



Drummoyne Water Polo Club Inc

Annual Report

2007-08

New South Wales Water Polo
Men's First Grade Summer 2007 Gold Medallists



Back Row: Craig Scott (manager), Juan Ramirez, Dean Semmens, Aidan Roach, Tyler Martin, Sean Boyd, Dalibor Maslan (coach).

Middle Row: Adam Polivka, John Hahn, Igor Bosnic

Front Row: Norbert Katona (asst. coach), Mitch Emery, Samuelle Avallone, Grant Richardson (captain)
Nenad Arsovic.

DWPC Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors:

On behalf of the Drummoyne Water Polo Club members and supporters thanks you to our sponsors. Without the support of our sponsors and supporters we could not deliver the DWPC water polo program.

A special thanks to our major sponsor. To Frank Colacicco, Tas, Tim Wieland and everyone at **Laing+Simmons Drummoyne** your ongoing support has been outstanding.



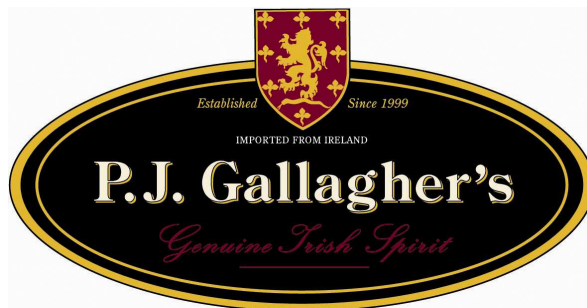
Laing+Simmons

DRUMMOYNE

First time sponsor **EG Funds Management** – “Investing Australia’s Super”



Great to have **PJ Gallagher's** on board as our game day sponsor.



Paul Mirabito and the team at **Australian Wrought Iron Design & Australian Structural Steel**.



We have our own clinical trial specialists thanks John Eddington and the **Datapharm** team.



Thank you to **Empire Marinas** for their ongoing support.



Thank you to everyone at the City of **Canada Bay Council** especially the Mayor Councilor Angelo Tsirekas and General Manager Gary Sawyer for all your assistance and support.



To Mike Conna and the **Aquatic Leisure Management** team led by Angus Westaway at Drummoyne and Cabarita pool thank you for your ongoing support.

Some great support from others throughout the year that we very much appreciate.

- **Mrs Evelyn Dill-Macky** for donating the Drummoyne Devils caps;
- Tim Cruickshank of **Dynamic Physiotherapy** at Five Dock Leisure Centre;
- Trevor Folsom of **Blueprint Management**;
- **Robin Allan Pharmacy** for their kind donation of medical supplies;

- Our professional service advisors **James Tuite & Associates Lawyers** and James Brennan at **Excel HR**;
- **Peter Wynn's Score** and **M.E.S Consulting** for their support at the Pan Pacs; and
- National League Cap sponsors.

1. **North of England Inward Investment Agency**
2. **Embroidme**
3. **Mercuri & Co Solicitors**
4. **Andrew Murray**
5. **Henricks Consulting**
6. **cruisesydneyharbour.com.au**
7. **Blueprint Management**
8. **James Tuite & Associates Lawyers**
10. **Kelray Pty Ltd**
11. **ExcelHR**
12. **Oceanic Multi-Trading Pty Ltd**
13. **Bear Air Conditioning**
14. **Godfrey Pembroke Financial Consultants**
15. **James Tuite & Associate Lawyers**
18. **Dr Ali Gursel Orthopaedic Consultant**
20. **Haywards Solicitors**
21. **FAB Freight**
22. **AMPS Industrial Safety (Coach)**
23. **Oceanic Multi-Trading Pty Ltd (Manager)**

and a huge thank you to our number one sponsors – the parents and friends of Drummoyne Water Polo Club.

Office Bearers

President:	Michael Hahn*
Secretary:	Michael Board* (resigned March 2008)
Treasurer:	Neale Murphy*
Water Polo:	Andrew Murray*
Junior Development:	Matthew Fitzpatrick
Player Liaison:	Peter O'Sullivan*
Operations:	Fraser Foristal
Marketing:	Amy Stevens-Jones
Communications:	Paul Haynes
Registrar:	Dave Bushell

* Position is an Executive Committee role

Check out the Clubs website

www.drummoynewaterpolo.com.au

Presidents Report

Congratulations to all the players, coaches, management, referees, sponsors, helpers and everyone who contributed to a successful season. The bar was set high with the Club securing a National League license for the Drummoyne Devils. The Clubs juniors continued to shine with the girls and boys teams having their share of success while the Clubs Mens and Womens lower grade sides continued to provide an opportunity for social water polo and for some juniors to gain invaluable experience.



DRUMMOYNE FANS AT THE FINALS

After the Clubs success in winning the NSW Water Polo Mens 1st Grade competition for the first time since 1913 we looked forward with anticipation to a good performance in our inaugural National League season and weren't let down with the Drummoyne Devils qualifying for the finals and finishing 5th after defeating minor premiers Fremantle Mariners.

Season 2007-2008 we built on a solid foundation.....

- JDP in its 8th season continues to attract new recruits;
- 22 teams – Nine junior, 13 senior teams;
- Six premierships, three second and five third placed;
- Three NSW Club Championship placing – Under 20 Boys 1st, Under 16 Girls back to back; Under 14 Girls 2nd;
- Three Australian Club Championship places – Under 18 Boys 2nd; Under 18 Girls 3rd, Under 14 girls 2nd;
- First international title winning girls Under 14 Pan Pacs in New Zealand;
- Ladies 1st Grade team semi finalists;
- First Australian junior girls representatives;

- First Australian senior mens representative; and
- Mens National League team qualified for finals and five girls played in the National League competition.

Looking back on the last season everyone can be very proud of their contribution and I am very thankful to the long list of helpers. As the Club continues to flourish and grow the requirements on the Clubs infrastructure expands. This requires both financial and people resources, something that we take for granted. The Club has made a huge investment securing coaching staff to develop our players and pool space for them to train and play. We really need more people to step up and contribute on pool deck as coaches, referees, managers, to secure funding etc otherwise the growth of the club cannot continue and the number of teams we enter will be a reflection on the available resources. Drummoyne continues to grow in its standing in the Australian water polo community. If we're to maintain this position we need to spread the workload and this can only happen if we have more helpers.



**DRUMMOYNE'S AIDAN ROACH
AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR MENS**

Out of the water the Drummoyne Club continues to dominate providing the young and not so young an insight into life skills. Great crowds at Club and National League games, State and National tournaments, Cans by Candlelight, Devils Lair, Club Presentation and Winter luncheon sees the traditional values of Drummoyne Water Polo Club maintained.

