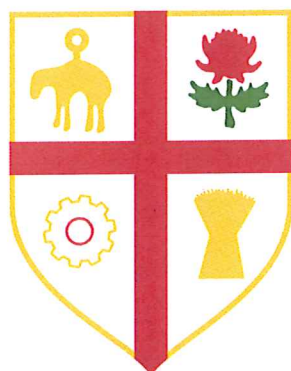


ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016

**NSW
COUNTRY®
RUGBY UNION**



NEW SOUTH WALES COUNTRY RUGBY UNION
OFFICE BEARERS 2016

Patron:	Laurie Maher	
Life Members:	Lloyd Bullock (Dec'd) John Hipwell O.A.M. (Dec'd) Laurie Maher O.A.M. Dexter Porter O.A.M. (Dec'd) Bill Rowlands O.A.M. (Dec'd)	Bruce Cousens Harry Ivimey O.A.M. (Dec'd) Terry Orman David Rodgers Jon White
President:	Barry Ruddy	
Vice President:	Paul Verrell	
Directors:	Bruce Fergusson Larry Thomson Greg Whiteley	Luke Stephen Peter Veenstra
Executive Officer:	Terry Woodward	
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Councilors:	Central Coast Central North Central West Far North Coast Illawarra Mid North Coast New England Newcastle Hunter Western Plains Country Eagles Country Juniors Country Referees Country Women Players' Representative	Richard Gillings Tony Byrnes Frank Newman Joseph Allen Peter Woods Mark Mackay David Clifton Paul Coles Peter Holcombe Peter Playford John Hamilton Des George Amanda Ferguson Matt Waterford
Delegate to NSWRU:	Barry Ruddy	
NSWRU Voting Members:	Barry Ruddy Peter Veenstra Greg Whiteley	Larry Thomson Paul Verrell
Honorary Solicitor:	Chris Zucker	
Auditor:	Edward Angyalosy CA CPA	



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another strong year for NSW Country Rugby Union and I am always delighted when other members of the Rugby community comment on how well run and positive we are in running our great game.

It doesn't happen by accident, a lot of hard work from a lot of people out in the zones sees us have around 20,000 participants and 17,000 players involved in Rugby. The army of volunteers that make this happen is outstanding and their efforts are truly our major asset.

The Illawarra Warriors made it back to back Caldwell Cups when they defeated Newcastle Hunter in the Country Championships in Armidale. In the Colts Newcastle Hunter retained their title with a close win over the Central Coast, while Hunter had to overcome stiff opposition to retain their title in the Women's. Next year we are in Port Macquarie and are looking to add a Woman's Sevens competition, so watch out for that as we continue to grow this very important piece of the NSW Country Rugby landscape.

On the field the Cockatoos came very close to winning their three key games, only just going down to Queensland Country in the dying seconds of our game in Toowoomba. Great wins over NSW Subbies and Brumbies Provincial preceded this game, and the style of Rugby being played was certainly of a very high standard.

The Colts program was unfortunately derailed and apart from the Southern States Championships in Adelaide no other games could be scheduled. We are determined to rectify this in 2017, as Colts are the next generation and we want to ensure they have opportunities to progress.

The Corellas had an outstanding year, which saw them claim the Plate Shield at the National Championships for the second time in three years, while the selection of Sarah Riordan and Alana Paterson in the Wallaroos capped off the year. Also congratulations to Paul Verrell (Coach) and Amanda Ferguson (Manager) on their Wallaroo appointments.

I am also pleased that this year we had much stronger connection with the NSW Country Eagles, and I was fortunate to attend three of their matches this year. Again a great style of fast, physical and open Rugby was played and it's a delight to watch. The Eagles made it to the NRC Final, and whilst they came up against a red hot Perth outfit, they certainly did Country proud.

To my Board, thank you very much for your time, dedication and wise counsel. Getting across the nuances of what comes at us from NSW RU and ARU, together with keeping it all ticking over is no mean feat and we are very fortunate to have such skilled representatives. To Paul Verrell who is standing down from the Board, a big thank you for your contribution and support. Our best wishes to you and to the Wallaroos.

Finally, to Terry Woodward our Executive Officer. The amount of time and effort he puts in to ensure all the administration runs smoothly does not go unnoticed.

Balancing the match day manager role for the Waratahs and supporting the Zones, Juniors, Referees and Representative Programs is at times very demanding, yet he does it all and makes it look easy. He also got specifically called upon to assist the NSW Country Eagles with their match day management due to his skills at running these events and helped make those games run without incident. A big thank you to you, all you do is greatly appreciated.

Please enjoy the upcoming festive season with your loved ones, be safe and I look forward to kicking off a big 2017 and keeping NSW Country Rugby at the forefront of Rugby in NSW.

Barry Ruddy
President NSWCRU



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2016 Season for NSW Country Rugby Union was again successful, but in order for this success to be achieved, the Union together with the Affiliates, Zones and Clubs had to overcome an ever increasing number of hurdles.

The ever increasing issue of finances, or for the want of better words, lack of finances, continues to be a major issue for everyone involved with Country Rugby, and Rugby in general.

Costs associated with the running of the Union, Affiliates, Zones and Clubs continue to increase, while the avenues for income, especially sponsorship, continues to become tighter and tighter. The lower you go down the Rugby food chain, the higher the costs seem to become, and this is really starting to become an issue, especially at club level.

The continued reduction in funding flowing from the National Union to State Unions, is starting to kick in, with the flow on effect resulting in funding being cut to those further down the funding chain. State Unions are now dependant on the National Participation Fee (NPF), a fee which was introduced by the National Union to overcome the shortfalls of funding in Australian Rugby. NPF solely goes to the State Unions to fund their respective Community Rugby Programs, which includes the Development Officers. NPF brings Rugby into line with other sports and is here to stay, and it's disappointing that some clubs haven't embraced the concept, and haven't accepted the need to include the NPF in their fee structures.

Even allowing for the above issues, the Affiliates and Zones continued to administer, promote and present the Game of Rugby across Rural and Regional New South Wales in the now customary professional manner. Each of the competitions were strongly

contested, with semi-final positions in the majority of competitions going right down to the final round of the regular season. Final series were by far the best on record, with crowds across the zones being very healthy, and in several instances, record breaking in total attendance, with in excess of 50,000 plus individuals supporting the nine zone final series. There were several milestones set in relation to breaking premierships droughts, maintaining reigns, reigns coming to an end and disappointment for some who came so close, but finished up not in the winner's circle.

Whilst the on-field performances were very positive and exciting, there were several off-field issues which saw the game in some zones brought into bad light, which was as a result of some clubs not wanting to abide by the rules and regulations. There has now developed a trend of some clubs thinking they are bigger than the Game, and when things don't go their way it's time to run to the media and lawyers at ten paces. Rules and regulations are there for a reason, and if they are adhered to and applied correctly, it's a simple process, but there are some clubs who think they are above this process. It was pleasing to see the support the ARU and NSW RU provided to NSW CRU and several zones, as a result of some clubs thinking they were bigger than the Game.

Whilst there were injuries sustained during the year, thankfully there were none of a severe nature as last year, but there are still some clubs who are allowing non-registered players to participate. This continues to be a major concern, and all zones need to adopt a zero tolerance in the handling and penalising of the offending clubs, as there will come a time when an insurance claim for an injured non-registered player will be declined.

I would again like to thank the Zone Administrators for their support throughout the season, which saw some subjected to abuse and pressuring as a result of them simply doing their jobs and applying rules and regulations. There has only been a few name changes from last year - Kate Thomson (CCRU), Tony Byrnes & David Rodgers (CNRU), Paul Ryan & Peter Veenstra (CWRU), Wayne Millane (FNCRU), Peter Leiner & Larissa McKellar (IDRU), Bob Wilson (MNCRU), Richard Croft (NERU), Andy Fairfull & Grahame Cowan (NHRU) and Vivian Slack-Smith (WPRU).

Our Affiliates continue to get the job done, with each group working in well with their respective zones, which contributed greatly to the successful Country season across the state. The Country Eagles under the new merged arrangements participated in the NRC with new zest, and only faltered at the last hurdle in their attempt to take out the title.

The finances reflect the Union as being in a healthy state, but the final modest negative result was achieved on the back of the cards falling the way of the Union in some areas. A \$50K loss in overall sponsorship came at a very bad time for the Union, but a strong budget and ongoing monitoring throughout the year achieved the result. The cancellation of the latter part of the Colts program curtailed spending, while the on and off field kit earmarked for the Colts is held in stock and will be utilised next year. NSW Rugby Union and the Waratahs continue to be the Unions major financial supporters, and I again thank each organisation, but they too are feeling the pinch, and their support could be reduced moving forward. On a positive

note the Union was able to meet all their financial obligations, and at the same time maintain funding levels to the affiliates.

Our “Family of Sponsors” has dwindled following the loss of The National Roads & Motorists’ Association, QantasLink and Ruffie, but AGL, Classic Sportswear, Best Western Australasia, Beiersdorf, Gilbert Footballs, International Sports Tours, The Rugby Club and Balanced Image Studio continue to provide cash and kind in various sponsorship arrangements. Without their continuing ongoing support the Union would struggle, and it’s important the current arrangements are maintained, and additional sponsors are secured. I would like to thank the current sponsors for their support, which is the lifeblood of the Union.

The Country Championships continue to be the showcase of the Union, with this year’s event in the New England being a massive turnaround from the big wet the previous year. Armidale turned on magnificent weather, which saw the senior and colt teams respond by playing some outstanding Rugby, with the four finals being the highlight of the championships. Congratulations to Illawarra (Caldwell Cup) and Newcastle Hunter (Rowlands Colts Cup) for making it back to back wins, while Central West’s big effort to take out both the Richardson Shield and Colts Shield will see both teams in the top division next year. Next year will see the Country Championship caravan travel to Port Macquarie, for what should be another fantastic event, which will feature a Women’s Sevens Championship.

