

# GAIAG 2023 YEARBOOK

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## **CLUB CAPTIAN REPORT**



## WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL OZTAG YEAR BOOK.

2022/23 season saw two great introductions.

Firstly the yearbook; showcasing our domestic and representative programs. We see it as a fantastic platform to showcase our amazing junior and senior domestic competitions and representative teams.

A place where we can say "thank you" to all our players, junior and senior. To the parents who commit to bring their kids each week to ensure we have such an amazing junior competition.

There is no better feeling than listening to all the boys and girls each Friday night wax lyrical about how much fun they've had, who played well and, of course, the friendly banter.

And the representative presentation day. I am sure many of the kids will get a great kick out of seeing themselves in some of the pictures.

With a few tweaks we have planned moving forward, you will see many more images for next season.

I am sure you will see, as we go, more amazing planned growth for the yearbook in 2023/24.

#### **Graham Marshall**



#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope you all enjoy our Hills Bull's Inaugural Oztag 2023 Yearbook.

Oztag continues to grow year on year with our junior and senior competitions. It is great to see so many families involved both on and off the field assisting the community and becoming part of the Bull's Family.

The Bull's Summer Oztag Competition is unique in that it brings together boys, girls, men and women from a wide range of sports clubs. From local Soccer, Rugby League, Touch Football, Rugby Union, and Netball clubs we see many familiar faces gather a Crestwood through the week to play Oztag.

This provides an opportunity not only for players, but also for families and friends, to meet, grab something from the canteen and connect.

In 2022 the Hills Bull's Oztag competition attracted over 3500 players highlighting the popularity our competition has amongst the Hills Community.

Many of these players go on to represent the Bulls at the NSW Oztag State Championship each year and some going all the way to represent Australia.

On behalf of the Bulls Sports Club and all the players, we would like to thank the sponsors, referees, coaches, ground officials, parents, and countless volunteers for your efforts over many years to run such a successful competition.

2023 will go down as the Hills Bull's Oztag's most successful year in both our own domestic competition and our representative honours.

#### The highlights of our representative honours are:

- The Bulls were crowned the 2023 Oztag Junior State Cup Club Champions.
- The Bulls had 22 players selected in NSW Merit teams.
- The Bulls had an unbelievable 17 players selected to represent Australia.

All of these are outstanding achievements, and we would like to offer our congratulations to all.

The Hills Bull's Oztag has become the envy of many, and we would like to thank you all for your contributions over many years which has made Hills Bull's Oztag such a success story, especially in our 60th year as a club.

Michael Gremmo
CLUB | TEAM | PLAYER

#### **BOYS' CLUB CAPTAIN**

Being named as Club Captain was a great honour that I will treasure forever. Being able to represent our amazing club at a high level was a great privilege.

Throughout my journey playing Oztag here at the Bulls, I have made many friends and created relationships that will last forever.

I have so many great memories, and met many great people who have enabled me to not only improve myself at the game, but also as a person.

The community here at the Hills Bulls is more like a family to me and it was such a proud moment to be able to represent everyone involved; players, referees, volunteers and community members.

I am truly honoured to have been given such an amazing responsibility in being named Club Captain.

There are many great role models within our club, and to be considered a role model myself, for all players involved in this competition, is a great honour.

I would like to thank everyone involved in running our club, in particular the volunteers, who help make our club the best club there is.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you all in my last junior state cup!

#### **Brady Moynihan**

#### **GIRLS' CLUB CAPTAIN**

Throughout my 9 years playing for Hills Bulls, I found my love and passion for Oztag.

My incredible experience consists of meeting and playing alongside amazing friends, receiving training from various talented coaches, while undertaking numerous opportunities to enhance my abilities by moving on to regional, state, and national pathways.

Being named as club captain was a huge position that I was honoured to take. I am so grateful that I could represent Hills by being an adequate role-model to younger athletes, while supporting my club and teammates throughout the entirety of Junior State Championships.

#### Cassidy Jephtha





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## **SUMMER SENSATIONS**



After a challenging couple years it was great to kick off the 2022/23 Oztag season. Once again we have seen record number of team and individual registrations for the season, which has seen the club running competitions 5 nights a week, with senior teams playing Monday through Thursday nights,

culminating in Friday nights just for our juniors.

Juniors is always an exciting night and we see so many smiling faces.

Boys and Girls from ages 6 through to 14, having fun with their mates and building life-long friendships.

A big thank you goes out to all our junior and senior referees its great to see so many of our young players coming through the ranks to become referees.

Also a massive thank you to our ground managers, competition convenors and nightly helpers.

Without people like our referees and helpers we would not be able to run our competition.

