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# *Oatley Rugby Club*

Annual Report  
- 2019 -



# Contents

<b>Sponsors and Supporters</b>	<b>... 3</b>
<b>2019 Executive Committee</b>	<b>... 4</b>
<b>Presidents Report</b>	<b>... 5</b>
<b>Treasurers Report</b>	<b>... 7</b>
<b>Minis &amp; Juniors Vice Presidents Report</b>	<b>... 8</b>
<b>U6's Report</b>	<b>... 12</b>
<b>U7's Report</b>	<b>... 14</b>
<b>U11's Report</b>	<b>... 16</b>
<b>U12's Report</b>	<b>... 18</b>
<b>U13's Report</b>	<b>... 20</b>
<b>U15 Girls 7's Report</b>	<b>... 22</b>
<b>Junior Club Awards</b>	<b>... 24</b>
<b>Minis &amp; Juniors - Games Played</b>	<b>... 25</b>
<b>Junior Club Honours</b>	<b>... 26</b>
<b>Trivia Night</b>	<b>... 27</b>
<b>Seniors Vice Presidents Report</b>	<b>... 28</b>
<b>First Grade Report</b>	<b>... 30</b>
<b>Second Grade Report</b>	<b>... 32</b>
<b>Sown Oats - Golden Oldies Report</b>	<b>... 33</b>

# Sponsors & Supporters

The 2019 season would not have been possible without the support of our Club Sponsors and local community supporters





# 2019 Executive Committee

**President**

Richard Rice

**Secretary**

Mick Bradley

**Treasurer**

Mick Bradley

**Seniors Vice President**

Steve McLean/  
Richard Ekholm

**Juniors Vice President**

Ian Langley

**Minis Vice President**

Tracy Bush

**Executive Committee Members**

Mark Bernays

Ben Prangell

Gary Carmichael

**Club Registrar**

Tracy Bush

**Canteen**

Tahlia Ryder





# Presidents Report

It was a mixed year for Oatley Rugby in 2019.

The year started very well, with a planning day expertly led by Life Member Ross Bernays. A number of actions were drafted, and a plan for the season formulated.

We were successful in gaining significant grant money, and used the funds frugally to update our equipment and to have a well prepared Club for when the season started.

Unfortunately, what followed was turmoil – first, we lost our Juniors VP due to a difference of philosophy, and then our Seniors VP left due to out of rugby commitments.



Ian Langley, Tracy Bush, Gary Carmichael and Ben Prangell stepped into the void and ran a very efficient Juniors program, one of the best we have performed in a number of years. This led to the Juniors arm of the club having a successful season, culminating in the best Trivia Night we have had for a long time.

The Minis section of the Club did well recruiting numbers. The kids really seemed to be enjoying their year, with a strong finish to the season at the Southern Districts Gala Day. A big thank you to all the coaches involved.

The Junior Club fielded 3 Teams, with the U12's making the Grand Final. The U12's became Premiers, with the Under 11's and Under 13's just missing out on a Grand Final. A great effort by all the players, and some great foundations set for future years.

The Senior Club had a poor year financially and socially, and did not meet its potential on the field. A great run to the finals by Second Grade, but unfortunately they were knocked out in the second week of finals football. The foundations are there for the senior portion of the Club to have some success, but commitment from players needs to match that of the coaching and support staff the Club has put in place. With this in mind, the Club Executive Committee has made the step of interviewing Director of Rugby candidates prior to the AGM, with the view of announcing the successful candidate at this years AGM.

A few people who need some special mentions:

- Tahlia Ryder for a fine season in the canteen, for both Juniors and Seniors
- Mick Bradley for running the Club's finances, as well as the Sown Oats
- Gary Carmichael and Ian Langley for ground preparation and ownership, on top



## Presidents Report cont.

of all their other duties

- The Juniors Committee for all its hard work
- All those that helped organise events
- Coaches and Managers, from the U6's through to the Golden Oldies
- All the parents, helpers and unnamed, for getting people to games and never saying no when we needed help.
- Also a big shout out to Ross Bernays for the hard work in putting a girls team together for the Frosty 7s, overcoming a couple of hurdles and false starts. Ross put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes to get this program off the ground and we hope to see some major benefits next season.



A big thank you to all, and to those I have not mentioned or have left out, apologies.

Therefore, we come to the end of another year of Rugby, which had so many ups and downs both on the field, but also off it. The Executive Committee recognises there is room for improvement. We dropped the ball on a number of occasions, especially in terms of communication and event organisation. As such, I would hope next year's committee appoints a Social Committee to help spread the load, and to make the most of the resources available within the club. Our brand is very strong, and sponsorship is at a high, so we need to convert this into success in other areas of the Club. All of these things will be addressed before the start of next season, to ensure a strong Club commercially and financially going forward.

I hope to see you all again next year, as well as some new faces. Stay safe.

Yours in Rugby

Richard Rice



# Treasurers Report

Following our Strategic Planning Review last year we made a concerted effort to boost our funding, and applied for several Grants. We received the following Grants, to assist with the running of the Club and to purchase new equipment.

- i) Federal Government Stronger Communities Program - \$7,105.00 – matching our own Club contribution to purchase gear.
- ii) NSW Government Local Sport Defibrillator Program - \$1,115.00 – matched by the Club for the purchase of a defibrillator
- iii) Georges River Council Local Ward Discretionary Fund - \$750 – from Councillor Symington and Mayor Greene, to defray general Club running costs

Thanks to our major sponsor St George Masonic Club, whose support means we are able to keep player fees to a minimum, whilst continuing to fund an expenditure of \$50,000.00 per annum in running costs.

The Junior arm of the Club is looking strong financially, and the Club overall can meet its commitments. The next post season Strategic Planning Review will need to focus on the Senior arm of the Club, to ensure it can operate without straining the allocation of funds to other arms of the Club.

Thanks to all of the Management Committee for their support this year.

**Mick Bradley**

**Club Treasurer**





# Minis & Juniors

## Vice Presidents' Report

It's been a year of positive change for the Minis and Juniors, with a lot going on in the last 8 months, and we are really happy to see the Club moving in a new direction.

Although player numbers are down across the country as a whole, we are very lucky to have a strong player group ranging from U6's to U15's at Oatley, and we hope this continues not only into the future but well into their senior playing years.



