



**FRIENDS OF GRAMMAR RUGBY**  
**6TH ANNUAL REPORT 2005**

### **Past Presidents**

2000 - 2002 - Graham Walker

2003 - 2004 - Tony Crawford

### **Office Bearers**

Patrons	Phil Harry Eric Tyndall
President	Tony Gooch
Hon Secretary	Michael Beverley
Hon Treasurer	Graeme Lowry-Jones

### **Hon Life Members**

John Duffy  
Dr Roger Vanderfield



## **President's Report 2005**

The 2005 season has seen continued improvements in the Grammar rugby programme, both on and off the field, and further consolidation of the role of the Friends of Grammar Rugby in our pursuit of our principle objective of supporting and encouraging the rugby programme at the School.

The social calendar was kicked off by an informal “Meet the Friends” cocktail evening in mid May. A very enjoyable evening enabled Grammar rugby parents from all age groups to get together and enjoy a bit of early season rugby spirit. The major event and sole fundraising function of the year, the Annual Dinner, was held on 6 August 2005 and was again very well attended by 250 parents, grandparents, old boys, coaches, masters and friends.

Those present were delighted to hear from Catherine Vallance of her enthusiasm for rugby and her experiences as a rugby mum, whilst Nick Farr-Jones’ recollections of the aggression of All Black forwards proved to be a portent of this year’s Bledisloe Cup matches.

The Dinner would of course not be possible without the generous support of those who donate items and provide other valuable assistance for the evening and I would like to especially acknowledge that support. I would also like to give a huge vote of thanks to Josephine Beverley for her tireless efforts and significant contribution to the success of the evening.

Over the course of the year we have been able to provide financial assistance to the School’s rugby programme in a number of ways, including: tour subsidies; support for guest coaches; training equipment; video support for senior matches; and senior coaching, accreditation and leadership courses.

In conjunction with the Old Sydneians’ Union and the Fathers’ Association we also promoted the “Back to Weigall Day” to coincide with the last match of the season. Whilst we wound up our clothing joint venture with the Fathers’ Association we purchased and successfully marketed with the assistance of the Fathers’ Association a further batch of the stylish FOGR caps. In a new initiative we organized and funded the presentation to all members of the 1st and 2nd XV’s of a framed action photo as a memento of their season.

On the field results, both at the senior and junior level were encouraging. Highlights included:

- The St Ives U12 competing in the Australian junior rugby teams competition and finishing equal third out of fourteen teams;

- The U13Ds and 5<sup>th</sup> XVs completing unbeaten seasons;
- The U15As winning eight out of eleven games, including a victory over St Josephs’;
- The 1<sup>st</sup> 15’s wonderful victories against High and Kings, a nail biting draw against Scots and very close losses to Shore and Newington.

On the representative front, two boys from St Ives Prep were selected in the combined CIS team and seven boys from the 1st XV were selected in the combined GPS teams. Additionally, special mention should be made of Lachlan Rosengreen for his selection in the GPS 1sts, New South Wales 1sts and Australian Schoolboys teams. Well done Lachlan.

The results are in no small way a direct reflection of the continued developments in the Grammar rugby programme. Initiatives this year included: an extensive pre-season tour programme which saw the Opens tour Ireland and England, the U16s tour Singapore and Hong Kong and the U13/14s tour the Gold Coast; the continued employment of appropriate outside specialist coaches including this season, Nigel Staniforth and Nick Duffy from Sydney University and the expansion of the “coach the coaches” programme.

Credit for all this must of course go to the School and particularly to the Headmaster, Dr Vallance; the Sports Master, Ms Sharon Ditmarsch, the director of Rugby, Mr John Warr and all of the coaches of the School rugby teams at all levels. It is with some considerable relief at the time of writing this report that I note that John Warr’s recovery from major hear surgery continues to be most encouraging. I am sure all in the Grammar rugby community wish John a complete recovery as soon as is possible.

Finally, I would like to thank our Secretary, Michael Beverley and Treasurer, Graeme Lowry-Jones for their substantial efforts and contributions both in time and ideas throughout the year. Michael Beverley’s humorous emails to members have I think added a new dimension to our communications whilst Graeme Lowry-Jones has done a great job in stepping into the shoes of Theo Simos – quite an act to follow.

It has been a most successful and enjoyable year and we look forward to joining you on the sidelines next winter.

Tony Gooch  
President  
September 2005

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