Not to be outdone, the Women’s Championships in Tamworth were the best on record, with a record number of zones participating, which saw a record number of players take to the field. The standard of play was high, which provided stiff competition, and it was Hunter’s experience which saw them retain their title.

Our representative programs had some highs and lows, but the important thing is that players are now seeing Country Rugby as a pathway, which has the potential to provide opportunities down the track. The relationship with the NSW Waratahs Academy Programs has been strengthened, and I would like to thank Tim Rapp from the NSW Waratahs for his support of Country Rugby. I would also like to thank the Coaches, Managers and Support Staff of the three representative teams, as their commitment and professionalism is first rate.

Cockatoos again had the opportunity to test themselves against the Australian U20’s, a match which the players relish, even though they end up on the wrong side of the score-line. The Brumbies Provincial XV were blown away, while the “Maher/Ross Cup” was reclaimed from NSW Suburban with a record winning score, but the “Battle of the Borders Cup” was relinquished to Queensland Country in a heart breaking last minute loss.

The Cockatoo Colts participated with mixed results in the pre-season Southern States Championships in Adelaide, but due to the circumstances beyond the Union’s control, the latter part of the season had to be shelved. Planning is well advanced to ensure a program is in place for 2017, and with the change to U19’s, ACT, Queensland Country and NSW Waratahs will provide strong opposition. I would like to thank the Colts Coaching and Management for their understanding, in what was a disappointing set of circumstances.

On the back of a strong championships the Corellas were able to select a new look squad, which saw the team and several individuals enjoy a very successful season. Strong results against Sydney and at the Southern States Championships set the team up for the National Championships, at which they had to compete in the "Pool of Death". Everyone took notice when an historic win was achieved over Queensland, and it was on a countback that the team was placed in the Plate Final instead of the Championship Final. They went on to take out the Plate Final for the second time in three years, while Alana Patison and Sarah Riordan were selected in the Wallaroos Training Squad, before going on to earn two International Caps against New Zealand. Since then Kate Gilbert has been added to the Wallaroos Training Squad, and is now in contention for selection in the Wallaroos Team for next year's Rugby World Cup in Ireland.

I would again like to thank and congratulate the NSW Country Rugby Union Board for the direction they are giving the Union. This Board under the presidency of Barry Ruddy has been together for several years, and during this time they have been able to place the Union in a strong position. I would like to acknowledge outgoing director Paul Verrell for his efforts during his time on the Board, and wish him every success as coach of the Wallaroos.

Next season again holds a lot of uncertainties, but I'm sure those associated with the administration of the "Game in the Bush" will again rise to meet these uncertainties and challenges, as has been the case over many years.

Terry Woodward
Executive Officer NSWCRU



Once again we have had a successful year of rugby both at zone championship and representative levels.

After trying some changes on how we ran the Country Championships for older ages last year, we have reverted to running these events exclusively as Country events. We held the country championships, U12's to U18's, over three consecutive weekends.

The first event was held on the Central Coast at Ourimbah for the U17's & U18's. U17's was taken out by Hunter, while the U18's was won by a very good Central Coast team. Thanks again to Gary Head and the Ourimbah club for hosting a very successful carnival.

The next weekend, we journeyed to Lismore for the under U12's, U13's and U14's. I have been to Lismore on a number of occasions for rugby events and they are always run very well with first class facilities. We were fortunate enough to have the mayor of Lismore, Jenny Dowell, attend the carnival and she presented the winning teams with their medals. U12's was won by Hunter, U13's saw joint champions with

Central West and Hunter unable to be separated, and the U14's was won by Hunter. Congratulations to the Hunter on a very good performance in all these age groups.

The final weekend of the championships was held at Scone for the U15's & U16's. Thanks to Michelle Edwards for organising such a successful event. U15's was won by Central West and U16's was won by Central Coast.

After these championships country representative teams were selected. I would like to thank the selectors from the various age groups, they did a very professional job which often goes unrecognised. Teams were selected for U14's, U17's and U18's, together with squads of 40 for U15's & U16's which competed as two teams at the regionals, and then the teams was narrowed down to a playing group of 23.

We continue to work hard on providing meaningful representative games for our various age groups. We played both ACT and Sydney in all age groups. Both these fixtures offer us very competitive games and help to develop players to experience rugby at the next level. We also had a fixture against CHS for U16's & U17's, while the planned U18's fixture being washed out. We have developed a good relationship with CHS and it is planned to hold this event again next year.

The U17's and U18's toured Western Australia, where they won all games, although the game against WA for the under 18's could have gone either way. It was played in driving rain as the curtain raiser for the Western Force game. This was a good opportunity to experience how a professional game of super rugby is run first hand for the players. It was also good to have a number of ex country players who are playing for Western Force talk to the boys. They included Matt Hodgson who presented the jumpers before the game, Ben McCallman and Rory Walton who mingled with the players after the game. I sometimes think that the people who run professional rugby forget the significance of such occasions on young rugby players in being able to talk to these elite players. Let's hope we have more opportunities like this for all our junior players throughout NSW Country. I know the new CEO of NSW Rugby, Andrew Hore, is keen to see this happen, so I encourage zones to be proactive about trying to facilitate this.

The U18's played a midweek game against GPS at Hunter Hill. They were very competitive in this game and just lost. We are working with schools to enhance this age group and give our U18's the best possible opportunities at this level. While schools have a set program of representative rugby, a number of our players have left school, or are attending TAFE and don't have the same representative opportunities that school players do. Hopefully down the track we will have a state competition for all U18 players and not just players who attend school. It's an important age group and we need to offer these players every opportunity to play representative rugby.

Our U16's played at an Invitational Tournament during the September school holidays then toured NZ straight after. From all accounts it was a very enjoyable tour with three very tough games against Auckland provincial sides.

A sevens carnival was held at Coffs Harbour this year. It was similar to the event held last year, but instead of just being a country event it was a state event with teams from Sydney competing. We had a number of our zones attending in U15's & U17's

for both boys and girls. Central North won the Boys U17's and a number of country players were asked to represent NSW at the Youth Nationals in WA later this year. As this area of the game progresses we need to look at how we can help it develop throughout our country zones.

I would like to thank all the coaches, managers and trainers from all the age groups. They give freely of their time and expertise to further develop young players at a representative level. Your efforts are really appreciated by our board and me.

This year we had support and sponsorship from Victor Sports, Spartan, NSW Country Rugby and NSW Rugby. We really appreciate their support which helps promote and give players the opportunity to play at representative level. Playing representative rugby for NSW Country Juniors is a costly exercise for players and parents to participate, your help and assistance helps reduce the costs to each player, so thanks again.

I would like to congratulate all players who represented their zones, and either NSW Country Juniors or NSW Juniors. It is a great achievement and hopefully you have made lifelong friends, as well as, had some great experiences. None of this could happen without the help and support of all the parents and volunteers. Without your assistance in getting players to events it would not happen.

I finally think the hierarchy of rugby is getting the message that the grassroots of rugby is important. I don't think we want much, just recognition that we exist at a junior level. The reality is that their elite players come from junior ranks so they ignore us at their peril.

Next year there have been changes made to junior gold with the competition now being based around U15's and U16's. The U15's will be run as 10 teams from throughout Australia. NSW country will be one of those teams, there will no longer be country zones playing. We will play in the NSW draw which at this stage hasn't been clearly defined. My understanding is that there will be games over three weekends mid to late September, with the NSW pool winner playing the Queensland pool winner late in September. We are still waiting for complete clarification of this, but I think it is a good move as players won't be expected to play rugby 12 months of the year.

The U16's age groups is moving back to a national event to be held over the last week of September. We will not have a team in this event, as it's planned to have two NSW sides. At this stage it is planned to continue with the regionals in the first weekend of the July school holidays, and on the last week we will play Sydney Juniors and NSW Schools, from which the two NSW sides will be selected to compete in Queensland. We are meeting with Tim Rapp from NSW RU, so hopefully we will be able to clarify this a little more moving forward.

I would like to thank my committee for all their help throughout the year. We could not run our events without everyone pitching in and giving their help. I would thank Mick Sutherland who is our secretary, he does an enormous amount of work for our organisation and it wouldn't be nearly as successful as it is without you. Our treasurer Stuart Burke is standing down this year. Stuart has done a great job under difficult

circumstances. He has had criticism from other organisations but as far as I'm concerned Stuart you have done a great job. I think some of these people who have criticised us fail to realise that we are all volunteers and do this for the benefit of the game not ourselves. I have valued your input and your options while we have worked together and I hope you still find time to express your ideas to me and future country boards.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and successful 2017. We are here to work with you to improve rugby for all juniors, male and female, throughout Country NSW.

John Hamilton
President NSWCJRU



2016 was a season of consolidation and growth for the CRURA.

The rugby season started in February and finished late October. CRURA sent two referees and a coach to the Darwin 7's. The Junior Gold Cup ran during February and March where CRURA appointed to many of the U15 and U17 matches. Our referees were at the National Women's 7's and Women's National Championships, together with being at the NSW State Championships and Country Junior's Championships.

Our coaches attended the National Women's Championships, and the season finished up with referees and coaches at the Central Coast 7s. One of our referees has been invited by the ARU to the Dubai 7's as a Referee Coach, with three referees invited to the Darwin 7's in January 2017. This reflects the sound working relationship and recognition CRURA has established with the ARU and NSW RU.

Our focus in 2016 continued with referee coach development. We had several new coaches invited to assist at Country Carnivals throughout the year and continued our referee mentor program at the Country Championships to facilitate referee feedback on coaches to the Chairman of the CGB.

The Armidale School Primary Schools carnival continued to be our major referee development tool with young referees from Country, Sydney and TAS officiating supported by our coaches. This is a tremendous tournament and of huge value to CRURA.

