



# DOWNS RUGBY ROUND-UP JULY 2011

Welcome Downs Rugby Enthusiasts to the current installment of our regular newsletter which covers all the recent activity in the month of July.

As usual at this time of year there is plenty going on at all levels of our mighty game including a Presidents' meeting at the beginning of the month, the last of the seniors representative games, new club development staff, junior rugby, the Ballymore cup day and the exciting race to the finals series of the Risdon Cup. Not to mention the break through win of our Reds team who triumphed in the Super 15 finals. So please enjoy reading ahead:

## COMPETITION UPDATES

### Juniors:

- 🏉 Only two competition rounds are left for Juniors. A normal club round this weekend and then the closing carnival in Goondiwindi next weekend. With the weather on our side, it should be a great day of rugby, as usual.
- 🏉 All juniors have played great rugby this year – all clubs have embraced the changes to the pathways. All age groups have enjoyed the changes – tackling at Under 8; larger fields; more players on field etc.
- 🏉 It would be great to see all clubs implement strategies under the *"Its Positive or Its Pointless"* program next year to continue the high level of clubmanship and sportsmanship – both on the field and off the field. For more information on the programme --  
<http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/CommunityPrograms/Positiveoritspointless.aspx>

### Teenage:

- 🏉 A teenage rugby selection day was held at Downlands last Sunday, 24 July. The purpose was to finalise the squads for the under 13 to under 17 teenage Darling Downs Representative teams to contest the State Championships in September. Not all squads were finalized on the day with the under 14, under 16 and under 17 to conduct a further selection process. The squads for the under 13 and under 15 age groups will be announced on the website;
- 🏉 Selected players are to make contact with their respective team management to obtain details on team training programmes. Trial games have been arranged with Sunshine Coast on 14 August and Gold Coast on 28 August. Details will be circulated in due course;
- 🏉 2011 promises to be an exciting year for these teams as not only will the State Championships be held in Toowoomba this year, but Queensland Country teams will be selected for under 15, 16 and 17 to play Queensland City teams

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## Seniors

- It was disappointing that Warwick made the decision to withdraw their A Grade team from the Risdon Cup at the conclusion of round 14. There are some reasons for this and the addition of the new Club Development Officers could be good timing as we will aim to work with the Warwick club as we look to the future;
- On a more positive note, the race is on for the five finals berths in the Risdon Cup. With only two rounds remaining the ladder stands at:

### 2011 Darling Downs » A Grade

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Df	Opp Fft	BP 4t	BP <7p	Pts
USQ Saints	14	13	1	0	613	172	441	0	13	0	65
Roma	15	13	2	0	527	257	270	0	10	1	63
Rangers	15	10	5	0	538	315	223	60	10	3	53
Toowoomba Bears	14	9	5	0	398	251	147	0	8	2	46
Goondiwindi	14	6	8	0	340	346	-6	0	3	2	29
Dalby	14	5	9	0	236	465	-229	0	4	1	25
Condamine	14	4	10	0	244	379	-135	0	5	3	24
UQ/Highfields	14	4	10	0	270	416	-146	0	5	3	24
St George	14	0	14	0	185	750	-565	0	0	0	0

P=Played W=Wins L=Losses D=Draws F=Points For A=Points Against Df=Points Difference Opp Fft=Opposition Forfeits BP 4t=Four Tries BP <7p=Close Losses Pts=Ladder Points

- As Glen McCullough of the Chronicle points out, this year's top teams are providing a very exciting competition as there have been some great tussles between the likes of USQ, Roma, Bears and Rangers. The fifth position isn't sown up yet with Goondiwindi, UQ Gatton and Dalby all eyeing it off. We will all watch with interest as they fight it out.
- The Draw and Competition Rules are all on the website – [www.downsrugby.com.au](http://www.downsrugby.com.au)

## PRESIDENTS' MEETING

The Presidents' meeting was held on 2 July at the home of Downs Rugby at Anzac Avenue. There was a good roll up of Presidents and other senior club representatives.

## DARLING DOWNS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### Ballymore Cup

The Ballymore Cup Regional Knockout Carnival was held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July at Downlands College, Toowoomba. The Ballymore Cup is Queensland's largest school boy rugby competition. Established in 1999 for open school boy teams within the greater Brisbane region, the Ballymore Cup has quickly grown to become a state wide rugby competition.