Graham Marshall

































































































































































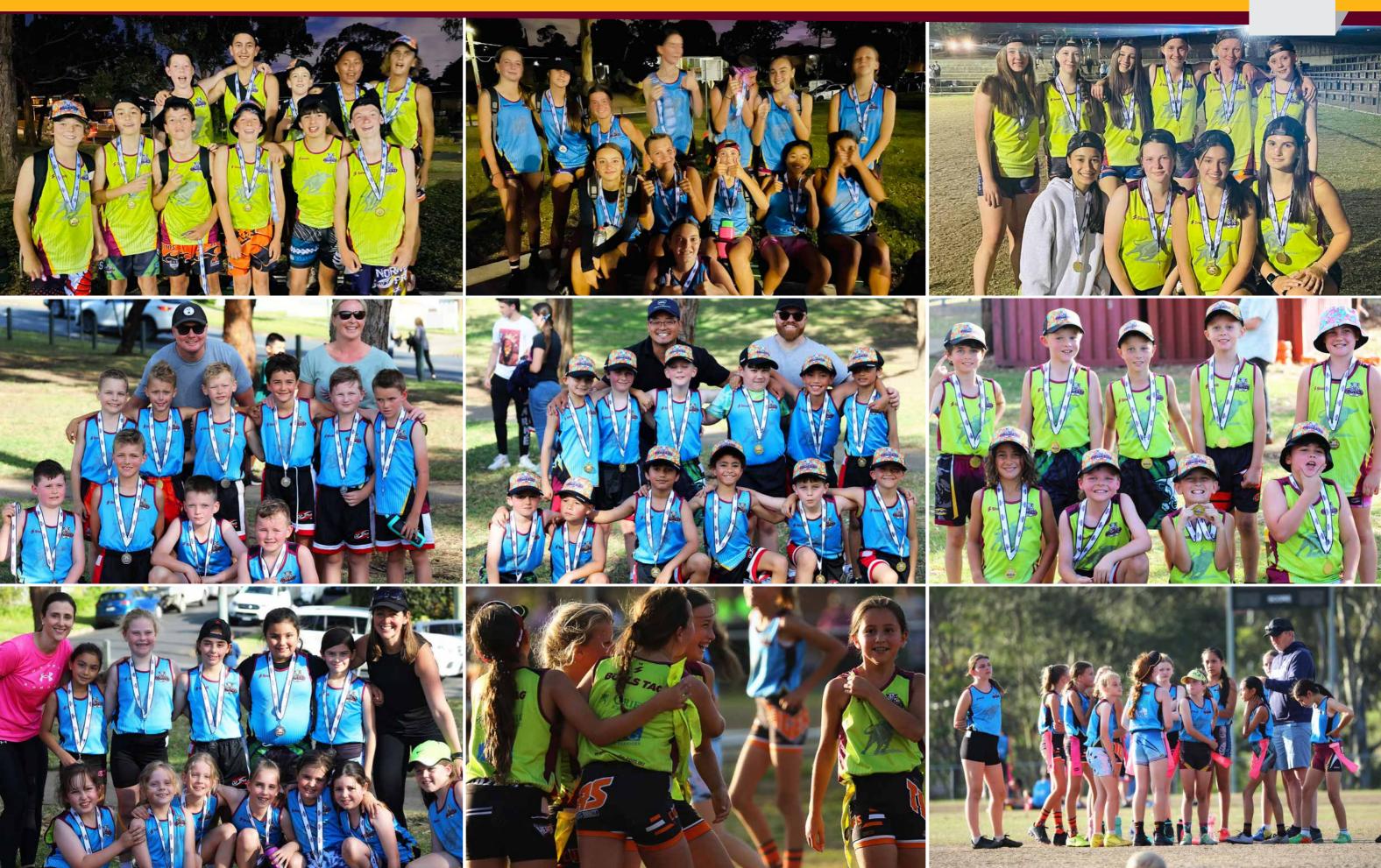














## **REP REPORT**





## 2023 OZTAG JUNIOR STATE CUP CLUB CHAMPIONS.

What an amazing year for us all at Bulls Oztag.

From such humble beginnings when we sent two teams to State Cup only 10 or 12 years ago, to now, crowned NSW Club Champions in 2023.

#### What an outstanding achievement.

18 teams competed in Coffs Harbour & St Marys, with:

- 17 teams going through to the Quarter Finals
- 12 Teams won their way through to the Semi-Finals
- 7 Teams won their way through to the Grand Finals
- 5 of those teams being crowned State Champions:
- U10 Boys
- U14 Boys
- U15 Girls
- U16 Girls, and
- U17 Boys

Special mention to the U16 Girls, being the only team in NSW Oztag history to win 7 championships in a row.

An amazing group of Girls and coaching staff that push themselves to strive to go the extra mile year after year.

Whether on the training paddock playing trials against much older opponents, or fine-tuning themselves to go the extra yard during the games at State Cup.

Congratulations girls and coaching staff.

With so many outstanding juniors now progressing into the senior ranks, we have seen our senior team grow with our 20 Mens making it through to the semi-finals and 20 Mixed making it through to the Grand Final.

We have also seen 13 Junior players and 2 Senior players selected in Australian Tagaoos squads, and 22 players selected into NSW Merritt teams.

Outstanding achievements by all.

To all our teams, players, coaching staff and, of course, parents, congratulations on all your hard work and dedication.

To all those in the background that help make this happen, I sincerely thank you for your time, efforts and dedication to help make us the club we have become.

**Graham Marshall** 









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## **BOYS UNDER 9'S**





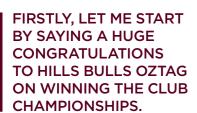
**Back Row:** Mark Siemsen (trainer), Ryan Orley (coach), Jack Orley (trainer)

Second Row: Hank Gregory, Harry McQuillan, Hunter Smith, Josh Cochran, Declan Van Ross, Archer Northan, Riley Irving, Hudson Tait, Connor Matthews

First Row: Hamish Clarke, Jackson Roberts, Lucas Siemsen, Zenon Olson, William Orley,

Lucas Moana, Beau Magi, Max Lam, Will Armstrong, Kristian Austin

Absent: Marcus Irwin



A massive achievement that many have been working hard on for several years.

A massive thank you to the boys and their parents who were selected as shadows, its always a tough gig this one. You put your lives on hold and commit to a team in case there is an injury, you all turned up to pretty much every training session and always put in 100%. Unfortunately for some, but lucky for you, 2 of you were rewarded with a position in the final team, let this be a lesson for all to never give up.

To all the Mums, Dads, brothers, sisters and grandparents who brought the boys to training, supported us, put up gazebos, gave out ice blocks, helped in any way, your help was truly appreciated.

The support and help you showed and provided to me and the boys was not unnoticed.

A big thank you to Mark, lain and Jack for all your help at training and on game days. It was a new experience for us all and I'm sure that we will be stronger for it next year.

My Team, well what can I say... this was all the boys' first opportunity for a rep selection, so a huge congratulation on earning your position. As your coach I'm so proud in the way you handled yourselves in defeat and in success, as in life we have to deal with both. On the ladder it wasn't a successful tournament but the life lessons we took out of it will hopefully stay with us forever.

Two memorable moments for me were:

1. Asking a boy to play out of position, a position that he had not trained for all season and I asked him to do a job, man oh man, did he do it. He had his game of the tournament and I will never forget the way he played.

2. We were in a must-win game on day 2, mathematically still a chance. I spoke to 3 boys at half time and said I might not be able to play you (heart breaking for a coach) are you all ok with this. They all told me that they were, but the way that they cheered on their team mates, jumping up and down when we nearly won was a moment that lives on with me.

Unfortunately, we didn't make the finals, but the lessons we, as a team, took out of this will make us stronger and more hungry for the years to come.

Look out 2024, the Bulls are coming.

Thanks,

Coach Ryan Orley

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award

Harry Mcquillan

Coaches' Award Hank Gregory

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** 

Hank Gregory

Nomination



## **GIRLS UNDER 9'S**





Second Row: Rob Stewart (Coach), Grace Perrett, Alea Van Der Merwe, Lottie Stewart (Captain),

Lauren Rizzo (Coach), Keeley Halpenny, Hayley McClure, Daniel Rizzo (Coach) First Row: Lola Cramp, CJ Fahim, Elise McDermot, Maeve Joseph, Natalia Spiteri, Zara Rizzo,

Anya Jeloudev, Lulu O'Brien Absent: Lara McGrath, Aurora Puckey



And they took the bull by the horns to fight any challenge thrown at them through the rigorous training leading in and the tough conditions and oppositions during the tournament.

The girls showed grit and determination on day 1 in ridiculous heat to come away with 2 solid wins and 1 narrow loss, day 2 saw them rise above the challenges to show true class and beat some of the real heavyweights of the competition.

Showing promise, and with everyone looking over their shoulders, these young ladies rose to be major contenders in the competition.

Unfortunately with the bounce of the ball not going their way they bowed out to the eventual winners in a close semi-final battle.

Outstanding leadership from Lottie and Zara gave direction to always

challenge the scoreboard, and drove energy through the team in defence.

