

The Bond University Rugby Club continues to build its presence in both the Qld Premier Rugby and the Woman's Sevens competitions as well as on the Gold Coast as the place for aspiring players to be in order to play at the highest levels.

The Colts program saw an influx of 16 and 17 year old's who gave a very good account of themselves, finishing the year as the highest placed team in the club coming 3rd in the Colts 1 competition. This augurs well for the next few years in Colts plus it further solidifies the connection between the Gold Coast local rugby scene and Premier Rugby.

The Senior Program struggled at the start of the season, however once representative players returned, the results and performances improved setting up standards on which to keep building in 2018.

Achievements: 6 players in Qld U20s, 5 players in Australian U20s. 8 players represented across three different NRC teams. Hamish Stewart and Angus Blythe contracted to Qld REDS for 2018 and beyond.

The 2017 season saw the end of an era for a couple of outstanding contributors to Gold Coast Rugby. Vitori Buatava retired from Premier Rugby after achieving an impressive 150 caps for Breakers Rugby and Bond University Rugby Clubs. Rubin Fuimaono achieved the remarkable number of 200 caps for Breakers Rugby Club and Bond University Rugby Club in 2017 and was sent into retirement with a fitting presentation at our Rugby presentation night this year.

18 Players from Bond University Rugby's inaugural AON Women's 7s Team performed well and represented the Club as excellent ambassadors of the game across the 4 tournaments. With 2 Silver medals, and two Bronze medals, the team were impressive in their overall Silver Medal runner up finish for the series. Special mention to the staff Ben Gollings, Tahnee Norris, Josh Fuimaono, Jess Rowlands and Rick Martin for running an excellent program including implementation of local girls 7s programs resulting in the TID of a number of our local Gold Coast girls into the program.

Achievements: 9 Bond University Women's 7s players across QLD, Indigenous 7s and University Teams competed at the National Titles.

Bond University Rugby's Men's 7s program built on last year's start and improved each tournament in 2017 under their coach, and past Australian 7s representative Cameron Pither. The team competed in 4 local tournaments winning the Plate at Wests and Brothers tournaments and going on to win the Cup in their final tournament, The Byron Bay 7s.

Achievements: 4 men across 2 QLD Teams competed at the National Championships.

Bond University Rugby were able to deliver Elite level rugby fixtures to Gold Coast Rugby fans through our Premier home games, Bond University QLD Country NRC fixtures, Oceania U20s fixtures (AUS, NZL, FIJ, SAM), National U16s and U15s finals, an Aon Women's 7s tournament, and the local APS school finals, all at the Bond University Rugby Field. The Club also ran an enjoyable Gold Coast Rugby Lunch following on from Greg Cornelson's legacy of 'Cornies Lunch', with funds going towards our Pathway to Premier program and supporting elite rugby player development on the Gold Coast.



The new Bond University Rugby Clubhouse will be completed for the 2018 Premier season and we look forward to continuing to offer many of these events in a fresh, new, environment within the new Clubhouse.

Bond University Rugby's commitment to increase local community engagement through the newly reformed GCDRU board will start with the inclusion of the Gold Coast Cyclone program having a home at the Gold Coast's Premier Rugby Club and access to elite facilities and coaching support at Bond University.

Moving forward into 2018, the Club is excited to have recruited some talented and well respected coaching staff, and a number of quality players including Colts from local schools, QLD's Country, interstate and beyond. We are looking forward to being involved in Coach and Player development in the far North Coast region of NSW and to be able to give those players an opportunity at playing Premier Rugby.

As Gold Coast's home of Premier Rugby, we are committed to continuing to develop and improve our programs, offering players, coaches and administrators an environment to improve and develop into the QLD state programs and beyond.

Dr Manny Pohl
President – Bond University Rugby