



Drummoyne Water Polo Club Inc

Annual Report

Yearbook

2006-07



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 sponsors. To Frank Colacicco, Tim Wieland and everyone at Laing + Simmons Drummoyne your ongoing support has been outstanding.

A first time sponsor Empire Marinas have provided great support. A special welcome and thanks to Darren Vaux and everyone at the Drummoyne and Bobbin Head Marinas.



Laing+Simmons

DRUMMOYNE



Empire Marinas located at DRUMMOYNE and BOBBIN HEAD

We have some great Supporters who have got behind the club. Thank you to everyone at the City of Canada Bay Council especially the Mayor Councillor Angelo Tsirekas for all your assistance and exposure you provided DWPC through the Mayors Golf Day and the extension to the clubroom deck. To Mike Conna and the Aquatic Leisure Management team at Drummoyne and Cabarita pool thank you for your ongoing support and in kind sponsorship provided.

***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:	Sergio Casetta *
Treasurer:	Neale Murphy *
Water Polo Director:	Andrew Murray *
Junior Development Coordinator:	Patrick Baker
Player Liaison Officer – Junior:	Peter O’Sullivan *
Player Liaison Officer – Senior:	Juan Ramirez
Operations & Social Director:	Fraser Foristal
Communications Manager:	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 and coaches on fantastic season. Season 2006-2007 was a season of consolidation.....

"The great history of the club is something that we are constantly reminded of and we try to communicate to our members. It was fantastic to be able to recognise the contribution made by Brian Hamill at Parliament House when the club honoured him as the 10th Life Member of Drummoyne Water Polo Club."

- 21 teams – 8 junior, 13 senior teams;
- 17 teams qualified for the finals;
- 7 of 8 junior and 3 of the 4, 1st division teams qualified for finals;
- 1 premiership, 3 runners up, 6 teams finished 3rd;
- NSW Club Championship & Sydney – under 16 girls 1st;
- National Club Championship – under 18 boys and under 14 girls 2nd;
- NSW Under 20 Col Smee – boys 2nd;
- First ever Under 18 girls team;
- First ladies 1st division finalist – 2nd grade;
- JDP attracted nearly 100 girls and boys in its 6th season;
- 12 players played NL in the mens and women competition;
- 54 players achieved representative selection – 6 achieved selection in Australian squads Mens, Junior Men, Youth and Australian Schools.

Drummoyne WPC continues to focus on developing the juniors who are the future of this great club. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that we continue to provide a pathway for the talented juniors within the club ranks who aspire to play at the highest level just as it is important for us to provide players the opportunity to experience the unique culture that is known as Drummoyne Water Polo.

While our water polo program continues to improve the clubs cultural program continues to flourish and exceed all expectations. Drummoyne remains unchallenged in cultural affairs within the Australian water polo community. We were again well represented at the Manning Mug, Raymond Terrace and Wyong tournaments while other cultural events including the Wild West tour, Cans by Candlelight and Parliament House luncheon continue to raise our profile.

"A successful season for the juniors with the Under 16 girls winning a double, Under 18 boys and Under 14 girls runners up at the Australian club championships and under 20 boys 2nd in the Col Smee."

The great history of the club is something that we are constantly reminded of and we try to communicate to our members. It was fantastic to be able to recognise the contribution made by Brian Hamill at Parliament House when the club honoured him as the 10th Life Member of Drummoyne Water Polo Club. Thank you to our historian Robert Priest for all your work in preparing and updating the history of this great club.

Special thanks to our coaching staff especially Mens Club Coach Dalibor Maslan and Womens Club Coach Dave Hudson. Mens 1st Grade coach Ray Mayers, Under 16s coaches Allira Gofers-Hudson, Norbert Katona and Under 14s coach Chris McKay. A big thank you to all the coaches, managers, referees, helpers and the fun police who have

helped the club go forward.

With so many teams and programs there is a much greater demand at a technical, operational and administrative level. This workload needs to be spread amongst the members and friends of Drummoyne Water Polo Club. The club is fortunate to have a fantastic committee and strong core group of workers who support the efforts of the club and I thank you for this ongoing support.

"54 players achieved representative selection and 100s had a some great fun playing a great game."

It would be remiss of me not to publicly thank and mention a number of tireless workers who have put in an amazing number of hours to get the club to where it is today. Our Treasurer and girls coordinator Neale Murphy has been outstanding as has our Water Polo Director Andrew Murray. To James Brennan and his team thank you for another successful Parliament House luncheon where we managed to pack in almost 400 people. Without their unselfish contribution and relentless push we would not be where we are today. For Drummoyne to continue to flourish and achieve our goals, the workload needs to be spread among all members.

Financially we've had a successful year recording a \$17,400 profit to maintain a healthy bank balance. Thanks to our major sponsors Laing + Simmons Drummoyne, Empire Marinas and Aquatic Leisure Management, City of Canada Bay and other supporters of the club.

"6 players selected to play for Australian teams and 12 played National League."

The season ahead is another exciting period for Drummoyne Water Polo Club with our application for a National League 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 or on the new supporters deck.

Michael Hahn

Secretary

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the teams for their excellent results, especially the Under 16A girls on winning the NSW Championships and Sydney grand final. The Under 18 boys and Under 14 girls winning silver at the Australian Club Championships.

