## MEMBER AND AFFILIATED UNIONS



## **BRUMBIES RUGBY**

## **BRUMBIES (AUSTRALIAN PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD)**

Back row: John Ulugia, Salesi Ma'afu, Francis Fainifo, Stephen Hoiles, Scott Flint, Mark Chisholm, Marty Wilson, Mark Gerrard, Jason Lagaali, Christian Lealiifano.

Middle row: Rod Lindsell (S&C Coach), Ed Hollis (Physiotherapist), Brendan O'Neill, Nic Henderson,

Jone Tawake, Julian Salvi, Julian Huxley, Matt Carraro, Ray Reavley, John Ross.

Front row: Patrick Phibbs, Tim Curran, Guy Shepherdson, James McCormack, Matt O'Connor (Coach), Al Campbell (Captain), Bill Swain (Manager), Gene Fairbanks, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Nick Haydon, Saia Faingaa.

The 2006 Tooheys New Super 14 season was one of missed opportunities for the CA Brumbies.

After spending the vast majority of the season entrenched in the top four, we fell out of finals contention following the last match of the season, finishing equal fourth but missing out on 'points difference'.

The Brumbies began the season strongly – undefeated after five rounds of the competition. However, a failure to convert wins into bonus points ultimately proved the difference between qualifying for our sixth finals series and finishing in sixth place.

In 2006 the Brumbies' squad featured two Wallaby captains, two Australia A captains, the Australian Under 21s captain and the Australian Under 19s captain, showing that the leadership within the squad is in good hands for many years to come.

The Brumbies' win during the Australian Provincial Championship (APC) further confirmed the depth of talent within the squad and ensured strong crowds at Viking Park. With three wins from four games, the

Brumbies saved their best for last, winning the final 42-17 over the Reds.

Success also followed the ACT & Southern NSW Vikings who won the Australian Rugby Shield in their debut season, defeating Victoria, 36-10, in the final.

At a local level, our community rugby participation numbers grew by more than 500 players. Our senior participation numbers remained stable while our junior participation rate increased by 6%. In one of the most pleasing statistics, our referee numbers rose by an incredible 29%.

Rugby operations in the ACT&SNSW catchment areas continue to prosper with Southern Inland adding seven teams to their program while the Far South Coast increased their total participation by 29%.

Off the field, Brumbies Rugby welcomed a new CEO (Andrew Fagan) to the helm, who has ensured that the Brumbies remain a dominant sporting brand in world rugby.

The Brumbies' commercial program continues to grow in strength with sponsorship at record levels led by long-term partner, CA. Merchandise

continues to trade very well both domestically and internationally, membership remains strong and corporate hospitality at Canberra Stadium was fully subscribed for the sixth consecutive year.

## **OFFICE BEARERS:**

Chairman: Sean Hammond
President: Geoff Larkham
Chief Executive Officer: Andrew Fagan



#### **NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY UNION**

#### **NSW WARATAHS**

Back row: Sam Norton-Knight, David Lyons, Dean Mumm, Will Caldwell, Daniel Vickerman, Marty Wilson, Alex Kanaar, Winston Mafi.

Middle row: Aaron Broughton-Rouse, Wycliff Palu, Leroy Houston, Lote Tuqiri, Tom Carter, Peter Hewat, Wendell Sailor, Benn Robinson, Stephen Hoiles, Matt Dunning, Ben Jacobs. Josh Holmes, Chris Siale, Tatafu Polota-Nau.

Front row: Tim Donnelly, Shaun Berne, Morgan Turinui, Rocky Elsom, Chris Whitaker (Captain), Ewen McKenzie (Head Coach), Phil Waugh, Alastair Baxter, Brett Sheehan, Adam Freier.

Absent: Mat Rogers.

2006 equalled success for NSW Rugby as we met challenges both on and off the field.

The HSBC Waratahs led the Super 14 for much of the competition, finishing in third place overall and top among the Australian teams. Credit must go to coach Ewen McKenzie, the leadership group and the staff of the Waratahs and the High Performance Unit, who stop at nothing to ensure the Waratahs programme is the best in Australia.

Chris Whitaker was as inspirational as ever in his final year as captain, and while the ultimate goal eluded us, the team showed more than enough character in good times and bad to fill any supporter with hope for the future.