It was a great year for all our teams. In our Minis, our U6's kicked off their first year of playing, and their numbers steadily grew as the season progressed. Our U7's were a mix of both new and more experienced players, and they proved to be a force to be reckoned with on the field, coming runners up in the Southern Districts End of Season Gala Day. We also saw a big increase in the number of girls wanting to play rugby in our Minis competition.

In our Juniors comp, our U11's finished the season 4<sup>th</sup> on the ladder, narrowly missing out on a Grand Final appearance. Our U13's finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall on the ladder, after getting knocked out in Elimination Finals, and our U15 Girls 7's side came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their grade at the Frosty 7's –

a huge achievement for their first year of playing. A special mention to our U12s's who were not only Minor Premiers, but took home a win in the Grand Final.

Early in 2019, Oatley Rugby Club was invited to be part of Rugby Australia's pilot program *Get into Rugby*. We were one of 50 clubs Australia wide to be offered this program, which aimed to boost participation numbers nationwide while teaching new players basic skills. This program was very successfully run due to the dedicated coaching team of Will Russell and Bushy, and we look forward to kicking off Round 2 in early November.

2019 saw the introduction of Rugby Xplorer and Match Day App, for player registrations and game day management. To say that there were some teething problems is an understatement. It took almost half the season, but Tracy and our team managers soon became experts, and we thank everyone for their patience as we navigated our way through this.

This will also be known as the year of out with the old and in with the new. We managed to pick up a Stronger Communities grant, which



## Minis & Juniors Vice Presidents Report cont.

enabled us to purchase a lot of new training equipment. The grant terms required us to split the cost 50/50, which a few extra Bunnings BBQs and a very well organised Trivia Night lent itself to, but we think our on field results are proof that it was well worth the investment. We also received a Local Sport Defibrillator Program grant that allowed us to purchase a Defibrillator for the Club – a fantastic piece of lifesaving equipment that we are lucky to have access to, should we ever have the need for it.



We are sure that everyone would have noticed our much more evident social media presence. This has allowed us to share some of the amazing things happening within the Club with the wider world, and has attracted a number of new players to the Club. It has also been a hub for celebrating achievements within the Club, providing a great way to be able to catch up on what each team was doing - the photos really capture the passion and enjoyment of the players. Thank you to everyone who took the time to post photos, write comments, share and tag not only on your team pages, but also on the Minis and Juniors Facebook page and Instagram. We are now also attracting attention overseas thanks to the efforts of Lewis Bryson, and many of you will have seen his photo with his old club now wearing Oatley jerseys. An aim for next year is to streamline how we use social media and reduce the workload on those maintaining our presence.

A number of projects that have been in the pipeline for sometime came to fruition this year. We know that the fastest growing area of rugby currently is Girls 7s rugby, and whilst in past years we have had a Women's XV's team, we could see the need to have a pathway for girls to play. We currently have girls playing in both Minis and Juniors but, once they reach 13 years of age, there was a gap until they reached Seniors. We were very lucky that Ross Bernays raised his hand and took this project on. Ross has spent a lot of time developing this program and it has been very successful, and we hope to field teams across all age groups for Girl's 7's in the 2020 season.

We have now built up a very strong working relationship with the East Hills PSSA Rugby program, under the leadership of local teacher Rob Lenard, who is also an ex-Oatley Junior. We provided training and playing equipment for the East Hills PSSA rep team to compete in their District Tournament, which saw them come 2nd and have players move onto the next stages of PSSA Rugby.

Throughout the year we were lucky to have assistance from Pat Sanford, who is a NSW Rugby Development Officer. Pat supported us with the planning and structure of the *Get into Rugby* program, organised player visits from NSW Waratah Shambeckler Vui and Australian Women's 7's player Emilee Cherry, and gave us some great Waratahs merchandise which we were able to auction to raise funds for the





## Minis & Juniors Vice Presidents Report cont.

Club. In 2020, we hope to continue this relationship with Pat by working with him to take development programs into local schools to increase player participation.



Presentation Day this year was held on our home turf at H.V. Evatt Park, for the first time in many years. A relaxed picnic style day had all our families coming together to enjoy a day in the sun, before presentations began. A highlight of this day was having ex-Wallaby, ex-Oatley Junior and all-round legend, Rob Horne, come along to present the inaugural Rob Horne Award for Junior Player of the Year. Rob spoke fondly of his time at Oatley and it was great for our young players to be able to see what you can achieve in your playing career and life, no matter where you're from.

Without sponsors, we would not be able to operate as a Club, and provide training equipment, playing uniforms and training gear. Our sincere thanks go to St George Maso's, our major Club sponsor, and our

new Minis and Juniors sponsor, Qualitas Health Letitia Street Clinic. Our biggest fundraising event this year was the Trivia Night, and our sincere thanks go to Jetts Penshurst for their sponsorship of this evening. The Clubs support of one of our own carrying out some fundraising (shout out to Todd Hutchinson and his World Greatest Shave!) led to the development of a relationship with Revesby South Public School, and we are looking forward to spending some time at the school early next year promoting rugby.

There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes unnoticed by most people, but these are the things that perhaps have the most impact on the Club as a whole, and our direction moving forward. We have now developed a Club Mission Statement, which reflects our Club values, vision and goals. We have introduced a Club Code of Conduct for both players and spectators, in an effort to support positive sidelines and stamp out inappropriate sideline and on field conduct. Every team official was given an Officials handbook, which provided important Club and game day information, as well as key competition rules, field set up requirements and incident reporting processes. We have made sure that all coaches and managers have all appropriate





## Minis & Juniors Vice Presidents Report cont.

accreditation. These are some of the things that have been overlooked in past years, but in doing them this has now, in the eyes of Sydney Junior Rugby Union, made us one of the most organised clubs in the competition.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Club and, without them, we would not exist. We are so appreciative of the effort of all of our volunteers, but a few deserve some extra thanks:

Mark Bernays - your efforts in mentoring coaches has meant you practically live at Evatt Park. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and ideas.

Ben Prangell – you stepped up effortlessly when we needed you, becoming a vital part of the Committee, and have spent hours developing our new sponsorship proposal. We are so grateful to you.

Tahlia Ryder - for giving up whatever free time you had, to stock and run the canteen. You kept us all fed and watered, and kept an income coming back in to the Club.

Gary Carmichael - what don't you do? You have created a spreadsheet (to rule them all!) to collate all player information that has proved so valuable this year. You have repaired everything that has broken, set up fields and done everything with a smile and a laugh  
*#generallyuseful*

We (Ian and Tracy) could go in circles all day thanking the other for everything that we have perceived each other to have done, and achieved, this year. We have been somewhat of an unstoppable team, and neither would have had the same effect without the other, or without the backing of all the amazing people (and more) just mentioned. Teamwork doesn't end on the field.



