

RUGBY VIC



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



28th Annual Report

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Affiliated With

Rugby Australia

Affiliated Union

Victorian Schools Rugby Union

Affiliated Associations

Victorian Rugby Referees Association

Women's Rugby Development
Association (WRDA)

AFFILIATED CLUBS





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Because when our bodies move.

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PRESIDENT'S & CEO'S REPORT



President's and CEO's Report

The past year has reinforced what makes rugby in Victoria so strong. It is its people. Across every club, competition, and program, the commitment of our volunteers, players, coaches, referees, and administrators continues to drive the game forward. Their energy and belief in rugby sustain and grow our community.

In 2025, our focus shifted from stabilisation to momentum. After navigating a challenging period throughout 2024, we have reset our footing and are now building with greater purpose. The decisions made over the past 18 months have strengthened our financial position and clarified how we operate, allowing us to focus on delivering meaningful outcomes for the game.

A key priority this year has been reconnecting with and supporting our clubs and participants. We have worked to ensure competitions are well-run, environments are inclusive, and opportunities to participate are accessible at all levels. Encouragingly, we are seeing renewed engagement and a growing sense of optimism across the rugby community. This was highlighted by the completion of both the senior competition review and competition rules review, which have seen positive outcomes already. Further to this, the development of the Under-85 competition, reengaging over 70 new participants to the game, highlights what is possible when collaboration is fostered across our community.

At a strategic level, we have sharpened our focus on sustainable growth. This includes identifying new participation opportunities, strengthening development pathways, and ensuring we are equipped to adapt to the changing landscape of community sport. While challenges remain, we are better positioned to respond with confidence and discipline.

2025 saw the delivery of the new Rugby Victoria Strategic Plan. Developed in partnership with our member clubs and key stakeholders, the Rugby Victoria Strategic Plan will guide the development of rugby union in Victoria through the golden era, that sees both the men's (2027) and women's (2029) World cups in Australia. Our financial stability and the delivery of brilliant rugby experiences for every participant will drive our decision-making. We understand that it is our rugby community that is best placed to help deliver our vision of "more Victorians participating, connecting and contributing to the global game of rugby union." Engaging, attracting and building the capacity of our people and our community will be crucial to achieving this.

The continued progress of the Home of Victorian Rugby at La Trobe University has allowed us to activate the pitches while we work towards a solution for the completion of the pavilion. While we are not there yet, this project represents more than just infrastructure. It is a long-term investment in the future of rugby in Victoria and will provide a central hub to support all aspects of the game.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of our staff and leadership team, who have embraced change and worked tirelessly to improve how we operate and deliver our programs. Their willingness to think differently and stay focused on what matters most to our participants has been a defining feature of the year.

To our member clubs and union affiliates, VRRRA, VSRU, and WRDA, thank you for the vital role you play. Your ongoing efforts at the grassroots level are essential to the health and sustainability of rugby across the state. We also extend our thanks to our fellow Board members for their continued dedication and stewardship. The challenges we face are complex, but our shared commitment ensures we continue to move forward with purpose. As we look ahead, our task is clear: to build on this progress, strengthen our foundations, and create more opportunities for people to connect with rugby. With the support of our community, we are confident in what lies ahead.

Yours in Rugby,

Elizabeth Radcliffe
President, Rugby Victoria

Aaron Bailey
CEO, Rugby Victoria



RUGBY SERVICES

Rugby Services Junior Club Competition

The 2025 junior season saw the introduction of Get Into Rugby for 4-7 year olds, replacing the U7's club competition. Single age grades continued from U8's to U12's with U14's, U16's and U18's competitions covering two age grades. U12's, U14's and U16's also continued to run both A and B grade competitions in some form with the U12's and U16's running an "All in then split" set up, and U14's running A's and B's all season.

The merging of teams continued to allow for clubs with lower numbers to maintain teams and for their players to continue to participate in competitive rugby. 2025 also saw the reintroduction of Girls Competitions with 4 teams competing across the U16's and U13's competitions.

2025 Club Competitions

Get Into Rugby

Walla (4-5) | Tri-Time (6-7) – 150

Pathways / Non-Competitive

U8's – 11 teams

U9's – 7 teams

U10's – 13 teams

Competition

U11's – 6 teams

U12's – 9 teams, U12A (5 teams) & U12B (4 teams)

U13 Girls – 2 teams

U14's – 11 teams, U14A (6 teams) & U14B (5 teams)

U16's – 11 teams, U16A (4 teams), U16B (5 teams),
U16 Girls (2 teams)

U18's – 7 teams



Registered Players – 1937



U11 Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Endeavour Hills U11	12	12	0	0	352	11	59
Wyndham U11	12	8	0	4	224	11	43
Racing Rugby U11	12	7	0	5	179	10	38
Kiwi Hawthorn / Melbourne / Maroondah U11	12	4	0	8	-218	5	22
Eltham U11	12	3	0	9	-293	3	15
Box Hill U11	12	2	0	10	-244	6	12

U11 Results

MINOR PREMIERS
Endeavour Hills



PREMIERS
Endeavour Hills



RUNNERS UP
Wyndham





U12A Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Harlequins U12	10	8	0	2	248	9	49
Eltham U12	10	7	0	3	164	8	44
Power House U12	10	7	0	3	170	7	43
Brimbank Bucks U12	10	6	1	3	138	8	42
Casey U12	10	6	0	4	83	10	42

U12A Results

MINOR PREMIERS

Harlequins



PREMIERS

Harlequins



RUNNERS UP

Power House





U12B Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Melbourne / Kiwi Hawthorn / Box Hill / Maroondah U12	11	6	0	5	-31	7	35
Moorabbin / Racing U12	11	4	1	6	-26	7	29
Northern / Shepparton U12	11	1	0	10	-321	4	10
Footscray / Geelong U12	11	1	0	10	-425	0	9

U12B Results

MINOR PREMIERS

Melbourne / Kiwi
Hawthorn / Box Hill /
Maroondah U12



PREMIERS

Melbourne / Kiwi
Hawthorn / Box Hill /
Maroondah U12



RUNNERS UP

Northern /
Shepparton U12





U13 Girls

Along side the introduction of the U16's Youth Girls, Brimbank and a Barbarians team faced off in the U13's.

Whist no scores were recorded, each game showed great skills and promise. Over the course of the season, games were played in multiple formats to assist in the development of all skills that our game offers.



U14A Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Power House U14	12	10	0	2	251	11	52
Harlequins U14 A	12	10	0	2	154	9	50
Wyndham U14	11	8	0	3	108	8	45
Moorabbin U14 A	12	6	0	6	60	9	33
Endeavour Hills U14	12	3	0	9	-175	6	18
Moorabbin U14 A	12	1	0	11	-198	2	4

U14A Results

MINOR PREMIERS

Power House



PREMIERS

Power House



RUNNERS UP

Wyndham





U14B Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Brimbank Bucks U14	10	7	0	3	191	9	44
Harlequins U14 B	10	6	0	4	151	10	42
Northern / Shepparton / Geelong U14	10	5	0	5	-54	5	31
Melbourne / Box Hill / Maroondah U14	10	4	0	6	-96	5	29
Moorabbin / Casey U14	9	0	0	9	-392	0	10

U14B Results

MINOR PREMIERS

Brimbank Bucks



PREMIERS

Brimbank Bucks



RUNNERS UP

Harlequins





U16A Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Melton / Eltham U16	12	11	0	1	297	8	55
Wyndham U16	12	10	0	2	273	10	50
Harlequins U16	12	8	1	3	9	3	39
Brimbank Bucks U16	12	5	1	6	-15	7	25

U16A Results

MINOR PREMIERS

Melton / Eltham



PREMIERS

Wyndham



RUNNERS UP

Melton / Eltham





U16B Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Endeavour Hills U16	11	5	0	6	49	7	32
Northern / Shepparton U16	11	5	0	6	-60	7	31
Power House U16	11	5	0	6	-26	4	29
Moorabbin U16 Black	11	3	1	7	-102	7	24
Geelong / Footscray / Box Hill U16	11	2	1	8	-130	6	20

U16B Results

MINOR PREMIERS
Endeavour Hills



PREMIERS
Endeavour Hills



RUNNERS UP
Power House





U16 Girls Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Northern / Shepparton U16G	6	5	1	0	125	5	27
Brimbank Bucks U16	6	0	1	5	-125	4	6

U16 Girls Results

MINOR PREMIERS
Northern / Shepparton



PREMIERS
Northern / Shepparton



RUNNERS UP
Brimbank





U18 Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	PD	BP	PTS
Wyndham U18	11	11	0	0	376	8	58
Endeavour Hills U18	10	6	0	4	119	9	42
Brimbank / Melton U18	10	6	0	4	3	8	40
Casey U18	10	5	0	4	-67	8	36
Harlequins U18	10	4	0	6	-79	7	31
Footscray / Geelong U18	10	2	0	8	-182	9	23
Box Hill U18	10	2	0	8	-142	3	17

MINOR PREMIERS

Wyndham



U18 Results

PREMIERS

Wyndham



RUNNERS UP

Endeavour Hills



Rugby Services Senior Club Competition

2025 Club Competitions

- Dewar Shield (9 teams)
- Dewar Shield Reserves (9 teams)
- Dewar Shield 3rd Grade (9 teams)
- Lindroth Cup Women's (5 teams)
- Lindroth 10s Women's (did not run)
- Championship (5 teams)
- Championship Reserves (6 teams)
- Conference (6 teams)
- Bolton Cup Colts (4 teams)
- U85kg (4 teams)



Registered Players - 2588



Senior Club Competition *Dewar Shield*

The 2025 Dewar Shield season welcomed Kiwi Hawthorn to the competition. Creating an 18 round season, the extended Dewar Shield saw each team play 16 matches.

