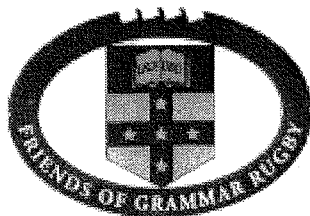


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FRIENDS OF GRAMMAR RUGBY 7TH ANNUAL REPORT 2006



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PAST PRESIDENTS

2000 – 2002 – Graham Walker

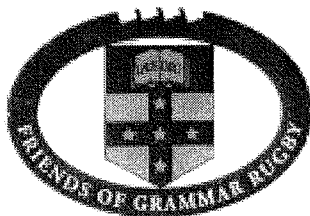
2003 – 2004 – Tony Crawford

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



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President's Report 2006

The 2006 season has seen the Friends of Grammar Rugby active in a variety of ways in our support and encouragement of the Grammar Rugby Program. FOGR's role has included not only the provision of financial assistance to the program including tour and training camp subsidies, support for guest coaches and video support for senior matches but also a closer liaison with the school providing constructive feedback from parents and old boys as well as developing joint initiatives such as the engagement of Trevor Woodman, English World Cup winning prop forward, to provide scrum clinics.

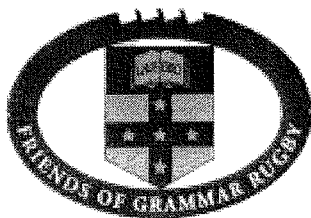
Two very successful social events were held. The first an informal "Meet the Friends" Cocktail Evening in mid May at the Point Hotel at Pymont. Many thanks in particular to Jim Carroll for helping us to arrange this evening. The major fundraising function of the year, the Annual Dinner, was held on 29 July 2005 and was again very well attended by over 200 parents, grandparents, old boys, coaches, masters and friends. Those present enjoyed the surroundings of a new venue at the AJC and were delighted to hear from Lachlan Rosengreen on his rugby experiences since leaving school, and from our guest speaker Gail Kelly. Gail's entertaining and motivational speech caused several parents to comment that it was a pity that Gail was not available to give pre-match pep talks! The dinner was also an occasion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the last occasion upon which Grammar won the GPS Rugby Competition with the coach of that team, John Duffy.

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

- The potential of the U13's age group.
- The much improved performances of the U15A's; and
- The First XV's wonderful victories against Newington and Scots (and High), a nail biting 1 point loss to Kings, and creditable and close losses to the eventual joint premiers Shore & Riverview.

In a continuation of an initiative started by FOGR last year, we organised and funded the presentation to all members of the First and Second XV's of a framed action photo as a memento of their season.

On the representative front five boys from the First XV were selected in the combined GPS teams. Special mention should be made of Hugh Hawkins' selection in the GPS First XV and subsequently in the NSW Schools Second XV.



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Credit for all of this must of course go to the School and particularly the Headmaster Dr Vallance, the Sportsmaster Ms Sharon Ditmarsch and the Director of Rugby Mr John Warr and all of the coaches of school rugby teams at all levels.

As this is the end of our term I would like to sincerely thank my fellow members of the Executive Committee, secretary Michael Beverley and treasurer Graeme Lowry-Jones for their substantial efforts and contributions both in time and ideas throughout the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Josephine Beverly for her huge workload in assisting with the Annual Dinner.

The Grammar Rugby Program has come a long way since 1999. The job is however not completed by any means. The challenges over the coming seasons include retaining good players through to the opens teams and improving skill standards through all levels, including in particular in the B and C graded teams.

The last two years have been a fantastic experience and I thank the members for giving me the opportunity to be your President. I look forward to joining you on the sidelines next winter.

Tony Gooch
President

November 2006