To the players - to all the girls and boys that strapped on a pair of boots, and played in the spirit of the game with respect and sportsmanship each week. To the parents who travelled Sydney every weekend, and spent hours on cold winter nights watching training sessions and washing rugby gear. To the volunteers, who spent time setting up fields, turning sausages, sorting gear, taking photos, providing social media content, helping in the canteen, running water and running the line. To the Coaches and Managers, who spent countless hours preparing, guiding and mentoring players, and really made it all happen. To the Executive Committee, various Sub-Committees and those working out of sight behind the scenes.

We can't thank you all enough. Each and every one of you, you play an important role at Oatley Rugby Club - players, parents, guardians, friends, family and supporters. Without all of you, we would not exist.

See you all next year!

**Ian Langley**

**Juniors Vice President**

**Tracy Bush**

**Minis Vice President**

# U6's Report

**Coach: Meaghan Peacock**

**Manager: Annette Rehayem**

Pre-season training saw a minimal number of players eligible for U6s, meaning that there was a possibility that a joint U6/7 team was on the cards for the year. After a few training sessions, the *Get Into Rugby* programme, and some well-placed social media awareness, we saw the numbers increase to 6 players. By Round 8 we had reached our final number of 8 players. With all the kids having basic skills at the start of the year, it was very pleasing to see different skills start to come out in each of them as the season progressed.



For me, one of the highlights of the season would have to be when I asked the players at the end of a match who they thought the Player of the Day was, and why. They were told that they couldn't choose themselves and, as a result, every player chose somebody different and gave very mature and positive reasons why. This is the essence of team sport.

I wasn't expecting to coach at the beginning of the season, but with the 6's and 7's games being played at the same time, I'm glad I was given the opportunity. It was a pleasure to coach these players. While we will lose a couple to age next season, I am looking forward to everyone else coming back to do it all again.

Alexis Maugatai - Joined our team later in the season, and it was impressive to see how quickly she fitted in. Lexi's most improved traits for the season were her awareness and confidence, as this led her to run the ball straight, which led to tries. You can tell Lexi enjoyed playing, always with a smile on her face.



Alice Bowering - Another of our later in the season starters, and also our best listener. She is a player who improved so much every week, especially on her attacking ability. Together with her natural speed, this was awesome to watch. Alice was able to listen and learn, and as a result applied her training into the game. This was one of the many reasons Alice received the Coaches award.

Ashton Mitchell - My "eagle" master – always the first one ready in defence. Highlight of the season was when Ashton ran  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the field to score a try...for the other team. Everyone cheered him on and, as a result, it gave him more confidence to be more actively involved.

George Ryder-Hemopo - Each week George would

## U6's Report cont.

enthusiastically show me how well he could kick a football. His enthusiasm continued on the field as, not only was he always looking to run the football, he displayed some impressive moments in defence on our own try line. He never gives up.

Hugo Rehayem - Our corner post ninja, and one of our originals from the very first training session. Hugo's passion for succeeding is matched only by his ever-improving ability to get back to the defensive line, and you could count on Hugo to make that extra tag.

Jessica Moore - If there was such a position in U6, then Jess would be our designated fullback. She showed a natural instinct in defence, which will become invaluable as she plays in older age groups. In addition, her ability to make herself available in attack made her a try scoring machine. Jess was the deserving recipient of the Most Improved award.

Jonathan Lidbetter - My "go to" player. Always puts his hand up to run the ball and displays a natural awareness in defence, always getting back ready to make that tag. But his ability to score a handful of tries every game made Johnny a valuable asset to our team, and deserving of the Banks' award this year.

Levi Stenson - Having older brothers involved with the Club, Levi loved the fact that he was in with a team of his own. Levi enjoyed his time making new friends and scored a try. Our youngest player on the field, but our best plane spotter.

- Meaghan

### 2019 U6 Team Awards

#### The Banks Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award

Jonathan Lidbetter

#### Most Improved

Jessica Moore

#### Coaches Award

Alice Bowering





## U7's Report

**Coach: Will Russell**

**Asst. Coach: Bushy**

**Manager: Tracy Bush**

This 2019 season was filled with new skills, new drills and new achievements but, more importantly, new friendships and new Oatley families joining this great community rugby club.



Our season started with some new players and families joining, as a result of the successful *Get into Rugby* campaign. Well done to Ian and Tracy, and to Rugby Australia, for being forward thinking about this opportunity to let young boys and girls try before they buy into the game of rugby. Once they were in, it was hard for them to leave.

The season started with some solid results; however, it was up to individuals, not the team as unit. Over the next 4-6 weeks, we started training skills that were based on passing to a teammate in a better position, drawing and passing, supporting the ball carrier and always, always focusing on our spacing in defence - AKA "EAGLES". Also, we solidified our mini scrum technique and line out to support the passing we worked on all season.

As the 2019 season progressed, in learning from past and current coaches of previous Oatley Mini's teams, we started to work on new skills. We introduced some of the skills needed for the next step of the Kids Pathways, for next season and beyond, such as tackling, rucks and mauls, ball retention and recycling of the ball in the ruck. This immediately engaged all the players and got them really excited for next season. However, this also made it hard to keep them engaged for using a two handed touch on game day.

This year has not been about the wins and losses, although finishing second at Gala Day to a strong Burraneer team was a great result. It has been about two words - *Fun* and *Respect*. This is the backbone philosophy of the team, and is also a message for these young men to grow into, not just as rugby players but also as members of the greater community.

Thanks to all the parents that came every week to training, the weekend games, bringing the oranges and washing the jerseys. Also, thanks to the other coach Bushy, and



## U7's Report cont.

team manager Tracy - you have both been so supportive this year in getting us all the information and support our players and families needed.

Bring on next year and TACKLING!