Dummy half energy from Talia, Lulu and Aurora marched the team up the park and tied them together in defence to limit the oppositions impact.

Speedsters Hayley, CJ, Anya and Alea threatened with every touch of the ball and scored some amazing tries throughout the tournament.

On the edges, Lola, Keeley, Maeve, Elise and Lara pressured the opposition to make errors with their energetic defence, and their damaging and powerful runs created opportunities for the team to score.

Grace saved countless tries with her determination. She didn't hesitate to turn chase players who seemed impossible to catch... not impossible for Grace.

An exceptional bunch of players who were an absolute honour to coach. Their want to learn, conquer and play for one another shone bright in all they did.

They will all go a long way with their positive attitudes and ability to adapt and take on the challenges thrown their way.

I can't wait to see them all again next tournament.

Coach Lauren Rizzo

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Elise McDermot

Coaches' Award Lottie Stewart

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination

Natalia Spiteri Anya Jeloudev







## **BOYS UNDER 10'S**





### MEN WERE NOTHING SHORT OF REMARKABLE THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN.

What a weekend! Under arduous and oppressive conditions out at The Kingsway Fields, St Marys, our boys showed great composure and resolve throughout the tournament to finish first overall out of 24 teams (6 wins out 6 games; 47 tries for, 12 tries against).

This remarkable achievement was demonstrated no more so than in the Semi-Final vs an also undefeated Souths team (who were 2022 grand finalists) where we were down 3-0 and managed to fight our way back into the game and equalise with 30 seconds to go, sending the game into extra time drop-off and hold on to advance to the Grand Final!

The Grand Final game was against an also undefeated Sutherland outfit. Sutherland were first to score but we managed to equalise by half-time approximately. 3 minutes to go.

Unfortunately Sutherland scored with less than a minute before full time to send the game into yet another extra time drop off! This one was intense! Sutherland got over the line not once but twice but both were (correctly) called no tries and we managed to hold on yet again! The rest they say "is history"!

This group of young men were nothing short of remarkable throughout the campaign. The development of their skills both physically and mentally were on thoroughly on display to the Oztag community throughout the weekend and every single player had their moment of glory, whether that be making that important try saving tag, scoring the match winning try or providing the crucial try assist in the clutch moments.

We had one goal - to be NSW State Champions - and we were able to achieve this and finally slay the demons of the heartbreaking

the same Souths team in the Semi-Finals in extra time drop-off after going through that tournament undefeated, which remains to this day the only loss we have recorded over 17 games and across 2 campaigns (14 wins, 2 draws, 1 loss).

Of course, none of this could have been made possible if it were not for my support crew in Renee and Chris Hemara (manager and trainer) for their unbridled passion for the development of our kids which was evident through the countless hours they gave, along with their invaluable assistance and their expert advice to ensure that the team was well and truly prepared and set up for success.

Not to be outdone are all the parents for their support and their time to bring the kids to training twice a week, in particular to those who were also able to offer their much welcomed hands-on assistance during our training sessions and over the weekend.

one of you! You should all be praised for bringing up such fine young men and proud of what they were able to achieve! I certainly am!

We look forward to seeing a solid representation of our players being selected for the West Sydney Tiger Cubs for the upcoming Australian Championships at Coffs Harbour in October 2023.

Kind Regards

Coach Anthony Yen

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Jayden Hemara

Coaches' Award Zaiah Nassif

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination

Spencer Shield



## **GIRLS UNDER 10'S**





Second Row: Brett Thomas (Coach), Grace Behrens, Sophie Sayers, Asher Davidson, Maddison Thomas,

Alexis Foxe, Ruby Masters, Haven Papua, Lucy Fairal, Jessica Behrens (Manager)

First Row: Ruby Agius, Amelia Pok, Amiya Raileqe, Ellie Kennedy, Raphael Gremmo, Madelyn McColgan, Livia Muccino, Leila Hall, Ivy Dansey

Absent: David Gremmo (Assistant Coach), Mik Masters (Assistant Coach), Emma Barker,

Jessie Brown (Shadow)

IT WAS GREAT WATCHING THE GIRLS BUILD LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS, AND THEY LOVED **SPENDING TIME** TOGETHER AS A TEAM.

The Under 10 girls had a mix of 10 returning players and a number of new players to the team this year, as we had 5 players who were eligible for the U9 girls from last year.

We spent time preparing a new structure and combinations at training focused on the girls playing a more expansive style using the ball more, which took some time to adjust to.

However, the girls enjoyed the challenge and were able to showcase their skills and adaptability over the months prior to State Cup.

At the State Cup, we won 5 from 6 pool games and came 2nd in our pool and 4th overall with 1 loss to the eventual winners Camden.

We had some convincing wins in the pool games where every player contributed to the great team results. We then had a 3-0 win in our quarter final against ACT before playing Souths in the semi final hoping to take some revenge from last year's grand final loss to them.

The girls played their hearts out in the semi and eventually lost 3-2, but pressured Souths for much of the game trying to score the equalizer. They showed some amazing skills and fight in the game, which they did throughout the state cup.

Most importantly, it was great watching the girls' build lifelong friendships, and they loved spending time together as a team.

I'm confident this team is building to win the State Cup next year and loved coaching them, along with Dave and Mik.

Coach Brett Thomas

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Madelyn McColgan

Coaches' Award Grace Behrens

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Grace Behrens



## **BOYS UNDER 11'S**





## IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE COACHING & TRAINING THESE BOYS AS THEY ALL PUT IN 110%.

We started the first day by winning all our games and all the boys working hard and ensuring that they put in 100% for every game.

After the second day of the competition we had won all our games again and we sat very nicely in 1st place out of all the pools.

The boys knew that Sunday games were going to be even harder and meant we had to dig deeper. In the Quarter finals we played against Sutherland in which we were victorious due to the fact the boys all put in an obscene amount of effort and to watch them execute their attacking plays was awesome to watch.

In the Semi-Finals we met Cronulla who had beaten us in a trial match

a few weeks prior to the State Cup, we knew this game was going to be tough and I would have to say that it was one of our best defensive games that we had seen the boys play.

We came out on top which proved how hard the boys had trained and it was a well deserved win.

Then the Grand Final, no one better to play against than Nepean.

Once again all the boys played their little hearts out but unfortunately we were runners up for the 2nd year in a row. It was a nail-biting Grand Final but unfortunately we could not hold them out.

It was an absolute pleasure coaching and training these boys as they all put in 110%.

Next year we plan to bring the gold home.