Footscray had a fantastic Home and Away season across all three grades, only losing a combined 4 games. However in the highly competitive top 4, they weren't able to continue that form into the finals only picking up the one premiership in third grade, losing to Power House in the Reserves Grand Final, and getting knocked out by Harlequins in the First Grade semi-final.

After knocking out the minor premiers in the semi-final, Harlequins were no match for the defending champions Power House, who jumped out of the blocks quickly in the first half, and ran away with the Grand Final winning 45-29 to claim back-to-back premierships.



Dewar Shield 1st XV Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Footscray 1st XV	16	14	0	2	2	597	13	72
Power House 1st XV	16	12	1	3	2	560	14	72
Endeavour Hills 1st XV	16	12	0	4	2	498	15	71
Harlequins 1st XV	16	11	0	5	2	546	15	67
Melbourne Unicorns 1st XV	16	10	1	5	2	433	13	63
Moorabbin 1st XV	16	5	0	11	2	-464	6	34
Box Hill 1st XV	16	4	1	11	2	-412	7	33
Melbourne University 1st XV	16	1	1	14	2	-811	4	18
Kiwi Hawthorn 1st XV	16	1	0	15	2	-993	5	15

1st XV Results

GRAND FINAL: **Power House 45** def **Harlequins 29**
 PAUL GASCOIGNE MEDAL: **Josh Green** (Power House)
 SF1: **Footscray 35** def by **Harlequins 43**
 SF2: **Power House 23** def **Endeavour Hills 14**





Dewar Shield Reserves Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Footscray 2nd XV	16	12	3	1	2	418	14	77
Power House 2nd XV	16	12	2	2	2	608	16	76
Melbourne Unicorns 2nd XV	16	11	2	3	2	505	16	72
Harlequins 2nd XV	16	12	0	4	2	567	12	69
Endeavour Hills 2nd XV	16	9	1	6	2	333	12	59
Box Hill 2nd XV	16	4	1	11	2	-445	5	32
Moorabbin 2nd XV	16	2	0	14	2	-603	6	22
Melbourne University 2nd XV	16	2	1	13	2	-867	2	20
Kiwi Hawthorn 2nd XV	16	3	0	13	2	-516	6	18

Reserves Results

GRAND FINAL: **Power House 20** def **Footscray 19**

SF1: **Footscray 32** def **Harlequins 26**

SF2: **Power House 27** def **Melbourne Unicorns 23**





Dewar Shield 3rd XV Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Footscray 3rd Grade	15	14	0	1	3	355	10	83
Power House 3rd Grade	14	10	0	4	4	286	12	69
Harlequins 3rd Grade	15	11	0	4	3	132	7	66
Melbourne Unicorns 3rd Grade	15	9	0	6	3	146	11	59
Endeavour Hills 3rd Grade	14	6	0	8	4	63	11	53
Melbourne University 3rd Grade	14	6	0	8	4	-7	7	46
Kiwi Hawthorn 3rd Grade	14	1	1	12	4	-528	3	17
Moorabbin 3rd Grade	8	1	1	6	1	-103	3	8
Box Hill 3rd Grade	11	1	0	10	2	-344	2	4

3rd XV Results

GRAND FINAL: Footscray 35 def Power House 19
SF1: Footscray 24 def Melbourne Unicorn 22
SF2: Power House 38 def harlequins 30





Senior Club Competition *Lindroth Cup*

After a successful launch of their women's program in 2024 in the Lindroth 10s, Footscray joined the Lindroth Cup competition in 2025 creating a five team competition, with the Unicorns also joining the Lindroth Cup merging with Melbourne University.

In a hotly contested race for the minor premiership where in their three meetings they went 1 win each and a draw, Endeavour Hills ended up claiming it by 1 bonus point over Power House, earning their spot directly into the Grand Final.

After defeating Footscray in the Semi, it was another Endeavour Hills vs Power House match up in the Grand Final where Endeavour ran away winning 38-10 for their third premiership in four years and to deny Power House back-to-back premierships.



Lindroth Cup Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Endeavour Hills Womens	13	11	1	1	2	599	12	67
Power House Womens	13	11	1	1	2	437	11	66
Footscray Womens	13	7	0	6	2	5	3	41
Melbourne University / Melbourne Unicorns Womens	13	3	0	10	2	-459	2	21
Western Districts Womens	12	1	0	11	3	-470	3	20

Lindroth Cup Results

GRAND FINAL: Endeavour Hills 38 def Power House 10
SF: Power House 32 def Footscray 15





Senior Club Competition *Championship*

2025 saw the reintroduction of a “2 Team” second tier of Victorian Rugby, with the Championship returning to a 1st Grade and Reserves competition set up. Three clubs (Brimbank, Shepparton and Southern Districts) participated with a traditional 1st Grade and reserves, with two unofficial merges (Melton/Power House + Geelong/Footscray) across both competitions creating two, five team competitions.

Southern Districts ran away with the Minor Premiership only losing 1 match for the season and earning direct entry into the Grand Final, but it was 3rd place Shepparton with the form in finals, getting over Brimbank in the Semis before defeating Southern in the Grand Final 17-13 to become premiers for the third consecutive year.

The Championship Reserves were a similar story with Shepparton winning the Minor Premiership, but 2nd Place Brimbank with the finals form, winning the Championship Reserves Grand Final 31-22 for the first senior premiership in club history.



Championship Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Southern Districts 1st XV	12	10	1	1	3	157	8	62
Brimbank 1st XV	12	6	1	5	3	75	11	50
Shepparton 1st XV	12	6	0	6	3	-4	9	46
Melton 1st XV	12	5	0	7	3	15	9	41
Geelong 1st XV	12	2	0	10	3	-243	4	20

Championship Results

GRAND FINAL: **Shepparton 17 def Southern District 13**

SF: **Shepparton 28 def Brimbank 24**





Championship Reserves Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Shepparton 2nd XV	12	9	0	3	3	168	9	59
Brimbank 2nd XV	12	8	0	4	3	-10	1	46
Power House Championship	12	6	0	6	3	44	7	44
Southern Districts 2nd XV	12	5	0	7	3	74	8	40
Geelong 2nd XV	7	2	0	5	2	-119	3	13
Footscray Championship	5	0	0	5	1	-157	1	3

Championship Results

GRAND FINAL: **Brimbank 31** def **Shepparton 22**
 SF: **Brimbank 38** def **Power House 36**





Senior Club Competition

Bolton Cup Colts

The Bolton Cup Colts reduced to four teams with Power House re-joining and with Melbourne University withdrawing after round 5 and Endeavour Hills not able to enter a team. The ten-round home/away season saw Harlequins claiming the minor premiership for the third year on the trot, with 3rd place Melbourne Unicorns joining them in the Grand Final.

Harlequins ended up running away with the Grand Final, winning 31-15 and claiming their second consecutive premiership after the extra time thriller in 2024.



Bolton Cup Colts Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Harlequins Colts	10	9	0	1	1	212	9	51
Footscray Colts	10	6	0	4	1	47	4	35
Melbourne Unicorns Colts	10	5	0	5	1	20	5	30
Power House Colts	10	2	0	8	1	-167	3	10

Bolton Cup Colts Results

GRAND FINAL: Harlequins 31 def Melbourne Unicorns 15
SF: Melbourne Unicorns 39 def Footscray 26





Senior Club Competition *Conference*

The 2025 Conference season played host to the single team clubs. Eltham had an excellent season only being beaten twice (Monash in Round 1 and Casey in Round 13) on their way to winning the premiership, their first since 2019.



Conference Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Eltham 1st XV	15	13	0	2	0	384	11	67
Casey 1st XV	14	9	2	3	1	383	9	53
Bendigo 1st XV	14	7	0	7	1	-125	3	38
Ballarat 1st XV	15	7	0	8	0	-73	9	35
Monash University 1st XV	14	3	1	10	1	-196	3	17
Melbourne Unicorns Conference	12	1	1	10	0	-373	3	1

Conference Results

GRAND FINAL: Eltham 22 def Casey 14

SF1: Eltham 28 def Ballarat 19

SF2: Casey 41 def Bendigo 19



Senior Club Competition *Under 85kg*

In 2025, Rugby Victoria introduced a weight restricted competition off the back of the success in New Zealand. Four teams participated in the inaugural which was played on a Wednesday night over an eight week season.

From pre-game weigh ins to traditional backs playing in the front row, the inaugural U85kg competition was a huge success, with Power House taking out the Premiership.





Under 85kg Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	B	PD	BP	PTS
Power House U85kg	6	4	1	1	0	83	4	20
Melbourne University U85kg	6	3	1	2	0	-24	1	15
Melbourne Unicorns U85kg	6	2	1	3	0	20	2	13
Monash University U85kg	6	1	1	4	0	-79	0	6

Under 85kg Results

GRAND FINAL: Power House 47 def Melbourne University 0
SF: Melbourne University 14 def Melbourne Unicorns 7





Senior Club Competition

Cowper Shield

The object of the Club Championship – the Cowper Shield – is to encourage Clubs to recruit and field as many teams as possible, to foster the development of junior rugby, to increase participation numbers at all levels and to improve the standard of play.

