

## **2019 Annual Report - Bond University Rugby**

The Bond University Rugby Club continues to be the Club of choice for male and female rugby players on the Gold Coast to develop in a holistic team environment, while striving to reach individual rugby aspirations. Our strategy to assist the Gold Coast and Districts Rugby Union (GCDRU) to improve the competitive competition on the Gold Coast is with a view to have a sustainable development pathway for Gold Coast rugby players and staff into the future.

Connor Pritchard (1<sup>st</sup> Grade #7) was promoted to premier Rugby after an excellent season in the GCDRU 1<sup>st</sup> grade competition in 2018. Connor went on to start every 1<sup>st</sup> grade game for Bond University Rugby in 2019, he was voted as Players' Player to receive the Slipper Trophy and was selected and played for Bond University QLD Country in the National Rugby Championships in the same year. An excellent example of the success of the strategic plan for Gold Coasts' only Premier Rugby Club.

### **MEN'S RUGBY:**

#### **SENIORS:**

Grant Anderson, Gold Coast's first 100 cap Premier player, again demonstrated his loyalty to the Club and as Head Coach led a fierce charge for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade team at the back end of the season. After a number of disruptions and a poor start to the season however, again we missed finals play offs by the smallest of margins. Through some outstanding performances a number of players were rewarded with further representative honours. Congratulations to Bond University Rugby's senior representative players from 2019:

**Wallabies:** James Slipper (2019 RWC)

**Reds Super Rugby :** Angus Blyth, Gavin Luka, Alex Mafi, Hamish Stewart

**Brumbies Super Rugby:** James Slipper

#### **Bond University Qld Country NRC**

Angus Blyth, Dan Boardman, Joey Fittock, Gavin Luka, Alex Mafi, Zac Moi Moi, Connor Pritchard, Hamish Stewart

Bond University Qld Country Manager: Leticia Chapman

**COLTS:** (Colts 2) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, were Bond University Rugby Club's highest achievers, making the Grand Final and finishing second. Our Colts program saw a number of players selected in the Reds Academy, represent Qld, and expected selection in the Australian u20s team for 2020.

#### **URC (u19s)**

Spencer Jeans, Tyrell Kopua, Ronan Kapi, Matthew Minogue, Zack Palmer , Rhian Stowers, Jack Winchester

Bond University Qld Country Coach: Grant Anderson

Bond University Qld Country Team Manager: Dan Bowdler

Bond University QLD Country Physio: Liam Sandstrom

#### **QLD Reds Academy**

Lachlan Connors, Max Dowd, Spencer Jeans, Tyrell Kopua, Ronan Kapi, Rhian Stowers, Emile Tuimavave, Jack Winchester

**Australian Barbarians u18s:**

James Nicholls, Cullen Cooper-Jones

**QLD PREMIER 7s:**

Coach Cameron Pither (Aus 7s representative Player) is to be commended on his role as Head Coach of the Bond University QLD Premier 7s competition. The team played all 4 tournaments in the series and competed in the Byron Bay 7s. On the back of some good individual and team performances the following players were selected for further representative honours:

**Australia 7s Training squad:**

Dan Boardman, Ryan Menzies

**Qld 7s:**

Dan Boardman, Ryan Menzies, Joey Fittock

**Pathway to Premier:** Our Pathway to Premier program, established in 2017 for 16 – 18 year old rugby players is a skill based program preparing players for Colts Rugby while playing school and club Rugby. There has been significant transition from this program into our Colts and this year saw the first group of players transition into Senior Rugby. Representatives from this year's program:

**U17 Qld Boys Youth 7s:**

Zalyrius Faamausii, Sam Gordan, Tai Downling, Noah Fielding  
Pula Kolokihakaufisi (u17 Boys Grey Assistant Coach)

**WOMEN'S RUGBY:**

**The Aon Women's 7s** Program took a very different, developmental pathway in 2019. The strategic approach was to focus on the sustainability of the program by improving the depth through our development program.

Of our squad of 24 selected players for the AON7s series, we had 11 Aon 7s debutants with 8 of those players still at school. We were grateful to have Lauren Brown and Charlotte Caslick from the Australian 7s program as part of the team and Kirby Sefo from the National XVs also in our program. The Coaches and staff should be commended on their work in building and running an excellent program in a caring and skilled environment which assisted the players and staff in gaining further notable representative selections.

