

# AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION ANNUAL REPORT 2015



# AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION (ARU) EXECUTIVE & MEMBERS

## **PATRON**

Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (RetD)

## **CHAIRMAN**

Mr Cameron Clyne

## **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Dr Brett Robinson

## **PRESIDENT**

Dr John Coolican

## **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Mr Tony Shaw

## **JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Mr Tim Gavin

## **MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Mr Bill Pulver

## **ARU BOARD**

Mr Cameron Clyne – Chairman  
Dr Brett Robinson – Deputy Chairman  
Ms Elizabeth Broderick AO – Director  
Mr John Eales AM – Director  
Ms Pip Marlow – Director  
Mr Paul McLean MBE – Director  
Mr Geoffrey Stooke OAM – Director  
Ms Ann Sherry AO – Director  
Mr Bill Pulver – ARU MD & CEO

## **VOTING MEMBERS**

ACT & Southern NSW Rugby Union  
New South Wales Rugby Union  
Northern Territory Rugby Union  
Queensland Rugby Union  
South Australian Rugby Union  
Tasmanian Rugby Union  
Victorian Rugby Union  
Rugby Western Australia  
Melbourne Rebels  
Waratahs Rugby  
Rugby Union Players' Association

## **NON VOTING MEMBERS**

Australian Barbarians Rugby Union  
Australian Junior Rugby Football Union  
Australian Schools Rugby Football Union  
Australian Services Rugby Union  
Australian Women's Rugby Union  
Classic Wallabies  
New South Wales Country Rugby Union  
Sydney Rugby Union

## **WORLD RUGBY REPRESENTATIVES**

Dr Brett Robinson, Mr Bill Pulver

## **SANZAAR REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr Cameron Clyne, Mr Bill Pulver

## **AUDITORS**

KPMG



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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## Cameron Clyne

**2**015 was a year of consolidation and planning, punctuated by several significant highlights. The Qantas Wallabies had a brilliant year, our Qantas Men's and Women's Sevens teams qualified for Rio, and we achieved a broadcast deal that will secure our financial future. While there is still much to improve, especially in participation, we hope to build on this positive momentum.

The development of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan was a major achievement which, in conjunction with the \$285m 2016-2020 broadcast arrangement, will safeguard the future of the game.

Investing confidently in our strategic priorities thanks to an extra \$170m over five years will place us in the best possible position to achieve our vision: "to inspire all Australians to enjoy our great global game".

Good leadership and governance will be critical to executing our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. The newly formed Australian Rugby Strategy Group (consisting of the ARU CEO and select ARU General Managers, the five Super Rugby CEOs plus one of the three CEOs representing the minor regions) will oversee the collaborative delivery of the Australian Rugby National Charter. All states will have a voice in the effective running of the game in Australia.

The basis of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan is that we want Rugby to be a game for men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds. Alongside traditional XV's Rugby, Sevens and VIVA7s (the new non-contact version of Rugby) will help grow the game and grow our Rugby clubs by attracting new participants and spectators to the code.

Club Rugby, as the heartbeat of the Australian Rugby community, is a vital component of our sport. The 950+ Rugby clubs across Australia, and the schools offering Rugby, are where players learn the values of our sport: passion, integrity, discipline, respect and teamwork.

Last year there was a 7.6% decline in Club XV's Rugby participation. However, there was a growth of 8.1% in Club Sevens Rugby. In addition, Rugby continued to grow in non-traditional Rugby states – despite 'land grabs' for participants made by wealthier competitor sports.

Certainly there are substantial challenges facing us, but there are

also significant opportunities. The popularity of XV's and Sevens Rugby is growing worldwide and the 2016 Olympics will showcase Rugby to an even wider global audience. In Australia, the clubs that have launched VIVA7s are reaping the financial and social benefits. By building up VIVA7s and Sevens within clubs, Rugby communities will have new pathways through which to shepherd participants into Club XV's Rugby.

Australian Rugby's pathways programs continue to be enhanced providing stronger links between our grassroots and professional players. The Junior Gold Cup, Australian Schoolboys, U20s programs and National Rugby Championship have unearthed many talented players. In 2016 we will focus on drawing in larger crowds and television audiences to watch the fast-paced and entertaining NRC games.

Aside from encouraging people into clubs and guiding players through pathways, we're also committed to bringing in new fans. To do this, the game will innovate on and off the field. Our provincial and national teams will play smart, creative, running Rugby. We also want to engage better with our fans to feed their passion for the game. We want our Rugby experiences – whether people are logging onto rugby.com.au or sitting in the stands at a Bledisloe Test – to be the best in the world.

The quickly growing global Rugby environment requires us to proactively recruit, retain and repatriate talented players in the Qantas Wallabies. Thanks to innovation in player contracting, four players who would not have been previously been available were selected in the Rugby World Cup squad. While Australian Rugby and the Super Rugby franchises currently don't have the capacity to consistently match or beat the player salaries of some overseas clubs, we do have the capacity to create 'money-can't-buy' environments for players.

Save for the Board changes that became effective on 1st January this year, 2015 was a year of Board stability. I was delighted and honoured to take over the Chairmanship from Michael Hawker AM and am indebted to the positive Board environment he cultivated during his tenure.

The Board and I are optimistic about 2016, and look forward to updating you on our progress.





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### John Coolican

**2**015 marked another busy and successful year in Rugby on and off the field.

Fan engagement was a focus in 2015. The ARU's media went behind the scenes more than ever before to offer fans an inside glimpse of life in Camp Wallaby. The response was incredible. Our website traffic grew by 52% and our Facebook following increased by 74%. This engagement will help Australian Rugby build stronger relationships with fans of all ages and backgrounds into the future.

Our Asteron Life Super Rugby sides had mixed performances in 2015. The Waratahs topped the Australian conference, but their dream of back-to-back Super Rugby titles was crushed after a ruthless performance from the Highlanders in Sydney saw them defeated 35-17. The Brumbies similarly made the semi finals but struggled against a dominant Hurricanes outfit, eventually going down 29-9.

The Rebels recorded their best every Super Rugby season, finishing in 10th place. Meanwhile at the other end of the table, the Reds were impacted by injuries and managed just four wins to finish 13th. After an encouraging 2014 season the Western Force slipped to last position in 2015, but managed two significant victories over the conference-topping Waratahs.

The best players in our game were recognised at the John Eales Medal ceremony, with the prestigious honour awarded to Israel Folau. He became the first player to claim the award in back-to-back years.

Michael Gunn from Brisbane's East Tigers was named Australian U20s Player of the Year.

The Country Eagles' Jono Lance was named Buildcorp National Rugby Championship Player of the Series.

Qantas Wallabies and Brumbies flanker David Pocock capped off a

triumphant return from back-to-back season-ending knee injuries by winning the Asteron Life Super Rugby Player of the Year.

Pocock's Brumbies team mate, 25-year-old lock Rory Arnold was named Asteron Life Super Rugby Rookie of the Year.

Michael Hooper was chosen by the Australian public as Qantas Wallaby of the Year. Sean McMahon, who made his debut in late 2014 against Wales at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, was named Qantas Wallabies Rookie of the Year.

Qantas Australian Women's Sevens Captain Sharni Williams won the Women's Player of the Year for Sevens and Men's Captain Ed Jenkins was named Qantas Australian Men's Sevens Player of the Year. Ariana Kaiwai (Sydney) won best women's player for the XV's form of the game.

Anthony Moyes won the Referee of the Year Award.

We farewelled members of our Classic Wallabies fraternity in 2015, including John 'Jake' Howard, Gordon Stone, Brian Cox and Ross Turnbull.

We also recognised the achievements of former players – John 'Jock' Blackwood, Cyril Burke and Tim Horan – by inducting them into the Wallaby Hall of Fame. Each inductee was chosen for demonstrating outstanding ability, sportsmanship, commitment, character and personal contribution to their team and the game during their era.

I would like to thank Michael Hawker AM (who was Chairman during 2015), his capable Board and CEO Bill Pulver for their support and leadership of Australian Rugby. I would also like to thank the Members for their commitment at all levels of our great game.

I have enjoyed my first year as President and after a positive 2015, I look forward to seeing Australian Rugby grow in the years ahead.

## AUSTRALIAN RUGBY'S VISION

To inspire all  
Australians to enjoy  
our great global game.

### World Rugby Values:

- Passion
- Integrity
- Discipline
- Respect
- Solidarity

### 4 Strategic Pillars:

- Make Rugby a game for all
- Ignite Australia's passion for the game
  - Build sustainable elite success
- Create excellence in how the game is run



# CEO'S REPORT

## Bill Pulver

In 2015, Australian Rugby continued to build on the steady progress of recent years. Our key areas of focus were expanding grassroots participation, developing elite success, engaging fans and achieving administrative excellence. Significant progress was made in all areas, however there is still much work to be done.

### Community Rugby & Participation Growth

Rugby reached new participants in 2016, and critically, most of them were young and around half of them were female. We rolled out a five-week national primary schools program teaching the basics of Rugby (called 'Game On') which introduced 26,469 students to our game. Another 126,571 students from 748 schools participated in National Rugby Week and learned to play the fast, fun, non-contact version of Rugby, VIVA7s. The launch of VIVA7s into 36 centres introduced more than 3,000 boys, girls, men and women – of all ages and backgrounds – into Australia's Rugby clubs.

Growing the game requires a focus on making Rugby more accessible, and these initiatives are enabling us to expand Rugby's footprint so that it becomes embedded in the public and private school systems.

We continued to encourage diversity and inclusion in our Rugby community. New partnerships with World Rugby and government organisations were secured in 2015 to deliver improved Rugby programs that focused on promoting the role of women, Indigenous Australians and Pacific Islanders in the game.

### Developing Successful Teams

The second year of the Junior Gold Cup involved more than 1,200 of Australia's best junior players. The Buildcorp National Rugby Championship (NRC) provided another fast-paced and entertaining season, with an average of 9.6 tries per game, and just two penalty goals during the competition (down from 13 in 2014). This competition is delivering exciting rugby for fans, and gives players the chance to keep pushing for selection in elite teams.

Our Asterson Life Super Rugby sides had mixed performances in 2015. The Waratahs and Brumbies made the semi finals, but could not overcome the forceful efforts of the Highlanders and Hurricanes. The Rebels recorded their best ever Super Rugby season results, however the Reds and Force had disappointing seasons. In 2016 we will focus on ensuring the ongoing depth of our Super Rugby teams, and igniting Australia's passion for the competition.

In an action-packed year for Sevens, our Qantas Women's Sevens team were triumphant at the inaugural London Sevens, qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and finished the year in style, winning the Dubai Sevens. Charlotte Caslick was nominated as Women's Sevens Player of the Year for a second consecutive year. Our Qantas Men's Sevens team qualified for Rio in November after winning the Oceania Qualifying Tournament, with a resounding 50-0 victory over Tonga in the final. At the Commonwealth Youth Games the girls' Sevens team won gold and the boys won silver – an incredible effort from both.

A clear highlight of 2015 was the way the valiant Qantas Wallabies captivated the nation with their courageous and skilful performances on the field. In a blockbuster showdown against New Zealand in Sydney for the 2015 Rugby Championship crown, the Wallabies won a thrilling game 27-19 to triumph over the All Blacks for the first time since 2011.

Although the All Blacks retaliated in a thumping 41-13 win at Eden Park to keep their hands on the Bledisloe Cup for the 13th consecutive year, the gauntlet has been thrown down for 2016.

The Wallabies' form, under the stewardship of Head Coach Michael Cheika, continued into the Rugby World Cup.

The Wallabies topped the so-called 'Pool of Death', after some particularly memorable wins over England (33-13) and Wales (15-6). They then scraped through the Scotland quarter final (35-34) before a comfortable semi final win over the Argentinian Pumas (29-15), to set up the ultimate trans-Tasman battle against the All Blacks in the final.

## WOMEN'S SEVENS GREW BY



**WATCHED THE RUGBY  
CHAMPIONSHIP GLOBALLY**



**OVERALL PARTICIPANTS**



Our 'Stronger As One' motto came to life as the Wallabies' passion and performance united all Australians behind the team. During the tournament, Australian Rugby's digital channels were tuned into 90 million times.

At 3.00am in the morning of Sunday 1st November, 1.2m Aussies tuned in to watch the Wallabies take on the All Blacks in the final. While our boys didn't manage to bring home the Webb Ellis Cup, going down 34-17, they certainly made us proud to be Australian.

The Wallabies won 83% of their games in 2015 (one of their best seasons ever) and moved from 6th to 2nd in world rankings. Fittingly, Michael Cheika was named World Rugby Coach of the Year.

#### Running the Game

From a governance perspective, the development of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan was a highlight of the year. Unprecedented levels of collaboration between the member unions resulted in a unity of purpose and a common alignment for the future. The execution of the National Charter will improve the governance and operation of Rugby in Australia, as it clearly delineates the roles, responsibilities and decision making rights of stakeholders. The newly formed Australian Rugby Strategy Group, which consists of CEOs from across Australian Rugby, will ensure the delivery of the Strategic Plan and execution of the National Charter.

Financially, we are still facing significant challenges. Our overall financial position was down from 2014. While our underlying business generated a deficit of \$4.8m due to there only being two Tests held in Australia (with subsequent impacts on broadcast, sponsorship and match day revenue) the full financial result was a deficit of \$9.8m (2014: \$6.3m deficit), primarily due to financial assistance provided to the Melbourne Rebels.

However, our financial forecast is stronger than it was 12 months ago. Our \$285m 2016-2020 media rights agreement was executed, equating to \$170m in additional revenue – a 148% increase on

revenue achieved from the 2011-2015 media rights arrangement.

Our 2015 sponsorship budget was achieved thanks to the retention of existing partners and the acquisition of new partners, despite a reduced domestic Test schedule. We especially thank our major partners, Qantas and ASICS and our broadcast partners FOX SPORTS, Network Ten and ABC Grandstand. We are also very grateful for the support of Asteron Life (Super Rugby), Buildcorp (NRC) and BMW (Pathway Programs – Junior Gold Cup, Australian Schools and Australian Under 20s). The support of all our partners is critical to our success.

The Australian Rugby Foundation had a fantastic first year which saw more than \$1m in revenue generated and the delivery of 13 events internationally and domestically.

We also enjoyed a constructive relationship with the Rugby Union Players' Association thanks to RUPA CEO Ross Xenos and his team.

#### Engaging Fans

In 2015, we reached out to the Rugby community in new ways. Innovative and exclusive behind-the-scenes content was published through our social media channels, and the response from fans was great. The Wallabies Facebook following grew by 74% over 2014, Twitter grew by 74% and Instagram followers increased from 35k to 122k. Fans also enjoyed in-stadium initiatives such as the Gold Brigade, live entertainment and a world-record-breaking scrum effort.

Our customer relationship management and business intelligence systems (called 'SCRUM') were enhanced in 2015. We now have the most comprehensive database tracking fan engagement of all the sports in Australia, which will help us engage and strengthen the Rugby community into the future.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who turns up on the weekend to play, watch, cheer, referee and volunteer. The grassroots Rugby community is the lifeblood of our great game and without the players, volunteers and supporters, we would have nothing.

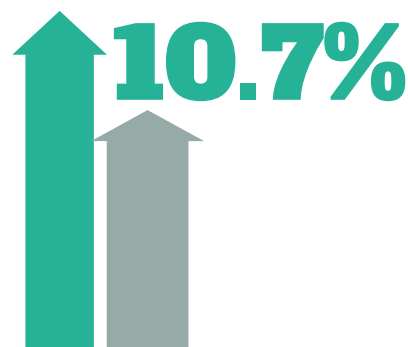
I look forward to updating you on our progress in 2016.



**AUSTRALIANS WATCHED THE RUGBY WORLD CUP**



**TUNED IN DIGITALLY DURING THE RUGBY WORLD CUP**



**MORE PARTICIPANTS PLAYING >5 GAMES/SESSIONS**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015



Season 2 of the Junior Gold Cup kicks off featuring more than 1,200 high school aged players from 24 centres across Australia (14/2)



On ANZAC Day the Australian and New Zealand Rugby communities remember 100 years since Gallipoli (25/4)



The Qantas Australian Women's Sevens team qualifies for Rio Olympics during the pool stages of the Amsterdam Sevens (23/5)

## JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

VIVA7s, the new form of non-contact Sevens, launches in 10 new regional locations (27/2)



The Qantas Australian Women's Sevens side wins the inaugural London Sevens at Twickenham Stadium (17/5)

ASICS unveils the Wallabies jersey for the Rugby World Cup, the most technically innovative rugby union jersey developed by ASICS to date (10/6)



The newly reinstated National Women's XVs Championships takes place. Sydney defeats ACT in the final (26/6)





The Qantas Wallabies win The Rugby Championship and break four-year drought against All Blacks with a 27-19 win in Sydney (8/8)

National Rugby Week kicks off and 126,571 young Australians participate (14/9)



Brisbane City defeat the University of Canberra Vikings in the NRC final 21-10 to claim their second consecutive NRC title (31/10)



1.1 million Australians tune in to watch the Wallabies in the Rugby World Cup final, where New Zealand triumph (1/11)



New \$285m media rights arrangement announced (17/12)

## AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

The Australian Girls' Sevens team wins the gold medal and the Boys win the silver medal at the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games (11/9)



Wallabies Rugby World Cup campaign kicks off against Fiji (24/9)



Wallabies defeat host nation England 33-13, knocking them out of the 2015 Rugby World Cup (4/10)



Qantas Australian Men's Sevens team qualifies for 2016 Rio Olympics at Oceania Sevens (14/11)

Qantas Australian Women's Sevens team wins Dubai Sevens (5/12)



# Award Winners

**Community volunteers were recognised alongside our national heroes**

## JOHN EALES MEDAL

In just his third year in the code, Qantas Wallabies and NSW Waratahs fullback Israel Folau became the third player in the 14-year history of the John Eales Medal to collect the major award for a second time, joining George Smith (2002, 2008) and Nathan Sharpe (2007, 2012).

Folau picked up 138 votes to edge out resurgent flanker David Pocock (113), Michael Hooper (108), Adam Ashley-Cooper (98), and Ben McCalman (95).

Folau also won the Super Rugby Try of the Year award for being the player deemed most responsible for Tolu Latu's match-winning Round 6 try against the Brumbies.

After claiming three awards at last year's John Eales Medal ceremony, Wallabies and Melbourne Rebels back-rower Sean McMahon continued his sharp trajectory in the game being named Qantas Wallabies Rookie of the Year.

For the third consecutive year, Michael Hooper was voted as 'Australia's Choice' for Qantas Wallaby of the Year.

Qantas Wallabies and Brumbies flanker David Pocock capped off a triumphant return from back-to-back season-ending knee injuries by winning the Asteron Life Super Rugby Player of the Year. His teammate, 25-year-old Rory Arnold was named Asteron Life Super Rugby Rookie of the Year.

Qantas Wallabies and NSW Waratahs Head Coach Michael Cheika collected the Asteron Life Super Rugby Coach of the Year award and the Waratahs were named Asteron Life Super Rugby Team of the Year.

Ed Jenkins won the Shawn Mackay Award for Qantas Men's Sevens Player of the Year, while Sharni Williams took the gong for Qantas Women's Sevens Player of the Year in the first year that the Shaun Mackay Award was awarded across both teams.

In other awards, Sydney's Ariana Kaiwai won the award for the Women's XV's Player of the Year, Queensland flanker Michael Gunn was named Australian Under 20s Player of the Year and Sydneysider Anthony Moyes won the Roger Vanderfield Award for Referee of the Year.

Randwick Club legend Jeffrey Sayle OAM was presented with the Nick Farr-Jones Spirit of Rugby award and former ARU administrator, Women's Rugby President and current Women's Rugby Patron Joan Forno received the Joe French Award for service to Australian Rugby.

Community awards went to Gosford's Andrew Ellem (HSBC Volunteer of the Year), John Woodhouse of Kiwi Hawthorn Rugby Club (HSBC Lifetime Volunteer of the Year), Ted Vinson of Charters Towers Rugby Club (Asteron Life Community Coach of the Year) and Lindfield's Andrew Morbey (HSBC's Young Volunteer).

Angus Gardner collected the award for the TNT Super Rugby Referee of the Series.

The 2015 Wallaby Hall of Fame inductees were John 'Jock' Blackwood, Cyril Burke and Tim Horan.







# All Rugby Awards Winners

**John Eales Medal:** Israel Folau

**Qantas Wallabies Rookie of the Year:**  
Sean McMahon

**Qantas Wallaby Try of the Year:**

Nick Phipps (Wallabies v Ireland, Dublin)

**Australia's Choice – Qantas Wallaby of the Year:** Michael Hooper

**Wallabies Hall of Fame:** John 'Jock' Blackwood, Cyril Burke and Tim Horan

**Super Rugby Player of the Year:**

David Pocock (Brumbies)

**Super Rugby Team of the Year:**

NSW Waratahs

**Super Rugby Coach of the Year:**

Michael Cheika (NSW Waratahs)

**Super Rugby Rookie of the Year:**

Rory Arnold (Brumbies)

**Super Rugby Try of the Year:** Israel Folau (most responsible) - Tolu Latu try, NSW Waratahs v Brumbies, Round 6

**Super Rugby Referee of the Year:**

Angus Gardner

**Australian Under 20s Player of the Year:** Michael Gunn

**The Shawn Mackay Award Qantas**

**Men's Sevens Player of the Year:**

Ed Jenkins

**The Shawn Mackay Award Qantas**

**Women's Sevens Player of the Year:**

Sharni Williams

**Women's XV's Player of the Year:**

Ariana Kaiwai (Sydney)

**Buildcorp NRC Player of the Series:**

Jono Lance

**Joe French Award:** Joan Forno

**Nick Farr-Jones Spirit of Rugby:**

Jeffrey Sayle OAM

**Roger Vanderfield Award Referee of the Year:** Anthony Moyes

**HSBC Volunteer of the Year:**

Andrew Ellem (Gosford)

**HSBC Young Volunteer of the Year**

**Award:** Andrew Morbey (Lindfield)

**HSBC Lifetime Volunteer Award:**

John Woodhouse (Kiwi Hawthorn)

**Asteron Life Community Coach of the**

**Year:** Ted Vinson (Charters Towers)

# The 2015 Rugby Championship

The pre-eminent southern hemisphere Rugby competition took on a new intensity in 2015, with all teams eager to perform in the lead up to the Rugby World Cup. Playing a reduced schedule of three matches rather than six due to the imminent RWC, the Wallabies needed to set the bar high early and continue to build to October.

## Post-Siren Try Puts Qantas Wallabies In Contention

With France-based Matt Giteau and Drew Mitchell called up, and Queensland favourites Will Genia and Quade Cooper starting in front of their home crowd, the stage was set for a tantalising opening Rugby Championship match at Suncorp Stadium against the Springboks. Both sides found the tryline in the first half, but were forced to alter their game plans when injuries struck Genia (knee) and Victor Matfield (hamstring). A ferocious South Africa returned after the break and debutant Jesse Kriel slipped through Australia's defences to score for the visitors. In a tight tussle it seemed a win would be beyond the Wallabies until the 73rd minute when Michael Hooper scored to put the Aussies back in contention. Tevita Kuridrani's dramatic post-siren try, where he wrestled through three South African defenders, allowed Australian to snatch a last-gasp 24-20 victory and win the Mandela Challenge Plate for first time since 2012.

## Bonus Point Win Sets Up Blockbuster Final



After a slow start against Los Pumas in Mendoza, the Wallabies held a narrow 8-6 half time lead, with Joe Tomane crossing in the 16th minute after a strong kick return from Israel Folau. In the second half, the boots of Bernard Foley and Los Pumas flyhalf Nicholas Sanchez continued to prove crucial, as both teams conceded penalties. Dean Mumm marked his first Test in five years by scoring an outstanding solo try to lift the score to 19-9. Australia dominated the remainder of the game with late tries to Tevita Kuridrani and Adam Ashley-Cooper allowing the men in gold to take home a 34-9 win. The win also marked a personal milestone for Kurtley Beale, who played his 50th Test for the Qantas Wallabies.

