for intangibles		(22)	(27)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		1,200	(1,136)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of finance lease liability		(37)	(69)
Borrowing costs paid		(1)	(7)
Allocations to Member Unions		(8,543)	(7,395)
Net cash used in from financing activities		(8,581)	(7,471)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		6,685	(13,322)
Cash at beginning of year		9,164	22,486
Cash at end of year	24(b)	15,849	9,164

The statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the notes of the financial statements set out on pages (11 to 23).

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2008

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies

Australian Rugby Union Limited (the 'Company') is a company domiciled in Australia. In the opinion of the directors it is not a reporting entity as there are unlikely to exist users of the financials report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this special purpose financial report has been prepared to satisfy the directors' reporting requirements under the Corporations Act 2001. This special purpose financial report was authorised for issue by the directors on February 27, 2009.

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, the recognition and measurement aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards ('AASBs') adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), the disclosure requirements of AASB101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Cash Flow Statements', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors' and AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards.

(b) Basis of preparation

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

The financial report is prepared on the historical cost basis except that financial instruments are valued at fair value through the profit and loss as well as derivative financial instruments are measured at fair value.

The Company is of a kind referred to in ASIC Class Order 98/100 dated July 10, 1998 (updated by CO 05/641 effective July 28, 2005 and CO 06/51 effective January 31, 2006) and in accordance with that Class Order, amounts in the financial report and Directors' Report have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated.

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current years' presentation requirements.

The accounting policies have been applied consistently by the Company to all periods presented in the financial report. There are accounting standards, amendments to standards and interpretations which may impact the entity in the period of initial application. These standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are available for early adoption at December 31, 2008, but have not been applied in preparing this financial report. The Company has not yet determined the potential effect of these standards, amendments to standards and interpretations.

(c) Associates and Joint Ventures

In the financial statements, investments in jointly controlled entities are accounted for using equity accounting principles. Investments in joint venture entities are carried at the lower of the equity accounted amount and recoverable amount.

The entity's share of the jointly controlled entity's net profit or loss is recognised in the income statement from the date joint control commenced until the date joint control ceases.

(d) Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated to Australian dollars at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the income statement. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are translated to Australian dollars at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined.

(e) Financial instruments

i Derivative financial instruments

The Company uses derivative financial instruments to hedge its exposure to foreign exchange arising from operational activities. The Company does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, derivative financial instruments are stated at fair value. The gain or loss on re-measurement to fair value is recognised immediately in profit or loss. However, where derivatives qualify for hedge accounting, recognition of any resultant gain or loss depends on the nature of the item being hedged (see accounting policy f). The fair value of forward exchange contracts is their quoted market price at the balance sheet date, being the present value of the quoted forward price.

ii Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

An instrument is classified as at fair value through profit or loss if it is held for trading or is designated as such upon initial recognition. Financial instruments are designated at fair value through profit or loss if the Company manages such investments and makes purchase and sale decisions based on their fair value in accordance with the Company's risk management or investment strategy. Upon initial recognition, attributable transaction costs are recognised in profit or loss when incurred. Financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value, and changes therein are recognised in profit or loss.

(f) Hedging

Cash flow hedges

On entering into a hedging relationship, the Company formally designates and documents the hedge relationship and the risk management objective and strategy for undertaking the hedge. The documentation includes identification of the hedging instrument, the hedged item or transaction, the nature of the risk being hedged and how the entity will assess the hedging instrument's effectiveness in offsetting the exposure to changes in the hedged item's fair value or cash flows attributable to the hedged risk. Such hedges are expected to be highly effective in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows and are assessed on an ongoing basis to determine that they actually have been highly effective throughout the financial reporting periods for which they are designated.

Where a derivative financial instrument is designated as a hedge of the variability in cash flows of a recognised asset or liability, or a highly probable forecasted transaction, the effective part of any gain or loss on the derivative financial instrument is recognised directly in equity.

