



I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual report for the Bond University Rugby Club (BURC).

It has been my absolute honour and privilege to stand as the President of this incredible rugby club during 2023, following the retirement of my long-standing predecessor, Dr Manny Pohl AM. As I look back on the past season, I can't help but be filled with pride for all that we have achieved together. Our players have showcased not only their exceptional skills on the field, but also their unwavering dedication and passion for the game. Through every challenge, every try, and every tackle, we've proven that we are not just a rugby club; we are a family that cares, supports, and uplifts each other.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of our sponsors and supporters who stand by us through thick and thin. I would also like to specifically acknowledge the support of Bond University, and especially the Vice Chancellor, Professor Tim Brailsford and the Director of Sport, Michael Collins. Your belief in our vision and your unwavering support have been instrumental in our journey. Together, we've built something truly special. I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Board members for 2023: Terry Jackman, Bryan Hain, Catherine Marks and Brooklyn Manu and thank each of you for your selfless commitment to our cause.

With that said, the task for the Board is made pretty simple because of the team around us. We are very fortunate to have our Director of Rugby, Luca Liussi, and our Team Administrator, Tim Heath, quietly taking care of business in the background, while our coaching staff has been the guiding light once again.

We've enjoyed an unprecedented level of success on the field this year. Our Premier Women's team left nothing behind, securing the Sukkar Cup as National Champions at the start of the year and book-ending that with back to back premierships. Our Premier Men won the Keith Horsley Trophy as minor premiers, the Thomas Welsby Cup contested between the top two clubs at the halfway point of the season, the Brailsford Brown Cup, and the Batty Bremner Thomas Trophy. And the newest addition to our club, our Wheelchair Rugby team, finished 2nd overall in the national series in their first year of competition.

Hamish Roberts was the QPR Top Points Scorer for the year. Rhian Stowers was named the Alec Evans medallist at the best player in the competition, while our captain, Lachlan Connors was also in the top 5 for the same award.

All this could not have happened without the dedication of the club executive, the players, the managers, the coaches, the physios, the sponsors, the referees and especially, all their partners who put up with the long hours that we all put into our club to make it the successful and competitive club that it is.

CLUB PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

1 st Grade Men:	Minor Premiers, Finals 3rd
1st Grade Women:	2023 Premiers, National Club Champions (Sukkar Cup)
2 nd Grade Men:	6 th place
3 rd Grade Men:	7 th place
Colts 1:	5 th place
Colts 2:	7 th place
Wheelchair Rugby:	2 nd place
Women's 7s:	Women's 7's Caslick Cup Champions
Men's 7s:	ECP GC7s Champions, Qld Club State Champions



REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS & STAFF

We are proud to acknowledge our representative players and staff:

Wallabies:	Zane Nonggorr, Matt Gibbon
Wallaroos:	Mel Wilks, Eva Karpani
Mens Aus7s:	Hayden Sargent
Womens Aus7s:	Maddison Levi, Teagen Levi, Charlotte Caslick
Womens Australia A:	Amahli Hala, Ava Wereta & Georgia Grey
Australia U20s:	Harrison Usher
U18 Aus7s:	Rocco Gollings
Other National 7s:	George Nield (Philippines), Adam Gauder (Sri Lanka)
National Age Reps:	Jada Faleono, Charlize Ratu, Gase Tuuola -Palale, Shalom Sauaso, Waiaria Ellis, Amahli Hala, Ava Wereta
Super Rugby:	Josh Canham, George Blake, Angus Blyth, Spencer Jeans, Jake Upfield, Mesu Dolotoko, Ratu Ratolisa, Rusite Nasove, Kalione Nasoko, Kitione Taliga
Super W:	Mel Wilks, Eva Karpani, Jemma Bemrose, Zoe Hanna, Grace Baker
Barbarians:	Matt Gibbon, Josh Canham
Reds Cap:	Lachie Connors, Moli Sooimalangi
Qld President's XV:	Rhys Sheriff, Tyler Campbell, Lachie Connors
Womens QAS7s:	Amahli Hala, Ava Wereta, Georgia Grey, Grace Baker
Men's Reds Academy:	Harrison Usher, Harry Bell
State Age (Men):	Rocco Gollings, Ieuan Cornielius, Charlie McCauley, Harry Bell, Nikotimo Mateiwai
State Age (Women):	Jada Faleono, Charlize Ratu, Dominika Baleinagasau, Gase Tuuola -Palale, Evie Sampson, Mercedes Taulelei-Siala, Shalom Sauaso, Waiaria Ellis, Esther Pedro, Amahli Hala, Ava Wereta
Wheelchair Steelers:	Michael Ozanne, Ella Sabljak, Brayden Foxley-Connolly (Wheelchair Rugby Cup Winners)
Steelers Development:	Lilliana Prucha, Luke Matthews, Darren Cuomo
Wheelchair Div 1:	Michael Ozanne, Ella Sabljak, Brayden Foxley-Connolly
Wheelchair Div 2:	Matthew Thompson, Luke Matthews, Lilliana Prucha, Darren Cuomo, Brett Morris
Staff Representatives:	Grant Anderson (Reds A), Ben Newton (Steelers Development Squad)