This is how we finished in each grade:

L2 – 4th

L3 – 4th

L4 – 5th

L5A – 2nd

L5B – 4th

LJA – Premiers

LJB – 3rd

LSJA – 3rd

LSJB – 6th

M1- 3rd

M2 – 2nd

M3 – 5th

M4 – 3rd

M5A – 3rd

M5B – 6th

M6A – 4th

M6B – 3rd

Under 20 – 2nd

MC – 2nd

MJ – 4th

MSJ – 4th

Representative selection as well for many of our players, including national honours for, Mitchell Emery, Tyler Martin, Aidan Roach and Adam Polivka in the Australian Youth team, while Grant Richardson has been selected to play for the Men's team and John Hahn in the Junior team. Congratulations to all club members on a great effort.

The fact that our club has had so much success at the junior level shows that the time and effort involved in the junior development program has been worthwhile - a credit to Patrick Baker and his team - awesome effort.

Thanks also to:

- The parents for all their support and assistance throughout the year;
- Our sponsors Laing + Simmons Drummoyne, Empire Marinas, City of Canada Bay and Aquatic Leisure Management - your support has been of great assistance;
- Coaches and team managers for their time and effort;
- Referees for performing a largely thankless task every week; and
- All the members, friends, family and supporters who had a hand in making this season such a successful one.

Finally, to my fellow committee members - thank you for all your hard work. The club is in a very positive position for the future. Our club is now the envy of all others in the Sydney region - time to take on the rest of the nation.

Sergio Casetta

Treasurer

For the financial year ending 30 April 2007 Drummoyne Water Polo Club made a profit of \$17,400. This is a strong result following a small loss last year of (\$6184), and a profit in 2004/05 of \$10,982 when the club held its previous Parliament House luncheon.

".....as a committee, with assistance from our membership, we need to create and maintain sources of recurring income streams, and there are some exciting ideas in the pipeline to generate revenue."

The profitable years have generally coincided with the holding of the Parliament House Luncheon and the group led by James Brennan who create and deliver this event are to be congratulated and thanked again for their great work. We look forward to the tradition continuing with PHL06 in February 2009!!

We've continued to grow as a club and financially our commitments have also increased dramatically. For example it was only a few years ago that we sent one boys Under 14 and girls/ boys Under 16 teams to the State Championships. We now send 3 Under 14, 3 Under 16, 2 Under 18 and 2 Under 20 teams to every State and National Championships, and don't the players and parents love that!!

Our revenues have been able to keep up with the ever increasing costs of NSWWP team and player registration fees, pool hire, coaching costs, equipment purchases and grants for trips. Additional revenue has been gained in sponsorship from Laing + Simmons Drummoyne and Empire Marinas (Drummoyne and Bobbin Head Marinas), the bar at the pool, the winter luncheon and the big one at Parliament House (PHL05), has seen us cover our costs.

"...financial year ending 30 April 2007 Drummoyne Water Polo Club made a profit of \$17,400."

Spending it is easy, making the money is the hard part, as a committee, with assistance from our membership, we need to create and maintain sources of recurring income streams, and there are some exciting ideas in the pipeline to generate revenue to supplement the annual August luncheon and the Parliament House lunch held every 2 years.

As we grow and aim higher and higher, the committee needs to keep a sharp eye on the finances, and the membership need to put up their hands to help.

Neale Murphy

Junior Development

Completing its 6th season the 2006-07 Junior Development Programme (JDP) saw almost 100 Girls & Boys ranging in ages from 10 to 14 years age developing basic water polo skills, having exposure to introductory game situations and having lots of fun along the way.

"Completing its 6th season, the 2006-07 Junior Development Programme (JDP) saw almost 100 Girls & Boys ranging in ages from 10 to 14 years age developing basic water polo skills."

The program has been very successful in preparing participants for their entry to the Under 14 age group for Sydney Metropolitan Competition, leading to individual and team representative success. This season saw over 70% of the boys and girls playing their initial season of competitive water polo in our Under 14s coming from the JDP.

The 10 week program commenced early November for the first 5 weeks. Following a break at Christmas, the program resumed in February for the remaining 5 weeks. This season, in response to many requests, we extended the duration and invited interested participants to continue Friday night sessions till 27th April. Many participants from the program are now competing in one of the four U14 teams entered in the Sydney Metro Winter Competition. We wish you continued improvement and success.

Drummoyne Water Polo Club will continue to improve the format and administration of the program. Following initial observation of our program, club coach Dalibor Maslan has provided much assistance and input this season which will also help develop the program looking towards 2007-08.

"Over 70% of the boys and girls playing their initial season of competitive water polo in our Under 14s coming from the JDP."

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed in all areas of the 2006 - 07 program. In particular, on pool deck, Wendy Stanton, Duncan Ritchie, Dave Hudson, Dalibor Maslan, Matt Fitzpatrick, Norbert Katona and our juniors especially Kate McGraw and Patrick Hahn whose support was invaluable. And upstairs, with administration and hospitality, thanks to Tracy Baxter, Peter McGraw, Neale Murphy and others who pitched in from week to week. Also, thanks to the executive committee, Michael Hahn, Neale Murphy and Dave Bushell for their assistance and input.

A special thank you to our sponsors Frank Colacicco and Tim Wieland and all the team at Laing + Simmons Drummoyne. Thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to everyone's continued involvement in the upcoming winter and summer competition.

Thanks & regards

Patrick Baker - Junior Development Coordinator

Operations & Social Report

Operations

"Our new entrance way & deck were completed which I'm sure everyone will enjoy."

The Club's growth has made the operational side of the Club all the more challenging. This year has seen the purchase of new equipment (balls & caps) as well as the continual upgrading & repair of timing equipment. Gym equipment & weight belts were also purchased this year to further aid our athletes.

