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**2016 Season Annual Report**  
**Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union Inc.**



**Thank you to the support of our sponsors during the 2016 season: -**

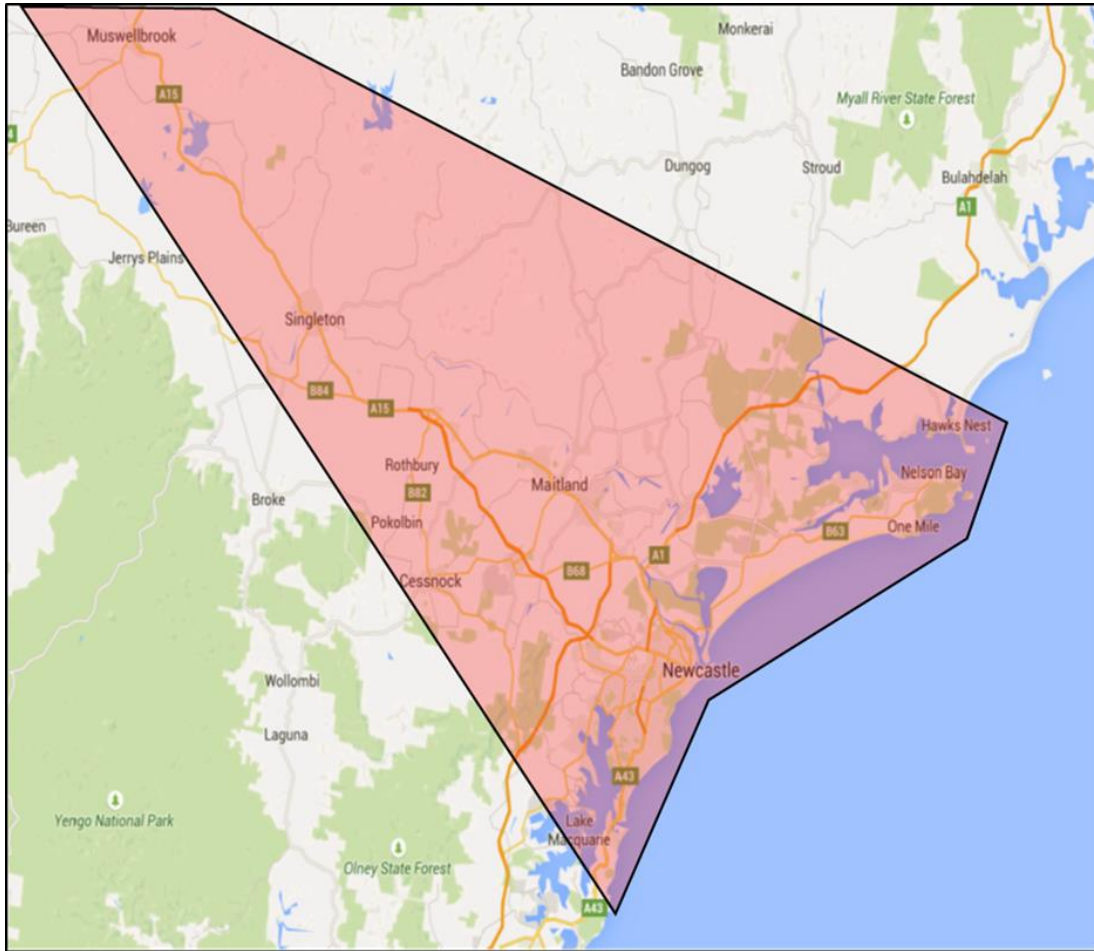


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## The NHRU Rugby Zone



## 10 Clubs Participated in Premier Rugby during 2016



MEREWETHER CARLTON RUGBY CLUB



## 10 Clubs Participated in Division Rugby during 2016



## 5 Clubs Participated in 4<sup>th</sup> grade Rugby during 2016



MEREWETHER CARLTON  
RUGBY CLUB



## 4 Clubs Participated in Colts Under 19s Rugby during 2016



MEREWETHER CARLTON  
RUGBY CLUB



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**Agenda for 2016 Annual General Meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 5 December 2016 in the Function Room of No.2 Sportsground**