The limited Country Representative Program was a disappointment from the referees' perspective with only one senior match available at which to officiate. The State Junior championships continue to be an opportunity for our developing referees to gain recognition on a broader base. Our thanks to NSW Juniors for the opportunity. These Championships are however expensive and NSW is again slow in providing assistance.

We may need to reassess our objectives in 2017 with the Caldwell Cup and Richardson Shield the only senior competitions. All other events are either Women's or U19 Laws. With limited Junior Gold Cup commitments late in the season, we will also have a reduced demand early in the year.

Unfortunately we lost our major sponsor University of New England at the start of the year, leaving a hole in our finances. Our other sponsors Protective Fencing, and Orica Mining Services have again supported us in 2016. Additional sponsorship proposals are currently under discussion. Our Bank account is sound and our budget for 2017 will need some trimming. Our cash situation early in the season will be limited until our grant monies become available from Country Juniors, Country Seniors and NSW.

I would take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of Terry Woodward from NSW Country. Again thanks to our Registrar Mike Lyons and Ian Richardson our CGB Chairman. A mention to Darrell Jones who stepped in as Secretary early in the year after Fred Boog's unexpected resignation. All these gentlemen have combined to make 2016 another successful year for the CRURA.

Des George
President CRURA



It has been a busy year in NSW Country Women, and it gives me great pleasure to present this NSW Country Women's Rugby Report for 2016.

This year the representative team played seven (7) matches, with four of these being played at National Championships. The rugby scene for Women is undergoing much change at present where a huge emphasis is being given to 7's rugby.

The year began for Country with the Country Championships which were held in Tamworth on the 30th April. Hunter won the Championships and were deserved Champions for this year. However the inclusion of teams from Illawarra, Central North and New England was a huge bonus, and certainly made for tough matches for the traditionally strong NSW Country Women's rugby powers, Hunter and Central West. These Championships were one of the best for many years with an excellent sprinkling of players from all across NSW Country.

The selected representative team then played games during May and June in the lead up to the National Championships. They were defeated by Sydney in Newcastle, and at the Southern States Championships in Wagga Wagga, the team had a win over the Victoria and a loss to ACT. The team competed very well at the National Championships at Riverview, registering three wins and a loss, which included an historic win over Queensland. These results saw the team compete in the Plate Final, which they duly won. Alana Patison (prop) and Sarah Riordan (centre) were selected in the Wallaroos training squad after these National Women's Championships, and following on from the recent training camp they were selected in the Wallaroos Squad

that toured New Zealand. It should also be noted that NSW Country stalwarts, Paul Verrell (Coach) and Amanda Fergusson (Manager), are vital cogs in the Wallaroos.

Many thanks go to coaches Michael Burgess and Murray Hooper for their efforts with this team. They did a wonderful job in the development of this team over the year. Thanks also to Pam Thomson and Tammy Clay, who did a wonderful job as Team Managers.

7's rugby also became a potent force in women's rugby in recent years. Its importance has been increasing but this year it definitely made its mark. NSW competes at the Nationals 7's as a state team, and several NSW Country players were selected in the NSW teams that competed at these Nationals.

Many thanks to the delegates from each of the Zones, your commitment is not easy as you are all so busy trying to ensure Women's rugby continues in your own area as well as at the representative level.

Many thanks to the Board of the NSW Country Rugby Union for your moral and financial support. I would like to thank the Executive Officer Terry Woodward for his continued support of Women's rugby and for the help and advice. Thanks also to the NSW Country sponsors, your support is gratefully accepted. It has been a good year, and already planning has commenced for 2017.

Larry Thomson
Chairperson NSWCWU



As the legendary American Coach, Joe Paterno quoted, *'When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality'*. The NSW Country Eagles, under the hashtag of #asonewefly, took off on the 27th of August, to tackle what would turn out to be their most successful season to date, both on and off field.

NSW Country Eagles, led by Chairman Peter Tonkin, and embodied by the other 6 owners, set out with a simple mission; to give the NSW Country regions a taste of professional rugby, help grow and invigorate the game at a grass roots level and provide a platform for the next generation of players to go on to higher honors. This year we well and truly exceed this mission:

1. For the first time in NRC history, we took a Grand Final out to the 'bush', with Tamworth playing host to the game against Perth Spirit.
2. Prior to our NRC games we hosted a number of initiatives aimed at growing the game at grass roots, including Women Seven's games, VIVA Sevens tournaments, Schoolboy Rugby Games, and a big Country Representative game in Newcastle.

3. At the time of writing this, Kyle Godwin had just made his Wallabies debut, taking the total to 3 Wallabies Debut for Country Eagles players this season. Congratulations to Tom Robertson, Tolu Latu and Kyle Godwin for achieving the highest honor possible in our game.

SUPPORT NETWORK

The NSW Country Eagles have one of the largest catchment areas of any team in the NRC, and this means we have a lot of people to thank for their ongoing support;

Our affiliation with the **NSWCRU** went up another level in 2016, a big thank you must go to President Barry Ruddy and Executive Director, Terry Woodward, who also served as the Eagles Match Day Manager in 2016. Both these gentlemen went over and above in their support of the Eagles this year and played crucial roles in ensuring that the NSW Country Eagles set the standard both on and off field this year.

To Gary Walsh and the **Tamworth Rugby Community**, Andy Fairfull and the **Newcastle Rugby Union, Orange Council** and the entire Orange rugby community (we did everything possible to try and get the game played in Orange, planning has begun for next year) and everyone else we came in to contact with on our 2016 Journey. Having been my first involvement with NSW Country I was blown away and encouraged by the support and energy of everyone in the 'bush' and want to thank absolutely everyone for their efforts. With everything going on in rugby at the moment if we could just bottle all your energy and release it over the country the Wallabies would win every game by plenty. We look forward to working with you again over the coming seasons to show what we can do together.

Without the financial, and I now realise, emotional (blood, sweat and tears) support of our sponsors this program would not happen at all, we are very fortunate to have 4 amazing sponsors and they deserve huge praise for their efforts in 2016:

- **ELDERS** – Thank you to Mark Ellison, Greg Dunne, Nick Hall and especially Paul Reid for their energy and passion for the game of rugby. From the development tour in Scone, to the grand final in Tamworth we felt so proud to have ELDERS on the front of our jersey and look forward to continuing this partnership on from many years to come.
- To our next level of sponsors, **CROPCARE, CANTERBURY** and **NSW FARMERS**, thank you for the support you provided, from rocking out the best 'outfit' in the NRC, to having the 'CROPCARE Eagle Eye' and proudly supporting the NSW Farmers organization it was all your support that made this season possible.

And to our amazing club affiliations, **Randwick, Eastern Suburbs** and **Sydney University**, thank you for your support of this program, the players are truly the most important asset in all of this and to have the support of the clubs is really important. And to see 3 Wallaby debuts, and a number of players signing up to Super Rugby clubs shows that together we can create a powerful network and pathway.

COACHING

This season the bar was lifted again in terms of on field performance, to Darren Coleman and the entire coaching team, Daniel Parks, Shannon Fraser, Brad Harris

and Mark 'Jock' Giacharri, congratulations on providing the best program for these players to develop. The level of expertise these guys provided is second to none in this competition and we look forward to continuing to build on this over the coming years. Also on the playing front, Congratulations to Jakes Gordon who took out the best player award and to Tom Hill who was best team man.

HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

We were very fortunate this season to have secured the services of Kath Rae (Doctor), Barry Chan (Physio) and Michael Stephens (S&C), to head up, what I believe to be the best medical and S&C team in the NRC. Coming in to the Grand Final we only had two players in a squad of 35 that were not fit to play. This is a huge effort and a testament to Kath, Barry and Michael and their support staff for their hard work throughout the season.

SUPPORT CREW

And last but definitely not least, to a special group of off field experts, Pauli Taumoepeau, Ryan 'Midge' Turkington, Murray Hudd, our media experts Henry and Nick and the awesome and amazing trio of Jess, Cass, and Alyssa from the Avant Agency Group. Thank you for absolutely everything, you were the heartbeat of this team, from hitting 1000 Instagram followers, to the launching of the Eagle Eye, to packing up and setting up the gear every single night and game day, to the game day activations (thanks also to Simon and the mojo team), the list could really go on. This team would not function without you and I look forward to doing it all again next year.

Next year we plan to step it up another level again, our commitment to the Country regions will continue with the Eagles playing all 4 games in the Country, continue to push the boundaries for match day entertainment, promote rugby across the grass roots level, and provide the platform for players to play at the highest level. My question to everyone is – are you coming to our next game?

Peter Playford
General Manager



Central Coast Rugby Union has enjoyed a very pleasing 2016 rugby season.

Each of the competitions have once again been closely fought this year, with both Premier 1 and 2 in particular being the most open in many years. The season culminated in the Grand Final at Woy Woy Oval which saw the largest crowd on record since the start of the CCRU competition in 1975. It typified what proved a very good year.

The Zone competed at the Country Championship earlier in the year. The Senior team under Coach Stew Jenkins and his support staff put in a great effort after they had to

step in when the appointed coach had to suddenly go overseas. Coach Brett Marchant and the Colts team played in the top division this year and were defeated in the final in a close encounter. They have been so close over so many years and the win must come soon.

Kate Thomson did a wonderful job as the Administration Officer again this year, as well as being CCRU Registrar. There would be no better administrator in Country Rugby. David Bowler also did a good job as Judiciary Chairman in his first year in this difficult role.

The clubs had a positive relationship with the CCRU this year. It is a difficult time in club land, with many associated issues in just trying to keep teams on the paddock. Financial concerns, player registrations, player welfare, insurance, gaining sponsors, etc, there are so many matters that are a continual strain on what is usually a small group of volunteers at each club.