## Qantas Wallabies Triumph In Rugby Championship Decider

With Pocock and Hooper starting together for the first time in a Test match, and 71,991



## 2015 RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP LADDER

Pos	Logo & Team	P	W	D	L	-/+	BP	Pts
1	 Australia	3	3	0	0	37	1	13
2	 New Zealand	3	2	0	1	20	1	9
3	 Argentina	3	1	0	2	-34	1	5
4	 South Africa	3	0	0	3	-23	2	2

spectators packed into ANZ Stadium, the stage was set for a scintillating trans-Tasman derby. A tense first half ended with the All Blacks leading 6-3. Australia came out charging in the second half and prop Sekope Kepu thundered over the line for the first try of the game. The Kiwis answered with a five-pointer from Nehe Milner-Skudder, only for the Wallabies to regain ground with an Adam Ashley-Cooper try, set up by a cross field kick from Matt Toomua. Milner-Skudder scored his second of the night to regain the lead 19-17 for the All Blacks, but in the 71st minute, replacement halfback Nic White turned the game on its head. With a penalty goal and then a match sealing try from White, the Qantas Wallabies defeated New Zealand for the first time since 2011 and claimed their first Rugby Championship title.

## Kiwis Retaliate in Bledisloe Showdown\*

Following their thrilling Rugby Championship victory in Sydney, the Wallabies went into Eden Park fuelled with hope for an historic win. With David Pocock celebrating his 50th Test, the visitors got the first points on the board when Quade Cooper slotted a penalty, but a converted try from Dane Coles and more penalties to both teams saw

the Kiwis ahead at the break 6-13. To the Aussies' despair, New Zealand unleashed in the second half. A penalty try, a Ma'a Nonu double and a Conrad Smith touchdown took the score to 6-41. A late try to Israel Folau served as consolation for Australia however the damage was already done with New Zealand the resounding victors in Captain Richie McCaw's record-breaking 142nd Test. The result continued New Zealand's remarkable winning streak at Eden Park which has been in tact since 1994.

*\*Match not part of The Rugby Championship.*

## 2015 Test Results

**Australia 24, South Africa 20**  
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, 18 July

**Australia 34, Argentina 9**  
Estadio Malvinas, Mendoza, 25 July

**Australia 27, New Zealand 19**  
ANZ Stadium, Sydney, 8 August

**Australia 13, New Zealand 41**  
Eden Park, Auckland, 15 August





## USA Test

### **Qantas Wallabies Dominate**

A two-week tour of the USA, including a camp at the iconic Notre Dame University, gave the Wallabies valuable preparation time ahead of the Rugby World Cup. The trip culminated in the Wallabies' first Test in the USA in almost 40 years, which was held at Soldier Field in Chicago in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

The Wallabies ran out with James Slipper at the helm, as he became the 83rd player to captain the Wallabies in a Test match. Tries to Nick Phipps and Bernard Foley allowed the Aussies to take an early lead, but a spirited and physical Eagles outfit fought back. A sweeping backline movement set up a try for USA scrumhalf Mike Petri, narrowing the gap to 10-14 at the break.

In the second half, the Wallabies shifted gears. Man of the match Sean McMahon, in just his fourth Test appearance, crashed over for his first Test try on the end of a powerful

rolling maul in the 48th minute. Some electrifying five-pointers followed for Dean Mumm, Kurtley Beale and Quade Cooper while debutant Taquele Naiyaravoro scored with his first touch of the ball.

Prop Toby Smith entered the game as a replacement late in the game making his Wallabies debut at 26 years of age. The final score was 47-10.









# RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015

Determined to build on momentum from their recent Rugby Championship win and victory over the USA Eagles, the Wallabies arrived in England with plenty to prove.

Under Head Coach Michael Cheika, the team were single-minded in their focus. With a stellar coaching team including former Test players Stephen Larkham, Nathan Grey and Argentinian Mario Ledesma, the team's preparation, which started with a physically gruelling two-week training camp in the USA, steeled them for the challenge of emulating the heroics of their victorious World Cup predecessors in 1991 and 1999.

The Wallabies' growing self-belief unified the men in gold, and won them the respect of the Australian public as they prepared for the so-called 'Pool of Death' ahead.

## Fiji – Pool A Match

With seven Rugby World Cup debutants in the team, the Wallabies began their campaign at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff – the same venue where they had last won the William Webb Ellis Trophy. The Wallabies showed their intent early, running the ball and forcing turnovers. Relief from the consistent Fijian attack came in the 26th minute when David Pocock scored a crucial try off the back of a rolling maul. Less than ten minutes later, after a Fijian yellow card, Pocock was over for another. Just two minutes into the second half, prop Sekope Kepu showed great mobility and power when he brushed aside two Fijians to score Australia's third. The 28-13 win proved the potency of the double openside flanker combination, with man of the match David Pocock and vice captain Michael Hooper making 38 combined tackles and forcing three turnovers in the ruck.

## Uruguay – Pool A Match

Dean Mumm earned the prestigious honour of becoming the 84th player to captain the Wallabies when he led out an entirely new starting fifteen, supported by vice captains Drew Mitchell and Ben McCalman for the clash with Uruguay. Ahead of the England and Wales pool games, all players were pushing for a starting berth. The match became a gold ambush as the Wallabies scored 11

unanswered tries. Drew Mitchell, Sean McMahon and Ben McCalman all scored doubles, and tries to Joseph Tomane, captain Dean Mumm, Henry Speight, Matt Toomua and Tevita Kuridrani completed the whitewash. Mitchell became the Wallabies' most prolific World Cup try-scorer, passing Chris Latham's record when he scored his 12th try. The 65-3 result proved the depth in the squad, and showed there was still plenty of room for improvement.

## England – Pool A Match

Pundits were billing it as the biggest Rugby World Cup pool match of all time. In front of an 81,080 strong crowd, emotions ran high as the host nation, desperate for a win after their loss to the Welsh, were playing to stay in tournament. Masterful flyhalf Bernard Foley led the way for the Australians with an electrifying first half that yielded two tries. He ended up with a perfect seven-from-seven in front of goal. While it was their attack that caused the most damage, the Wallabies also won six penalties in the scrum to England's two. England winger Anthony Watson kept his team's chances alive with a try in the 57th minute cutting the margin to 10 points, sparking a late English resurgence. However when Matt Giteau continued his incredible World Cup renaissance with a try in the final minute, England's hopes were dashed. The 33-13 result forced England out of their own World Cup before the pool stage was over – the first time a host nation had suffered this fate.

## Wales – Pool A Match

The Wales match loomed as a decider for the 'Pool of Death'. In a battle of physicality, it was the men in gold that emerged victorious in a pulsating defensive showdown. After two yellow cards in the 57th and 59th minutes, the Wallabies managed to hold off a Welsh attacking barrage that saw the opposition camped on Australia's line for more than ten minutes. An immense defensive effort from Ben McCalman in the 61st minute saw him hold George North up over the line, preventing an almost certain try. Adam Ashley-Cooper then forced a Wales knock-on and the Wallabies recomposed despite the odds

stacked against them. By the full time whistle, the Wallabies had recorded almost double the amount of tackles as their opposition (126 to 69) in their phenomenal 15-6 win to top the pool. Ben McCalman's try-saving tackle on George North was later voted by Aussie fans as their favourite Wallabies World Cup moment.

## Scotland – Quarter Final

Australia began the quarter final at a frantic pace, desperate to bring home a win to mark the 100th Test of captain Stephen Moore and Matt Giteau. The Wallabies got their breakthrough via Adam Ashley-Cooper in the ninth minute, after a powerful tackle-breaking run from Tevita Kuridrani. Two five-pointers to winger Drew Mitchell saw him rise to equal second in the all-time World Cup try-scoring list, behind Jonah Lomu and Bryan Habana. The Wallabies scored five tries to Scotland's three, but penalties and missed conversions kept the men in gold under pressure. When Scotland scored under the posts from an intercept to go ahead with just over five minutes to play, the vocal tartan-clad crowd went into raptures. However when a last minute penalty gave the Wallabies the chance to edge to victory, the crowd was silenced. The steadfast boot of 'iceman' Bernard Foley slotted the penalty to keep Australia's World Cup dreams alive – just. The final score was 35-34.

## Argentina – Semi Final

Entering the semi final dogged by injury concerns, overcoming the spirited Los Pumas contingent would never be easy. The Wallabies drew on its experienced leaders with brilliant results. Rob Simmons scored the fastest try of the tournament after just 68 seconds when he snatched an intercept to register just his second career try. An impressive hat-trick from Adam Ashley-Cooper followed, earning the 113-Test veteran man of the match honours. The reunion of Michael Hooper, who earned his 50th Test cap, and David Pocock as a starting combination also proved decisive for the Wallabies. Australia dominated at the breakdown to finish the match with 10 turnovers. The Wallabies' defence once again showed heart as the Australian line





withstood a late hammering from Los Pumas. In taking out the match 29-15, the Wallabies qualified for a record-equalling fourth World Cup final to set up a blockbuster showdown against old foes, New Zealand.

### New Zealand – Rugby World Cup Final

The “dream final” was set: the world’s two best teams, each competing for an historic third World Cup victory in front of a sold-out crowd on the opposite side of planet. It was the defending World Champions who set the tone, dominating the early possession and territory while injuries to lock Kane Douglas (knee) and inside centre Matt Giteau (concussion) forced them off the field within the first 30 minutes.

Hurt by penalties and the accuracy of Dan Carter’s boot, the Wallabies fought bravely until New Zealand winger Nehe Milner-Skudder scored the opening try to set up a commanding 16-3 half time lead. All Blacks centre Ma’a Nonu added a second five-pointer two minutes into the second half to make matters worse for Australia.

However after Ben Smith was sent off for a dangerous tackle, the match took an unexpected and powerful turn. Australia quickly capitalised with David Pocock scoring his third try of the tournament off a driving maul. Tevita Kuridrani capped off a spectacular team try in the 63rd minute to narrow the All Blacks’ lead to just four points and spark hopes of a revival.

It was Dan Carter, having missed the 2011 RWC decider through injury, who halted the Aussie surge with a perfectly-struck drop goal from 40 metres out to give New Zealand a 7-point buffer with 11 minutes remaining.

The valiant Wallabies continued to battle, pressuring New Zealand’s defence, until a late breakaway try to replacement Beauden

Barrett sealed the match in the shadows of full time. Carter’s conversion took the final score to 34-17.

### Only the Beginning

The Wallabies were gracious in defeat, and Captain Stephen Moore’s immediate post-match interview demonstrated the values of Rugby: integrity, respect, discipline, passion and solidarity. With no excuses, he congratulated his opponents, thanked his team mates, and thanked all Australians, saying he hoped the Wallabies had made them proud.

## 2015 Rugby World Cup Results

**Australia 28, Fiji 13**  
Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 24 September

**Australia 65, Uruguay 3**  
Villa Park, Birmingham, 27 September

**Australia 33, England 13**  
Twickenham, London, 4 October

**Australia 15, Wales 6**  
Twickenham, London, 11 October

**Australia 35, Scotland 34**  
Twickenham, London, 19 October

**Australia 29, Argentina 15**  
Twickenham, London, 26 October

**Australia 17, New Zealand 34**  
Twickenham, London, 1 November



## Milestones

### 100 Tests

Stephen Moore  
Matt Giteau

### Debutants

Taqele Naiyaravoro  
Toby Smith

### 50 Tests

Kurtley Beale  
Michael Hooper  
David Pocock

### GOLDEN CENTURIES

Stephen Moore and Matt Giteau became the second duo in history to earn their 100th Test caps side by side, as they ran on for the Wallabies in the 2015 World Cup quarter final against Scotland at Twickenham, London.

In reaching the milestone, Giteau and Moore joined an illustrious group of fellow Wallabies centurions including Nathan Sharpe, George Gregan, George Smith, Stephen Larkham, David Campese and team mate Adam Ashley-Cooper.

For Stephen Moore, the occasion represented another significant step in his ongoing Wallabies journey. Moore made his debut against Samoa in 2005 and has gone on to become the most capped hooker in Australian international Rugby. In 2015, he became the first hooker to lead Australia into a World Cup.

Matt Giteau had a more unlikely road to his 100th Wallabies Test cap. He debuted against England at Twickenham in 2002 and went on to be nominated as World Rugby Player of the Year (2004) and dominate the John Eales Medal night in 2009, amassing 92 Test caps before he was overlooked for selection in the 2011 RWC squad. When new eligibility rules allowed him to return to the Australian Test squad in 2015, he slotted straight in and was credited with stabilising the Wallabies back line with his experience and leadership.







# RUGBY SEVENS

## MEN

The Qantas Australian Men's Sevens team began the 2014/2015 HSBC World Sevens Series entrenched in the top four. However after a patchy start to 2015, including a sub-par tournament in Tokyo in April, the side dropped out of the top four (the automatic Olympic qualification spots) for the first time since the previous October.

Relief came at the Twickenham Sevens, where a record 116,219 fans packed the stadium over two days. An inspired Australian side destroyed the reigning World Series champions Fiji 33-7 in the semi final before falling short against a rampant USA in the final.

Australia finished the 2014/2015 HSBC World Sevens Series in fifth spot, which meant they had to wait until the Oceania Regional Qualification Tournament in November for a chance to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

In July, Wallaby Henry Speight committed to the Sevens program in a landmark agreement that allowed the Fijian-born flyer to combine his duties with his Super Rugby province, the Brumbies, with his duties for the Australian Sevens team over the next 12 months.

One month later, Head Coach Geraint John tendered his resignation, citing family reasons for his departure. National Women's Sevens Head Coach Tim Walsh took the reins on an interim basis to ensure the team were well-prepared for the critical Olympic qualification event.

At the Oceania Regional Qualification event in Auckland, the Australian Sevens team were in brilliant form, crushing all before them to win the tournament. Skippered by Ed Jenkins, Australia defeated Nauru, Cook Islands, Tonga, American Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Tonga to book their ticket to Rio.

With Tim Walsh reverting back to his role as Head Coach of the women's team, former Wallaby Scott Bowen led the team at the Dubai and Cape Town tournaments. The largely inexperienced side finished in sixth and seventh position, leaving Australia in seventh position in the World Series standings at the end of 2015.

## WOMEN

The Qantas Australian Women's Sevens team had a strong start to the 2014/2015 HSBC Women's World Sevens Series. In their first event of 2015, the team powered imperiously through the Sao Paulo tournament to reach the final. Unfortunately, the tournament ended as it had in Dubai two months earlier: with a dramatic defeat to New Zealand.

A fifth place finish in Atlanta, USA followed by a disappointing seventh place finish on finals day in Langford, Canada, saw the Aussies drop to third place in the overall rankings. With two Women's World Series tournaments remaining, and automatic Olympic qualification guaranteed to the top four teams at the end of the series, the pressure on the team mounted.

However, the Aussies found form in London in May, winning the event after reserving their most complete performance of the season for the 29-7 win over world champions New Zealand in the semi final. In the cup final at Twickenham, they came from 17-5 down, with a player in the sin-bin, to stun Canada. Ellia Green scored the winning try after the siren to clinch a memorable 20-17 victory.

When the team made it through to the quarter finals in Amsterdam, they amassed enough World Series points to ensure they





could not drop out of the top four – thus confirming their Olympic qualification. The team reached the final again, but Canada exacted revenge for their London defeat by scoring in the last minute to take the tournament with a 20-17 win.

After Australia finished third in the series, 20-year-old playmaker Charlotte Caslick was nominated for the World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Year Award for the second year in a row.

In July, a youthful side represented Australia at the 2015 Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Nicole Beck was selected by the Australian Olympic Committee to be the team flag bearer at the Opening Ceremony. After cruising to the gold medal match on a difficult surface, the Australians fell just short to an experienced Fijian outfit 12-10 in the final.

Australia started the 2015/2016 HSBC Women's World Rugby Sevens Series in style, winning all six games as they took out the opening tournament of the season in Dubai in December. A red-hot Australian side soundly beat Russia 31-12 in the final to lead the fledgling ladder with four World Series tournaments remaining.



## GENERATION NEXT

Supported by the Australian Commonwealth Games Association's (ACGA) 2015 NextGEN AUSComGames Squad program, Australia sent a boys' and girls' team to the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games in Apia, Samoa in September.

The girls' team, skippered by Laura Waldie, claimed the gold medal after defeating every team they came up against, including an impressive 36-5 demolition of Canada in the final. The boys' side, captained by Lachlan Anderson, won the silver medal after South Africa defeated them in the final.

From the girls' team, Dominique Du Toit, Shenae Ciesiolka and captain Laura Waldie, all aged 18, were awarded national Sevens contracts in 2015.

Forward Simon Kennewell, who had been selected for the Commonwealth Youth Games after having impressed at the 2015 National Sevens Championship, had an impressive tournament. The Sydneysider was later rewarded with a full national Sevens contract.

## PATHWAYS

For the first time, the ARU hosted a senior and junior National Sevens Championship with divisions for men, women, boys and girls running over two weekends at the Sydney Academy of Sport in Narrabeen.

Over 450 players from across the country were given the opportunity to stake their claim for higher representative honours with squads for the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa selected following the junior boys' and girls' events.

New South Wales took out the junior boys' and girls' tournaments and made it a clean sweep a week later when NSW claimed the senior men's and women's championship titles.

The ARU's decision to expand the national Sevens events added another step in the pathway for players, coaches, managers and referees to pursue a career in the Sevens format of the game.



# ASTERON LIFE SUPER RUGBY

After the brilliant success of the Waratahs in 2014, in the twentieth year of Asteron Life Super Rugby all eyes were on the Australian conference to see if it could deliver another championship-winning team. The Waratahs and Brumbies both had strong seasons. Each side scored 51 tries (equal 4th overall) to reach the semi finals, however they were ousted from contention by the Hurricanes and Highlanders.

The all-New Zealand final at Wellington's Westpac Stadium was played at a frenetic pace. Neither the Highlanders nor Hurricanes had ever won a Super Rugby championship. It was the Highlanders who eventually triumphed, claiming the 2015 Super Rugby title, 21-14.

## AQUIS BRUMBIES

In Stephen Larkham's first season as sole head coach, the Aquis Brumbies had the best defensive record in the season, conceding just 21 tries in 16 games. Highlights of the regular season included the bonus point win at home against eventual champions, the Highlanders, during which the Brumbies proudly wore a special edition jersey to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary. The bonus point win against the Lions in Johannesburg, which cemented the team's final hopes, was another memorable victory.

After finishing sixth in the regular season, the Aquis Brumbies crushed the Stormers

39-19 in the qualifiers, to reach their third consecutive semi final. In a hard-fought clash the Brumbies were beaten by the Hurricanes in Wellington.

David Pocock won the Brumbies Brett Robinson Players' Player award. His return to the team after an injury-forced hiatus, was pivotal to the Brumbies' 2015 success. He was also named best forward, and took home the People's Choice Stallion of the Year award. Christian Lealiifano was named best back and Locks Rory Arnold and Blake Enever shared the Shawn Mackay Award for the Most Outstanding Young Talent in their debut seasons.

Nine Aquis Brumbies players were selected in the Wallabies 2015 Rugby World Cup squad, with Brumbies captain Stephen Moore assuming the Australian captaincy.

## MELBOURNE REBELS

The Rebels had their best ever season in 2015, finishing in 10th place, and in doing so established themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the years to come. Captained by Scott Higginbotham, the team recorded nine losses and seven wins, including their first ever overseas victory against the seven-time Super Rugby champions, the Crusaders, in Round 1.

Off the field, the Rebel's prospects also improved with Imperium Sports Management Pty Ltd (ISM) buying the franchise.

20-year-old Sean McMahon continued his rapid rise to become one of the country's most dominant backrowers. He led the Rebels in tackles per game (10.5) and tackle busts (40). Jack Debrezzeni and Nic Stirzaker formed a superb halves combination and loose forward Scott Higginbotham set the record for the most Super Rugby tries (32) by a forward.

At the John Eales Medal Night in August, Sean McMahon took home the Wallabies Rookie of the Year Award. He was then selected for the Wallabies Rugby World Cup squad with Rebels team mate Toby Smith.

## NSW WARATAHS

As reigning champions and with targets on their backs, the Waratahs fought their way through 2015 season with some impressive results. During the competition, they beat 376 defenders in attack (2nd in the competition overall) and made 184 clean breaks (also 2nd overall). Highlights included the Round 6 win at Allianz Stadium against the Brumbies in front of 27,469 fans, and the bonus point 29-24 victory in Wellington over the Hurricanes, who had been undefeated going into the match.

In Michael Cheika's final season as head coach, the Waratahs recorded 11 wins to top the Australian conference and earn a home semi final. In front of 32,632 fans at Allianz Stadium, the Waratahs' hopes of an historic title defence ended in frustration after their semi final loss to the Highlanders, denying Michael Cheika and departing veterans, Sekope Kepu and Adam Ashley-Cooper, the farewell they had hoped for.

Following the season, fullback Israel Folau became the first player to win the John Eales Medal in successive years, and Waratahs Michael Hooper and Adam Ashley-Cooper were honoured as vice captains of the Qantas Wallabies World Cup team.

## ST. GEORGE QUEENSLAND REDS

The 2015 Super Rugby season was a difficult one for both the St. George Queensland Reds and their fans, as the team failed to meet expectations.

A total of 18 players debuted for the Reds, while iconic players James Horwill, Will Genia and Quade Cooper were farewelled.

The Reds recorded the second highest broadcast results within the Australian conference during the regular season, with







more than 60,000 viewers on average tuning into Reds matches on FOX SPORTS in 2015. An average of nearly 22,000 spectators turned out to the Reds eight home games, the highest within the Australian conference and the third highest overall across all Super Rugby teams in 2015.

The Reds social media presence grew, reaching 170,920 Facebook followers, 53,300 Twitter followers and 48,200 Instagram followers – the most of any Australian Super Rugby franchise.

At the 2015 Reds Gala Ball, Reds flanker Liam Gill was awarded his first Players' Player Pilecki Medal. Olympic gold medallist Tom 'Rusty' Richards, 1960s stalwart Alec Evans and dual Rugby World Cup winner Jason Little were honoured as members of the Queensland Rugby Union Hall of Fame.

James Slipper, Rob Simmons, James

Horwill, James Hanson, Greg Holmes, Will Genia, Quade Cooper and 2016 Reds recruit Kane Douglas all earned Wallabies selection in 2015, and all but Horwill featured in the Wallabies World Cup campaign.

In Under 20s, young flanker Michael Gunn, who made his Queensland and Reds debut in 2015, was named the Australian U20s Player of the Year.

Ahead of the World Cup, Queensland and Wallabies legends Tim Horan and Tom 'Rusty' Richards were inducted into World Rugby's Hall of Fame. Queensland Rugby greats Eddie Bonis and Dr Max Howell AO were also inducted into the Queensland Sport Hall of Fame in 2015.

### WESTERN FORCE

Two wins over the Waratahs were the clear highlights for the Western Force in 2015, in what was otherwise a tough

season. They were the only team in 2015 to knock off the defending champions twice, but 10 consecutive defeats left the team in last position at the end of the competition.

Number 8, Ben McCalman was a consistent performer leading the competition in runs (165), and was the team's best in line breaks (5) and forced penalties (3). Stalwart Captain Matt Hodgson led the way with the most tackles per game: an average of 15.7 per match.

Five Force players were chosen for the Wallabies train-on squad for The Rugby Championship – Adam Coleman, Nick Cummins, Tetera Faulkner, Ben McCalman and Matt Hodgson. Ben McCalman and Tetera Faulkner were then named in the extended World Cup squad.

## 2015 ASTERON LIFE SUPER RUGBY LADDER

	Wins	Losses	Draws	Difference	Bonus Points		Points
					4 tries	≤7	
Hurricanes	14	2	0	170	9	1	66
Waratahs	11	5	0	96	5	3	52
Stormers	10	5	1	50	2	1	45
Highlanders	11	5	0	117	6	3	53
Chiefs	10	6	0	73	4	4	48
Brumbies	9	7	0	108	6	5	47
Crusaders	9	7	0	143	8	2	46
Lions	9	6	1	-22	2	2	42
Bulls	7	9	0	9	4	6	38
Rebels	7	9	0	-35	3	5	36
Sharks	7	9	0	-63	3	3	34
Cheetahs	5	11	0	-174	4	2	26
Reds	4	12	0	-187	3	3	22
Blues	3	13	0	-146	2	6	20
Force	3	13	0	-139	3	4	19

## QUALIFYING FINALS

**Highlanders 24, Chiefs 14**

Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin, 20 June

**Brumbies 39, Stormers 19**

Newlands Stadium, Cape Town, 20 June

## SEMI FINALS

**Hurricanes 29, Brumbies 9**

Westpac Stadium, Wellington, 27 June

**Highlanders 35, Waratahs 17**

Allianz Stadium, Sydney, 27 June

## FINAL

**Highlanders 21, Hurricanes 14**

Westpac Stadium, Wellington, 4 July



# BUILDCORP NATIONAL RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP



Season Two of the Buildcorp National Rugby Championship (NRC) delivered some fast-paced running rugby, with the performance of all teams more consistent than 2014, which resulted in more fiercely contested games and a thrilling finals season. The introduction of the Horan-Little Shield, and the lure of a spot in an Australian Barbarians side, chosen from NRC players not contracted to Super Rugby clubs, also upped the ante.

