

# Downs Rugby

## ROUND-UP

### January 2012



Issue: 13

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All the best for the New Year and welcome to our first newsletter for 2012. As you will gather from the information below, things are shaping up for another busy year of rugby activity. We are moving on all fronts at present as we strive to fine tune junior, teenage and senior draws based on club information which is flowing through. One of the first steps for the year from a club perspective is to organize and implement successful sign on days. Hopefully the recent success of the mighty St George Queensland Reds and the solid showing of the Wallabies at the World Cup will generate renewed interest in our great game which will translate into club registrations.

All the best for the season ahead and rest assured that the team at Downs Rugby is here to be of service. We hope that the following articles are of interest.

## 2012 Season – Key Dates

### JUNIORS – under 6 to under 12

- Junior and teenage sign on days – Most clubs have organized these already so please stay tuned for word from your local club. We have an advertisement in the Chronicle going out on the 4<sup>th</sup> February;
- The first round for the juniors is scheduled for 14 April. A Draw is with the Junior sub committee and is close to being finalized. This will be released to Clubs and circulated to all through the normal team process.

### TEENAGE – under 13 to under 17

- Junior and teenage sign on days – Most clubs have organized these already so please stay tuned for word from your local club. We have an advertisement in the Chronicle going out on the 4<sup>th</sup> February;
- The teenage competition is being run on Sundays and it is proposed to cater for all age groups from under 13 to under 17. A draw will be finalized when all team nominations have been received. It is proposed to run this on a home and away basis and will not be carried out in the one central location;
- Start of the Teenage Competition – Sunday, 12 February, 2012

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## SENIORS – Under 19, A, B and C grades

- A Seniors Draw has been prepared and has been released to all Clubs. The first round is scheduled for Saturday, 31 March, 2012. The competition will be run on the usual home and away basis with a 5 team finals series and a Grand Final on Saturday, 8 September, 2012.

## REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY – SENIORS AND UNDER 19

The seniors training squad has met several times under coaching staff, Andrew Skipper (Head Coach), Rob Johnston (Assistant Coach) and Bill McNaughton (Manager). The heavy rain at Roma has caused the cancellation of the training session on 28 January and Andrew Skipper will be in contact to reschedule the next session. The squad is slowly taking shape and most positions are up for grabs. The intention is to hold a selection day in mid February. Andrew's contact number is 0402 164 359.

The under 19 squad is being managed by Cameron Donaldson (coach), Jono Farrell (Assistant Coach) and Rod Hohn (Manager). The next training session is planned for this Saturday at USQ Oval between 2-4pm. Any questions please ring Cameron Donaldson on 0488 677 760.

The representative program has been set and is as follows:

Trial game against Central Queensland at Roma – Saturday, 10 March, 2012

Trial game against Brisbane Norths at Kingaroy – 17 March, 2012

Competition game against Gold Coast at Condamine – 31 March, 2012

Competition Game against Sunshine Coast at Caloundra – 14 April, 2012

## TEENAGE REPRESENTATIVE COACHES

Downs Rugby has called for nominations for Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers for the under 13 to under 17 teenage representative teams to contest the Queensland Junior Rugby Union State Championships in September. Details are on the Downs Rugby website.



Andrew Skipper addressing the Senior Representative team for 2012.

## DARLING DOWNS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – TOM BOWER



2012 is here and that means another big year of Rugby Development on the Downs. 2011 could not have gone better for Rugby in Queensland and to show everyone just how successful it was I have included some of the milestones below:

- 33% growth across the state for 2011, which is the largest growth recorded in Queensland Rugby's history.
- 15,000+ junior participants for the first time in history (15,726)
- Record number of schools participating in rugby (Over 450 schools)
- Over 1000 junior teams participating in Rugby across Queensland.
- The number 1 Representative Pathway in Australia for 2011:

- National Schoolboy Champions
- National U16 Champions
- National Women Champions
- National Schoolboy Sevens Champions

Downs school and club rugby participation was an important factor in the majority of these milestones for Queensland. Thank you for all your support.

