



College Street  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

# **FRIENDS OF GRAMMAR RUGBY**

## **8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT 2007**



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## **PAST PRESIDENTS**

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 2000 – 2002 | Graham Walker |
| 2003 – 2004 | Tony Crawford |
| 2006 – 2006 | Tony Gooch    |

## **Office Bearers**

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Patrons</b>            | Phil Harry       |
|                           | Eric Tindall     |
| <b>President</b>          | Josephine Sukkar |
| <b>Honorary Secretary</b> | Theodore Simos   |
| <b>Honorary Treasurer</b> | Peter Grimes     |

## **Honorary Life Members**

John Duffy

Dr. Roger Vanderfield



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## **President's Report 2007**

The Friends hosted a very successful Annual Dinner at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on 22 June 2007. The evening was fully subscribed, and guests were entertained by a panel of Mr. Bob Egerton, Mr. Richard Harry and Mr. David Kirk, chaired by Mr. Gordon Bray, AM. Each of the speakers had an association with Sydney Grammar School, and each had played in a successful World Cup winning team. Bob Egerton is a Master at the school, Mr. Harry is the son of Old Sydneian and FOGR Patron Phil Harry, and Mr. Kirk is a parent at Grammar. The lively discussion focussed not only on the upcoming World Cup in France, but also on some of the rugby experiences of these gentlemen, prompted by the "voice of rugby" himself. We were also extremely honoured that Old Sydneian and ex-Wallaby David Emmanuel accepted an invitation to join us, with our patron and only other living ex-Wallaby Eric Tindell, for the very first time. We thank Mr. Steven Duchon, Vice-President Edgecliff Prep, who as a member at the Royal Sydney, not only hosted our event, but worked tirelessly with the committee to ensure the evening was such a success.

Weigall was the site of much activity this year. Whilst we were celebrating our sesquicentenary this year, The King's School were celebrating 175 years. Grammar hosted Kings at Weigall, and for the occasion a special jersey was commissioned, of which the Friends contributed 50% of the production cost. This was also the Friends *Back To Weigall Day*, and Old Sydneians, friends and members of our extended communities joined the boys and the families for a terrific day. Also, in our match against Sydney Boys' High, The Headmaster and Trustees officially commences "proceedings" to the redevelopment of Weigall Pavilion by hosting a "ground turning" ceremony. The school community responded by turning out in huge numbers to celebrate the occasion, as well as the match and also the beautiful food stalls, which were manned by the wider school community at large.

On the field, the boys again providing encouraging results enjoying moderate success across the grades and schools. The program this year had a heavy emphasis on skill development and safety techniques in contact. The Open squad toured Japan in April, and camps were held for the 13 and 14 year groups at Weigall in the April holiday period. In the July break, a second camp was held for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV, and all the "A" teams. A trial game against Cranbrook was enjoyed before the boys resumed the GPS competition.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV provided supporters with much to cheer about with particularly strong performances against Newington, Kings, St. Joseph's and Scots, not to mention a win against High.

At a GPS level, three of our boys were selected in the Combined GPS teams: Peter Smith (Vice-Captain First XV), Callum Fryer (2<sup>nd</sup> XV) and Mark Sproule (3<sup>rd</sup> XV). Mark Sproule was subsequently promoted to the GPS 2nds for the second game. We extend our congratulations to these boys on their accomplishment.

The Friends would like to express their sincere thanks to the Sport Master Mrs. Sharon Ditmarsch and the Director of Rugby Mr. John Warr. Together with all of the coaches throughout the school, who are working extremely hard, we acknowledge and are very grateful for the fine job they do with our boys.

As I am stepping down at the end of this season, I must personally thank the members of the Executive Committee, Mr. Theodore Simos (Secretary) and Mr. Peter Grimes (Treasurer). These gentlemen have been heavily involved with The Friends since our inception. In particular we farewell Mr. Theodore Simos from FOGR. Theo was part of the inaugural Executive Committee of 1999, and FOGR has been the fortunate recipient of his sage counsel as Treasurer for most of these years. We have welcomed Mr. Steven Duchon (Vice-President Edgecliff) and Mr. Phillip Begg (Vice-President St. Ives) into the fold, and thank them also very much for their commitment to the rugby program at Grammar.

I encourage all members of the school community to consider participation and membership of FOGR. I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with the association, and can commend it to any interested member of the Grammar community.

Josephine Sukkar  
President

October 2007