The financial results were encouraging. Despite suffering a small loss the Club did not waste their financial resources and additional costs incurred for coaches, National League, junior grants, pool space, all part of providing our players a pathway to improve and participate at all levels. Thanks to our sponsors especially Laing+Simmons

Drummoyne and all our sponsors whose contribution made it possible for the club to compete at all levels. The growth of the Club sees a need for other fundraising events and revenue streams to be in place. This requires resources, people to assist with planning and implementation of events and secure sponsorship.

Special thanks to our coaching staff especially Mens Club Coach Dalibor Maslan and Womens Club Coach Ian Trent in his first year at Drummoyne, for their efforts. Dave Hudson, Allira Hudson-Gofers, Jenny MacGregor, Wendy Stanton, Kate McGraw, Norbert Katona, Nenad Arsovic, Les Ison and Todd Miller. A big thank you to all the team managers, referees, especially Arthur Fogarty for coordinating the Sunday referees, table officials, helpers and the fun police and everyone who contributed to making it happen this season. If we are to continue to enter a record number of teams we need more coaches, referees and managers.



DRUMMOYNE PARENTS ON TOUR

I would like to thank Richard Dill-Macky and Craig Scott for all their work on pool deck. Without their commitment week in week out it would not have been possible to run the Ladies and Mens teams each week. The club is fortunate to have a fantastic committee and I would like to thank for them all for their work and contribution. The contribution made by Neale Murphy and Andrew Murray was again outstanding. The levels achieved this past season would not have been possible with the contribution made by Neale and Andrew. Fraser Foristal was always available, Matthew Fitzpatrick took the Junior Development Program forward, Amy Stevens-Jones was always involved and Dave Bushell did another fantastic job keeping on top of the huge number of player registrations. Paul Haynes is stepping down this season after many years on the committee as Secretary and more recently Communications. Peter O'Sullivan steps down this year and we wish Peter and Margaret every success in Vietnam. I would like to

thank Paul and Peter for their contribution over the many years they have been members and look forward to their continued involvement. To the strong core group of workers who support the efforts of the club, thank you for your ongoing support. This workload needs to be spread amongst the members and friends of Drummoyne Water Polo Club.

The season ahead is another exciting period for Drummoyne Water Polo Club with our application for a National League Ladies team license. This would not have been possible without the support of the DWPC committee, the commitment of the players and coaches, I thank you all for your efforts and work in making it happen.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of the Club and water polo in the Drummoyne district. I look forward to seeing you all on pool deck. Go the Drummoyne Devils!!!

MICHAEL HAHN
PRESIDENT

Secretarys Report

Unfortunately Michael Board was unable to complete his term as Secretary resigning in March, 2008. I would like to thank Michael for his contribution.

The Drummoyne Water Polo Club committee met on seven occasions during the season.

President - Michael Hahn attended 7 meetings
Secretary - Michael Board (resigned March 2008) attended 5 meetings
Treasurer - Neale Murphy attended 6 meetings
Water Polo - Andrew Murray attended 6 meetings
Junior Development - Matthew Fitzpatrick attended 5 meetings
Player Liaison - Peter O'Sullivan attended 5 meetings
Operations - Fraser Foristal attended 4 meetings
Marketing - Amy Stevens-Jones attended 4 meetings
Communications - Paul Haynes attended 4 meetings
Registrar - Dave Bushell attended 4 meetings

Treasurers Report

For the financial year ending 30 April 2007 Drummoyne Water Polo Club made a a loss for the year of \$16,586, this compares to last year's profit of \$17,400, a loss in 2005/2006 of \$6,184, and a profit in 2004/2005 of \$10,892. By the end of April we had paid out \$19,800 to Australian Water Polo (AWPI) for Mens National League (and we have since paid out another \$11,600 to finish off the season), including a once off \$11,000 entry fee, which one might argue represents the bulk of the loss for the year. Our income was boosted in the 1st week of May with \$15,000 of sponsorship receipts plus we are yet to receive sponsorship revenue totalling \$10,000. Neither of which are included in the 2007-08 accounts.

At year end we had cash reserves of \$76,447. Revenues grew (Sponsorship up from \$10,300 to \$32,000, National League Cap Sponsorship \$7,200, plus the bar generating \$10,000 profit). Our costs also grew in the form of increased New South Water Polo (NSWWP) fees \$39,710, AWPI National League fees \$19,800, pool hire cost doubling to \$11,942 and coaching fees up from \$23,600 to \$31,900. We incurred some reasonable equipment set up costs in getting the pool ready for National League games, but didn't the pool deck look just fantastic on the night. For those of you in attendance, hopefully it gave you the sense of pride that it gave me.

We have some of the cheapest membership fees of clubs in the NSW competition, as a committee our focus has been to maintain the fees at around the present levels , and try to make money from having **FUN** , be it at the bar on a Tuesday, Wednesday , Friday, Saturday or Sunday night, to the August luncheon and Devils Lair gatherings before National League games, to the big one at Parliament House coming up on 6th February .

Our sponsors have been generous in their support both financially and in many other ways, as have many of our members and parents. Hopefully at the end of the day you feel that your contribution has been used wisely in growing and positioning Drummoyne Water Polo as one of the premier clubs in Australian Water Polo.

The ongoing ability of our club to meet it's future financial commitments hinges very much on the continued involvement of our members, parents and supporters, my sincere thanks to all that have helped last season, the plan is to finish off winter with a bucket of premierships in the pool, and then prepare ourselves for an even bigger summer in 08/09. We are very lucky to be part of a great club !!!

NEALE MURPHY
TREASURER

Operations & Social Report

This year was a watershed for our great club, being our first year of National League. It really wasn't that long ago that we competed on Tuesdays (mens) & Sundays (ladies) only. These days we play or train every day of the week. That sort of change has brought great challenges in organisation of training times, pool space & also the logistics of trying to keep everyone informed, involved & hopefully interested in the Club.

While some people may not be inclined, or may not feel they don't have the time to do more than play, I'm sure that everyone loves to be able to parch their thirst or fill a hole in their stomach after a game. These things don't appear out of thin air. They are ordered, shopped for, stored and/or cooked for everyone's enjoyment. If you enjoy the club, ask what you can do to keep it that way.

This year saw us create a great night out hopefully to coincide with our Game Nights @ Drummoyne series for National League, Mens and Ladies 1st Division. On three nights, we had finger food provided for Devils Lair members for pre-game nourishment. On another occasion we had live music by Jonty & Mat Hardy who both play with the club. Despite some bad weather & a couple of cancelled games due to electrical storms, I think everybody in attendance would agree we put on entertaining night of colour, sound and the polo is scintillating to watch. These nights will only become bigger after our ladies gain entry to National League. During summer our terrace is a great place to be on a Saturday night.