Will

## 2019 U7 Team Awards

**The Banks Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award**

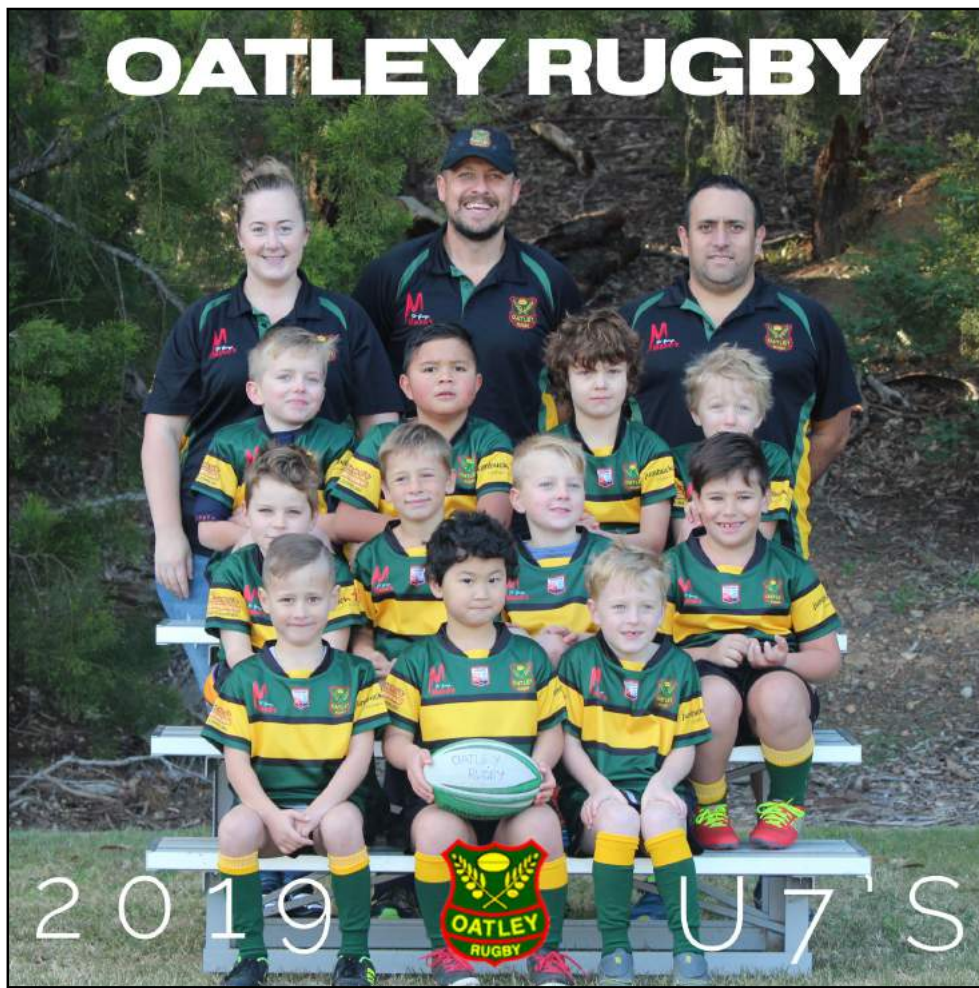
Alfie Dimarco

**Most Improved**

Harrison Navaphol

**Coaches Award**

Elijah Ryder-Hemopo





# U11's Report

**Coach: Mark "Buzz" Busby**

**Manager: Grier Campbell**

We started off the season not knowing if we were going to be able to field a side, having lost seven players from the previous year. Miraculously, we ended up with a squad of twenty, and had to sit two players out every week. To their credit, each and every one of them sat out without any complaint, and more often than not turned up to support the team. Out of the new players, four had never played before, while three came from a league background.



After a topsy-turvy pre season, and a couple of friendly pre-season fixtures, we finally got our season underway. Away to Wahroonga, a nice road trip to start off with. After a slow start and forgetting how to tackle (a theme that would continue for the first half of the season), we finally remembered how to tackle, how to clean out and how to protect the ball. This resulted in us coming away as winners in a tight game.

Over the coming weeks and months, the effort in training improved. The team continued to grow in confidence, and began to trust their ability and skills. The intensity in training was now taken into games, and our results reflected this.

We ended the season with 8 wins and 6 defeats, and made it to the fourth spot on the ladder, resulting in a semi final spot away to Eastwood. We had played Eastwood twice already this season - the first resulting in an agonising 50-0 defeat, and the second an encouraging 33-17 defeat, so it was all to play for. On a windy day at Eastwood we turned up quietly confident, hoping to knock off the minor premiers. We made our tackles count, with some thunderous hits from Owen supported by loane and Hunter. Credit to Eastwood, they stuck to their pick and drive game and, through weight of numbers, crashed over the white wash three times to take a 21-0 half time lead. Not to be discouraged, we came out all guns blazing in the second half with the wind at our backs. After the forwards set up the platform, it was time for the backs to get to work, with Rauna, Jimmy, Jack and Wesley leading the way. Some fantastic handling and great team work saw us back in the game at 21-21. Unfortunately, it was not to be - the final whistle sounded and we went out, as Eastwood finished higher in the table. Credit to the team for not giving up and believing that they could cause an upset, they all played brilliantly.



A bit of a flat end to the season, but it was great to see the improvement and camaraderie in the team. A lot of this came from training, where week in



## U11's Report cont.

week out the numbers were brilliant, and the attitude as well. Hopefully this group will stay together for the next few years, and get the success they deserve.

Finally, none of this would have happened without the efforts and support of a number of people. To our coach Buzz - the effort you put in week in, week out is fantastic. The training drills. Your patience and guidance with the kids is first class, always looking to improve and to make it all about the team and their enjoyment. Thank you does not seem enough. Vanessa, a big thank you for scoring week in week out, and persisting with a sometimes volatile App. To the parents - thank you for involving your kids in the game we love. We had a great bunch of parents this year, that never shied away from work, so thank you for getting the kids to training and games on time, even if it did mean a lot of travel. Thanks to those who helped in the canteen and setting up the pitch for home games. Thanks to those who completed courses and who helped as game day trainers, Assistant Referees, Ground Marshal's, water duties and tee duties.

To Ian, Tracy and the committee - thanks for taking up your respective roles under trying circumstances, and our thanks for the endless hours of work that you put in behind the scenes.

Enjoy the off season, and we are looking forward to seeing you all back for pre-season in 2020.