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This year 8 schools contested the Regional Ballymore Cup knockout competition over two age divisions, the Under 15's and Under 18's. It was a very successful day with over 140 participants in the carnival.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross (Dalby) took out the under 15 competition with a strong win over St Marys, Toowoomba in the final. While in the hosts of the day, Downlands College were too strong for last year's winners Concordia College in the final of the Under 18's.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross and Downlands College will now progress to the state quarterfinals, which will be held at Ballymore on the 24<sup>th</sup> August. Good luck to both squads.

## Darling Downs U12 Gala Day

On 27<sup>th</sup> July over 200 students from across the Downs will participate in an Under 12 Rugby Gala Day at Toowoomba Grammar School. A team will be selected from this carnival to represent the Darling Downs at the Q12 Regional Rugby Invitational at Padua College on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September, 2011. I will have a competition round up in next months Downs Rugby Newsletter.



**Green Barbarians enjoying the Gala Day**

## Education

There is a Level 1 Referees Course in Toowoomba on the 7<sup>th</sup> August. For all enquires please contact me to discuss.

Yours in Rugby Development,

Tom Bower

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## DARLING DOWNS SENIORS REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY

The last of the representative games occurred on 10 July in Darwin where the Queensland Country Heelers participated in a tri rugby series involving NT and Adelaide. The Country team won this competition. Featuring in the Country team were Will Campbell (Bears), Matt Howse (Roma), James McUtchen (Dalby), Dan Lucas (Roma) and Tyson Cuskelly (USQ).

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2011 marked a successful year for Darling Downs representatives in South Queensland and Queensland Country teams with 9 players all featuring at various times including Matt Howse, Sonny Power, Brett Bidstrup, Shane Eising, Will Campbell, Dan Lucas, Tyson Cuskelly, Benny Raralevu and James McUtchen. Evan Willis coached at both levels.

In the under 19's, 9 players were involved including Brodie Hoopert, Fergus Frith, Matt Dunstone, James Gough, Sam Hogarth, Paul Macquire, Ash Warren, Kale Pomare and Fraser Donaldson. Hamish Proctor also coached at South Queensland and country levels.

We are proud of them all as it was a relatively long representative season and wasn't easy balancing club and representative commitments. 2012 promises to be an even better year as the QCRU seeks to fine tune and enhance the representative pathway for Country rugby players.

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### **Qld Junior Rugby State Championships –Call for assistance**

For the State Championships to run efficiently, Volunteers will play a pivotal role in the overall operations of the event.

Expressions of Interest are being taken now for – Ball Boys, Field Marshalls, Volunteer Co-Ordinators; Player welfare officers, results collector, Merchandise tent, gofers, just to name a few roles. If you, or you know of anyone, who would be willing to help out, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

Full training and equipment will be provided for all volunteers over the three competition days.

Please email Kerri – [kerri.trost@downsrugby.com.au](mailto:kerri.trost@downsrugby.com.au) – to confirm your places now.

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### **Club Development Officers**

It is with much pleasure that we welcome on board Dimity Sullivan and Lisa Goodman as our new Club Development Officers. These new positions were made possible through funding achieved as part of the State Government's Job Plans programme. Dimity and Lisa will be working with the individual clubs to increase capacity in the key areas of volunteer recruitment and retention, club governance and grants and sponsorship applications. The following are profiles of both Dimity and Lisa.

#### **Dimity Sullivan**

I am the eldest of four girls in my family we have always shared a strong passion for sport. I have always been involved in Swimming, Touch Football and Netball. Upon finishing school I was offered a job at the Clive Berghoffer Recreation Centre as a Receptionist. From there I showed a keen interest in Events Management and I was then given the opportunity to work in this area, organising many different concerts, dinners and major sporting events. I then felt it was time for me to further my knowledge and experience I decided to pack up and move off to the Gold Coast where I studied a Diploma in Event Management, during this time I was offered an amazing internship at the Nikon Indy with IMG Australia.

Upon completing my degree I was awarded Tourism Student of the year and Southern Cross University Tourism Studies Student of the year award.

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I moved back to Toowoomba and became a Personal Assistant/ Administration Assistant for a local Engineering firm where I have worked for the past two years. Now you will find me here at Downs Rugby where I hope to help all of our clubs develop and flourish.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the office or via email or drop in and see me.