DRUMMOYNE WATER POLO RETREAT

We also introduced a couple of themed food nights for parents attending Friday night

Junior Development. They were able to come down for refreshment, have a plate of pasta or noodles, watch their prodigy/s learn some water polo skills and then watch a National League game. If any of this sounds appealing please come and join in. If it's surprising, then let us know how we can better communicate to you. I would like to thank the following people for their assistance in keeping our club ticking over. Neale Murphy for stocking the fridges weekly; Tracey Baxter & Lynne Hahn for keeping the kitchens firing; Michael Young, Dave Henricks, Garry Lonnon, Grant Parker and Randal Polivka for ensuring the pool ops went to plan every time; all the volunteers who came to the pool as a duty team (mostly Amy Stevens Jones & her team), and finally Kerry Emery, Cathy Roach & Traacey Free for their tireless dedication to do whatever was needed.

Due to a family illness, I will not be as active the operations next season. This means that other people will have to fill the breach. By that, I DO NOT mean the aforementioned people. Like a lot of things in life, you don't realise how good something is until it's gone. Take heed, good people before the caravan leaves.

FRASER FORISTAL

Communications Report

This year saw a continuing move to on-line communications with regular emails, newsletters, media releases all placed on the website and hard copies located in and around the clubroom.

The emails have also helped players, parents with last minute changes to game fixtures and venues. The website played its part with constant updating of news on team results and acknowledgements of player's selection in the State, national and Australian teams.

With the national League team in its first year, the website was able to keep our overseas and interstate friends in the picture of what has happened in our inaugural year and follow the progress of our boys.

The website can do with some new features – one of which is an on-line registration system which has not been instituted as quickly as planned to help assist membership inquiries and registration with NSWWPPI.

I offer my sincere thanks to all the committee members, players, parents and friends who have commented on the website over the years. I especially acknowledge the outstanding services of Michael Hahn as President and Neale Murphy as Treasurer.

BUNKERS aka PAUL HAYNES

Junior Development Report

Now in its 8th year, Drummoyne Water Polo Club's Sub-Junior Program continues to flourish

This year's program saw a new group of young enthusiastic local children introduced to this fantastic sport. With the support of our Senior coaching staff and the dedication of current senior and junior club players each week in coaching roles, the children were taken from the absolute basics to then being able to participate in their own team in a weekly round robin competition, **all** learning some new skills, **most** having a fantastic time, and **some** completely engrossed by this sport.

It was also very encouraging to see that we had a handful of children go straight into the boys and girls Under 14 Metro teams from this program.

This year for the first time we conducted a short survey of participants to be able to bench-mark how the program is being received, and to seek feedback on how we could improve the program. We had a good response from parents of children participating in the program, and some of the information gained included:

- 50% of respondents already had some connection with Drummoyne Water Polo Club;
- 86% of respondents rated the program as a 4 or 5 out of 5.
- 90% of respondents responded either 4 or 5 out of 5 in regards to being likely to recommend the program to others.

In addition, the respondents were asked to comment on what were the best things about the program and also what we could do to improve the program. The overall theme that came through was that most parents felt the program was well structured, the coaches were great with the kids and that the kids wanted to play more games. Some examples of the comments were:

The best parts of the program were...

- *"Watching the First grade team play, and of course the sausage after training, also Frazer Foristal as coach was great."*
- *"Excellent coaches / group leaders / very well run."*
- *"Skills Training followed by games."*
- *"I love the way the local kids can get in and learn w/p and have fun." and*
- *"Quality of instruction, positive approach and social aspect."*

The ways we could improve the program were...

- *"Keep doing what you are doing."*
- *"increasing days like twice a week or three times per week"*
- *"some groups were overcrowded for the warm-up laps"*
- *"1. start at 7 not 7:30. 2. Finish 9 not 8:30. 3. Give kids equal time for a game not 0 or 10 minutes."*

In summary, I felt the program ran well, and the general feel each Friday night both down on pool deck, and up on the balcony was one of enjoyment, inclusion and great social interaction. I am also confident that the program will continue to be successful and I look forward to growing the program. I would also like to make special thanks to Kate McGraw for her great support throughout the program, particularly the last 3 weeks that I was away for.

MATT FITZPATRICK

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Womens Water Polo Report

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first summer season with the Drummoyne WPC Women's program and it is with great pleasure I introduce the Ladies reports in the 2007-08 Annual Report.

Our results as a club have been beyond expectation, however the permanent establishment of a winning culture within an atmosphere of enjoyable club Water Polo should be, and certainly is, our continuing goal. Although it might be difficult, we are striving to improve further upon the outstanding results achieved within this report.

The club is building in the right way - from the bottom up, and whilst this is the correct way, the maintenance of the building system isn't easy and doesn't happen by itself. I would therefore like to thank everyone in the club's administration, sponsors, all team coaches and managers, club helpers, parents, supporters, players and pool staff for their efforts this season and their continued endeavours in the future.

We hope to embark on a campaign in the next level of Water Polo ie the National League, in 2009. It should be a challenging, but exciting time in the club's progression and I know the full and considerable resources of the club and its support base will get behind this exercise as well as the entire women's program.

IAN TRENT

WOMENS HEAD COACH

Mens Water Polo Report

This report is focused purely on the consideration of Club's men's results in season 2007-08, although evaluating that we have to spread out the theme on the whole Club's operations. I believe both are very important components of our long term programme for Club's development.

The basis of any Club's result is inside the Club's organization. Club's organization has to ensure continuity of the Club's functioning. This was the major reason why we have to consider the way and how the club is organized and if is necessary reorganized it again.

2007-08 Objectives

My focus was divided in a few basic directions:

1. Forming a quality M1 team which would be a very strong participant for the M1 summer and in the same time NATIONAL LEAGUE competition. I was working in two directions in forming the team:

- A. To increase individual players abilities
- B. To form the outline of the team as soon as possible

2. Parallel with this team preparation, we were working on finding and developing good coaches for our juniors.

Throughout the work in the season I was also trying to get influence on a few key things:

- a. To change the Club's culture and achieve the same spirit;
- b. To improve the coaching discipline and the way they work;
- c. To form the M1 team but at the same time managing expectation of the youth players too and make a room for them and keep them interesting too; and
- d. To work on the technology of whole coaching structure.

Trying to achieve the two main objectives of forming a good M1 team and developing coaches for the juniors took a lot of energy, because we had to spread out our club in many instances on 3 different pools. This also required resetting a coaching structure. This was the hardest part of this job to cope with, providing a high level of water polo to seniors and juniors at the same time.