For the first time, all 39 matches of the NRC were available for fans to enjoy via FOX SPORTS' suite of platforms. Thursday night games were broadcast live on television and the remaining fixtures were shown online. FOX SPORTS Extra Time on Monday evenings provided additional opportunities to catch up on the action from recent rounds.

The law variations introduced in the inaugural year remained in the NRC's second season. Penalty goals and drop goals were worth two points and conversions increased by one point to encourage teams to opt for tries. Over 11 weeks of competition, the 2015 NRC showcased 377 tries (an average of 9.6

tries per game) and no NRC captain opted for a penalty kick from Round 5 onwards.

A star-studded Brisbane City side went undefeated throughout the season to pick up their second Buildcorp NRC title, beating the UC Vikings 21-10 in the final in front of over 4,000 spectators at Ballymore Stadium.

A number of previously uncontracted Super Rugby players went on to professional contracts for 2016, including 2015 NRC top-try scorer Junior Laloifi (Brisbane City / Queensland Reds) and Robbie Abel (UC Vikings / ACT Brumbies). A further three players – Pat McCutcheon (Sydney Stars), Tom Kingston (Sydney Stars) and Boyd Killingworth (North Harbour Rays) earned contracts with the Australian Sevens program on the strength of their performances in the NRC.

## BRISBANE CITY

Led around the park by star flanker Liam Gill, Nick Stiles' side played some thrilling rugby in 2015. The team was again too strong for its rivals and the Queenslanders

went on to clinch back-to-back titles. The team featured the competition's top points scorer (Jake McIntyre) and top try scorer (Junior Laloifi). It will take a special effort to knock Brisbane City off their perch in 2016.

## UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA VIKINGS

After a relatively disappointing campaign in 2014 which saw them surprisingly miss out on the finals, the UC Vikings demonstrated





their true potential in 2015. Marshalled brilliantly by fly-half Christian Lealiifano, the Vikings only lost one game in the regular season before falling just short to a strong Brisbane City outfit in a compelling grand final at Ballymore Stadium.

### MELBOURNE RISING

A largely inexperienced Melbourne Rising squad didn't hit the heights of 2014 that saw them win every game of the regular season. However they secured a spot in the finals in the last round with a nail biting win over the Sydney Stars in Frankston. Jordy Reid was an ever-present force for the Rising throughout their campaign while playmaker Jack Debreczeni carried his Super Rugby form into the 2015 NRC.

### SYDNEY STARS

Guided by Peter Playford, the 2014 wooden spooners were the surprise packet

of 2015 as the Sydneysiders locked in a spot in the finals for the first time. After qualifying for the finals on the last day of the regular season, the Stars suffered a defeat in the semi finals in Brisbane, going down 47-32. Fullback Tom Kingston was impressive throughout the competition.

### NSW COUNTRY EAGLES

The Eagles were unfortunate to miss out on reaching the finals by a single point. 2015 NRC Player of the Season Jono Lance was sensational as the Eagles won four and narrowly lost four of their regular season games. Ultimately, a Round 6 home defeat to Queensland Country in monsoon-like conditions in Newcastle cost Darren Coleman's charges a place in the top four. The Eagles played an instrumental role in growing the game in regional New South Wales with games in Tamworth, Bathurst and Newcastle.

### PERTH SPIRIT

Despite a strong end to the season in which the Spirit won three of their last four games, the Perth-based side finished 6th on the final table. Kyle Godwin found some exciting form towards the latter part of the year to stand him in good stead for the coming Super Rugby season.

### NORTH HARBOUR RAYS

By the end of the 2015 NRC season, the Rays were widely-acknowledged as one of the most fluent, attacking sides in the competition. Despite being decimated by injuries and players leaving for overseas, the side from north of the Harbour Bridge never shied away from their attacking philosophy under the tutelage of Geoff Townsend. Flanker Boyd Killingworth was in eye-catching form as was influential scrum-half Josh Holmes. The Rays' games at Manly Oval and Pittwater Park were enjoyed by thousands of fans over their four home fixtures.

### QUEENSLAND COUNTRY

A largely developmental Queensland Country side afforded a raft of young talent the opportunity to play at a higher level of rugby in 2015, most notably Taniela Tupou, nicknamed 'Tongan Thor'. Saia Fainga'a and Radike Samo leant experience to the youthful squad. Coached by Jason Gilmore, the side matched their efforts of 2014 by winning two games throughout the regular season. The halves combination of Sam Greene and skipper James Tuttle had standout seasons for the boys in navy blue.

### GREATER SYDNEY RAMS

Cheered on by the vocal Horned Army, former Wallaby Jim Williams coached the side in 2015. It was no coincidence that the Rams found some form following the return of big NSW Waratahs forward Jed Holloway to the team's pack. The Greater Sydney Rams' solitary win in a testing season came in front of a live television audience as they played against cross-town rivals the North Harbour Rays at Parramatta Stadium in October.



## BUILDCORP NRC FINAL STANDINGS

	Wins	Draws	Losses	≤ 8 BP	3 Try BP	Points
Brisbane City	8	0	0	0	6	38
UC Vikings	7	0	1	1	6	35
Melbourne Rising	5	0	3	0	0	20
Sydney Stars	4	0	4	2	2	20
NSW Country Eagles	4	0	4	2	1	19
Perth Spirit	3	0	5	2	2	16
North Harbour Rays	2	0	6	2	1	11
Queensland Country	2	0	6	1	0	9
Greater Sydney Rams	1	0	7	3	0	7

### Semi Finals

**UC Vikings 50, Melbourne Rising 34**  
October 23, Viking Park, Canberra

**Brisbane City 47, Sydney Stars 32**  
October 24, Ballymore, Brisbane

### Grand Final

**Brisbane City 21, UC Vikings 10**  
October 31, Ballymore, Brisbane

# PARTICIPATION

Getting more people involved in Rugby remains challenging. Across Australia, participation in organised sports is declining, people are more time-poor, and they have an abundance of alternative sport and entertainment options available to them.

While the success of national teams may pique public interest in participation, attracting and retaining Rugby participants relies on the sport being enjoyable and accessible to as many Australians as possible – regardless of their age, background, gender or location.

In 2015, Australian Rugby focused on making the game more accessible. While there is still much to improve, the results were encouraging.

More people had a Rugby participation experience in 2015 than ever before. Across the country, there were 706,345 Rugby experiences, reflecting an increase of 2.7% (or 18,857 experiences).

Of the above total, 438,882 Australians enjoyed participation experiences such as National Rugby Week in schools, gala days and 'come and try' events. These 'promotional experiences' are important in expanding Rugby's footprint – especially to public schools and females – which will be critical for future growth of the sport. The ARU's challenge and opportunity for the future will be to convert these one-off participants into regular participants.

267,463 participants were involved in more than five games or structured sessions (in competitions and non-competition programs), reflecting an increase of 10.7% or 25,866 new participants.

The number of participants remained highest in NSW and Queensland with North Sydney and South West Brisbane being the regions with the most participants. Regional participation (outside metropolitan zones) represented almost 50% of total participation in NSW and Queensland.

New Rugby participation was driven by the innovative new programs of Game On and VIVA7s. All States recorded new participants by introducing these formats and, in particular, the 'emerging' states South Australia, Victoria and Northern Territory achieved greatest growth by taking Rugby to new communities through Game On and VIVA7s. These three states achieved an overall growth of 34.2% in Rugby participation, largely through the new formats.

The number of Club XV's teams decreased in traditional Rugby states (NSW, ACT and Queensland), but grew in all other states. Conversely, NSW, ACT and Queensland all



recorded increases in the number of Sevens teams. There were 149 new Sevens teams in Queensland and more than 84 new teams in NSW.

WA's depth in Rugby improved, with the number of Club XV's teams increasing by 67%. The Western Australian U15s also won the national Junior Gold Cup competition while the U17s were runners-up.

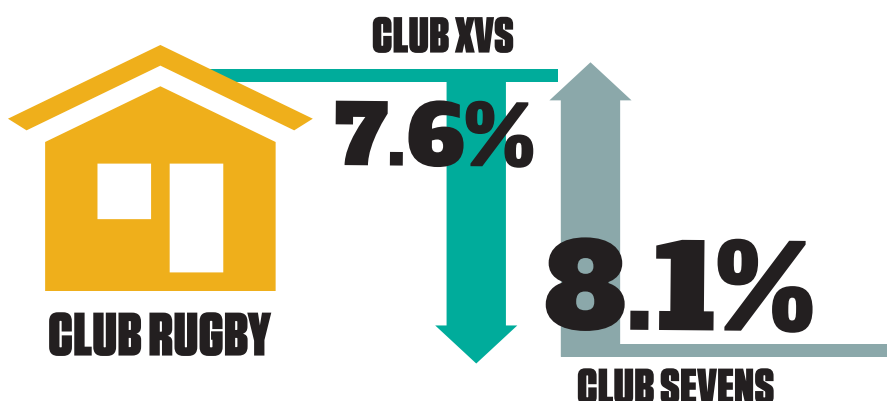
Outside ACT, NSW and Queensland, the East Melbourne and Adelaide regions had the highest number of participants.

Overall, across Australia there was a

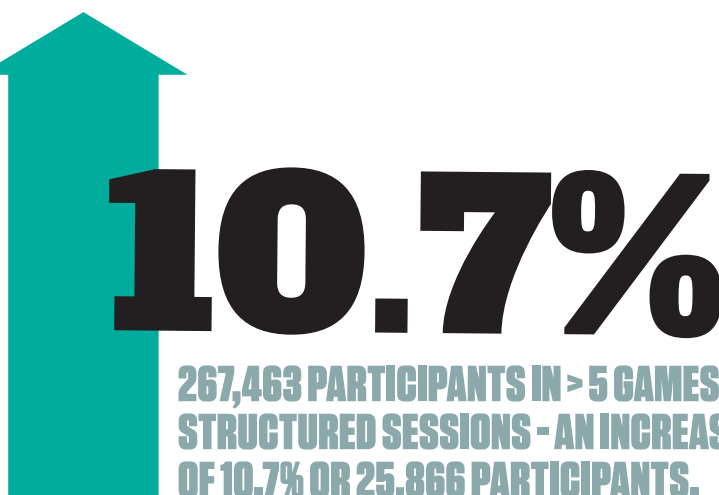
decline of 7.6% in Club XV's Rugby between 2014 and 2015, partially offset by a growth of 8.1% in Club Sevens. The Club XV's decline was more than offset by participation growth achieved in the new grassroots Rugby initiatives, Game On and VIVA7s. Incidentally, growing VIVA7s in clubs is a key strategy to reinforce the future of Club XV's participation (see following pages).

In the Australian Rugby Union's third Annual Participation Census, the report was once again undertaken by independent demographers, Street Ryan and Associates.





**706,345 PARTICIPANTS**  
**- AN INCREASE OF 2.7% OR**  
**18,857 RUGBY EXPERIENCES**



**VIVA7S WAS**  
**LAUNCHED WITH**  
**3,023 NEW**  
**PLAYERS ACROSS**  
**36 CENTRES**

**NATIONAL RUGBY**  
**WEEK TOUCHED 8%**  
**OF AUSTRALIAN**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOLS -**  
**OR 126,571**  
**STUDENTS**

**26,469**  
**STUDENTS**  
**IN GAME ON**

Australian Rugby's Participation Census defines two categories of Rugby participants:

**Competition (Comp >5)** – Playing Rugby/participating in an organised competition/tournament/structured program at least five times over the Census year

**Promotional (Promo <5)** – Playing Rugby/participating in a competition/tournament/program less than five times over the Census year

A player can be a 'participant' more than once in any year (e.g. a 15-a-side club and school player who also plays in a Sevens competition in the summer, would be considered a participant three times).

Schools data has been retained at 2014 levels whilst an audit is undertaken.

## CHALLENGE

**AUSTRALIANS PARTICIPATING**  
**IN LESS ORGANISED SPORT**



**RUGBY PERCEIVED AS**  
**A GAME FOR MEN**



**DECLINING CLUB XV'S**  
**NUMBERS**



## STRATEGIES

Flexible competitions that vary duration, frequency and intensity

Three distinct and complementary Rugby formats encouraging involvement from females and people of all ages and backgrounds

Through new Rugby formats, introduce new people into clubs to put more players on pathways to Club XV's

# VIVA7S: A PLATFORM FOR CLUB RUGBY GROWTH

VIVA7s (Rugby's new non-contact version of Sevens) was launched in 2015 with 3,023 new players across 36 centres.

The three distinct and complementary formats of Rugby – VIVA7s (non-contact Sevens), Sevens and XVs Rugby – are designed to meet the constantly changing needs and interests of all Australians.

VIVA7s is a game for all. It is particularly attractive to parents, females and casual players, as it offers a fun, safe, flexible way to get involved in Rugby.

Sevens, which is growing in popularity worldwide, represents another opportunity to engage new Rugby players and bring them into Rugby clubs around Australia.

XVs Rugby remains a core focus, as it provides the most valuable participants in Australia's Rugby community. By building up VIVA7s and Sevens within clubs, Rugby communities will have new pathways through which to shepherd participants into Club XVs.

Following the launch of VIVA7s and additional Sevens competitions, in 2015 there were more opportunities for clubs to grow and diversify their participant base, to help ensure greater depth and diversity in the Rugby community. Clubs will be supported to continue these initiatives into the future.



## 'GAME ON' BUILDS MOMENTUM IN SCHOOLS



In line with the Australian Sport Commission's (ASC) Sporting Schools program, the ARU launched 'Game On' – a five-week schools program that educates students about the skills and values of Rugby.

Teachers are provided with curriculum-aligned lesson plans, worksheets and presentations to use in the classroom and on the field. The Game On programs are interactive, fun and promote fair play, diversity and inclusion. They culminate with a carnival hosted by the school where students play in VIVA7s matches.

In 2015, 26,469 students participated in Game On and this number is expected to grow in 2016 as the ARU taps into the ASC's Sporting Schools network which includes 5,700 schools across the nation.

By embedding Game On into the schools system, Rugby's footprint will grow, introducing the sport to new participants and audiences from a young age.

An additional objective of Game On is to educate students about the values of Rugby – teamwork, passion, integrity, respect and discipline. Rugby teaches children to develop skills both in the classroom and on the field that will serve them well, not only in their Rugby development but also in choosing a healthy lifestyle.





# NATIONAL RUGBY WEEK CELEBRATES RUGBY WORLD CUP

The second annual National Rugby Week saw 126,571 Australian school kids get a taste of Rugby in the weeks before the 2015 Rugby World Cup kicked off.

With 748 schools from every state and territory across the country taking part, students, teachers, schools and parents immersed themselves in a variety of educational, fun and engaging Rugby activities throughout the week.

The 2015 National Rugby Week participation figures represented 3.41% of students nationally and 8% of all Australian schools - including some in remote locations in the Torres Strait Islands, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

During the week students completed interactive presentations and worksheets focusing on each of the nations competing in the 2015 Rugby World Cup. The on-field component of the program taught students introductory Rugby skills with an emphasis on fitness and fun to promote the positive health benefits of the game.





# WOMEN IN RUGBY

To inspire all Australians to enjoy our great global game, the ARU continued to focus on increasing female participation so that the Rugby community better reflects the wider Australian community.

Globally, female participation in Rugby continues to soar, with women's Sevens being one of the fastest growing female sports. In Australia that trend continued in 2015 as female participation in Sevens increased by 33.4% to 4,012, while 1,594 women played in the traditional fifteen-a-side format.

Female participation in the new Game On and VIVA7s programs was almost as

high as male participation in 2015: 14,955 participants, or 47.7% of the total. These initiatives provide opportunities for girls and women to experience Rugby in a non-contact format, so they can develop an interest in the game.

The National Sevens Championships saw 12 women's teams compete in the seniors, and 10 girls' teams compete in the juniors competition (the men's and boys' competitions had the same number of teams).

Women's XV's Rugby in Australia received a significant boost with the reintroduction of the National Women's XV's Championship

which was held in Sydney in June. The two-day championship was hosted at St Ignatius College, Riverview and gave more than 200 female players across the country a valuable opportunity to impress for future Wallaroos and Women's Sevens selection.

Following the Championship, which was won by Sydney, an extended Wallaroos squad attended a high performance training camp at Bond University on the Gold Coast in August. The camp was part of a larger strategy to build and develop a strong Wallaroos squad ahead of the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup.



# INDIGENOUS RUGBY



The ARU's vision for reconciliation is to engage and work collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to foster positive relationships, promote healthy lifestyles and create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through Rugby.

For over 20 years, the ARU and the Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team (LMRDT) have helped deliver positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

The LMRDT annual marquee event, the Ella 7s in February 2015, was an enormous success. Thirty-two teams all comprising

of young Indigenous men and women competed, with the Anthony Anno Avery Memorial Team taking out the men's tournament and Redfern Women's winning the women's tournament.

It was pleasing to see 50 boys aged under 17 years participating in the 2015 Brothers in Union ANZAC Camp, held at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence in Redfern. For the boys taking part, the three-day camp offered many once-in-a-lifetime experiences. They played in a Sevens tournament, joined in the Coloured Diggers March through Sydney, took part in mental health education

seminars and watched the Super Rugby derby match between the NSW Waratahs and Queensland Reds. At the end of the weekend, a national Indigenous U17s team was selected for a tour to New Zealand in 2016.

In June, NSW Rugby Union and the ARU successfully held the second NAIDOC Cup. The 2015 event was held in Coffs Harbour, rather than Sydney, which was a positive development as it enabled a number of new teams to compete. Again, the NAIDOC Cup showcased an abundance of talent including natural speed and instinctive ball skills, with Sevens proving to be a fitting format for the talented Indigenous participants.

Meanwhile at the National Sevens Championships, there was a national Indigenous team in every division - boys', girls', men's and women's.

In the Junior Gold Cup program for U15s and U17s players, there were 38 Indigenous players who participated.

At a national level, three female Indigenous players – Tanisha Stanton, Taleena Simon and Mahalia Murphy – made valuable contributions to the Sevens program, including representing Australia at the Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea, in July. Shannon Walker competed in the gold jersey at the Hong Kong and Tokyo legs of the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series. John Porch, after impressing selectors in a strong NRC season for the North Harbour Rays, signed a contract to join the Qantas Australian Men's Sevens program in November. Sydney-born youngster and former Australian Schoolboys player, Harrison Goddard was part of the boy's silver medal-winning Sevens team at the Commonwealth Youth Games and was then selected in the Australia U20s XV's squad.

In 2015, work began on developing the ARU's second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which outlines the organisation's commitment to implementing and measuring practical actions that build respectful relationships and create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It also commits to working collaboratively with Member Unions to promote awareness of the rich culture and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Developing an Indigenous Rugby Plan and a RAP is important for a number of reasons. Most significantly the ARU recognises that sport can be used to remove barriers and create genuine opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that will assist in 'Closing the Gap'. As part of the ARU's Indigenous Advancement Strategy program, the Deadly Sevens (similar to 'Game On'), will target primary school students and use Rugby to increase school attendance, create opportunities to learn about living a healthy lifestyle and allow students to connect to

# PACIFIC IN UNION

In 2015, the Pacific in Union (PiU) Program, in partnership with the Australian Federal Government and World Rugby, continued to benefit the Pacific Island region by promoting healthy lifestyles and social cohesion to local communities through Rugby.

The ARU and PiU program has over 250 volunteers trained and involved in running the program in Samoa, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, in partnership with local ministries of education. More than 45,000 participants – a third of which were female – have taken part in the program which included education modules on Rugby skills, health, diversity and values. Importantly, the program assists in encouraging awareness of obesity and social issues which are major health concerns in the Pacific region.

Work also commenced in 2015 to streamline the operating model for Rugby participation programs in the Pacific Islands, to coordinate better with World Rugby's "Get into Rugby" program. The best aspects of both the ARU's Pacific in Union and World Rugby's "Get into Rugby" programs will be combined to develop an efficient, sustainable grassroots program for the Pacific.

The revised model will provide opportunities for expansion of the program to other Pacific nations so that the wider Rugby community can work together more effectively to drive positive change in the Pacific nations.



## Australia's Winning Edge Sports

The past year has seen considerable success and progress for Australian sport on the world stage, for the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and our elite sport partners and athletes.

The Government's 2014-15 investment of nearly \$120 million continues to be refined to ensure funding is aligned to sports with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's Winning Edge 2012-2022 targets and maximise our chances at success.

Since Winning Edge was launched, the AIS re-allocated \$20 million of high performance funding among sports and boosted direct athlete funding (dAIS) by \$3.6 million or 40 per cent.

The Sports Tally 2015 — the annual report card for Australian sports — revealed promising signs as we gear up for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games,

while highlighting some of the challenges presented by our performance at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

In March the Commission launched Play. Sport. Australia. — our plan to help NSOs build participation in sport and make sure all Australians enjoy its benefits. Sports have the opportunity to attract more than 4.5 million Australians into their communities. It's important that we work together to ensure that more Australians, particularly young Australians, participate in sport more often and that we have strong organisations that deliver the products and opportunities Australians want.

Some highlights in 2014-15 included:

**Personal excellence** — The most significant athlete wellbeing program in AIS history, incorporating myAISPlaybook — a new high performance athlete learning and

development platform.

**AIS Sports Draft** — Athletes selected in this fast-tracked development program came together at the AIS to share their journeys as they transition to Olympic or Commonwealth Games sports.

**AIS Centre for Performance Coaching and Leadership** — More than 45 coaches graduated from the centre, providing development and mentoring for our brightest coaches and administrators.

As our attention starts to focus on Rio and the major events leading up to the Games, I look forward to the ASC teaming up with your organisation to help put our athletes in the best possible position and enhance our chances of success.

**John Wylie AM**  
**Chairman**  
**Australian Sports Commission**



# OUR RUGBY COMMUNITY



The ARU invested in some key strategic initiatives in 2015, designed to support Rugby's volunteers. The initiatives will ensure that Australian Rugby's systems and processes reflect the digital literacy of the contemporary Rugby community.

The Rugby Learning Centre was launched to provide coaches across all levels of the game with access to over 4,000 education opportunities from the ARU's participation and performance programs. Making the SmartRugby course available online was a significant step forward for the 9,000 coaches and match officials in Australia who complete the course each year.

A new Coaching Framework was developed to provide a reference point for coaches on the benchmark levels for accreditation, recognition and professional development. A National Coaching Conference and refined Performance Programs and professional development opportunities were provided across all levels of the game.

RugbyLink was rolled out to the majority of states, delivering online competition and participant management systems to enhance the operations of more than 1,100 Rugby clubs across Australia, as well as almost 45,000 coaches and more than 16,000 match officials. Following users' feedback, Version 2.0 was developed during the year to ensure RugbyLink can meet the needs of the majority of the Rugby community into the future.

The National Participant Registration Fee saw \$2m flow directly to member unions, providing a solid foundation from which to service and administer the game at a local

# RECOGNISING THE COMMUNITY

Australian Rugby recognises the many thousands of men and women who work to make the game consistently great, on and off the field. In 2015, some outstanding volunteers were recognised for their contributions to developing and promoting the game at a grassroots level.

At the John Eales Medal in August, Andrew Ellem from Gosford Rugby Club was crowned the HSBC Volunteer of the Year. The award recognised Andrew's hard work in rebuilding Gosford Rugby Club after the loss of its home ground to the construction of Central Coast Stadium in 2000. His efforts resulted in the club building its own ground and a

self-funded clubhouse. In addition, the award recognised Andrew's contributions to coaching junior sides, supporting disadvantaged youth and establishing strong relationships with local Indigenous groups. Andrew won a \$10,000 grant to support Gosford Rugby Club.

Coach of the Charters Towers Bulls Rugby team, Ted Vinson from Far North Queensland, was named the 2015 Asteron Life Community Coach of the Year. A vital cog in the Charters Towers Rugby community for more than 40 years, Vinson was commended for playing a major role in opening up pathways for the region's junior players and creating a junior league.

The ARU also recognised the efforts of John Woodhouse (HSBC Lifetime Volunteer of the Year) and Andrew Morbey (HSBC Young Volunteer of the Year).

These winners epitomise Rugby's volunteers who continually demonstrate passion, teamwork, camaraderie and a genuine love for the game.

# TICKETING & WALLABY 1ST MEMBERS

With The Rugby Championship condensed in 2015 due to the World Cup, the Qantas Wallabies only played two Test matches in Australia.