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1. Opening of Meeting, Apologies & Quorum
2. Minutes of last year's (2015) AGM
3. Consideration & Adoption of 2016 Annual Report
4. Election and Appointment of Officers
5. Appointment of Patron for 2017 season
6. Appointment of Auditor for 2017 season
7. Consideration & Confirmation of Honorariums
8. Confirmation of Membership Fees for 2017 season

**2016 Season Board Attendance**

	Eligible For	Attended
Mr Paul Coles- President	13	11
Mr Graham Cowan- Senior Vice President	13	10
Mr Alan Stace- Junior Vice President	13	10
Mr Robert Brenton	13	12
Mr Luke Brown	13	10
Mr Bill Clifton	13	11
Mr Stan McManus	13	11
Mr Brian Rudder	7	6
Mr Paul Ryan (NRURA delegate)	13	11
Mr Andrew Walker	13	12

\* Mr Brian Rudder resigned during the 2016 season

## **ITEM 2 - 2015 AGM MINUTES**

MINUTES OF NEWCASTLE & HUNTER RUGBY UNION INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM OF NO.2 SPORTSGROUND AT 6.00PM ON MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2015.

### **ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & QUORUM**

**BOARD MEMBERS:** P Coles (President), G Cowan (Senior Vice President), A Harries (Junior Vice President), Andy Fairfull (General Manager), J Tate, B Rudder, A Walker, B Brenton, S McManus.

**LIFE MEMBERS:** J Drinkwater, R Robson, K Hole, B Rudder, B O'Shea.

**NRURA:** P Ryan.

**CLUBS:** M Wilson, S Flinn (Cooks Hill), T Ngungutau, B Rawson (Easts), C Bushell, T Trench (Griffins), B Sutherland, S Coleman (Hamilton), M Bartley, R Taylor, N Gerrard (Lake Macquarie), B Emmett (Maitland), S Reid, A Kiely (Merewether Carlton), K Cooper, D Cooper, Lloyd Cooper (Nelson Bay), J Scarborough (Pokolbin), A Cruickshanks, S Thompson (Singleton), M Lindeblad (Singleton Army), Sean Winstone (Southern Beaches), K Johnson (Southern Lakes), D Date (The Waratahs), T Angus (University of Newcastle), A Agresti (Wanderers)

**VISITORS:** B Clifton, A Stace, L Brown, J Wagstaffe, S Johnston, J Nightingale, J Muir.

**APOLOGIES:** T Sambell, M Ostle, D Farrands, D Golan, M Mitchell.

## **PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2014 were TABLED.

The motion to accept the Minutes as a true and correct record of that Annual General Meeting was carried as an Ordinary Resolution on a show of hands.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

The 2015 Annual Report including the President's Report, The General Manager's Report and 2016 Audited Financial Statements were TABLED.

Discussion took place and the President and General Manager answered questions from the floor in regards to the 2016 Annual Report.

The motion to accept the 2015 Annual Report was carried as an Ordinary Resolution on a show of hands.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The President thanked Mr. Alan Harries for his valuable contribution and service to the NHRU over many years.

### **Junior Vice President**

One nomination was received from Mr. Allan Stace. Per NHRU Rule 20(F), Mr. Allan Stace was elected unopposed for a period of two (2) years.

### **Ordinary Board Members**

Five (5) nominations have been received from Mr. Andrew Walker, Mr. John Tate, Mr. Luke Brown, Mr. Bill Clifton, and Mr. Jason Wagstaffe.

The meeting accepted the General Manager and Julie Muir as scrutineers of the ballot.

Post the ballot, and per NHRU Rule 34(2) the following were elected for a term of 2 years: -

- Mr. Andrew Walker;
- Mr. Luke Brown; and
- Mr. Bill Clifton.



### **ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBER**

It was NOTED that the Life Membership Committee approved the nomination that a Life Membership be conferred upon Mr. Andrew Walker.

The motion to confer a Life Membership upon Mr. Andrew Walker was carried as a Special Resolution upon a show of hands.

### **ELECTION OF PATRON**

The Board, before this AGM, had formally invited Ron Robson to continue as NHRU Patron for the 2016 season. Ron Robson was confirmed by way of an Ordinary Resolution on a show of hands as Patron for the 2016 season.

### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

Mark Edmunds of Sidcor was confirmed by way of an Ordinary Resolution on a show of hands as auditor for the 2016 season.