I have to commend water polo player Todd Miller. He gave us a hand and accepted to coach U/14s boy's team and achieved an amazing result to qualify for the grand final.

Also I want to take this opportunity to thank Nenad as well, who stopped playing water polo and got focus to develop himself as water polo coach. He has got so much to show our boys!

Assessing the M1 and NATIONAL LEAGUE players, from the point of player's abilities, they were on a very different level of fitness, individual skills, team skills, and also with different attitude, motivation, and approach to the sport.

My first thought was how to, in very short period of time can we achieve team cohesion, and throughout the hard work set up the criterion of work and discipline.

This was a very complicated process as it required intensive water polo work as well as keeping a good spirit and club atmosphere at all times for me and all the members who were involved. Sometimes there were unrealistic ambitions and expectations inside and outside the team which I had to manage.

Regardless of everything we had enough strength to make a solid M1 team. From my point view, apart from a few unfortunate situations that reduced the player strength, the team, the M1 and National League team did well and basically I am happy about that. We had a problem with injuries of some players and also problem with import player. But if we summarise the whole season and consider that we won the M1 competition and played National League competition for the first time since this club has been established, we can not be dissatisfied.

The characteristic of our M1 and National League team this year was a mix of youthfulness and experience. It consisted of mostly junior players developed from our water polo school and a few older experience players. This indisputable fact can only encourage us to more then ever get focus on to improve and stabilize our water polo school. With this we can solve the problem of players and have an inexhaustibly resource of players.

My personal aim and hope all of Drummoyne water polo club would be, through quality and continually selection provide top level water polo players. To achieve that we definitely need more time and a lot of patience.

If I analyse the current situation in the club, everyone can see that we have a serious problem with coaching structure. I want to take this opportunity and ask committee, are they keen to support me to fix this problem and obtain the coaches for our club.

DALIBOR MASLAN
MENS HEAD COACH

Under 14A Girls (LSJA)

SILVER, SILVER, SILVER, GOLD - the 14A girls had an extremely successful season finishing runners up in the metropolitan, state and national under 14 competitions. Many thanks go to the coach Jenny McGregor and manager Traeacey Free and the dedication of the girls and parents for their commitment to the training and game schedule.



DRUMMOYNE GIRLS U14S AT NATIONALS

A podium finish in each of the competitions was a reflection of the consistency of this team who played Cronulla in each of the finals and almost turned the tables in the National Club Championships final. All girls improved during the season and capped off a successful season with a gold medal campaign at the Pan Pacific Youth tournament in New Zealand to win the Clubs first international tournament. Thank you to Jenny MacGregor and Lynn Hahn for taking the team away.

TRAECEY FREE
MANAGER

Under 14B Girls (LSJB)

A first season for all but one of our players – and what a season it was! We had a fantastic season, and all of the girls improved out of sight. They all showed that they have the potential to be great water polo players thanks to a lot of hard work at training.



DRUMMOYNE 14S FIRST TOUR

All of the girls should be really proud of their season: they made the semi-finals of the Metro competition and they played in the State Championships in Tamworth against much older and more experienced players. Congratulations to Isabella Mercuri for making the Under 14 State Squad and Lily Murphy for making the Under 13s Development Squad.

KATE McGRAW

COACH

Under 14A Boys (MJA)

The 2007/2008 U14's season saw our junior boys reach the grand final and lose gallantly to Cronulla, making this team the most successful U14 boys in the history of the club. The boys definitely had plenty of potential at the start of the season, with several boys showing promise in the early few rounds. After a few games it became apparent that we were definitely pushing for first place, beating several teams including Wests quite comfortably followed by narrow losses to SNB Breakers & Cronulla. The boys improved dramatically over the course of the season and by seasons end were playing some incredibly disciplined, patient and skilful water polo.



DRUMMOYNE 14 BOYS LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION

During the season the boys were very competitive in each of the tournaments they competed in. They ventured to Tamworth to participate in the NSW U14 Club Championships. The boys were extremely unlucky to place 5th, with a few unlucky round games going against them. We then participated in the National U14 Club Championships over the Easter long weekend, where the boys played some excellent water polo to achieve 6th place, having been involved in extremely tight round games with the teams that placed 3rd & 4th.

A special thank you to coach Todd Miller and Helen Slater for all her efforts as manager, along with all the parents who made the season so enjoyable.

MANAGER

HELEN SLATER

Under 14B Boys (MJB)

For many of these boys it was their initial season and a great opportunity to have their first taste of water polo. The swimmers in the group benefited from the extra space they were able to create with their pool speed. Some boys had the opportunity to compete at the State and National Club Championships and all benefited from these opportunities.

We lost Ollie and JJ who showed big improvement moving up to the other 14s team but all the boys responded to the extra responsibility as a result of these changes and all had the opportunity to compete in the end of season finals. Congratulations to all the players on a great season well done to the MVP Robbie Black who made some

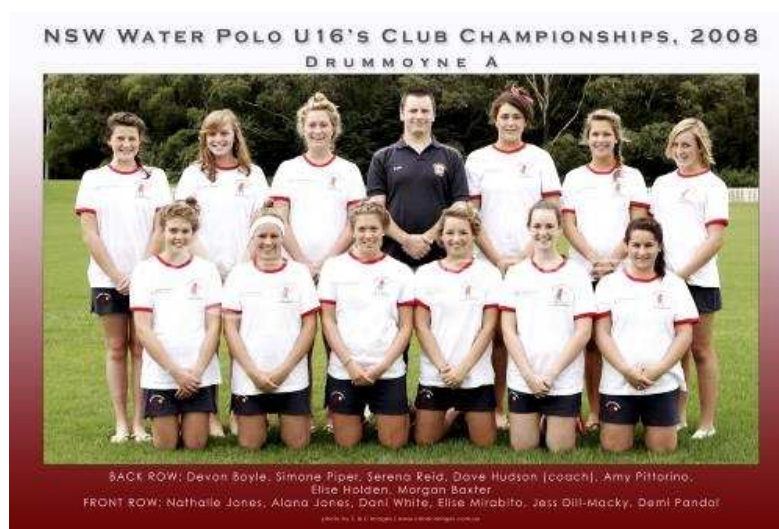
great progress during the season and our Most Improved player Matthew Ellis who improved every week. Thank you to manager Steve Kelly for all his hard work and to all the parents for their support throughout the season. We look forward to seeing you all return next summer to continue your development and enjoy your water polo.

LES ISON

COACH

Under 16A Girls (LJA)

Congratulations to the Under 16 girls on another successful season which in the end saw the girls show a lot of character to win double gold.