When the forecasted transaction subsequently results in the recognition of a non-financial asset or non-financial liability, or the forecast transaction for a non-financial asset or non-financial liability, the associated cumulative gain or loss is removed from equity and included in the initial cost or other carrying amount of the non-financial asset or liability. If a hedge of a forecasted transaction subsequently results in the recognition of a financial asset or a financial liability, the associated gains and losses that were recognised directly in equity are reclassified into profit or loss in the same period or periods during which the asset acquired or liability assumed affects profit or loss (i.e. when interest income or expense is recognised).

For cash flow hedges, other than those covered by the preceding two policy statements, the associated cumulative gain or loss is removed from equity and recognised in the income statement in the same period or periods during which the hedged forecast transaction affects profit or loss. The ineffective part of any gain or loss is recognised immediately in the income statement.

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised, or the entity revokes designation of the hedge relationship, but the hedged forecast transaction is still expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss at that point remains in equity and is recognised when the forecast transaction is ultimately recognised in the income statement. If the hedged transaction is no longer expected to take place, the cumulative unrealised gain or loss recognised in equity is recognised immediately in the income statement.

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges are recognised in equity. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the income statement within 'increase/(decrease) in fair value of financial instruments'.

The gain or loss relating to the effective portion of forward foreign exchange contracts hedging receipts is recognised in the income statement within 'revenue'

(g) Property, plant and equipment

i Owned assets

Items of property, plant and equipment are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated depreciation (see below) and impairment losses (see accounting policy l).

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of property, plant and equipment.

ii Leased assets

Leases in terms of which the Company assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as finance leases. The owner-occupied property acquired by way of finance lease is stated at an amount equal to the lower of its fair value and the present value of the minimum lease payments at inception of the lease, less accumulated depreciation (see below) and impairment losses (see accounting policy l). The property held under finance leases and leased out under operating lease is classified as investment property and stated at fair value. Lease payments are accounted for as described in accounting policy (r). Property held under operating leases that would otherwise meet the definition of investment property may be classified as investment property on a property-by-property basis.

iii Subsequent costs

The Company recognises in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment the cost of replacing part of such an item when that cost is incurred if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the item will flow to the Company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other costs are recognised in the income statement as an expense as incurred.

iv Depreciation

Depreciation is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment.

The estimated useful lives in the current and comparative periods are as follows:

- Plant and equipment 2 - 20 years

The residual value, the useful life and the depreciation method applied to an asset are reassessed at least annually.

(h) Intangible assets

Intangible assets include the cost of registering licensed trademarks. Amortisation is charged to the income statement on a straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets. Intangible assets are amortised from the date they are available for use.

The estimated useful lives in the current and comparative periods is as follows:

- Trademarks 3 years

These are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation. The carrying amount of expenditure on intangibles is reviewed at the end of each financial year and where the balance exceeds the value of the expected future benefits, the difference is charged to the income statement.

(i) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are stated at their amortised cost less impairment losses (see accounting policy l).

(j) Consumables

Stocks of coaching manuals, law books and other items which are held for resale are recognised as consumables. Consumables also comprises stocks of consumables including uniforms, footwear, player sustenance and other Rugby equipment which are used by the Company in the ordinary conduct of its business. Consumables are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated selling expenses.

The cost of other consumables is based on the first-in first-out principle and includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the consumables and bringing them to their existing location and condition.

(k) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Company's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the Statement of Cashflows.

(l) Impairment

The carrying amounts of the Company's assets, are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated (see accounting policy l(i)).

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement, unless an asset has previously been re-valued, in which case the impairment loss is recognised as a reversal to the extent of that previous revaluation with any excess recognised through profit or loss.

i Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of the Company's held-to-maturity receivables carried at amortised cost is calculated as the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate (i.e. the effective interest rate computed at initial recognition of these financial assets). Receivables with a short duration are not discounted.

Impairment of receivables is not recognised until objective evidence is available that a loss event has occurred. Significant receivables are individually assessed for impairment. Impairment testing of significant receivables that are not assessed as impaired individually is performed by placing them into portfolios of significant receivables with similar risk profiles and undertaking a collective assessment of impairment. Non-significant receivables are not individually assessed. Instead, impairment testing is performed by placing non-significant receivables in portfolios of similar risk profiles, based on objective evidence from historical experience adjusted for any effects of conditions existing at each balance sheet date.