### **HONORARIUMS**

Patricia Cowan's honorarium of \$1,200 was confirmed by way of an Ordinary Resolution on a show of hands.

Stewart Hazell's honorarium of \$1,000 was confirmed by way of an Ordinary Resolution on a show of hands.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEE**

The membership fee being retained at \$2.00 was confirmed by way of an Ordinary Resolution on a show of hands.

There being no further business, the President DECLARED the meeting closed at 7.13pm



## **ITEM 4 – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

### **President**

The President position is vacated and therefore required to be filled. An eligible nomination was received from **Mr. Bill Clifton**.

*Per Rule 20(5) if the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected. Therefore, Mr. Bill Clifton will be elected as President at the 2016 AGM and no ballot will be held.*

### **Ordinary Board Members**

There are three (3) Ordinary Board Member positions vacated and therefore are required to be filled.

Eligible nominations have been received for the following candidates:

- **Mr. Bob Brenton**
- **Mr. Stan McManus**
- **Mr. Dan Gollan**

*Per Rule 20(5) if the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected. Therefore, Mr. Bob Brenton, Mr. Stan McManus and Mr. Dan Golan will be elected as Ordinary Board Members at the 2016 AGM and no ballot will be held.*

## **2016 SEASON PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Season 2016 was again a challenging year for the Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union (NHRU). Many of the decisions made by the NHRU Board during the season were unanimous and followed recommendations by the General Manager. As a result of these decisions the Board has set the platform for change and development of rugby in the Newcastle and Hunter Zone. This change will continue over the next few years.

The NHRU's decision to sanction to an Under 19 competition following the lead of the NSW Country Rugby Union and coinciding with the Hunter Junior Rugby Union (HJRU) move to an Under 17s competition, was challenged by some clubs. The Under 19 competition eventually proceeded with the NHRU being vindicated in this decision with the 2017 competition including an Under 19 competition with an increased number of teams over 2016.

The NHRU introduced new ByLaws for season 2016 which were enforced from Round 1, much to the consternation of some clubs. These ByLaws require minor amendment however are modern, easy to understand and should serve the Union well for the medium to long term. The Player Points System continues to evolve and should assist to deliver a more even competition over the next few years and the continued development of junior rugby.

The Premier competition remained a ten-club competition with the readmission of Lake Macquarie to Premier. Hamilton won the Premier 1 Grand Final, for a second straight year, defeating Wanderers. Merewether- Carlton won 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade saw joint Premiers in Merewether- Carlton and Maitland. Merewether- Carlton were Premiers in the inaugural Under 19s competition. In a new initiative, a "Social 4s" competition was introduced with Wanderers being the initial Premiers. Michael Delore from Southern Beaches was a worthy winner of the Viatek Anderson Medal, again presented at the Grand Final.

In Divisional Rugby Cooks Hill won both the Presidents and Patrons competitions. Participating clubs overwhelmingly enjoyed the competitive nature and structure of this year's Divisional competitions.

Again the NHRU financially controlled both the Premier and Divisional finals series. This was a decision based on the need to improve the NHRU's financial situation. This decision has "borne fruit" for the NHRU as we have returned to a surplus within two years of posting a \$37,000 deficit.

The NHRU's senior and Colt's representative sides travelled to Armidale for this year's Country Rugby Championships. Unfortunately, the senior side was defeated in the final whilst the Colts won their competition. Thank you to coaches Tony Munro and Stu Pinkerton, their respective managers and personnel for their hard work. The NHRU also fielded a Barbarians team against a Country Barbarian side prior to the NRC game in Newcastle.

Once again the NHRU promoted rugby within the Hunter region by hosting a National Rugby Championship semi- final in Newcastle. The NSW Country Eagles played Melbourne Rising on 15 October. A good-sized crowd saw the Eagles advance to the NRC final.

On the weekend of 6/7 November 2016, the NHRU, in conjunction with The Hawthorne Club, hosted the NSW Under 20s 7 a side tournament. Warringah won the men's competition and Waverley the women's. This tournament, and the NRC game, are excellent vehicles to promote our code in the Hunter.

The NHRU launched a new website earlier in the year and produced a digitalised weekly Rugby News Program. Our relationship with The Hawthorne Club has returned to one that is of mutual benefit and looking to jointly foster Rugby in the region.