Sydney had the biggest home crowd for a Bledisloe Cup Test since 2012. A total of 71,991 spectators packed out ANZ Stadium to watch the Qantas Wallabies break a four-year drought to defeat the All Blacks and win The Rugby Championship title for 2015.

Corporate hospitality was well received. There were seven functions in Brisbane with 1,100 guests in addition to 2,000 guests across suites and boxes. In Sydney 1,850 guests were hosted across nine functions and all on site Sydney functions were sold out.

In recognition of their crucial role in cultivating the Rugby community the ARU continued to provide any player administrator, coach or referee registered with a school an exclusive offer for home Wallabies Test matches.

Adults who were a part of the junior school Rugby community who attended a Test match with a junior player could buy their tickets at children's prices. The offer was a success, with a collective total of 6,039 tickets sold across the two matches through the initiative.

Test match sales were enhanced by the use of the ARU's Rugby community database (SCRUM). The use of SMS text messages proved to be very efficient in prompting fans to purchase.

More than 4,000 tickets to Qantas Wallabies Test matches at home and abroad were sold to Wallaby 1st Members in 2015 and the membership renewal rate was 91%. Just over 57% of the whole membership base bought tickets for the Sydney Bledisloe Cup Test match.

Members enjoyed the opportunity to attend four Wallaby 1st Member functions in 2015: the Wallaby 1st season launches in Sydney and Brisbane; the Qantas Wallabies v New Zealand pre-match function in Sydney; and the Qantas Wallabies v New Zealand pre-match function in Auckland.

Members continued to enjoy a range of exclusive benefits during 2015, which included priority seating at games and access to exclusive bar areas at events. Members were also given 'behind the scenes' glimpses of the Wallabies' world via frequent e-newsletters, which included post match reports after Test matches, coaching news and squad announcements.



## TEST TICKET SALES

18 July 2015	SOUTH AFRICA	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	37,614 attended
8 August 2015	NEW ZEALAND	ANZ Stadium, Sydney	71,991 attended

# SCRUM

2015 marked the first full year during which Australian Rugby was able to benefit from its new Salesforce Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool, known as 'SCRUM', which was developed in partnership with Accenture Consulting.

The migration of the Western Force's membership data into SCRUM in February 2015 was a significant step, as it concluded the process of integrating all data from the Australian Super Rugby franchises into one central repository. With all membership databases of the Super Rugby franchises in SCRUM, a single view of Australian Rugby fans is provided, which ensures engagement activities are targeted, relevant and reward the appropriate participants.

A variety of fan-focused content was distributed via the SCRUM marketing channels. For the first time, SMS text messages were used to communicate with the Rugby community, including to announce the Wallabies squad for the Sydney Bledisloe Cup Test at the same time the media was informed. This direct communication with

fans was well received and encouragingly increased Test match sales, more than traditional advertising on television. As a result of SCRUM-based activity, 60% of Test match sales came from people within the SCRUM Rugby community, compared to 38% in 2014 – significantly surpassing forecasts, and heralding a new era of engagement in Rugby via digital channels.

ARU's relationships with its commercial partners was also strengthened, thanks to Australian Rugby's renewed ability to interact with Rugby fans, market Rugby and sell Rugby products via SCRUM.

With an improved understanding of Rugby's 'customers', Australian Rugby is in a strong position to further innovate and integrate SCRUM technology into the business and into fan experiences. Digital channels represent an opportunity to make engagement increasingly easy which is crucial to building and enhancing fan relationships, especially as younger generations of fans move away from traditional broadcasts and increasingly engage with sports digitally.



# THE FANS

Fans had plenty to get excited about during 2015. As the Wallabies enjoyed one of their most successful years on record – moving from 6th to 2nd in the world rankings – Australian Rugby fans united behind the ‘Stronger As One’ motto.

In the week before the Bledisloe Cup Test in Sydney, the harbour city became a hub of trans-Tasman Rugby fever. With the support of partners Destination NSW, festival events were created to appeal to fans of all ages.

At HSBC’s All Access Experience at Westfield Sydney, fans got to meet players and also use the latest virtual reality oculus technology to experience a Wallabies training session, spend time in a Wallabies changing room, and even run out to a full Test Match stadium.

At Bledisloe Bay in Darling Harbour fans again had the opportunity to meet their Wallabies heroes and show off their Rugby skills, amongst many other family friendly activities

Other Bledisloe Cup Festival events on the schedule included a lunch for women in business and sport, a Classic Wallabies golf day at Manly Golf Club and the Bledisloe Cup Race Day at Royal Randwick, where jockeys raced for the ‘Wallabies Cup’ draped in Wallabies and All Blacks silks.

In its second year, the Wallabies fan group, the ‘Gold Brigade’, made sure it was seen and heard. The competitive price point (\$89 for the Springboks Test versus \$89 for Silver tickets and \$69 for Bronze; and \$109 for the All Blacks Test versus \$124 for Silver tickets and \$89 for Bronze) made Gold Brigade tickets an appealing option for fans. In both matches the energy of the 4,874 passionate Rugby fans was contagious. The lively troupe kept everyone entertained with their spirited mix of chanting, singing and pro-Wallabies banter.

At the Sydney Bledisloe Cup Test, fans young and old had the opportunity to steal a world record from England by taking part in the world’s biggest scrum – a FOX SPORTS initiative. With George Gregan feeding the scrum, and John Eales and Tim Horan locking heads, the Aussies smashed the Poms’ record, and plenty of laughs were had by over 1,200 participants.

To ensure fans had the best possible experience at the match – regardless of the result – there was a renewed effort to create an engaging, lively atmosphere in the stands, which resulted in the highest spectator satisfaction levels in four years. Live music and sound effects (including the ‘heartbeat’) were used to impact the atmosphere, encouraging celebrations after tries and heightening tension between important plays.





# FANS ONLINE

In 2015, Australian Rugby's digital channels brought fans closer than ever before to the action. Website traffic grew by 52% over 2014 levels. Of the website traffic on domestic Test match days, 79% was via mobile phones and tablets. The Wallabies' Instagram following increased by more than 300% over 2014 figures, and the Facebook following increased by 74%, outpacing the Facebook growth of competitor winter sports (who remain ahead in total followers). These figures put Rugby in a strong position for fan engagement in the future.

Around the Sydney Bledisloe Cup Test, the Qantas Wallabies gained 10,722 new Facebook followers in one week setting a new record. In the same week, the Qantas Wallabies' Twitter page gained 4,871 new followers and visits increased to 124,000 (up 260% from the average).

The 2015 Rugby World Cup further highlighted the importance of Australian Rugby's digital channels. The hashtag #RWC2015 was used twice a second for the duration of the event and over five million times in total.

During the tournament Australian Rugby's website, rugby.com.au, consistently delivered exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' stories. The number of visits exceeded 700,000 in October breaking previous records which had been set in 2013 during the Lions Tour.



Australian Rugby's digital channels were tuned into more than 90 million times during the six weeks of competition. Social media was particularly important for interaction. By the end of the World Cup, the Qantas Wallabies had:

- 623k Facebook followers, up from 500k in August
- 175k Twitter followers, up from 141k in August

- 121k Instagram followers, up from 55k in August

The hashtag of the Wallabies' motto, #strongerasone, garnered support all over the world. Many high profile, non-Rugby celebrities and sports stars such as Kylie Minogue, Hugh Jackman, Russel Crowe, Rupert Murdoch, Greg Norman and Sally Fitzgibbons engaged with Australian Rugby through social media to spread awareness of the game to their digital audiences.

# MERCHANDISE

ASICS released their first ever ASICS Rugby World Cup Wallabies jersey to much media fanfare in Sydney. Jersey sales throughout 2015 reflected public support of the jersey. More than 31,000 were sold through key retailers including Rebel, Amart, Mick Simmons, Souvenir World and Australia Way. International markets saw an increase of 18% in sales distribution from 2014.

Despite a challenging year in retail across all licensed properties in Australia, Wallabies merchandise maintained a notable presence, largely thanks to the support of key retailers and the team's performance at the 2015 Rugby World Cup. The SCRUM customer relationship database and the increasing profile of Australian Rugby's digital channels were also catalysts for sales.

The 2015 sales figures rejuvenated momentum on the quest for the Wallabies jersey to become the number one Australian jersey again.





# BROADCASTING

## FOX SPORTS

FOX SPORTS delivered a staggering 824 hours of live Rugby content in 2015, which was consumed by over 3.7 million Australian Rugby fans.

The Qantas Wallabies' heroic run to the Rugby World Cup final was the highlight of the biggest year of Rugby on FOX SPORTS, reaching more than 1.5 million viewers across the 48 games, with the final between Australia and New Zealand setting a new record outside the 2011 World Cup, with 360,000 people tuning in.

FOX SPORTS was the only place on Australian television to watch every game of the 2015 Super Rugby season, which saw two Australian teams – the Waratahs and Brumbies – reach the semi finals. The final between the Hurricanes and Highlanders recorded the biggest audience of all time for a Super Rugby match not featuring an Australian team with 169,000 viewers.

The Bledisloe Cup showdown at ANZ Stadium, Sydney, remains the largest outside broadcast mounted by FOX SPORTS every year, with 29 cameras and more than 100 crew involved in the 3.5 hour telecast.

## MATCH COVERAGE

FOX SPORTS was the only Australian broadcaster on ground in London for the 2015 Rugby World Cup delivering live coverage of every game, ad-break free during play, with the most comprehensive pre- and post-game coverage, all on a dedicated 24/7 Rugby channel.

The Rugby World Cup commentary team featured five members of Australia's 1999 World Cup-winning Wallabies squad (John Eales, Phil Kearns, George Gregan, Rod Kafer and Tim Horan), alongside the voice of Rugby Greg Clark, Wallabies great Greg Martin and Rugby pundit Nick McArdle.

FOX SPORTS continued to host pre-match and post-match shows for Super Rugby, The Rugby Championship and the Bledisloe Cup from the field of play, where possible. The emotions from players were shared with viewers just moments after the final whistle.

FOX SPORTS continued to deliver live and ad-break free coverage (during play) of every event in the HSBC Sevens World Series, following both the men's and women's teams. Sean Maloney delivered commentary live from Hong Kong, Las Vegas, Brazil and Atlanta.

## INNOVATION

FOX SPORTS is the recognised leader in broadcast initiatives and innovations, with multiple broadcasters around the world implementing ground breaking technology

pioneered by FOX SPORTS.

FOX SPORTS was the first Rugby broadcaster to pioneer 'RefCam' – a revolutionary ear-piece camera attached to the referee, which offered fans the chance to follow the action through the eyes of the man holding the whistle.

'SpiderCam' – a camera suspended on a wire over the field of play – offered fans a unique view during the Sydney Bledisloe Cup Test and, alongside the Astra Award-winning FoxField graphics and analysis by Phil Kearns, was used to take viewers inside the scrum.

FOX SPORTS strapped a mic to multiple players throughout the Super Rugby and NRC seasons, taking viewers into the heart of the on-field battle and closer to the game than ever before.

## ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS

*Rugby HQ*, Australia's only weekly Rugby entertainment show, returned for 35 episodes, hosted by Nick McArdle.

FOX SPORTS rolled out a slate of shows for the World Cup. *Rugby HQ* was broadcast LIVE from London. *Rugby Legends* delved into the stories behind some of the greatest local and international players. The Sydney-based production, *Cup Runneth Over* proved popular with the younger demographic, reaching over half a million people in seven episodes.

## BUILDCORP NRC

FOX SPORTS continued its commitment to grassroots Rugby, delivering weekly LIVE coverage of Rugby's youngest competition, the Buildcorp National Rugby Championship. During the season, FOX SPORTS trialled new innovations such as immediate on-field interviews with try scorers. The 'match of the round' was broadcast LIVE and remaining matches were streamed on FOX SPORTS' digital channels.

## CHANNEL TEN

As the free-to-air broadcaster of Australia's Rugby Tests, Network Ten broadcast the three Wallabies matches of the 2015 Rugby Championship and the additional Bledisloe Cup Test. The 9.5 hours of coverage was watched by a total of almost 1.7 million Australians. The Bledisloe Cup decider in Auckland reached 1.5 million viewers, the highest audience for the series.

Matt White joined Network Ten as the full time Rugby host, while former Wallabies captain, Nathan Sharpe, also joined the commentary team, providing his expert insights from the sidelines. The 'voice of Rugby' Gordon Bray continued to call



matches and was supported by former Wallaby, Matt Burke and reporter Scott MacKinnon.

## ABC GRANDSTAND

ABC Grandstand is Australia's home of live sport and live Rugby on the radio. In 2015, the ABC Grandstand team broadcast 30 games of Super Rugby and the four Wallabies Tests for ABC Radio, using experts Owen Finegan, Ross Reynolds, John Roe and John Welborn, and commentators Tim Gavel, Jim Maxwell, Quentin Hull and Mick Colliss. Matt Toomua and Jesse Mogg also provided their insights during some Brumbies games. ABC Radio used all available platforms to ensure maximum Rugby exposure, including ABC Local Radio, ABC Grandstand on Digital Radio and the ABC Radio App and website.

## RUGBY WORLD CUP ON NINE NETWORK

The Nine Network were the Australian free-to-air broadcasters of 2015 Rugby World Cup, showing standout games LIVE on HD channel GEM. Nine's coverage was led by Wide World of Sports presenters Ken Sutcliffe, Cameron Williams and Bill Baxter, supported by former Wallabies Phil Waugh, Brendan Cannon, Andrew Slack and Nathan Sharpe. Despite the time difference, across all Wallabies matches, the average audience was more than 200,000. The biggest audience came at 3am on the morning of Sunday 1st November, when almost 1.2 million Australians watched the LIVE final between the Wallabies and All Blacks.

# OUR PARTNERS

Australian Rugby and its partners enjoyed mutually beneficial and positive relationships in 2015.

Qantas, a major partner of the Wallabies for over 20 years, re-signed as Wallabies Team Naming Rights sponsor for the next four years, flying the team around the Australia and the world, as well as maximising their brand presence at all match days, especially through the jersey branding. Qantas also continued to support the men's and women's Sevens teams in the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series in the lead up to the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

ASICS, as the Apparel and Footwear Partner of Australian Rugby, played a large role in the Wallabies' World Cup campaign developing a match-day jersey inspired by iconic jerseys of the past and infused with modern technology. For the second year ASICS were also the exclusive apparel provider to the Buildcorp NRC teams.

Asteron Life continued in their valuable capacity as Naming Rights Partner of the Super Rugby competition with major branding at all domestic Super Rugby matches, in addition to supporting the grassroots Community Coach of the Year award. The 2015 award received record nominations after being promoted on FOX SPORTS.

The second season of the National Rugby Championship would not have been possible without the huge support of Naming Rights Partner, Buildcorp.

HSBC's Volunteer of the Year program rewarded and celebrated the contribution of Rugby volunteers across the country. This HSBC initiative was widely appreciated.

Samsung's innovative 'slideline' activation was a great success.

In January 2015, BMW Australia became the Official Vehicle partner of the Qantas Wallabies. Following the success of the partnership, BMW bolstered its commitment to Australian Rugby, becoming the first-ever partner of the Pathway to Gold Program, which includes the BMW Junior Gold Cup, the BMW Australian Schoolboys and the BMW Australian U20s program.

Lion continued their support of Australian Rugby and their weekly Hahn Super Plays video clip of the round's best Super Rugby moments were consistently popular. Dove's "Real Strength" campaign featuring various Wallabies players pushed awareness of Rugby into new arenas. Swisse, as the valued Vitamin and Supplement Partners of the Qantas Wallabies, used imagery of Wallabies players in their above-the-line marketing collateral. Australian Rugby

referees were supported by TNT, which included the fourth annual TNT Junior Referees Clinic. Meanwhile, the national teams continued to enjoy the hospitality of the Intercontinental Hotel Group.

Accenture extended their partnership with the ARU in 2015 and played a significant role in assisting the ARU to develop a five-year 'whole of game' strategic plan to coincide with the 2016-2020 media rights arrangement. This included working on the redevelopment of rugby.com.au to make it more fan-focused and user-friendly.

South Australian family winery Taylors Wines announced their official partnership with the Qantas Wallabies in June 2015, which will see Taylors as the official wine supplier and sponsor for all major Wallabies events and matches.

Australian Rugby's government hosting partners, Destination NSW and Tourism & Events Queensland, ensured the success of the two domestic Test matches in 2015. They supported pre-match promotion to drive ticket sales and the development of related events (including the Bledisloe Cup Festival in Sydney) to enhance the visitor experience.

The support of all partners is vital to the success of Australian Rugby.

## Naming Rights Partner



## National Team Apparel & Footwear Partner



## Competition Partners

**Asteron  
Life**

**Buildcorp**



## Major Partners



## Broadcasting Partners



Australian  
Broadcasting  
Corporation

## Government Partners



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission



Destination  
NSW



eventsCorp  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## Official Partners



## Official Sponsors

SPORTSCRAFT



JuliusMarlow



# STARS OF THE FUTURE

## PATHWAY TO GOLD

Australian Rugby's Pathway to Gold program encompasses the National Schoolboy Championships, Australian Schoolboys Program, Junior Gold Cup, National U20s Championships, and the Australian U20s program.

The Pathway to Gold is designed to create a clear pathway for the next generation of Australian Rugby players to reach the ranks of the National Rugby Championship, Super Rugby, the Qantas Wallabies and the Qantas Australian Sevens teams. In 2015, Australia's Sevens pathways were augmented with the introduction of the National Sevens Rugby Championships for youth and senior divisions.

## JUNIOR GOLD CUP (JGC)

The 2015 Junior Gold Cup involved over 1,200 high school-aged players in 40 teams from across the country. For many young talented players, the conference-based competition was their first taste of representative Rugby.

The Western Australian Junior Gold Cup teams in the U15s and U17s divisions both advanced to the finals, proving there's a depth of talent in this emerging Rugby state. In a derby battle between east and west, Western Australia competed against the ACT in the finals of both age divisions. Western Australia won the U17s championship and ACT triumphed in the U15s final.

Meanwhile, the best players from the NSW and Queensland Junior Gold Cup U15s and U17s teams were selected for their respective states to play in representative matches, providing further development opportunities for players and coaches.

## AUSTRALIAN U20s

In 2015, the Australian U20s side played more Rugby than the young national side had ever played before. The Australia U20s competed in the inaugural Oceania Rugby U20s Championship, played two trial matches and then travelled to Italy to compete in the World Rugby U20s Championship.

The Oceania Rugby U20s Championship held in April included New Zealand, Japan and Samoa and was held at Bond University on the Gold Coast.

The competition provided more game time for the Australian U20s side ensuring the Oceania nations would be well-practised before coming up against their Six Nations U20s counterparts at the impending World



Championship. Australia won two out of the three matches defeating Samoa (33-10) and Japan (47-31) before falling to New Zealand in the final (29-46).

At the U20s World Championship, Australia lost only one match to eventual third place winners South Africa, but the ill-timed loss meant they finished the tournament in fifth position.



## 2015 World Rugby U20s Championship

**Australia** 34, **Samoa** 22

Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma, 2 June

**Australia** 31, **Italy** 15

Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma, 6 June

**South Africa** 46, **Australia** 13

Stadio San Michele, Calvisano, 10 June

## 5th-8th Place Play-Offs

**Australia** 31, **Scotland** 21

Stadio San Michele, Calvisano, 15 June

**Australia** 28, **Wales** 23

Stadio Luigi Zaffanella, Viadana, 20 June

*The Australian U20s program is a part of the Pathway To Gold, striving to create the next generation of Australia's professional Rugby players.*

## JGC Conference Finals

**WA U15s** 18, **Brisbane Pink U15s** 14

Ballymore Oval, Brisbane, 17 March

**ACT U15s** 41, **Victoria U15s** 22

Brumbies HQ, Canberra, 22 March

**WA U17s** 33, **Brisbane Pink U17s** 0

Ballymore Oval, Brisbane, 17 March

**ACT U17s** 28, **Victoria U17s** 24

Brumbies HQ, Canberra, 22 March

## Junior Gold Cup Finals

**WA U15s** 29, **ACT U15s** 24

McGillivray Oval, Perth, 29 March

**ACT U17s** 17, **WA U17s** 15

McGillivray Oval, Perth, 29 March





# REFEREES AND MATCH OFFICIALS

2015 was breakthrough year for Australian referees with two officials representing Australia at the Rugby World Cup.

Angus Gardner and George Ayoub were part of the official World Rugby refereeing team as an Assistant Referee and a Television Match Official respectively. Gardner was later named to referee the Test between Ireland and Italy in the Six Nations tournament.

On the HSBC Sevens World Series,

Australia's Anthony Moyes became the most experienced referee in the Sevens format when he refereed his 200th match.

In the next generation of referees rising through the ranks, Australia's Will Houston refereed the final of the World Rugby U20s Championship and gained experience in the Buildcorp National Rugby Championship.

In 2015 Andrew Cole continued in his role as a World Rugby Referee selector at the 2015 Rugby World Cup and the World

Rugby U20s Championship. Wayne Erickson also continued in his position as a World Rugby selector for female referees.

Despite having a year affected by injury Amy Perrett worked her way back to the international circuit to be selected to referee two matches in the Women's Six Nations, putting one of Australia's top officials back on track for 2016.

# INTEGRITY



## SPORTS MEDICINE POLICIES

In 2015, the ARU in conjunction with RUPA continued to implement the ARU Sports Supplements Policy and the ARU Medical Policy.

These policies set out the ARU's position on the provision and usage of supplements, medications, medical procedures and other medical practices and binds all players and professional rugby bodies.

The policies are also designed to be an education resource and guide for all participants and members concerning best practices in relation to supplements, medications and medical procedures.

The objectives of the policies are:

- To protect the health and well-being of players and encourage safe and healthy practices for all participants;
- To minimise the risk of players' supplements usage, medications or medical procedures leading to an inadvertent 'doping' offence, or their health or performance being compromised;
- To establish protocols for providing and documenting supplements, medications and medical procedures, to be followed by players, Super Rugby licensees, the ARU and persons within those organisations, which will ensure a safe and consistent approach to player health and wellbeing whilst maintaining appropriate levels of confidentiality; and
- To clearly set out the responsibilities and minimum standards and qualifications of the core members of the medical and health staff within the ARU and Super Rugby licensees.

## ANTI-DOPING TESTING PROGRAM

A total of 522 anti-doping tests were carried out on Australian Rugby players in 2015.

In accordance with the ARU agreement with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA), an anti-doping testing program was developed to cover testing of players from the following teams and competitions:

- Wallabies, Super Rugby, Men's and Women's Sevens, Australian U20's and the Australian Schoolboys team.
- Sydney Shute Shield and Brisbane Premier Club competitions.

For the Buildcorp National Rugby Championship (NRC), the ARU engaged Sports Drug Testing International (SDTI) to conduct a testing program.

World Rugby also conducted testing on the Wallabies, Men's and Women's Sevens and Australian U20s teams.

An amateur player was found to have breached the ARU Anti-Doping Code as a result of committing the following anti-doping rule violations:

- 'Use or Attempted Use' of a prohibited substance; and
- 'Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking' in a prohibited substance.

Given the substantial assistance he provided to ASADA, the period of ineligibility was reduced from four years to two years and six months.

## ARU ILLICIT DRUG POLICY

The ARU Illicit Drugs Policy and Testing Program has been in place since January 2014.

Education to players and staff regarding

the Illicit Drugs Policy commenced at the RUPA Induction Camp in December 2014 and was delivered to the Super Rugby and Australian Sevens teams in January and February 2015.

Sports Drug Testing International (SDTI) were engaged to coordinate the testing program and testing under the Illicit Drugs Policy. SDTI conducted 171 tests on contracted players and team staff with no positive results.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION BETTING

The ARU is party to Product Fee & Integrity Agreements with a number of betting operators. These agreements allow betting operators and the ARU to share important information and work together to maintain the ongoing integrity of ARU and Super Rugby matches and competitions.

Sportradar continued to provide bet monitoring services in relation to all Qantas Wallabies matches, all Australian Super Rugby teams' matches and all National Rugby Championship matches.

No suspicious betting activity was identified during 2015.

## INTEGRITY EDUCATION

In 2015 the ARU Integrity Unit continued to deliver comprehensive face to face and online integrity education programs to players and team management from the Super Rugby teams, Men's and Women's Sevens teams and all National Rugby Championship teams. The education programs covered Sports Science Sports Medicine (SSSM), Anti-Doping, Illicit Drugs and Anti-Corruption & Betting Policies.