Club Championship points are awarded based on team participation and performance and deducted for undisciplined actions. The award is decided at the end of the home and away season and is awarded to the Club that has received the most Club Championship points.

Congratulations to Harlequins Rugby Club who claimed their 9th consecutive Cowper Shield in 2025 ahead of runners up Power House and third-placed Endeavour Hills.

Judiciary Report

2025 saw an increase in judiciary cases to 68 this year.

This is a 13% year-on-year increase compared with a participant uplift of 7%.

Trend

YEAR	CASES
2014	32
2015	23
2016	43
2017	30
2018	34
2019	37
2020	N/A*
2021	24*
2022	57
2023	61
2024	60
2025	68

Offence Type Comparison 2022 – 2025*

OFFENCE	No. of incidents			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Striking	7	13	17	17
Dangerous Tackles	24	15	10	18
Acts Contrary to Good Sportmanship	1	5	0	0
Kicking		2	2	1
Stomping	1		1	0
Charging		2	0	1
MO Dissent / Abuse	6	4	1	3
Dangerous Play in Ruck o Maul			1	1
Accumulation of Yellow Card	3	6	13	19
Action Reckless or Dangerous to Others		3	0	0

*Note that not all offences are captured here

*Reduced or No Competition



Judiciary Report

Striking cases and dangerous tackles featured heavily at the Judiciary this year, targeted intervention was taken with clubs based on the number and type of infringements received. During the season, a letter was sent out to clubs warning of increased penalties for striking offences due to their prevalence. This saw a decrease in striking offences for the remainder of the season.

A strong recruitment effort and the introduction of a rostering system saw Judicial Officer numbers grow and the recruitment of two further ex-international players to the panel this year.

Amit Malik and Campbell Thomson were tireless in their efforts as Co-Chairs of the Judiciary this season – the strength of the Judicial Panel is a testament to their skill and determination. Additionally, several panel members appeared very regularly and made invaluable contributions.

We would like to thank all members of the Judiciary who conducted hearings, acted as citing commissioners or investigated matters this year. As always, they gave generously of their time and expertise.



VRRA REPORT

Victorian Rugby Referees Association 2025 Report

Like the broader Victorian rugby community, we reflect on the 2025 season as a year of contrasts.

The 2025 competitions provided valuable opportunities to deliver high-quality rugby matches, but there were also too many one-sided contests and forfeits. Off the field, the season was marked by disruption, with concerns regarding the Rugby Australia Match Payment platform and delayed payments detracting from the experience of our members each week.

Despite these challenges, 2025 was also a year of meaningful collaboration, during which the VRRRA experienced the strongest level of engagement and support from Rugby Victoria and Rugby Australia in recent memory. That support has been transformational and has significantly strengthened the VRRRA's ability to prepare for and operate in 2026.

With the support and guidance of Rugby Victoria and Rugby Australia, I am pleased to present an overview of the Victorian Rugby Referees Association's three-year strategic plan:

- The commencement of the VRRRA Strategic Plan in 2026 responds to a significant and growing challenge: the shortage of available match officials.
- Demand for referees continues to grow across junior and senior competitions, placing increasing pressure on existing officials and limiting the Association's capacity to service all fixtures. As Australia enters the "Golden Decade of Rugby" ahead of major international events and anticipated growth in participation, the need to strengthen and expand the referee workforce has never been more pressing.
- The Strategic Plan is built around three key pillars: **Right Support**, **Right Environment**, and **Right Training**. Together, these priorities are intended to create a sustainable pathway for the recruitment, development, and retention of match officials, developers, and administrators across Victoria.

Under the **Right Support Pillar**, the VRRRA will focus on encouraging and educating members of the rugby community to become involved in officiating and leadership roles. Key initiatives include implementing proactive onboarding processes, supporting referees to transition through the “Onboarding to Orange and Green Shirt” program, and creating stronger mentoring and developer networks. The Association also aims to foster long-term retention through greater engagement, reflection, and support mechanisms, including the use of Match Feedback Reports and Ref Review reporting through Rugby Xplorer.

The **Right Environment Pillar** will establish clear development pathways and opportunities for referees at all stages of their journey. This includes creating tiered development groups, supporting local, state, and national exchange opportunities, increasing visibility of Green Shirt referees on game days, and strengthening collaboration with clubs through training attendance and education initiatives.

The **Right Training Pillar** focuses on delivering high-quality education and development opportunities for all match officials and developers. Annual education calendars, regular upskilling sessions, external accreditation courses, and targeted training in areas such as junior rugby and set-piece management will form the foundation of this work. A key initiative will be the establishment of a VRRRA Academy to provide advanced training and tailored support for selected members.

The Strategic Plan also sets measurable performance targets to ensure accountability and track progress.

These include:

- Achieving 25% annual growth in match official numbers,
- Improving the referee-to-player ratio from 1:57 to 1:40 by the end of 2027,
- Retaining at least 80% of officials annually, and
- Increasing the number of qualified match official developers across the Association.

Through this strategic direction, the VRRRA is committed to building a stronger, more sustainable officiating community that will support the continued growth and success of rugby union in Victoria for years to come.

This strategic plan was presented to Victorian Rugby Referees Association members at our 2025 AGM and was endorsed by the membership.

We seek the continued support of the rugby community in delivering this plan. We look forward to working with Rugby Victoria to support clubs with the resources and equipment needed to position match officiating as a genuine pathway for participation in rugby at all levels. Together with the wider rugby community, we will continue to promote the importance of match officials and encourage more club members to take up the whistle.

We share the same commitment and passion as players, coaches, and spectators, and we look forward to working collaboratively with all members of the Victorian rugby community in 2026 to continue strengthening and growing this great game.

Yours in Rugby

David Wall

President VRRRA, 2026





**VSRU
REPORT**



Victorian Schools' Rugby Union

Patron: Hon. Mr Ted Baillieu AO

President: Mr William Doherty

Hon Sec/Chair: Mr Michael Wilson

Hon Treasurer: Mr John Whitehead

Executive: Mr Steven Griffiths, Mr Malcomb Bradshaw, Mr Aidan Ryan, Mr Ewoud Botha

VSRU Report: 2025

In 2025, Melbourne experienced its first year without a professional Rugby team, yet the passion and commitment of the Schools Rugby community remained unwavering. The highlight of the year was the British and Irish Lions tour, which captivated local fans with a midweek clash against the First Nations & Pacifica XV at Marvel Stadium, followed by a thrilling series-deciding match against the Wallabies at the MCG. This historic fixture drew a record crowd of 90,307 spectators, underscoring the enduring appeal of Rugby in Melbourne.

The season commenced strongly with a well-attended Foundation Referee Course at Melbourne Grammar, attracting nearly 20 participants and reinforcing the importance of officiating in the game's growth. Our 1st XV competition featured nine teams at the start of the season, showcasing the depth of talent across schools. While Marcellin College unfortunately withdrew mid-season due to limited senior player numbers, the overall competition reflected resilience and enthusiasm within the Rugby community.

Victorian Schools' Rugby Union

1st XV Home and Away Ladder

TEAM	MP	W	D	L	+/-	BP	PTS
Brighton Grammar 1st XV	8	7	0	1	237	7	40
Xavier College 1st XV	8	6	0	2	166	7	35
St Kevins 1st XV	8	6	0	2	160	7	35
Haileybury 1st XV	8	5	0	3	102	7	32
Scotch College 1st XV	8	5	0	3	48	4	29
Geelong Grammar 1st XV	8	3	0	5	13	3	19
Melbourne Grammar 1st XV	8	3	0	5	7	3	19
Marcellin 1st XV U18 *	8	1	0	7	-317	1	9
Trinity Grammar 1st XV	8	0	0	8	-416	0	4

* Forfeiture throughout the season.

Victorian Schools' Rugby Union

Finals Results- 1st XV

St Kevins College 19 def. Brighton Grammar 17

Xavier College 18 def. Haileybury College 17

Melbourne Grammar 26 def. Scotch College 12

Trinity Grammar 15 def. Geelong Grammar 13

The Hutchins School 74 def St Patrick College 5

Marcellin College U16 36 def. Xavier College U16 26

The 2025 VSRU Finals program was proudly hosted by Xavier College on their iconic Roche Oval, providing a fitting stage for one of the most anticipated events in the school rugby calendar. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Xavier College Rugby community for their exceptional efforts in delivering an event that truly showcased the spirit and quality of school rugby.

The day featured outstanding performances across multiple age groups and schools, culminating in a thrilling Grand Final between long-standing rivals Brighton Grammar, the minor premiers, and St Kevin's College. This contest proved to be an epic battle, going right down to the wire and exemplifying the competitive strength of the VSRU competition.

Adding to the occasion, The Hutchins School from Tasmania once again joined us for this special celebration, taking on a Barbarian side comprised of players from Melbourne Grammar and Geelong Grammar. Their participation reinforced the inclusive and collaborative nature of the VSRU community, making the Finals program a truly memorable event.