Our new entrance way & deck were completed which I'm sure everyone will enjoy, if you haven't already enjoyed the deck. Some work needs to be done to finish the job with the installation of window grills and the general upgrade of security. Anyone within the Club's extended family who might be able to help contact Fraser on 0417063466.

A reminder to all club members that this equipment is highly sensitive so please take care when setting up/ putting away.

Social

"highlights were the Forgotten Century Lunch at Parliament House, which was a bit like Woodstock. i.e. if you remember it you probably weren't there."

This year we had a lot "great little nights". We didn't have any big parties, however Cans continues to attract a large crowd as did the Parliament House event. There was some great atmosphere at our Saturday Home Game Nights, shame about the bad run with the weather. With different themes on each occasion club members The Hardy Bros. & Macca played some cruisy tunes and a Hawaiian theme on another. As a bonus on some nights you even get live commentary from an esteemed team. It is an extremely enjoyable way to spend an evening watching top class polo in the best venue in Australia with a refreshment in hand.

Other highlights were Friday Night Junior Development, where a hardy bunch of new polo parents get all civilised with wine & cheese as they get acquainted, The Mundine/ Green Fight night, State of Origin on the big screen, our Winter Lunch at the clubhouse which is growing in reputation rapidly & The Forgotten Century Lunch at Parliament House, which was a bit like Woodstock. i.e. if you remember it you probably weren't there.

"A club our size that offers first class facilities, coaching & opportunities does not run on its own. It relies on people, people like you."

So as you can see, plenty of stuff happening at your Club. We have games and/or training at the Pool most nights of every week, so get involved & offer to help. A club our size that offers first class facilities, coaching & opportunities does not run on its own. It relies on people, people like you.

Fraser Foristal

Communications Manager

Communications to all the DWPC members is now a vital component in the day-to-day club operations. As the club continues to grow there is a need to effectively communicate to our members upcoming activities as well as our achievements.

"This year saw a significant shift to on-line communication. Benefits to the club are reduced costs and the members are informed in a timelier manner."

This year again saw a significant shift to on-line communications. There were several newsletters produced throughout the year and these were emailed, placed on the website and hard copies located in and around the clubroom and notice board. Benefits to the club are reduced costs and the members are informed in a timelier manner.

There are regular emails sent out to the players and members plus non-players who are interested in the clubs developments. The emails have also helped members of game information, point scores, social activities and any administration matters.

The website has again played an important role this year. This year teams have been able to go to their own page and find everything they need such as draws and results. The social calendar has also been a well-used feature this year.

As the club continues to grow it is important that all members remain in touch with the activities and developments that are occurring. To this end I thank all the members who have updated their details when any of their communication addresses have changed, please keep up the good work.

Paul Haynes

Under 16 Girls (LJA)

Coach:
ALLIRA GOFERS

Manager:
TRACEY MIRABITO

"The final in Wollongong was a blast and everyone left with a big grin of satisfaction after a tight opening half the Devils got out the flame thrower scorching their opponents with some scintillating play to come home strong."

What a team with the Drummoyne under 16s girls winning back to back titles defeating Cronulla 7-3 in the NSW Championships in Wollongong and backing up for a convincing 7 – 2 victory against Cronulla to win the Sydney premiership. In an action packed game Drummoyne girls won the clubs first Under 16 age title defeating defending champions Cronulla 3 – 1 at the NSW Under 16 Club Championship. The final in Wollongong was a blast and everyone left with a big grin of satisfaction after a tight opening half the Devils got out the flame thrower scorching their opponents with some scintillating play to come home strong. Player depth across the pool 1 to 10 and sound defence won the game, congratulations girls.

Congratulations Allira, Dave and all the girls. Congratulations girls you are all winners and well done to Ellen Pittorino for winning the MVP title at the NSW National championships. You should all be proud of yourselves for your fantastic achievements this year.

The team in cap order, Serena Reid, Ellen Pittorino, Simone Piper, Kate McGraw, Dani White, Elise Mirabito, Demi Pandol, Devon Boyle, Gen Fogarty and Kate Murphy.

CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS, WEAR THOSE SHIRTS WITH PRIDE!!



Mens 1st Grade (M1)

Coach:
RAY MAYERS

Manager:
MICHAEL HAHN

Grant Richardson, Jay Miller, Juan Ramirez and John Hahn were joined by the ever increasing stock of Drummoyne juniors. Tyler Martin, Aidan Roach and Mitch Emery joined new recruits Gavin Aubrey, Billy Miller, Dalibor Maslan and Dean Semmens providing a formidable line-up.

With Ray Mayer back on deck as 1st grade coach we almost knocked off the defending premiers, who eventually retained their title. After finishing 3rd in the minor premierships we needed to defeat the students for a shot at the title. Sydney University scored a killer goal to tie the scores with seconds remaining in the Preliminary Final. Oh so close, losing a penalty shootout prevented Drummoyne from a shot at the 1st grade title.

"Oh so close, losing a penalty shootout prevented Drummoyne from a shot at the 1st grade title."

Sydney Uni scored in the first period of extra time and Dean Semmens scored his third goal to send the game into a penalty shootout with a 6-6 scoreline after extra time. It was a courageous effort by the Drummoyne boys who were behind 0-2 midway through the 2nd quarter when Gavin Aubrey slotted one in from outside to open the scoring for the Devils. Aidan Roach scored an off extra man before Jay Miller and Dean Semmens scored a couple of centre forward goals to give Drummoyne a 4-2 lead going into the final quarter. A penalty goal and extra man goal to Sydney Uni levelled the scores before Drummoyne coach Ray Mayers called a timeout with 45 seconds remaining and Uni a man down. Drummoyne used the full possession and Dean Semmens put Drummoyne ahead 5-4 with 23 seconds remaining. The rest is history.