DRUMMOYNE 16S FOUR STRAIGHT STATES

The NSW Club Championships was an exciting 3 goal victory in the final against Cronulla. Come the metropolitan major semi though the team suffered its first ever loss, 6-4 to SNB. Many now say it was the 'loss we had to have'. In the final against Cronulla our defence was ruthless and the attack was clinical. It was the most convincing display of water polo dominance over Cronulla they have ever shown, including back in under 14's.

This set the scene for the Grand final against SNB. Through well earned extra mans and improved marking of the constantly mobile SNB team, Drummoynes yet again won an under 16's Gold by the huge margin of 1. A big thank you to Tracey Mirabito for managing the team. Well done girls.

DAVE HUDSON

COACH

Under 16B Girls (LJB)

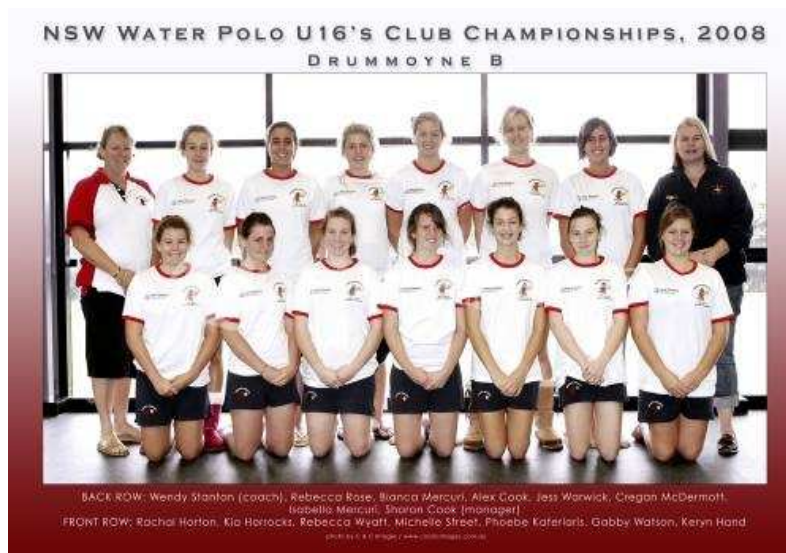
After taking the girls on in mid November my only involvement with the girls up till then was refereeing them at Sans Souci against Cronulla. It took me a couple of weeks to remember all the girls, names I would like to thank them for their patience.

After a slow start to the season and a below average commitment to training the second half of the season saw a big turn around in focus and commitment by everyone culminating in a fantastic victory over the Breakers in the grand final to win the premiership.

Aside from the grand final victory one of our most memorable games was against UTS Ryde at Ryde soon after Wendy Stanton joined the team as coach with every player on the card scoring, this lifted the team to the next level.

Wollongong was a turning point with the team continuing to improve and show their full potential of playing a more organised controlled game of water polo.

Breakers were the only team in the competition that were the team to beat, we nearly came close in the second round but a few early 5 metre penalties and a technical referee saw the girls rattled, however Breakers did not walk away with the game the score was only 8-5. Breakers went thru the competition undefeated until our grand final victory of 5-4, and what a nerve racking final it was.



DRUMMOYNE 16Bs SUCCESSFUL AT GRAND FINAL

Congratulations to all the girls on a great victory and to coach Wendy Stanton and

manager Sharon Cook for their fantastic work. The season was made easier with the great support and encouragement throughout the season from the parents.

WENDY STANTON

COACH

Under 16 Boys (MJA)

The under 16 boys had a good year of water polo, showing great improvement in their ability and game results as the season progressed. Boys played Sydney Uni in the semi final in a tight game that was there for the taking, but unfortunately our conversion rate on two penalty shoots let us down, losing to Sydney Uni 5-3. Drummoyne finished 3rd in the Metropolitan competition and 5th in the NSW Club Championships in Wagga.

The season ended with all the boys playing well as a team. The improvement in ball skills and development of players was very noticeable and pleasing to watch.



DRUMMOYNE 16S 100% AT WAGGA

Team was consist of 12 boys born 92-93, who has been developed from our water polo school Patrick Hahn, Ryan Lear, Brad Parker, Blake Watkinson, Atticas Mammias, Jack Corry, Josh Haywood, Matt Took, Pat Long, Toby Dind, Cameron Smith and Ryan Marnell.“

At the beginning, once I took them over, boys were a bit confused as I was requested a different way they play. But by the time they settled down and basically gave their best shot when was necessary in semi final. Unfortunately we didn't have any luck at that time.

Thank you also to all the parents who not only got the boys to Wednesday games and training but also helped the boys go on the trip that we went on this year

Overall the team had a great season.

NENAD ARSOVIC

COACH

Under 18 Girls (LC)

A mixed season for the girls. The girls invariably played with a full card every week which led to frustration for both coach and players - 13 players every week is difficult to manage and playing time was always at a premium. However, even with this unsettled team situation the girls managed to make the semi's comfortably and scored some great victories over more fancied teams.

The unsettled lineup may have told on us in the end with a 6-5 semi final defeat to a more experienced Sydney Uni. Although our young team was well up to standard, factors outside the girls and the girls were the unlucky losers.



DRUMMOYNE 18S AT NATIONALS IN BRISBANE

A podium finish in the National Under 18 Club Championships in Brisbane was just reward for a very talented group of players who are to be commended for their dedication and commitment. Well done to all the girls and a huge thank you to coach Ian Trent and Manager Denise White for their great work.

IAN TRENT

COACH

Under 18 Boys (MC)

The 2007-08 year was certainly a successful year for the under 18 boys with the highlight of securing the gold medal in the New South Wales summer competition.

In what can only be described as an electric atmosphere the Drummoyne Devils dug deep and never gave up in one of the most exciting water polo game in Drummoyne's history with the under 18 boys winning the grand final 18-17 after a penalty shootout.

With the game locked at 3-3 at half time and Drummoyne captain Aidan Roach having to sit out the game, the Drummoyne boys never gave up as they fought back from 2 goals down in the 3rd quarter. With Wests ahead 6-4 midway through the 3rd quarter Drummoyne lefty Adam 'Slingshot' Polivka produced a double barrelled blow to even the scores and Drummoyne went into the final quarter with a 1 goal advantage after some great work by centre forward Robert Hahn. The young Wests team almost pulled off a remarkable win in the action packed game that finished 9-9 after normal time thanks to the first of five penalty saves of the games by GK Daniel Corry who kept Drummoyne in the game when he saved a penalty late in the final quarter to send the game into extra time.

Wests scored first in extra time when they converted a penalty but Drummoyne kept digging deep to lock up the scores at 10 apiece. Wests who had an opportunity to take the lead in the final moments of extra time with a volley of rapid fire shots saved again by great devils defence led by GK Corry.

