



DOWNS RUGBY

Downs Rugby Limited Annual Report

2016

Downs Rugby is the governing body of Rugby Union in the Darling Downs, forming the Sub-Union of Queensland Rugby Union. 16 Clubs form Downs Rugby, covering an area of close to 90,000 square kilometers. This report incorporates key reports pertaining to the year ending 31 Dec 2016.

Annual Report
2016

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Board of Directors

Mike Horan – Chairman

Danielle Bermingham – Events Director

Robert Johnston – High Performance Director

Rod Hohn – QCRU Director

Barry O’Sullivan – Sponsorship Director

Scott Mead – Finance Director

Trent Raymond – Western Downs Director

Life Members

Geoff Makim

Denis and Desly Hanrahan

David Thompson

Michael Doherty

Bill Flamsteed

John Handley

Don Trenerry

Gary Bloustien

Harry and Tess Hilder*

*Sadly deceased



Provide essential information and assistance to staff to ensure all facets of competition meet expectations of stakeholders, working cohesively with staff to evaluate competitions during playing season, valued assistance in creating policies and competition planning and implementation.

2016 Sub Committees

Junior committee

Tadhg Sheehan (Chair)
Mark Brownlie
Nick Hauser
Jeremy Dawson
John McGrath

Teenage committee

Dwayne McLaren (Chair)
Kylie Elisaia
Owen Kleidon
Steve Toohey
Marcus O'Dempsey
Steve Wyatt

Judicial committee

David Power (Chair)
Michael Beeston
Geoff Kelk

Senior committee

Tyson Hosie (Co-Chair)
Doug McNicholl (Co-Chair)
Nathan Bradley
Bradley Rigby
Dom O'Connor
Tom Capell

High performance Rugby

Rob Johnston (Chair)
Mike Dillon
Peter Buchanan
Elisha Elisaia
Stan McDonnell

DDRRA

Michael Beeston (President)
Richard Bright (Snr Appointments)
Peter Buchanan (Referee Coaching)
Geoff Kelk (Teenage Appointments)

Chairman's Report

2016 brought another successful year of Rugby in Senior, Teenage and Junior Rugby. It was pleasing to see the commencement of more structured Women's Rugby competitions as well.

I would like to begin with giving thanks to our Club Presidents, their committees and volunteers.

I want to congratulate the coaching staff of our senior and colts representative side, after another successful year for the Darling Downs. It was great to see our two representative fixtures taken to the country with the Border Cup at St George and the Cattleman's Cup in Condamine. We also had a number of great games against Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and a feature against the USQ u23 side.

Congratulations to all players who made the South QLD and QLD country sides from both the seniors and the colts.

I thank Rob for his commitment to the Downs Rugby senior rep program as he steps away in 2017 from the head coaching role. Rob will remain a valued member of our Board.

I would like to thank our other 5 volunteer board members, who have again put in great work ensuring the sound governance and direction of Downs Rugby.

I would also like to thank Wagners for their major sponsorship of Downs Rugby in the past 3 years. We are welcoming them on board again in 2017 as the major sponsor of the Risdon Cup. FKG have also been a major sponsor of Downs Rugby for the past 9 years, and have continued to sponsor our headquarters, which has seen us move from our previous home to office space inside their main Toowoomba headquarters.

Our sub committees, representative coaches and managers have also volunteered a large amount of time and I thank them deeply for their contributions and direction they provide us.

We welcomed back Mitchell Simpson as General Manager in August, and I thank him for the professionalism he has brought back to Downs Rugby.

Our finances have remained sound at the end of 2016, with the audit showing a modest loss largely due to the reduction in assets and depreciation occurring during our office move.

I welcome Scott Lindblom to the role off DDRRA president, and thank Mike Beeston for all the work he has contributed to referring in the Downs during his time with the DDRRA.

Finally to the players, who face the unique challenge of enormous travel burdens year in year out, I congratulate you efforts again in 2016 and welcome you back for 2017.

We hope to continue to create safe, enjoyable and well-structured Rugby competitions across all age groups and divisions in 2017

Mike Horan

Chairman
Downs Rugby Ltd

General Managers Report

It was another big year for Rugby in the Downs with Junior, Teenage and Senior Rugby continuing with the injection of new sevens programs, our representative program gaining some international flavour and first class Rugby being brought to the region.

Junior Rugby Union

Junior Rugby was alive in 2016 with over 1000 participants from the Under 6s to Under 17s. The junior season was again highlighted at the 5 junior carnivals, showcasing our entire regions junior competition. The junior season culminated in the annual Dalby Closing Carnival which saw 80 junior games being played prior to the 2nd Super Saturday at John Ritter Oval.

Teenage Rugby saw 18 teams compete across 4 age groups in 2016, however continues to provide many challenges in terms of player numbers. Teenage Rugby will be a focus point of DR and QRU in terms of the competitions development in 2017 and beyond.

Senior Rugby Union

24 Teams were fielded from 11 clubs in 2016, which saw a very successful season of Senior Rugby. Dalby were named club champions at the annual awards night after a stellar season across all three grades who all went on to contest their respective grand finals. Dalby went on to win the Wagners Risdon Cup for the first time in 12 years. Rangers took out the B Grade trophy after an exhilarating extra time deciding match, and Goondiwindi were too strong in C grade taking out their second title in as many years.

