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# THE DEVILS DISH



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## New Year New Board

*Introducing 2016 Board of Directors*

The 2015 AGM seen a majority change in our board of directors with only 4 of the 9 returning for another year. This opened the board up to some new and fresh faces. So far the board have been very proactive in improving our club. Updates and improvements have been made to the club, including updating our function napery to increase our appeal, updating our till system, re arrangement of the bar layout to make it more user friendly work area, replacement of unsuitable equipment, finishing external projects and planting a new garden.

### What's to come in 2016

2016 is a big year for the club. We will be celebrating our 125th anniversary of Rugby. The Board of Directors and their sub committees are busy planning social events to celebrate this mile stone. The main event will be a ball to be held on 7th May 2016. We are also planning commemorative events to be held throughout the year. To be kept informed of these events please ensure you are a current member and we have your contact details.

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## A letter from the President

I am honoured to be president this coming season in our 125th year. I call on all our current and old members and sponsors to come and get behind us and join us in having a wonderful year on and off the field.

We are looking forward to your support and together with that one common goal and some hard work and commitment on and off the field all looks good for an exciting and successful season ahead.

As most of you know me, I would like to think if there was anything you may think we could do better in improving on how we do things at YOUR club please feel free to come and let us know. We can't act on things if we don't know about them.

I would like to think we can get people coming to the club as it is your club and want people to come and enjoy the fun family atmosphere. We want you to come to the footy because you want to not because you feel obligated.

We have a great new committee with several new faces who already have been heavily involved in preparation for the upcoming season and are committed to making sure 2016 is a great season for Gunnedah Rugby Club.

We will need many hands on deck throughout the year to make things run well, so please I'm asking you, if you can help in any way please call us. We would be thrilled to have you involved and helping us throughout the season.

In closing let's all work as a team and make 2016 a season this mighty Gunnedah Rugby Club will remember for a long time. Let's get behind our great new coaching team and support the boys to bring these trophies to Gunnedah Rugby in 2016.

Bruce Hockings  
President

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## Meet the Board

### ***Returning Members:***

#### **President: Bruce Hockings**

I'm sure you all know Bruce. He started playing for the club in 1981. Over the last 35 years he has supported and played for the club (with a few little breaks in between) the last game he played for the club was in the final last year. He is hoping to be able to return to the field this year. As the current president he would like to see club return to some old fashion values and building on our family atmosphere. This year Bruce is most looking forward to welcoming both new and returning members to help celebrate our 125th year. Culminating in the ball being held in May.

#### **Vice President: Sam Leys**

Sam is local boy who has spent his life in the region. Originally working the family farm he has since moved into agribusiness. Sam became involved in the club when his sons started to play the sport, starting as volunteer and becoming a board member in 2009. This will be Sam's fifth year on the board; as well he has acted as team manager for the last two seasons. Sam loves being involved in the Gunnedah Rugby Club and is really looking forward to this coming season. He feels that our 125<sup>th</sup> year will be one of the best yet.

#### **Director: John Waugh**

John a born and bred Gunnedah boy has been involved with the club for the last 9 years. Having played a few years of juniors he returned after uni in 2007. After a few years he disappeared again but returned when he took over the Robinson Grain office as a Grain trader. He has always been fond of the club, it's members and has enjoyed watching the quality of rugby increase during this time. With the 2016 season currently about to kick off he is most looking forward to the camaraderie of the club, the start of games and the eventual winning of the GF. Obviously being the 125 year celebration, he can't wait for the ball, and with a relatively new board and coaching staff he sees a lot of enthusiasm to see the club do well.

#### **Director: Lincoln Stewart**

Lincoln first joined the club at 5 years of age as a junior player. He has played for the club since then (with a small absence due to school). He has now played senior rugby for the club for 9 years. Lincoln joined the board in 2011 and for the last 5 years has helped the club in many ways. This year he is most looking forward to having fresh faces joining the club and pushing towards a grand final victory.

### ***New Members:***

#### **Director: Ian McArthur**

Ian moved to Emerald Hill from Bulahdelah 22 years ago to run the family farm. Over a 15 year period they increased their holding to almost 4000Acres running a Stud cattle and cropping operation. Seven years ago Ian changed his role in agriculture and became the Real Estate Rural salesperson at Elders where he continues to work. He was involved with the junior rugby for 9 years in the coaching and management roles. This is Ian's first year on the board which he is looking forward to, along with committing to his positions for the 125year celebration.

#### **Director: Josh Leys**

Josh is a local boy who started playing rugby at the age of 15. He has loved both the game and the club since. He has volunteered many hours to club and helped in various ways over the years. This is Josh's first year on the Board and he feels very honoured to be able to be part of 125 year commemorations. He is most looking forward to welcoming many returning and new faces to the club to celebrate this milestone.