The culture of excellence reflected in our on field performance was mirrored off it. For the third successive year we generated a seven-figure operating surplus, another satisfying result for a Union that not so long ago was in the red.

Construction of our new Centre of Excellence is a physical example of our drive to secure rugby a future in NSW. The site, at Aussie Stadium, was designed specifically for Rugby operations and when completed will be one of the world's top Rugby facilities.

Participation numbers continue to grow across the state. Our numbers and boundaries were further refined during 2006 and the figures achieved will in future years provide a benchmark upon which growth can be measured.

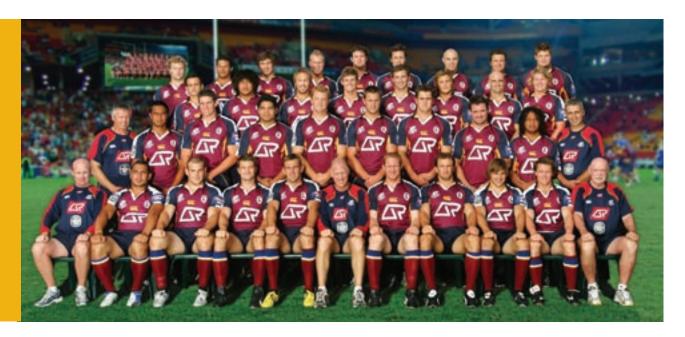
2006 was notable for many other reasons. The Waratahs completed a packed post-season schedule with the APC and Gulf Air Development Tour as well as a clash with the New Zealand Maori; we witnessed an

exciting Shute Shield – featuring the debut of Illawarra and Central Coast – with Eastwood trumping Sydney University in the Final; the Tooheys New Cup again set the standard for competitiveness with Sydney Uni defeating Randwick in an epic Grand Final; and we were a driving force behind the process of establishing the Australian Rugby Championship.

2006 was a year of many highlights. We look towards 2007 and beyond with a sense of determination and optimism that even better days are ahead.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

Chairman: Arvid Petersen
President: Ken Catchpole OAM
Chief Executive Officer: Fraser Neill



## **QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION**

#### **QUEENSLAND REDS**

Front row: Damon Emtage (Backs Coach), Lloyd Johansson, Stephen Moore, Ben Tune, Chris Latham, Jeff Miller (Coach), John Roe (Captain), Mark Connors, Drew Mitchell, Elton Flatley, Alex Evans (Forwards Coach).

2nd row: Stu Livingstone, Steve Kefu, Mitch Chapman, Rodney Blake, Cameron Treloar, Hugh McMeniman, James Horwill, Dan McKellar, Aniva Niumata, Garry Nucifora (Team Manager).

3rd row: Nic Berry, Ole Avei, Tim Atkinson, Berrick Barnes, Andrew Brown, Geoff Abram, Sam Cordingley, Josh Valentine. Back row: Peter Hynes, Henari Veratau, Anthony Mathison, Caleb Brown, Tom McVerry, Julian Huxley, David Croft, Sean Hardman, Greg Holmes.

Queensland Rugby began 2006 with a new, young team, a new principal sponsor and a new home at Suncorp Stadium.

Entering the Super 14 with a relatively inexperienced side meant the QR Queensland Reds needed to get off to a flying start and stay injury free to have the best possible chance of success.

But three disappointing early defeats – to the Waratahs, Blues and Crusaders – followed by a career-ending injury to one of its favourite sons, Elton Flatley, and other long-term injuries ended the Reds' semi-final hopes for 2006.

The side was able to farewell coach Jeff Miller and retiring record cap holder Mark Connors (134 caps) in style by winning its historic final round match against the Highlanders in Townsville, the first time an Australian Super 14 match had been played outside a capital city.

The Reds are looking to be more competitive in 2007 under new Head Coach Eddie Jones who has put the squad through a very tough and comprehensive pre-season program.

The QRU is also getting "match ready", by focusing on delivering greater value for corporate partners and creating match day themes and entertainment to energise and excite fans.

