



DOWNS RUGBY ROUND-UP DECEMBER 2011

Issue: 12



Welcome Downs Rugby Enthusiasts to our last newsletter for 2011. What a year it has been when you think back almost 12 months ago to the time of the damaging floods. Despite a spluttering start to the rugby season the year turned out to be a busy one ending with the entertaining Risdon Cup Grand Final and the Queensland Junior Rugby Union State Championships. The Rugby office has been working away getting ready for what promises to be another year full of activities and competitions in 2012. From all of us at Downs Rugby we wish you and yours a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. To those rugby players amongst you, don't overdo it! – There is a Coach somewhere who needs you in 2012.

2012 Season

The new rugby year will be upon before we know it. As a quick flagging of the key dates at the beginning of the year:

Junior and teenage sign on days – Most clubs will be arranging to hold these from early February, 2012. Stay tuned for word from your local club;

Start of the Teenage Competition – Sunday, 11 February, 2012

Note: We require Club team nominations ASAP to be able to complete the Draw.

Senior Representative Rugby trial game – Saturday, 3 March, 2012

Senior Representative Rugby trial game – 17 March, 2012

Round 1 of the Risdon Cup – 31 March, 2012

Start of the Junior Competition – Saturday, 14 April, 2012



Passing of a local Rugby Legend



It is very sad for the rugby community to hear the news that the mighty Ken Long, one of the favourite sons of both the Goondiwindi Club and Darling Downs Rugby Union, recently passed away after a long illness. By way of background, Ken joined the Goondiwindi Club in the mid 80's, after playing for QAC, and went on to be a stalwart of the Club and life member after serving at various times as a long serving rugby star, President, committee man and coach. Ken played in the uncompromising position of front row and was part of the famous Darling Downs team that toured New Zealand in 1987 losing only the one game (photo below). Ken also coached the Darling Downs opens team for 2 years and was in charge in 1996 when the DD team played 4 games in 4 days with barely a bench- They made them tough

in those days. Right through the 80's and 90's the name Ken Long commanded respect not just as a talented and tough rugby player but more importantly for his standing as a great man. There are many club figures who are still involved in the game as a direct result of the influence and example set by Ken Long. He has certainly left a legacy, we can ask for no more in life. Our thoughts are with Ken's young family and the countless people whose lives he touched.



St George Queensland Reds Players visit the Warwick Juniors Water Rats

Our Development Officer, Tom Bower, has provided this run down of the day:

On the 3rd of December Beau Robinson and David McDuling from the St George Queensland Reds travelled out to Warwick to spend a day with the Warwick Water Rats.

The players were greeted by over 30 eager Water Rats juniors raring to show the two professional players how rugby is played on the Southern Downs.

“Being a country boy myself, I really enjoy travelling out to the bush and visiting clubs like the Water Rats” said Robinson who was brought up in country NSW.

Robinson, who was shortlisted for St George Queensland Reds 2011 Player of the Year, was impressed with how the Queensland community has got behind the Reds ahead of the 2012 season with over 17000 Reds memberships already sold.



“To have surpassed last year’s membership tally already before Christmas is unbelievable.”

“The hype coming from members and supporters is quite encouraging and it brings excitement to the squad for next season, which has already begun for us.”

Someone who will also be excited at the prospect of playing in front of a large audience in 2012 is academy graduate David McDuling who is eager to earn his debut for the senior squad. McDuling, who moved up from Sydney in 2010 said he was looking forward to the coming season and the challenges that lie ahead for the title defending squad.



The title defense for the St George Queensland Reds begins on the 25th February when they take on the NSW Waratahs at the Sydney Football Stadium.

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For more information on 2012 St George Queensland Reds membership please visit <http://www.redsrugby.com.au/MembershipHospitality/2012Memberships.aspx> or call the Reds membership team on 1300 733 899.