The competition ran well, but this is not denying there are issues happening. There are 10 clubs in CCRU, ranging from very professional clubs to clubs who are trying to rebuild, while others are trying to be competitive both on and off the field. It is the responsibility for all of us to assist all clubs to keep things all on an even keel. The aim is to have all 10 clubs with 4 senior grades, and with junior teams from Under 7's and up. Thanks also to the Zone Affiliates for their efforts, to the Juniors, Schools and the Referees Association whose task is always thankless. They each have a difficult role, but have progressed through the season with great success.

Like all Zones, there are a large number of volunteers involved in Central Coast Rugby, and their efforts, whether for clubs, affiliates or at zone level, can never be underestimated. Thanks also to the Wyong Rugby League Club Group for their support of our Zone this year. We look forward to their continued support in the future.

Congratulations to the clubs who won Premierships this year. Terrigal had an outstanding year across the board, culminating in the Premier 1 Premiership, their first since 2000.

Premier 1	Terrigal	Premier 2	Woy Woy
President's Cup	Gosford	U19's	Avoca Beach

Congratulations to those players and officials who won major awards at our annual Presentation Evening. It was a great evening where the success of clubs and of individuals was recognised. The major Award Winners being:

Syd Noble 'PLAYER OF THE YEAR' -	Josh McGLYNN (Gosford)
Senior Rep. Player of the Year -	Ethan McINNES (Terrigal)
Colts Rep. Player of the Year -	Lapana VITALE (Woy Woy)
Club Person of the Year -	Tony FOX (Hornsby)
Coach of the Year -	Chester SCOTT (Terrigal)
Terry Woodward Award for Service -	Kate THOMSON
Club of the Year -	TERRIGAL RUGBY CLUB
Club Championship -	TERRIGAL RUGBY CLUB

Highest Points Scorer -

Aaron TAIT (Terrigal)

NSW RUGBY 'Referee of the Year' -

David HALL

Thanks for the opportunity of presenting this Report, and I wish all Zones the very best for 2017.

Larry Thomson
CCRU President



Central North Rugby Union

A great 2016 competition culminated in a big win by Pirates in First Grade, while Moree knocked off Pirates in Reserve, and the Farrer Agricultural High School posing as Barraba took off with the 16's and 18's Colts silverware.

No silverware this year for our representative teams but the seniors managed to claw its way up a point in the Caldwell Cup rankings. Unfortunately it was the reverse for the 20's being relegated to the bottom tier.

The Women's XV acquitted themselves well at the Country Championships held at Tamworth earlier in the year, and with the increasing interest in Women's rugby we look forward to participating in the in the 2017 Country Championships in Foster.

Plenty of drama early in the season when forfeits were the order of the day, however all Clubs worked hard to put two senior teams on the paddock each week and in the main were successful. There is work to be done to improve our Colts program. All Clubs are facing challenges with a diminishing participation rates, competition from other sports and the diminishing player base in the smaller rural towns.

Congratulations to the Magpies in hosting the NSW Country Eagles in round three of the National Championships. A great day with the usual fast, furious and thrilling NRC style of rugby. This year the Eagles called Tamworth home for the NRC Final against the Perth Spirit. Played at the brilliant Scully Park Stadium in Tamworth the Spirit clipped the wings of the eagles to win a close game.

All Clubs and affiliates worked well as a team throughout the year and as one is looking ahead to advance rugby in Central North. The Vision 2020 planning day held post competition consolidated many views into a number of strategies to take us through the next four years and beyond.

Thanks to the referees for again making our game possible and they were always up to any challenge we could throw at them. The Zone looks forward to a developing relationship with the CNRRA through 2017. As a Zone we need to work closely with CNRRA to improve recruitment and retention of referees

So, the two tier structure; how did it go? Central North does not enjoy the luxury of enough Clubs to have a permanent two division competition but the arrangement this year provided an opportunity for any one of the top 6 Clubs to have a second crack at the silverware. Both Quirindi first grade and Barraba reserve grade proved this to be so with Quirindi coming through the second Tier undefeated only to go down in a close elimination final against 3rd placed Moree while the Barraba Reserve Grade came from left field to win a place in the final 4 eliminating the favoured Magpies along the way only to lose out in the Reserve Grade preliminary final.

Quirindi also celebrated 60 years of continuing rugby and the marked turnaround in its playing fortunes was a deserved birthday present.

This report bears a grievance about the accounting process relating to the National Participation Fees. The current process is messy and hard to manage involving Zone and Club personnel in working with a flawed method of accounting. Rather than go into the details, Central North is of the view that subject to the appropriate training, the full functionality of Rugbylink should be applied for the purposes of the registering and payment of the NPF.

The ARU has indicated that it is rolling out a number of Workshops around the country and has indicated that it will be in the Central North area in February next year. Central North will take this opportunity to train up Clubs to be able to complete the registration and fee payment on-line and other useful functions available or able to be activated. Central North does not waver from its support of the NPF as it is seen as the only way to keep rugby in Australia viable. Having said that, a rundown on the system since introduced would be useful in terms of knowing how much, how was it distributed and who got what? Some comparative statistical data would be also be useful e.g. changes in participation rates.

On closing could I thank NSW Country for its support of Country Rugby and I thank Terry Woodward for being accessible and obliging when assistance was required.

Tony Byrnes
CNRU President



Central West Rugby Union has had a very successful 2016 season in both domestic competitions and representative Rugby and as a Zone we continue to have the 2nd largest number of registered players in NSW Country Rugby (NSWCRU) in both juniors & seniors.

Wet weather and availability of venues played a major role in our competitions this year and all Clubs are to be congratulated on their patience, their ability to

compromise and their willingness to ensure that wherever possible games went ahead sometimes at alternative playing venues.

With the introduction by the ARU of their Rugby-Link Registration and Competition Manager system and the complexities of implementing and utilization of this system at a Club level, CWRU held an Education Day at CSU Orange in February. Presented by ARU personnel, the Club Registers and officials who attended were able to obtain the skills necessary to operate this system to the benefit of their Club. Also included on the day was a session on Club Administration skills and a Refereeing in Practice session.

Plans are underway to hold an expanded Rugby Education Day on February 18th 2017.

The Blowes Clothing Cup Competition saw the age limit for Colts (in line with NSWCRU) lowered to U/19 with nine clubs fielding teams in a keenly contested competition. The Colts Grand Final was won by Bathurst Bulldogs 15 over CSU Bathurst 9.

Orange Emus won back to back 1st Grade Grand Final with a 14-11 win over Forbes. The match was played on a very heavy field and was decided with a penalty goal to Emus out wide in the 80th minute. The 2nd grade Grand Final was won by Dubbo Kangaroos 21 to Emus 17. Dubbo Kangaroos also won the 3rd grade Grand Final defeating Bathurst Bulldogs 24-21.

In the 15 aside Women's competition the Grand Final was contested by Cowra and new comers Mudgee in their first season. Cowra won 22-7.

We welcomed two new Clubs, Temora and Cootamundra to participate in the GrainCorp Cup. In addition these two Clubs plus West Wyalong and Grenfell played a 7's Women's Competition which was keenly contested and ultimately won by Temora 29 over West Wyalong 24.

To accommodate Temora and Cootamundra the GrainCorp Cup Competitions were played in three conferences of five Club home and away for rounds 1- 10.

Following the completion of these rounds the Clubs from the central division (Blayney, Canowindra, Molong, CSU Orange and Yeoval) were combined with the northern and southern divisions.

The Grand Final winner in the northern competition was Trangie with a strong second half performance to defeat Molong 24 – 7.

The Grand Final Winner in the southern competition with back to back Grand Final wins was Blayney over Cootamundra 31 – 12.

In representative rugby Central West Rugby Union had a most successful season. Preparations commenced in February and continued through March and April with a steady build up to the NSWCRU Championships at Armidale in May.

The Blue Bulls played two matches on day one of the Championships securing wins over Mid North Coast (MNCRU) and Far North Coast (FNCRU) to progress to the

final of the Richardson Shield. CWRU played New England (NERU) for the Richardson Shield with CWRU winning 68-12.

The Colts played Mid North Coast (MNCRU) on day one with CWRU progressing to the Final with a 29 to 14 win. In the NRMA Colts Shield CWRU defeated Illawarra District (IDRU) 25 – 22 in a most entertaining game.

My thanks to the representative team staff for their efforts throughout the season. Both teams achieved their goal of winning their respective competitions and progressing to the Caldwell Cup and Rowlands Colts Cup Competitions in 2017.

CWRU continues to have the benefit of a well-organised and pro-active Referees Association. Our referees continue to unfailingly donate their time and expertise, without which we simply would not flourish. CWRU continues its involvement with our referees to implement procedures which further increase the number and participation rate of referees within our zone, and to provide an enjoyable experience and further training opportunities for both new and established referees.

The commitment and expertise demonstrated by the CWRU Judiciary Panel and the discipline shown by players in our competitions has once again been exceptional. The overall number of Judiciary Panel hearings required has further continued to decrease. My congratulations go to all players and club officials for this outstanding achievement.

The continued support we receive from our sponsors, Blowes Clothing in the Major Competition and GrainCorp in the single team competition plus the commitment from D'Aquino's is invaluable. I would urge all Clubs and their members to support our valued partners.

Currently the Union is involved in discussions with Clubs in an endeavour to provide a viable and sustainable two team competition from 2017 onwards and also with Clubs to determine a suitable format for the Women's competitions within the Zone.

With the assistance of all Clubs, CWRU looks forward to continued success in 2017.

To you and your families have a safe & happy holiday period and we look forward to the 2017 Rugby season.

Frank Newman
President CWRU



The 2016 FNCRU season was a season of great contrast, the quality of rugby played at odds with some troubling issues off the pitch.

Firstly, congratulations must go to this seasons Premiership winning teams; Wollongbar – Alstonville going back to back; Mullumbimby capping a fine season

with a fine victory; and Iluka winning a maiden title but also overcoming challenging circumstances in President's Cup.