The state's highest level domestic competition, Premier Rugby, enjoyed a lift in interest and popularity in 2006, culminating in a crowd of over 5,000 at Ballymore to witness the West Brisbane Bulldogs defeat Brothers in the last seconds of the Premier Grand Final.

Community rugby participation continued to grow steadily from a large base, with the number of registered players in regular schools competitions again the highest in the country at 23,288. This is due to a deliberate strategy of increasing genuine school participation through initiatives such as the Ballymore Cup.

Queensland Schools II enjoyed national success and Queensland's two Under 16 teams performed strongly at the national titles, which augurs well for the future.

The state women's and suburban sides also enjoyed representative success, while Queensland Country

will be encouraged by North and South Queensland finishing first and second in the interstate U19 Transition Tournament at Ballymore.

At the policy making level, Queensland looks forward to working more closely with the ARU and raising the standards of what we collectively do.

#### OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman: Peter Lewis
President: David Crombic
Chief Executive Officer: Ken Freer



## **RUGBY WA**

#### **WESTERN FORCE**

Back row): Haydn Masters (Strength & Conditioning Coach), Ben Darwin (Set Piece Coach), Pekahou Cowan, David Fitter, Gareth Hardy, Mat Henjak, Luke Doherty, Josh Graham, Lachlan Mackay, Richard Brown, David Pocock, Haig Sare, Ben Ward, Tom Fearn (Skills Coach), Scott Anderson (Performance Analyst).

Middle row: Greg Marr (Rugby Operations Manager), Rob Naish (Physiotherapist), Richard Trend (Assistant Team Manager), Kate Gazzard (Rehabilitation Physiotherapist), Angus Scott, Matt Hodgson, Scott Staniforth, Digby Ioane, Josh Fulmaono, Pat O'Connor, Rudi Vedelago, John Welborn, Matt Windle, Tim Davidson, Cameron Shepherd, Scott Daruda, Luke Holmes, Gavin DeBartolo, David Te Moana, John Mulvihill (Coaching Coordinator), Peter Steele (Team Doctor), Mathew Allan (Team Doctor), Brendyn Appleby (Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach).

Front row: Brendan Cannon, Zander Peden, David Pusey, Brock James, AJ Whalley, Scott Fava (Vice Captain), John Mitchell (Head Coach), Nathan Sharpe (Captain), Junior Pelesasa, Chris O'Young, Vitori Buatava, James Hilgendorf, Tajhon Mallata. Absent: Tai McIsaac, Brett Stapleton.

Our stated purpose at RugbyWA is short and sweet – to grow rugby and grow Wallabies in Western Australia. On both counts, 2006 was a resounding success. In February, the Western Force made their Super 14 debut in front of more than 37,000 fans at Subiaco Oval. Over the next 13 weeks, 14 young players made their Super 14 debut and another two – Cameron Shepherd and Tai McIsaac – did enough to become Wallabies for the first time. The representative career of Scott Staniforth was also given new life.

Off the field, our form was just as impressive – the biggest Super 14 membership in Australia (21,000 individuals and 3,000 corporate members), the second biggest average crowds in Australia (28,424) and new sponsors to sport in WA. At one stage, we were getting more website hits than the Fremantle Dockers, and the local daily newspaper got behind us with a twice-weekly rugby lift-out, while the respected weekly, Business News, anointed us WA's fastest emerging brand.

Our success in growing the game here in the West extended well

into Community rugby. In 2006, participation leapt a stunning 70%, with juniors up 16% and seniors up 14%. Of the 40 professional players who relocated from other parts of Australia and overseas, 25 played in Perth's first grade competition. Over time, their involvement will help lift the standard of the local competition and will ultimately contribute to the emergence of home-grown Wallabies.

But, for all this progress, the growth of rugby in WA needs greater investment from the game's governing body in Australia. We are required to repay the Western Australian Government a loan used to establish the Western Force and we are making a significant commitment to the development of new facilities to accommodate a professional rugby team. After that, we will look to implement a prudent capital reserves policy while at the same time investing in the growth of Community rugby, particularly juniors, schools and coaching programs. Already in our first year of professional rugby, RugbyWA has more than doubled its investment in Community rugby programs.