Cheers,

Grier Campbell



### 2019 U11 Team Awards

#### The Banks Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award

Manasa Vukicikorolevu

#### Forward of the Year

Ioane Pupualli

#### Back of the Year

Rauna Ryder-Kingi

#### Coaches Award

Cedar Jnaid

# U12's Report

**Coaches: Willy Trostel & Luis Carrera**

**Asst. Coach: Craig Shayler**

**Manager: Dorita Trostel**

Wow, what a year we've had. We saw some amazing rugby being played, and are so proud of all of our players. This season saw us lose only one game, lost by a conversion, which is a huge achievement for the boys. We are extremely lucky to have such talented rugby players, and this year saw us add more amazing players to this group of young men. We have a few mottos in our team - one is *Good Kids, Good Families, Good Culture*, and we have built on this in 2019. These boys play for each other out on the field, they are a family, and the new players joined our family with ease.

We have a successful team, and that is not possible without the dedication of the coaching and training staff. Willy and Luis are constantly focusing on the players, their

strengths, and what is needed to bring out the best in each player. This year we were very lucky to have Craig and Nathan join us in coaching and training, and they brought with them a wealth of knowledge. The players took to them instantly, and they made a great impact on the boys. Between Willy, Luis, Craig, Nathan, Erik, Mike and Frank, they executed the plan for the players. Success is not possible without a lot of time and dedication by a lot of parties.

Wellington: First year playing rugby, understood the game quickly and became a strong runner of the ball, with even more great things to come with more experience. Watch out 2020. Ahmad: 3<sup>rd</sup>



season playing and continues to bamboozle the opposition. Rewarding himself and his teammates with great finish tries. Out hooked all opposing scrums. Puts in every game. John: Excellent development this year. Good defence and great mobility in and around the line. A "go to" tight head specialist that anchored our scrum, and stepped up in the leadership in the scrum. Kaden: 2<sup>nd</sup> season playing. Out played and defended strongly against all teams, doing the grinding work of ball pilfering and last out of the ruck. PSSA player with amazing things to come. VJ: What a season. Our quiet achiever. Rock hard defence, quickest in our scrum pack, upfront and well timed contact. Utility player. Cormac: Great resilience and mental toughness. Part of the leadership. Hard and mobile runner, strong front on defence. Great things



## U12's Report cont.

ahead. Selected for SD Reps. Justice: WOW. Morphed into a complete rugby player. Bone jarring defence, extremely coachable. Selected PSSA and State team. Kumi: Great season. Strong prolific runner. Always breaking the first 2 attempts to tackle him. Unstoppable. Selected in SD Reps and PSSA. Marat: Our leader, our kicker, our brain of the team. He has a vision for the game and led the team to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Premier win. Selected in SD Reps. Adam: Versatile in the forwards, played consistently all season. A gritty player with a sense of urgency. Sulaiman: Solid season, with a broken finger in the middle of the season. Great defence and using his speed to make breaks. Great season. William: Great defence with his blistering speed, taking out the tallest, biggest players. Selected SD Rep. Andre: Remaining his devastating best. Powerful and explosive runner. Unstoppable and huge impact on games. Selected SD Rep, PSSA and State team. Fouad: 1<sup>st</sup> year playing. Speed, great step and a natural fullback. Great defender. Absolute asset to the team. Netava: Great season, unfortunate injury, played through and still devastating in some games. Mental toughness. Selected in SD Reps, PSSA. Yohanny: Strength in scrums and lineouts, great defender. Great meters. Divine: 1<sup>st</sup> year playing. Great debut. Great defender, with ball skills and speed. Look out next season. Mohamed: 1<sup>st</sup> year playing. Stood his ground, tackled regardless of size. Good skills. Ali: 1<sup>st</sup> year playing. Great speed, solid and great defence. Played well. Asset to team. Christopher: 1<sup>st</sup> year playing. A natural. Excellent speed and defence technique. Dynamic player on field. Great things to come. Selected PSSA. David: Blistering speed and strength, pleasure to watch at full speed. Excellent defence, with opposition players still having nightmares about David's devastating runs. An amazing future in rugby. Selected in PSSA. Itula: 1<sup>st</sup> year playing. Talented player, great ball skills, strong runs, bright future, so much potential. Ability to play anywhere on the field.

This year saw us come away with our third consecutive Premier WIN, no easy feat. We are all so proud of these young men and all they have achieved. We look forward to 2020, and to see what new adventures that year in rugby brings.

### *United We Stand*



### **2019 U12 Team Awards**

#### **The Banks Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award**

Siakumi Tuiniua

#### **Best Back**

Netava Taliai

#### **Best Forward**

Justice Firmin-Taumoepeau

#### **Coaches Award**

Itula Seve



# *U13's Report*

**Coaches: Ian Langley & PG Glendinning**

**Asst. Coach: Bryn Randall**

**Manager: Craig Frazer**

The season started with a few Law changes, as the U13's moved into U19's Rugby and out of Pathway Rugby. This meant our players had to learn new skills, with lifting in lineouts, and variations in play allowing quick lineouts, penalty goals and conversions from the point of scoring. All of these don't seem like much, however, it does make the players start to think about when, where and how they make strategic options on the field. The team needed to learn how to play to their strengths and to contain their opposition and, at the same time, all the new players to the game needed to learn some of the basic laws of rugby.



Preseason training saw the junior teams running drills together, and this allowed us to take a couple of steps back to refocus on some of the core skills. It also started to build much more of a club focus. This was evident when the U13's spent time with Minis before training, playing a game with them, and this bond became even more evident when we started to have some of the Minis running as ball boys and kicking tee runners on game day for us.

Over the past few years we have been fortunate to build on player numbers and are running as a full squad, with players having defined positions, but also having players that have the ability to move around. We are lucky enough to be in a unique position where we have a large number of forwards; however this means we are lean on backs.



## U13's Report cont.

Once into the regular season, we were a little slow to get started. It took a few rounds and then we started to feel a little more comfortable. It was at this stage PG and Bryn really started to get the forwards working together. It wasn't long before we were dominating scrums and lineouts. In looking after the backs I was very lucky in that I could play anyone in any position, but the task I had was trying to work out the best combinations – who should run inside of who. I think towards the back end of the season we had a very good attacking backline.

Overall we had a successful season, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> on the ladder and making it to the Finals again. Unfortunately, our season ended there. The first half took a lot out of us, as Norths had the majority of the ball and neither team could get over the top of the other. By the second half we started to respond and come into our own, however time ran away from us.

We are not the most perfect team, we still have things to learn and we can still develop. But what a perfect place to be, knowing as players and as a team we can still get stronger and better. The bond that teammates have is like no other, and it is something that they now share for life.