The recoverable amount of other assets is the greater of their fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. For an asset that does not generate largely independent cash inflows, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

ii Reversals of impairment

An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

(m) Employee benefits

i Defined contribution superannuation funds

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution superannuation funds are recognised as an expense in the income statement as incurred.

ii Long-term service benefits

The Company's net obligation in respect of long-term service benefits, other than pension plans is the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods.

iii Wages, salaries, annual leave, sick leave and non-monetary benefits

The provisions for employee benefits to wages, salaries, annual leave and sick leave represent the amount that the Company has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees' services provided up to reporting date. The provisions have been calculated at undiscounted amounts based on remuneration wage and salary rates that the Company expects to pay as at reporting date including related on-costs, such as workers compensation insurance and payroll tax.

Non-accumulating non-monetary benefits are expensed based on the net marginal cost to the Company as the benefits are taken by the employees.

(n) Provisions

A provision is recognised in the balance sheet when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

(o) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are stated at their amortised cost.

Trade payables are non-interest bearing and are normally settled on 45-day terms.

(p) Revenue

i Goods sold and services rendered

Revenue is recognised in the income statement when the significant risks and rewards have been transferred to the buyer. The primary sources of the Company's revenue relate to broadcasting rights, sponsorship properties and match ticket sales. Broadcasting and sponsorship revenue is recognised in line with the terms specified in the relevant contracts. Revenue from ticket sales is recognised at the time the match is played. No revenue is recognised if there are significant uncertainties regarding recovery of the consideration due, the costs incurred or to be incurred cannot be measured reliably, there is a risk of return of goods or there is continuing management involvement with the goods.

ii Grants

Grants are recognised in the balance sheet initially as deferred income when there is reasonable assurance that it will be received and that the Company will comply with the conditions attaching to it. Grants that compensate the Company for expenses incurred are recognised as revenue in the income statement on a systematic basis in the same periods in which the expenses are incurred. Grants that compensate the Company for the cost of an asset are recognised in the income statement as other operating income on a systematic basis over the useful life of the asset.

(q) Expenses

i Operating lease payments

Payments made under operating leases are recognised in the income statement on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognised in the income statement as an integral part of the total lease expense.

ii Finance lease payments

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

iii Net financing costs

Net financing costs comprise interest payable on borrowings calculated using the effective interest method, interest receivable on funds invested, foreign exchange gains and losses, and gains and losses on hedging instruments that are recognised in the income statement (see accounting policy f). Interest income is recognised in the income statement as it accrues, using the effective interest method. The interest expense component of finance lease payments is recognised in the income statement using the effective interest method.

(r) Income tax

The Company is exempt from income tax under the terms of Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(s) Goods and services tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Note 2. Other expenses

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Amortisation of:		
Trademarks	70	106
	70	106
Depreciation of:		
Plant and equipment	479	537
	479	537
Total amortisation and depreciation	549	643
Borrowing costs		
- Finance lease interest charges	1	7
Net bad and doubtful debts expense including movements in provision for doubtful debts	390	2,642
Net (benefit) from movements in provision for employee entitlements	(188)	(41)
Operating lease rental expense		
Minimum lease payments	1,305	1,260
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	40	4

Note 3. Auditors' remuneration

	\$	\$
Audit services		
Auditors of the Company - KPMG		
Audit of the financial report - current	66,400	70,000
	66,400	70,000
Other services		
Auditors of the Company - KPMG		
Other assurance services	1,900	5,700
	-	5,700
	68,300	75,700

Note 4. Income Tax

The Company is exempt from income tax in Australia under the terms of Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The Company did not have any Tax Expense from revenue earned from overseas activities.