2025 Australian Schools Rugby Union National Championships, Sunshine Coast Stadium, Bokarina, QLD, July 6 – 10

Victorian Schools Rugby Union Schools Representative Program

The VSRU was honoured to have its Patron, The Hon. Ted Baillieu, present the Premiership Trophy to St Kevin's College on this special occasion. His presence again added great significance to an already memorable day for school rugby.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Philippe McConnell, Teacher in Charge of Rugby at Xavier College, and the dedicated Rugby Parent Support Group for their outstanding efforts in hosting an event that truly celebrated the game. Their commitment ensured the Finals were a showcase of excellence and community spirit.



Victorian Under 18 Schoolboys, *Manager's Report*

The Australian Schools Rugby Union Championships again this year show-cased the best schoolboy rugby players in the country. In 2025 the tournament was held at the Sunshine Coast Stadium, Bokarina, Queensland, for the second consecutive year. The games were played in true rugby spirit – physical but fair, uncompromising but respectful, fierce on field but friendly off field. Everyone, players, team management and match officials knew what they were there for and the commitment to playing the game as it should be played was consistent. There were fierce contests across the ground in each and every game. But, there were also friendships formed based on mutual respect earned on the paddock. Within our own Victorian Under 18 Team the young men involved developed very strong bonds, established during the preparation program and cemented on tour.

The logistics this year were again challenging for the ASRU organising committee, with travel distances increased for states and accommodation costs continually rising. Countless hours of work went into ensuring that this year's tournament went ahead and was successful. Our thanks to all those from the ASRU who made this year's Championships possible.

The eventual Victorian Schools Touring Squad of twenty-three players were part on an initial trial, held at the Rugby Victoria grounds at La Trobe University on Sunday March 30. Close to 100 young men participated and subsequently 65 players were invited to play in Trial Games at the La Trobe grounds on Wednesday April 23. The trial process this year was conducted in partnership with Rugby Victoria and from the trials two (2) Extended Playing Squads were selected, the VSRU Under 18's and Rugby Victoria Under 17's. Both squads had the same target, with the Rugby Victoria side participating in a Rugby Australia Under 18's Tournament at the same time and venue as the ASRU National Championships. Both the Rugby Victoria and VSRU squads trained from late April through until their respective tournaments at the Rugby Victoria facility at La Trobe University. This was a combination of weekly strength and conditioning in the gym and field training.

Training together provided both squads with the opportunity of regular opposed sessions to assist with fine tuning set piece, attack and defensive structures. The commitment of the playing group and coaching staff was incredible during this period. The intensity and quality of the preparation program was a testimony to the expertise of the coaching group and the willingness of the players to learn and come together.

The preparation of the side was relatively uninterrupted in 2025. Several players carried niggling injuries throughout the preparation period, and one player was forced to withdraw through injury very close to the tournament. Fortunately, there was depth in the Extended Squad, and a very capable player was drafted into the Travelling Squad. This player movement was managed professionally and compassionately by the coaching group.

Throughout the preparation program, the coaching staff was able to facilitate a professional program that focussed heavily on skill development and a game plan that encouraged the players to spread the ball and play running rugby as much as possible. The training period set the foundations for a final squad that bonded closely and wanted to play for one another.

The Victorian Schools side played three matches in the National Championships, losing to the NSW Juniors in Game One, losing to Queensland II in Game Two and then losing to ACT in Game Three of the tournament. The Victorian Schools finished in eighth place in 2025, representing their state with pride and passion and never losing heart. Injuries whilst on tour did certainly have an effect on the Travelling Squad. We lost two players with tournament-ending injuries in our first game, then a third player with a tournament-ending injury in our second game.

With only 20 players available for the third game there was a good deal of disruption to the team make-up. This was evident in the first half of that final match with cohesion and fluency in play difficult to maintain. The ACT went out to a 36 – 0 lead by the half time break. The fighting spirit of this year's Victorian Schoolboys was on display in the final half of the tournament which they won 12 – 10, arguably saving their best half of rugby for the tournament until the end.

In the lead up to the tournament, and during the time away, the coaching and support staff created an environment that emphasise hard work, commitment and development. The coaches ensured that each session had its fair share of fun as well as a strong emphasis on set piece, ball movement and defensive structures. There is no doubt that strong bonds developed amongst of the players, coaches and management staff. These bonds of friendship and respect lead to a most successful touring event. Each and every player involved in this year's program grew as a player and person and this is a direct result of the approach taken by the coaching group.

This year the composition of the playing groups for the Western Australian, ACT and Victorian Schoolboy squads was different to previous years. These states were allowed to select up to five (5) non-schoolboy Under 18 players. This selection rule was modified this year to allow the smaller states the opportunity to bolster their squads in positions where the player depth from school competitions was not there. This selection policy brought the smaller states to a parallel position with the NSW Juniors – a side comprising a mix of schoolboy and Under 18 club players, that has competed at the ASRU national Championships for several years now. We assume that this Selection Policy change will be maintained in future years.

In closing, it is very important to acknowledge the support for this year's Victorian Schoolboys Under 18 Squad from the VRSU, in particular Michael Wilson. Michael provided much needed administrative support, and his personal support of the coaching and management staff was very much appreciated. Michael brings years of sporting administration experience to his role and I am extremely grateful to him for his availability, advice and calm presence in the background.

The financial support of the VSRU again made an incredible difference in 2025, ensuring that the cost to players and families was manageable. The Tournament Cost is becoming somewhat prohibitive I fear for some players – in 2025, even with the financial support of the VSRU, the cost to players and their families was \$2000 to participate. In the lead up to next year's tournament it would be appropriate to consider how we can support players and keep costs as low as possible.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the work and input of Brayden Peterson from Rugby Victoria. As Pathways Manager Brayden was heavily involved in the Under 17's Program and he also supported the Under 18 VSRU Program throughout the selection process and preparation program

Tony Hollamby (Team Manager, 2025)

National Championships Statistics:

Game One: Monday July 7

NSW Juniors 55 def Victorian Schoolboys 13

Tries: S.Aiga, K.Lelei- Lambert;

1 Penalty: N.Jury

Game Three: Thursday July 10z

ACT 46 def Victorian Schoolboys 12

Tries: F.Lauofo, R.Sefo

Game Two: Tuesday July 8

QLD II 67 def Victorian Schoolboys 12

Tries: T.Nikau-Roderick, L.McLaughlin

Championship Awards:

Sugarman-McLean Award: Angus Hay

Brian Peace Award: Ian Tunufa'i



Victoria Schoolboys Under 18 Rugby Squad, 2025

The VSRU extends its sincere gratitude to our President, Mr William Doherty, who has announced his appointment as Headmaster of Stonyhurst College in the United Kingdom. We congratulate William and his wife, Terina, on this exciting new chapter and look forward to maintaining strong connections through initiatives such as the VSRU U16 UK Tour. William's tireless dedication and leadership over the past five years have been instrumental in advancing school rugby, and we thank him wholeheartedly for his outstanding contribution. We are also delighted to welcome Olivia Fogerty as our new VSRU Competition Administrator, who joined us at the start of the season. Olivia has already established an excellent rapport with schools and is committed to strengthening these relationships as we continue to grow the competition.

A special acknowledgment goes to the Victorian Rugby Referees Association (VRRRA) for their invaluable support. Attracting and retaining officials remains a challenge across the sport, and we look forward to working closely with the VRRRA to ensure the continued success of school rugby. Finally, we wish to recognize the members of the Victorian Schools' Rugby Union Executive Committee, along with the Teachers in Charge of Rugby, for their generous commitment of time and expertise in supporting the development of the game within our schools.

Michael Wilson
Chair VSRU



CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Club Development Report

2025 marked the first full year of dedicated Club Development support for Rugby Victoria clubs. Throughout the year, significant progress was made in strengthening relationships with clubs and delivering practical support that resulted in many meaningful outcomes, both large and small.

Club Visits and Relationship Development

A key focus of 2025 was building strong relationships with clubs and developing a deeper understanding of the challenges they face. More than 35 club visits were conducted across Victoria, providing valuable opportunities to engage directly with club leaders and volunteers. These visits helped identify areas for improvement, better understand each club's priorities, and gather feedback on Rugby Victoria's current operations and support services.

Club visits remain one of the most effective ways to establish trust and provide tailored support. I would like to sincerely thank all clubs that welcomed me to committee meetings, training sessions, and informal catch-ups over coffee to discuss their successes, challenges, and aspirations.

Community Club Health Check

In 2025, Rugby Victoria delivered the Community Club Health Check to affiliated clubs, with 24 clubs completing the assessment. Each participating club received a tailored Recommendations and Insights Report, providing practical guidance on how to address identified areas for improvement. The Health Check also generated valuable data that highlighted common trends and priorities across the Rugby Victoria community.

Key Findings from the Health Check

Top Priorities for Clubs

- Recruitment and retention of players
- Recruitment and retention of volunteers
- Commercial partnerships and sponsorship

Governance and Planning

- 33% of clubs operate without an annual budget
- 83% of clubs do not have a strategic plan

Financial Management

- 67% of clubs use Excel to manage their finances

Player Recruitment and Retention

- 46% of clubs do not have a player recruitment and retention plan

Volunteer Management

- 92% of clubs do not have a volunteer recruitment and retention plan
- 26% of clubs do not provide any formal support activities for volunteers

Communication

- 45% of clubs have an electronic direct mail (eDM) system or another consistent communication channel

Diversity and Inclusion

- 45% of clubs have a committee gender composition close to a 40:40:20 split

These findings provide a clear picture of the opportunities that exist to strengthen club capability across governance, finance, volunteer management, and strategic planning.