# CONCUSSION

Concussion management continues to be a key focus of the ARU's player wellbeing and performance program, aimed at ensuring player welfare is at the forefront of decision making at all times and promoting the highest standards of education and medical care. The ARU's prioritisation of concussion as a critical area for education, investment, research and application is matched by World Rugby who consider concussion the number one player welfare issue in Rugby.

In 2015, the ARU's Sports Medicine program continued the involvement of Dr Ryan Kohler as a concussion specialist responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring concussion management strategies at all levels of the game. Dr Kohler is a member of the broader Concussion Advisory Group (CAG) which was instrumental in the following concussion-related initiatives in 2015:

- Developing comprehensive, tailored Concussion Guidance Documents for schools, clubs and all levels of the game
- Applying a process of independent Rugby-specific concussion research
- Reviewing all Super Rugby and NRC head injury incidents, and reviewing all Super Rugby head injury incidents
- Ongoing education and support of Super Rugby and NRC doctors on all aspects of concussion
- Attendance at all Qantas Wallabies

home test matches utilising sideline video review technology and performing Head Injury Assessment (HIAs) on head-injured players

- Review of concussion incidents at NRC and community level
- Internal Concussion Working Group comprising senior management, media and medical staff
- Continuing education of amateur team medical support staff via seminars and presentations
- Education of coaches via the SmartRugby publication
- Leading advances in new sideline video technology made available to all Super Rugby franchises in 2015

## HEAD INJURY ASSESSMENT (HIA)

In the professional game (Super Rugby and Wallabies Test matches), the HIA is mandated by World Rugby as the process to follow when assessing head-injured Rugby players. The data collected continues to form part of an international concussion surveillance initiative by World Rugby.

Data from Australian Super Rugby teams and World Rugby confirm that the vast majority of concussions in elite games are recognised and removed from further play, a significant improvement over the data prior to the introduction of the HIA process. Evidence from the Rugby World Cup 2015

shows no player who was allowed to return to play was subsequently diagnosed with concussion. In Australia, the provision of the HIA process as well as continuing education of medical staff, coaches and players and the provision of advanced sideline technology will continue to provide the safest possible environment in which to play Rugby.

## CONCUSSION ADVISORY GROUP

The ARU external Concussion Advisory Group (CAG) includes respected international and local concussion clinicians and researchers, some of which are from other football codes. Chaired by Dr Warren McDonald, the ARU's Chief Medical Officer, the cross pollination of expertise within the group provides a rich framework to discuss and action general Rugby concussion issues, review current best practice guidelines and assess research proposals submitted through a standardised process. Members of the CAG include:

- Dr Michael Makdissi: (AFL) Sports Physician and PhD in concussion research
- Professor John Watson: Neurologist
- Dr Andrew Gardner: Clinical Neuropsychologist and Researcher
- Dr Ryan Kohler: ARU Concussion Specialist, Sports Physician and Researcher
- Dr Seamus Dalton: (NRL) Sports Physician and Rehabilitation Specialist

# CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

The ARU remains committed to recognising past Wallabies and in 2015 paid tribute to a number of players who helped shape the game of Rugby.

This was highlighted through the induction of three new members to the ARU Hall of Fame. Additionally, two Australian legends of the game joined an illustrious group in being voted into the World Rugby Hall of Fame.

Australian Rugby supported the Classic Wallabies and the work they continue to do to recognise and represent those who have had the honour of representing their country in the Wallabies jersey.

## 2015 WALLABY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Each year, the ARU inducts three former Wallaby greats into the Wallaby Hall of Fame, as a way to recognise the outstanding contributions these men have made to the game of Rugby, on and off the field.

**John 'Jock' Blackwood**, the fierce pre-World War II Wallabies hooker, represented Australia 21 times in international Tests. After retiring in 1928, he carried on serving rugby and in 1956 was elected as the eighth president of NSW Rugby Union.

**Cyril Burke** played 26 Tests in the gold jersey between 1946 and 1956. Some of his many accolades recognising his service to the sport include a British Empire Medal (1954) and the Australian Sports Medal (2000).

**Tim Horan**, a star centre of the modern era, was recognised for his 80-Test career during which he scored 140 points and was player of the tournament at the 1999 Rugby World Cup. He is now the National Head of Westpac Sports and Entertainment and joined the FOX SPORTS Rugby commentary team in 2010.

## WORLD RUGBY HALL OF FAME

Tim Horan and Tom "Rusty" Richards were inducted into the World Rugby Hall of Fame in 2015, a worthy honour for two of Australian Rugby's all-time legends.

Tim Horan was a pivotal player in both of Australia's 1990s World Cup wins. His spectacular try in the 1991 World Cup off a no-look David Campese pass is particularly memorable. The Queenslander formed a world-class partnership with Jason Little, with whom he first played against when they were both at school in Toowoomba, and later combined with Daniel Herbert.

Tom "Rusty" Richards, the only man to play for both Australia and the British and



Irish Lions, was the other Australian inductee. The trophy contested by the British and Irish Lions and the Wallabies is named in his honour.

World Rugby Hall of Fame now lists 15 Australian players, including Horan's former teammates John Eales, George Gregan and Campese.





# MOURNING THE LOSS OF OUR WALLABIES

**Australian Rugby lost some remarkable men in 2015, but their contributions to the game will be forever remembered.**

## **GORDON STONE – Cap No 316**

Rugby was a huge part of Wallaby 316 Gordon Stone's life. He attended secondary school at Sydney Boys High where he excelled as a Rugby player and was named captain of the first XV. Upon finishing his education Gordon joined Randwick Rugby Club, where his stellar career with the 'Galloping Greens' was rewarded with state and then national selection. His only Test cap came playing scrumhalf for Australia against the All Blacks in 1938. He also represented NSW eight times and played 93 first grade matches for Randwick, winning three premierships (1934, 1938 and 1940). Gordon began his professional career as a medical technologist and after playing his first and only Test match, contributed to Australia's war effort in the 119th Australian General Hospital Unit in New Guinea, New Britain and Darwin.

## **BRIAN COX – Cap No 388**

Brian Phillip Cox, a light and tough halfback, played 142 first grade games for Manly Club in Sydney from 1947 to 1958, represented NSW nine times from 1948 to 1957 and played nine Tests for Australia from 1952 to 1957. Brian continued to contribute to Rugby in his post-playing years as the voluntary time-keeper for Manly's club matches, NSW Waratahs home matches, and Sydney-based Test matches, dating from 1989 to 2006. When he stopped playing at Manly he worked in various senior administrative roles at the club and was eventually honoured with life membership. Brian's two sons (Phillip and Mitchell) followed in their father's footsteps and had the honour of playing for the Wallabies.

## **ROSS TURNBULL – Cap No 523**

Wallaby number 523, Ross Turnbull was born in Newcastle and attended Knox Grammar on Sydney's North Shore. He made his representative debut for NSW Country against the All Blacks in 1968 at age 21, refining his craft as the forward anchor of three premiership teams with the Newcastle Wanderers in 1963, 1964 and 1965. He played one Test for the Wallabies in 1968, at Lansdowne Road, Ireland, and represented Australia in two non-Test matches. Turnbull was a key contributor towards the direction of the sport during the period of Rugby's conversion from amateurism to professionalism. A solicitor, he became chair of NSW Rugby Union and one of two Australian delegates to the International Rugby Board. He helped push the concept of a Rugby World Cup, and also championed fair financial compensation for Rugby players.

## **JOHN 'JAKE' HOWARD – Cap No 534**

Born in 1945 in Bexley, NSW, Howard attended one of Sydney's traditional Rugby nurseries, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. His Test debut came at age 24 against Scotland at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1970. Howard went on to represent the Wallabies on seven occasions from 1970-73 including Tests against New Zealand, South Africa, Wales, France and Tonga. Playing in his usual position of tighthead prop he earned the nickname "Tractor" for his powerful scrummaging and mechanical running style. After his playing days Howard continued his passion for Rugby by coaching where he forged an excellent reputation. He was called upon as an Assistant Coach of the Wallabies and enjoyed several successful coaching stints overseas in England, France, Japan and the United States. His son, Pat Howard, went on to follow in his father's footsteps and also represented his country playing for the Wallabies.



# 2015 ARU ANNUAL REPORT

# ARU AFFILIATES



## AUSTRALIAN BARBARIANS

The Australian Barbarians were involved in several fixtures with wins over NSW U20s and the Northern Rays, and losses against the Australian U20s

and the NSW Country Eagles' Development Squad.

In November, an Australian Barbarians side – chosen from players playing in the Buildcorp NRC who were not contracted to Super Rugby franchises in 2015 – took on a New Zealand Heartland XV in a two-match series at Levin Domain, Manawatu-Wanganui and Cocks Gardens, Wanganui on New Zealand's North Island.

The 'Baa Baas' will look to continue its association with Hearts in Union to assist Rugby players who have suffered misfortune whilst playing the game, while also maintaining our close affiliation with the Australian Schoolboys Rugby Union.

## AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR RUGBY UNION

Australian Junior Rugby Union continued as the peak body of junior Rugby in Australia. Junior delegates in Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Western Australia had the responsibility to foster, govern and promote the game in their respective states or territories, whilst working with their relevant affiliate organisation.



## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY & SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY UNION

ACT & Southern NSW Rugby Union's regions continued to prove their

depth in 2015. The University of Canberra Vikings had a fantastic NRC season. Jarrad Butler scored 7 tries, Nigel Ah Wong scored 6 tries, and Christian Lealifano was the top points scorer with 72 points.

In juniors, Tuggeranong Vikings front-row duo Connal McInerney and Tyrell Lomax were named in an extended Australian U20s squad to contest the World Rugby U20s Championship in 2015.

The ACT U15s and U17s both defeated Victoria in the semi finals of the 2015 Junior Gold Cup to advance to the finals where the U15s finished runners up and the U17s were crowned champions, after both playing against Western Australia.

In an excellent initiative for grassroots Rugby, Land Rover Australia and the Aquis Brumbies launched the Land Rover Cup, a primary schools rugby union competition for the ACT & Southern NSW area which will unearth the stars of tomorrow.



## AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS RUGBY UNION

The Sebel Australian Schools Rugby Union Championships were again played at St Ignatius' College, Sydney

with 12 teams competing across the two divisions. For the third consecutive year NSW I defeated NSW II in the final while the National Indigenous Team won the Division II title. In 2015 the Australia A Schools team was renamed the Australian Schools Barbarians – wearing the Barbarians' traditional bottle green jersey. This innovation was seen as a great success.

During late September and early October, the Australian Schools hosted New Zealand and Samoan Schools in the Schools Tri Nations tournament in Brisbane, with match results as follows:

- NZ Schools 73, Samoan Schools 8
- Aus Schools 32, Samoan Schools 18
- NZ Schools 23, Aus Schools Barbarians 22
- NZ Barbarians 62, Samoan Schools 12
- NZ Schools 32, Aus Schools 8

In 2015, the Merv & Iris Allen Award for Contribution to Schools Rugby was won by WA's Don McNamee. Sepesa Loga Tarogi from Newington College, NSW won the Merv & Iris Allen Award - Best Team Man award, while the Bronze Boot Award went to Harry Johnson-Holmes from Merewether High School, NSW.



## AUSTRALIAN SERVICES RUGBY UNION (ASRU)

Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) commemorated the ANZAC Centenary with a Test match against the

New Zealand Defence Force, won by New Zealand. Later in the year, concurrent with the Rugby World Cup, ASRU competed in the International Defence Rugby Competition in the UK, finishing 8th after a campaign that included a cliff-hanger victory over eventual 3rd place-getters France. ARU CEO Bill Pulver and President John Coolican attended to watch the match. The women's team enjoyed a strong 4th place finish in this year's National Sevens Championship, and a solid performance by a development squad in the XVs Championship set a strong foundation for their 2016 US tour.



## NEW SOUTH WALES COUNTRY RUGBY UNION

It was another solid year across New South Wales Country Rugby Union (NSWCRU). Our core goals of developing players,

officials, coaches, referees and volunteers were enhanced whilst maintaining strong fiscal and corporate governance disciplines.

As a grassroots community we are always looking for support. We were challenged by the introduction of the national participant registration fee, but as usual were supported by NSWRU and our sponsors to provide Rugby at the grassroots level. The Board together with the Zone and Club Administrators are volunteers, and their tireless efforts are a testament to NSWCRU's strength.

Our representative team results were strong with the Cockatoos, Cockatoo Colts and Corellas all enjoying success on the playing field. We continue to produce quality players, who progress to Premiership, Super Rugby and international levels.



## NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY UNION

New South Wales Rugby Union (NSWRU) had a successful year in 2015 with much on-field success. NSW played a big

role in the launch of VIVA7s and Game On, as well as introducing a range of Sevens and XVs initiatives.

With ten teams from NSW in the U15s and U17s Junior Gold Cup our resources were stretched but all teams performed at a high level. The inaugural ISC NSW Youth Sevens Championships, held in Sydney in February, provided another opportunity for young players to showcase their talent and an opportunity to represent NSW.

NSW teams dominated the National Sevens Championships at the Sydney Academy of Sport, winning all four national titles. This effort was further acknowledged by NSW Sport naming our Sevens program as the NSW Sports Awards Team of the Year. NSW also won the National Championships in U20s and Women's XVs completing a successful season.

Rugby relies on a solid base of volunteers and supporters in our state and we thank them for their huge contribution to the game.



## NORTHERN TERRITORY RUGBY UNION

The 39th year of Northern Territory Rugby Union (NTRU) was one of innovation and reinvention. The year started with the

'Hottest 7s in the World' which was won by the Borneo Eagles for a record fourth time, while Brisbane-based 'Tribe 7s' won the Women's Competition. 'The Swampdogs' won the inaugural Youth Boy's Division.











In March the Warriors successfully defended their Central Australian Premiership while in Katherine the Brahmans caused an upset with a victory over the Barbarians in the final. The Darwin Club Competition was a triumph for University who captured their 11th Premiership. South Darwin won the pre-season cup.

The Schoolboys won two of their three matches in Division II. Both the Northern Territory U16s and U14s competed at the Queensland Rugby Junior State Championships in July which is an ideal pathway for the Northern Territory's juniors. Sending an U12s team to the NSW PSSA Championships will also be vital for retention of players through their teens.

A club-based 'Summer of Sevens' competition ran through October and November. Casuarina was the inaugural Men's Champion with University winning both the Women and Youth Boys. The first ever Youth Girl's Competition – in any form of NT Club Rugby – was held and the Swampdogs defeated Palmerston in the final.



## QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION

A total of 294,987 Queenslanders participated in Rugby

throughout 2015, with Queensland Rugby successfully delivering growth in key programs including St.George Rookies2Reds (7,085 participants), Game On (7,275 participants in the first year of the program), Try Sevens (42,902 participants) and Q7s School Competitions (382 male teams and 141 female teams). Queensland representative teams continued to demonstrate the strength of our talent development pathways in 2015, performing strongly in various formats of the game.

McInnes Wilson Lawyers Brisbane City and Bond University Queensland Country competed in the Buildcorp National Rugby Championship in 2015. Brisbane City went through the 2015 season undefeated, securing a 21-10 win over the University of Canberra Vikings in the final at Ballymore Stadium to claim their second consecutive NRC title. City also added the newly created Horan-Little Shield and the Andy Purcell Cup to their trophy cabinet during the season. The inaugural Ballymore Kid competition saw Brisbane City winger Junior Laloifi awarded with a Reds contract ahead of the 2016 season. Country winger Izaia Perese was also contracted to the Reds following his performances in the NRC.

Queensland continues to produce talent for the national Australian Sevens program, with Queensland Women's Sevens players Dominique Du Toit, Laura Waldie and Shanae Ciesiolka earning national contracts with the Australian Women's Sevens squad, while Amber Pilley, Demi Hayes and Georgina Friedrichs earned development

contracts. Souths flyer Stephan Van Der Walt was also contracted to the Australian Men's Sevens squad.

Queenslander Charlotte Caslick was named Women's Sevens Player of the Year, as voted by her peers, at the 2015 RUPA Awards.

The 2015 Queensland Premier Rugby competition was hotly contested. Sunnybank claimed the Welsby Cup for 2015, while Bond University captain Josh Fuimaono was awarded the Alec Evans Medal for Player of the Year.

Souths won the final, securing a 39-12 win over minor premiers Easts in front of more than 8,400 spectators at Ballymore. The win saw the Magpies claim the Hospital Cup for the first time since 2000. Souths and Queensland Reds centre Chris Feauai-Sautia was named Man of the Match, receiving the Tony Shaw Medal.

In Country Rugby, Charters Towers coach Ted Vinson was nationally recognised with the Asteron Life Community Coach of the Year award for 2015.



## RUGBY WA

Rugby continued to grow in Western Australia in 2015. The results from a community and grassroots perspective were pleasing. The number of Club XV's teams increased by 67%. In a testament to the hard-working volunteers in WA, 24 were nominated in the 2015 Asteron Life Community Coach of the Year Award. WA's young representative teams continued to shine; the Western Australian U20s finished undefeated in the Southern States Championships tournament for a second consecutive year. At the National Sevens Championships in March at the Sydney Academy of Sport in Narrabeen, the Western Australian Women's team claimed the Plate while the Men brought home the Bowl. WA finished fourth at the National Women's XV Championships in June, with five players selected to participate in the Wallaroos' Bond University training camp in August. After strong growth in women's Rugby in WA over the past three years, RugbyWA launched a new U18s Girls' Sevens tournament. At club level, Nedlands defeated Wests Scarborough 39-27 in the Pindan Premier Grade Grand Final. Sixteen players from the Pindan Premier Grade competition were then selected to join 14 Western Force squad members in the Perth Spirit NRC team.



## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION

SA Rugby experienced a major shift in how it operates the game in South Australia in 2015, following the introduction of the national funding reforms. The move to a player-based payment system from the traditional

team-based payments, provided for more accurate and useful data on Rugby participation in South Australia. Clubs and players alike embraced the new model, with South Australia enjoying the highest online player registration in the country. SA Rugby also embraced new products to grow the sport, particularly 'Game On', which was rolled out to primary schools. Just under 5,000 South Australia primary school students participated in the program – 15% of the national participation for the program.



## SYDNEY RUGBY UNION

Eastwood was crowned 2015 Shute Shield Champions for the second straight year, defeating the

Minor Premiers Manly 15-12 in the final. The match concluded a competitive finals day, with Sydney University overcoming Randwick by a single point in the Colin Caird Shield (2nd grade), Eastwood claimed the Henderson Shield (3rd grade) and Manly won the Henderson Cup (fourth grade).

In the Colts' competition, Sydney University had a tremendous season, returning to dominant form defeating Minor Premiers Randwick 29-26 in the 1st Grade Colts Grand Final to sweep the day, as they defeated Randwick in both 2nd and 3rd Grade Colts. Sydney University edged out Eastwood to retain the Club Championship.



## TASMANIAN RUGBY UNION

In 2015, senior numbers were stable for Tasmanian Rugby Union (TRU), and despite slight decreases in junior numbers we are building a strong foundation for future programs. The senior men's finals in the state-wide roster were all closely fought affairs with the Taroona Rugby Club victors against old rivals Devonport 27-21 in the grand final. Devonport won the U18s against the Barbarians, 37-20. Our schoolboys' teams competed well in their annual clashes with Victorian schools in Hobart and Melbourne. TRU sent its first junior girls' team to the Australian Sevens Development Tournament in Wagga in December. The girls exceeded expectations at the tournament and will be the foundation of a viable women's rugby program in Tasmania.



## VICTORIAN RUGBY UNION

In 2015, pathways were a focus to produce home-grown talent. The Junior Gold Cup, NRC, new Sevens and women's tournaments all helped to build a sustainable Rugby talent pool for the future.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

In 2015, the ARU's Board adopted the practice of reporting in compliance with the ASX Best Practice Recommendations in relation to corporate governance. Whilst this is not required by law, the Directors believe this aids transparency and accountability in reporting to its members on the activities and performance of the ARU. The Board is committed to the highest level of governance and endeavours to foster a culture that promotes ethical standards and corporate integrity. This statement sets out the extent to which the Directors believe the ARU satisfies the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (ASX Recommendations) during the financial year ended 31 December 2015. Unless otherwise stated, the Directors believe that the corporate governance practices comply with the ASX Recommendations.

## PRINCIPLE 1: LAY SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

The Directors are responsible for the activities and performance of the ARU in both the short and longer term. Their focus is to ensure the ARU is properly managed.

A summary of matters reserved for the Board are as follows:

- setting objectives, goals and strategic direction for the ARU;
- monitoring financial performance and integrity of financial reporting including approving business plans, annual budgets and financial statements, and capital management of the business including its ability to meet debts as and when they fall due;
- establishing, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of internal controls and risk management;
- appointing and reviewing the performance of the CEO and senior management;
- monitoring areas of significant business risk and ensuring arrangements are in place to manage those risks;
- ensuring conformance with workplace health and safety requirements; and
- ensuring effective communication with stakeholders including reporting to members on performance, and regular meetings and forums with the ARU and its stakeholders.

Beyond those matters, the Board has delegated all authority to achieve the objectives of the ARU to the CEO and senior management.

The Board, based on recommendations from the Human Resources Committee, sets on an annual basis, financial and non-financial performance hurdles for the CEO and performance is assessed against these performance hurdles.

## Board Committees

The Board has established a number of Committees to assist in the execution of its

duties and to allow detailed consideration of complex issues. Current Committees of the Board are:

- Human Resources Committee;
- Audit & Risk Committee; and
- Governance & Policy Committee.

Each Committee is comprised entirely of Non-Executive Directors. Each Committee has its own written charter setting out its role and responsibilities, composition, structure, membership requirements and the manner in which the Committee is to operate. All matters determined by Committees are submitted to the full Board as recommendations for Board decisions.

In addition, a Nominations Committee was established under the Constitution adopted by the members in December 2012. The Nominations Committee is comprised of three independent persons and chaired by the Chair of the Board. Its roles and responsibilities are described below.

## PRINCIPLE 2: STRUCTURE THE BOARD TO ADD VALUE

In December 2012, the members of the ARU adopted a revised Constitution that sets out the process governing the appointment, term and removal of Directors. As part of this revision the ARU has now adopted a skills-based Board structure, such that:

- at any point in time, its membership represents an appropriate balance between Directors with experience and knowledge of the ARU and Directors with an external perspective;
- the size of the Board is conducive to effective discussion and efficient decision-making; and
- The Chair of the Board must not at the same time be the Managing Director.

The Board is also committed to fostering an appointment process that reflects an appropriate level of cultural, geographic, gender and age diversity.

The Constitution provides for up to nine Directors and states that there must be not less than six independent Directors (excluding the Managing Director). The Board is to consist of:

- (i) the Managing Director;
- (ii) six Directors appointed by members by a two thirds majority vote following nomination by the Nominations Committee; and
- (iii) up to two Directors appointed by ordinary resolution of the Directors following nomination by the Nominations Committee.

The Directors may at any time appoint a person to be a Director to fill a casual vacancy. This Director then holds office until the next general meeting and is then eligible for election at that meeting.

## Board Independence

When considering independence, the Board considers the recommendation made

by the ASX Corporate Governance Council. An assessment of a Director's independence is carried out at each Board meeting via the reporting of a register of interests.

## Board Evaluation

The Nominations Committee is responsible for scheduling regular Board performance reviews. At the end of 2014 an independent consultant was engaged to perform a review of the Board and individual Directors' performance. The next review is scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter of 2016 and will assess the impact of the changes to the Board which took place at the end of 2015 and in early 2016.

## Nominations Committee

Under the Constitution adopted by members in December 2012, a Nominations Committee was established which has the objective of assisting the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance responsibilities including with respect to:

- (i) Board appointments, re-elections and performance; and
- (ii) cultural and diversity obligations.

During 2015, the Committee met on six occasions.

## PRINCIPLE 3: PROMOTE ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

### Code of Conduct

The ARU is committed to promoting and strengthening the positive image of the game of Rugby and its participants in Australia. In light of this commitment, the ARU has adopted a Code of Conduct which seeks to establish standards of performance and behaviour to ensure that participants act in a professional and proper manner and to ensure that the game is played and conducted with disciplined and sporting behaviour. The Code of Conduct also seeks to deter all on-field and Rugby-related conduct that could damage the game by impairing public confidence in the honest and orderly conduct of matches and competitions or in the integrity and good character of participants. In addition, the ARU seeks to ensure that every participant is liable to effective sanctions if they are found to have breached the Code of Conduct.