The new Australian Rugby Championship is a major step in the

right direction and we applaud the ARU on this initiative and its resolve in implementing this change. For rugby to grow in WA, and for this State to grow Wallabies and capitalise on the enormous interest in rugby that has been created in WA, we need balanced strategic investment decisions aimed at accelerating the game's growth across Australia. We look forward to working with the ARU to achieve this.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

Chairman: Geoffrey Stooke OAM
President: Tony Harvey
Chief Executive Officer: Peter O'Meara



## **VICTORIAN RUGBY UNION**

#### **MELBOURNE AXEMEN**

Front row: Gideon Tauelangi, Andrew Paternott, Michael Thompson, Caleb Stephenson, Aaron Fordham, Mark Hill.

2nd row: Joe Iosefo, Lachlann Strauss (Skills Coach), Darron Rutene, Mark Rowe (Manager), Todd Cornford (Captain), Archie Kennedy (Coach), Matt Biessel (vice-captain), Nicholas Hughes (Assistant Coach), Anton Pilli.

3rd row: Paul Percy (Physio), Nathan Holman (Skills Coach), Alatise Ale, Tesimale Tesimale, Christian Brown, Michael Breen, David Tuinauvai, Niko Lauina, Heath Spence, Andrew Brown, Brendan Todd, Dean Harrop (Physio).

Back row: Sione Uhi, Paul Daly, Elisal Su'a, Oliver Williams, Alex Mika, Daniel Henry, Andrew Castleman, Scott Baker, Moses Haukinima, Basil Api.

Absent: Adrian Garvey, Johanns Rossouw, Brett Harrop (Physio), Mark Robinson (Assistant Coach), Dr. Tracey Peters (Team Doctor).

By any measure 2006 has been a year of significant achievement. The five key goals of the VRU Strategic Plan – Players, Profile, Platform, Programme, Home – underpin our activities and our achievements, either as part of our regular annual activities or as significant strategic successes.

The hard-working members, volunteers and supporters of rugby in Victoria, in particular, our players, coaches, administrators and referees deserve great credit for their long-standing contribution and means we can confidently build on these efforts to make 2007 even bigger for Victorian rugby.

Support for rugby has again produced record growth, especially in the schools and junior ranks. This is a tribute to the national direction of resources, the capacity of the VRU to implement and coordinate programs, the support of all our members, including our unique Weary Dunlop Club and our sponsors.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006**

# Player participation and performance

- Reached the Final of the Australian Rugby Shield.
- Continued record growth in participation numbers.
- Four Victorian born and developed players selected in the Australian Under 21 squad.

- Silei Poluleuligaga selected for the 2006 Women's World Cup and Mark Rowe appointed as Manager.
- Secured a place in the new Australian Rugby Championship.
- Michael Uoka and Barry
   Fa'amausili selected in the
   Australian Schoolboys team.
- Bill Millard appointed as Coach and Director of Coaching for 2007.

## Profile and positioning

- Rugby acknowledged as a Commonwealth Games highlight.
- Rugby lift-out in The Age, May.
- Australia's most successful coach, Rod Macqueen joins our strategy team.
- Launch of Weary Dunlop Rugby and new Foundation membership.
- Inaugural VRU Schools Heritage Dinner.

#### Platform

- A strong, constructive and enthusiastic relationship with Australian Rugby Union.
- Secured \$1 million funding over four years from the Government.
- Appointment of Lyndsey Cattermole as an independent Director.
- Constitutional review commenced.

 Introduction of a new pillar structure to fast-track the improvement of club competition for payers, coaches and match officials.

## **Programme of Commercial Rugby**

- Four year premium Test match program including two Bledisloe Cup Matches secured.
- Crusaders v Western Force

   initiative that saw 11,500

   attend in January; confirmed to 2008 and beyond.
- Hosted Australia A v Fiji.

## Home for Rugby in Victoria

- Spectacular new rectangular stadium in the Olympic park precinct with Victorian Rugby as a core tenant.
- State Community Rugby Centre commitment secured from Victorian Government for \$500,000.

It has been a great year for rugby in Victoria. Our obligation and our opportunity now is to convert this into an even stronger 2007 as the foundation for our new generations of rugby players, coaches, referees, administrators and supporters.