A good pre season provided a solid platform for the opening games of the 1st grade competition. The experienced players in the Drummoyne roster provided our juniors a great opportunity to develop their skills in their home pool. The improvement was evident with a number of Drummoyne players called up to the Balmain National League squad.

While not securing the premiership the season provided a number of our players the opportunity to experience the sport at the highest level. Congratulations to everyone on a solid season. Well done boys. Onwards and upwards.

Mens 2nd Grade (M2)

Coach:
RAY MAYERS

Manager:
CRAIG SCOTT

In their 3rd consecutive grand final the defending premiers led by 2 going into the final quarter against Wests who Drummoyne had split their games with during the season. Unfortunately Wests came home stronger to score in the final minute and held on to win 6 – 5 in another thriller.

It was a great effort to reach their 3rd consecutive grand final after finishing the season as minor premiers. The team was a good mix of juniors with senior experience.

Well done Ray Mayer who is returning to Queensland after 2 seasons with the club has had a very positive influence on our juniors and developed a great program which achieved consecutive grand finals and a premiership.

Mens 3rd Grade (M3)

Coach:
DALIBOR MASLAN

Manager:
CRAIG SCOTT

After a promising start to the season we fell away in the middle of the competition losing too many close games but were still a chance to make the semis going into the final round. We got the win we needed against Sydney Uni but unfortunately SNB had a draw against the eventual premiers Wests to snatch 4th spot finishing a point ahead on table.

With 5 wins in the competition and too many games where we lost by a margin of 1 or 2 goals our inconsistency and too many unforced errors at crucial times was difference.

It was great to see so many juniors coming into the 1st division ranks and the experience playing at this level and working with Dalibor is invaluable. Onwards and upwards next season boys.

Mens 4th Grade (M4)

"...M4's finished 1st 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..."

This season M4's finished 1st 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. M4's played Parramatta in the major semi final, losing to a well drilled counter attack. M4's then faced Cronulla in the Final, which was a tight game that was there for the taking. Unfortunately with 2 of our regular players away for work leaving us with only one regular player on the bench and our conversion rate on extra man letting us down, we went down to Cronulla 8-9.

It was disappointing to take out the minor premiership and then not go onto win the competition, another flag that slipped away from us in the finals

This season M4's coached themselves with only 10 players for the season, struggled for numbers in the 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.

Mark Simpson – Manager

Mens 5th Grade A (M5A)

"M5 provided the appropriate grooming for many young up and coming potential talents with Bradley Parker, Tom and Will Messervy and Graham Purcell all showing promise as the season went on."

M5's finished on top of the table at the end of the rounds, qualifying automatically for the final. This season saw a side that was well balanced with a good mix of young juniors, new faces and some seasoned veterans contributing in attack and defence. The side was blessed with the talents of Roy Katona from Hungary with an influx of enthusiast and talented new and old recruits, namely Damo, Ollie, Tim and Murray. Again, M5 provided the appropriate grooming for many young up and coming potential talents with Bradley Parker, Tom and Will Messervy and Graham Purcell all showing promise as the season went on. Many thanks to our perpetual veterans – Trev, Angelo and Cavehead, outlining to everybody that age is no barrier. Our consistent defence, patience and all swimming attack made us clear favourites for the title. Unfortunately on the night, it wasn't to be, going down in the final 7-6. We were clearly the better team on the night, however the lack of extra man conversion (1 from 9) was the telling factor with very crucial misses by yours truly probably deciding our fate.

A big thank you must go to Damo for his tireless texting in ensuring we had the numbers on each game night along with all the time consuming tasks that come with managing a team.

Finally, one of the most pleasing aspects of the season was the camaraderie and mateship that the players had for each other throughout the season.

Thanks guys for a most enjoyable season.

Andrew Murray – Manager

Mens 5th Grade B (M5B)

"Alas, commitment & consistency was our greatest hurdle this year again. Too many times we were scratching for players on Tuesday afternoon. ..."

In a team boasting the silky skills & experience of the likes of Serge Gonzales & James (or is it Jamie, now he's had a rinse though his sparse hair) Brennan, the M5Bs really should have figured high in the reckoning come finals time. Alas, commitment & consistency was our greatest hurdle this year again. Too many times we were scratching for players on Tuesday afternoon.

M5 is still a reasonable standard, & we were competitive, beating second placed Wizards & losing only by one to third placed Balmain, but these results were achieved with a full card & players like Serge, Bub, Cocko, Scott Creelman & Roo on deck. Unfortunately due to a number of reasons, we could only get this team in the water on the odd

occasion.

Gentlemen, please consider your desired availability before putting your hand up next year.

Some highlights; Darren Spooner answering a late call-up arrives at the pool in full reconnaissance mode, lying low to check out the opposition in case his new identity as Cocko is blown, only to jump in the water & emerge right in front of an old mate who he hasn't seen for twenty years." DARREN SPOONER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE' he yells. Great work Sarge.

Also great to see the Spook hit the water for our last game, alongside Blake Sullivan, who we'd flown in still wet from his game at Drummoyne just to make up the numbers, but don't get me started.....