#### **GO THE BULLS!**

Coach Dan Rizzo

#### **AWARDS**

**Players' Player Award** Bernie Irvine

Coaches' Award Braxton Micallef

Leon Don Perpetual Trophy Nomination

Cruz Hauwai



## **GIRLS UNDER 11'S**





**Second Row:** Cheyne Harrison (Coach), Mike Featherstone (Head Coach), Laila Miller, Zara McKinney, Holly Smith, Ella Smith, Olivia Sayers, Elizabeth Garrard, Jodie Featherstone (Manager),

Jesse Featherstone (Trainer), Josh Featherstone (Trainer)

First Row: Tayah Potuzanski, Cara Harrison, Sienna Mardini, Lilla Van Ross, Alliyah Hukui (Co-Captain), Lara Featherstone (Co-Captain), Lucy Polley, Madison Roberts, Annabella White, Taylor Smith

**QUARTER FINALISTS!** 

**THESE GIRLS HAVE GROWN AND DEVELOPED AS GREAT OZTAG PLAYERS.** 

Well, what can we say?

The coaching baton was passed by Ali and Kate. This group of talented girls are an absolute pleasure to coach. No doubt, we were in the hardest pool and we had to play every hard team. But to be the best, you have to beat the best.

Day 1 we were 3/3. Day 2, game 1, was against Camden, the team who knocked us out last year in the finals, finally beating them 2-1. I don't know who was more nervous through that game - the coaches, the players or the parents!? We went through the pool rounds winning 5-6, only losing the last game of the pool round 3-2 to the eventual winners, Central Coast. In the Quarter-Final, we were first to score. Cronulla scored to level the game with a minute to go to send the game into extra time drop-off. Unfortunately it wasn't our day with Cronulla scoring first.

These girls have grown and developed as great Oztag players. They proved to themselves that they are as good (and we think better!!) than the best teams.

Thanks to the parents for being an amazingly supportive parent group, to my other coaches Cheyne, Josh and Jesse for all your support, to Jodie, the worlds best manager for keeping us organised. It was oh so close, we can't wait for next year!

Coach Michael Featherstone

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Laila Miller

Coaches' Award Alliyah Hukui

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Lara Featherstone



## **BOYS UNDER 12'S**





#### I AM VERY LUCKY TO GET **SUCH A GREAT GROUP** OF BOYS FOR MY FIRST TIME AS HEAD COACH.

Jackson Adams, Levi Smithers, Max Hayne Absent: Seth Waldock, Xavier Farrugia, Mitchell Edwards

With a lot of new faces within the squad, energy was high for the tournament. Captains Beau Fletcher and Koby Gwynne lead the boys not only from the first game, but from the first training. Leading the boys through warm-ups and always talking, even if it wasn't about Oztag.

The first day of the tournament saw us score two big wins over Southwest Razorbacks and Heathcote and a 2-all draw against Shellharbour, where we clawed our way back from 2-nil down after 5 minutes. Shout-out to Levi who chased down a sure try to save the game for us in the dying minutes.

Day 2 saw 3 wins over Easts, Liverpool and Coffs. With Jacko throwing a no-look short ball to Cooper for a try a real highlight.

Day 3 started with the boys going into drop off in our Quarter Final against Sutherland. With a try from Lachy in the corner and some try saving tags from Max, giving us a hard fought win in extra time.

The semi final was against our nemesis, Central Coast. The team who we have played in the last 2 State Cup Grand Finals and National Finals was as tense as you can get.

Tunnel supplied from our 14 boys hyped up the atmosphere and the energy was high. Unfortunately we were beat by the team to go onto win the Grand Final. Although not the result we wanted, the style of footy the boys played was great to watch and camaraderie between this group is second to none.

I'm excited for what lies ahead with this talented group of boys. Coach Brayden Marshall

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Beau Fletcher

Coaches' Award Cooper Crinion

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Koby Gwynne





## **GIRLS UNDER 12'S**





**Second Row:** Brooke Marshall (Coach), Violet Vella, Mia Spooner, Keira Withers, Zoe Lynch, Rhiana Tamaka, Ella Duffy, Indiana Muzikant, Kahu Langi, Leah Kerin, Graham Marshall (Trainer)

First Row: Rebecca Jones (Manager), Quintana Allen, Leila Jones, Alessia Mardini, Eva McKenzie, Lucy Sherwood, Clara Sugiana

THESE GIRLS HAVE **EXTRAORDINARY** TALENTS, AND IT WAS **FANTASTIC TO SEE** THEM PLAY AS A TEAM...

The girls' had a good tournament this year, scoring more than 40 tries over the weekend, and only having around 6 against them.

Coming into Sunday, we were ranked third overall based on points for and against. Over the weekend, the girls began to move the ball well using set plays, allowing our wingers to score some great tries.

Unfortunately, this year was not our year, after going down in the Quarter Finals 0-2 to ACT.

The girls' best game played was against Souths. The score doesn't represent how well the girls played.

The way they moved the ball and how they worked together as a team showed that they were right up there with the previous year's State Cup Champions.

At halftime, it was a draw at 1-1. These girls have extraordinary talents, and it was fantastic to see them play as a team and work for one another.

I am positive that this team will return better and stronger next year!

Thanks for a great tournament, girls.

Coach Brooke Marshall.

**AWARDS** 

Players' Player Award Zoe Lynch

Coaches' Award Keira Withers

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Ella Duffy



## **BOYS UNDER 13'S**





Second Row: Patrick Haddad (Trainer), Joshua Iupeli, Levi Perrett, Jett Watkin, Jesse Haddad, Lachlan Thomas, Matthew Axiak, Cooper Smith, Chase Farrugia, Thomas OKeefe, Brian Lomas (Coach)

First Row: Kate Haddad (Manager), Isaac Moana, Nate Mezzomo, Lucas Clarke, Jack Miller,

Mason Lomas, Ryan Sciberras, Christopher Yaccoub

#### IT WAS MY ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO COACH THIS GROUP OF YOUNG MEN.

The 2023 Campaign marked my second year as coach.

After a challenging year competing against other sports in 2022, we made some tough calls in regards to selection trying to find a new balance within the side

From day 1 of training it was clear that we were onto something special. All the players, parents and coaching staff really bought into what we were trying to achieve

The players dedicated themselves to trying to reach that next level, something that had eluded them for a number of years.

A focus on speed and intensity in training, as well as increased game based competition with other sides within the club, helped the boys get ready for battle.

The results at State Cup through the regular rounds, were outstanding.

Their ability to deal with adversity within the games was obvious and admirable.

This resulted in the team going through the regular rounds undefeated, only to miss top spot on for and against to the eventual State Cup champs

Despite our campaign coming to an end early in the quarter finals, you could see in the boys' eyes the desire they had to achieve more. Look out next year.

I can't really single any one player out for his performance as they were all outstanding as a team unit.

I would like to thank all the players and parents for their dedication and attitude towards the process. It was my absolute pleasure to coach this group of young men.

This group of players and families as a whole is one of the best groups I have ever had the opportunity to be a part of, and I cannot wait for the 2024 campaign to kick off.

Coach Brian Lomas

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Jett Watkin

Coaches' Award Mathew Axiak

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Chase Farrugia





## **GIRLS UNDER 13'S**







iajie. Woodji.

THE TEAM WERE
DEDICATED TO
THE TRAINING AND
DETERMINED TO
IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS.