## **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Gary Gray
Chief Executive Officer: Ron Steiner

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY RUGBY UNION

In 2006 the Northern Territory continued to develop as a great outpost for rugby union in Australia. The year has produced some positive outcomes for NT rugby, with some other areas that will need further efforts to get where we would like to be. Overall, the game is progressing well. Some of the highlights this year have been:

- The success of the Darwin AUSTAR Friday night juniors has been fantastic, with an 11% increase in playing numbers from 476 to 528 participants.
- The schools competitions and playing numbers also continue to grow, particularly with the primary school carnivals which has been expanded into Darwin.
- These numbers have given us the confidence to establish an Under 18s (Colts) competition in 2007 that will fill a major void that has been missing between the juniors and the seniors for many years.
- The Hottest 7's in the World has become firmly established as a

- growing major event on the Darwin calendar, with Heineken signing as the major sponsor for the next three years, along with Northern Territory Major Events expressing their support from 2007 and beyond. The exposure of the tournament is becoming worldwide with more teams visiting from interstate and internationally than in previous years.
- The representative program had a mixed result with the AUSTAR Mosquitoes not achieving the results of previous years, which was quite disappointing. A review has since been held with some changes to be included in the 2007 program.
- The highlight of the year was the success of the NT Schoolboys who defeated the new Super 14. They progressed undefeated to the final against Victoria. The boys played really well, leading Victoria 19-5 with 15 minutes to go. Unfortunately the Victorians were too strong and defeated them late in the game.

- The Darwin finals series were very exciting both at the junior and senior levels. This included the Tooheys New A Grade preliminary final going into extra time.
- Tim Glover of the Dragons was recognised for his outstanding season by being named as the Eric Johnston Medal winner.

The game in the NT is going very well, but we do have some areas that will need extra attention in the near future; this being management plans for volunteers and addressing the shortage of referees and coaches.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Vince Kelly
Vice Presidents: Dan Panapa
and Glen Boath

Secretary: Brian Anderson Treasurer: Tim Curran General Manager: Tim Heath

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION**

Following a year of significant change for SA Rugby in 2005, we continued to see a great deal of progress in a number of key areas last season as well as a number of firsts.

Significantly, we launched a new SAPSASA Primary Schools competition resulting in 850 children playing rugby for the first time. This program led to a record 66% increase in participation in rugby in South Australia. Importantly, our junior club registration grew by another 6% whilst the EdRugby program saw a 73.5% increase in participating schools.

After a lengthy consultation process our Members voted to accept all proposed changes to the Constitution and similarly the SAJRU voted to dissolve, thus transferring all responsibility for junior rugby to SA Rugby.

A new innovation for season 2006 was the pre-season Bartercard Cup, played over four weeks prior to the Premiership season.

The Premiership season highlight was a memorable 2006 Brice Metals

Grand Final between Brighton and Old Collegians. In what was a terrific advertisement for local rugby both on and off the field, Old Collegians defeated the Tigers in extra time 30-27. Old Collegians Club completed a stellar year by also taking out the Tooheys New Champion Club Trophy.

In an expanded Australian Rugby Shield, the Physio Direct Adelaide Black Falcons performed admirably but again fell just short of their goals for 2006 despite their most gruelling pre-season training and preparation.

SA was well represented at both junior and women's levels. The U16 team showed plenty of promise for our future ranks and congratulations to Steven Millar for his selection in the Australian U16 'Merit Team' and Lito Fata for her selection in the Wallaroos.

In the commercial arena we had our most successful year in recent memory. On the back of a new sponsorship strategy we were delighted to welcome six new sponsors in 2006: Tooheys New, Bartercard, Direct Interiors, Mazda, Telstra and KooGa. Additionally, Brice Metals re-signed for a further two years.

Another highlight in 2006 was playing host to Australia 'A' v Fiji, ensuring South Australians had an opportunity to see international rugby for the first time in two years.

2007 is a significant year for SA Rugby. Not only will we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we now have a place in the national arena with the IRB Sevens World Series being played at Adelaide Oval. Also, with the announcement of the Australian Rugby Championship we now have further incentive to strive to have a team based out of Adelaide in the future.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Geoff Holdich
Chairman: Gavin Collings
Chief Executive Officer: Rob Nelson

#### TASMANIAN RUGBY UNION

The highlight of the Tasmanian Rugby calendar was the inclusion of the Tassie Jack Jumpers in the Australian Rugby Shield.