Each Member Union and each Affiliated Union is obliged:

- to comply with, and to require Rugby Unions, Clubs and other bodies and persons in membership with it or affiliated to it to comply with, the Code of Conduct; and
- to adopt procedures for monitoring and disciplining breaches of the Code of Conduct approved by the ARU and notified to the Member Union and Affiliated Union from time to time.



Inclusion policy

In August 2014, the ARU adopted an inclusion policy that seeks stamp out all forms of discrimination in Rugby and foster equal opportunity in the workplace, providing a work environment that is inclusive and where all employees are treated with dignity, courtesy and respect. In relation to gender diversity, the table below shows the proportion of women employees in the ARU as at 29 February 2016:

Position	Number	Percentage
Board	3	33%
Management	0	0%
Other	38	32%
TOTAL	41	32%

Champions of Change

In July 2015, CEO Bill Pulver joined thirteen other male CEOs of sporting organisations for the first meeting of Australia’s Elite Sport Male Champions of Change.

The group was established under the guidance of then-Australia’s Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick who is now an ARU Board Director.

The Elite Sport Male Champions of Change are committed to ensuring their organisations break down unintended (and intended) gender biases to ensure women and men are on an equal footing at all levels of the organisation. At the ARU in 2015, this involved the CEO meeting with males and females in the organisation to better understand the obstacles that can prevent females from reaching senior management positions, and creating a defined action plan to overcome these challenges.

Governance & Policy Committee

The Board has established a Governance & Policy Committee which has the objective of assisting the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to any matters concerning governance and policy issues of the ARU.

The Committee operates under a Charter adopted by the Board and is comprised of four members, all of whom are Non-Executive independent Directors. The Chair of the Committee is considered independent and is not the Chair of the Board.

The Committee met twice during 2015. Details of these Directors’ attendance at Committee meetings are set out in the Directors’ Report.

The responsibilities and duties of the Committee as outlined in the Charter are as follows:

- (a) Formulate Corporate Governance Principles, Guidelines and Policies and bring forward to the Board as recommendations for adoption. Periodically review same to ensure that they are being complied with and remain relevant;
- (b) Review and make recommendations

to the Board on any new Government regulations in relation to sport;

(c) Facilitate the orientation and induction of new Directors to the Board;

(d) Facilitate a continuing education program for the Board as a whole;

(e) Conduct an annual review of the Directors’ Handbook;

(f) Monitor and periodically review the Company’s Constitution and bring forward to the Board any recommendations for change to put before General Meetings for adoption;

(g) In consultation with the Chair of the Board, monitor the operations of the Board Committees to ensure the Committees operate efficiently;

(h) In consultation with the Chair of the Board, conduct an annual review of the composition of Board Committees and each of their Charters; and

(i) Consider any matters of governance and policy referred to it by the Board for deliberation.

PRINCIPLE 4: SAFEGUARD INTEGRITY IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Board is committed to integrity in financial reporting. This is monitored by the Board Audit & Risk Committee.

As at the date of signing the Directors’ Report, the Committee is comprised of three members, all of whom are Non-Executive independent Directors. The Committee may extend an invitation to any person to attend all or part of any meeting of the Committee which it considers appropriate.

The Committee met three times during the year. Details of these Directors’ attendance at Committee meetings are set out in the Directors’ Report.

The Board has adopted a Charter for the Committee that outlines its main functions as:

Financial Statements

- Reviewing the quality and reliability of financial statements and other financial information distributed externally.
- Liaising with external auditors to ensure the annual statutory audit is conducted in an effective manner.
- Monitoring the procedures in place to ensure that the company is in compliance with the Corporations Act and other legislative and reporting requirements specifically including the annual financial statements.
- Reviewing related party transactions and considering the adequacy of disclosure of those transactions in the financial statements.
- Recommend to the Board approval of annual audited financial statements.
- Conduct regular reviews of financial progress against future year initiatives.

External Auditors

- Reviewing the performance of external auditors.

• Assess the independence of the external auditor, having regard to the provision of non-audit services.

• Review the reasonableness of the external audit fees.

• Recommending nomination(s) of external auditors for approval of the Board.

Controls

• Monitoring financial and operating internal controls.

• Monitoring the establishment of an appropriate internal control framework.

• Reviewing external audit reports to ensure that major deficiencies or breakdowns in controls as identified by the auditors are remedied promptly and with the appropriate action.

Risk

• Monitoring financial and material business operating risks.

• Regularly review and update the ARU’s risk matrix.

• Reviewing risk management policies and systems, including the ARU’s use of derivatives and the ARU’s exposure to financial risks.

• Reviewing policies to avoid conflicts of interest and reviewing past or proposed transactions between the ARU and members of management and the Board.

• Review an annual report from management on the ARU’s Superannuation policy to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

• Review an annual report from management on the adequacy of insurance coverage.

Workplace Health & Safety

• Reviewing and making recommendations to the Board in respect of the ARU’s management of its workplace health and safety responsibilities.

In addition, the Committee shall examine any other matters referred to it by the Board.

The Committee has the authority to seek any information it requires from any officer or employee of the ARU. Such officers or employees shall be instructed by the Board to respond to such enquiries. The Committee is authorised to take such independent professional advice as it considers necessary.

Certification of Financial Reports

The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer state in writing to the Board in each reporting period that the ARU’s financial reports present a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the ARU’s financial position and operational results and that they are in accordance with relevant accounting standards.

External Auditors

The external auditor (KPMG) has declared its independence to the Board

through its representations to the Committee and provision of its Statement of Independence to the Board, stating that they have maintained their independence in accordance with the provisions of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants and the applicable provisions of the Corporations Act 2001.

The performance of the external auditor is reviewed annually. An analysis of fees paid to the external auditors, including a breakdown of fees for non-audit services, is provided in the Directors' Report and in the notes to the financial statements. The external auditor is requested to attend the Annual General Meeting and be available to answer questions about the conduct of the audit and the preparation and content of the audit report.

## **PRINCIPLES 5 & 6: MAKE TIMELY AND BALANCED DISCLOSURE, AND RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

This principle is generally applicable to continuous disclosure obligations of ASX listed companies and their communications policies with shareholders. However, in applying to the ARU, there are established policies in place for timely and balanced disclosure of material information concerning the ARU and its activities.

### **Media Policy**

The ARU's media policy seeks to promote and protect the profile, image and reputation of ARU and Rugby in general as a leading mass entertainment and participant sport. All media communications are designed to support and advocate ARU's vision, functions, practices, goals, objectives and programs. The policy establishes guidelines for interaction between ARU and the media. All media activity must be in the best interests of Australian Rugby and no employee shall make media comment that could denigrate ARU, the ARU Board, other ARU employees, ARU sponsors, licensees and suppliers, or as a general rule the squads and teams that compete in tournaments controlled by Rugby bodies in Australia.

### **Social Media Policy**

The ARU's Social Media Policy seeks to ensure that items posted through social media appropriately reflect the interests of Australian Rugby and enhance the image and reputation of ARU and Rugby in general. Due to the growing impact of social media, guidelines have been established for posting on these sites to prevent harm to the reputation of the ARU. Social media can only be used to positively promote the ideas and interests of the ARU.

In relation to communications with members, the ARU holds an Annual General Meeting, a mid-year member update, and also facilitates regular forums with its members to discuss activities of the ARU.

## **PRINCIPLE 7: RECOGNISE AND MANAGE RISK**

The Board, through the Audit & Risk Committee, is responsible for ensuring the adequacy of the ARU's risk management practices, and its system of internal controls and for regularly reviewing its effectiveness.

The ARU has implemented risk management practices based on AS/NZS 4360:2004; Risk Management standard and the ASX Recommendations. The framework is based around the following risk activities:

- Risk Identification: identify all significant foreseeable risks associated with business activities in a timely and consistent manner;
- Risk Evaluation: evaluate risks using an agreed risk assessment criteria;
- Risk Treatment/Mitigation: develop mitigation plans for risk areas where the residual risk is greater than tolerable risk levels; and
- Risk Monitoring and Reporting: report risk management activities and risk specific information to appropriate levels of management in a timely manner.

The Board, through the Audit & Risk Committee, reviews reporting on risk management on a regular basis and satisfies itself that management has in place appropriate systems for managing risk and maintaining internal controls.

The CEO and senior management team are responsible for identifying, evaluating and monitoring risk. Senior management are responsible for the accuracy and validity of risk information reported to the Board and also for ensuring clear communication of the Board and senior management's position on risk throughout the ARU.

The Board has received a written assurance from the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the declaration provided by them in accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal control and the system is operating effectively in relation to financial reporting risks in all material respects.

## **PRINCIPLE 8: REMUNERATE FAIRLY AND RESPONSIBLY**

The Board has an established Human Resources Committee which is responsible for policies in relation to remuneration and human resources.

As at the date of signing the Directors' Report, the Committee comprises three members all of whom are Non-Executive independent Directors. The Chair of the Committee is considered independent and is not the Chair of the Board.

The Committee met four times during the year. Details of these Directors' attendance at Committee meetings are set out in the Directors' Report.

The Board has adopted a Charter for this Committee which states that the objectives of the Committee are to:

- (a) Make recommendations to the Board in respect of the employment agreement and remuneration arrangements for the Managing Director (MD) and/or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and key senior executives;
- (b) Make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration frameworks including incentive arrangements and termination entitlements for senior executives;
- (c) Review and make recommendations to the Board in relation to Company strategies and policies for remunerating Wallabies players;
- (d) Monitor and review the Company's succession planning, including in respect of the MD/CEO and senior executives; and
- (e) Review the Company's human resource plans and policies for consistency with the Company's strategic goals.

To achieve the Committee's objectives the Committee has the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Monitor the Company's management of its HR & Diversity policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the overall strategy of the Company;
- (b) Make recommendations to the Board in respect of the employment agreement and remuneration arrangements for the MD/CEO;
- (c) Review and authorise the employment agreements and terms applicable for direct reports to the MD/CEO, including the Head Coach of the Wallabies and the Men's and Women's Sevens;
- (d) Oversee and review strategies and policies in relation to Wallabies player payments, and authorise payments outside of approved policy parameters on behalf of the Board;
- (e) Monitor and review the Company's succession planning, including in respect of the MD/CEO and senior executives;
- (f) Approve the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Short Term Incentive (STI) and Long Term Incentive (LTI) policies and structure proposed for direct reports to the MD/CEO;
- (g) Annually approve the proposed remuneration increases/variables, KPI performance and STI awards to the direct reports of the MD/CEO;
- (h) Authorise proposed termination arrangements for direct reports to the MD/CEO in the event that the terms of termination are different to those provided in the executive's employment agreement; and
- (i) Recommend to the Board procedures to ensure appropriate succession planning for the Committee, including the role of Chair.

The Committee has the authority to seek any information it requires from any



officer or employee of the ARU. Such officers or employees shall be instructed by the Board to respond to such enquiries. The Committee is authorised to take such independent professional advice as it considers necessary.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, keeps the Board informed about matters

arising at meetings of the Committee, including in respect of recommendations of the Committee and other material matters arising from the discharge of the Committee's responsibilities.

Non-Executive Directors receive a fixed fee per annum, which is inclusive of statutory superannuation. There are no

performance-based components in Non-Executive Directors' fees. With effect from 1 May 2014, it was agreed that Directors' fees would be reduced to zero until further notice. In 2015 it was agreed that Directors' fees would be reinstated to their original level with effect from 1 January 2016.



# ARU NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The adoption of the new Constitution by ARU's members in December 2012 saw the establishment of the ARU Nominations Committee.

The objectives of this Committee as stated in its Charter are to assist the ARU Board in fulfilling its corporate governance responsibilities with respect to:

- Board appointments, re-election and performance; and
- Cultural and diversity obligations.

The membership of the Nominations Committee consists of the Chair of the ARU Board, one person appointed by the ARU Board and two people elected by a two-thirds majority of the ARU's members.

In February 2013, The Hon Peter Heerey was appointed to the Nominations Committee by the ARU Board, and Ms Josephine Sukkar and Mr John Massey were elected by the ARU's members.

## The Hon Peter Heerey AM QC

After practice at the Victorian Bar, Mr Heerey served as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia from 1990 until retirement in 2009. On the Bench he had particular involvement in intellectual property, competition law and administrative law. Mr Heerey was Chairman of the Australian Electoral Commission from 2009 to 2015 and Vice-President of the Arts Law Centre from 2005 to 2015. He is also a keen supporter of the Melbourne Rebels.

## Ms Josephine Sukkar

Ms Josephine Sukkar is the Principal of Buildcorp and Chair of the Buildcorp Foundation. She is currently a Director of Opera Australia, the Australia Rugby Foundation, the Sydney University (Rugby) Football Club Foundation and the Centenary Institute. She is President of the Australian Women's Rugby Union. She has previously served as a director of The Trust Company Limited and as a director (and Co-President) of the YWCA NSW. Buildcorp is the naming rights sponsor of the National Rugby Championship and for 25 years have been a major sponsor of University Rugby.

## Mr John Massey

Mr John Massey has extensive commercial and leadership experience as a Chairman, Director and Chief Executive spanning many different industries. He is currently Independent Chairman of Transurban Queensland, UQ Holdings, Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal, Director of Stockyard Beef and member of the Board of Governors of the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia (CEDA). Mr Massey is also a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Committee met six times during 2015, carrying out the following tasks in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities mandated by its Charter.

## DIRECTOR RE-ELECTIONS

After serving as a director for three years, Mr Geoffrey Stooke was required to retire and stand for re-election at the ARU's Annual General Meeting in April 2015. Following consideration of the balance of skills, experience, expertise and diversity on the ARU's Board, the Nominations Committee resolved to nominate Mr Stooke for re-election and Mr Stooke was unanimously voted in by the members at the 2015 AGM.

Ms Ann Sherry is one of the ARU's two Board-appointed directors. Having served as a director for three years as at July 2015, Ms Sherry was required to retire and stand for re-appointment by the Board. The Nominations Committee recommended the re-election of Ms Sherry and she was re-appointed by the Board for a second term effective July 2015.

## PROTOCOL FOR SUGGESTING CANDIDATES

In 2014 the Board had received feedback that ARU's members would like the opportunity to propose candidates to the Nominations Committee when vacancies on the Board arise. During 2015 a Protocol to facilitate this was drafted by the Board's Governance & Policy Sub-Committee and approved by the Nominations Committee and the Board. The Protocol was provided to the ARU's members at the AGM in 2015 and was available for use by members in relation to the vacancies resulting from the retirement of Mr Michael Hawker and the resignation of Ms Nerolie Withnall.

## NEW DIRECTORS

Following Mr Michael Hawker's retirement and the resignation of Ms Nerolie Withnall, the Nominations Committee commenced a search for candidates to fill the resulting vacancies. After reviewing the Board Skills Matrix and assessing the balance of experience, expertise and diversity on the ARU's Board, the Nominations Committee determined the criteria which would need to be satisfied by the new candidates. In accordance with the new Protocol (referred to above), ARU's members were given the opportunity to suggest candidates who met the relevant criteria for consideration by the Nominations Committee. After considering all candidates put forward by the ARU's members and by executive search firm, Egon Zehnder, the Committee resolved to nominate Ms Liz Broderick and Ms Pip Marlow to fill the vacancies. Both Ms Broderick and Ms Marlow will stand for election by ARU's members at the AGM in April 2016.

## NEW CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

Following Mr Hawker announcing his intention to retire from the Board, the Nominations Committee considered the matter of Chair succession throughout 2015. The Committee endorsed the Board's appointment of Mr Cameron Clyne as the new Chair and Mr Brett Robinson as Deputy Chair, both appointments effective 1 January 2016.

## TENURE OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the 2015 AGM, the Board proposed a change to the Constitution which would permit a member of the Nominations Committee to be re-elected or re-appointed for a second term of four years, but not more than eight years in total. Previously, no member of the Nominations Committee (other than the Chair) was able to serve more than one 4-year term. The Board considered that this deprived the Committee of the benefits of continuity and that the Committee would be more effective if its members were able to observe and assess the performance of the Board over a longer period. This constitutional change was approved by the ARU's members at the 2015 AGM.

## BOARD PERFORMANCE REVIEW

In early 2015 the Nominations Committee engaged Robert Webster of Korn/Ferry to undertake a review of the Board's performance. The review comprised individual director questionnaires and interviews, and the report emanating from this review was used by the Committee to assess both the Board's effectiveness and the balance of expertise, experience and diversity on the Board. The next review of the Board's performance is scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter of 2016. This will provide enough time for the Committee to properly assess the impact on Board performance of the appointment of the new Chair and Deputy Chair and the two new directors.



Australian Rugby Union Limited

ABN 36 002 898 544

Concise Financial Report  
31 December 2015

### **Concise Financial Report**

The concise financial report is an extract from the financial report. The financial statements and specific disclosures included in the concise financial report have been derived from the financial report.

The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing activities of the entity as the financial report.

Further information can be obtained from the financial report which is available, free of charge, on request to the Australian Rugby Union.



## Directors' report

The Directors of Australian Rugby Union Limited ('the Company') submit herewith their report together with the concise consolidated financial report of the Company and its controlled entities ('the Group') for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the Auditor's report thereon.

In order to comply with the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 the Directors' report is as follows:

### 1. Directors

Michael Hawker AM  
BSc(Syd), FAICD, SF Fin, FAIM  
Chairman and Non-Executive  
Director

Michael was Chairman of the Australian Rugby Union Board and Chairman of the ARU Nominations Committee throughout 2015. He resigned as Chairman at the end of 2015 and as a director in January 2016. He will remain as one of the ARU's two nominees to the World Rugby Council and as a member of the World Rugby Executive Committee, Rugby Committee, Budget Advisory Committee, Audit and Risk Committee and Governance Committee until May 2016. He will also remain as a Director of Rugby World Cup Limited. He was Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Insurance Australia Group (IAG) for seven years, and has over 30 years' experience in the financial services industry. Michael is an independent Non-Executive Director of Aviva Plc, Macquarie Group and Washington H. Soul Pattinson & Company Limited. He is Chairman of the George Institute for Global Health, an International Medical Research Institute. Michael played 25 Tests for the Wallabies, captained New South Wales and has previously been a Board Director of New South Wales Rugby Union.

John Eales AM  
Non-Executive Director

John joined the ARU Board in April 2010 and is a member of the Human Resources Committee. John played for the Wallabies from 1991 to 2001 and captained them from 1996 to 2001. He is a founding partner of Mettle Group, which was acquired by Chandler Macleod in 2007. John is a director of Flight Centre Limited, International Quarterback, Fuji Xerox-DMS, GRM International and Executive Health Solutions. He is also an Ambassador for the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation.

Dr Brett Robinson  
MBBS, Dr. Phil (Oxon) FAICD  
Deputy Chairman and Non-  
Executive Director

Brett joined the ARU Board in April 2011 and was appointed Deputy Chairman effective 1 January 2016. He is also the Chair of the Governance & Policy Committee. Brett was the inaugural captain of the ACT Brumbies in the Super 12 competition and played 16 Tests for the Wallabies. From 2002 to 2005 he was the General Manager of ARU's High Performance Unit. Brett is the Chief Executive Officer of BOQ Specialist, a private bank that finances medical professionals and the healthcare sector. Prior to his appointment to BOQ Specialist he held executive management roles which have included Managing Director and CEO of ICON Cancer Care, the Australian Chief Executive Officer of Allianz Global Assistance (formerly Mondial Assistance) and executive leadership roles within Insurance Australia Group (IAG) with responsibility for its key brands of NRMA, CGU and Swann in Queensland. In 2014 Brett was appointed as Chairman of Kings College at the University of Queensland. Brett is registered to practice in Queensland and continues to assist orthopaedic colleagues in advanced joint replacement surgery. Brett remains actively involved in clinical research.

Ann Sherry AO  
BA, Grad Dip IR, FAICD  
FIPAA, HonDLitt Macq  
HonDBus UQ  
Non-Executive Director

Ann joined the ARU Board in June 2012. She is the Chair of the Human Resources Committee and a member of the Governance & Policy Committee. Ann is the Executive Chair of Carnival Australia, the largest cruise ship operator in Australasia. She was Chief Executive Officer at Carnival Australia for 9 years, and for 12 years before that Ann was a senior executive in the banking sector, including as Chief Executive Officer, Westpac New Zealand, Chief Executive Officer Bank of Melbourne and Group Executive of People and Performance at Westpac. Ann was the First Assistant Secretary of the Office of the Status of Women in Canberra. Ann is a non-executive director of ING Direct (Australia), Sydney Airport Corporation, Myer Family Investments and Palladium. She is a director of Cape York Partnerships and The Museum of Contemporary Art.



## Directors' report (*continued*)

### 2. Directors' meeting

The number of directors' meetings (including meetings of committees of directors) and number of meetings attended by each of the directors of the Company during the financial year are:

Director	Board Meetings		Audit and Risk Committee Meetings		Human Resources Committee Meetings		Governance & Policy Committee Meetings		Nominations Committee Meetings	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Mr M Hawker	6	6	3	3					6	6
Mr J Eales	6	6			4	4				
Dr B Robinson	6	6					2	2		
Ms A Sherry	6	6			4	4	2	2		
Mr G Stooke	6	6	3	3			2	2		
Mr P McLean	6	6			4	4				
Mr C Clyne	6	6	3	3						
Mrs N Withnall	2	2								
Mr W Pulver	6	6								

A = Number of Meetings Attended

B = Reflects the number of meetings held during the time the Director held office during the year

### 3. Environmental regulations

The Company's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State Legislation.

### 4. Principal activities

The Group's principal activities during the course of the financial year were the promotion, development and general governance of the game of rugby union in Australia.

No significant change in the nature of this activity occurred during the year.

### 5. Review of operations and results of those operations

The consolidated entity comprises the Australian Rugby Union Ltd ("ARU"), the Australian Rugby Foundation Ltd (ARF), and Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union Ltd ("MRRU"). Consolidation of MRRU is required due to the authority the ARU held over the appointment of MRRU board members. This authority was relinquished effective 30 June 2015 when the entity was sold to a private investor. The operating deficit of the consolidated entity for the financial year before allocations and other payments to Member Unions was a deficit of \$3,035,000 (2014: deficit of \$1,780,000).

The net deficit of the consolidated entity for the financial year after allocations and other payments to Member Unions was \$6,329,000 (2014: deficit of \$5,512,000).

### 6. Significant changes in the state of affairs

MRRU ceased to be a controlled entity effective 30 June 2015 following the sale of the entity to a private investor.

There were no other significant changes in the state of affairs.

### 7. Events subsequent to reporting date

In the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report, no item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature has arisen, in the opinion of the Directors of the Company, to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.



## Directors' report (*continued*)

Geoffrey Stooke OAM  
Non-Executive Director

Geoffrey joined the Board in March of 2012 after a lengthy-stint as Chairman of RugbyWA from 1988 to 2011. He is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Governance & Policy Committee. Geoffrey is the Chairman and Managing Director of Standard Wool Investments Pty Limited and Chairman of Troppus IT & Management Services Pty Limited. Prior to his current roles he held senior management roles in the resources, fishing and food industries, after his early career saw him as an Officer in the Australian Regular Army - which included service in Australia and abroad. Geoffrey was a director of the Australian Sports Commission from 2005 to 2006. He has had a lifelong involvement in rugby and since 1965 has played over 800 grade games including over 600 for the Associates club in Perth.

Paul McLean MBE  
Non-Executive Director

Paul joined the Board on 27 August 2013 and is a member of the Human Resources Committee. After joining the global real estate services provider, Savills, in 1990, Paul is now the CEO - Savills Australia and NZ. Paul is a former Wallaby and Queensland captain and was inducted into the Wallaby Hall of Fame in 2011. He was President of Queensland Rugby Union from 1999 – 2005, President of the Australian Rugby Union from 2005-2009 and was a member of World Rugby's Executive Committee from 2007-2009. Paul is also a Director of Youngcare and has been a member of the Property Male Champions of Change group since 2014.

Cameron Clyne  
Chairman and Non-Executive  
Director

Cameron joined the Board in October 2013 and was appointed Chairman effective 1 January 2016. He is also the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee. Cameron was the Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of the National Australia Bank from January 2009 until August 2014. He joined NAB in 2004 following more than 12 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers, leading the Financial Services Industry practice in the Asia Pacific. Cameron was selected as one of 245 people globally as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum to address global challenges including health, education and the environment.

Nerolie Withnall  
Non-Executive Director

Nerolie joined the Board in October 2013 and resigned in June 2015. Nerolie is a former partner of national law firm Minter Ellison working in commercial law. Nerolie's Board career includes her current role as Chair of international testing services business ALS and non-executive Board roles with resources company PanAust and global registry company Computershare.