Note 5. Cash and cash equivalents

	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	6,117	3,125
Cash on deposit	9,732	6,039
Cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Cashflows	15,849	9,164

All Cash at bank and on deposit at December 31, 2008 is covered by the Australian Government Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

Note 6. Trade and other receivables

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Current		
Trade receivables	2,296	4,425
Other receivables - member unions	181	309
New South Wales Rugby Union loan agreement		
Aussie Stadium fit-out*	-	37
Loan to Queensland Rugby Union	80	100
Loan to SANZAR Europe**	1,195	964
Loan to South Australian Rugby Union	390	331
Other receivables ****	3,090	11,220
Provision for doubtful debts	(391)	(34)
	6,841	17,352
Non-current		
Loans to Member Unions:		
ACT Rugby Union	427	27
New South Wales Rugby Union***	-	1,133
Northern Territory Rugby Union	80	80
Queensland Rugby Union***	-	462
South Australian Rugby Union	42	42
Tasmanian Rugby Union	17	17
Victorian Rugby Union***	-	1,054
Loan to SANZAR Europe **	1,226	1,992
Provision for doubtful debts***	-	(2,649)
	1,792	2,158

* The Company provided a loan of \$350,000 at 9.03% p.a. to NSWRU, in order to pay for NSWRU's fit-out of their Aussie Stadium offices. These funds were provided through a financing lease between the Company and Comlease Pty Ltd. The loan commenced on July 19, 2002 and was in place until June 2008. The loan was repaid through monthly instalments of \$6,263 including interest.

** The Company provided an interest bearing loan of \$4,800,000 to SANZAR Europe. The loan commenced on March 1, 2006 and is repayable in full by December 31, 2010. The loan and interest is to be repaid through annual repayments.

*** During 2007 the Company established the Australian Rugby Championships. The Company provided interest free loans of \$2,649,000 to participating Unions where required. These loans were written off during the period.

**** As a result of the Rugby World Cup held in 2007, the company received a grant from the International Rugby Board in the order of £3,000,000. This was recorded in 2007 with cash subsequently received in 2008.

Note 7. Investments

	\$'000	\$'000
Shares	1,407	2,111
	1,407	2,111

Note 8. Other assets

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Current		
Consumables	61	132
Prepayments	884	467
Foreign exchange forward	-	3,396
	945	3,995
Non-current		
Foreign exchange forward	-	3,843
	-	3,843
	945	7,838

Note 9. Plant and equipment

	\$'000	\$'000
Plant and equipment		
At cost	2,196	2,513
Accumulated depreciation	(1,658)	(1,540)
Total plant and equipment (net book value)	538	973

Note 10. Intangibles

	\$'000	\$'000
Trademarks, at cost	339	317
Accumulated amortisation	(315)	(245)
Total Intangibles (net book value)	24	72

Note 11. Interest in Joint Venture

	\$'000	\$'000
Investment in SANZAR Europe S.a.r.l.	440	449
Share of loss for the current period	(44)	(100)
	396	349

Note 12. Trade and other payables

	\$'000	\$'000
Trade creditors	864	1,940
Member Union creditors and accruals	341	1,185
Other creditors and accruals	6,196	7,454
	7,401	10,579

Note 13. Deferred Revenue

	\$'000	\$'000
Current	3,149	4,627
Non-current	1,267	2,084
	4,416	6,711

Note 14. Other liabilities

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Current		
Current lease liability	-	37
Foreign exchange forward	3,523	-
	3,523	37
Non-current		
Foreign exchange forward	3,469	-
	3,469	-
	6,992	37

Note 15. Employee benefits

	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Annual leave	436	614
Long service leave	191	168
	627	782
Non-Current		
Long service leave	210	243
	837	1,025
Superannuation		
The Company contributes on behalf of employees to externally managed defined contribution superannuation plans. Benefits are based upon the accumulation of assets in these plans. The value of contributions remitted during the period was \$1,181,000 (2007 \$2,209,000).		

Note 16. Contributed equity

The Company is a Company Limited by guarantee and, in the event of the winding up of the Company; members may be required to contribute a maximum of \$100 each.

Note 17. Cashflow Hedge Reserve

	\$'000	\$'000
Cashflow hedge reserve	(6,992)	7,239
	(6,992)	7,239

Nature and purpose of reserve**Cash Flow Hedge Reserve**

The cash flow hedge reserve represents the fair value of the forward foreign exchange contract the company used. The forward exchange contract fixed the AUD at the rate of US\$0.76 for the expected USD inflows up to and including 2010.