A new major sponsor for the next three years was also "signed up": RAMS. Thank you to RAMS and our other sponsors: NIB, Tooheys, Viatek, The Hawthorne Club and the Delaney Hotel. Our coverage of Premier games continued with Bar TV and this coverage was extended with the introduction of the weekly "Ruck-Off" show which discusses the main rugby issues during the week. TopBetta was a major sponsor of this coverage.

The NHRU Board and competitions continue to transition with more changes likely over the next few years. In order to assist this transition and as a guide for the future, the NHRU held two themed General Meetings with the clubs covering the Player Points System and future competitions. The results of these two meetings will be ongoing.

The NHRU continues to face challenges which have to be addressed: financial security and increased levels of sponsorship, enabling the building of our reserves so that we can promote and develop the game; continuing to increase the use of volunteers; enhanced usage of social media; and ensuring we provide flexible competitions in which players want to participate. The issue of a new lease for No. 2 Sports Ground, the "Home of Rugby", should be resolved within the next few months.

With many of the difficult issues dealt with or being dealt with, hopefully the new Board will have some clear air to consider the "big picture" issues for the development of and promotion of rugby involving the HJRU, Women's, Referees and The Hawthorne Club in a co-operative spirit.

My thank you to a hard working Board who are all volunteers, especially to Stan McMannus and Bob Brenton for their tireless work during the finals series. My biggest thank you goes to General Manager Andy Fairfull for his work and vision which will ensure the NHRU continues to move forward into the future.

I wish the new President and Board all the best for the future.

**Paul Coles**  
**NHRU President**

## **2016 SEASON GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

During last year's Annual General Meeting we indicated several projects that had either started already in preparation for the 2016 season or were planning to be undertaken during the 2016 season. These projects and their status are indicated below:

- 1) **Implementation of new accounting software** – We implemented the Xero accounting software program and migration was completed during November 2015;
- 2) **Investment in new NHRU website** – The new NHRU website was completed and launched during April 2016;
- 3) **Review and Update NHRU By-Laws** – Completed and adopted during April 2016;
- 4) **Review and Update of NHRU Rules** – Review undertaken however, recommendations have not been circulated for member consultation or subsequent vote (will require a Special Resolution at a General Meeting). This project will be completed during the 2017 season;
- 5) **Renewal of Existing Sponsors** – Viatek renewed for an additional 3 seasons and SpecSavers renewed for the 2016 season;
- 6) **Introduction of New Sponsors** – Rams joined as the major and naming rights corporate sponsor for the next 3 seasons (commenced during the 2016 season); and
- 7) **Renewal of No.2 Sportsground Lease** – Lease arrangements have been negotiated and a 21-year lease has been offered by the NCC (6 years initial term with 3 x 5 year options). The new lease needs to be formally executed and has a commencement date of 1 May 2017 (when the current lease arrangement expires). In addition, we jointly funded some improvements to No.2 Sportsground during the season including the mod grass section on western sideline as you exit the players' tunnel and an ice machine located in the medical room facilities. Our other funding partners on this project were the NCC and Wanderers RFC.

From a competition structure perspective, several changes were implemented for the 2016 season including:

- 1) Premier Rugby transitioned to 3 compulsory grades (P1, P2 and P3);
- 2) Colts transitioned from an u20s age restricted competition to an u19s age restricted competition. The HJRU subsequently made the decision to cap junior rugby to the u17s age bracket in the zone. The NHRU decision to move Colts to u19s age restriction and the subsequent HJRU decision to cap junior's at u17 enabled a 2-year transition pathway into senior rugby via this u19s competition;
- 3) Additionally, to the change in age restriction for Colts, the NHRU moved towards applying the ARU Senior Consenting policies more judiciously. This resulted in the reduction of senior consenting from over 100 players in the 2015 season to approximately 15 players during the 2016 season. One of the results achieved was that the previous practice of the doubling up of u17 and u18 players in Colts games on the same game day was dramatically reduced;
- 4) Removal of Premier Rugby sides from Divisional Rugby competitions;
- 5) Introduction of a 'Social 4s' Friday night competition;
- 6) Divisional Rugby competition restructured to a graded competition with every team playing each other once round robin style before being graded (by ladder position) into the President's Cup or Patron's Shield competitions;
- 7) The Player Points System (PPS) was amended and simplified by moving to a 'local' or 'non-local' category basis as opposed to the previous subjective assessment of a players' 'highest playing level';
- 8) By-Laws were reviewed and amended;
- 9) Adoption of the ARU Disciplinary Guidelines in order to 'come into line' with national guidelines for Judiciary hearings, Appeals and Citing's.