SPONSORS

I would like to acknowledge our major sponsors: Gold Coast Land Rover Jaguar, Kennards Hire, ECP Asset Management and Morgans Financial Limited (Gold Coast); all considerable contributors and supporters of our Club. I would also like to recognise Web Ninja, 90.9 SeaFM, Cutter & Buck, ASAP Mobile Mechanics, Maries Pizza, Tyrepower Varsity Lakes, Mitchell Accountants, Airey Electrical, Merrimac Tavern, Airey Building, Belgravia, and MBA Lawyers for their support in 2023. We proudly support 10c Tom, 1st Fives Rugby and Donate Life as our valued community partners. We also sponsor the Gold Coast Districts Rugby Cyclones Program and Sporting Wheelies Wheelchair Rugby.

I would like to thank our Phoenix Club members for their continued donation to a very worthy cause in supporting the mental and physical health of the players in the Club. I would like to thank Terry Jackman AM, and John Eales AM, who support and enable the annual opportunity for a selected player to study and play rugby at Bond University under the prestigious John Eales Rugby Excellence Scholarship.

EVENTS

International Rugby Engagement: Oceania Women's XV's Test Series, Global Schools 7s.

National Sporting Organisation Engagement: Australian Olympic Committee Meeting, Wallaroos Training Camp, Gen7s (RA), Junior Wallabies Training Camp

State Sporting Organisation Engagement: Super W Youth Training Camp, Bond v Reds Super W Trial, Caslick Cup Women's 7s Host Tournament

School Engagement: Joeys College Sydney Training Camp, TSS 1st XV Training Camp, TSS U13/14 Training Camp, APS Schools, Hinterland Schools

Gold Coast Districts Engagement: GCDRRA Meeting, ECP GC7s, 8 Premier Home and Away games, 3 Preseason Trials

Outside of those opportunities, we were proud to engage in a number of external and off-campus events. We competed in, and won, the inaugural Womens Australian Club Championship (Sukkar Cup), as well as the Wheelchair Rugby National Competition Series and the Queensland State 7s Championships.

We hosted our inaugural BURC Golf Day at Royal Pines, with all proceeds going toward our highly successful Rugby World Cup Tour, which included both Mens and Womens games against the likes of Loughborough University and Lyon BESB.

Royal Pines also hosted our End of Year Presentation Night, where we celebrated the achievements throughout our season and also recognised those outstanding members of our community who earned individual honours within the club.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Through the continued development of our Communication plans, the Club increased its social media again in 2023. Our Bond Rugby Instagram account reached over 150,000 accounts and generated over 1.6m impressions, with nearly 50,000 content interactions from March to September.



FINAL THOUGHTS

As we conclude this season and look ahead to the future, let us remember that the essence of rugby lies not just in the trophies we earn, but in the friendships we forge, the memories we create, and the values we uphold. The camaraderie we share is the ultimate victory, and it's what sets us apart as a club.

As I said earlier, we've built something special here. So let's take what we've achieved this year, celebrate it, and take that same passion into next year. Our journey is far from over, and together, we will continue to soar to greater heights.

Heath Hill

President

Bond University Rugby