The team consisted of (at times); Kerry Sunderland, James Brennan, Serge Gonzales, Luke Eddington, Scott Creelman, Steve Simpson, Richard Yared, Ted Churchyard, Pat Baker, James Tuite, Loui Lombardo, Chris Pinto, Lachlan Fogarty, Jamie Boyd & Fraser Foristal plus a number of guests.

Thanks guys for a most enjoyable season.

Fraser Foristal aka Team Organiser

Mens 6th Grade A (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.

"Unfortunately the cream turned sour and our finals appearance was not the desired outcome. No more team talks!"

Under 14 Boys (MSJ)

Coach:
CHRIS MCKAY

Manager:
HELEN SLATER

"The boys forced their way into the semi-finals managing to end the season with a very creditable fourth place overall."

Having come into the competition with a relatively inexperienced team, the boys developed remarkably quickly, and achieved some tremendous results even early in the season. With some of the other teams also showing strong improvements, we were able to keep pace and force our way into the semi-finals of the competition. A hard-fought semi, including extra time and penalty shots didn't go our way, with the boys managing to end the season with a very creditable fourth place overall.

Yes I know we lost an exciting semi final in a penalty shoot out but would have been the winner if a NSWPI official had informed the referees of the correct procedure in case of a draw.

The boys had a fantastic time at the under 14 Club Championships at Taree, coming seventh overall. Four of our team were chosen in the State U14 squad (Jack Corry, Ryan Marnell, Patrick Long and Josh Hayward), and a further four chosen for the under 13 development squad (Luke Hayward, Jack Slater, Mitchell Holden and Jack Brooks) with plenty of boys unlucky to miss out.

A special thanks to both Chris McKay and Michael Hahn both for their dedication to the team, and their abilities in making sure the boys enjoyed themselves. The hard work they put in with the team allowed us to improve out of sight throughout the year.

As a Manager, I can truthfully say that the boys and parents were a great group to deal with all year, with many people pitching in to help make things easy. All the parents chipped in doing the card every week and a special thank you to Caroline Marnell for organising the catering at Taree.

Helen Slater - Manager

Under 16 Boys (MJ)

Coach:
NORBERT KATONA

Manager:
JENNY SHAW

After a disruptive start to the season with coaches and player availability the Under 16 boys settled in well under the direction of new coach Norbert Katona to qualify for the finals. Unfortunately not all players were available for the semi final and we went down by a goal to Sydney University in a closely fought game resulting in Drummoyne coming fourth overall in the competition.

Chad Watkinson and Kevin Walsh were joined by a couple of new players to the club Adam Polivka and Shuhei Watanabe to give the team some a solid foundation of senior

"Throughout the season all the players have been enthusiastic, trained extremely hard and everyone improved as a result of their hard efforts."

players in the age group. The experience and skills of these senior players coupled with a core group of players in their 1st year gave us a well balanced team. Throughout the season all the players have been enthusiastic, trained extremely hard and everyone improved as a result of their hard efforts.

Norbert Katona provided the boys with a good insight as the type and amount of work required to compete in this age group and the work required to remain competitive. All the players responded to Norby's sessions and all worked extremely hard during the training sessions and although not all players have had equal pool time during the games each have provided invaluable input to the team.

Congratulations to everyone for a great season and well done to those boys selected in the NSW under 16 squad.

A big thank you to all the parents and supporters who helped out on the table every week, referees and the coaching staff for their direction. We look forward to another enjoyable and competitive winter season and summer season for the under 16s.

Jenny Shaw - Manager

Under 18 Boys (MC)

Coach:
DALIBOR MASLAN

Manager:
CRAIG SCOTT

"The work ethic and commitment was a credit to every boy and their support network (thanks parents) in this team."

An exciting and entertaining Sydney grand final was the reward for the under 18s whose improved fitness under the direction of Dalibor Maslan was a key to their success. After a convincing win against Cronulla in the Sydney final our inexperience allowed Hunter to take control of the grand final after a close opening half. Off to Hobart hoping to go one better but not to be. The silver medal finish for Drummoyne was the clubs first medal success for boys at a national tournament. We learnt a lot from the experience of working with Dalibor and Norbi and the improved performance by this team, who have been together since the under 14s, was unbelievable.

The work ethic and commitment was a credit to every boy and their support network (thanks parents) in this team. The will to work hard has already paid dividends with every player in the 18s showing a dramatic improvement in their skill level and discipline resulting in some great results in Hobart. Congratulations to all players in the under 18s whose work as a team saw them make the Sydney and National final Congratulations also to Tyler, AJ, Mitch and Adam from all the 18s.

A big thank you to Craig Scott for your tireless efforts and "Craig's Angels" Kerry, Traeacey, Cathy, Lynn, Pam, Megan and Randall for making sure we always had someone keeping an eye on the timekeepers. Well done 18s.

Ladies 2nd Grade (L2)

Coach:
DAVE HUDSON

Congratulations girls a great effort to qualify for the semis in only our second season in 1st Division. Up against St George we fought back from 3 – 1 down to square it at 4 all at ¾ time but we went scoreless in the final quarter to lose by 2 goals.

A fantastic year girls to come in 4th with a young team, remember last season we lost 17 from 19!! Bring on next year.

Ladies 3rd Grade (L3)

Coach:
DAVE HUDSON

Another semi final where we lost by 2 goals to SNB. The 3rd grade ladies continue to improve and with the injection of the enthusiastic juniors we are building up a strong talented pool of players who will be instrumental in taking the club forward.

Next year is the time for the 3rd grade team to step up and become title contenders, with a strong base of players plus a good mix of youth and experience, next year Drummoyne L3 should be title contenders.