As you can see from the President’s Report and my summary comments above there has been many changes implemented during the last two (2015 and 2016) seasons. During the 2 seasons of implemented change there has been several occasions we have met with opposition from ‘club land’ even resulting in lawyers and other facilitated meetings etc. Time often heals these types of ‘wounds’ as well as provides the ability for reflection, my considered view is that our ‘change management’ and ‘communication’ may have been handled differently in certain circumstances but generally the changes implemented have created a stronger platform for the zone to now move forward with and grow the game at our ‘grass roots level’.

From a financial perspective, the NHRU would not be able to operate with the support of our Sponsors. The 2016 Sponsors included Rams, nib, Tooheys, SpecSavers, Viatek, The Delany Hotel and The Hawthorne Club.

## **2016 Club Participation**

Participation on a ‘per club per team’ basis is shown in the table below.

Club	2016						2015
	Prem Rugby	Colts (u19s)	Social 4s	Pres Cup	Patr Shield	Total Teams	Total Teams
Cessnock Rugby Club				1		1	1
Cooks Hill RC				1	1	2	2
Easts RUC		1		1	1	3	2
East Maitland Eagles RC					1	1	0
Griffins RUFC					1	1	1
Hamilton Hawks RUFC	3		1			4	4
Lake Macquarie RUFC	3					3	2
Maitland RUFC	3	1	1			5	5
Medowie & Districts RUFC				1		1	1
Merewether Carlton RUFC	3	2	1			6	5
Muswellbrook RUFC				1		1	2
Nelson Bay RUFC*	2					2	3
Newcastle University RUFC	3		1			4	4
Pokolbin					1	1	1
Singleton Army Lions RC				1		1	1
Singleton RUFC	3					3	4
Southern Beaches RUFC	3					3	4
Southern Lakes RUFC					1	1	1
The Waratahs RUFC	3					3	3
Wanderers RUFC	3	1				4	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>

\* Nelson Bay withdrew P3 during the season

The tighter application of ARU Senior Consenting policies, the change in age restriction of the Colts competition to u19s, and the lifting of the compulsory Colts participation by Premier Clubs resulted in the Colts competition reducing to 5 sides in the initial u19 competition format for the 2016 season. Initial team nominations for the 2017 season indicate that the Colts competition will grow to 7 teams for the second-year iteration of this u19 format.

The introduction of the Social 4s saw Premier Rugby Clubs depart Divisional Rugby competitions during the 2016 season (President’s Cup and Patron’s Shield).

## **2016 Zone Registrations**

Player registrations per Club is summarised in the table below. The NPF player levy (\$33 per player) was introduced by the ARU at the start of the 2015 season. Clubs became a lot more judicious with registrations in order to avoid paying the levy on behalf of individuals who did not take the field for the regularly.

The 2016 season player registrations statistics indicate a reduction of 11 registered players when compared to the previous season.

<b>Club</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Cessnock Rugby Club	34	36	27
Cooks Hill RC	68	52	52
Easts RUC	107	59	177
East Maitland Eagles RC	32	-	34
Griffins RUFC	45	35	53
Hamilton Hawks RUFC	128	143	139
Lake Macquarie RUFC	135	85	147
Maitland RUFC	150	156	131
Medowie & Districts RUFC	31	30	38
Merewether Carlton RUFC	176	209	166
Muswellbrook RUFC	39	45	58
Nelson Bay RUFC	94	84	137
Newcastle University RUFC	147	114	182
Pokolbin	62	49	61
Singleton Army Lions RC	55	35	51
Singleton RUFC	119	142	115
Southern Beaches RUFC	101	145	129
Southern Lakes RUFC	35	35	59
The Waratahs RUFC	102	119	147
Wanderers RUFC	157	255	160
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>2,063</b>

Analysis of players doubling up the starting of at least 2 games on a game-day indicates that there are more competitions being played and administered than the number of registered players throughout the zone. This is aiding the issue of a divide being created between perceived ‘stronger’ clubs and ‘weaker’ clubs.