Sevens Rugby

Sevens Rugby again grew substantially in 2016, which saw the introduction of the South West Sevens series, seeing over 200 girls getting involved with sevens rugby. The Downs Rugby girls 7s representative sides saw a lot of talent injected into the pathway with a number going on to receive Qld and Australian honours.

Representative Rugby

It was another huge year for our Downs Rugby senior and colts representative sides. After retaining the Border Cup and Cattleman's Cup both divisions, the Downs sides played very well against the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast sides in the South QLD championships. Our Colts became back to back SQ Champs which is a credit to the effort of Coaches Mike Dillon and Cameron Littleton. The Senior side went down to both Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast however impressed selectors with 8 players selected into the South Queensland Senior Side, and 11 selected in the South Queensland Colts side.

Following the QLD Country Championships, Downs Rugby were lucky enough to have 6 players named in the QLD Country Healers Squad, as well as Rob Johnston appointed as Assistant Coach of the side. Congratulations to Sonny Power, Will Gilbert, Andrew Turner, Paul Maguire, Jack Cook, and Sam Tweedy on the achievements.

This season Downs Rugby hosted QLD Country, NSW Country and Brisbane Premier Teams, Brothers and Bond University at Gold Park in July. Brothers and Bond University entire squads travelled to Toowoomba to play their round fixtures. The day also featured the

annual battle between the QLD Country and NSW Country sides, with several Downs players included in the QLD side. QLD Country won the game, defeating NSW Country 29 to 27.

The final highlight of the representative season was the senior representative team game against the USA All American Collegiate team. This game was a great end of season test for the senior representative team, with the majority of the USA players expected to feature in the USA's 2019 Rugby World Cup squad.

Teenage Rugby saw our 4 representative sides travel to the Gold Coast to compete at the Queensland Junior Rugby Union State Championships. All teams played extremely well with players from two teams making Country Teams. From Under 14s, Baxter Franey, Wilson Cochrane, Maconel Grealy and Genesis Matue were selected as players, with Jack Waugh named as a shadow player. From the Under 13s, Will Bailey, Anthony Connellan, Henry Bolton, and Nathaniel Ganly were selected as players.

Downs Rugby Volunteers

I would like to sincerely thank all volunteers who gave their time this season and for the many who have dedicated their life to Rugby. Our volunteers are our lifeblood of the region and without your ongoing support we would not be able to sustain Rugby in the Downs. Congratulations to St George's Bruce Shelley who was named the Ken Long Award recipient for volunteer of the year, after his long service to the frillies club.

After returning to Downs Rugby in August, I have focused on improving communication from Downs Rugby and increased the coordination between QRU, Downs Rugby and clubs to improve the use of resources in our region. Where possible I have reduced costs from our bottom line, with the aim to improve our ability to give back to community Rugby, in particular improving our volunteer experience.

I aim to make large improvements in 2017, focusing in the key areas of participation, governance, finance and communication.

I move that this report be accepted.

Mitchell Simpson

General Manager

Downs Rugby Limited

Participation Report

After close to 6 months without a dedicated participation manager in the Darling Downs 2016 started behind the mark. I am proud to show the below figures which we reached in only half a year of programs.

- 501 Rookies2Reds feeding into 8 junior clubs in the region and reinvigorating two former junior clubs (Chinchilla Condamine Jnrs, Warwick Juniors) across 21 different schools. With our Little Legends (ages 5-7) accounting for 54% of that participation
- 1360 children have played *Game On* (The ARU's sporting schools program for Rugby Union) across 5 different schools
- 187 students have participated in Viva 7's across 6 different schools
- 270 students competed in the Darling Downs High School 7's carnival at Scot's PGC in October
- 188 Girls competed in the South West Sevens Series, launched through TACAPS in October last year
- 33 players from Downs represented schools at the Western 7's tournament in Emerald in October also
- 52 Girls play in a learn Rugby 7's fixture each Wednesday at Gold Park from 4 different schools
- 1 school competes annually in the GPS rugby tournament whilst 1 supplements the bye by giving the bye opponent a fixture
- 4 other schools utilise term 3 as a rugby term and organise many external fixtures of their own accord (TACAPS, Concordia/Mary Mackillop, Scots and Faith Lutheran)
- 2 Schools competing in the annual Ballymore Cup (15 a side) competition in the first school holidays
- 4 teams from 3 clubs (Goondiwindi, Souths and Bears) played at half time in the NRC match in Toowoomba
- MRP is available at USQ with expansion plans for MRP 7's and two other clubs from 2018.

I look forward to working closer with Downs Rugby and the clubs to ensure we have a more coordinated and sophisticated approach to development in the region moving forward.

Daniel Birrell

Participation Manager (Darling Downs)

Queensland Rugby Union



Suite 15, FKG Head Office
275 McDougall St, Toowoomba Q 4350

T (07) 4633 7733

W www.downsrugby.com.au

E admin@downsrugby.com.au

P PO Box 1070, Toowoomba, QLD, 4350

Mitchell Simpson | General Manager

E Mitchell.simpson@downsrugby.com.au

M 0431 134 236

Cody Grubb | Admin Officer

E admin@downsrugby.com.au

T 07 4633 7733

Daniel Birrell | QRU Participation Manager

E Daniel.birrell@redsrugby.com.au

M 0409 902 116