Grants Accessed in 2025

Throughout 2025, Rugby Victoria supported clubs in securing grant funding for player recruitment and retention initiatives, equipment purchases, and high-impact training resources.

Key successes included:

- Australian Rugby Foundation funding new scrum machines for Brimbank Rugby Club and Power House Junior Rugby Club.
- Change Our Game funding Eltham Rugby Club's girls' recruitment and retention initiatives.
- Melbourne Rugby Club, Eltham Rugby Club, Brimbank Rugby Club, Northern Panthers Rugby Club, Melton Rugby Club, Ballarat Rugby Club, and Kiwi Hawthorn Rugby Club securing funding through the Sporting Club Grants Program for uniforms, equipment, volunteer and official development, and participation initiatives.

Rugby Victoria Website

In 2025, Rugby Victoria launched a dedicated Club Support section on the Rugby Victoria website. This online resource hub provides clubs with easy access to tools, templates, and practical resources to simplify club administration and improve operational efficiency. The section will continue to expand in line with Rugby Victoria's strategic priorities and ongoing feedback from clubs.



RUGBY VICTORIA CLUB INSIGHTS 2025

CLUB PRIORITIES

1

Player Recruitment & Retention



46% of clubs have no recruitment & retention plan for players

2

Volunteer Recruitment & Retention



45% of clubs have an eDM or consistent communication channel

3

Commercial & Sponsorship



92% of clubs don't have a recruitment & retention plan for volunteers



45% of clubs have a 40:40:20 gender split on their committee



33% of RV Clubs are operating without an annual budget



67% of RV Clubs use Excel to manage their finances



83% of RV clubs have no Strategic Plan



26% of clubs provide no support activities to volunteers

Strategic Partnerships

In 2025, Rugby Victoria established several strategic partnerships to provide clubs with access to trusted suppliers and cost-effective services through a preferred supplier model.

Asahi Beverages – Club Connect

- Provides clubs with access to discounted alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as snacks. All Rugby Victoria clubs received a gift voucher and can participate in a rebate program based on their purchases.

Victor Sports Medical

- Offers discounted medical supplies and equipment, including strapping tape, first aid kits, stretchers, cervical collars, and crutches.

Reckon Accounting

- Provides accounting software to support day-to-day financial management, available to Rugby Victoria clubs at a heavily subsidise rate.

Recognition of Volunteers and Coaches

To celebrate the outstanding contribution of volunteers and coaches, Rugby Victoria introduced the Coach and Volunteer of the Month Awards in 2025. Over the three-month program period, more than 100 nominations were received, highlighting the extraordinary dedication and impact of individuals across the Rugby Victoria community.

Monthly Award Winners

June

- Barry Te Hiko – Volunteer (Endeavour Hills Rugby Club)

July

- Jo Tevaga – Volunteer (Northern Panthers Rugby Club)
- Jarrod Eberhart – Coach (Moorabbin Rams Rugby Club)

August

- Moronae Silaga – Coach (Shepparton Rugby Union Club)
- Milanetta Fuimaono – Volunteer (Endeavour Hills Rugby Club)

Annual Award Winners

Volunteer of the Year – Senior Club

- Junior Faatoese (Melbourne University Rugby Club)

Volunteer of the Year – Junior Club

- Cindy Passmore (Wyndham City Rhinos Rugby Club)

Looking Ahead to 2026

I would like to thank all clubs for their continued commitment to strengthening both their on-field and off-field operations. The progress made in 2025 demonstrates the passion and dedication that exists throughout the Rugby Victoria community.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with clubs in 2026 to deliver key initiatives aligned with both the Rugby Victoria Strategic Plan and the Rugby Australia Strategic Plan.

Sean Walker

Senior Club Development Manager (Victoria and Tasmania)
Rugby Australia



GAME DEVELOPMENT



Game Development Report

It was another big year in development with several new initiatives conducted as well as supporting clubs and schools the best we can with the resources we have at our disposal. The programs we offer continue to grow and are developed to support growth in our community.

In 2025, over 500 school sessions were delivered to 4,500 participants which was a huge effort from our 2 development officers.

These programs are important as they provide key opportunities to showcase rugby to a new audience and then provides the ability to connect with their local clubs.

The key focus areas for the development team from the newly completed *Rugby Victoria Strategic Plan* are:

- Attract, develop and retain participants
- Engage and build community capabilities
- Deliver brilliant experiences.

These 3 pillars now drive the direction of development and our KPIs and focus areas.

Major Activities and Achievements for 2025

The Get into rugby program kicked off in Victoria this year. The clubs were split into 4 hubs that rotated each week with clubs getting chances to host. This was a very successful program and had 150 players aged between 4 and 7 participate across 12 weeks.

The highlight was the mega hub at the end of the year where games were played, medals were handed out and a big party was had afterwards. This program will continue to grow and attract young players to the game and then continue their journey with clubs in the older age groups.

In conjunction with Rugby Australia, we initiated the under 85kg men's rugby pilot program. The aim was to attract new and old players back to the game in a weight based mid- week competition. This was conducted preseason and had 4 teams compete. Power House were the inaugural winners that saw over 120 players registered and of which 72 were either new or returning to the game after a 2-year absence. This competition will grow and 6 teams are already anticipated for the 2026 season. There are also plans for other states across the country to adopt this format in the coming year.

Our junior clubs and players had opportunities for prematch and halftime activations and games during the Victorian legs of the British and Lions tour. These were massive occasions and created memories for hundreds of our junior players during the First Nations/Pasifika and Wallabies matches.

We also had an under 10s gala day at Albert Park that had Wallabies and British and Irish lions' players in attendance, before the test match.

We continued to develop our offerings in the All-abilities schools and conducted programs across 8 schools which culminated in our second All abilities gala day. The gala day again saw students that don't normally get to participate in interschool sport participate in friendly matches against other school and great fun and enjoyment was had by all.

The Gold Blooded tour once again came to Victoria and classic Wallabies and Wallaroos visited Hampton Park secondary College to run some clinics for their academy students. They also attended Bendigo rugby Club, Rugby Victoria junior academy sessions and launched our first Get Into rugby clinic. Thank you to Rugby Australia for bringing this awesome experience to Victoria once again.

This year we added the Leota Cup to our public-school offerings. This is for newer rugby schools to play 7s and develop before progressing to the Rebel shield competition. The Leota Cup is named after Victoria's own Wallaby Rob Leota who went to Thornbury high and has great pride in his journey. The competition was hosted by Robs former club Northern panthers and had 7 boys teams compete across 2 age groups. Next year we will add a girl's section to this competition. Thank you to the Panthers for hosting and all the teachers who worked hard to get teams together and compete.

In its 4th year, the Cattermole Cup 7s for independent schoolgirls was again a big success and an entertaining day of 7s. Thank you again to Box Hill for hosting and to Justin Bown who continues to drive participation in the schoolgirl's programs.

This year we named under 16 and under 18 merit teams after the competition to reward players who excelled on the day. These were very well received and the under 16 team then had the opportunity to participate in the Bendigo 7s event and had a great experience. These merit teams will continue to grow and so will the playing opportunities outside of the Cattermole Cup Day.

Thank you to all the clubs and schools that put-on programs to build participation numbers and ensure participants have great experiences.

Thank you to our development team who work tirelessly to showcase rugby across the state. Thanks also to our casuals who assisted with Get Into Rugby and event days.

We look forward to 2026 and new challenges ahead.

Greg Fergus
Rugby Victoria



COACH EDUCATION



Coach Education Report

2025 saw some great results across our coaching cohort. We continued to grow in our coaching ranks and build on our education and accreditation offerings and uptake. This impacts our players as they receive an improved coaching experience and learning environment.

Coach Registration and Compliance for 2025

- There were 398 registered coaches in Victoria which saw a slight increase from the previous year and we should break the 400 coach's barrier in 2026.
- Smart Rugby compliance was at 97%, which saw Victoria lead the country in compliance. We are still short of the 100% compliance that is required and this is still a work in progress around educating all coaches and clubs that they must hold a Smart Rugby accreditation as part of their Health and safety requirements.
- Our women's and Pasifika numbers held steady over the year and will again be a focus for retention and recruitment in 2026.
- We continued to offer courses and professional development opportunities to all levels of our coaching cohort. The goal is to continue to implement best practices and keep providing development opportunities for our coaches.
- The highlight of our coach development offerings for 2025 was hosting a forum with the coaches of the first ever First Nations and Pasifika team the night after they played the British and Irish Lions in Melbourne. The coaches and referees in the room got some great insights into how to build a culture in a team.

Pilot Programs and Education Courses

In 2025 we assisted Rugby Australia in piloting 2 projects.

- The new mentor course will be a great addition to the suite of education offerings. We conducted a pilot course that is aimed at giving experienced coaches the tools to assist in developing and mentor other coaches in their clubs and state.
- We assist in the development of the SLOCOACH project that will see all clubs have their own coaching platforms that will assist in development and communication amongst coaches in their clubs. This will be an amazing resource going forward.

The new learning system had more online coaching resources and courses which gives coaches opportunities to learn and upskill. There were some issues with the system as is common with new rollouts and Rugby Australia will continue to work with the provider to ensure our coaches have easy access and a great user experience.