Ladies 4th Grade (L4)

Coach:
DAVE HUDSON

A very convincing display to finish off the season in 5th spot with a strong win over Sydney Uni. We had an up and down season but our inconsistency and inability to convert the close games proved costly.

Ladies 5th Grade A (L5A)

"they were always competitive and showed the Drummoyne spirit."

L5A had another strong and enjoyable season with a mix of old and new, and young and young at heart. It's our 4th year running in finals contention and our second time in the Grand Final. Unfortunately this year we lost 3-0 to Balmain during cold, windy, non grand final conditions at Parramatta. We managed to keep them scoreless in the second half but just could not get the ball over the line. This sums up our season - we had the best defensive record in the comp but were hampered by a poor conversion rate in attack. Yes, training would help - but that requires space in the pool!

A crew from L5A - and some purely polo playing ring ins from L5B - represented Drummoyne in outstanding style at the Raymond Terrace carnival again in February this year. Super costumes translated to super powers in the pool and we won an unheard of three games on the Saturday. This posed a problem to our Sunday touring schedule but we still turned in one game of highly entertaining polo as our Sunday morning finale. Tsunami made a splash; we literally "flew" around the pub crawl; and

Catherine Hill Bay regulars marveled at the super human efforts on the Sunday dance floor. Tunny and Geezer and "Wonderful" tour uniforms made this an outstanding Drummoyne ladies tour. Well done girls!

Jill Reid - Manager

Ladies 5th Grade B (L5B)

"While coming to grips with their playing style and team tactics the 5Bs had a slow start to the season but came home with a wet sail."

The club welcomed 10 girls from Macquarie Uni who made the big move over to Drummoyne and were joined by 5 existing Drummoyne girls to form a new team – L5B. While coming to grips with their playing style and team tactics the 5Bs had a slow start to the season but came home with a wet sail. Some gutsy performances later on helped us secure 4th spot and a place in the semis. Our finals dreams were not to be, but we were proud of our performance and how we all improved both individually and as a team.

Well done to Rebecca Prentis for being voted MVP for the season and also being the 4th top goal scorer for the grade. Thank you to the entire team: Alex, Alicia, Amy, Bec, Erin, Fiona, Hayley, Jackie, Kate, Kristie, Lizzie, Natalie, Sacha and Sara for making summer 06-07 an enjoyable and rewarding season. Thank you to all of Drummoyne Water Polo Club, especially Neale Murphy for welcoming the new team members to the DWPC community.

Rock on Winter 07 season, we are currently top of the table, undefeated and... looking forward to playing the A team in the Grand Final.

Amy Stevens Jones - Manager

Under 18 Girls (LC)

Coach:
DAVE HUDSON

Manager:
DENISE WHITE

A strong performance in Hobart where we had a great chance to grab bronze plus losing the minor semi final in Sydney to the eventual grand finalists was a solid performance for the club in its first ever season in the under 18 competition.

The foundation and experience of the senior players Nicola and Kiara blended with the youthful enthusiasm of the team provided the opposition with plenty to worry about and the Drummoyne girls an opportunity to experience playing against Australian and National League players.

Under 16B Girls (LJB)

Coach:
DAVE HUDSON

A great result to finish the season as undefeated minor premiers. Unfortunately we didn't finish it off with consecutive finals losses to Blue Mountains and SNB who went on to win the grand final.

Yes its gut wrenching to think back on what could have been but it is all part of the learning experience. Plenty of that this year with a great tournament at the NSW Championships where we entered 2 teams in the Unders for the first time.

Under 14A Girls (LSJA)

Coach:
DAVE HUDSON

Manager:
TRAECEY FREE

With big shoes to fill the under 14s developed their skills and played with plenty of promise to finish 3rd in the Sydney competition and NSW Championships losing both to our nemesis SNB.

Onwards and upwards as our great leader would say we headed off to the Australian Club Championships quietly confident as were our opposition with slightly more volume.

We went about our work and raised some eyebrows with a convincing win against the might of the west, Melville. Draws against SNB and Sunshine Coast left the girls top of their pool. A convincing semi final win against Brisbane Barracudas saw the girls qualify to play Cronulla in the grand final where we secured a silver medal.

Well done girls a great season with a very strong finish.

Under 14B Girls (LSJB)

Coach:
NEALE MURPHY

A rookie season for all but plenty of promise. With five sensational victories in the Sydney competition there are plenty of good prospects in this team.

The highlight of the season was at the NSW Championships where we had a barnstorming finish, kept the opposition scoreless, with a convincing win and guest coach on pool deck. What an effort, what a finish!!

Drummoyne Water Polo History

Prepared by Robert Priest

Soon after I started playing Water Polo with the Balmain Club in the early 70's, my mates at school (who were playing for Drummoyne) regaled me with stories of a European wonder that blew into town a few years before and tore the Sydney Water Polo Competition apart. I must admit, when I first heard these tales (Bub Brennan especially loved to spin this yarn whenever the opportunity arose) I thought it was an urban myth but I was later to discover that it was far from that.

"Was he the son of the council gardener who while working in Brett Park wandered over and politely asked if he could get a game? Or was he secretly recruited by the cunning committee then in charge of the Drummoyne Club?"

So who was Mirko SANDIC and what the hell did he have to do with Drummoyne Water Polo Club?