Although we did not win a game, the experience is something that has been long overdue. The Union's participation in this national competition has provided us with exposure to sponsors who in the past were very much unattainable. All the teams we played congratulated the Jack Jumpers and coaching staff on their professionalism. I would like to thank the Australian Rugby Union for their assistance in making expert coaching staff available to the Jack Jumpers.

Tasmanian teams also performed very well in the two national junior championships, with the Under 16s and Schools teams both winning a match. These championships provide extremely good experience for our

junior players, especially the Under 16s National Championship, where they rub shoulders with the best in the country. Again, the Australian Rugby Union should be congratulated for the foresight in developing players from outside the traditional rugby states.

Participation numbers have risen 229% to an all-time high of 3,383, an increase from 1,027 in 2005. The team of two Development Officers and a part-time Administration Officer has to be congratulated for their dedication in what can only be described as difficult conditions. Investment in "on-the-ground" employees is paramount to the success or failure of rugby in the Island State.

The Board of the Tasmanian Rugby Union is a well coordinated group with a focus on the continued development of rugby, which includes the promotion of high quality matches in the state. We are still very much interested in hosting an Australia A match and hope that we can work closely with the ARU to see this come to fruition in the near future.

The grand final was a wonderful day at Rugby Park which combined the Under 14s, Under 16s and Under 18s Junior Rugby finals together with the Women's final, which Glenorchy claimed for an eighth consecutive time. Launceston defeated Glenorchy in the Senior State-wide grand final, while Harlequins defeated Devonport in the State-wide Second Division grand final.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Tony Kube Chairman: Simon Wilding Hon Secretary: Mel Beechey

## **NSW COUNTRY RUGBY UNION**

The 2006 season again saw many changes on the landscape of the NSW Country Rugby Union.

Central Coast and Illawarra participated in the revamped Shute Shield Competition, which showcased and enhanced both the two zones and Country Rugby Union.

Country's season opened with the Landmark Country Championships, with Central Coast claiming the Caldwell Cup, Western Plains the Richardson Shield and Newcastle Hunter the Under 20s. The championship season wound up with Newcastle Hunter taking out both the Under 19s and Women's titles.

Country's representative teams had mixed success on the playing fields, with the Landmark NSW Country Cockatoos being knocked out of the Australian Rugby Shield in a semifinal boil-over by Melbourne. The representative highlight of the year was the selection of seven Country Women players in the Wallaroos squad which contested the IRB Women's Rugby World Cup in Canada.

Country's 2006 representative program concluded with a successful development tour to Fiji. The standard of the opposition was high which provided a strong basis to assess the current standard of Country players.

At grassroots level the drought has continued to affect player numbers. Registrations in rural areas declined in 2006, but this was offset with increases in coastal areas.

Country could not continue to function without the financial support from NSWRU and our group of sponsors. Our sponsors provide much needed funding, which enables Country to maintain our operations and representative programs.

The "Landmark" sponsorship concludes at the end of the year, and I would like to thank them for their long term support of Country.

The Union's administration is sound, and I would like to thank the Board, Sponsorship Officer (Terry Orman) and Executive Officer (Terry Woodward) for their efforts.

Next season will see new challenges for Country, but we have endured challenges in the past, and will overcome them in the future.

## **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Laurie Maher
Executive Officer: Terry Woodward

#### AUSTRALIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL SCHOOLS UNION

The Australian Rugby Football Schools Union enjoyed another successful year in 2006, highlighted by several high-quality tournaments and tours throughout the season.

In June, the Division II Australian Schools Championship was held at Geelong Grammar School in Victoria. The annual tournament gives the best schoolboy players from rugby's developing states four days of intense competition. Victoria once again proved their strong development achievements by defeating Northern Territory 32-19 in the final to claim the Charles Blunt Trophy. As runners-up, an impressive Northern Territory team were awarded the Merv Allen Plate.