The U13 Girls team should be extremely proud of the effort and commitment that they demonstrated in finishing third in this year's competition.

The team have been up against some really tough draws over the last couple of years and knew they had to play their way out in order to improve their ranking. The team were dedicated to the training and determined to improve their skills.

Day 1 resulted in good wins against Tamworth 4-1, Wollongong 5-1 and a loss to Nepean 5-1. Day 2 the team fought hard to finish with 3 wins against Kiama 8-0, Central Coast 4-1 and Ryde Eastwood 10-0. The team played really well to end up 2nd in the pool and ranked fourth overall leading into the quarter-finals on the Sunday.

The Quarter-final was a hard fought victory against Camden 3-0, and a place in the semi-final for the first time in a number of years.

The semi-final was a tough encounter and we lost 5-0 to South's, who ended up winning the tournament defeating Nepean 5-2 in the final.

Our Captains, Taylor and Beth, showed great leadership over the weekend and had outstanding tournaments.

Kiki was exceptional and was awarded Player of the tournament. I'm very proud of all the girls and the work that they put in definitely showed throughout the tournament, playing some outstanding Oztag. Every player had great individual moments, and we scored some very impressive team tries with the ball moving through a number of player's hands.

A big thank you to Sophie for her hard work in managing all the administration duties, the uniforms, training communication, trial games and information needed to make sure the weekend went smoothly.

I would like to acknowledge Stuart for his commitment in sharing the coaching role.

His knowledge of the game, expertise, time and dedication to our team were instrumental in seeing an impressive improvement in the skills and development of our girls.

Thank you to our wonderful parent group for their commitment to this year's State Cup team – It takes a lot of time to make training sessions, trial games, extra training sessions put into the schedule, plus all the hectic nature of the Coffs weekend.

Not once did I hear an objection and for this, I thank you for supporting your girls.

The girls are certainly improving and moving towards narrowing the gap between the top two teams - we are not far off.

Well-done team on a great 2023 State Cup.

#### Go the Bulls!

Coach Bernie Bouys

#### **AWARDS**

**Players' Player Award** Adeena (Kiki) Mokoia

Coaches' Award Tessa Sims

Leon Don Perpetual Trophy Nomination

Tara Roche

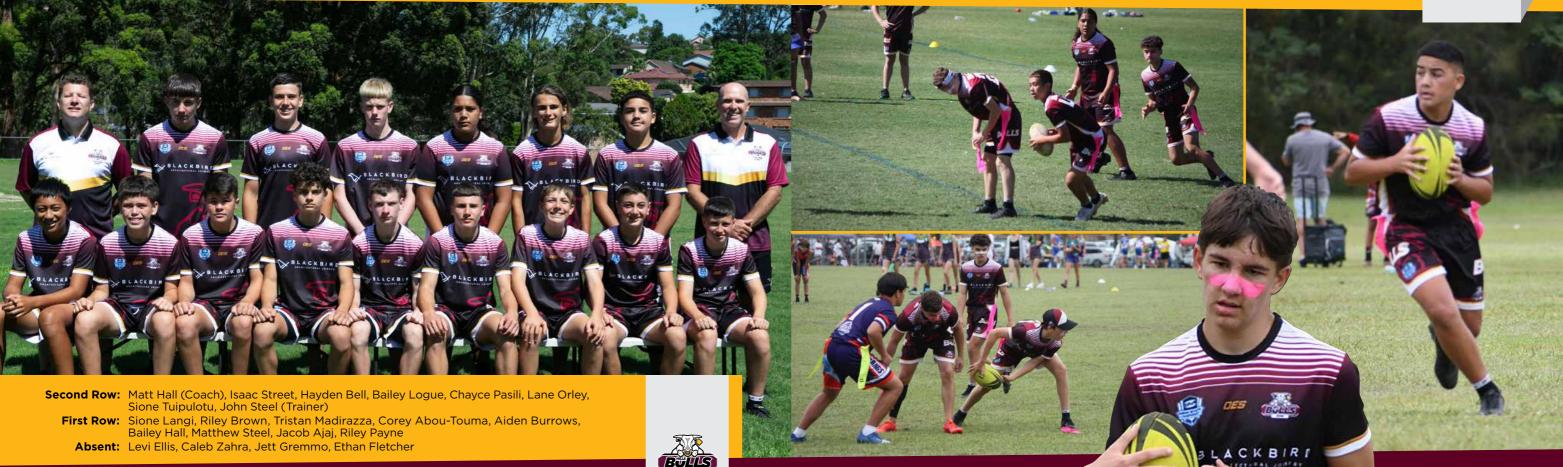




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## **BOYS UNDER 14'S**





#### WHAT AN AMAZING BUNCH OF YOUNG MEN!

It has been a privilege to coach these boy this season from the first trial we knew we had a fantastic bunch of young men.

Their professionalism on and off the field was always a standout.

Year after year these boys grow stronger and are always willing to learn. This well-rounded team back each other, going undefeated all tournament and still being respectful of other teams.

Congratulations boys, on winning the State Cup for 2023, and we are all proud of you.

Coach Mathew Hall

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Isaac Street

Coaches' Award

Sione Tuipulotz

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Chayce Pasili





## **GIRLS UNDER 14'S**





First Row:

**Second Row:** Brooke Khouri (Manager) Amber Swanwick, Taylah Barr, Jordyn White, Emmerson Bell, Emily Gingell . Alannah Nguyen, Isabella Bell, Hine Rikiti, Adam Nichols (Assistant Coach) Mick Withers (Coach) Alexis Gaston, Tegan Nicholas, Jordyn Deen, Zara Khouri, Holly Brettle, Temieke Withers, Olivia Mackenzie, Brianna Brown, Elle-Maree Ghetto-Tarantolo, Darcy Brettle (Assistant Coach)

#### **GRAND FINALISTS!**

#### WHAT A TOURNAMENT, THE GIRLS WERE **OUTSTANDING** AND PLAYED THEIR **HEARTS OUT.**

The girls scored some great tries over the weekend with every girl scoring a try.

This was a result in the skill and vision of the girls who play a great brand of Oztag. The great variation and quick eyes up Oztag were great to watch.

The girls scored 66 tries in the 9 games and conceded 8.

The defence of the girls was outstanding also with every girl buying into the structures and defending their hearts out.

The only thing missing was that Grand Final victory, in which we went down 3-2.

Watching the girls get better each year is great to see, and the effort and dedication they put into their own game and to the team

is 2nd to none and will lead to success in the future, I'm sure.

I was so proud of the girls, and it is a privilege to coach you young ladies.

I'd like to thank the parents for their time and sacrifice in always getting the girls to training on time as this plays a major part in the performance of the team. Also, with gazebos, etc, or whatever was needed for the girls.

Also, I'd like to thank my coaching staff, Adam Nicholas and Darcy Brettle, who the girls love. Thank you for bouncing ideas around and your time.