## 2019 U13 Team Awards

**The Banks Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award**

Connor Thorsen

**Coaches Award**

Jack Priestley

**Forward of the Year**

Aden Carmichael

**Back of the Year**

Ryan Porter





# *U15 Girls 7's Report*

**Coach: Ross Bernays**

After not quite getting to the starting line for SJRU's summer *Sizzling 7's* series, Oatley Rugby fielded its first girls rugby team since 2003 in the *Frosty 7's*. And what a team they turned out to be!

Don't get me wrong, I play to win, and we keep score for a reason. However, being a team playing in a new sport, for most provided many challenges, but there were also numerous victories to be had along the way, other than just holding up the ultimate trophy at the end. This group of girls coming together for the first time was really successful.

Firstly, playing in an 11-team competition and finishing third - there were eight other teams that would have swapped places with us. I knew on that first rainy night at Manly that we had a good chance to win the competition. We had only five players (Martha, Greta, Mikayla, Chloe, Lucy) for the first game, with a couple (Pele and Eirenei) unavailable - a squad of seven. But we had a combination of natural sporting ability, determination, desire to learn and good fellowship that would be the platform for building a really good team. Along the way we added Emily, Tema, Sani and, at the end, Sophie. A squad of 11 should have been a good size.

What we didn't know was that each week our squad would be faced with a new set of challenges, through injury and the like. Even going in to the Finals night - at the beginning of the week, we had a squad of 10, only to lose two players through injury and a family emergency, to leave us with just 8 fit players. Still, we were only a few seconds away from playing in the Grand Final.

I don't say that by way of excuse. It is sport, and a major part of that is playing with the hand you are dealt, doing your best and not whinging. The reason I do highlight these challenges is to stress how the girls, our team, showed resilience and character week in, week out, playing in tough circumstances with smiles on their faces, which became a signature for the team.

Something that I didn't really speak about during the competition was in never having our full squad together meant that the positional balance of the team was fairly regularly out of whack. In particular, having more forward orientated players than backs. Still, we always rose to the challenge and had real dig. I am sure that other teams would have wilted under the pressure. I like to think that, had we snuck into the Grand Final, we would have risen to the occasion and given it a real shake.

We were the best attacking team in the competition and I know that we wouldn't have died wondering. We scored an average of over four tries a game, and only on one occasion did we lose by more than one try. Most of our few losses were being run down late in the game by teams with larger squads on the night. A strong Forest team went through the competition undefeated, but we were the only team to really test them, with a draw and a close loss from our two encounters. All this is a long way around to say that our girls should be very proud of their performance, and should forever look back on the last few months with a smile of self-satisfaction.

Still, it burns me a little that I couldn't quite get them to the Grand Final - it would have been due recognition of their resilience, and my way of thanking them for allowing me to be part of their team. I could not be prouder of this group of girls (rugby players), who represented the Club, their



## U15 Girls 7's Report cont.

families and themselves with dignity and good humour, at the same time giving the competition a real shake. Be proud, keep smiling.

Greta Alama – Strong performer throughout the competition, made a big contribution with her knowledge and confidence gained from playing in the boys' XV's competition. Winner of the Banks Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award for her contribution to the team, and Club, over the full Junior season.

Mikayla Capizzi – Committed member of the team, dealing with an ankle injury throughout the season. Strong runner and hard worker. Provided one of the highlights of the season with her conversion from the sideline in the semi-final.

Lucy Flanagan – Prolific try scorer. Lucy's speed was well matched by her intuition, determination and defence. A worthy winner of the inaugural Oatley Junior Female Player of the Year.

Sophie Hijazzi – Late addition to the team. Impressed with her ability to pick-up the game quickly. Looking forward to Sophie playing again next year.

Chloe Jackson -- Impressed with her whole-hearted performances week in week out. Chloe made big contributions, both in attack and defence. Her energy and commitment ensured that her ability provided real impact.

Pelenaise Kailahi – After a late start to the season due to injury Pele was an immediate success when she finally got on the field, only for her to cut down with a serious knee injury. She was sorely missed. We wish her a strong recovery and look forward to her again wearing the Oatley colours.

Martha Kossenberg – A hard worker and good on-ball player. Martha has developed a good knowledge of the game. One of our originals who stuck at it.

Eirenei Hikila -- The building of Eirenei's confidence took a little time, but she was a huge improver. Her slashing runs at the end of the season were a feature of the team's later efforts.

Emily Laverance – Emily under-rated her own ability, but she was strong in attack and her defence improved as the season unfolded. She was a significant contributor and vital part of the teams finals foray.

Laisani Qimanavania – Sani was a significant part of the fabric of the team. Eager to learn. Used her strength to ask questions of the opposition.

Varitema Ratu – A big impact player. Big runs, big hits. A regular try scorer. Was really missed through injury in the final series. A player the opposition really avoided in attack and defence. Strength of play.

*When the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, He marks - not that you won or lost – but, how you played the game.*

- Grantland Rice.