The Novotel Australian Schools
Championship, for Division I Schools
was held from 4-10 July at St Ignatius
College, Riverview in Sydney. In one of
the most exciting tournaments of the
championship's 32 year history, NSW
II and Queensland II stormed past
more-fancied opponents to reach the
final. The Queenslander's eventually

edged out their NSW counterparts 14-13 in a hard-fought match to claim the BH 'Jika' Travers Shield.

The championships were followed by visits from two touring teams – Japan Schools in July and Tongan Schools in August. In September and October, the Australian Schoolboys undertook a five-match tour of Fiji and New Zealand where they won three of their five matches. Results of these tournaments and tours can be found in The Year in Detail section of the Annual Report.

Inbound and outbound tours provide Australia's elite young Rugby talent with the opportunity to test themselves against players of a similar calibre and we are grateful to the touring teams that visit our shores and host us each year.

Congratulations to three players, Andrew Barrett, Kurtley Beale and Quade Cooper, who reached a historic milestone in 2006. The trio became the most capped Australian Schoolboys players, since records begun in 1973, when they received their eighth cap against New Zealand in Auckland this year.

Recognition and thanks must go to the Australian Schools team officials, selectors and administrators for their dedication and commitment to Schools Rugby. Thank you also to the Australian Rugby Union, especially their High Performance Unit and Community Rugby, Media and Finance Departments for their important operational assistance. At an Executive level thank you to Managing Director & CEO Gary Flowers, Chairman Ron Graham, President Paul McLean and former President and ARFSU's patron Peter Crittle for their ongoing support.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Br Bob Wallace AM Vice President: Damien Barker Hon Secretary: John RaeHon Treasurer: Bernie Carberry

## **AUSTRALIAN SERVICES RUGBY UNION**

The Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) held its annual inter-service carnival at Vikings Rugby Park in Canberra from 28 May to 3 June 2006.

Army defeated both Navy and Airforce to win the Australian Services
Rugby Championship (ASRC) Mens competition, the Caldwell Shield.
In the women's competition Army defeated the combined Navy/Air Force team in a very high quality match.

On 6 September 2006, the ASRU men's team played a representative match against Queensland Country Red Heelers at Ballymore in Brisbane, with ASRU winning the contest 47-12. The ASRU women's team, which is in a rebuilding phase, did not compete in any representative competition in 2006. Of note however, five services women players were selected in the

National Wallaroo training squad and two players from this group were included in the Wallaroo squad for the 2006 Women's Rugby World Cup.

From 10 to 17 September 2006, the Australian Defence Force hosted the Pacific Nations Military Rugby Cup at Vikings Rugby Park in Canberra. This tournament involved military teams from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Fiji, New Caledonia and Tonga. The participating teams were balloted into two pools of three teams for the tournament.

ASRU opened the tournament with a strong 104-0 win against the unknown French Armed Forces New Caledonia. They followed this up with a hard-fought 23-20 victory over Tongan Defence Services to earn a berth in the Cup final against Republic Fiji Military Forces.

The Fijians were too strong for Australian Services in the Final and ran-out eventual 57-32 winners. New Zealand defeated Tongan Defence Services in a last minute thriller, 18-17, to claim the Pacific Nations Military Shield and PNG Defence Forces edged out New Calendonia 52-30 in the Plate final.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

Chairman: Commodore
Kevin Taylor, RAN
Vice Chairmen: Captain Grant
Ferguson, RAN and Lieutenant Colonel
Jim Bancroft
Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel

Dave Grierson

#### **AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES RUGBY UNION**

This year saw the AURU consolidate in a number of areas, including the formation of a new business plan. The two main cornerstones of this plan are the need for us to be more hands on and active in the management of our own destiny and to form a closer understanding with some of our key stakeholders.

The year was full of challenges with funding from the ARU being withdrawn and our main annual match against Australian Services was cancelled due to the unavailability of Services' players, who are currently on peace keeping deployments throughout the world.

The formation of a comprehensive program of events for the AURU in 2007 was developed and presented to all University teams participating

in rugby at the Australian University Games in Adelaide. The plan will be circulated to all Universities early in 2007 and a request for their active involvement in AURU.