Phone: (07) 4633 7733 -- Email: [dimity.sullivan@downsrugby.com.au](mailto:dimity.sullivan@downsrugby.com.au)

### **Lisa Goodman**

G'day Rugby Lovers,

Let me firstly express my excitement in joining the Downs Rugby Limited team. Cameron, Kerri, Tom and all the board have made my introduction to this position extremely enjoyable.

To give you an idea about myself, I grew up at Yaraka and Blackall in Central West Queensland, only recently making the move to the Darling Downs. As a lover of sport I found myself representing many sports including athletics (specifically shot-put and discus) tennis, rugby league, netball, volleyball and golf at regional, state and national level.

Club Development wise, for the past five years I have worked as Sport and Recreation and Youth Officer for the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council. Through managing this portfolio my days existed of developing policies and procedures, funding applications, volunteer recruitment and capacity building, all in which were in hope of trying to improve the quality of life for volunteers and club members. During this time I managed 23 sporting clubs, from horse sports to league clubs to netball, golf, cricket, bowls and many other diverse clubs.

This position brings both challenges and rewards, two things that definitely drive me to succeed. My position is here to assist you in developing your clubs to ensure Downs Rugby and their member clubs thrive into the future.

In closing if there is anything anyone needs assistance with or support with please do not hesitate to contact me, and I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Yours in rugby, Lisa Goodman -- Phone: (07) 4633 7733 -- Email: [lisa.goodman@downsrugby.com.au](mailto:lisa.goodman@downsrugby.com.au)

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### **Bledisloe Cup Dinner – 25 August, 2011 at The Spotted Cow**

Australia is due to play the All Blacks at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday, 27 August. To celebrate this traditional game, we have arranged for a Bledisloe Cup dinner on Thursday evening, 25 August to be held at the Spotted Cow.

Renowned Queensland and Australian Coach and legendary rugby personality, John “Knuckles” Connolly, will be the guest speaker.



This promises to be a very entertaining evening of footie tales mixed with a great meal and excellent company. Tickets are available now and a discount is offered for full table sales. Please contact Dimity – [dimity.sullivan@downsrugby.com.au](mailto:dimity.sullivan@downsrugby.com.au) for more information.

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**WEBISTE - [www.downsrugby.com.au](http://www.downsrugby.com.au)**

We have activated a new website. This site is being regularly updated and will provide a whole host of information on all the activities associated with rugby on the Downs. Some of the recent updates have been – Information regarding “Injuries in children’s sport”, History of Rugby on the Downs, Educational opportunities; Results, Representative Rugby. Keep an eye on the home page for all new announcements. Take the time to walk around the site and see what we have. There are still some gaps – but as they say “*watch this space*”.

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## **DOWNS RUGBY – OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Board** – Pat Brown (*Chairman*), Mat Strahorn (*Secretary*), Brendan Ryan (*Director of Finance*), Mike Horan, Justin Garvie

**Senior Committee** – Mat Edwards (*Chair*), Mark Brownlie, Pat Hillier, Doug McDougall, Paul Weidman

**Teenage Committee** – Graham Strong (*Chair*), Lyndal Symonds, Mike Dillon, Peter Blades, Rod Spalding,

**Junior Committee** – Owen Kleidon (*Chair*), Grant Gleeson, Anton Kowalenko, Anthony Ahern, John Fuelling,

**High Performance Rugby Committee** – Martin Leggat, Russell Jackson, Evan Willis, Hamish Proctor,

**Judicial Committee** – Dave Power, Rob Breaaly, Grant Gleeson, Peter Buchanan

**LIFE MEMBERS** – Don Trennery; Bill Flamstead; Geoff Makim; David Thompson

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## **RUGBY MUSINGS:**

This one is for all of us who love a day at the rugby with our kids.....

A father and his son, Bobby, arrive at the local Rugby match and Dad can't find the tickets.

Dad: "Nip home and see if I left the tickets there."

Bobby: "No probs, Dad."

Half an hour later Bobby returns (ticketless) to his dad who is patiently waiting outside the stadium.

Bobby: "Yep, they're on the kitchen table where you left them."



## OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:-

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[www.downsrugby.com.au](http://www.downsrugby.com.au)

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