Note 18. Allocations to Member Unions

	\$'000	\$'000
New South Wales Rugby Union Ltd	3,461	3,461
Queensland Rugby Union Ltd	2,764	2,237
ACT & Southern NSW Rugby Union Ltd	305	295
Western Australia Rugby Union Inc	260	250
Victoria Rugby Union Inc	525	545
Tasmanian Rugby Union Inc	98	106
South Australian Rugby Union Ltd	260	260
Northern Territory Rugby Union Inc	257	257
Australian Rugby Football Schools Union	600	600
Other	13	4
Total	8,543	8,015

Note 19. Reained surplus

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Retained surplus at beginning of period	14,426	22,907
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	712	(8,481)
Retained surplus at the end of the period	15,138	14,426

Note 20. Commitments

a) Broadcasting Agreements

The Company, together with New Zealand Rugby Union and South African Rugby Football Union has entered into agreements with a number of broadcasters around the world for the period 2008 to 2010 for all International and Provincial Rugby matches.

These broadcasting agreements commit the Company to host an in-bound tour against a recognised rugby playing nation. In any domestic season, the Qantas Wallabies shall play at least three Tests in Australia (over and above the Tri Nations Series). A minimum of two of these Tests shall be against the national representative team of a recognised Rugby playing nation.

b) SANZAR Joint Venture

The Company has given certain undertakings in respect to its participation in the SANZAR joint venture. These undertakings are consistent with its undertakings in the broadcasting agreements.

c) Member Union Collective Bargaining Agreement and Memoranda of Understanding with Member Unions

A Collective Bargaining Agreement has been negotiated between the Company, New South Wales Rugby Union Ltd, Queensland Rugby Union Ltd, Australian Capital Territory and Southern New South Wales Rugby Union Ltd, West Australian Rugby Union and Rugby Union Players Association Inc. Under this agreement the Company, along with the other rugby bodies is required to make minimum player payments. These total a minimum of \$27,300,000 for 2009 (2008: \$26,500,000).

The Company is required to make grants to Member Unions under the Memoranda of Understanding. Under these memoranda, the Company is committed to pay a minimum amount of \$23,694,000 for 2009 (2008:- \$25,342,884).

d) Stadium Australia Hiring Agreement

The Company signed a hiring agreement with Stadium Australia Management Limited. Under this agreement the Company is committed to holding at least two Qantas Wallabies Test Matches each year at ANZ Stadium until the year ending 31 December 2011. The hiring fees are to be determined by reference to the number and type of tickets sold for each match.

e) Operating lease commitments

	\$'000	\$'000
Less than one year	1,335	1,294
Between one and five years	5,544	5,287
More than five years	4,464	5,964
	11,343	12,545

The Company leases property under non-cancellable operating leases. The leases will expire within eight years. Leases generally provide the Company a right of renewal at which time all terms are renegotiated. Lease payments comprise a base amount plus an incremental rental based on movements in the Consumer Price Index.

The Company leases motor vehicles under operating leases expiring within three years. Lease payments are fixed for the term of the leases.

(f) Finance lease payment commitments

Finance lease commitments are as follows:	Minimum Lease Payments	Interest	Principal	Minimum Lease Payments	Interest	Principal
	2008 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Less than one year	-	-	-	38	(1)	37
Between one and five years	-	-	-	-	-	-
More than five years	-	-	-	-	-	-

The company's finance lease on office fit out at the Sydney Football Stadium expired during 2008.

Note 21. Contingent liabilities

The Company is defendant in a number of claims for personal injuries and other damages relating to the game of rugby. These claims are being defended and generally are subject to insurance coverage. At this time the Directors are unable to ascertain what the Company's liability, if any, may be.

Note 22. Investment in Jointly Controlled Entity

The Company owns a one-third interest in SANZAR Pty Limited (ACN 069 272 304). The primary purpose of SANZAR Pty Limited is to act as agent for the SANZAR unincorporated joint venture. The assets and liabilities of SANZAR Pty Limited were not material as at 31 December 2008 and the Company's interests were therefore not included in the Company's financial statements (2007: nil). All of the obligations of the venturers arising from or attributable to the entity are several only and not joint and several. SANZAR Pty Limited did not trade during the financial year.