## 2019 U15 Girls Team Awards

### The Banks Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award

Greta Alama

### Most Improved

Martha Kossenberg

### Most Consistent

Chloe Jackson

# 2019 Junior Club Awards

## **Golden Boot**

Nate Glendinning

## **Supporter of the Year**

Kim Thorsen

## **Coach of the Year**

Will Russell

## **Junior Club Person of the Year**

Lewis Bryson

## **Club Person of the Year**

Gary Carmichael

## **Minis Player of the Year**

Kilifi Maugatai

## **Female Player of the Year**

Lucy Flanagan

## **The Rob Horne Award - Junior Player of the Year**

Andre Posesione





# Minis & Juniors - Games Played

Player	Team	Games Played in 2019	Total Games for Oatley Rugby	Years of Service
Wellington Afoa	U 12	13	13	1
Wesley Afoa	U 11	9	9	1
Greta Alama	U 15	7	17	1
	U 13	10		
William Bailon	U 11	14	14	1
Samuel Bashall	U 13	7	19	2
Callum Bice	U 7	15	27	2
Cameron Bice	U 7	15	27	2
Nathan Bice	U 11	14	26	2
Owen Booth	U 11	13	25	2
Alice Bowering	U 6	7	7	1
Dexter Bowering	U 7	15	15	1
Lewis Bryson	U 13	12	16	1
James Busby	U 11	15	63	5
Paul Condos	U 13		0	0
Brodie Bush	U 7	15	27	2
Jack Campbell	U 11	14	74	6
Mikayla Capizzi	U 15	5	5	1
Aden Carmichael	U 13	13	121	10
Dale Carmichael	U 11	15	75	6
Sulaiman Chami	U 12	12	36	3
Miles Christ	U 11	12	36	3
Mohamed Dannaoui	U 12	14	14	1
Alfie Dimarco	U 7	14	14	1
Ahmad El Chami	U 12	14	38	3
Ali Farhat	U 12	14	14	1
Ethan Fesuiai	U 13	12	48	4
Christopher Filikitonga	U 12	7	7	1
Lucy Flanagan	U 15	7	7	1
Ashton Frazer	U 13	8	44	4
Jonathan Gill	U 13	12	84	7
Nate Glendinning	U 13	12	84	7
Damien Gordon	U 7	13	13	1
Zane Haddad	U 12	5	5	1
Rory Harbour	U 13	13	13	1
Eirenei Hikila	U 15	7	7	1
Ezekiel Hughes	U 13	12	48	4
Robert Hutchinson	U 13	11	23	2
Todd Hutchinson	U 13	11	11	1
Chloe Jackson	U 15	4	4	1
Adam Jawad	U 12	13	37	3
Cedar Jnaid	U 11	12	12	1
Pele Kailahi	U 15	3	3	1
Cyrus Kalati Toleafoa	U 13	5	5	1
David Kalati Toleafoa	U 12	7	7	1
Michael Kifiona	U 11	13	13	1
Martha Kossenberg	U 15	7	7	1
Mitchell Langley	U 13	9	57	5
Emily Laverance	U 15	5	5	1
Hunter Letele	U 11	14	14	1
<b>Total Players 2019</b>		<b>Average Games 2019</b>		<b>Average Total Games</b>
<b>98</b>		<b>11.5</b>		<b>29.3</b>
				<b>Average Years of Service</b>
				<b>2.5</b>

Player	Team	Games Played in 2019	Total Games for Oatley Rugby	Years of Service
Jonathan Lidbetter	U 6	15	15	1
William Lidbetter	U 7	15	15	1
John Lopeli	U 12	14	38	3
Yohanny Lopeli	U 12	14	38	3
Lincoln Maraku	U 13	10	94	8
Thomas Marshall	U 13	11	47	4
Finn Martin	U 12	6	6	1
Kilifi Maugatai	U 7	14	38	3
Suavine (VJ) Mence	U 12	14	38	3
Ashton Mitchell	U 6	7	7	1
Cormac Mooney	U 12	13	25	2
Daniel Moore	U 7	11	11	1
Jessica Moore	U 6	10	10	1
Ethan Mottershead	U 13	13	109	9
Xavier Mottershead	U 11	14	62	5
Marat Nahas	U 12	14	38	3
Kaden Napaa	U 12	12	24	2
Harrison Navaphol	U 7	14	14	1
Joshua Porter	U 11	14	26	2
Ryan Porter	U 13	13	13	1
Andre Posesione	U 12	14	38	3
Christian Prangell	U 13	12	108	9
Jack Priestley	U 13	11	11	1
Ioane Pupuaii	U 11	13	13	1
Laisani Qimanavanua	U 15	5	5	1
Morgan Randall	U 13	13	49	4
Varifema Ratu	U 15	5	5	1
Hugo Rehayem	U 6	15	15	1
William Russell	U 7	11	35	3
Elijah Ryder Hemopo	U 7	13	37	3
George Ryder Hemopo	U 6	11	11	1
Rauna Ryder Kingi	U 11	14	74	6
Divine Saena	U 12	14	14	1
Itula Seve	U 12	11	11	1
Levi Stenson	U 6	11	11	1
Netava Tali'ai	U 12	13	37	3
Josaia Tamani	U 11	13	13	1
Justice Taumoepeau	U 12	14	62	5
Kalan Thompson	U 13	12	96	8
Marley Thompson	U 11	14	86	7
Connor Thorsen	U 13	13	13	1
Liam Thorsen	U 11	15	15	1
William Trostel	U 12	14	50	4
Alexis Tualao Maugatai	U 6	6	6	1
Siakumi Tuiniua	U 12	13	25	2
Fouad Turkmani	U 12	11	11	1
McRoy Virk	U 13	12	24	2
Manasa Vukicikorolevu	U 11	13	37	3
Seruwaia Vukicikorolevu	U 11	12	12	1
Tristan Whitmore	U 13	10	22	2
<b>Total Players 2019</b>		<b>Average Games 2019</b>		<b>Average Total Games</b>
<b>98</b>		<b>11.5</b>		<b>29.3</b>
				<b>Average Years of Service</b>
				<b>2.5</b>

# 2019 Junior Club Honours

## Southern Districts State Championships

### U11

Rauna Ryder-Kingi  
Jack Campbell  
Owen Booth  
Manasa Vukicikorolevu

### U12

Marat Nahas  
Siakumi Tuiniua  
Netava Taliai  
William Trostel  
Andre Posesione

### U13

Nate Glendinning  
Ezekiel Hughes  
Connor Thorsen  
Lewis Bryson  
Ashton Frazer

## Southern Districts 7's

### U13 Girls

Greta Alama

### U13 Boys

William Trostel  
Marat Nahas  
Itula Seve  
Kaden Napaa

### U15 Girls

Laisani Qimanavania  
Varitema Ratu  
Emily Laverance

## PSSA

### Liverpool PSSA

Kaden Napaa  
Manasa Vukicikorolevu

## East Hills PSSA

Todd Hutchinson  
James Busby  
Jack Campbell  
Will Baiton  
Netava Taliai  
Siakumi Tuiniua

## Sydney South West PSSA

Netava Taliai  
Kaden Napaa  
Siakumi Tuiniua

## Sydney East PSSA

Justice Firmin-Taumoepeau  
Andre Posesione

## NSW PSSA

Justice Firmin-Taumoepeau  
Andre Posesione





# Trivia Night



With the support of our Junior Club families and amazing local businesses, we raised more than \$4000 for our Junior Club! A great night was had by all. Special thanks to Jason Montgomery @ Trivia Master Australia for hosting a great night, and Jetts Penshurst for sponsoring the event, to ensure every cent we made came straight back to the Club and our Junior players!

## A big thank you to our sponsors!



# Seniors Vice Presidents Report

2019 saw mixed results for Oatley's Senior Club. I was called upon to assist with the Seniors after First Grade had to forfeit to Canterbury in Round 4. We were already down to running just two teams in a three team comp, having advised Subbies that we would only be able to field 2 grades for the season.