Mirko was a Yugoslavian National player who played in four Olympic Games winning Gold in Mexico City in 1968. Born in Belgrade in 1942 he represented his country no less than 235 times. He stood over 2 metres tall and weighed 120kgs yet could still swim 100m in 58 secs with his head out. Apart from his Olympic representations, Mirko won numerous European competitions and was as well known in his homeland as Ian Thorpe or Dougie Walters is here. But finest amongst his credentials is the one season he played for Drummoyne during his vacation here in 1968.

THE TRUTH REVEALED

Was he the son of the council gardener who while working in Brett Park wandered over and politely asked if he could get a game? Or was he secretly recruited by the cunning committee then in charge of the Drummoyne Club?

Peter Montgomery recently wrote an article for the National Water Polo News and alluded to how Mirko came to play for Drummoyne and he came close to getting it right. But a recent conversation with Brian Hamill, finally uncovers the truth behind the urban legend.

The following is an excerpt of a conversation I (Robert Priest - LRP) had with Life Member Brian Hamill earlier this year:

BH his father-in-law, Carl, lived down at Meadowbank and he actually was a barber in Meadowbank but he finished up down at White Bay there, opposite the pub there was a little shop and that was a barber shop and that was his barber shop and I used to go there and he and I would get on...we were good friends...and he said "How's the Water Polo going?" so I said yeah and talked about it and he said "My son-in-law is Water Polo player." And I said "Oh

yeah. Who with?" and he said "For Yugoslavia." And I thought that was interesting...anyway we would just chitter chatter on and about three years later he said "My son-in-law is coming out for a holiday to stay at my place." And I said "Does he want to play Water Polo?" "I'll ask him" he says. Anyway the day he arrived from Yugoslavia it was a Tuesday night and we were playing at Balmain pool and I went over to pick him up and I said "Are you set Mirko?"...and that was the first time I had met him....."yep, yep, yep" We were walking out the door and I says "Hang on. Where's your towel? Where's your swimmers?"...."I need towel? I need swimmers?" I said "Yeah. You've got to bring your own gear." "Oooooohhhh....so". So anyway he went back inside and he got a towel and a pair of swimmers..

LRP He thought he was going to be supplied with all of this?

BH Yeah...and down we went to Balmain pool and we lined up at the turnstiles going through and I said "I'll pay for you Mirko."....."PAY?...pay?"...anyway we went in and it was Bronte we were playing and Donny Sarkis was in goals...and there were a couple of blokes in the Drummoyne team who weren't very happy about having Mirko just lob up, never been to a training program, we didn't know how good he was, and I said "Just trust me." Anyway we got in and he got the ball about half way and went 'Zang' and he popped the ball into the top right hand corner. Donny Sarkis just couldn't believe it and they started to protest.."Where did he come from? He's not a registered player" Fortunately we had all the paperwork done...well I think he scored probably about four goals that night...

And so Mirko played the rest of the season taking Drummoyne through to the Finals. Unfortunately his visa ran out and Mirko had to return home and Drummoyne failed to progress further. Brian went on to say that during the few months Mirko played with Drummoyne it created some resentment within the Sydney Water Polo circles. At the time Brian attempted to have Mirko assist the NSW officials in the preparation of their representative teams but they were not interested then nor were they during future visits as acknowledged by Mark Persi in his annual report of the 1976-77 season.

The truth is that it was just blind luck that Mirko came to play with Drummoyne, but by all accounts he did enjoy his time here and he enjoyed the company of gentlemen who played the game just for the pleasure of it and who formed a true 'club' atmosphere. It is worthy to note that when Mirko started plying water polo in 1956, his home club, Partizan, was a second division club, much like Drummoyne was during his 'career' here.

Robert Priest - Historian

Award Winners 2006 - 2007

	MVP	MOST IMPROVED
Under 14A Girls	Morgan Baxter	Jess Warwick
Under 14 B Girls	Alex Cook	Bridhe Woods
Under 16A Girls	Elise Mirabito	Ellen Pittorino
Under 16B Girls	Rebecca Meyer	Amy Pittorino
Under 14 Boys	Jack Slater	James Clark
Under 16 Boys	Adam Polivka	Bradley Parker
Under 18 Boys	Aidan Roach	Daniel Corry
Ladies 2nd Grade	Allira Gofers	Dani White
Ladies 3rd Grade	Fiona McGinty	Ladies – Sunday
Ladies 4th Grade	Becky Coy	Kate Murphy
Ladies 5th Grade A	Catherine Eldering	
Ladies 5th Grade B	Bec Prentis	
Mens 1st Grade	John Hahn	Most Improved
Mens 2nd Grade	Tyler Martin	Mens 1st Division
Mens 3rd Grade	Robert Hahn	Mitchell Emery
Mens 4th Grade	Jonty Hardy	Most Improved
Mens 5th Grade	Ollie Fitschen	Mens 2nd Division
Mens 6th Grade A	Evan Christodoulou	Patrick Hahn
Mens 6th Grade B	Matthew Fitzpatrick	

Michael Corry – Clubman of the Year Craig Scott

Representative Honours 2006 - 2007

"Well done, a fantastic effort and a just reward for the dedication, commitment and determination each of you have shown over the year. The Club is extremely proud of your achievements."