Now that it is 2012, there is only one thing left to do.....

Go out and do it all again!!!

### **South West Queensland Rugby Education**

The Rugby Education dates for South West Queensland have been released for 2012. These dates can be found in a PDF format on both the Downs and Queensland Rugby websites. The first Rugby Education course on the Downs commences on 2nd February with the first Smart Rugby Coaching Course being presented at the Downs Rugby Office, Toowoomba. The Smart Rugby accreditation is a mandatory requirement for all people wishing to coach and manage a rugby team in 2012. If you need to complete a Smart Rugby course please contact either myself or the QRU Education managers so we can direct you to the right course. An online registration option for people wishing to directly register for Education Courses in Queensland will be made available by the QRU over the next few weeks.

## Downs Club Sign Ons

Club Sign On days are set to begin as soon as next week with the Downs Rugby competitions not too far away. For further information on when and where your club's sign on day is occurring, please contact us at Downs Rugby.

## Work Experience Opportunities

In 2012 there is an opportunity for interested Senior School and University students to complete workplace experience days with the QRU on the Darling Downs. If you fit into this category and have an interest in rugby development then please contact me (Tom Bower) to discuss further.



## Downs Rugby Limited AGM

Notices have been issued to all Member Club Presidents confirming that the AGM is arranged for Saturday, 11 February at the Downs Rugby Office, Anzac Avenue. The required Notices will be issued in due course. The AGM will be followed by a Presidents' Meeting.

## KEVIN CROWE – BOOK LAUNCH – 11 February, 2012

At 2.30pm following the Presidents' meeting (11 Feb, at 189 Anzac Avenue, Toowoomba), former international referee and well known rugby identity, Kevin Crowe is holding a book launch of his book "Whistle up a Storm" which I hear is an entertaining read for any rugby enthusiast. Signed copies will be available to purchase. I believe that Kevin refereed the very first game of the Risdon Cup in 1964 and was instrumental in creating the Darling Downs Rugby Referees Association. Hence there will be much that appeals to local rugby people in this book.

## Thank you to The New Hope Group

We are thrilled that the New Hope Group has agreed to sponsor the senior representative rugby teams for 2012.

The New Hope Group has grown to become Queensland's largest regionally-based company and one of the largest companies in Australia. New Hope attributes this growth to innovation, hands-on management, and environmental and social responsibility. As a major supporter and donor to a large number of local organisations, New Hope knows the value of good teamwork. This is what Downs Rugby is all about.



**New Hope Group**

## Sponsorship Opportunities

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](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.



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## Volunteer of the Month award

As a new component of this newsletter, we propose to recognize a different volunteer each month. We are currently taking nominations for February. Downs Rugby acknowledges the copious amount of hours our volunteers put into our game they are the life blood of any



**MADE  
WITH  
LOVE**



Club and success is down to their efforts,

commitment and dedication. We would like to thank Grill'd Healthy Burgers for coming onboard as the sponsor for this feature. Grill'd have kindly donated \$20 voucher each month to the lucky winner so get nominating. To enter your nominations please email either Lisa or Dimity with a photo and the reason for your nomination and the winner winners will be announced in each months newsletter.

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## Free Super Sports Sign on Day – Department of Communities

The Queensland Government is providing a great opportunity on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2012, 10am – 1pm at Queens Park Toowoomba, for anybody wanting to participate in a rugby union sign on. This is designed to help you with your recruitment.

Downs rugby will be manning a station and will have information on all of the clubs which will be available for new participants to take away with them. For more details about this matter please contact Dimity or Lisa.



**Queensland  
Government**

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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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SOLUTIONS. VISION.



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**THIS IS  
RUGBY.**

**TEAMWORK**

**RESPECT**

**ENJOYMENT**

**DISCIPLINE**

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

**WE LOVE  
RUGBY**