It would be unfair not to also congratulate the other clubs who contested the grand finals this year: Evans River, Ballina and Byron Bay. Congratulations on not only reaching the grand final but on combining with the other clubs to draw one of the biggest grand final crowds in recent years.

On field matters aside, there have been good parts and bad to this past season. The main bad part in my opinion is the continuing absence of an Under 17, 18 or 19 competitions. This matter is very troubling for the future of senior rugby. There seems, from the responses received, a real reluctance by many clubs within the Zone to participate in any board generated initiative to attempt to halt or reverse the departure of teenagers from our game.

I must commend board members Kelvin Langfield and Jeffrey Brooks for their efforts in addressing this problem, efforts that have so far gone without reward or, very sadly, any tangible success. There is still hope that Jeffrey's Secondary School Competition comes to fruition and reaps some reward, an initiative that I really hope that clubs will take the time to get involved in. Not to labour the point, but the attraction and retention of young players cannot be solved by emails and pieces of paper coming from the board. Only the clubs have the community contacts and people power required to turn the issue around. I am sure whomever is part of the FNCRU Board next season will be willing to support any effort to get kids playing rugby and keep them playing.

As far as the Board itself goes, I think it is reasonable to say that there has been a lot of frustration, not only within the Board, but with the performance of the Board as well.

Having been a board member in both the old "Small Board" and the new "Big Board" formats, I can say without doubt that the "Big Board" model does not work. The Big Board could be as inefficient as it could be ineffective, often with inconsistency in attendance leading to the frustration of the Board members and great wasting of the hours those members had to devote to rugby. The big Board has also seen a very disappointing amount of partisan "club first" attitudes and some cases of people being elected to the Board with no intention of making any contribution at all. I think it's fair to say that the clubs have largely become more professional in how they govern their internal affairs. Now the time has come for the FNCRU Board to become more professional in its format and function too.

Having now had my say, I will offer my thanks to the members of the Board for their patience. Many of the meetings were long, often dull and sometimes completely fruitless.

I will also congratulate the Mullumbimby and Byron Bay Rugby Clubs for taking the longer term view of the situation that was put to them this season. I found their attitude very refreshing and a prime example for others.

Lastly, I will say thank you on behalf of the Board to our long suffering Zone Administrator Wayne Millane. Wayne does a huge amount of work for the Zone, most of it over and above the official scope of his position, and often without regard

to the time of day (or night) or day of the week. How Mrs Millane has put up with it so long I'll never know.

Joseph Allen
President FNCRU



It is with great pleasure that I can advise you that the 2016 season has been a most successful one in the Illawarra for both seniors and juniors.

First success was of course the winning of the Caldwell Cup in the Senior Country Division for the second time in a row and a most improved Colts. The reason for this was that this season it was decided that both the Colts and the Seniors would train together and would work on a pattern of play that was identical. This meant that if players were needed to play up a higher grade they knew what was required of them. It also meant that there was far more intense competition at training as the Colts challenged the senior players and vice versa. This encouraged a greater feeling of the Illawarra sides being in this together and not being separate identities.

Second achievement was the strengthening of our competition, the standard of rugby has been raised and that there were a number of teams vying for semi-final positions. Whereas before there were the usual two or three who could take out the trophy, it now meant that there were five or six teams that were viable and overall the senior grade competition was very competitive. This also filtered down into the lower grades.

The zone has also received applications from two clubs, one a new club and the other a club that was playing in Sub-Districts to come back to play in the Illawarra competition. Their view is to commence in Third grade and grow their player base so that they would, within a period of five years, be looking at fielding teams in the First, Seconds, Thirds and Colts. The very pleasing factor is of course that they both wish to field junior sides in the 2017 competition in some age-groups.

The result of the Senior competition was that the Wollongong University triumphed over Woonona Shamrocks in extra time. The Second grade competition was won by Campbelltown by one point over Shamrocks with a penalty goal 40 metres out from the sideline in a swirling wind, and in Third grade the Vikings Rugby Club defeated Vincentia with a try in the last seven minutes. The day was an immense success and credit must be given to the Woonona Shamrocks as they participated in the First and Second Grade finals and were the overall Club Champions for 2016. This was a tremendous turn-around from being in the doldrums the previous year.

The junior competition has been turned around, in that player participation which had gone down and/or was stagnant in 2015 has now grown again, and this is very

pleasing to the junior committee. The future of further teams coming in has been of great significance and encouragement for all concerned. The junior representative sides participated in all their respective carnivals and were a credit to the district. We must also thank our referees association for their commitment to the year as with increased teams it has meant the supply of referees became greater and as the competition in the seniors rose in competitiveness, so did the refereeing standard which was of great pleasure for all concerned.

We all know that all the above could not be achieved without the hard work of the club committees and of the volunteers who put so much into the season for their respective clubs. The writer has always pointed out to all concerned that we are all in this together, that we make up what I refer to as the "Illawarra Rugby Family" in that whilst we are committed to our club, we must also acknowledge the commitment of all other clubs, their volunteers and their spectators, and we must always aim for the betterment of our code.

We also acknowledge the great support of Terry Woodward who has been of immeasurable assistance whenever problems have arisen and his advice and guidance is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all the Country zones for their commitment to Country Rugby at both senior and junior level. It has been a pleasure to be part of it and we, in the Illawarra, look forward to being part of Country Rugby Union in the future.

Peter Woods
President IDRU



An incredible amount of positive activity has occurred over the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Zone's Executive Officer Bob Wilson for his efforts and hours of hard work. Bob contributes to the success of our Zone in many aspects and continues to be a valuable asset for the Zone.

To my fellow Board members thank you for your ongoing support and hard work. I would like to pay special mention to the Zone's Finance Director David Owen, as your work effort and contribution is very much appreciated and a credit to the Zone's success. Michael Tonks, Paul Butcher, Richard Jagger and Dave Nicol each of you have contributed in so many ways and I am very grateful to have each of you working for the ongoing success of the Zone. It has been a pleasure working with you. We are very much a united board and I look forward to working with you all again in 2017.

To the Zone's marketing partners TELSTRA and Teale Bryan your ongoing commitment to all aspect of Rugby on the Mid North Coast is tremendous. We are proud to have such a strong brand as TELSTRA associated with Mid North Coast

Rugby, and we look forward to continuing our partnership in 2017. The Settlers Inn , Southern Districts Rugby Club, Phillips Foote Restaurant at The Rocks and Team Spirit, thanks to each of you for contribution to Rugby on the Mid North Coast, it is all very much appreciated.

CLUB RUGBY

Congratulations to all clubs who competed during the course of the 2016 season at both senior and junior levels. The inclusion of the Grafton and Wauchope into the UMNC competition has been a tremendous success, and I thank both of those clubs for their contribution towards the growth and development of Mid North Coast Rugby Union.

The Friday night junior program held in both Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie continues to be a terrific success and the hard work completed by both those committees, volunteers, parents and supporters ensures we are providing a wonderful pathway for the game of rugby to kids of all ages. I would like to thank outgoing Friday night Port Macquarie President Craig Smith for his commitment and passion towards junior rugby. Your contribution has been outstanding and you leave with the junior program in a very healthy position.

A wonderful achievement from the LMNC clubs who embraced their own Friday night rugby competition held at Taree, involving the age groups U8's, U11's and U12's. This is a significant achievement for junior rugby on the LMNC and is considered the first steps in developing junior players for the LMNC clubs. A special thanks to Mat Morris, Lee Sullivan, Daniel Hessing, Damian Daczko, Mark Coble, Stuart Paynter, Tia Ambrosoli and Graham Sonter on achieving such a wonderful program and terrific result for LMNC juniors.

Women's Rugby commenced in the UMNC in season 2016 and this was a tremendous result for all clubs who engaged in the program. Thanks to James Perrett and Graham Sonter (NSWRU) for your contribution on ensuring women's rugby has a place and contribution to the growth of MNC rugby. The zone is committed to the women's program moving forward into the 2017 season and we encourage all clubs to invest time and energy into this competition. The success of our Olympics Women's 7s team has generated large interest in women's rugby and we as a Zone must continue to grow this format on the back of their success.

The U14 UMNC moving to a club based Saturday competition has proven a wonderful success. Clubs have embraced this opportunity and we now see clubs hosting tremendous full days of club rugby from U14's through to senior fixtures. A continued positive approach to the U14 program in 2017 will see the inclusion of other clubs fielding teams in the U14 age group to ensure its long term success. Congratulations to the Southern Cross Marlins U14's who won the 2016 grand final.

The U16 and U18 competitions provided sensational rugby during the course of the season. Congratulations to the Coffs Harbour Rugby Club who were victorious in the U16 grand final, and congratulations to the Southern Cross Marlins who took out the U18 grand final. The Coffs Harbour Snappers were awarded the 2016 Club Championship, congratulations to Mathew Joyce and your committee, players and coaches on achieving a wonderful result.

The LMNC competition again provided solid rugby during the course of the season and the grand final played between the Forster Tuncurry and Wallamba was a terrific advertisement for Rugby on the MNC. Congratulations to Foster Tuncurry who ran out winners. Well done to Damian Daczko President of the Foster Tuncurry and Daniel Hessing President of Wallamba. Special mention to the hundreds of supporters who attended the day and made for a terrific spectacle.

Hastings Valley Vikings dominated the UMNC competition in both First and Reserve Grade, with Grand Final wins over Coffs Harbour in Reserve Grade and the Kempsey in First grade. The First Grade grand final was a terrific spectacle with a spirited performance from the Kempsey, and the hundreds of Kempsey supporters who travelled contributed to a wonderful spectacle, and is a credit to the Kempsey club. Well done to the Kempsey President Brad Taylor and your committee. The final was a fitting game to finish off the UMNC 2016 season. Congratulations to Chris Trutwein, Gill Hopley and the Hastings Valley Committee for hosting the 2016 Grand Finals, your hospitality was terrific and a wonderful club result taking out the 2016 Reserve grade and 1st Grade UMNC Premierships.

REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY

Mid North Coast entered Senior and Colts teams into the Country Championships held in Armidale. Both teams applied themselves very well to this competition and represented our Zone with plenty of energy, professionalism and pride. I would like to thank the coaches of both teams, Andrew Kable & Brett Davies (Seniors) and Mark Hudson & David Birch (Colts) for their efforts this year and over the past few years. Each of you leave your positions knowing you have given 100% commitment to the cause of growing and developing representative rugby on the Mid North Coast. You have all paved a strong pathway for future coaches to enter the program and carry on with your legacy. The Board is very thankful for your contribution.

To all the Junior Representative coaches, managers, players and trainers your work and contribution to the growth of junior rugby on the Mid North Coast is very much appreciated. It is with great pleasure to promote that season 2016 provided over twenty Mid North Coast Junior players that went on to represent New South Wales Country Junior Cockatoos in various age groups. This is a remarkable achievement, a credit to the players, coaches and people responsible for delivering a wonderful MNC representative program. This enforces that the MNC is fast becoming a powerhouse in junior rugby and major stakeholder in the NSWJCRU programs. Special thanks to Dave Nicol and Richard Jagger, well done all.

Moving forward into the 2017 representative season, it is with great pride to announce the Mid North Coast will host the 2017 Country Championships. The venue will be Regional Stadium Port Macquarie and held over the weekend of the 29 & 30 April. For the first time in Championships history the format will comprise Seniors, Colts and a Women's 7's tournament. This will provide our Zone with the opportunity to promote our strong rugby culture to all other zones and NSWCRU, and confirm that the Mid North Coast is fast becoming a major stakeholder for the NSWCRU.

We are pleased to announce a new Senior coaching panel led by Angus Anderson, Scott Leis and former Wallaby & ACT Brumbies James Holebeck. Further to this we have also engaged the services of former Wallabies backs coach Tim Lane and

current Australian U20s coach Allan Gaffney who will work with the coaches as guest coaches. MNC Colts and Women's coaches will be announced in the near future. This represents a very exciting time for Rugby on the Mid North Coast. The coaching program will not only comprise the representative teams themselves, however will be extend to all coaches at clubs, both seniors and juniors. The experience of our representative coaches will extend into clubs with the clear focus on developing all aspects of rugby on the Mid North Coast. The Senior representative program was confirmed and announced last week. I encourage you all to participate and engage on this wonderful opportunity.

EVENTS

I would like to take this time to congratulate Mid North Coast referee Mr Andrew Birch on achieving a wonderful result of officiating his 150th 1st Grade fixture during the course of the 2016 season. Andrew is a credit the referee fraternity and a wonderful asset to Mid North Coast Rugby. I hope Andrew remains officiating within our zone for many years to come. Further to this, on behalf of all the Mid North Coast Rugby community, I would like to thank all the referees who contributed to a successful 2016 season, in particular Richard Rogers and Michael Tonks. I would like to thank NSWRU Development Officer James Perrett for his ongoing commitment and work ethic towards growing and promoting junior rugby within our zone. James's activity in many schools within our zone, supported by Graham Sonter is tremendous. We as a Zone are very fortunate to have James Perrett working and promoting Rugby.

BOARD'S FOCUS FOR 2017

We will continue to work hard for all members and stakeholders of the MNC Rugby Union. Ongoing engagement between board members and clubs is vital for the success of our zone. The valuable information that clubs provide to the board is key for success in so many areas, and decisions that are made which affect our zone must have club consultation. We will endeavor to seek new marketing partners and promote our zone to as many outlets as possible, ensuring financial growth and stability. We will continue to work hard and implement referee recruitment and retention programs. Ongoing reviews of all senior and junior competition structures to ensure we are providing the best possible product to the rugby community of the Mid North Coast.

In closing, to all club Presidents, coaches, players, committee members and volunteers I thank and congratulate you all on your professionalism and the hard work you contribute to ensure the values and ethos of rugby remains strong. You have all contributed to the growth and development of rugby within our zone and your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you for your support during 2016 and I look forward to working with you again in season 2017.

Mark Mackay
President MNCRU



New England Rugby Union enjoyed a very successful year, which was highlighted by the hosting of the NSW Country Rugby Union Championships, establishment of a Women's Sevens Competition and a record breaking Grand Final crowd attendance.

Competitions were conducted in three senior grades and a Women's Sevens, together with occasional non-competition fourth grade matches being played. Overall the standard of play was good, with few incidents, which saw the Judiciary Committee only having to meet on three occasions. St Alberts College took out First & Second Grades, Armidale won Third Grade, while Glen Innes won the inaugural Women's Sevens Competition.

Each club is to be congratulated on their respective seasons, especially Glen Innes in first grade, who fulfilled their season commitments as a one team club, which at times was very difficult. Clubs were up to speed with the Rugbylink registration and competition management system, which was overseen by registrar Kathy Hagan.

Grand final day wrapped up the season with a record crowd in attendance, which was up by 30% on previous years, with each of the matches being strongly contested. The Sport UNE team provided excellent playing fields, while the Rotary Club of Armidale North again professionally managed the gates, BBQ, canteen and bar operations.

Armidale turned on great weather for the Country Championships, with the event running smoothly, thanks to the hard working team of volunteers led by Luke Stephen. The event was well supported by spectators and in particular local sponsors, which ensured the event was conducted without financial loss.

The zone returned a financial surplus for the season, which was achieved on the back of the Country Championships financial result and profits from the final series. This will put the zone in good stead for the 2017 season, but representative team expenses will increase due to an increase in the number of teams playing away.

The local Referees Association covered each of the local matches each weekend, together with home GPS and Junior matches, which is a great achievement for such a small association.

The success of the season wouldn't have been achieved without the hard work put in by the Zone Officer Bearers who all contributed throughout what was an enjoyable season.

David Clifton
President NERU



Season 2016 was again a challenging year for the Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union.

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 U19 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 U19 competition eventually proceeded with the NHRU being vindicated in this decision with the 2017 competition including an U19 competition with an increased number of teams over 2016.

NHRU introduced new By-Laws for season 2016 which were enforced from Round 1, much to the consternation of some clubs. These By-Laws 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 re-admission 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 U19 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 break-even within two years of posting a \$38,000 deficit.

NHRU's Senior and Colts representative sides travelled to Armidale for the Country 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. 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. NSW Country Eagles played Melbourne Rising on 15 October, at which a good sized crowd saw the Eagles advance to the NRC final.

On the weekend of 6 & 7 November the NHRU, in conjunction with The Hawthorne Club, hosted the NSW U20s 7 a side tournament, with Warringah winning 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.

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 discussed the main rugby issues during the week. TopBetta was a major sponsor of this coverage.

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. 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 thanks you to a hard working Board who are all volunteers, especially to Stan McManus 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
President NHRU



Western Plains Rugby Union

Firstly a big thank you to everyone personally for helping this season run smoothly it's appreciated as this was my rookie year.

Congratulations to our premiers Nyngan and Bourke, both teams deserved the win on the day, also to club champions Coonamble. It was pleasing to see four clubs involved in the grand final day, it certainly gave the day some colour. Thank you to the clubs that hosted the games throughout the final series they all went off well despite the weathers best efforts to spoil the fun.

This year was the first season in a number of years that all clubs entered a team into second grade, a big effort for most clubs as they had players backing up in two games every week. Although a lot of the games were played as 10 a side having a full complement of teams involved was fantastic for those younger or not first grade players to get a game every week. I think the effort this year will pay off in the future as the more rugby there is to play the more likely we are to attract new players and hopefully build to a full strength competition.

The first grade season went off well. There were obviously some issues as there always will be, and these will be discussed later. Apart from our finalists the competition seemed to be fairly even with most of the teams capable of beating each other on any day.

We had two clubs celebrating their sixtieth anniversary this year, and it was fitting they both made the grand final and both took home some silverware.

Thank you to everyone involved in running the clubs, but the group of people willing to give up their own time seems to be getting smaller.

Finally a big thank you to Greg Whiteley for his advice, and Vivian Slack-Smith for all her work, it seems like you don't get the recognition you deserve, but it's all greatly appreciated.

Peter Holcombe
President WPRU



COUNTRY ZONE 1ST GRADE PREMIERS 2016

- **Central Coast Rugby Union:** Terrigal Rugby Club
- **Central North Rugby Union:** Pirates Rugby Club
- **Central West Rugby Union:** Orange Emus Rugby Club
- **Far North Coast Rugby Union:** Wollongbar Alstonville Rugby Club
- **Illawarra District Rugby Union:** Wollongong University Rugby Club
- **Mid North Coast Rugby Union:** Hastings Valley Rugby Club (North)
Forster Tuncurry Rugby Club (South)
- **New England Rugby Union:** St Alberts College Rugby Club
- **Newcastle Hunter Rugby Union:** Hamilton Rugby Club
- **Western Plains Rugby Union:** Nyngan Rugby Club



COUNTRY CHAMPIONS 2016

- **Caldwell Cup:** Illawarra District Rugby Union
- **Richardson Shield** Central West Rugby Union
- **Rowlands Colts Cup:** Newcastle Hunter Rugby Union
- **Colts Shield:** Central West Rugby Union
- **Women's:** Hunter Women's Rugby Union



COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 2016

Caldwell Cup

Illawarra	31	Central Coast	17	
Newcastle Hunter	33	Central North	18	
Central North	25	Central Coast	11	3 rd & 4 th Play Off
Illawarra	18	Newcastle Hunter	15	Final

