



WARRIORS WEEKLY

Newsletter Number 7
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2019

President's Message

We are half way through the season with most teams doing pretty well including three teams on top of their respective ladder: U14E, U 16C and U16A, and U13E and U15 just behind the leaders. Well done to everyone.

This year we are having a year long Raffle to raise funds for the Club with prizes to be drawn at the Presentation Day later in the year. If you can donate a prize, please contact Joe Craven on 0449 021 975. The Warriors will also be at Coogee Oval on 8 June 2019 for the game against Sydney Uni selling the raffle tickets.

Finally good luck to local juniors, Will Harrison and Ben Donaldson, who have arrived in Argentina after crossing the Pacific and the Andes to represent Australia at the U20 World Cup, their first game v Italy on Tuesday. England and Ireland also in their pool.

Craig Bell
Randwick Warriors President

Jim Dubos/Stu Donaldson

Last week, at Randwick Academy Lunch, there was a watershed moment when local rugby legend, Jim Dubos, retired as Randwick Junior Rugby Development officer and handed the baton over to Stu Donaldson.

There are not enough words to describe the efforts and achievements of Jim, who has been involved in junior rugby since the 1960s. He has developed so many players, not only Wallabies, Waratahs and first graders, but also players who have become team managers, trainers, ARs, ground marshalls and scorers. Of course, recent achievements include setting up the Randwick Junior Academy, which is the envy of other clubs, and establishing the Randwick Warriors to solve the drop off in teenage club rugby in our district. Congratulations Jim on your contribution to Randwick Rugby and developing generations of true believers.

One test of any organisation is succession planning and so Jim's decision to tap Stu on the shoulder is an inspired one. Having grown up a box kick from Coogee Oval, Stu is a local junior who moved on to play Colts and Grade for Randwick for many years. Later on, Jim and Stu combined as Randwick Rep coaches to take an age group, which included Will and Ben, to 5 consecutive State Championship finals 2010 to 2014. Well over 10 players in these teams represented Sydney, 4 of whom later progressed to Australian Schoolboys and 2 of whom are currently in Argentina. Stu, who was one of the first Academy coaches, continues to be an active coach in the district, coaching rugby at a number of schools and is currently coaching our

U16A Warriors team and U16 Rep team. Congratulations Stu and I know you are looking forward to continue Jim's great work.

Randwick Rugby Colts (U20)

Bye week last week. Colts at Parramatta this week

Randwick Rugby Grade

Bye week last week. Grade a Coogee Oval this Saturday.

Match Reports for 26 May 2019 – Round 7

U13 Whites v Easts won 19-17

Taking on our local rivals in the E Div match was always going to be a HUGE ask as we came into this round carrying loads of injuries making eight players unavailable. Luckily, an old Clovelly Eagles alumni, Darby, came out of retirement so we managed to have a squad of 16 for the match.

Things started well as our try scoring machine Dante crossed after four minutes, and then followed it up by calmly converting his own try. However, Easts hit back soon after to level the scores. From there the first half proved to be a very even encounter as both sides worked hard. Our forwards started to gain the ascendancy and were rewarded with a try to Luca after some solid mauling work from the pack. Dante converted and we entered the break ahead 14-7. Half time brought more bad news on the injury front as Billy was shelved for the rest of the game. The boys knew they had no reserves and would have to put in a big effort in the second stanza.

Fair play to them, they came out firing and within four minutes Luca was over for his second try of the match. The rest of the game was something for all parents to be proud of. Easts kept coming at us and the boys kept repelling them. It wasn't always pretty and some of the ruck play can be improved, but no question of their heart and character. Finally, with about ten to go, and us down to 14 players, Easts broke through to get within seven. Then after 10 minutes of 15 on 14 they broke through again but could not convert leaving the score at 19-17. On the back of gutsy effort that is where the game ended and a very exhausted 16 Warriors lads trudged off the field smiling.

Points this week:

1 point to the entire team – every single boy put in maximum effort.

2 points to Kane, who made some scything runs and ran down some long-range tackles.

3 points to Dylan, who out on his own lonely wing made at least half a dozen ball and all tackles that simply had to be made to avoid giving up points.

Highlight of the match: the final whistle and local bragging rights!

U13 Greens v Rockdale def 5-44

"This is a loss that Randwick (U13's) had to have"

All the cliché come to mind, we were better than that the score, we just had lapses that they capitalized etc et...but the lesson to learn here in this A Div match, is that whilst we are a team of good skillful players, we are far better concentrating on being a good team of skillful players, and that means is that we need to use our collective skills a lot smarter.

If you look at the possession stats I'm sure we would have had about 60-65% of the ball and (at times) we controlled the game very well but what it came down to was the ease at which they could score tries by using their larger forwards to commit our pack to the rucks and then have their 'leftover' forwards to attack our backs, gain easy yards + offload to support. But that's rugby and I strongly agree with the philosophy that you learn more from defeats than wins.