Our Manager Brooke Khouri for taking care of all the paperwork and organising anything for the girls.

Also, Anh Nguyen for the photos and Mel Brettle for the uniforms.

Congratulations to all the teams that won their age group and to every Bulls team that helped us win the Club Championship for the first time.

#### Go the BULLS.

Coach Micheal Withers

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Temieke Withers

Coaches' Award Olivia Mackenzie

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Emmerson Bell







## **BOYS UNDER 15'S**





Second Row: Justin Moynihan (Coach), Taj Paterson, Darcy Feltham, Bailey Hewitt, Johnathon Haddad,

Zac Withers, Hayden Moynihan, Cobi McCloskey, Noah Bricknell, Jack Loveridge, Dion Paterson (Coach)

First Row: Joshua Wakefield, Isaac Youkhana, Liam Boys, Jonathan du Prez, Daniel Khatchadourian,

Owen Nada, Riley Davis, Oliver Golding

Absent: Mitchell Ison



Unfortunately, we ended the weekend 1 game short of the Grand Final, but we gave ourselves an opportunity to win it, which the boys should be very proud of.

Our team this year was made up of a mix of boys, some of who have been around since the Under 9's, some new boys to State Cup, and some returning players from years gone by.

All of the boys came together very quickly and created for themselves a competitive and determined environment. Training started early and was always full of energy, especially knowing we were drawn in the toughest of 3 pools alongside very good teams in Central Coast and Newcastle.

Day 1 saw us get 2 comprehensive wins against Heathcote-Engadine

and Hornsby, before our third game against the eventual Champions Central Coast. Despite a strong display where the scores were close for the majority of the game, we ended up going down 5-3.

Day 2 was a big day for us. First game bought another big win against East Hills before the big showdown with Newcastle. At this stage the pool ladder was wide open with every team having lost a game by that point and some draws, which meant wins were important just to get through to the finals. The boys put their best foot forward and despite being down for some of the game, we ended up with a great 2 try win over Newcastle which set us up for Sunday Finals.

With another comprehensive win against Shellharbour in our final Pool game, we ended up being on top of our pool and ranked 2nd in the entire competition which was a massive achievement.

Our Quarter-Final draw saw us match up again against Newcastle, however

this time the boys were outstanding and blew them off the park. This set us up with a huge Semi-Final against Souths who we have only ever played in previous Grand Final games.

The boys were great in the Semi-Final and got out to a good lead by half time, however a combination of bad calls and lack of concentration saw us beaten 5-4, and our tournament had come to an end.

Despite falling 1 game short of the Grand Final, we were 2 very proud coach's. It is always such a pleasure being able to coach these young men.

We would like to thank Kelly and Kerry for their help throughout this campaign.

Also, a big thank you to the parents. Without question, the only way to have a successful tournament is to have a strong, encouraging and welcoming parent unit and there is no doubt we have the best there is.

Thank you all and see you next year. Coach Justin Moynihan

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Taj Patterson

Coaches' Award Darcy Feltham

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination

Darcy Feltham



## **GIRLS UNDER 15'S**





**Second Row:** Robbie Stewart (Assistant Coach), Billie Gwynne, Sybella Hayne, Tahira Armeda, Macey Manassa, Alissa Kunkel, Brianna Rich, Anika Penitani, Makayla Brown,

Zara Stanford, Grace Button, Davina Raghvani, Jade Potuzanski, Isabel Mulholland,

Alison Gwynne (Manager), Simon Gwynne (Coach)

First Row: Jade McKenzie, Darcie Prosser-Shaw, Layla Bellman, Pati Jim



#### **ANOTHER VERY SUCCESSFUL TOURNAMENT FOR** THIS BRILLIANT GROUP OF CHAMPIONS.

Undefeated throughout the weekend, taking home gold once again to defend their title as State Champions!

Displaying resilience, determination and talent in abundance, this amazing group of young ladies won their 4th State cup after playing in every Grand Final since under 9s.

Playing a brilliant brand of Oztag, opposing teams and their coaches were left in awe. There was little they could do as they watched the scoreboard tick over as our Bulls beauties scored a mountain of tries, dazzling them with brilliant ball movement, silky skills and lightning speed. Teams would be tearing their hair out in frustration not being able to compete with the defense of our tough, gritty and merciless Bulls.

Our coaching group of Robbie, Ally and myself love watching the girls grow as players and as a team, but more importantly as great humans building long lasting friendships. They really are a pleasure to coach and mentor.

I would like to thank the u/16 and u/17 girls along with their coaches (Ben and Tristan) for playing very high quality weekly trials against us, this really helped us prepare in the best possible way for Coffs and achieve the magnificent standard and results that we did.

Also thank you Robbie and Ally for all the work you guys put in, the girls love you and I really couldn't do it without you both.

Congratulations to all other Bulls teams and volunteers on their achievements, winning the Club Championship for the first time ever is a tremendous achievement and a credit to all the hard work done by many.

Lastly thank you to the parents for making this possible and committing to our rigorous training schedules. More importantly thank you for trusting us to coach your daughters.

Coach Simon Gwynne

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Grace Button

Coaches' Award Macey Manassa

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination

Pati Jim





## **BOYS UNDER 16'S**





**Second Row:** Greg Michell (Coach), Bailey Cornwall, Brody Kane, Cooper Crawford, Aiden Crowley, Nathan Howlett, Lachlan Gardiner, Jason Brettle (Coach)

First Row: Kye Michell, Logan Gulliver, Zach Ajaj, Dallas Brettle, Jacob Abou - Touma, Jack Orley,

Absent: Hunter Bell, Noah Tamayo, Christian Bugeja



#### **OVERALL A PLEASING RESULT FROM A VERY RESILIENT, TALENTED** GROUP OF YOUNG MEN.

The 2023 JSC brought with it a lot of uncertainty. As is often the case in 16s and 17s, Harold Matts and Emerging programs created a conflict for many talented players.

As a result 5 players earned an opportunity to participate in their first ever Oztag State Cup competition and in total 8 changes to the 2022 squad.

Under the guidance of Jason Brettle, Adam Bell and myself, the team prepared very strongly and were confident of a strong showing in Coffs Harbour, magnified by the late inclusion of Australian representatives, Hunter Bell and Noah Tamayo.

Making it to Finals day was the primary goal set by the side prior to the tournament and some strong performances on Day 1 and 2 made that goal a reality.

Our only blemish was a loss to a strong Souths team late on Day 1.

A quality performance in our Quarter-Final against 2022 Winners Central Coast booked us a rematch against Souths in the Semi-Finals.

Unfortunately, Souths were way too strong for us on the day and went on to deservedly win the tournament. None the less, it was a fantastic performance from an inexperienced team.

The team was well led by captains Lachlan Gardiner and Hunter Bell, both very good players and more importantly good men.

Hunter a deserved winner of the Players' Player Award with a special mention to runners up Kye Michell and Nathan Howlett. Dallas Brettle had his strongest tournament at this level and was presented with the Most Improved.