Richardson Shield

Central West	31	Mid North Coast	10	
Central West	47	Far North Coast	0	
Far North Coast	36	New England	24	
New England	23	Western Plains	12	
Mid North Coast	20	Western Plains	5	Seeding Play Off
Central West	68	New England	12	Final

Rowlands Colts Cup

Central Coast	17	New England	14	
Newcastle Hunter	62	Central North	5	
New England	17	Central North	10	3 rd & 4 th Play Off
Newcastle Hunter	18	Central Coast	13	Final



COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 2016

Colts Shield

Central West	29	Mid North Coast	14	
Illawarra	38	Far North Coast	24	
Far North Coast	48	Mid North Coast	14	7 th & 8 th Play Off
Central West	25	Illawarra	22	Final

Women's

Central North	40	New England	0
Central West	5	Central North	0
Central West	5	Illawarra	0
Central West	41	New England	0
Hunter	31	Central North	0
Hunter	40	Central West	0
Hunter	19	Illawarra	12
Hunter	48	New England	0
Illawarra	7	Central North	0
Illawarra	45	New England	0

REPRESENTATIVE TEAM MANAGERMENTS 2016



NSW COUNTRY COCKATOOS

Coach:	Mat Thomas
Assistant Coaches:	Scott Coleman Shaun McCreedy
Team Manager:	Matt Waterford
Assistant Team Manager:	Scott McKellar
Doctors:	David Cannon Brian Witt
Physiotherapist:	Ben Mahon
Selectors:	Mat Thomas Scott Coleman Shaun McCreedy



NSW COUNTRY COCKATOO COLTS

Coach:	Chris Coleman
Assistant Coaches:	Ross Hopkins Paul Jeffery
Team Manager:	David Hawthorne
Physiotherapist:	Casey Williams
Selectors:	Chris Coleman Ross Hopkins Paul Jeffery



NSW COUNTRY CORELLAS

Coach:	Michael Burgess
Assistant Coach:	Murray Hooper
Team Managers:	Larry & Pam Thomson
Assistant Team Manager:	Tammy Clay
Physiotherapist:	Kim Duckworth
Selectors:	Michael Burgess Murray Hooper Larry Thomson



NEW SOUTH WALES COUNTRY COCKATOOS RESULTS & SQUAD 2016

Representative Match Results

• Australian U20's	Lost	0 – 61
• Brumbies Provincial	Won	48 – 5
• NSW Suburban	Won	31 – 17
• Qld Country	Lost	27 – 29

NSW Country Cockatoos Players – 2016

Joe Akkersdyk	Newcastle Hunter	Anthony Allport	Illawarra
Oliver Bartlett	New England	Sireli Bainvalu	Newcastle Hunter
Phil Bradford	Newcastle Hunter	Ben Christensen	Newcastle Hunter
Ben Damen	Far North Coast	Niko Degei	Illawarra
Jerry Faifaise	Far North Coast	Mahe Fangupo	Central West
Charlie French	New England	Sioni Halanukonuka	Central North
Michael Howell	Newcastle Hunter	Nick Hughes-Clapp	Central West
Jason Keelan	Newcastle Hunter	Steve Lamont	Newcastle Hunter
Aaron Loudon	Illawarra	Alain Miriallakis	Newcastle Hunter
Adam McCormack	Mid North Coast	Rapine Mason	Illawarra
Chris Miller	Central West	Simon Newton	Central North
Filisoni Pauta	Central West	Rhys Peters	Illawarra
Robert Richardson	Newcastle Hunter	Paul Taula	Illawarra
Harry Veitch	Newcastle Hunter	Alex Wilson	Illawarra

Will Tanner Senior Player of the Year

Alain Miriallakis	The Waratahs Rugby Club	Newcastle Hunter
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Highest Points Scorer

Ben Damen	Wollongbar Alstonville Rugby Club	Far North Coast
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Leading Try Scorers

Simon Newton	Walcha Rugby Club	Central North
Paul Tuala	Wollongong Uni Rugby Club	Illawarra



NEW SOUTH WALES COUNTRY COCKATOO COLTS RESULTS & SQUAD 2016

Representative Matches Results

• Waratahs U20's	Lost	0 - 20
• Waratahs U19's	Lost	5 - 15
• South Australia	Won	36 - 5
• Queensland Country	Lost	5 - 37

NSW Country Cockatoo Colts Players – 2016

Tim Beare	New England	Daniel Boardman	Far North Coast
Phil Bradford	Newcastle Hunter	Ben Carmichael	New England
Sinclair Clinton	New England	Will Frost	Newcastle Hunter
Jonathan Green	New England	Wade Hannell	Central Coast
Riley Hopwood	New England	Max Hoystead	Mid North Coast
Nathan Illy	Illawarra	Josh Institoris	Illawarra
Ryan Kenny-Wilson	Mid North Coast	Zac McGuinness	Newcastle Hunter
Adam Plummer	Central West	Vincent Robinson	Illawarra
Luke Rees	Newcastle Hunter	Sam Rouse	Newcastle Hunter
Tom Sawden	Illawarra	Rhys Sheriff	Central Coast
Max Stewart	Central Coast	Reuben Thompson	Illawarra
Will Turner	New England	Luke Wiseman	Central Coast

Colts Player of the Year

Phil Bradford	Wanderers Rugby Club	Newcastle Hunter
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Highest Points Scorer

Tom Sawden	Wollongong Vikings Rugby Club	Illawarra
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Leading Try Scorers

Ben Carmichael	St Alberts College Rugby Club	New England
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NEW SOUTH WALES COUNTRY CORELLAS RESULTS & SQUAD 2016

Representative Matches

• Sydney	Lost	12 – 48
• Victoria	Won	41 – 12
• ACT	Lost	7 – 15
• Queensland	Won	5 – 0
• South Australia	Won	24 – 7
• Australian Combined Services	Won	17 – 0

NSW Country Corella Players – 2016

Brenda Auelua	Illawarra	Gerda Condon	Hunter
Britney Duff	Hunter	Ellie Fordyce	New England
Sally Fuesaina	Illawarra	Kate Gilbert	Hunter
Tahlia Goldsmith	Hunter	Sarah Halvorsen	Hunter
Jemima Henry	Illawarra	Angela Hipwell	Hunter
Stacey Howarth	Central West	Isabell Hunt	Central North
Annika Jamison	Hunter	Mele Kavapalu	Illawarra
Dana Lautaimi	Hunter	Syke Lovett	Hunter
Naomi Medlin	Hunter	Alana Patison	Hunter
Sarah Riordan	Hunter	Katrina Sager	Hunter
Jessica Scadding	Central West	Kelly Tylor	New England
Inge Visser	Central West	Ashley Walker	Central North
Martha Webber	Hunter		

Women's Player of the Year

Kate Gilbert	Newcastle University Rugby Club	Hunter
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Highest Points Scorers

Sarah Halvorsen	Newcastle University Rugby Club	Hunter
Sarah Riordan	Merewether Carlton Rugby Club	Hunter

Leading Try Scorers

Sarah Halvorsen	Newcastle University Rugby Club	Hunter
Sarah Riordan	Merewether Carlton Rugby Club	Hunter

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Directors present their report on the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2016.

DIRECTORS

The names of the Directors in office at the date of this report are:

Name	Qualification	Special Responsibilities
Barry Ruddy	Bank Executive	President
Bruce Fergusson	Retired	Championships
Luke Stephen	Research Officer	Finances
Larry Thomson	Retired	Media & Promotions
Peter Veenstra	Sports Administrator	Constitution & Legal
Paul Verrell	Electrical Engineer	Representative Rugby
Gregory Whiteley	Pastoralist	Affiliates & Zones

During the financial year six (6) meetings of the company's Directors were held, in respect of which each Director attended the following number:

<u>Name of Director</u>	<u>Number of Meetings Attended</u>
Bruce Fergusson	6 (6)
Luke Stephen	6 (6)
Barry Ruddy	6 (6)
Larry Thomson	6 (6)
Peter Veenstra	6 (6)
Paul Verrell	5 (6)
Greg Whiteley	6 (6)

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal continuing activity of the company during the financial year is the administration and fostering of the game of Rugby Union in the state of New South Wales outside the Country of Cumberland.

There has been no significant change in the nature of that activity during the year.

RESULTS

The net result of operations for the financial year was a deficit of \$617 (2015 surplus of \$59,256). No provision for Income Tax has been made as the Company is a non-profit sporting body and exempt from Income Tax.

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

There was a variation in the operating revenue and operating expenditure between 2015 and 2016.

Income was down on the previous year due to the loss/reduction of Sponsorship (NRMA & QantasLink). There were variances with Affiliation Fees, Bank Interest, Country Championships & Sundry Income, while AGL was secured as a Sponsor.

NSWRU Funding remained the same as 2015, while there was an increase in Representative Team expenses, which was slightly offset by the cancellation of the latter part of the Cockatoos Colts program. Sponsorship Servicing was reduced due to the loss of NRMA, while Administration expenses increased due to the registration of the Union's intellectual property for the next ten years. Contra sponsorship items are included as income and expenditure items.

Contra sponsorship income has been reported inclusive of GST. It will have the effect of overstating the net value of the sponsorship income and matching contra expense by the GST component. This will have no effect on the net operating profit or GST reporting as effectively the amounts are equal in value.

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environment regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

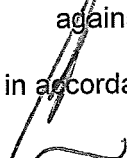
DIRECTOR'S BENEFIT

No director has received or become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the company, or a related body corporate with a director, a firm of which the director is a member or an entity in which the director has a substantial financial interest.