After 6 minutes of extra time it was shootout time. Drummoyne missed the opening penalty and Wests had a chance to win the game with their 5th shot but Daniel blocked his first save of the shootout and second for the game to keep Drummoyne in the game. With both lead off players missing their shots in the second round of the shootout it was goal for goal and the pressure was mounting with Wests carrying the burden of having to shoot second to stay in the game. Drummoyne missed their 10th penalty shot and the Wests crowd was on fire as they had a chance to win the game but the Big D stood tall and kept the Drummoyne Devils in the game. As the shootout moved into the 3rd round Drummoyne's opening shooter converted forcing Wests to convert to stay in the game. The Drummoyne bench cleared, AJ joined his team mates in the water and the crowd erupted as Daniel Corry saved the shot to give Drummoyne gold.

This however, was not the sole achievement of the team this season with all the 18 & 17 year olds also members of the team that won the Gold Medal in the Col Smee U20s tournament.

The team had trained extremely hard this year under the guidance of Dalibor and the majority of the boys were rewarded with National League caps this year.



DRUMMOYNE 18s HOW SWEET IT IS

The boys travelled to Brisbane in April with expectations to improve on their Silver medal at last years National Club Championships. Although undefeated in the rounds and after a gruelling semi final 17 -16 extra timewin, the boys were unable to bounce back in the final. We have come accustom to this Drummoyne team's last quarter comebacks from behind and it looked as though they were planning to do so again in the final. Melville's goalie however had different plans and had his best game of the tournament leaving Drummoyne to bring home silver for the second year in succession.

After a long season, this incredible group of young men should be proud of their commitment and achievements as they have produced some fantastic water polo for their supporters this year.

Special thanks must also go to the ever present, rock solid support provided by an amazing group of parents. And last but not least, thank you so much Dalibor.

CRAIG SCOTT & RANDALL POLIVKA MANAGERS

Ladies 1st Grade (L1)

Drummoyne's first season in L1 was most encouraging, reaching the semi finals and finishing in 4th place, after coming in 4th in L2 the previous summer - quite a leap. Our young lineup definately showed great improvement during the season and was more

than competitive against most sides.

The majority of the team has a great training ethic and we didn't lose out on the physical side of the game to anyone. Obviously, we did lose out on experience - but we certainly gained plenty of that in our first season.

Drummoyne didn't field one senior player in our semi final defeat against Balmain, and everyone agreed that if just 2 of their internationals had been playing for us - the result would have been different. We are not that far away from being a good side and we should all look forward to further development over winter, leading into a stronger summer season.

Special mention must go to our American goalie Emily Feher who was outstanding, as well as being a great mentor to Serena Reid and our other young goalkeepers.

Congratulations to MVP Dani White and MI Sarah Dill Macky, both of whom had great seasons. Many thanks go to our manager Richard Dill Macky who was his usual diligent self during the whole season.

IAN TRENT

COACH

Ladies 2nd Grade (L2)

The L2's had a roller coaster season with almost a different team playing each week before Christmas. But, with a L2 team for the second half of the season, the girls started to grow in confidence as they also started stringing some very respectable results together. Towards the end of the season some notable results were a 13 all draw with a full strength Sydney Uni and a nail biting win against UNSW 7-6. When the final series came around though, it was time for us to unleash our secret weapon, double hole. In the minor semi final, thanks to a sterling effort by our goalies, 5 goals from Allira, and a fantastic defensive effort from everyone we got home in extra time 7-6. The next game against Cronulla was a very similar story but the defence from both teams was much tighter. With a 4-3 final scoreline in our favour confidence was growing and the girls were playing patient, mistake free water polo.



DRUMMOYNE 2NDS SO CLOSE AT THE FINALS

The final was against SNB who had beaten us 3 times this season and well. This didn't deter the team and we vowed to each other to give 100% for each other and not leave anything in the water. At the end of full time the score was 2-2 and although the fitter SNB scored late in extra time to get the gold the team had proven to everyone that they definately deserved the silver. Thankyou to Richard for managing all year, Ian and Jenny for babysitting over Christmas, and all the girls for showing so much passion throughout the year. It's been a pleasure coaching all of you.

DAVE HUDSON
COACH

Ladies 3rd Grade (L3)

This was a great introduction for this group to the Drummoyne club and hopefully vice versa. It was veterans joined by rookies and the mix worked, especially late in the season at finals time, when it really counted.

Led by former Australian internationals Jenny MacGregor, Julie Rohl, Sue Trent and Kerri Hay, Devils' juniors such as Elise Holden, Morgan Baxter and Jess Dill Macky reaped the benefits of playing with such experienced players.

Former NSW centre forward Kim McJannett and state junior rep Lisa Murphy also contributed to a real team effort in a 6-5 grand final defeat of the previously unbeaten Blue Mountains.



DRUMMOYNE LADIES ON FIRE

The Devils certainly left their best to the final 2 games of the season, playing controlled water polo and aided by impartial refereeing, which is a rarity during the regular season rounds. Some of this group have now won L3 for the past 3 seasons, a great effort.

JENNY MacGREGOR
COACH

Ladies 4th Grade (L4)

A great season where more games were won than lost. After not being out of the top four all season, a couple of losses to the top sides in the last two rounds had the team equal fourth on points at season end but missing the semis on a count back. The position at the end of a season was due to a whole squad effort with all 17 players contributing throughout the season.

Highlights for the season included outstanding games against the eventual winners, Blue Mountains, and 3rd placed Breakers Blue. Both opponents fielded experienced sides and were physically stronger. A rough game against the Blue Mountains midway through the season saw us trailing by only 0-1 at half time, but eventually went down 3-5. The experience gained from this loss resulted in an upset win over Breakers Blue 8-6 later in

the season. These games typified the effort, courage and commitment shown throughout the season.

ANDREW MADDOCKS

COACH

Ladies 5th Grade (L5B)

A so close and yet so far 3rd place season, but we did still manage an outstanding Tour of Duty in Raymond Terrace.

No training may have something to do with the result (well there's standing room only in the pool) but all in all this was a dedicated 5th grade side. We started the year with 15 on the books and a queue out the door and, surprisingly, we still finished with as many.

Even the youth in this experienced team is not so young anymore but thankfully there was still some speed around to challenge the children we often faced. After a strong win in the semi, our fellow Drummoyne side ensured our 3rd place finish beating us 9-7 in the final. Marked improvement in many individuals, and the way we played as a team, made this a very enjoyable season.