**Australian Women's 7s**

Charlotte Caslick, Lauren Brown

**First Nations 7s Dream Time Squad**

Tshintina Kendall

**Walloos (XVs)**

Millie Boyle (VC), Coby-Jane Morgan

**Australia A Women's (XVs)**

Kirby Sefu

**Super W**

Emily Bass, Coby-Jane Morgan, Gabby Senft  
Setu Naseri (Assistant Coach)

### **Super W 2020 Training Squad**

Aleena Greenhalgh, Cobie-Jane Morgan, Emily Bass, Kirby Sefo, Melanie Wilks  
Setu Naseri (Assistant Coach)

### **Queensland Girls Youth 7s**

Faythe Manera, Grace Qaranivalu, Jemma Bemrose, Jetaya Faifua, Maddison Levi, Sara Sautia,  
Teagan Levi

Setu Naseri (u17 Maroon Head Coach)

Lawrence Faifua (u17 Girls Grey Head Coach)

Mason Howarth (u15 Girls Grey Head Coach)

Madi Schuck (u15 Girls Grey Assistant Coach)

### **EVENTS**

The Bond University Rugby Club continues to host elite level and representative rugby fixtures with a view to bring significant rugby events to the Gold Coast to assist in the promotion of the game in our area. This year Bond University hosted:

- 8x Premier Rugby home games
- 2x Bond University QLD Country NRC fixtures
- 1x Brisbane City NRC Fixture
- Oceania U20s Tournament (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Japan)
- Aon Women's 7s series tournament
- Junior Women's 7s State Championships
- Gold Coast and Districts Senior Finals (1, 2, 3 grade)
- Gold Coast and Districts Junior Finals (Juniors)
- Gold Coast and Districts girls 7s finals (u15, u17, Opens)
- Associated Private Schools (APS) finals (8 Schools)
- Super 6 Schools Finals (6 Schools)

The final Oceania fixture was attended by Brett Gosper (CEO World Rugby), Raylene Castle (CEO Rugby Australia), Mayor Tom Tate (Gold Coast Mayor) and High Performance Managers from each of the participating unions.

The 2019 **Gold Coast Rugby Lunch**, organised and run by the Bond University Rugby Club, again boasted an impressive Rugby World Cup themed panel. We would like to thank Geoff Miller, Ben Tune, Dan Crowley, interviewer Jim Tucker and MC Sean Maloney. Bond University Rugby contributed \$10,000 to the Gold Coast Rugby Cyclones program, their Men's and Women's 7s representative teams and the GCDRU flagship open representative team, The Gold Coast Cyclones

### **COMMUNITY:**

Bond University Rugby Club's partnership with Webninja in community engagement was again a great success. Together we raised over \$20,000 through canteen sales back to local Rugby Schools, Clubs and charities. Thank you Webninja for your community support.

Gate, BBQ and bar takings from the GCDRU senior and junior finals, hosted by Bond University was donated to the local rugby clubs and the GCDRU.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Club farewelled, Bond University Premier Rugby's inaugural Director of Rugby, Sean Hedger. After 5 years in the role and building the Gold Coast Premier Rugby Club into a competitive Club with a development focus on our people. Sean was instrumental in recruiting and then retaining a core

group of players, building a coaching and staffing structure which continued to grow over his tenure, ultimately providing both players and staff with an opportunity to develop and meet their aspirations. Sean left the Club in March 2019 to continue his professional Coaching career in Japan. Bond University and all those involved with the Bond University Rugby Club, would like to thank Sean for his commitment, drive and experience that he offered the Club during his 5 years at the Club.

We would like to thank Bond University, who's unwavering support of our Club Rugby program and for providing the facilities which we are so grateful to have. Bond University's support of the Gold Coast and Districts Rugby Union, the Queensland Rugby Union and Rugby Australia should also be mentioned.

Along with numerous other stakeholder relationships, the Bond University Rugby Club enjoys a strong relationship with the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) where we help develop academy players for both men and women in our programs. This is a beneficial relationship for the University, the IRFU, the Bond University Rugby Club and our players and staff by engagement in development and educational opportunities for all parties. We would like to thank the IRFU.

Within our Club we have an enormous amount of backing from our parents, families, members and support group; our volunteers, including our Board, our staff, and coaches, the players and of course all of our amazing sponsors.

Bond University Rugby Club is fortunate to offer two John Eales Scholarships annually and this would not be possible without the continued support of some amazing people, Terry Jackman, John Eales AM and Bond University. The recipients of these scholarships are very fortunate to have the support of these stakeholders and the Bond University Rugby Club to set a holistic foundation to their promising rugby careers.

Across all of our stakeholders at the Bond University Rugby Club, we are fortunate to have a collective group of 'Good People' which we are truly grateful and we would like to thank.

As the Gold Coast's only Premier Rugby Club, we continue to develop and improve our programs, offering players, coaches and administrators an environment to improve and develop into the QLD state programs and beyond while acknowledging our responsibility to assist in the growth of the game in our local district and surrounding areas.

Dr Manny Pohl

President – Bond University Rugby

27 November 2019