Launch of the Senior Representative Rugby Season

Senior Darling Downs Coaches; Andrew Skipper and Rob Johnston, have arranged for a gathering of the senior representative squad this Saturday the 10th December 2011 at USQ. This will mark the start of the training program which will culminate in the selection of the Darling Downs team to contest the Queensland Country Rugby Union Championships which involves games against Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. The Under 19 Darling Downs team is being coached by Cameron Donaldson and the squad is slowly coming together. The intention is to have a meeting of the squad early in 2012. Manager Rod Hohn will be in touch.



Have You Ever Thought about being a Referee?

“When you’re too young to retire...

When you’re too old to keep taking that ball up...

When you’re old enough to know better...

When you’ve got 20/20 vision (at least in one eye)...

When you can still remember the smell of the linament and the old jock strap...

It’s the best seat in the house...

You’re always onside...

You’re always right...

You’re never wrong...

The decision is yours to make...

And it is always the right decision...

‘cause the referee is always right...

Why don’t you think about refereeing the game played in heaven...? You know you want to...! Take the step – Contact Peter Buchanan on 0412 854 211.

Downs Rugby Limited AGM

The AGM is planned for Saturday, 11 February at the Downs Rugby Office, Anzac Avenue. The required Notices will be issued in due course. In the meantime you may wish to think about possibly putting your hand up to join one of the following committees: Senior Committee, Teenage Committee or Junior Committee. As allowed for under the structure of Downs Rugby, there will be up to 3 positions vacant on each of these 5 person committees as the three longest serving committee members look to stand down. An outline of what these committees do and nominations Forms are on the Downs Rugby website.



Sponsorship Opportunities – Have you ever wanted to see your name up in lights on the front of a Darling Downs Jersey?

There are many opportunities to become a sponsor of Downs Rugby in 2012. Further Details can be found on our website under http://www.downsrugby.com/sponsorship/become_a_sponsor we can also tailor a package to suit your company profile with Downs Rugby. In addition, our clubs are always looking to cement relationships at their level as well. For further information please do not hesitate to contact Downs Rugby Office and speak to one of our friendly staff today.



Rugby, The Holy Truth

Three Rugby Coaches – Robbie Deans, Martin Johnson and Graham Henry - are invited to heaven to watch the World Cup final with God.

God decides who will sit next to him by asking them the same question.

God asks Deans first: "What do you believe?" Deans says, "I believe in hard work and staying true to family, teammates and friends."

God is impressed by Deans and offers him a seat to his left.

God then turns to Johnson and asks, "What do you believe?" Johnson says, "I believe loyalty, discipline, courage and honour are the fundamentals of life."

God is again impressed and offers the Englishman a seat to his right.

Finally, God turns to Henry: "What do you believe?" Henry then says, "I believe you're in my seat."

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2011 DOWNS RUGBY – OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEES

Board Directors: - Pat Brown (Chairman), Mat Strahorn, Brendan Ryan, Mike Horan & Justin Garvie.

Senior Committee: - Matt Edwards (Chairman), Craig Coetzee, Pat Hillier, Doug McDougall & Paul Weidman.

Teenage Committee: - Graham Strong (Chairman), Lyndal Symonds, Mike Dillon, Peter Blades & Rod Spalding.

Junior Committee: - Owen Kleidon (Chairman), Grant Gleeson, Anton Kowalenko, Anthony Ahern & Gavin Pontin.

High Performance Rugby Committee: - Marty Leggat, Russell Jackson, Evan Willis, Hamish Procter & Tom Bower.

Judicial Committee: - Dave Power, Rob Brealey, Grant Gleeson & Peter Buchanan.

LIFE MEMBERS: - Don Trenerry, Bill Flamsteed, Geoff Makim & David Thompson.

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**THIS IS
RUGBY.**

TEAMWORK

RESPECT

ENJOYMENT

DISCIPLINE

SPORTSMANSHIP

**WE LOVE
RUGBY**