JILL REID

MANAGER

Ladies 5th Grade (L5B)

L5B have had an amazing 12 months taking out both the minor and major premierships in Winter 2007 and Summer 07-08 Sydney Metro Competition seasons. The team went from strength to strength and worked hard to achieve our dreams of being NSW Water Polo premiers. With only two (narrow) losses over 12 months, we became "the team to beat" and worked hard to stay #1 on the table.

The team comprises a group of girls who enjoy the pre-game gossip just as much as the match itself. We started the year excited and ready to put in the hard yards to win, and did just that. We are all lucky to be part of a successful team that keeps the spirit and fun side of water polo close to heart. There is nothing better than hitting the pool deck and knowing that you are about to play a sport you love with your best mates.



DRUMMOYNE 5THS PREMIERS

Congratulations TWO TIME PREMIERS – you deserve all the success you get. Players across the two seasons who achieved gold are: Sara Addy, Erin Cowmey, Sarah Garden, Samantha Grech, Fiona Griffin, Anita Hyde, Erika Jung, Sacha Keady, Kylie Lancken, Natalie Miles, Alexandra Parker, Rebecca Prentis, Alicia Rose, Jennifer Ryan, Amy Stevens-Jones (Captain), Kristie Thomas, Jessica Warwick, Anja-Mia Woodward.

AMY STEVENS-JONES

MANAGER

Mens National League

2008 saw the Drummoyne Devils play their inaugural season in the National League competition. After a successful 1st Grade competition result as premiers, expectations were high. The team finished in 5th position to qualify for the finals where they drew with 3rd placed QLD Breakers and had a narrow one goal loss to 2nd placed Victoria Tigers in the play off games before defeating National League Minor Premiers Fremantle Mariners in the final game.

The team clearly performed well above expectations considering the loss of key players mid way through the season. With four of the starting seven players all under the age of 20, competing in the highest standard of water polo in this country was no doubt an invaluable experience and development for the team in its first year of competition.

The young brigade led by John Hahn, Mitch Emery, Tyler Martin and Aidan Roach were outstanding. The teams import player Samuele Avallone was a true pleasure to watch and contributed significantly to the team scoresheet being the third highest goal scorer in the competition. We look forward to Samuele continuing his water polo with the Devils next year. All these guys were ably lead by the senior players in the team, team captain and Australian representative Grant Richardson, first time Drummoyne Devil (you would never know – he seemed to fit right at home from the outset) Sean Boyd, evergreen Juan Ramirez and the “Blonde Elvis” Jay Miller. The experience shown by these senior players was instrumental in the teams successful results as well as further development of the existing player talent coming through.

A commendation of thanks to the coaching staff led by Dalibor Maslan, his assistant Nenad Arsovic, and the teams tireless Manager Craig Scott and resident Physiotherapist Tim Cruickshank. All upheld a high level of credibility at all times resulting in a very professional unit on pool deck.



DRUMMOYNE DEVILS ON POOL DECK

Special mention must also go to all the regular “helpers” on match days, whether it is the pool set-up, officiating on the table or goal judging, game videoing, working the bbq and bar or just being there when an extra hand is needed. Thanks everyone and well done.

Success is primarily gauged by results. A finals berth and an overall 5th place in the teams first National League season is seen as highly commendable. However, the way the guys conducted themselves throughout the season along with the team camaraderie, friendship and respect shown for each other should be noted.



EXPERIENCED DRUMMOYNE HELPERS ON THE DECK

All players clearly seemed to gain a high level of satisfaction in competing in this competition and wore the Drummoyne Devils badge with pride.



DRUMMOYNE DEVILS AT THE FINALS

Finally, there were many highlights throughout the season. However, a clear stand out was the elation shown when every one of the bench players, over the course of the season was able to secure their first national league goal. The smile on their faces and applause from the crowd was priceless.

ANDREW MURRAY



DRUMMOYNE'S GRANT RICHARDSON - AUSTRALIAN MENS TEAM 2008

Mens 1st Grade (M1)

What a side, on paper they looked special with three carefully selected imports, five of the clubs emerging stars [all Australian Junior and/or Youth players], a current Australian player and an Australian Legend (Olympian and six National League Titles), supported by the M2 boys when required.

How great was this side winning the clubs first - first grade premiership since 1913 by beating SU 11 – 9 in a tight final. No-one who was at Ryde pool that Saturday afternoon will forget the game and that evening in a hurry. Who will every forget Michael carrying the Trophy like it was his new born child.

Many thanks go to all those who make each season more enjoyable with a growing team of supporters and helpers who not only help set-up pools, transport players, perform table duties and even prepare lunches for those Newcastle trips. Here special thanks goes to the Emery, Polivka and Lear families lead by Kerrie, Randall and Megan, and all their helpers including Traecey, Cathy and Pam who made my job simple.

CRAIG SCOTT
MANAGER

Mens 2nd Grade (M2)

The team finished the regular season in third place but lost their semi 8 – 15 to a strong

SU side to bow out for another season. This team included some seasoned players with former National League players [Juan and Jay], former Australian Rep's, [Gavin and Dean] with 5 of the club U18 squad [Rob, Dan, Ben Adam and Chad]. This side was capable of beating any team in the grade when all available.

The team struggled a little after Xmas with Dean Semmens and Adam Polivka having shoulder injuries missing the remainder of the season. A special mention to team captain Juan Ramirez who has announced his retirement (again) at the end of the season. The club thanks Juan for his service to the club, not only as a captain, player and club coach but also as a role model to many of the younger players.

CRAIG SCOTT
MANAGER

Mens 3rd Grade (M3)

The team had a successful season by making the semi finals after finishing the season in third place. The team included a mixture of two Hungarians, [Roy & Norby] two Hardy boys, [Jonty and Matt] at times two Americans [Wes and Andy] and two Italians, five of the clubs U16's [Atticas, PJ, Ryan, Brad, Blake] and a couple of old heads including one left hander making a comeback to Saturday competition [yes Muz].

The individual highlight was Roy Katona with 8 goals including the match winner in the dying seconds against SNB in Rd5. Roy went on to score who scored 41 goals during the season, the most by any Devil in Saturday competition this season.

CRAIG SCOTT
MANAGER

Mens 4th Grade (M4)

This season M4's finished 2nd at the end of the rounds, qualifying for the finals. This season we had a well-balanced side in both attack and defence, with a good mix of young juniors, new faces and some seasoned veterans. Our consistent defence, patience and controlled attack carried M4's through to the finals series.

Unfortunately we lost 4 players due to work and holidays for the finals series, and without our 2 top goal scores for the season, we struggled in the finals, losing to UTS Ryde in the major Semi and then to Cronulla in the Final.

This season M4's coached themselves and with only 11 players for the season, struggled for numbers throughout the season, especially in the finals. Big thanks to all the M5 and M6 players who filled in when we were short of numbers during the season and in the finals series.