## 2016 Season Results

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### 2016 Minor Premiers

<b>Premier 1</b>	Hamilton Hawks
<b>Premier 2</b>	Merewether Carlton
<b>Premier 3</b>	Wanderers
<b>Colts</b>	Maitland
<b>President's Cup</b>	Easts
<b>Patron's Shield</b>	Cooks Hill

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### 2016 Major Premiers

<b>Premier 1</b>	Hamilton Hawks
<b>Premier 2</b>	Merewether Carlton
<b>Premier 3 (Joint)</b>	Maitland & Merewether Carlton
<b>Premier Colts</b>	Merewether Carlton 2
<b>President's Cup</b>	Cooks Hill
<b>Patron's Shield</b>	Cooks Hill

## 2016 Sponsors

<b>Naming Rights:</b>	RAMS
<b>Major Sponsor:</b>	nib
<b>Corp Sponsors:</b>	Viatek Specsavers Tooheys
<b>Rep Program:</b>	The Delany Hotel The Hawthorne Club My Sports Tape Canterbury Ethos Health
<b>Media Partners:</b>	Newcastle Herald NBN BarTV
<b>Advertisers:</b>	Street Real Estate NRURA



## 2016 Season Award Winners

<b>Award</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Club</b>
Viatek Anderson Medal	Michael Delore	Southern Beaches
Kia Toa Shield		Wanderers
Jack Scott Medal (Colts)	Lachlan Milton	Merewether Carlton
Burke Medal (President's)	Benjamin Heriot Cameron Young Mark Wilkinson	Muswellbrook Muswellbrook Singleton Army
Bert McGregor Medal (Patron's)	Adam Hewitt	East Maitland
Premier 1 Top Point Scorer	Luke Simmons	Wanderers
Premier 1 Top Try Scorer Mullen Family Trophy	Tim Marsh	Wanderers
2016 Premier Club Championship		Hamilton
2016 Coach of the Year	Johan Lourens	Southern Beaches
Tooheys Club of the Year		Singleton
Tooheys Encouragement Award		East
Col King Medal	Des Gilbert	
NSWRU Zone Ref of the Year	Dru Tonks	

## 2016 Financial Summary

The NHRU Board set financial targets commencing in the 2015 season which are shown in the table below. Actual audited results for both the 2015 and 2016 seasons are also shown as comparisons to these original financial targets set. The full 2016 Audited Financials are included as an Appendix to this Report.

<b>Financial Measure</b>	<b>Actual 2014FY</b>	<b>Target 2015FY</b>	<b>Actual 2015FY</b>	<b>Target 2016FY</b>	<b>Actual 2016FY</b>
Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,809)	0	16,055	6,000	31,797
Depreciation Expense	28,168	29,000	29,505	31,000	30,618
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(37,977)</b>	<b>(29,000)</b>	<b>(13,450)</b>	<b>(25,000)</b>	<b>1,179</b>

The Net Surplus of \$1,179 for the 2016 financial year represents a 109% improvement over the previous corresponding financial year (2015). The main driver for the improved result was the hosting of all NHRU competitions final series at No.2 Sportsground as well as improving the gross margin earned from these events to 44% of events revenue compared to the 31% gross margin run rate earned in previous seasons.

Revenues, excluding events income associated with hosting final series, declined by 8% from \$307,000 to \$282,000 during the 2016 financial year. The main impact was the reduction of administration services fees received from the HJRU during the season which was \$20,000 less than the previous year.

Expenses, excluding events expenses associated with hosting final series, increased by 1% from \$340,000 to \$343,000 during the 2016 financial year. While the expense mix did change throughout the season the total increase in non-events related expenses represents a below CPI index increase.

While the previous 2 seasons have outperformed the original targets set by the NHRU Board, the upcoming 2017 season will prove the 'litmus test' to the ongoing financial stability and at least 'break even' status of the NHRU. In this ever-increasing competitive commercial world, we like every other not for profit sporting association, is experiencing difficulties in sourcing new or additional sponsorship and/or advertising revenues. We are also experiencing that the sponsorship and/or advertising revenues that we have been successful in sourcing are costlier to deliver in terms of service levels and exposures they require than in previous arrangements or seasons.