In 2006 we did see the emergence of the University Challenge event.
This event will be played in April 2007 in Sydney and will see teams from Queensland, Sydney and a Melbourne Barbarians University side participate in a knockout challenge over a few days. The intention is for eligible players from other Universities to participate in these teams. A selection panel, coach and team manager will be appointed in March 2007, in time for them to see some of our potential representative players in action during the tournament.

In 2007 we are also planning to restage our annual game with Australian Services, play NZ Universities, host a 15-a-side Intervarsity in September and send the AURU representative team on a tour of Japan near the end of the year.

We would like to thank our major sponsor PricewaterhouseCoopers for their continued commitment to AURU.

Finally I would like to congratulate all those Universities having celebrations in 2007, particularly James Cook University who are celebrating their 40th anniversary in May and Adelaide University their 75th in July.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Les Sampson Vice President: Phillip Verheijen Secretary: Bob Dwyer

## **CLASSIC WALLABIES**

The Classic Wallabies were active on many levels throughout 2006, with the focus of the year being to assist players who have incurred spinal injuries while playing rugby.

In May we had the Classic Wallabies On-Tour Luncheon in support of The Spinal Injuries Association at the Brisbane Convention Centre. Over 800 people attended with Andrew Slack as MC, Alan Jones as special guest speaker and Bill Ross interviewed a panel comprising Paul McLean, Roger Gould and Mick O'Çonnor. This most successful and well received event raised in excess of \$90,000 for the Spinal Injuries Association. Another Classic Wallaby Lunch is set for Friday April 20, 2007. Dick Marks will be the MC and Alan Jones will again be the guest speaker.

In NSW we hosted many former players who are in wheelchairs (Wheelies) at Super 14 matches and the Sydney Grand Final.

Again we were invited to participate in the annual Bermuda Classic where the team performed superbly with victories over Canada 17-7 and the reining champions South Africa 12-7 before going down narrowly to the Classic Lions 10-5 in the final.

As a lead-up match we supported grass roots rugby through a match in

the Hunter Valley against the newly formed Pokolbin Reds. Established in 2006, a Pokolbin Reds Invitation team, which included players from all Hunter clubs, went down to the Classic Wallabies in an entertaining and friendly encounter. The match was followed by a Gala Dinner and Golf Challenge on the Sunday. The Reds showed the true spirit of the game and not only invited the Classics and their partners but also three Wheelies and their carers for the entire weekend.

## **OFFICE BEARERS**

President: Stuart MacDougall Honorary Secretary: Ian Robertson Honorary Treasurer: Ken Wright

## **AUSTRALIAN BARBARIAN RUGBY CLUB**

During the 2006 rugby season the club played two games, one against Sydney first division's Manly Marlins to celebrate their Centenary and the second against the Singleton Bulls to celebrate the opening of the further extensions to their clubhouse.

The Manly game was played on the evening of 27 July at Manly Oval. We selected a team comprised from six of the Sydney first division Championship clubs and Fijian rugby sevens great Waisale Serevi.

Alan Jones AO was our coach and in his inimitable way added that consistent flavour to the game

The match was evenly poised but it was the Barbarians cohesion in attack which proved to be decisive in the 35-17 victory.

The Singleton game was played during the afternoon of 21 October

at the Singleton ground with a crowd of approximately 2,500 people. With the inception of the Australian Rugby Championship coming into play in 2007, we took the step of inviting nine representatives from the Sydney first division Championship clubs that would be likely prospects for the new competition and two recently selected Wallabies in Josh Valentine from the Singleton Club and Tatafu Polota–Nau from Parramatta.

Peter Fenton and Geoff Mould were the coaches and were assisted by our sponsor, the Footie Shop's George Goodacre.

The Barbarians won 54-14 with the majority of the match played on a close basis until the second half where the

Barbarians clicked into gear and pushed the score out to a comfortable margin.

The games were both played in true Barbarian spirit, with the teams adopting a no kick policy resulting in some great tries.

We are pleased to have been offered the services of the two Wallabies considering the demands on players in this era.

It is important to note we only bring the team together briefly before the game and on both occasions this year we were not able to have a training run. As such, achieving the positive results we do is testament to the calibre of the players selected.

## **CLUB EXECUTIVE**

President: Greg Cornelsen

Honorary Secretary: Peter Johnston

Honorary Treasurer: Andy Conway