The awards were rounded out by Zach Ajaj who took out the Coaches Award, Zach was a strong contributor throughout the tournament in his first State Cup.

Overall a pleasing result from a very resilient, talented group of young men.

Coach Greg Michell

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Hunter Bell

Coaches' Award Zach Ajaj

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination Kye Michell





## **GIRLS UNDER 16'S**





**BECOMING THE FIRST TEAM IN JSC HISTORY TO** WIN THEIR RESPECTIVE AGE GROUP FOR 7 CONSECUTIVE YEARS!

This achievement is a testament to the work ethic and commitment this special group of ladies has put into their sport.

Always turning up and working hard, each and every session.

weekly, with trials against Hills 15s Girls, Cronulla 15s Boys, Cronulla 20s Ladies, and Fairfield Open Women B's.

Our comp gets harder every year, and this year was no different. Our Quarter Final saw us down by 1 point, with only 30 seconds to go.

A solo effort from Ava Jones got us over the line and we were into a drop off. The girls dug deep and the rest is history.

Bring on JSC 2024!

Coach Ben Ellis

Players' Player Award Waiaria Ellis

Coaches' Award Danielle Seckoldj

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination

Waiaria Ellis

AGE GROUP 2017-23



## **BOYS UNDER 17'S**





#### IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE **BEING PART OF THIS GROUP OF YOUNG** MEN'S JOURNEY.

Well, what an amazing achievement for these young men, winning 9 from 9 to become back-to-back State Cup Champions.

This being their last year at junior state cup the boys were focused from the first training session. We had lost our coach from last year and 7 players due to rep footy commitments.

This group of boys bonded together to play an excellent game of Oztag while having fun with their mates. Even when someone made a mistake everyone would stay positive and boost their team mates' confidence.

The 17's Boys closest game this year was against St George in the round game and again in the major Semi-Finals.

Our boys came from behind in both games. The boys stayed completely composed and focused and took the win on both occasions.

We played the ACT in the Grand Final. The score was 4-0 with 2 minutes to go. Our boys let their guard down a bit and let ACT score 2 quick tries the final score was 4-2.

Luke Napper, Tom Wand, Connor Mauger, Charlie Rhodes, Brad Merriman (Coach)

First Row: Luke Alderson, Josaia Delana, Tom Murphy, Tim Davidson

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Hills Bulls Oztag you have done a fantastic job with all your organisation. We would also like to Thank B-Rad, Joey and Jason for their time and effort they put into coaching this group of boys.

Along with our two captains for the tournament Josaia Delana and Luke Alderson. Your pep talks and guidance to the newest members of our team, along with the older members, were noticed from afar.

We would also like to thank the parents of this group. Without your support this would not have been possible. You should be proud of the way the boys handled themselves throughout the whole weekend. They showed professionalism before, during and after every game. It's been a pleasure being part of this group of young men's journeys.

#### Until next time.....Let's Go!!!!

Thanks

Brad, Joey, Jason and Lorraine

**AWARDS** Players' Player Award Josaia Delana

Coaches' Award Luke Alderson

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination

Zac Merriman





## **GIRLS UNDER 17'S**





**Second Row:** Tristan Prosser-Shaw (Coach), Ella Shaw, Molly Martin, Jade Deen, Amelie Prosser-Shaw, Sienna Tahan, Jasmine Nesbitt-Ash, Ahlexi Mazzoleni, Tasha White,

Pete Jephtha (Assistant Coach)

First Row: Ella Robertson, Lily Simonsen, Alannah Rich, Cassidy Jephtha, Kaitlyn Nada, Talia Manassa, Sophie Taggart, Leilani Taufa, Chloe Michoux



A great tournament for the U17 girls, starting strong on day one, losing just one game by one try. We knew that this day was our easiest in our pool.

Playing Tamworth on day two, the girls were apprehensive. Tamworth had beaten the team they had lost to on the previous day, so the girls knew that they had to bring their A game. Which is exactly what they did. A fantastic performance was given, beating them 7-1.

Next, we had Souths, who were unbeaten in the tournament. The girls' believed in their ability and defended hard, concluding in an 1-1 draw.

Quarter finals on day three. The girls' tried their best but could not perform in order to beat Cronulla.

Their State Cup campaign had come to an end. However, they got some satisfaction in the fact that they were the only team to not lose to Souths, the eventual winners!

Well done, girls, on your determination and dedication.

Coach Tristan Prosser-Shaw

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Cassidy Jephtha

Coaches' Award

Ella Shaw

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy** Nomination

Talia Manassa



## **MENS' UNDER 20'S**

## **MENS' OPEN**





#### REALLY GUTSY EFFORT AT SENIORS THIS YEAR FOR THE 20S MENS.

Trying to go back-to-back was always going to be hard especially with a lot more teams and the heat factor.

Finishing 3rd overall, the boys really dug deep in the semi, 3/2 against a very strong Engadine side who we also met in the pool game defeating us 3/1

The tag gods weren't very kind to us and the semi saw us defend like demons, but lack of possession cost the boys a spot in the grand final.

Thanks to all the lads for their support and commitment, and Fabian for his management duties.

This is still a really young side with most of the boys eligible to play for another 2 years.

Coach Jason Brettle

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Thomas Knez

Coaches' Award Reilly Wenburn

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy Nomination**Dylan Brettle

THEIR 'NEVER SAY DIE'
ATTITUDE AND
COMMITMENT TO EACH
OTHER CERTAINLY
SHOWED OUT ON
THE FIELD.

The Baulkham Hills Bulls Open Men's team saw a new group of players and coach representing the club at 2023 Oztag State Cup.

The Open Mens' comp was the biggest age group of the tournament, made up of 27 teams across 4 pools - very tough competition.

Great effort by all the boys, playing some great football team-wise, resulting in some fantastic tries, defence and wins during the pool games.

Their never say die attitude and commitment to each other certainly showed out on the field.

Unfortunately, it just wasn't our weekend, finals wise.

As a coach, very proud of the team bonding / commitment over the tournament with nothing but positive comments and attitude towards each other both on and off the field which made for great team-morale.

Special thanks to Jodie, team manager for all the organisation that goes on behind the scenes.

#### Bring on 2024!

Coach Michael Featherstone

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Mitchell Cook

Coaches' Award Zach Stewart

Leon Don Perpetual Trophy Nomination

Jesse Featherstone

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### MIXED OPENS





## WE STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE ARRIVED AT COFFS.

Charlie Rhodes, Prue Stratton

The team was brought together after the decision was made to hold a late trial @ Hills Grammar and field a team in the 20' mixed Senior State Cup. The team that was selected, including a wide age group of talented players, the only thing was that they'd never played together, nor had they played at Senior State Cup Oztag, the challenge was on for the coaching team.