As discussed during recent General Meetings the cost of the representative program, while significantly reduced over the last 2 seasons, is being questioned by members in terms of the delivery of pathways for players.

## **Judiciary Panel**

A special thank you to the following Judiciary Panel members who sat throughout the 2016 Season.

- Doug Williams (Chairman of Judiciary Panel)
- Mark Davison (Deputy Chairman of Judiciary Panel)
- Greg Wilson (Appeals Chairman)
- Jason Wagstaffe (Citing Commissioner)
- Darrell Stapleton (Judiciary Panel)
- Sandy MacNeill (Judiciary Panel)
- Peter Harris (Judiciary Panel)
- Trevor Hadley (Judiciary Panel)
- Trevor Bates (Judiciary Panel)

There were 49 Judiciary Panel hearings held over the 2016 season. The above panel not only had to contend with the adoption of the ARU Disciplinary Guidelines but the majority of them sat on all the cases in order to achieve greater consistency.

## **Other Volunteers**

There are several other special mentions that need to occur for time and effort devoted to rugby in our zone during the 2016 season. These include:

- Jason Wagstaffe (final series volunteering)
- Brian Rudder (final series volunteering)
- Sue Rudder (final series volunteering)
- Stuart Hazell (season photography)
- Greg Sellers (final series volunteering)
- Sam Coles (final series volunteering)
- Trevor Bates (final series volunteering)

The NHRU Board also gave up most their weekends for the months of August and September to host all NHRU competition final series at No.2 Sportsground. Special mention must go to Paul Coles, Stan McManus and Bob Brenton who 'bore the brunt' of the hours required to support the final series.

To assist with the promotion of rugby throughout the zone the NHRU agreed to host a 2016 Semi-Final NRC game as well as jointly host (with The Hawthorne Club) the State u20s 7s Tournament.

During the season, Julie Muir joined the NHRU as Competitions Administrator. On a personal note, I would like to thank her for her valuable contribution and her definite 'beyond the call of duty' efforts during the 2016 season.

I would also like to thank Paul Coles for his support during his time as President, Graham Cowan for his support for all rugby operations matters during the 2016 season, Allan Stace for all finance matters support during the 2016 season, Greg Wilson for his time and support as NHRU Honorary Solicitor, Mark Queenan (president elect for The Hawthorne Club) for his support, advice and encouragement during the 2016 season and finally, Terry Woodward for his liaison and support with NSWRU and NSWCRU during the 2016 season.

**Andy Fairfull**  
**NHRU General Manager**

## **The Year Ahead – 2017 Season**

Competitions have already been announced and Initial Team Nominations have been received for the 2017 season from NHRU member clubs. Initial indications are that the Colts u19s competition will strengthen with an additional 2 sides being entered.

Dual registration was experimented with for the first time during the 2016 season. Initial discussions indicate that the concept of dual registration will be further applied for the upcoming 2017 season. Medowie have agreed to become the 'stand-alone' P3 side for Nelson Bay via dual registration. Singleton Army have agreed to become the 'stand-alone' P3 side for Singleton via dual registration. Pokolbin will continue their dual registration arrangement with Maitland for the upcoming season.

The PPS cap and amendments have been announced for the 2017 season. By-Laws will require some 'tweaks and amendments' over the off season from what we have learned during the implementation and application of their first edition during the 2016 season.

NHRU Rules will be reviewed and amendments put before members during the 2017 season.

We will also continue to source and 'bid for' the hosting of rep games and tournaments at No.2 Sportsground.

We have measured and analysed that there is a willing, interactive and involved 'Rugby Community' in the Newcastle & Hunter Region



**FB:** 20,000 post clicks per week



**NHRU.com.au:**  
Over 220,000 sessions per annum



**RNW:** Over 3,000 views per week



**Database:**  
37% Open Rate  
11% Click Rate



**BarTV:** Over 5,000 views per week



**Finals Series:** Over 12,000 spectator visits. Over 12,000 views on NBN for GF. Over 35,000 views on BarTV during finals

**Thank you to the support of our sponsors during the 2016 season: -**