Note 23. Interest in joint ventures

i SANZAR UJV

The Company has a one-third interest in an unincorporated joint venture, SANZAR, which currently manages the Investec Super 14 and Tri Nations Rugby competitions in the Southern Hemisphere as well as the associated broadcasting agreements.

The assets and liabilities of the joint venture were not material as at December 31 2008 and the Company's interests were therefore not included in the Company's financial statements (2007: nil). All income flowing from the broadcasting agreements was derived directly by the Company.

All of the obligations of the venturers arising from or attributable to the joint venture are several only and not joint and several.

ii SANZAR Europe S.a.r.l.

The Company has a 33% investment in SANZAR Europe. This investee was established in conjunction with New Zealand Rugby Union and South African Rugby Union, to develop a European operation to facilitate sales in the European broadcasting market. Based on an evaluation of the risks and rewards of the investee it is not consolidated by the Company. The Company and other investors all provided an equal portion of the loan to the investee for start up purposes.

The Company's share of the loss in its equity accounted investee for the year was \$44,000 (2007: \$100,000 deficit).

Note 24. Note to the Statement of Cashflows

(a) Reconciliation of surplus to net cash provided by operating activities

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	712	(8,481)
Add/(less) items classified as investing/financing activities:		
Allocations to Member Unions	8,543	7,395
Interest received	(1,218)	(1,133)
Interest paid	1	7
Dividends received	(88)	(21)
Add/(less) non-cash items:		
Amortisation of Trademarks	70	106
Depreciation	479	537
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	40	4
Movement in fair value of shares	704	-
Amount set aside to provisions	-	2,601
Before change in assets and liabilities	9,243	1,015
Change in assets and liabilities during the financial period		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	10,689	(10,897)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments and consumables	(393)	3,289
Increase/(decrease) in payables and provisions	(3,178)	664
Increase/(decrease) in deferred revenue	(2,295)	1,214
Net cash provided/(used in) by operating activities	14,066	(4,715)

(b) Reconciliation of cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cashflows, cash includes cash on hand, at bank and short term deposits at call. Cash as at the end of the financial period as shown in the Statement of Cashflows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	6,117	3,125
Cash on deposit	9,732	6,039
	15,849	9,164

Note 25. Key management personnel disclosures

Directors Income

Income paid or payable to Directors of the Company from the Company in connection with the management of the affairs of the Company:

	\$	\$
Mr P McGrath	43,600	36,300
Mr M Brown	21,800	21,800
Mr M Connors	21,800	14,500
Mr P Cosgrove	21,800	14,500
Mr R Dalziel	21,800	21,800
Mr R Lee	21,800	21,800
Mr R McCall	21,800	14,500
Mr J Mumm	21,800	2,700
Mr J O'Neill	841,300	458,100
Mr A Petersen	-	10,900
Mr G Flowers	-	897,900
Mr R Graham	-	14,500
Mr T Hall	-	7,300
Mr T Jackman	-	7,300
Mr D Usasz	-	7,300
	1,037,500	1,551,200

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of Australian Rugby Union Limited ('the Company'):


- a) the Company is not a reporting entity
- b) the financial statements and notes, set out on pages 7 to 23, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
 - i. giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2008 and of its performance, as represented by the results of their operations and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date in accordance with the statement of compliance and basis of preparation described in Note 1; and
 - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Dated at Sydney this 27th day of February 2009

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



P. McGrath
Director



J. O'Neill
Director

Independent audit report to the members of Australian Rugby Union Limited

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Australian Rugby Union Limited (the Company), which comprises the balance sheet as at December 31, 2008, and the income statement, statement of recognised income and expense and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration set out on pages 7 to 24.

Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Notes 1 to the financial statements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Company's financial position, and of its performance.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting obligations under the Corporations Act 2001. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion the financial report of Australian Rugby Union Limited is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at December 31, 2008 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1;
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and



Mark Epper
Partner, KPMG

Sydney, 27 February 2009

100 YEARS OF WALLABIES



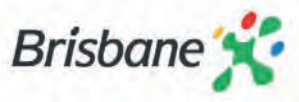
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