So, the training started on a Sunday afternoon with a core group turning up, but not everyone could make it due to work commitments, holidays, sickness, a lost set of keys one week, and a few other reasons, we just weren't sure everyone was committed. So, the call went out to get everyone's commitment, because as we said, we weren't going all the way to Coffs to make up the numbers, that phrase then got renamed...we weren't there to xxxx spiders, but from then on, we knew we had the buy in from the players.

The big change in the team and the dynamics was when Brad Merriman (Super coach) got his new name B-RAD. People had written the team off, but don't worry the coaching team had faith, but the challenge was to get faith in the team's ability to play together and that's what we did! The Junior U17 Boys playing in the team went to Junior State cup and their team won the comp, we had senior players sending picture of them watching the live steam GF, the team had bonded and something special was building.

We still didn't know what to expect when we arrived at Coffs, then the comp started and we got going, LETS GO!!!! We kept winning, we kept getting told that teams didn't think we were going to be good, but hey, did we show them.

We improved game after game, and YES we got into the Grand Final, unfortunately we came up against a South team that had been building for the last couple of years, they were too good.

From a team that came together as unknowns to a team that got through

to the Grand Final, you all should be proud of your achievement. To all the parents, boyfriends, girlfriends, and supporters you all should be proud of the achievements of your player.

From B-RAD & Daniel a big thanks for allowing us to be involved and your commitment to what we knew was possible with this playing group, we hope you enjoyed the journey.

## LETS GO, LETS GO!!! And wait... NO TRIES!!!

Cheer

Bradley Merriman (Coach) & Daniel Alderson (Manager)

#### **AWARDS**

Players' Player Award Jacquie Sneesby

Coaches' Award
Tim Davidson

**Leon Don Perpetual Trophy Nomination**Luke Alderson

## THEY PLAYED THEIR HEARTS OUT, WITH A CRACKING GAME AGAINST LAST YEAR'S WINNERS

Hills Bulls Mixed Opens team went to up to Coffs Harbour hoping to win a couple of games this year.

Unfortunately, under extreme heat and sun, and probably due to old age, they only came away with a win on their last game on the Saturday.

The team tried their best against the winners of last year in a cracking game, but alas the odds were not in their favour.

Here is to hoping next year they can add a couple of wins to their belt.

Overall, they played their hearts out. Coach Michael Elsley

#### **AWARDS**

**Players' Player Award** Jordan Marks

Coaches' Award Holley Reid

Leon Don Perpetual Trophy Nomination

Jackson Greenway

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## **AWARDS / PERPETUALS**



#### PLAYERS' PLAYER AWARD | TEAM

PLAYERS' PLAYER AWAKU   TEATVI	
2023	Team
Harry McQuillan	Boys U9
Elise McDermot	Girls U9
Jayden Hemara	Boys U10
Madelyn McColgan	Girls U10
Bernie Irvine	Boys U11
Laila Miller	Girls U11
Beau Fletcher	Boys U12
Zoe Lynch	Girls U12
Jett Watkin	Boys U13
Adeena (Kiki) Mokoia	Girls U13
Isaac Street	Boys U14
Temieke Withers	Girls U14
Taj Patterson	Boys U15
Grace Button	Girls U15
Hunter Bell	Boys U16
Waiaria Ellis	Girls U16
Josaia Delana	Boys U17
Cassidy Jephtha	Girls U17
Thomas Knez	Mens U20
Jacquie Sneesby	Mixed U20
Mitchell Cook	Mens Open
Jordan Marks	Mixed Open



#### LEON DON PERPETUAL TROPHY NOMINEES | TEAM

2023	Team
Hank Gregory	Boys U9
Anya Jeloudev & Natalia Spiteri	Girls U9
Spencer Shield	Boys U10
Grace Behrens	Girls U10
Cruz Hauwai	Boys U11
Lara Featherstone	Girls U11
Koby Gwynne	Boys U12
Ella Duffy	Girls U12
Chase Farrugia	Boys U13
Tara Roche	Girls U13
Chayce Pasili	Boys U14
Emmerson Bell	Girls U14
Darcy Feltham	Boys U15
Pati Jim	Girls U15
Kye Michell	Boys U16
Zac Merriman	Boys U17
Talia Manassa	Girls U17
Dylan Brettle	Mens U20
Luke Alderson	Mixed U20
Jesse Featherstone	Mens Open
Jackson Greenway	Mixed Open





#### COACHES' AWARD | TEAM

2023	Team
Hank Gregory	Boys U9
Lottie Stewart	Girls U9
Zaiah Nassif	Boys U10
Grace Behrens	Girls U10
Braxton Micallef	Boys U11
Alliyah Hukui	Girls U11
Cooper Crinion	Boys U12
Keira Withers	Girls U12
Mathew Axiak	Boys U13
Tessa Sims	Girls U13
Sione Tuipulotz	Boys U14
Olivia Mackenzie	Girls U14
Darcy Feltham	Boys U15
Macey Manassa	Girls U15
Zach Ajaj	Boys U16
Danielle Seckold	Girls U16
Luke Alderson	Boys U17
Ella Shaw	Girls U17
Reilly Wenburn	Mens U20
Tim Davidson	Mixed U20
Zach Stewart	Mens Open
Holley Reid	Mixed Open



#### NSW MERRITT | TEAM

2023	Team
Jack Attard, Josiah Delana, Luke Alderson, Koby Rowe	Boys U16
Waiaria Ellis, Tia Mathews, Danielle Seckold, Ava Jones, Olivia Va'Alele	Girls U15
Dylan Pryor, Tyler Birnie	Boys U15
Pati Jim, Billie Gwyne, Grace Button	Girls U14
Temieke Withers, Hine Rikiti, Tegan Nicholas	Girls U13
Bailey Hall, Bailey Logue, Levi Ellis	Boys U13
Max Hayne, Jackson Adams	Boys U11



#### AUSTRALIAN REPS | TEAM

Australian teams have been selected in Under 16 and Under 18 age groups.

Amazingly, 15 players and one Coach (see right) from our club have been selected to play for Australia.

It's unbelievable that our club has 15 out of the 64 players selected (20%) and includes both of our 2022 Club Captains.

A huge congratulations to the players, coaches and parents.



## 2023

	icum
Hunter Bell	Boys U16
Jarred Haydon	Boys U16
Lincoln Fletcher	Boys U16
Noah Tamayo	Boys U16
Waiaria Ellis	Girls U16
Nadelle Harrison	Girls U16
Ava Jones	Girls U16
Tia Matthews	Girls U16
Danielle Seckold	Girls U16
Naioka Tuipulotu	Girls U16
Olivia Va'Alele	Girls U16
Ben Ellis (Coach)	Girls U16
Dylan Brettle	Boys U18
Keely Stevens	Girls U18
Dylan Brettle	Mens U20
Liam Haskins	Mens U20
Darcey Brettle	Mens U20

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We will provide the opportunity for any child, young man or woman, irrespective of ability or background, to learn the game, play the game and love the game.

We are family!

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