Rugby Australia continues to support and innovate in the coaching space and special mention to Rugby Australia's Head of Community Coaching Michael Magriplis for his unwavering support and the mentoring he provides.

We had 3 new coaches gain their World Rugby educators license which will add to our current group that continues to present and mentor in our community.

We also had 8 coaches commence the Emerging coach program in conjunction with the ACT and attend the Brumbies HQ for a great weekend with their coaches and professional staff. This program will continue through 2026.

A big thank you to all the clubs that offered their facilities for coaching and PD courses. We could not conduct all the course we run without club support

Thanks also to our amazing coaches, who continue to volunteer their time and energy to provide players at all levels in Victoria with the skills and tools to develop and enjoy their rugby.

Cheers,

Greg



PATHWAYS



Elite Pathways 2025 Annual Report

2025 marked continued progress in strengthening Rugby Victoria's elite pathways, with an expanded program offering across key age groups and improved alignment to national programs. Programs provided high-quality development experiences and increased visibility for Victorian athletes on the national stage, resulting in a number of milestone selections and progression opportunities for players across the state.

The pathway structure continued to evolve throughout 2025, creating clearer progression opportunities from club and school rugby into regional programs, state representation, elite academy environments and national squads. This has not only improved outcomes at the top end of the pathway but has also broadened the development base and raised standards across the Victorian playing and coaching landscape.

Key Outcomes

Victorian athletes continued to progress onto the national and professional stage in 2025, highlighting the ongoing growth and effectiveness of Rugby Victoria's pathway system.

Key progression outcomes included:

- 3 players securing Rugby Australia development contracts
- 1 player selected in the Australia U16 Boys program
- 1 player selected in the Australia U18 Boys Sevens squad, with an additional player selected in the wider squad
- 1 player selected in the wider Australia U18 Girls Sevens squad
- 4 players selected in Super Rugby U19 squads across the Brumbies, Reds, Western Force and Waratahs
- 1 player selected in the Brumbies Next Gen Sevens squad
- 2 players selected in the Australian Schoolgirls Sevens Tournament Merit Team
- 1 Victorian pathway athlete making their professional debut in the French Top 14 competition

These outcomes reinforce the increasing ability of Victorian pathways to identify, develop and progress talented athletes into national and professional environments.

Program Overview

Regional Programs

The introduction and expansion of regional pathway programs continued to increase the reach of Rugby Victoria's talent identification and development system.

The U13 Regional Program was successfully delivered at Northern Panthers Rugby Club, featuring four boys teams and two girls teams. The Beek region claimed both the boys and girls titles.

The U15 Regional Program was also hosted at Northern Panthers Rugby Club, featuring four boys teams, with Beek again emerging as tournament winners.

These programs provided athletes with their first exposure to representative rugby environments and created an important entry point into the Victorian performance pathway.



Victoria U13 Boys Team

Following regional selection, the Victorian U13 Boys squad completed a three-week preparation and development block based at Power House Juniors Rugby Club before competing against ACT in Albury. The side showed strong competitiveness in a 36–22 loss.

Victoria U15 Boys Team

The Victorian U15 Boys program also completed a preparation block at Power House Juniors Rugby Club before competing in the NSW Next Gen Cup in Sydney and a subsequent fixture against ACT in Albury.

Results included:

- 22–12 loss to Waratahs U14
- 38–7 loss to Team Waugh
- 29–28 loss to Team Gavin
- 33–15 win over ACT

The program provided valuable exposure to interstate competition and national-level playing standards.

Victoria U16 Boys Super Rugby Team

The Victorian U16 Boys Super Rugby team enjoyed a competitive campaign against strong interstate opposition, highlighted by a victory over the ACT Brumbies and competitive periods against leading sides.

Results included:

- 24–5 loss to Western Force
- 69–6 loss to Queensland Reds
- 31–20 win over ACT Brumbies
- 79–7 loss to NSW Waratahs

Hamish Ward (halfback) was subsequently selected in the Australia U16 squad following strong performances throughout the Super Rugby program.

Victoria U17 Boys Team

The Victorian U17 Boys team competed in the Australian Schools and Junior Rugby Union Championships in the U18 division, finishing third overall following dominant performances against Tasmania and The Associated Schools (TAS).

Results included:

- 76–5 win over Tasmania
- 36–17 loss to NSWJRU B
- 46–17 win over TAS

VSRU U18 Schoolboys

The Victorian Schoolboys program competed in the Australian Schools and Junior Rugby Union Championships against strong national opposition.

Results included:

- 55–13 loss to NSW Juniors
- 67–12 loss to Queensland II
- 46–12 loss to ACTJRU

While results were challenging, the program continued to provide Victorian athletes exposure to the highest level of schoolboy rugby in Australia.

Victoria U20 Men

The Victorian U20 program selected players from Colts and senior club rugby competitions. Preparation included fixtures against East and West senior representative teams and Victoria Country prior to a competitive fixture against ACT U20s.

Result:

- 26–17 loss to ACT

The fixture provided emerging players with valuable exposure in front of ACT Brumbies staff.

Victoria Men

The Victorian Men's program selected players from senior club rugby and completed a preparation series involving East and West representative teams, Victoria U20 and Victoria Country.

The team competed strongly across two fixtures against ACT:

- 34–5 loss to ACT
- 38–25 loss to ACT

These fixtures continued to provide a valuable platform for Victorian players to perform in front of professional program staff.

Female Pathway

Despite ongoing challenges surrounding player depth and competition from other sports, Rugby Victoria continued to invest in the growth and development of the female pathway throughout 2025.

Victoria Schoolgirls Sevens

Victorian U16 and U18 schoolgirls teams competed at the Australian Schoolgirls National Sevens Tournament. Despite limited depth across both age groups, both teams delivered competitive performances and provided several athletes with the opportunity to perform at national level.

Importantly, two Victorian players were selected in the U18 tournament Merit Team and one player earned selection in the wider Australia U18 Girls Sevens squad.

Victoria U15 Girls Team

Preparation commenced through open development sessions held throughout the club season, assisting with talent identification and foundational skill development. The team competed at a two-day tournament in Borambola against NSW opposition.

Results included:

- 64–0 loss to NSW
- 62–0 loss to NSW

Low playing numbers and difficulties fielding full squads impacted competitiveness, however the program provided important development opportunities for emerging players.



Victoria U18 Girls Team

The U18 Girls program followed a similar model, with open development sessions held throughout the season before competing against ACT Brumbies and NSW opposition in Borambola.

Results included:

- 21–5 loss to ACT Brumbies
- 50–0 loss to NSW
- 38–7 loss to ACT Brumbies
- 43–5 loss to NSW

While results were challenging, the program continued to expose players to representative rugby and strengthen the long-term female pathway.

Victoria Women

The Victorian Women’s program completed preparation through open development sessions before competing in two representative fixtures against ACT.

Results included:

- 19–14 loss to ACT
- 60–7 loss to ACT

These fixtures provided talented players with valuable exposure in front of ACT Brumbies staff and continued to strengthen connections between Victorian athletes and professional pathways.

Boys Elite Academy

A new Boys Elite Academy program was launched in 2025, bringing together the state's leading U16–U18 athletes for additional high-performance training and support.

The program focused on:

- Strength and conditioning
- Skill execution
- Tactical awareness
- Nutrition education
- Performance psychology
- High-performance standards and behaviours

The academy contributed to improved individual performances and stronger competitiveness across Victorian representative teams, while also laying important foundations for the long-term development of high-potential athletes.

System Development

The Rugby Victoria pathway system continued to mature throughout 2025 through improved alignment, broader reach and stronger collaboration across the Victorian rugby landscape.

Key developments included:

- Increased alignment with Rugby Australia core skills frameworks and national selection criteria
- Improved collaboration with stakeholders including VSRU, WRDA, clubs and schools
- Expanded regional pathway programs providing greater access to development opportunities and talent identification
- Continued integration between pathway programs to support clearer progression opportunities for athletes and coaches

These improvements have strengthened the overall pathway ecosystem and increased consistency across programs.



Looking Ahead

In 2026, Rugby Victoria will continue to focus on strengthening pathway clarity, expanding access to development opportunities and improving sustainability across all programs.

Key priorities include:

- Continuing to grow and develop the pathway workforce of coaches, managers and support staff
- Expanding the reach and visibility of pathway programs through digital and social media platforms
- Building stronger commercial partnerships to support program growth and reduce financial barriers for athletes
- Continuing alignment with national programs and selection standards
- Expanding development opportunities at younger age groups to further strengthen the long-term talent pipeline

Rugby Victoria remains committed to providing Victorian athletes with clear, credible and aspirational pathways into national and professional rugby environments.

Braydon Peterson

Head of Elite Pathways



FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated

**Trading as RugbyVictoria
ABN 42 660 645 291**

Annual Report – 31 December 2025

**Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Officers' report
31 December 2025**

The officers present their report, together with the financial statements, on the incorporated association for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Officers

The following persons were officers of the incorporated association during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Elizabeth Radcliffe
Bryony Epa
Alan Latu (Until March 2025)
MaryJane Crabtree
Joan Norton
William Smith
Melanie Kawa
Jason Andrew
Richard Haugh
David Short
Keith Kendall
Marcus Reynolds (CEO until March 2025)
Aaron Bailey (CEO from March 2025)
Jack Goodman (From March 2025)

Review of operations

The profit for the association after providing for income tax amounted to \$4,221,968 (31 December 2024: \$7,141,845)

Principal activities

During the financial year the principal continuing activities of the incorporated association consisted of:

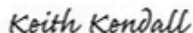
- administration and promotion of rugby union in Victoria.