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*We would like to thank our reserve grade sponsor for their continued support into the 2016 season*



**Director: Josh Launders**

Josh was born and bred in Sydney. He has spent his entire sporting life playing Rugby League, originally in Sydney and then for Gunnedah after making a move to the country about 5 years ago after completing University. Josh made the decision to convert to Rugby 3 seasons ago. The love for the people he plays with, the spectators and the family friendly environment that is offered at GRC has been unsurpassed in any club he has played for and will see him spend many more future years with the club. Josh is looking forward to assisting with coaching and sharing his League skills, passion and determination to see reserve grade prosper and finally clinch a top tier finals spot which they have proved they deserve. Being relatively new to the club Josh feels lucky and excited to be playing in the 125th year of Gunnedah Rugby and is hoping everyone gets behind the club and makes this year a memorable and successful one.

**Director: Alex Costello**

Alex is originally from North Queensland, he moved to Gunnedah in 2010 after marrying a local girl. Alex is now a drill operator for WHC and has been a playing member of the club since 2011. Alex started playing Rugby in 1997 and for the last 19 years it has been an integral part of his life. This year he will be hanging up his boots and taking on a training roll as the coach of our reserve grade. This year he is most looking forward to combining rugby and socializing with his mates. He feels that coaching our reserve grade to victory will be both challenging and immensely rewarding.

**Director: Shane Lutze**

Shane was born in Canberra where he played soccer as a goalkeeper for most of his younger life. In 2008 he moved to Wollongong for study, it didn't take long for his new mates to convince him to play rugby. From that point onwards he has had a passion, bordering on obsession, for the game. Shane moved to Gunnedah in 2014 with his wife Bridget and is working as a Mechanical Engineer at WHC. This year is Shane's first year on the board and he is looking forward to the 125th year of rugby in Gunnedah, working with an enthusiastic and motivated group off the field and having a big year on it.

*We would like to welcome our new Major Sponsor Lambert & Torrens.*

Lambert & Torrens was established in 1947. The local business specialises in pump and irrigation equipment.



## A BIG THANKS

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who turned up to help at our working bee last month. The club is looking a lot tidier thanks to your efforts.

A special mention to John Perkins, without your help throughout the year the club and especially the grounds would not be what they are.

Thank you to the following:

- John Perkins
- Don Howarth
- Al Schillert
- Mick Hennessy
- Mick Herden
- Gus Shaw
- Malcolm Heath
- Warren Barwick
- Paul Sheedy
- Brad Smith
- Bruce Herdigan
- Sam Leys
- Josh Leys
- Matt Roseby
- Stuart Morrision
- Sam Michelson
- Ian McArthur
- Alex Costello
- Simon Thurbon
- Murray O'Keefe

## The Gate

We would like to thank all the girls from P.R.A.M.S who have been manning the gate for us for the last few years.

This year we have decided to take back the responsibility of manning the gate in an effort to reduce our spending.

We are calling on members to help us in this and volunteer for one home game that they would be available.

## Memorial Wall

Michael Hennessy is organising a memorial wall for the Club House. Anyone who would like further information or who would like to place a plaque in remembrance of a loved one should call Michael Hennessy on 0427 005 952

## JOIN US.

### *Players:*

If you would like to play for the club in the 2016 season our training sessions have started. We train Monday's & Thursday's at the club, starting at 7pm. We are always looking for new players and would love to meet any fellow rugby enthusiasts or those who want to try something different and give it a go. If you have any questions please contact Jason Waerea on 0455 097 533 (coach) or Dan Martin on 0438 294 682 (manager) or any of the board members, numbers are on back page.

### *Members:*

If you would like to be a member of the Gunnedah Rugby Club and are not so already, or if you know anyone who would like to join, there are membership forms available on our website [www.gunnedahrugby.com.au](http://www.gunnedahrugby.com.au) or please call Bobbie on 0477 420 820 and she will arrange to get one to you.

### *Sponsors:*

If you would like to sponsor the Gunnedah Rugby Club there are many packages and options available to you. Please call Ian McArthur on 0429 431 519 or Bruce Hockings on 0427 422 309 to discuss which option would suit you best.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE CLUB

This year we are asking for your help.

We need help on game days in various roles if you are able and willing to help please call Bruce on 0427 442 309.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DOUBLE HEADER TRIAL GAME

GUNNEDAH RUGBY CLUB

9TH APRIL @ 2PM

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### FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON

AWAY VS MOREE

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### HOME VS QUIRINDI

GUNNEDAH RUGBY PARK

30TH APRIL 2016

This is our first home game of the season come on out and support the boys on their quest for victory. This will also be our commemorative match. The boys will be wearing original design jumpers.

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### 125 YEARS COMMEMORATIVE BALL

GUNNEDAH RUGBY CLUB

7TH MAY 2016

We will be holding a ball at the club in celebration of 125 years of rugby. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.

### Directory;

Club Secretary - Bobbie Insch  
0477 420 820 or devils@gunnedahrugby.com.au

President - Bruce Hockings  
0427 442 309

Vice President - Sam Leys  
0429 926 219

Director - John Waugh  
0427 558 718

Director - Lincoln Stewart  
0408 696 926

Director - Ian McArthur  
0429 431 519

Director - Josh Leys  
0450 496 251

Director - Josh Launders  
0423 444 639

Director - Alex Costello  
0447 741 063

Director - Shane Lutze  
0411 981 094

### The Gunnedah Rugby Club - Function Centre



Function Bookings - Bobbie Insch  
0477 420 820 or devils@gunnedahrugby.com.au