MARK SIMPSON

MANAGER

Mens 5th Grade (M5)

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was a tale of two seasons.....

M5 comprises of some illustrious legends who possibly have played better polo in the past. Guys who know the true meaning of the "squirrel grip". Guys who have frequented the Car Park Club, Fellows that loved the bus trip to Gunnamatta Bay. Even gents who seem to enjoy the company of Jimmy Malone.

These fine men are club stalwarts. They fondly remember squeezing into our original poolside clubroom as Wanker & Pendo smoked it up. They know the way to "the hole" as well as the path to the judiciary. They don their Devil cossies as a matter of course just as soon as they stow their winter sports wares.

Which makes me wonder why from the start of the season in October till our last game pre Christmas we struggled to field 8 or 9 good men. Numerous excuses are offered & accepted. Afterall Legends are made, not born & they can be afforded nights off to get their tints touched up (Hilly, Bub), going to the wrong pool(Ollie), taking Wendy out apparently (Gub), & unavoidable fact finding trips to The Maldives (Ange). All good men.

Well Santa thought so. My goodness didn't he have a sackfull of goodies. He brought Serge a new Shoulder, Scott a new knee (although not sure if it works, haven't seen him since Cans), Roo a new something, Chickbone a new job & Gub new eyes.

Well, didn't that change things. All those fine men heard the call from within, & lo & behold, on their way back from Demascus, stopped in to pick up their cossies & soon we were bursting with if not talent, it must have been enthusiasm. Before Christmas, we won 4/9, after that we only lost one. (against Ryde who won the comp, & by only one goal).

As I have illustrated, this team on it's day (possibly sometime in 1989) we can beat anyone. I know Dalibor has been watching our progress keenly. He was heard to say recently, "I haven't seen anything like that in all my years involved in waterpolo, it looked like the Heinrich Manoeuvre". One of the legends replied, "We do what comes naturally"

And therein lies the secret to our success.....See you at the CPC.

FRASER FORISTAL

MANAGER

Mens 6th Grade (M6A)

Any exciting year that got off to the usual slow pace before all the off season work started to pay dividends. After some ordinary early season games the cream rose to the top with some solid performances and a spot in the finals at season end. Unfortunately the cream turned sour and our finals appearance was not the desired outcome. No more team talks!

Many thanks to everyone for another solid contribution to the clubs core activities in and out of the water. Well done team.

MATTHEW PENNYCOOK

MANAGER

Mens 6th Grade (M6B)

Another exciting year with the usual slow start after our winter season break but when a Mr Daniel Roach begged to play in our team, we decided to give the kid a go.

As it turns out, we won the vast majority of our games with Daniel (our MVP) spearheading our attack, the cream rose once again to the top as we were again in contention for a finals berth.

Then injuries, holidays, transfers and general wear & tear on our aging bodies started to see us fall behind, losing a couple of crucial games that cost us dearly in our pursuit for another finals appearance.

Many thanks to everyone for the camaraderie as well as your contribution to the club's core activities both in and out of the water.

Congratulations and well done team

NEALE MURPHY

MANAGER

Award Winners 2007 – 2008

	MVP	MOST IMPROVED
Under 14A Girls	Stephanie Polivka	Stephanie Calaizis
Under 14 B Girls	Isabella Mercuri	Kristyn Bennett
Under 16A Girls	Serena Reid	Elise Holden
Under 16B Girls	Jess Warwick	Phoebe Kataralis
Under 18 Girls	Ellen Pittorino	Devon Boyle
Under 14A Boys	Jack Slater	James Brennan Jnr
Under 14B Boys	Robert Black	Matthew Ellis
Under 16 Boys	Ryan Lear	Patrick Long
Under 18 Boys	Tyler Martin	Robert Hahn
Garry Nicholls Outstanding Junior	Mitchell Emery	
Ladies 1st Grade	Dani White	Saturday MIP
Ladies 2nd Grade	Nicola Murphy	Sarah Dill Macky
Ladies 3rd Grade	Julie Rohl	Sunday MIP
Ladies 4th Grade	Clare Douglas	Morgan Baxter
Ladies 5th Grade A	Annette Jamieson	
Ladies 5th Grade B	Jenny Ryan	
National League	Sean Boyd	Most Improved
Mens 1st Grade	John Hahn	Mens 1st Division
Mens 2nd Grade	Juan Ramirez	Aidan Roach
Mens 3rd Grade	Bradley Parker	Most Improved
Mens 4th Grade	Duncan Ritchie	Mens 2nd Division
Mens 5th Grade	Trevor Folsom	Steve Timm
Mens 6th Grade A	Matthew Pennycook	
Mens 6th Grade B	Daniel Roach	
Michael Corry – Clubman of the Year	Matt Fitzpatrick	

Representative Honours 2007 - 2008

Under 13 Development Squad

James Brennan
Lenke Dauda Board
James Smith
Fiona Walsh
Teddy Williams

Under 14 NSW Squad

Alex Allen
Kelsey Baxter
Stephanie Calaizis
Stephanie El Safty
Ellen Hahn
Mitchell Holden
Shannan Martin
Isabella Mercuri
Montana Perkins
Stephanie Polivka
Jack Slater
Mark Valpiani
Maddy Wilson

Under 16 NSW Squad

Morgan Baxter
Devon Boyle
Patrick Hahn
Ryan Lear
Atticus Mammas
Elise Mirabito
Demi Pandol
Brad Parker
Simone Piper
Amy Pittorino
Serena Reid
Dani White

NSW CHS Under 15

Kia Horrocks

NSW Schools

Devon Boyle
Sarah Dill-Macky
Mitchell Emery
Tyler Martin
Elise Mirabito
Ellen Pittorino
Serena Reid
Aidan Roach
Dani White

NSW CIS

Sarah Dill Macky
Jess Dill Macky
Genevieve Fogarty
Patrick Hahn
Robert Hahn
Elise Mirabito
Simone Piper
Aidan Roach
Belinda White

NSW CCC

Devon Boyle
Kate McGraw
Demi Pandol
Ellen Pittorino
Serena Reid

NSW Under 20

Mitchell Emery
Phil Emery
John Hahn
Robert Hahn
Tyler Martin
Adam Polivka
Aidan Roach

Australian Schools

Mitchell Emery
Tyler Martin
Ellen Pittorino
Serena Reid
Aidan Roach
Dani White

Australian Youth Boys

Adam Polivka

Australian Junior Girls (B91)

Ellen Pittorino
Serena Reid

Australian Junior Men

Mitchell Emery
Tyler Martin
Aidan Roach

Australian Senior Men

Grant Richardson

Team Statistics 2007 - 2008

Financials 2007 - 2008