On behalf of the officers



Elizabeth Radcliffe
President

04-Jun-2026



[Keith Kendall \(Jun 4, 2026 21:59:18 GMT+10\)](#)

Keith Kendall
CEO

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated

Trading as Rugby Victoria

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31 December 2025

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General information

The financial statements cover Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated's functional and presentation currency.

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated is a not-for-profit incorporated association. Its registered office and principal place of business are:

60 Olympic Boulevard
Melbourne VIC 3000

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 04-Jun-2026.

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	3	6,012,377	9,041,224
Interest revenue		282,881	207,532
Expenses			
Rugby and competition expenses		(257,548)	(258,999)
Corporate and administration expense		(71,195)	(131,707)
Employee benefits expense		(921,260)	(951,653)
Depreciation expense		(241,969)	(208,002)
Other expenses		(509,903)	(484,630)
Finance costs		(71,415)	(71,920)
Surplus before income tax expense		4,221,968	7,141,845
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated		4,221,968	7,141,845
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated		<u>4,221,968</u>	<u>7,141,845</u>

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Statement of financial position
As at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	399,913	1,019,252
Trade and other receivables	5	125,978	120,465
Other financial assets	6	-	4,445,267
Other	7	-	11,290
Total current assets		<u>525,891</u>	<u>5,596,274</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	29,973,876	25,475,971
Right-of-use assets	9	9,181,961	9,313,119
Total non-current assets		<u>39,155,837</u>	<u>34,789,090</u>
Total assets		<u>39,681,728</u>	<u>40,385,364</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	110,390	436,992
Lease liabilities	11	201,757	205,235
Employee benefits	12	43,576	39,130
Other	13	1,408,384	5,904,798
Total current liabilities		<u>1,764,107</u>	<u>6,586,155</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	14	9,462,394	9,568,104
Employee benefits	15	13,450	11,296
Total non-current liabilities		<u>9,475,844</u>	<u>9,579,400</u>
Total liabilities		<u>11,239,951</u>	<u>16,165,555</u>
Net assets		<u>28,441,777</u>	<u>24,219,809</u>
Equity			
Retained surpluses		<u>28,441,777</u>	<u>24,219,809</u>
Total equity		<u>28,441,777</u>	<u>24,219,809</u>

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Accumulated profits \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2024	17,077,964	17,077,964
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	7,141,845	7,141,845
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>7,141,845</u>	<u>7,141,845</u>
Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>24,219,809</u>	<u>24,219,809</u>
	Accumulated profits \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2025	24,219,809	24,219,809
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	4,221,968	4,221,968
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>4,221,968</u>	<u>4,221,968</u>
Balance at 31 December 2025	<u>28,441,777</u>	<u>28,441,777</u>

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		1,250,262	1,471,759
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(1,584,418)</u>	<u>(2,239,981)</u>
		(334,156)	(768,222)
Interest received		95,616	20,267
Interest and other finance costs paid		<u>(682)</u>	<u>(1,987)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(239,222)</u>	<u>(749,942)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(4,962,571)	(8,767,811)
Proceeds from capital grants		4,632,532	6,830,000
Proceeds from term deposits		<u>-</u>	<u>2,741,998</u>
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		<u>(330,039)</u>	<u>804,187</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities		<u>(50,078)</u>	<u>(192,741)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(50,078)</u>	<u>(192,741)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(619,339)	(138,496)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		<u>1,019,252</u>	<u>1,157,748</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	4	<u>399,913</u>	<u>1,019,252</u>

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 1. Material accounting policy information

The accounting policies that are material to the incorporated association are set out below. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The incorporated association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

Going concern

The financial report of the Victorian Rugby Union Inc ("VRU") has been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes the continuity of normal business activities and the realization of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

For the financial year ended 31 December 2025, the VRU reported a profit of \$4,221,968 (31 December 2024: Profit of \$7,141,845). As at 31 December 2025, the VRU had net current liabilities of \$1,238,216 and net total assets of \$28,441,777 (31 December 2024: net current liabilities of \$989,881 and net total assets of \$24,219,809). Furthermore, VRU has had negative operating cash flow in the current and prior financial period.

The aforementioned surplus is largely as a result of specific funding received that was designated and ring-fenced towards the construction of a Centre of Excellence (COE) on the premises at the La Trobe University. Funds received for the development are initially recorded as a liability and released to profit and loss as expenditure is incurred.

Excluding the COE funding received which was released into the income statement, VRU would have recorded a loss of \$239,222 (2024: \$209,264).

The committee implemented the following strategies to ensure the appropriateness of the going concern concept:

- Addressing ongoing trading losses through increased focus on generating non-member income, such as sponsorship, and securing funding from government and Rugby Australia Ltd, along with stringent cost and cash management.
- Monitoring and addressing the risk that sponsorship income may not improve or existing sponsors may not fulfill their commitments.
- Restructuring of financial process, including a revamped budget and HR have been completed.
- Ensuring the continued support from Rugby Australia Ltd for rugby union in Victoria and the VRU, including financial and strategic backing, to enhance the game's popularity and secure ongoing funding.
- Encouragement of the continued member support and payment of service and game operations fees to the VRU.
- Implementation of a new "user pays model" will result reduce the Association's exposure to debtor risk and improve cash liquidity.
- An audit of the COE project has been undertaken, to ensure appropriate financial controls and oversight of the project.. This includes the review of the identified funding deficit and the negotiation with the Government regarding the repayment thereof.

The Directors of the VRU believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate for the following reasons:

- The VRU is able to meet its debts as they fall due, based on cash flow forecasting and budgeting assessments prepared with the assistance of external accountants.
- Assets exceed liabilities, both with and without considering the Centre of Excellence (COE).
- All tax obligations are current and forecast tax payments are manageable.
- Supplier payments are up-to-date and adhere to normal payment terms.
- Staff payments, including superannuation contributions, are current.
- No special arrangements with suppliers have been made or are anticipated.
- Financial statements, records, and systems are current and well-maintained.
- The board is of the opinion that the Government is unlikely to call upon the Association to settle the funding deficit in full but to date, no firm decisions have been made

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

The appropriateness of applying the going concern basis is contingent upon the successful implementation of these measures to enhance the VRU's financial position and achieve profitable trading. If these measures are not successful, there may be significant doubt about the VRU's ability to continue as a going concern.

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and associated regulations, as appropriate for not-for-profit-oriented entities.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the incorporated association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 2.

Basis of consolidation

In accordance with AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements, the Incorporated Association is required to consolidate entities that it controls.

Whereas Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union Pty Ltd is a wholly owned by VRU, the subsidiary was placed into administration on 29 January 2024, and a decision was subsequently made to cease its operations. As a result of this administration procedure, VRU incorporated no longer enjoys control over this subsidiary.

As such, the financial statements have not consolidated the results of MRRU into these financial statements.

Revenue recognition

The incorporated association recognises revenue as follows:

Sale of goods and services

Revenue from sales of goods and services is recognised when specific performance obligations are met, being upon delivery of the goods and services to the customer.

Grant revenue

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to costs that they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are recognised to the extent of costs incurred to date to bring the assets into use. Any unrecognised grants are credited to deferred revenue.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Income tax

As the association is a tax-exempt institution in terms of subsection 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

Property, plant and equipment

Property plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment over their expected useful lives as follows once the asset has brought into use:

Honour boards	10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Office equipment	2-8 years

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the assets, whichever is shorter.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

Right-of-use assets

The association applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except short term leases and leases of low value assets. The association recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

The association recognises a right of use asset at the commencement date of the lease. Right of use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and adjusted for any remeasurement in lease liabilities. Right of use assets are depreciated on straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful life of assets.

Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the association recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of the lease payments to be made over the term of the lease. Lease payments comprise of fixed payments less any lease incentives receivable.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the association uses an incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date because of the interest rate implicit in the lease may not be readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities are increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of the lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term or change in lease payments.

Employee benefits

Liabilities for employee benefits where the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date are presented as current. Liabilities for employee benefits where the association has an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date are presented as non-current.

Note 2. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on various other factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 2. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)

Lease term

The lease term is a significant component in the measurement of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability. Judgement is exercised in determining whether there is reasonable certainty that an option to extend the lease or purchase the underlying asset will be exercised, or an option to terminate the lease will not be exercised, when ascertaining the periods to be included in the lease term. In determining the lease term, all facts and circumstances that create an economical incentive to exercise an extension option, or not to exercise a termination option, are considered at the lease commencement date. Factors considered may include the importance of the asset to the incorporated association's operations; comparison of terms and conditions to prevailing market rates; incurrence of significant penalties; existence of significant leasehold improvements; and the costs and disruption to replace the asset. The incorporated association reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option, if there is a significant event or significant change in circumstances.

Incremental borrowing rate

Where the interest rate implicit in a lease cannot be readily determined, an incremental borrowing rate is estimated to discount future lease payments to measure the present value of the lease liability at the lease commencement date. Such a rate is based on what the incorporated association estimates it would have to pay a third party to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset, with similar terms, security and economic environment.