Under 13 Development Squad

Kelsey Baxter
Jack Brooks
Ellen Hahn
Luke Hayward
Mitchell Holden
Jade McLennan
Isabella Mercuri
Jack Slater
Helena Tsirekas
Maddie Wilson

Under 16 NSW Squad

Devon Boyle
Genevieve Fogarty
Patrick Hahn
Elise Mirabito
Tom Messervy
Ellen Pittorino
Simone Piper
Adam Polivka
Serena Reid
Dani White
Shuhei Watanabe
Chad Watkinson

NSW CHS Under 15

Rachel Horton
Oskar Johansson
Eva Leone
Brad Parker
Blake Watkinson
Dani White

NSW CHS

Tyler Martin
Mitchell Emery
Adam Polivka
Dani White

NSW Schools

Mitchell Emery
Robert Hahn (Reserve)
Tyler Martin
Serena Reid
Aidan Roach

Australian Schools

Mitchell Emery
Tyler Martin (Reserve)
Aidan Roach

Under 14 NSW Squad

Morgan Baxter
Jack Corry
Jessica Dill Macky
Nathalie Jones
Alana Jones
Josh Hayward
Eva Leone
Pat Long
Ryan Marnell
Shannan Martin
Jack Slater
Jess Warwick

NSW CIS

Sarah Dill Macky
Jess Dill Macky
Genevieve Fogarty
Patrick Hahn
Robert Hahn
Elise Mirabito
Tom Messervy
Nicola Murphy
Simone Piper
Aidan Roach
Kiara Salmon
Belinda White

NSW CCC

Ashley Boyle
Devon Boyle
Kate McGraw
Robbie Menzies
Demi Pandol
Ellen Pittorino
Serena Reid
Johanna Tibbertsma

NSW Under 20

John Hahn

Australian Youth

Mitchell Emery
Tyler Martin
Adam Polivka
Aidan Roach

Australian Under 20

John Hahn

Australian Senior

Grant Richardson

Team Statistics 2006 - 2007

2006-07 LADIES 124 WINS & DRAWS - 65 LOSSES - 66%

	Vs.	Result	Played	W	D	L	Position	Scorers
L2	ST GEORGE	LOST 6 – 4	15	8	1	6	4th	Qualified for minor semi final against St George. Fought back from 3 – 1 to square it at 4 all at ¾ time, but couldn't score in the last qtr. 2 goals to Lauren, 1 each to Nic & Allira. A fantastic year girls to come in 4 th with a young team, remember last season we lost 17 from 19!! Bring on next year.
L3	SNB	LOST 8 – 6	18	11	-	8	4th	Lost semi to SNB
L4	SYD UNI	WON 11 – 2	18	9	1	8	5th	A very convincing display to finish off the season in 5 th spot, 4 to Morgan, 2 each to Sarah C & Nathalie, 1 to Wendy, Alandra & Lyndal, a couple of close losses during the year with a poor turn up, have cost us a semi spot.
L5A	BALMAIN	LOST 3 – 0	23	19	1	3	2nd	Lost grand final 3-0 to Balmain after being down this same score at half time..
L5B	ST GEORGE	LOST 6 – 1	19	9	1	9	4th	Lost minor semi final
18	UNSW	LOST 7 – 3	18	7	1	10	4th	Lost minor semi t eventual GF losers
16A	CRONULLA	WON 7 – 2	23	19	3	1	1st	Won double defeating Cronulla at State Championships and convincing grand final winners
16B	SNB	LOST 9 – 5	20	18	-	2	3rd	Good performers at NSW championships. Undefeated minor premiers lost to BM in semi and SNB in the final for only losses of the season
14A	SNB	LOST 8 – 7	20	13	-	7	3rd	Bronze medals at NSW champs and Sydney comp behind SNB and Cronulla. Saved their best for their final tournament to finish 2 nd at Australian Under 14 Champs losing final to Cronulla.
14B	CRONULLA BLACK	LOST 6 – 2	17	5	1	11	5th	A rookie season for all but plenty of promise.
		TOTAL	189	115	9	65		

2006-07 MENS 109 WINS & DRAWS - 62 LOSSES - 64%

	Vs.	Result	Played	W	D	L	Pos	Comment
M1	SYD UNI	6 - 6	11	4	2	5	3 rd	Season completed finishing in 3 rd spot, up one position on last season. 5 all at full time and 6 all after extra time. Syd Uni won penalty shoot out after snatching draw in final seconds of the game.
M2	WESTS	LOST 5 - 6	13	7	1	5	2 nd	Defending premiers. Led by 2 going into the final quarter.
M3	SYD UNI	WON 7 - 6	15	5	1	9	5 th	We got the win that we needed, unfortunately SNB snatched a draw to retain 4 th spot finishing a point ahead on table. Scorers Adam & Norbert 2 each, Gergely, Robert & Chad 1 each.
M4	CRONULLA	LOST 8 - 9	19	13	2	4	3 rd	Minor premiers but went 0 and 2 in the finals.
M5A	WESTS	LOST 6 - 5	18	15	1	2	3 rd	Minor premiers lost 2 nd game of the season to Wests in the playoffs.
M5B	BALMAIN	LOST 7 - 3	15	7	0	8	4 th	Missed finals
M6A	SNB	LOST 2 - 9	17	8	2	7	3 rd	Lost semi final
M6B	CRONULLA	LOST 6 -10	17	9	2	6	3 rd	Defeated Parra in semi but lost to premiership favourites in final
U/18	HUNTER	LOST 6 - 11	15	10	1	4	2 nd	Great effort against National champions
U/16	SYD UNI	LOST 8 - 9	17	8	2	7	4 th	2 starters away at school camp and we almost pulled it off.
U/14	SYD UNI	LOST 6 - 6	14	7	2	5	4 th	Should have been in the final if they played the semis under the right rules.
		TOTAL	171	93	16	62		63.4% won or drawn

Financials 2006 - 2007