There certainly were some spent boys on the sideline, and I can't fault the boys' effort throughout the game, I asked a few boys before the game to lift their physicality on Sunday and I was not disappointed by the way Tom J, Oskar, Luini, Flynn responded and also, as the game progressed, Evan really grew in confidence too (I can't keep mentioning you Will Tanner but every week you keep impressing everyone with your level of commitment and effort you put in....damn you made me mention you again).

The backs had very little opportunity throughout the game. Whilst they were eager to get ball to attack, they were always met with a wall of Rockdale players. Defence was good but it is an area to work on, particularly when it is combating the bigger players, which they will repeatedly face in Div A.

They saved their best for last though and in the closing minute of the game found their groove, executing a simple play at speed that gave the outside backs some room to move that resulted in a try from over halfway. A positive way to finish and there couldn't have been a more deserving boy to finish it off than Tom FJ.

U14 Whites v Wakehurst won 24-20

Sunday saw us travel to the dark side to play 3rd position Wakehurst in this E Div game.

With a packed lunch & compass we headed off on our adventure. After what seemed like hours we arrived. I remember thinking "Were not in Coogee anymore Toto".

With numbers down though sickness and injury we were just able to put a team together. Thanks to "Will & Fynn" for helping out.

Upon taking the field it was clear that Wakehurst would play a forward style of rugby & they did.

With 3x big units in the front row they were able to dominate the scrums & lineouts as well.

Our littler boys were up to the task and ripped in at the breakdown & were able to upset Wakehurst's ability to get the ball wide.

We lost Ollie early through a shoulder injury & then near the end of the game Finn M got flopped on by a big boy.

We played the last 10min with one in the bin but were still able to hold on for a very gritty 24-20 win. Good job boys.

Bede & George played well above their weight again but the man of the match award went to the smallest Galloping Green with a massive ticker, Chiller Waugh. Great game buddy.

U15 v Shoremen won 45-29

The 15's arrived for this B division game against the Shoremen Blacks full of confidence after a few wins in a row and the focus was on being switched on right from the kick off.

The boys must have listened to those instructions because they started very strongly and took charge early and some strong runs lead to 3 quick tries in the first 20 mins to AJ Preketes, Fletcher Bessant and Thomas Martin.

Our big forwards were causing some damage through the middle of the Shoremen pack with strong carries. The boys had the Shoremen on the back foot when we spread the ball wide and ran it through the backs. Halftime score was 24 - 5 after another Tom Martin try.

The second half started in much the same way with the boys in total control, as we put on 3 more tries to Ayden Diffin, Henry Handford and Thomas Kemp. A spirited effort from the Shoremen saw them run in a few tries but the result was never in doubt as the boys dominated the game and played like a team that is a good chance to win the competition. Final score 45 - 29.

U16 Whites v Dural won 20-17

This away C Div game saw us against a generally big statured side that is made up predominantly of a number of clubs combined into one.

Charlie Worthington put us on the score board with an early try but Dural led this gritty battle heading into half time, up 17-5.

Traditionally we may have buckled under such intense one out attack but, true to form, we stuck it out and beat them by playing good rugby across the park. With Lachlan Demos and Benji Greenstein making light work of our opponents as they tried to dominate the breakdown they hit low and hard, driving us forward to set up Baxter for a try early in the second half. It was the same commitment to the breakdown by everyone that gave time for our backs like Hugo Normand, Giles Provost and Oisin Casey to perforate the line and get quick ball out to Vong Bice who out ran the defence getting us over the line with a further 2 tries. A welcome addition back to our side: Louis Clech- great game. Keep working hard for each other boys.

U16 Greens v Camden won 31-26

In a great initiative by Sydney Juniors, Camden, which is part of the Country Rugby Union and looking for competitive rugby, joined our A Division comp at the start of the year. And when Camden arrived at Nagle they looked fantastic in matching collared shirts, trousers and a few Stetson hats here and there.

Our boys started the match with “where in the hell is Camden, anyway” attitude, which turned to dismay when the Warriors turned over the ball 3 times in the first 5 minutes. Camden had come to play that’s for sure.

After the initial shock, the Warriors settled in and worked the overlap for fly half, Zac McConnell, and backrower, Charlie Rich, to score. Outside centre, Christian Smirnotis, was also causing havoc in mid field and was unlucky not to score, while Ethan King and Michael Hill were doing some great work in close.

The second half was similar to the first with our boys scoring (no 12 Bradley King and No 15 Damon Askie) but failing to really stop the big boys from Camden making in roads around the ruck. A wonderful try by our most improved player, second rower Cameron CJ Vakuata, sealed the match although there was late surge by Camden which led to a loud “YEEHAH” from the Camden supporters, much to the amusement of our bench.

Looking forward to the rematch in Camden and some good country hospitality.