Impairment assessment

The association assesses impairment of assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the association and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions.

Note 3. Revenue

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<i>Sales revenue</i>		
Sponsorship	16,045	78,523
Rugby Australia funding	767,211	722,750
Fundraising Activities	17,630	21,587
Team/Club Member Fees	231,599	306,544
Projects and Activities	146,450	147,190
Centre of Excellence funding	4,496,414	7,351,109
Government grants	60,710	27,966
	<u>5,736,059</u>	<u>8,655,669</u>
<i>Other revenue</i>		
Other revenue	<u>276,318</u>	<u>385,555</u>
Revenue	<u><u>6,012,377</u></u>	<u><u>9,041,224</u></u>

Note 4. Current assets - cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	<u><u>399,913</u></u>	<u><u>1,019,252</u></u>

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 5. Current assets - trade and other receivables

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Trade receivables	105,589	101,191
Related party receivables	202,014	202,014
Less: impairment	(202,014)	(202,014)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other receivables	20,389	19,274
	<u>125,978</u>	<u>120,465</u>

Note 6. Current assets - other financial assets

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Term deposits with over 3 months to maturity	<u>-</u>	<u>4,445,267</u>

Note 7. Current assets - other

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Prepayments	<u>-</u>	<u>11,290</u>

Note 8. Non-current assets - property, plant and equipment

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Honour boards - at cost	3,472	3,472
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,472)	(3,472)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Motor vehicles - at cost	10,000	10,000
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,833)	(833)
	<u>7,167</u>	<u>9,167</u>
Office equipment - at cost	26,522	17,657
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(21,428)	(16,054)
	<u>5,094</u>	<u>1,603</u>
Assets under construction - at cost	29,961,615	25,465,201
	<u>29,973,876</u>	<u>25,475,971</u>

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 8. Non-current assets - property, plant and equipment (continued)

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Assets under construction \$	Office equipment \$	Motor vehicles \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2025	25,465,201	1,603	9,167	25,475,971
Additions	4,496,414	8,865	-	4,505,279
Depreciation expense	-	(5,374)	(2,000)	(7,374)
Balance at 31 December 2025	<u>29,961,615</u>	<u>5,094</u>	<u>7,167</u>	<u>29,973,876</u>

The Centre has not been completed and is not fully in use as at 31 December 2025. There is an indication of impairment of this asset, but no formal independent valuation has been undertaken to determine the extent of the impairment, as a result no impairment provision has been raised.

An audit of the COE project has been undertaken, to ensure appropriate financial controls and oversight of the project, with findings and recommendations due the middle of 2026. This engagement will assist the board in making decisions relating to the future of the COE project that will be most beneficial to the Association.

Note 9. Non-current assets - right-of-use assets

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Land and buildings - right-of-use	9,837,271	9,729,292
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(702,648)</u>	<u>(475,734)</u>
	9,134,623	9,253,558
Motor vehicles - right-of-use	64,552	63,815
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(17,214)</u>	<u>(4,254)</u>
	47,338	59,561
	<u>9,181,961</u>	<u>9,313,119</u>

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Land and buildings \$	Motor vehicles \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2025	9,253,558	59,561	9,313,119
Change in lease estimate	102,749	687	103,436
Depreciation expense	<u>(221,684)</u>	<u>(12,910)</u>	<u>(234,594)</u>
Balance at 31 December 2025	<u>9,134,623</u>	<u>47,338</u>	<u>9,181,961</u>

The association is party to a lease agreement with La Trobe University. Under the lease the association will use the stipulated property for an initial 30-year term as well as an option for further two terms of ten years each.

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 10. Current liabilities - trade and other payables

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Trade payables	40,558	18,704
Other payables	69,832	418,288
	<u>110,390</u>	<u>436,992</u>

Note 11. Current liabilities - lease liabilities

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Lease liability - land and buildings	193,327	197,915
Lease liability - motor vehicle	8,430	7,320
	<u>201,757</u>	<u>205,235</u>

Note 12. Current liabilities - employee benefits

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Annual leave	43,576	39,130

Note 13. Current liabilities - other

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Deferred revenue	1,408,384	5,904,798

Note 14. Non-current liabilities - lease liabilities

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Lease liability - land and buildings	9,415,941	9,513,676
Lease liability - motor vehicles	46,453	54,428
	<u>9,462,394</u>	<u>9,568,104</u>

Note 15. Non-current liabilities - employee benefits

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Long service leave	13,450	11,296

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 16. Remuneration of auditors

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by Loren Datt Audit, the auditor of the incorporated association:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Audit services - Loren Datt Audit</i>		
Audit of the financial statements	21,000	18,000

Note 17. Related party transactions

Based on the symbiotic and influential relationships with both The Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union Ltd (MRRU) and The Australian Rugby Union (ARU). The VRU has determined that these entities are related parties.

During 2017 the VRU acquired the shares in MRRU. MRRU therefore is a subsidiary and related party to VRU. MRRU has gone into administration.

Transactions with related parties

The following transactions occurred with related parties:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Sale of goods and services:</i>		
Sale of goods and services to MRRU	-	21,485
Sale of goods and services to ARU	558,744	520,820
<i>Other income:</i>		
Bad debt recovery from MRRU	-	48,449
<i>Payment for goods and services:</i>		
Purchase of goods and services from ARU	-	9,231

Receivable from and payable to related parties

The following balances are outstanding at the reporting date in relation to transactions with related parties:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current receivables:</i>		
Trade and other receivables from ARU	-	7,590
Trade and other receivables from MRRU	202,014	202,014
Trade and other receivables from MRRU – Impairment	(202,014)	(202,014)

Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Terms and conditions

All transactions were made on normal commercial terms and conditions and at market rates.

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2025

Note 18. Interests in subsidiaries

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets, liabilities and results of the following subsidiary in accordance with the accounting policy described in note 1:

Name	Principal place of business / Country of incorporation	Ownership interest	
		2025 %	2024 %
Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union Ltd	Australia	100.00%	100.00%

The VRU acquired 100% of the shares of MRRU during the 2017 year for a nominal value of \$nil.

The subsidiary has not been consolidated into these financial statements. Refer to Note 1 for detail of the basis of consolidation.

Note 19. Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the incorporated association's operations, the results of those operations, or the incorporated association's state of affairs in future financial years.

Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated
Trading as Rugby Victoria
Officers' declaration
31 December 2025

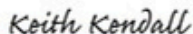
In the officers' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Victorian legislation the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and associated regulations;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the officers



Elizabeth Radcliffe
President



Keith Kendall
CEO

04-Jun-2026

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
VICTORIAN RUGBY UNION INCORPORATED T/A RUGBY VICTORIA**

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated T/A Rugby Victoria (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the officers' declaration.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria), including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 December 2025, and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Requirements and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Association has recognised the Centre of Excellence as an asset under construction, disclosed within Property, Plant and Equipment at \$29,961,615 in Note 8 to the financial statements. The Centre has not been completed and is not fully in use as at 31 December 2025. There is an indication of impairment of this asset, but no formal independent valuation has been undertaken to determine the extent of the impairment, as a result no impairment provision has been raised. In our opinion, due to the lack of independent verification, we are unable to determine whether the carrying amount of the Centre of Excellence is appropriate and the extent to which an impairment provision is required.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to the financial report, which indicates that although the Association made a net profit of \$4,221,968 (31 December 2024: Profit of \$7,141,845), this profit includes a large funding element which was designated for the development of the Centre of Excellence of \$4,496,414 (2024: \$7,351,109). Excluding this funding, the Association would have recorded a loss of \$274,446 (2024: \$209,264). The Association has also incurred negative operating cash flows of \$239,222 (2024: \$749,942).

Grant funds received for the Centre of Excellence project have been fully expended, despite an apparent surplus between total grant funding received and amounts recognised as utilised to date, resulting in a funding deficit. During the current year, additional costs were incurred in relation to the Centre of Excellence at La Trobe University; however, as at year-end, only two rugby fields were completed and operational. A significant portion of the costs incurred to date therefore relates to an asset that remains incomplete, with no confirmed plan for completion following the cessation of funding.

The funding deficit arising in prior periods has persisted into the current financial year. As at the date of this report, no additional government funding has been secured to support completion of the Centre of Excellence. Furthermore, a review of funding for acquittal purposes remains ongoing, and there is uncertainty regarding how the funding deficit will be addressed, including whether any funds may be required to be acquitted (repaid). Should the deficit become repayable, this would give rise to a material uncertainty.

These conditions, together with the other matters described in Note 1, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.

The appropriateness of the going concern basis is dependent on the successful implementation of management's plans to improve the Association's financial position, achieve sustainable operations and address the funding deficit, as outlined in Note 1. Should these plans not be realised, significant doubt may exist regarding the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Officers for the Financial Report

The officers of Victorian Rugby Union Incorporated T/A Rugby Victoria are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial statements is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The officers' responsibility also includes such internal control as the officers determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the officers are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing the applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the officers' either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The officers are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

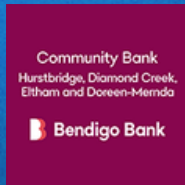
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



LOREN DATT
Registered Company Auditor
Registration: 339204
Dated: 04-Jun-2026

OUR PARTNERS



RUGBY VIC