Bill Pulver  
Managing Director and CEO

Bill was appointed CEO of Australian Rugby Union in February 2013. Prior to rugby Bill was CEO of Appen, a linguistic technology company. From 2008 to 2010 he was Chairman of Repucom International, a global leader in sports marketing research. Bill also spent eight years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York based, NASDAQ-listed internet media research company NetRatings Inc. Prior to that he spent 17 years at global marketing research company ACNielsen, in roles that included Managing Director in Australia, Group Chief Executive for Japan and Korea based in Tokyo; and President of ACNielsen eRatings.com, an internet audience measurement company based in London.

Liz Broderick  
Non-Executive Director

Liz joined the Board in February 2016. She served as Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner from 2007 to 2015 which included developing the Male Champions of Change strategy and leading the first independent review into the treatment of women within the Australian Defence Force. She is Global Co-Chair of the Women's Empowerment Principles Leadership Group, a Member of Australian Defence Force Gender Equality Advisory Board and a former Member of World Bank's Advisory Council on Gender and Development. She is also a Special Advisor to the Executive Director of UN Women (New York). Liz was previously a partner and board member at law firm Blake Dawson (now Ashurst).

Pip Marlow  
Non-Executive Director

Pip joined the Board in February 2016. She is the Managing Director of Microsoft Australia. Prior to this she held various positions across the Microsoft business, including General Manager for US Channel Sales (based at Microsoft's head office in Seattle, US), Director of Small and Medium Business Solutions and Partners, Public Sector Director, and Enterprise and Partner Group Director. Pip was born and raised in Palmerston North, New Zealand where she developed a lifelong passion for rugby.



## Directors' report (*continued*)

### 8. Likely developments

Further information about likely developments in the operations of the Group and the expected results of those operations in future financial years has not been included in this report because disclosure of the information would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Group.

### 9. Indemnification and insurance of officers

In accordance with the Company's Constitution, during the financial year the Company has paid premiums for insurance contracts in respect of directors' and officers' liability and legal expenses. Such insurance contracts insure persons who are or have been directors or executive officers of the consolidated entity against certain liability (subject to specific exclusions).


### 10. Lead auditor's independence declaration

The Lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 6 and forms part of the Directors' report for the financial year ended 31 December 2015.

### 11. Rounding off

The Company is of a kind referred to in ASIC Class Order 98/100 dated 10 July 1998 and in accordance with that Class Order, amounts in the consolidated financial report and directors' report have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated.

This reports is made out in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



C. Clyne  
Director



W. Pulver  
Director

Dated at Sydney this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2016





***Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001***

To: the directors of Australian Rugby Union Limited

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 31 December 2015 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

KPMG

Trent Duvall  
*Partner*

Sydney

22 March 2016

## Income Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 Consolidated Entity \$'000	2015 Parent Entity \$'000	2014 Consolidated Entity \$'000	2014 Parent Entity \$'000
<b>Revenue</b>					
Broadcasting		18,102	18,102	26,168	26,168
Matchday		16,022	12,322	34,843	31,774
Sponsorships		23,579	21,361	31,916	28,700
Licensing		1,901	1,886	1,921	1,857
Government grants		2,385	2,385	2,575	2,575
World Rugby grants		18,990	18,990	686	686
Other income		3,858	3,018	5,289	5,092
<b>Total revenue and other income</b>		<b>84,837</b>	<b>78,064</b>	<b>103,398</b>	<b>96,852</b>
<b>Operating expenditure</b>					
Commission & Servicing costs		3,864	2,960	4,056	3,870
Matchday operations		6,622	5,522	16,536	15,071
Marketing & media		3,198	2,819	4,294	3,468
Wallabies team costs		5,637	5,637	5,853	5,853
National Sevens teams costs		3,493	3,493	3,724	3,724
Super Rugby teams costs		4,178	3,304	4,053	3,177
Super Rugby grants		19,701	25,152	17,713	23,763
Player payments & RUPA costs		14,982	12,778	16,274	12,565
High Performance & National Teams		5,338	5,105	6,769	6,769
SANZAR office		1,237	1,237	1,212	1,212
Community Rugby		2,368	2,366	4,372	4,294
Corporate		17,562	14,549	20,799	16,167
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>		<b>88,180</b>	<b>84,922</b>	<b>105,655</b>	<b>99,933</b>
<b>Operating (deficit)/surplus before financing income</b>		<b>(3,343)</b>	<b>(6,858)</b>	<b>(2,257)</b>	<b>(3,081)</b>
Finance income		1,579	1,575	489	478
Finance costs		(1,464)	(1,465)	(126)	(121)
<b>Net finance income</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>357</b>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus after net finance income</b>		<b>(3,228)</b>	<b>(6,748)</b>	<b>(1,894)</b>	<b>(2,724)</b>
Share of profit/(loss) of jointly controlled entity		193	193	114	114
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus before tax</b>		<b>(3,035)</b>	<b>(6,555)</b>	<b>(1,780)</b>	<b>(2,610)</b>
Income tax expense		-	-	-	-
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the period before allocations</b>		<b>(3,035)</b>	<b>(6,555)</b>	<b>(1,780)</b>	<b>(2,610)</b>
Allocations to Member Unions & Affiliates		(3,294)	(3,294)	(3,732)	(3,732)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the period</b>		<b>(6,329)</b>	<b>(9,849)</b>	<b>(5,512)</b>	<b>(6,342)</b>
<b>Profit attributable to:</b>					
Members of the Company		(5,595)	(9,849)	(3,078)	(6,342)
Non-controlling interests		(734)	-	(2,434)	-

The income statements are to be read in conjunction with the notes to the concise financial report.



**Statements of comprehensive income**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2015**

Note	2015	2015	2014	2014
	Consolidated Entity	Parent Entity	Consolidated Entity	Parent Entity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
(Deficit)/Surplus for the period	(6,329)	(9,849)	(5,512)	(6,342)
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss):</b>				
<b>Items that will never be reclassified to profit or loss</b>				
Net change in fair value of fixed assets taken to equity	387	387	-	-
<b>Total items that will never be reclassified to profit or loss</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>				
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedges transferred to profit and loss	(325)	(325)	(898)	(898)
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedges taken to equity	1,680	1,680	450	450
<b>Total items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>(448)</b>	<b>(448)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>(448)</b>	<b>(448)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period</b>	<b>(4,587)</b>	<b>(8,107)</b>	<b>(5,960)</b>	<b>(6,790)</b>
<b>Comprehensive (loss)/income for the period attributable to:</b>				
Members of the Company	(3,853)	(8,107)	(3,525)	(6,790)
Non-controlling interests	(734)	-	(2,434)	-

*The statements of comprehensive income are to be read in conjunction with the notes to the concise financial report.*

**Statements of financial position**  
**As at 31 December 2015**

	Note	2015 Consolidated Entity	2015 Parent Entity	2014 Consolidated Entity	2014 Parent Entity
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents		10,347	9,737	8,015	7,840
Trade and other receivables		5,144	5,053	13,399	13,170
Financial assets		1,078	1,078	-	-
Other assets		1,258	1,258	656	569
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>17,827</b>	<b>17,126</b>	<b>22,070</b>	<b>21,579</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Trade and other receivables		78	78	78	78
Financial assets		547	547	-	-
Other assets		731	731	-	-
Property, plant and equipment		1,949	1,949	1,936	1,861
Intangible assets		3,570	3,570	2,833	2,833
Investment in Joint Venture		734	734	1,100	1,100
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>7,609</b>	<b>7,609</b>	<b>5,947</b>	<b>5,872</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>25,436</b>	<b>24,735</b>	<b>28,017</b>	<b>27,451</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables		8,969	8,956	8,375	7,264
Deferred revenue		11,212	11,212	9,588	7,338
Employee benefits		797	797	930	912
Financial liabilities		720	720	3,904	3,885
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>21,698</b>	<b>21,685</b>	<b>22,797</b>	<b>19,399</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Deferred revenue		-	-	-	-
Other liabilities		212	212	212	212
Employee benefits		155	155	127	127
Financial liabilities		3,928	3,928	851	851
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>4,295</b>	<b>4,295</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,190</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>25,993</b>	<b>25,980</b>	<b>23,987</b>	<b>23,590</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>(557)</b>	<b>(1,245)</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>6,862</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
Retained surplus		399	399	19,012	10,248
Minority interest		688	-	(11,596)	-
Realised cash flow hedge reserve		-	-	325	325
<b>Total capital position</b>		<b>1,087</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>7,742</b>	<b>10,573</b>
Asset revaluation reserve		1,290	1,290	903	903
Unrealised cash flow hedge reserve		(2,934)	(2,934)	(4,614)	(4,614)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>(557)</b>	<b>(1,245)</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>6,862</b>

The statements of financial position are to be read in conjunction with the notes to the concise financial report.



# Australian Rugby Union Limited

## Statement of changes in equity (Parent company)

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation reserve		Cash flow hedge reserve realised		Cash flow hedge reserve unrealised		Total equity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Balance at beginning of period	\$'000 10,248	\$'000 16,590	\$'000 903	\$'000 903	\$'000 325	\$'000 1,223	\$'000 (4,614)	\$'000 (5,064)	\$'000 6,862	\$'000 13,652
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period	(9,849)	(6,342)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(9,849)	(6,342)
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year										
Other comprehensive (loss)/income										
Net change in fair value of fixed assets transferred to equity	-	-	387	-	-	-	-	-	387	-
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedge transferred to profit and loss	-	-	-	-	(325)	(898)	-	-	(325)	(898)
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedge transferred to equity	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,680	450	1,680	450
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period	(9,849)	(6,342)	387	-	(325)	(898)	1,680	450	(8,107)	(6,790)
Balance at end of period	399	10,248	1,290	903	-	325	(2,934)	(4,614)	(1,245)	6,862

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the concise financial report.

Australian Rugby Union Limited

**Statement of changes in equity  
(Consolidated entity)  
For the year ended 31 December 2015**

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation reserve		Cashflow hedge reserve realised		Cashflow hedge reserve unrealised		Non-controlling Interest		Total equity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at beginning of period	19,012	22,090	903	903	325	1,223	(4,614)	(5,064)	(11,596)	(9,162)	4,030	9,990
Balance released on subsidiary loss of control	(13,018)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,018	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period</b>												
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	(5,595)	(3,078)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(734)	(2,434)	(6,329)	(5,512)
<b>Other comprehensive (loss)/income</b>												
Net change in fair value of fixed assets transferred to equity	-	-	387	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	387	-
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedge transferred to profit and loss	-	-	-	-	(325)	(898)	-	-	-	-	(325)	(898)
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedge transferred to equity	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,680	450	-	-	1,680	450
<b>Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period</b>	<b>(5,595)</b>	<b>(3,078)</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(325)</b>	<b>(898)</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>(734)</b>	<b>(2,434)</b>	<b>(4,587)</b>	<b>(5,960)</b>
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>19,012</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>(2,934)</b>	<b>(4,614)</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>(11,596)</b>	<b>(557)</b>	<b>4,030</b>

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the concise financial report.



## Statement of cashflows

For the year ended 31 December 2015

Note	2015 Consolidated Entity	2015 Parent Entity	2014 Consolidated Entity	2014 Parent Entity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
Cash receipts in the course of operations	100,125	95,155	105,918	99,216
Cash payments in the course of operations	(95,851)	(91,249)	(112,760)	(102,919)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>4,274</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>(6,842)</b>	<b>(3,703)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
Net interest received	54	50	464	455
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	63	-	-	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(157)	(157)	(360)	(360)
Payments for intangibles	(980)	(980)	(1,264)	(1,264)
Dividends from equity-accounted investees	559	559	-	-
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(461)</b>	<b>(528)</b>	<b>(1,160)</b>	<b>(1,169)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
Net Proceeds from / (repayment) of borrowings	1,813	1,813	1,939	1,939
Loans issued to related parties	-	-	(12)	(3,262)
Allocations to Member Unions & Affiliates	(3,294)	(3,294)	(3,732)	(3,732)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(1,481)</b>	<b>(1,481)</b>	<b>(1,805)</b>	<b>(5,055)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>2,332</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>(9,807)</b>	<b>(9,927)</b>
Cash at beginning of year	8,015	7,840	17,822	17,767
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<b>10,347</b>	<b>9,737</b>	<b>8,015</b>	<b>7,840</b>

The statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the concise financial report.



## Notes to the concise financial report

For the year ended 31 December 2015

### Note 1 Reporting entity

Australian Rugby Union Limited (the 'Company') is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee, domiciled in Australia. The address of the Company's registered office is Ground Floor, 29-57 Christie Street, St. Leonards, NSW, 2065.

### Note 2 Basis of Preparation

The requirements of AASB 1039 *Concise Financial Reports* do not have mandatory applicability to Australian Rugby Union Ltd. However, the Directors of the Company have prepared the concise financial report, in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of AASB 1039 *Concise Financial Reports* for the distribution to the members. This financial report does not substitute nor is it intended to replace the mandatory requirements applicable to Australian Rugby Union Ltd under the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial statements and specific disclosures required by AASB 1039 have been derived from the consolidated entity's full financial report for the financial year. Other information included in the concise financial report is consistent with the consolidated entity's full financial report.

The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the consolidated entity as the full financial report. A full financial report is available to the members free of charge, upon request to the Company.

The concise financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

The concise financial report is prepared on the historical cost basis except that financial instruments are valued at fair value through the profit and loss as well as derivative financial instruments and memorabilia which are measured at fair value.

The concise financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis based on an analysis of the forecast cash flows from operations of the consolidated entity.

A full description of accounting policies adopted by the consolidated entity may be found in the consolidated entity's full financial report.

### Note 3 Management Discussion and Analysis

The financial statements for 2015 are presented as a consolidated financial report, with the results of the Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union Ltd (MRRU) and the Australian Rugby Foundation Ltd (ARF) consolidated with the results of Australian Rugby Union (ARU). Consolidation of these entities is required under accounting regulations due to the control that the ARU has over board appointments for each of these entities. The ARU relinquished control of MRRU effective 30 June 2015 with a change in ownership of the entity.

The financial analysis provided below relates only to the results of the ARU ("Parent Entity").

A net deficit of \$9.8m was recorded for the year, compared to a deficit of \$6.3m in 2014. The higher deficit was principally due to the 2015 Rugby World Cup (RWC) which resulted in a truncated domestic Test match schedule for ARU with resultant impacts on broadcast, sponsorship and matchday revenues.

#### Revenue

##### Broadcast

Broadcast revenue recorded for the year was \$18.1m, a decrease of \$8.1m from 2014. The reduction was due to the effect of five fewer domestic Test matches held in Australia due to the RWC.



## Notes to the concise financial report

For the year ended 31 December 2015

### **Note 3    Management Discussion and Analysis (*continued*)**

#### ***Matchday***

Gross matchday revenues were \$12.3m for the year, a decrease of \$19.5 from 2014. The reduction is due to the effect of hosting five fewer domestic Test matches, no revenue-generating Spring Tour matches, and there was no HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event held in Australia during 2015, as the Australian leg of the series was rescheduled from October 2015 to February 2016.

#### ***Sponsorship***

Sponsorship revenue was \$21.4m for the year, a decrease of \$7.3m from 2014. The decrease was due to not securing a Test match naming rights sponsor (\$3m target), and reduced government event sponsorship achieved due to the reduced Test match schedule.

#### ***Other revenue***

- Licensing revenue of \$1.8m was in line with the previous year.
- Government grants funding of \$2.4m was in line with the previous year. This funding is associated with support for Sevens high performance programs and other community based programs.
- World Rugby grants were \$18.9m, an increase of \$18.2m from 2014. The increase related to funding aligned to participation in the RWC.
- Other revenue of \$3m includes management fees for IT and membership services provided to member unions, insurance proceeds, and royalties from betting operators. There is a \$2m reduction from 2014 in this line item which is attributable to changes in the how individual participant levies and Junior Gold Cup levies were administered. In 2014 the levy revenue went to the ARU and was then distributed to member unions and their affiliates, whereas in 2015 the levy revenue flowed directly to member unions and their affiliates.

#### ***Expenditure***

ARU Expenditure decreased \$15m to \$85m in 2015. Major factors contributing to this reduction were:

- Commissions and servicing costs decreased by \$0.8m, due to lower commercial revenues;
- Matchday operations decreased by \$9.5m due to the decreased Test match schedule arising from the RWC;
- Super Rugby grants increased by \$1.4m due to increased financial support provided for MRRU;
- High performance and national team costs reduced by \$1.6m. The reduction includes the effect of restructuring the Junior Gold Cup competition administration;
- Qantas Wallabies and Qantas Sevens team costs were generally in line with prior year levels; and
- Community rugby expenditure decreased by \$2m, which reflects the effect of the transfer of NSW development workforce back under the control of NSW RU.

#### ***Super Rugby Expenditure***

Super Rugby expenditure for the year totalled \$28.4m, comprising \$25.2 (up from \$23.7 in 2014) in direct cash funding to teams and \$3.2m in payments for teams' travel expenditure as part of SANZAR obligations.



Notes to the concise financial report  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

**Note 3 Management Discussion and Analysis (*continued*)**

***Super Rugby Expenditure (continued)***

The direct cash funding of \$25.2m provided to teams comprised:

- \$12m being minimum guaranteed share of broadcast and other commercial revenues derived from the central organisation of the competition;
- \$6.5m contribution for the funding of high performance programs and related professional player development needs;
- \$1m contribution for teams to contract Emerging Player Squad (EPS) players;
- \$0.7m contribution to support academy activities; and
- \$5.0m in financial assistance to Melbourne Rebels. This was originally provided as a long term loan, but subsequently forgiven under the arrangements for the sale of the entity at 30 June 2015.

***Community Rugby Expenditure***

Community Rugby expenditure was \$5.7m for the year, down \$2.3m from 2014. The reduction of \$2m reflects the changes in the how individual participant levies and Junior Gold Cup levies were administrated, with the revenue flowing directly to member unions and their affiliates, rather than via the ARU. The expenditure comprised \$3.3m (2014: \$3.7m) in direct cash funding to member unions and affiliates, and \$2.4m (2014: \$4.3m) in ARU employment and program related expenditure.

***Statement of Financial Position***

The Statement of Financial Position shows a total capital position (excluding unrealised changes in net asset values) of \$0.4m, down from \$10.6m in 2014. The decrease is attributable to the current year deficit of \$9.8m, and the release of \$0.3m from the realised cash flow hedge reserve. This reserve represents the balance of deferred proceeds of forward exchange contracts sold in 2010 which were released into the Income Statement over the course of 2011- 2015.

The ARU acquired the intellectual property (i.e. trademarks) of Rugby WA during the course of the year for \$0.8m. This appears in intangible assets on the balance sheet and sits alongside the intellectual property of Melbourne Rebels which was acquired in 2011 for \$1.3m.

A negative unrealised cash flow hedge reserve of \$2.9m was recorded as at 31 December 2015. The value in this reserve represents the difference between the forward rates contracted for foreign currency revenues to be received in the future and the spot rate at 31 December 2015.

There was an increase in cash of \$2m for the year to \$9.8m. This positive cash balance is predominantly represented by revenue received in advance for 2016 broadcast and sponsorship.



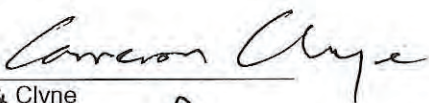
## ***Directors' declaration***

In the opinion of the directors of Australian Rugby Union Limited ('the Company') and its controlled entity ('the Group'):

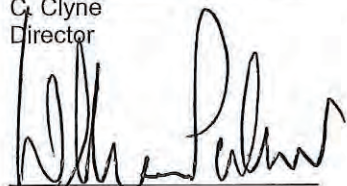
- a) the Company is not a reporting entity
- b) the consolidated financial statements and notes, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - i. giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company and the Group as at 31 December 2015 and of its performance, as represented by the results of their operations and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date in accordance with the statement of compliance and basis of preparation described in Note 1; and
  - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Dated at Sydney this 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



C. Clyne  
Director



W. Pulver  
Director





## **Independent auditor's report to the members of Australian Rugby Union Limited**

### **Report on the concise financial report**

We have audited the accompanying concise financial report of Australian Rugby Union Limited (the Company) and the entities it controlled at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015, the income statement and statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and related notes 1 to 3 derived from the audited financial report of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the discussion and analysis. The concise financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards and accordingly, reading the concise financial report is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report.

#### *Directors' responsibility for the concise financial report*

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the concise financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1039 *Concise Financial Reports* and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of the concise financial report.

#### *Auditor's responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the concise financial report based on our audit procedures which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Standards*. We have conducted an independent audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the financial report of Australian Rugby Union Limited for the year ended 31 December 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the financial report in our report dated 22 March 2016. The Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report for the year is free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the concise financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the risk of material misstatement of the concise financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the concise financial report in order to design procedures, that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Our procedures included testing that the information in the concise financial report is derived from, and is consistent with, the financial report for the year, and examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts, discussion and analysis, and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the concise financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1039 *Concise Financial Reports* and whether the discussion and analysis complies with the requirements laid down in Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1039 *Concise Financial Reports*.





The concise financial report and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of the auditor's report on the audited financial report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

*Auditor's opinion*

In our opinion, the concise financial report, including the discussion and analysis, of Australian Rugby Union Limited and its controlled entities for the year ended 31 December 2015 complies with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1039 *Concise Financial Reports*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read 'KPMG'.

KPMG

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read 'Trent Duvall'.