Second grade saw their share of success on the park. They earned the right to play Finals football, getting through to the penultimate round, but going down to the eventual Grose Cup winners – Sydney Harlequins. Thanks needs to go to Hendry and Dan for their efforts throughout the season with Second Grade.

First grade was unable to win a match all season. A team centric mind set within the Clubs playing base, poor numbers at training, and a lack of commitment / communication saw several players move away from the Club. To get a team on the park each week, we had

both rookies and geriatrics pulling on the boots for First Grade. Thanks to the players who stuck out a tough season, or answered the call to assist a struggling team. I am glad that there are still people around our Club that have a staunch sense of loyalty and will not let their mates down. Mark Bernays (Club & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Coach), Ian Langley (1<sup>st</sup> Grade Assistant Coach), Gary Carmichael and Ben Prangell (1<sup>st</sup> Grade manager) deserve many accolades for their efforts in ensuring that Oatley was able to field a First Grade team each week, and allowing Oatley Rugby Club to remain in the NSW Suburban Rugby Competition.

Respect and praise need to go to the guys that put up their hand to run the touchline, and water out to the players throughout the season. Though there are 15 players on the field, you always need another 4 or 5 people (Coach, Manager, First Aider, Touchie, and Trainer / water runner) to ensure a smooth operation during any match. Also, thank Tahlia Ryder, Rod Dunn, Jason Myers, Richard Rice and Tracy Bush for their efforts in the canteen and on the BBQ during our home matches.

There were only a couple of Senior run functions this season - ANZAC day at the Maso's, and Old Players Day for the final home game of the season. Both were well attended and, from the smiles I saw, seemed to be enjoyed by those who put in the effort to support our Club. We have not yet run a Senior Presentation, as we are still trying to locate the perpetual trophies, and the Senior Club is in a very poor fiscal state. We are looking to conduct a small presentation prior to a Rugby World Cup match.





## Seniors Vice Presidents Report cont.

During the off season, we have a fair bit of soul searching to do. We have decisions to make on whether we request to remain in Division Four (a 3 Team Comp) or drop to Division Five or Six (both Single team comps). We need to address the financial state of the Seniors and, personally, I believe we need to address the elephant in the room - that being, are we a senior rugby club, or are we a group of rugby teams playing under the same banner.

Beachie



# First Grade

**Coaches: Mark Bernays & Ian Langley**

**Manager: Ben Prangell & Richard "Beachie" Ekholm**

We made a great start in the trials, with a narrow win against Macquarie Uni, our divisional rivals, before thrashing Hawkesbury Valley in the division above. After a couple of key injuries, it was all downhill from there. If you look only at the results, it was a very tough season, and it was, but when faced with adversity in life you find out who has real character.



If you take a closer look at our season, we did have many positives. We saw a number of young players, who were either former Colts or were still eligible for Colts, step up and play First Grade. Along with a number of newcomers, these players will form the basis of First Grade moving forward. These players were led by some not-so-young footballers, who proved to be true clubmen and helped us out of a very difficult situation.

2019 was a much different coaching experience than normal. Normally, as a coach, you are looking to develop the team and players so we are competitive on the

field, with the goal of winning as many games as possible. In 2019, we were fighting for the survival of the Senior Club. It was a big effort, and a true show of character, that we not only got a side on the field each week, but also had several close narrow losses towards the end of the season.

We quite often undervalue the role of manager, but every successful team and coach is supported by an outstanding manager. A month into the season, I was lucky enough to have Beachie and Ben step up to manage First Grade. This was a massive reason why we were even able to get through the season.

A big thanks to the players who toughed it out and kept fronting up each week. They were led from the front by Gary, in his last season of rugby, who not only stepped up and played First Grade but also made a bigger contribution every week. It was not only his effort on the field, but his desire to get a side back on every week, that kept us going. Rugby clubs can't run without people like Gary.



Another big contribution off field



## First Grade Report cont.

each week was Uze. I wouldn't have been able to get through without his support and commitment.

Lastly, I would like to thank Langers for everything he did. He stepped up to help me coach First Grade this season, and supported me as coach through the whole year. When he took on the role, I don't think he expected to play First Grade every week, or to captain the team. As the true clubman he is, he just kept fronting up each week and led the team through a very difficult season.

A major positive this year was greater interaction between all arms of the club. It was great to see Mini & Junior players and their families down at the grounds. Family Day was the biggest highlight of the year. This event must continue and will only develop into a bigger event each year. Also, the support from the Juniors committee members was fantastic.

I challenge all players to bring your mates along next year, and be part of the rebuild of the Senior Club. We have the talent; we just need the commitment to training.

Let's make our Senior Club a great Club to play for again, with a massive 2020.

Mark Bernays







## *Second Grade*

**Coaches: Dan Tagaloa & Hendry Lees**

No report supplied.



# Sown Oats - Golden Oldies Report

The passing of Kiwi Mick Paumoko early this year was a sad start to the year, but we have celebrated his memory by creating the Friendship Cup, awarded between the local Golden Oldies Clubs at our SURF events.

Fun, Fraternity & Friendship is the ethos of Golden Oldies ,and this saw us go through a whole season without any major injuries. Pride was damaged on many occasions – dropped ball, bad pass, can't pass, can't catch, can't run, tripped etc

Welcome to James "Sneakers" McMillan & Matt "Socksy" Cotton ,who both played some fine footy. Sneakers has us always guessing what jersey or outfit he'll turn up in next. Socksy will check the spelling of the suburb next time he is riding to a new game venue.

Our home game at Evatt was a highlight of the calendar, against the Engadine Limping Lions with a couple of fill-ins from Penrith & Canterbury .

We also travelled to various Gala days throughout the year: Camden, Penrith, Terrey Hills and Eastwood Charcoals, to name a few, and remain undefeated. Local SURF Gala Days with Canterbury, Burraneer (Grand Final) and Engadine (Sydney Cup) which we have now won for the second time. Thanks to Boysie & Screw for their last minute combination inside switch pass to score the final try of the day.

Along the way the SURF (Southern United Rugby Front) Clubs raised over \$1,000 for the Black Dog Foundation – Blokes helping Blokes, through raffles and donations



Thanks to everyone for their support this year & best wishes to all the Oatley Rugby family for the Festive Season. We look forward to seeing you on the paddock in 2020, and there are still spots for those who wish to tour to the Denver World Golden Oldies Festival in June next year.

Dictatorially Yours,

Mick Bradley