The company has not, during or since the financial year, in respect of any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company or a related body corporate:

1. Indemnified or made any relevant agreement for indemnifying against a liability, including costs and expense in successfully defending legal proceedings; or
2. Paid or agreed to pay a premium in respect of a contract insuring against a liability for the cost of expenses to defend legal proceedings.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Barry Ruddy - President



Luke Stephen – Director

Dated: 27 November 2016

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771**

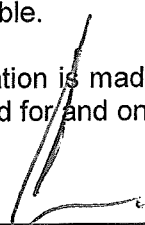
DIRECTORS DECLARATION

The directors declare that the company is not a reporting entity. The directors have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes:-
 - (a) comply with accounting standards as detailed in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Corporations Law; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 September 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and is signed for and on behalf of the Directors by:



Barry Ruddy
President

Luke Stephen
Director

Dated: 27 November 2016

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771**

AUDIT REPORT

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements, being a special purpose financial report of COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED for the year ended 30 September 2016. These statements have been prepared on the basis set out in Note 1 to the accounts. The company's directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements. I have conducted an independent audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the company.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to members under the Corporations Law. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

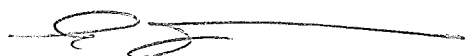
My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examinations, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the basis of accounting outlined in Note 1 to the accounts. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views).

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED (NON-REPORTING) are in accordance with the Corporations Law, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 September 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
- (ii) complying with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Corporations Regulations. As the company has applied AASB 1025: Application of the Reporting Entity Concept and other Amendments, other Accounting Standards and mandatory professional reporting requirements have only been applied to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements.



**EDWARD ANGYALOSY – CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
REGISTERED COMPANY AUDITOR – 9389929
EDWARD ANGYALOSY CA CPA**

Dated: 27 November 2016

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771**

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW
SOUTH WALES LIMITED**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 September 2016 there have been:

1. no contraventions of the auditors independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
2. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Name of Firm: Continuum Accounting Pty Limited

Name of Principal: Edward George Angyalosy

Date: 27 November 2016

Address: Level 1, 54 Neridah Street, Chatswood NSW 2067



Edward Angyalosy C.A. C.P.A.
Principal
Registered Company Auditor
Chatswood

COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
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BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash		241,965	232,960
Receivables	3	16,009	42,746
Inventories		25,986	18,457
Other		<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>\$284,160</u>	<u>\$294,363</u>
<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Trophies		<u>748</u>	<u>748</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$284,908</u>	<u>\$295,111</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Creditors and Accruals	6	<u>10,645</u>	<u>20,231</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$274,263</u>	<u>\$274,880</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>\$274,263</u>	<u>\$274,880</u>

- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.

COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

<u>Income</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Affiliation Fees		56,200	54,000
Country Championship Tender		10,000	6,000
Interest Received		3,916	4,490
Memberships		-	1,000
Sponsorship	5	65,979	116,937
Grant Received – NSWRU		100,000	100,000
Sundry Items		5,024	2,630
Total Revenue		<u>\$241,119</u>	<u>\$285,057</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Admin/Advertising/Marketing/Promotion		31,456	12,261
Country Championship Expenses		8,269	6,959
Directors Expenses		8,241	6,180
Grant – Country Junior Rugby Union		13,240	12,098
Grant – Country Rugby Referees Association		10,000	10,000
Grant – Country Women's Rugby Union		8,231	10,448
Players Attire/Football Gear		38,062	37,974
Representative Coaching Camps		13,189	12,765
Representative Game Expenses	4	87,132	76,006
Other Items		23,916	41,110
Total Expenditure		<u>\$241,736</u>	<u>\$225,801</u>
Operating Profit(Loss)			
after Income Tax		(\$617)	\$59,256
Accumulated Funds at the beginning			
of the Financial Year		<u>\$274,880</u>	<u>\$215,624</u>
Accumulated Funds at the end			
of the Financial Year		<u>\$274,263</u>	<u>\$274,880</u>

- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
Balance at 30 September, 2015	<u>\$215,624</u>	<u>\$215,624</u>
Profit(Loss) for the year	\$65,381	\$65,381
Balance at 30 September, 2016	<u>\$274,880</u>	<u>\$274,880</u>
Profit(Loss) for the year	(\$617)	(\$617)
Balance at 30 September, 2016	<u>\$274,263</u>	<u>\$274,263</u>

- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
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A.C.N. 003 381 771**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from operations	\$287,391	\$261,464
Cash payments for operations	<u>(\$278,386)</u>	<u>(\$233,449)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$9,005	\$28,015
Cash balance at beginning of the year	<u>\$232,960</u>	<u>\$204,945</u>
Cash balance at end of year	<u>\$241,965</u>	<u>\$232,960</u>

Represented by:

Cash at Bank	General Fund	93,368	14,766
	Westpac	2,770	50,802
	Westpac Tour Fund	16,271	16,083
	Bartercard	9,556	11,309
Term Deposits	Westpac	120,000	140,000
		<u>\$241,965</u>	<u>\$232,960</u>

- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This Financial Report is a special purpose report prepared in order to satisfy the Financial Reports preparation requirements of the Corporations Law. The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Law, and the following applicable accounting standards:

AASB 1002:	Events Occurring after Reporting Date
AASB 1018:	Statement of Financial Performance
AASB 1020:	Financial Report Presentation and Disclosures
AASB 1025:	Application of the Reporting Entity Concept and Other Amendments.
AASB 1026:	Statement of Cash Flow
AASB 1034:	Financial Report Presentation and Disclosure
AASB 1040:	Statement of Financial Position

No other applicable accounting standards have been applied.

These statements are also prepared on an accruals basis from the records of the Company. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current values of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with prior periods unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this report:

Income Tax

The company has not adopted the principles of tax effect accounting. No provision for income tax has been made as the company is exempt from income tax.

Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Property, plant and equipment

Office Equipment and Football Shields are included at cost.

All assets, excluding Football Shields, are depreciated over their estimated useful lives or at depreciation rates set by the Commissioner of Taxation.

NOTE 2: MEMBERS GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution of the Company states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$2.00 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 30 September 2016 the number of voting members was twenty one (21).

NOTE 3: RECEIVABLES

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Bowral Rugby Club	475	-
Canopies Australia	-	1,100
International Sports Tours Pty Ltd	2,200	1,100
Newcastle Hunter Rugby Union	12,320	12,760
NRMA	-	27,500
NSW Rugby Union	559	-
NSW Junior Rugby Union	224	-
QantasLink	-	170
Terrigal Rugby Club	231	-
Western Plains Rugby Union	-	116
	<u>\$16,009</u>	<u>\$42,746</u>

NOTE 4: REPRESENTATIVE MATCH COSTS

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Country Cockatoos	61,132	43,567
Country Cockatoo Colts	26,000	32,439
	<u>\$87,132</u>	<u>\$76,006</u>

- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.

COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
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NOTE 5: SPONSORSHIP

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
AGL	10,000	-
Best Western Australasia	-	3,000
Classic Sportswear Pty Ltd	36,229	36,187
Gilbert Footballs	6,250	5,250
International Sports Tours Pty Ltd	2,000	2,000
Leuko	6,500	6,500
NRMA Motoring & Services	-	50,000
QantasLink	-	10,000
The Rugby Club	5,000	4,000
	<u>\$65,979</u>	<u>\$116,937</u>

NOTE 6: PAYABLES

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Australian Taxation Office	4,224	10,648
Beiersdorf Australia Ltd	-	7,150
Classic Sportswear Pty Ltd	4,901	-
NSW Suburban Rugby Union	34	-
National Australia Bank Ltd	1,486	2,433
	<u>\$10,645</u>	<u>\$20,231</u>

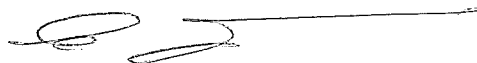
- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.

**COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771**

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA
DETAILED TRADING ACCOUNT**

DISCLAIMER

The additional financial data including the Detailed Trading Account as presented on the following pages is in accordance with the books and records of Country Rugby Union of New South Wales Limited which have been subject to the auditing procedures applied in my statutory audit of the Company for the year ended 30 September 2016. It will be appreciated that my statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on such financial data and no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than our client) in respect of such data, including any errors or omissions therein however caused.



**Edward Angyalosy CA CPA
Registered Company Auditor - 9389929**

**Continuum Accounting P/L
1st Floor
54 Neridah Street
Chatswood NSW 2067**

Dated: 27 November 2016

COUNTRY RUGBY UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(NON-REPORTING ENTITY)
A.C.N. 003 381 771
PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
INCOME			
Affiliation Fees		56,200	54,000
Country Championship Tender		10,000	6,000
Interest Received		3,916	4,490
Memberships		-	1,000
Sponsorship	5	65,979	116,937
Grants Received – NSWRU		100,000	100,000
Sundry Items		5,024	2,630
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$241,119</u>	<u>\$285,057</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Advertising, Marketing, Promotion & Goodwill		7,965	6,104
Administration & Development		23,491	6,157
Auditor's Remuneration		2,000	2,000
Bank Fees		685	827
Coaching Camps		13,189	12,765
Coach's Expenses		-	-
Country Meeting Expenses		111	73
Country Championship Expenses		8,269	6,959
Depreciation		-	-
Directors Expenses		8,241	6,180
Executive Officer Expenses		3,235	3,064
Filing Fees		46	45
Grant - Country Juniors Rugby Union		13,240	12,098
Grant – Country Rugby Referees Association		10,000	10,000
Grant - Country Women's Rugby Union		8,231	10,448
Insurance		2,118	1,916
Judiciary Committee Expenses		-	73
Attire & Football Gear		38,062	37,974
Postage & Courier		47	99
Printing & Stationery		67	47
Representative Games Expenses	4	87,132	76,006
Selectors Travel Expenses		3,093	5,416
Sponsorship Expenses		6,298	18,161
Storage		4,010	3,752
Telephones		380	360
Welfare Payments		-	4,080
Will Tanner Memorial Award		1,826	1,197
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>\$241,736</u>	<u>\$225,801</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		<u>(\$617)</u>	<u>\$59,256</u>

- These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Disclaimer.



SPONSORS 2016