Trent Duvall  
*Partner*

Sydney

22 March 2016

# 2015 ASTERON LIFE SUPER RUGBY RESULTS

## Round One

13 February, AMI Stadium, Christchurch  
Melbourne Rebels 20, Crusaders 10

13 February, GIO Stadium,  
ACT Brumbies 47, Queensland Reds 3

15 February, Allianz Stadium, Sydney  
Western Force 25, NSW Waratahs 13

## Round Two

20 February, Yarrow Stadium, New Plymouth  
Chiefs 19, ACT Brumbies 17

20 February, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
NSW Waratahs 38, Melbourne Rebels 28

21 February, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Queensland Reds 18, Western Force 6

## Round Three

27 February, Forsyths Barr Stadium, Dunedin  
Highlanders 20, Queensland Reds 13

27 February, nib Stadium, Perth  
Hurricanes 42, Western Force 13

28 February, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
ACT Brumbies 20, Melbourne Rebels 15

## Round Four

6 March, GIO Stadium, Canberra  
ACT Brumbies 27, Western Force 15

7 March, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
NSW Waratahs 23, Queensland Reds 5

## Round Five

13 March, nib Stadium, Perth  
Melbourne Rebels 21, Western Force 17

14 March, Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin  
Highlanders 26, NSW Waratahs 19

14 March, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
ACT Brumbies 29, Queensland Reds 0

## Round Six

20 March, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
Lions 20, Melbourne Rebels 16

21 March, Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria  
Bulls 25, Western Force 24

22 March, Allianz Stadium, Sydney  
NSW Waratahs 28, ACT Brumbies 13

## Round Seven

27 March, Westpac Stadium, Wellington  
Hurricanes 36, Melbourne Rebels 12

27 March, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Lions 18, Queensland Reds 17,

28 March, Allianz Stadium, Sydney  
NSW Waratahs 23, Blues 11

March 28, Growthpoint Kings Park, Durban  
Sharks 15, Western Force 9

## Round Eight

3 April, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
Melbourne Rebels 23, Queensland Reds 15

4 April, GIO Stadium, Canberra  
ACT Brumbies 20, Cheetahs 3

## Round Nine

10 April, Eden Park, Auckland  
Blues 16, ACT Brumbies 14

11 April, Allianz Stadium, Sydney  
Stormers 32, NSW Waratahs 18

11 April, nib Stadium, Perth  
Cheetahs 24, Western Force 15

11 April, Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria  
Bulls 43, Queensland Reds 22

## Round Ten

18 April, Westpac Stadium, Wellington  
NSW Waratahs 29, Hurricanes 24

18 April, GIO Stadium, Canberra  
Melbourne Rebels 13, ACT Brumbies 8

18 April, nib Stadium, Perth  
Stormers 13, Western Force 6

18 April, Free State Stadium, Bloemfontein  
Queensland Reds 18, Cheetahs 17

## Round Eleven

24 April, Waikato Stadium, Hamilton  
Chiefs 35, Western Force 27

24 April, GIO Stadium, Canberra  
ACT Brumbies 31, Highlanders 18

25 April, ANZ Stadium, Sydney  
NSW Waratahs 18, Melbourne Rebels 16

26 April, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Hurricanes 35, Queensland Reds 19

## Round Twelve

1 May, GIO Stadium, Canberra  
NSW Waratahs 13, ACT Brumbies 10

2 May, Eden Park, Auckland  
Blues 41, Western Force 24

2 May, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
Melbourne Rebels 16, Chiefs 15

## Round Thirteen

8 May, AMI Stadium, Christchurch  
Crusaders 58, Queensland Reds 17

8 May, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
Melbourne Rebels 42, Blues 22

9 May, nib Stadium, Perth  
Western Force 18, NSW Waratahs 11

9 May, DHL Newlands, Cape Town  
Stormers 25, ACT Brumbies 24

## Round Fourteen

15 May, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Queensland Reds 46, Melbourne Rebels 29

16 May, Allianz Stadium, Sydney  
NSW Waratahs 33, Sharks 18

16 May, Emirates Airlines Park, Johannesburg  
ACT Brumbies 30, Lions 20

## Round Fifteen

22 May, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Sharks 21, Queensland Reds 14,

23 May, ANZ Stadium, Sydney  
NSW Waratahs 32, Crusaders 22

23 May, nib Stadium, Perth  
Highlanders 23, Western Force 3

23 May, DHL Newlands, Cape Town  
Stormers 31, Melbourne Rebels 15

## Round Sixteen

29 May, GIO Stadium, Canberra  
ACT Brumbies 22, Bulls 16

29 May, Growthpoint Kings Park, Durban  
Sharks 25, Melbourne Rebel 21

30 May, nib Stadium, Perth  
Queensland Reds 32, Western Force 10

30 May, Emirates Airlines Park, Johannesburg  
Lions 27, NSW Waratahs 22





### Round Seventeen

5 June, nib Stadium, Perth  
ACT Brumbies 33, Western Force 20

6 June, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
Melbourne Rebels 21, Bulls 20

6 June, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Chiefs 24, Queensland Reds 3

6 June, Free State Stadium, Bloemfontein  
NSW Waratahs 58, Cheetahs 33

### Round Eighteen

12 June, AAMI Park, Melbourne  
Western Force 13, Melbourne Rebels 11

13 June, GIO Stadium, Canberra  
Crusaders 37, ACT Brumbies 24

13 June, Allianz Stadium, Sydney  
NSW Waratahs 31, Queensland Reds 5

### Qualifying Week

20 June, DHL Newlands, Cape Town  
ACT Brumbies 39, Stormers 19

### Semi Finals

27 June, Westpac Stadium, Wellington  
Hurricanes 29, ACT Brumbies 9

27 June, Allianz Stadium, Sydney  
Highlanders 35, NSW Waratahs 17

# 2015 BUILD CORP NATIONAL RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

## Round One

20 August, Ballymore, Brisbane  
Brisbane City 29, Perth Spirit 16

22 August, Manly Oval, Sydney  
Sydney Stars 45, North Harbour Rays 29

22 August, Granville Park, Sydney  
NSW Country Eagles 32,  
Greater Sydney Rams 31

23 August, Bond University, Gold Coast  
Melbourne Rising 39,  
Queensland Country 31

## Round Two

27 August, Leichardt Oval Sydney  
Sydney Stars 50, Queensland Country 40

29 August, Harlequin Rugby Club,  
Melbourne  
Brisbane City 45, Melbourne Rising 21,

29 August, Woollahra Oval, Sydney  
University of Canberra Vikings 37,  
NSW Country Eagles 13

29 August, University of WA, Perth  
North Harbour Rays 45, Perth Spirit 26,

## Round Three

3 September, Manly Oval, Sydney  
Melbourne Rising 45,  
North Harbour Rays 40

5 September, Viking Park, Canberra  
University of Canberra Vikings 58,  
Greater Sydney Rams 26

5 September, Leichardt Oval, Sydney  
Sydney Stars 45, Perth Spirit 24

6 September, Clive Berghofer Stadium,  
Toowoomba  
Brisbane City 44, Queensland Country 24

## Round Four

10 September, Ballymore, Brisbane  
Brisbane City 55, North Harbour Rays 29

12 September, Chillingworth Oval,  
Tamworth  
NSW Country Eagles 37,  
Sydney Stars 31

12 September, Forshaw Park, Sydney  
Queensland Country 37,  
Greater Sydney Rams 31

12 September, University of WA, Perth  
University of Canberra Vikings 26,  
Perth Spirit 23

## Round Five

17 September, Viking Park, Canberra  
University of Canberra Vikings 76,  
Sydney Stars 16

19 September, LaTrobe City Stadium,  
Morwill  
Melbourne Rising 37,  
Greater Sydney Rams 36

19 September, Victoria Park, Rockhampton  
Perth Spirit 64, Queensland Country 34

20 September, Ballymore, Brisbane  
Brisbane City 61, NSW Country Eagles 29

## Round Six

24 September, Newcastle No 2  
Sportsground, Newcastle  
Queensland Country 24,  
NSW Country Eagles 16

26 September, Pittwater Rugby Park,  
Sydney  
University of Canberra Vikings 63,  
North Harbour Rays 37

26 September, University of WA, Perth  
Perth Spirit 31, Melbourne Rising 21

27 September, Leichardt Oval, Sydney  
Sydney Stars 44, Greater Sydney Rams 32

## Round Seven

1 October, Pirtek Stadium, Sydney  
Greater Sydney Rams 23,  
North Harbour Rays 21

2 October, Viking Park, Canberra  
University of Canberra Vikings 42,  
Melbourne Rising 16

2 October, Leichardt Oval, Sydney  
Brisbane City 58, Sydney Stars 0



4 October, University of WA, Perth  
NSW Country Eagles 32,  
Perth Spirit 29

## Round Eight

8 October, Simonds Stadium, Geelong  
Melbourne Rising 23,  
NSW Country Eagles 16

10 October, Viking Park, Canberra  
Brisbane City 37, University of Canberra 31

10 October, Pittwater Rugby Park, Sydney  
North Harbour Rays 50,  
Queensland Country 32

10 October, Concord Oval, Sydney  
Perth Spirit 63, Greater Sydney Rams 39

## Round Nine

15 October, Sunshine Coast Stadium,  
Kawana Waters  
University of Canberra Vikings 42,  
Queensland Country 8

17 October, Ballymore, Brisbane  
Brisbane City 71, Greater Sydney Rams 24

17 October, Ann Ashwood Park, Bathurst  
NSW Country Eagles 50,  
North Harbour Rays 24

18 October, Frankston Oval, Frankston  
Melbourne Rising 18, Sydney Stars 10

## Semi Finals

23 October, Viking Park, Canberra  
University of Canberra Vikings 50,  
Melbourne Rising 34

24 October, Ballymore, Brisbane  
Brisbane City 47, Sydney Stars 32

## Grand Final

31 October, Ballymore Brisbane  
Brisbane City 21,  
University of Canberra Vikings 10



# HSBC WORLD RUGBY SEVENS SERIES RESULTS

## MEN'S SEVENS

### Wellington, New Zealand (2014/15 Series)

6-7 February

Australia 36-5 Wales (Pool C)  
Australia 29-0 Portugal (Pool C)  
Australia 5-14 Fiji (Pool C)  
Australia 7-26 New Zealand (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 21-5 Kenya (Semi Final Plate)  
Australia 0-24 Fiji (Final Plate)

### Las Vegas, USA (2014/15 Series)

13-15 February

Australia 45-0 Brazil (Pool D)  
Australia 31-14 France (Pool D)  
Australia 40-14 Scotland (Pool D)  
Australia 7-28 New Zealand (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 17-0 Canada (Semi Final Plate)  
Australia 21-14 England (Final Plate)

### Hong Kong, Hong Kong (2014/15 Series)

27-29 March

Australia 33-5 Portugal (Pool A)  
Australia 21-5 Scotland (Pool A)  
Australia 5-14 New Zealand (Pool A)  
Australia 5-7 South Africa (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 12-7 England (Semi Final Plate)  
Australia 21-17 USA (Final Plate)

### Tokyo, Japan (2014/15 Series)

4-5 April

Australia 10-12 Portugal (Pool B)  
Australia 14-17 Scotland (Pool B)  
Australia 19-14 New Zealand (Pool B)  
Australia 14-5 Kenya (Quarter Final Bowl)  
Australia 17-12 Wales (Semi Final Bowl)  
Australia 12-17 USA (Final Bowl)

### Glasgow, Scotland (2014/15 Series)

9-10 May

Australia 17-17 England (Pool A)  
Australia 38-7 France (Pool A)  
Australia 31-5 Russia (Pool A)  
Australia 7-14 USA (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 12-21 South Africa (Semi Final Plate)

### London, England (2014/15 Series)

16-17 May

Australia 41-0 Japan (Pool B)  
Australia 19-14 Wales (Pool B)  
Australia 10-24 New Zealand (Pool B)  
Australia 31-19 Scotland (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 33-7 Fiji (Semi Final Cup)  
Australia 22-45 USA (Final Cup)

### Dubai, UAE (2015/16 Series)

4-6 December

Australia 14-12 Kenya (Pool D)  
Australia 43-0 Wales (Pool D)  
Australia 5-21 England (Pool D)

Australia 12-19 Fiji (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 28-10 Samoa (Semi Final Plate)  
Australia 14-19 South Africa (Final Plate)

### Cape Town, South Africa (2015/16 Series)

12-14 December

Australia 45-0 Portugal (Pool C)  
Australia 21-14 Wales (Pool C)  
Australia 26-21 USA (Pool C)  
Australia 5-25 South Africa (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 19-38 Fiji (Semi Final Plate)

### 2015 Oceania Rugby Sevens Championship, Auckland, New Zealand\*

14-15 November

Australia 62-0 Nauru (Pool A)  
Australia 48-7 Cook Islands (Pool A)  
Australia 49-0 Tonga (Pool A)  
Australia 52-0 American Samoa (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 36-0 Papua New Guinea (Semi Final Cup)  
Australia 50-0 Tonga (Final Cup)  
*\*Regional Olympic Qualifier - Not part of HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series*

### WOMEN'S SEVENS Sao Paulo, Brazil (2014/15 Series)

7-8 February

Australia 40-0 Brazil (Pool B)  
Australia 38-7 China (Pool B)  
Australia 38-7 Fiji (Pool B)  
Australia 29-10 England (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 12-7 Canada (Semi Final Cup)  
Australia 10-17 New Zealand (Final Cup)

### Atlanta, USA (2014/15 Series)

14-15 March

Australia 36-0 Fiji (Pool B)  
Australia 24-7 Spain (Pool B)  
Australia 19-7 France (Pool B)  
Australia 5-10 USA (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 24-12 England (Semi Final Plate)  
Australia 26-17 France (Final Plate)

### Langford, Canada (2014/15 Series)

18-19 April

Australia 43-0 Brazil (Pool B)  
Australia 40-0 China (Pool B)  
Australia 24-5 France (Pool B)  
Australia 12-17 Russia (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 10-29 USA (Semi Final Plate)  
Australia 22-0 Fiji (7th Place Play-Off)

### London, England (2014/15 Series)

15-16 May

Australia 15-5 Fiji (Pool C)  
Australia 31-0 China (Pool C)  
Australia 12-12 USA (Pool C)  
Australia 19-0 Spain (Quarter Final Cup)

Australia 24-5 New Zealand (Semi Final Cup)  
Australia 20-17 Canada (Final Cup)

### Amsterdam, Netherlands (2014/15 Series)

22-23 May

Australia 29-7 Russia (Pool A)  
Australia 48-0 China (Pool A)  
Australia 24-7 England (Pool A)  
Australia 31-0 Russia (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 26-0 England (Semi Final Cup)  
Australia 17-20 Canada (Final Cup)

### Dubai, UAE (2015/16 Series)

(2015/16 Series)

Australia 26-7 Spain (Pool C)  
Australia 43-0 Japan (Pool C)  
Australia 24-7 England (Pool C)  
Australia 15-12 New Zealand (Quarter Final Cup)  
Australia 26-0 France (Semi Final Cup)  
Australia 31-12 Russia (Final Cup)

### 2015 Pacific Games Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea\*

8-10 July



Australia 26-7 Fiji (Pool Stage)  
Australia 22-5 New Caledonia (Pool Stage)  
Australia 59-0 Tahiti (Pool Stage)  
Australia 33-0 Tonga (Pool Stage)  
Australia 19-7 Samoa (Pool Stage)  
Australia 19-0 Papua New Guinea  
Australia 10-12 Fiji (Gold Medal Match)  
*\*Not part of HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series*



MATCH	South Africa	Argentina	New Zealand	New Zealand	USA	Fiji
Date	Saturday 18 July	Saturday 25 July	Saturday 8 August	Saturday 15 August	Saturday 5 September	Wednesday 23 September
Kick Off (Local Time)	8:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm	6:40pm	4:00pm
City	Brisbane	Mendoza	Sydney	Sydney	Chicago	Cardiff
Venue	Suncorp Stadium	Estadio Malbinas Argentinas	ANZ Stadium	Eden Park	Soldier Field	Millenium Stadium
Full Time Score	W 24-20	W 34-9	W 27-19	L 41-13	W 47-10	W 28-13
Half Time Score	29-9 Australia	8-6 Australia	6-3 New Zealand	13-6 New Zealand	14-10 Australia	18-3 Australia
Yellow/Red Cards	N/A	Quade Cooper (65 min)	Sekope Kepu (7min); Nick Phipps (53 min)	Quade Cooper (47min)	N/A	Tevita Kuridrani (72min)
Cittings (suspensions)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Referee	Nigel Owens	Jaco Peyper	Wayne Barnes	Nigel Owens	Jaco Peyper	Glen Jackson
Asst referees	Glen Jackson, Mike Fraser	Chris Pollock, Stuart Berry	Nigel Owens, Federico Asnelmi	Wayne Barnes, Federico Anselmi	Joaquin Montes, David Smortchevsky	Nigel Owens, Leighton Hodges
Crowd	37,614	25,000	71,991	73,824	23,112	67,253
Tournament/Trophy	Rugby Championship (Mandela Plate)	Rugby Championship (The Puma Trophy)	Rugby Championship (Bledisloe Cup I)	Bledisloe Cup II	World Cup warm-up	Rugby World Cup (Pool A - Match
Player	Pos Cap T C P DG	Pos Cap T C P DG	Pos Cap T C P DG	Pos Cap T C P DG	Pos Cap T C P DG	Pos Cap T C P DG
Ashley-Cooper, Adam	14 1 1	14 1 1	14 1 1	11 1		14 1
Beale, Kurtley		23 1	23 1	23 1	15 1 1	23 1
Carter, Sam					19 1	
Cooper, Quade	10 1 2 1	22 1		10 1 2	22 1 1	
Douglas, Kane				20 1	4 1	4 1
Fardy, Scott	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1		6 1
Folau, Israel	15 1 1	15 1	15 1	15 1		15 1
Foley, Bernard		10 1 1 4	10 1	1	10 1 1 6	10 1 2 3
Genia, Will	9 1				21 1	9 1
Giteau, Matt	12 1 1		12 1 2 1	22 1	12 1	12 1
Hanson, James					16 1	
Higginbotham, Scott	8 1	1		1		
Hooper, Michael	7 1 1	20 1	7 1	7 1		7 1
Holmes, Greg	18 1	3	18 1	18 1	3 1	18
Horne, Rob	11 1		1		11 1	11 1
Horwill, James	19 1	1	5 1	5		
Kepu, Sekope	3 1	18 1	3 1 1	3 1		3 1 1
Kuridrani, Tevita	13 1 1	13 1 1	13 1	13 1		13 1
McCalman, Ben		8 1	20 1		6 1	
McMahon, Sean					7 1 1	
Mitchell, Drew	23 1		11 1			
Moore, Stephen	2 1	2 1	2 1	2 1		2 1
Mumm, Dean		19 1 1	4 1	19 1	20 1 1	20 1
Naiyaravoro, Tafele					23 1 1	
Palu, Wycliff	8			8 1	8 1	
Phipps, Nick	21 1	9 1	9 1		9 1 1	21 1
Pocock, David	20 1	7 1	8 1	21 1		8 1 2
Polota-Nau, Tatafu	16 1	16 1	16 1	16 1	2 1	16 1
Simmons, Rob	5 1	5 1			5 1	5 1
Sio, Scott	17 1	17 1	1 1	1 1	17 1	1 1
Skelton, Will	4 1	4 1	19 1	4 1		19 1
Slipper, James	1 1	1 1	17 1	17 1	1 1	17 1
Smith, Toby					18 1	
Speight, Henry				14 1	13 1	
Tomane, Joe		11 1 1			14 1	
Toomua, Matt	22 1	12 1	22 1	12 1		22 1
White, Nic	9	21 1	21 1 1 1 1	9 1 1		
	40min - Phipps for Genia 45min - Pocock for Higginbotham 50min - Holmes for Kepu 50min - Skelton for Horwill 57min - Mitchell for Horne 65min - Sio for Slipper 65min - Toomua for Cooper 67min - Cooper for Giteau 74min - Giteau for Cooper	9 min - Cooper for Toomua 39 min - Sio for Slipper 48 min - Hooper on for McCalman 53min - Mumm for Fardy 55min - Kepu for Holmes 66min - Polota-Nau for Moore 75min - White for Phipps 75min - Beale for Cooper	15min - Holmes for Hooper 18min - Hooper for Holmes 50min - Toomua for Foley 54min - Holmes for Kepu 58min - Slipper for Sio 58min - Skelton for Horwill 61min - McCalman for Pocock 65min - White for Phipps 76min - McCalman for Fardy	27min - Pocock for Hooper 31min - Hooper for Pocock 37min - Beale for Speight 40min - Mumm for Skelton 40min - Speight for Beale 40min - Pocock for Palu 48min - Giteau for Speight 51min - Holmes for Kepu 51min - Slipper for Sio 57min - Beale for Cooper 62min - Douglas for Horwill 62min - Kepu for Holmes 66min - Polota Nau for Moore 66min - Holmes for Kepu	46min - Genia for Phipps 46min - Mumm for Simmons 50min - Carter for Palu 56min - Cooper for Giteau 56min - Smith for Holmes 58min - Polota-Nau for Hanson 64min - Sio for Slipper 70min - Naiyaravaro for Horne	55min - Slipper for Sio 55min - Holmes for Kepu 61min - Mumm for Simmons 66min - Sio for Slipper 66min - Phipps for Genia 66min - Polota-Nau for Moore 70min - Skelton for Douglas 77min - Toomua for Foley



Uruguay	England	Wales	Scotland	Argentina	New Zealand																													
Sunday 27 September	Saturday 3 October	Saturday 10 October	Sunday 18 October	Sunday 25 October	Saturday 31 October																													
12:00pm	8:00pm	4:00pm	4:00pm	4:00pm	4:00pm																													
Birmingham	London	London	London	London	London																													
Villa Park	Twickenham	Twickenham	Twickenham	Twickenham	Twickenham																													
W 65-3	W 33-13	W 15-6	W 35-34	W 29-15	L 34-17																													
31-3 Australia	17-3 Australia	9-6 Australia	15-12 Australia	19-9 Australia	16-3 New Zealand																													
Quade Cooper (15min)	N/A	Genia (56min); Phipps (59min)	N/A	N/A	N/A																													
N/A	N/A	Michael Hooper (one-week suspension)	N/A	N/A	N/A																													
Pascal Gauzere	Romain Poite	Craig Joubert	Craig Joubert	Wayne Barnes	Nigel Owens																													
Jaco Peyper, Marius Mitrea	George Clancy, Marius Mitrea	Jerome Garces, Stuart Berry	Glen Jackson, Pascal Gauzere	Jaco Peyper, George Clancy	Jerome Garces, Wayne Barnes																													
39,605	81,010	80,863	77, 110	80, 025	81,025																													
Rugby World Cup (Pool A - Match 2)	Rugby World Cup (Pool A - Match 3)	Rugby World Cup (Pool A - Match 4)	Rugby World Cup (quarter final)	Rugby World Cup (semifinal)	Rugby World Cup (final)																													
Pos	Cap	T	C	P	DG	Pos	Cap	T	C	P	DG	Pos	Cap	T	C	P	DG	Pos	Cap	T	C	P	DG	Pos	Cap	T	C	P	DG					
						14	1					14	1	1				14	1	3				14	1	1								
15	1					23	1					23	1					23	1					23	1									
10	1			5								23	DNP																					
19	1					4	1					4	1					4	1					4	1									
						6	1					6	1					6	1															
						15	1					15	1					15	1					15	1									
22	DNP					10	1	2	3	4		10	1		5			10	1		2	2		10	1		3	1		10	1		2	1
21	DNP					9	1					9	1					9	1					9	1									
						12	1	1				12	1					12	1					12	1									
1						7	1					7	1	1				7	1					7	1									
18	DNP					18	1					18	1					18						18	1									
						11	1											23	1															
17	1					3	1					3	1					3	1					3	1									
23	1	1				13	1					13	1	1				13	1					13	1	1								
6	1	2				20	1					20	1					20	1					20	1									
7	1	2										7	1																					
11	1	2										11	1					11	1					11	1									
16	DNP					2	1					2	1					2	1					2	1									
4	1	1				19	1					5	1					19	1					19	1									
8	1																																	
9	1					21	1					21	1					21	1					21	1									
						8	1					8	1					8	1					8	1	1								
2	1					16	1					16	1					16	1					16	1									
20	1					5	1					19	1					5	1	1				5	1									
1	1					1	1					1	1					1	1					1	1									
5	1																																	
						17	1					17	1					1	1					17	1									
3	1																	17	1															
13	1	1																																
14	1	1				11	1																											
12	1	1				22	1					22	1					22	1					22	1									
40min - Simmons for Palu 28min - Kepu for Sio 56min - Douglas for Skelton 77min - Kuridrani for Toomua	10min - Beale for Horne 56min - Slipper for Sio 56min - Holmes for Kepu 60min - Phipps for Genia 64min - Toomua for Folau 64min - Polota-Nau for Moore 64min - Mumm for Simmons 75min - McCalman for Fardy	48min - McCalman for McMahon 55min - Holmes on for Kepu 59min - Simmons for Pocock 66min - Beale for Mitchell 66min - Polota-Nau for Moore 66min - Toomua for Giteau 67min - Phipps for Genia	50min - Slipper for Sio 53min - Holmes for Kepu 61min - Moore for Polota-Nau 65min - Mumm for Simmons 70min - Phipps for Genia	46min - Beale for Giteau 52min - Smith for Slipper 52min - Holmes for Kepu 55min - McCalman for Fardy 58min - Moore for Polota-Nau 60min - Fardy for McCalman 64min - Toomua for Folau 66min - Phipps for Genia 66min - Mumm for Simmons 70min - McCalman for Fardy	14min - Mumm for Douglas 25min - Beale for Giteau 54min - Polota-Nau for Moore 58min - Slipper for Sio 58min - Holmes for Kepu 59min - Fardy for McCalman 65min - Toomua for Mitchell 69min - Phipps for Genia 70min - Mitchell for Toomua																													

 Qantas Wallabies Captain  
 Qantas Wallabies Debut

2015 WAL CAPS	2015 WAL TRIES	2015 CONS	2015 PENS	2015 DGS	2015 POINTS	CAREER WAL POINTS	CAREER WAL CAPS
10	8	0	0	0	40	190	114
11	1	0	0	0	5	118	60
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
5	1	7	3	0	28	154	58
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
9	1	0	0	0	5	90	38
10	3	24	15	0	108	264	28
8	0	0	0	0	0	40	66
10	1	3	1	0	14	698	102
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
3	0	0	0	0	0	15	34
10	2	0	0	0	10	45	52
8	0	0	0	0	0	35	50
6	0	0	0	0	0	20	31
3	0	0	0	0	0	30	61
11	2	0	0	0	10	10	63
11	5	0	0	0	25	45	31
9	2	0	0	0	10	20	47
3	3	0	0	0	15	15	6
7	4	0	0	0	20	170	70
10	0	0	0	0	0	25	102
11	3	0	0	0	15	20	46
1	1	0	0	0	5	5	1
3	0	0	0	0	0	5	57
11	1	0	0	0	5	25	39
9	3	0	0	0	15	35	37
12	0	0	0	0	0	10	62
10	1	0	0	0	5	10	60
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
6	0	0	0	0	0	10	14
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	74
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
3	1	0	0	0	5	5	5
4	2	0	0	0	10	25	18
10	1	0	0	0	5	20	31
3	1	2	1	0	12	18	22





**AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION LTD.**

ARU Headquarters,  
Ground Floor, 29-57 Christie St,  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
Telephone +61 2 8005 5555  
Fax +61 2 8005 5699  
[www.rugby.com.au](http://www.rugby.com.au)  
ACN 002 898 544