

Wahroonga Rugby Club Inc.
Cliff Oval, Cliff Avenue
Wahroonga NSW 2076



PO Box 559
Wahroonga NSW 2076
www.wahroongarugby.com.au

To Our Tigers Community,

Given the positive feedback we have received about the January Newsletter, I thought that whilst there is a lot happening in the next couple of months, we will continue to distribute information via this format supported by Socials and WhatsApp.

As we start to move into Preseason and then into the selections, trials, and grading period for Juniors & Girls, we know it can be a stressful time for some players and parents and just the unknown especially for U10s. We are blessed to have a strong process in place at our club, which Brad & Justine will dive in later in this newsletter.

In Mini's there is a lot of work for Chloe and her ACs to get players into teams, fielding multiple request for friends to play together and the like, I can assure you that Chloe will do her best but it's also a great opportunity to meet new people, some of my sons best mates have come from meeting new players in Mini's.

It is vital for our club that you register your child early and that you encourage others to because in the background there is so much organising – teams, jerseys, training tops, balls, equipment, how many coaches and managers we need, arranging trial games and so much more, so please do it today! For Juniors we need to nominate teams by the 27 February – we might all think it is early, but we must work within the timeframes set by SJRU and NSWJRU. There is also NO insurance coverage from 23rd February unless you are registered.

Free Waratahs Tickets - All players will receive free tickets to Waratahs men's and women's home games. Keep an eye out for an email from the Waratahs (and don't forget to check your junk folder!). If you don't receive contact your AC.

This season we have an exciting Tag-A-Mate promotion. Any existing player who introduces a new player to register with the Tigers will not only get an amazing gift pack, but so will their mate! The gift pack includes:

- Bucket hat
- Water bottle
- Mouthguard
- Tigers' accessories
- Bag of snakes
- \$25 Tiger e-gift card



Any referrals need to be forwarded to registrar@wahroongarugby.com.au. Please include both players names and age groups. A good way to get your hands on one of these gift bags is to Invite your friends down to one or all our Come & Try rugby sessions running in February and March. All new and existing players are welcome.



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Mini's Update – Chloe Steele

Welcome to the 2025 Minis Rugby Season!

The wait is nearly over, and we're thrilled to be close to kicking off another fantastic season of Minis Rugby! Whether you're a returning player or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to see you out on the field, learning new skills, making friends, and having a blast.

If you haven't done so already, then please register. It makes it easier to plan teams when we know who will be playing. As always, we strive to place friends together and all requests need to be forwarded to minis@wahroongarugby.com.au. This may not always be possible but rest assured whichever team your player is placed in; they will make lots of friends and have a ball.

NEW CLUB SPONSOR



MAGPIES
WAITARA

Check out our new home away from home, Magpies Waitara!

We're incredibly excited to have the support of Magpies Waitara in 2025. This season, why not get the team together at Magpies and enjoy special offers and members discounts on food and beverages?

Tigers Membership Offer – \$5.50 for 3 years!

Membership benefits include:

- Discounted pricing on food and beverages
- Accrue loyalty reward points on all purchases
- \$10 off your Uber to and from the Club
- Much, much more!

CLICK HERE for further details on how to sign up and start receiving benefits next time you visit Magpies



Tre focused on **fun, teamwork, and skill development**, ensuring every child gets the most out of their rugby experience. Our dedicated coaches are ready to introduce the game in a safe and inclusive environment where players can build confidence and a love for the sport.

- U6 & U7 – Both age groups will continue playing **TriTag** throughout the season. For U7s, there will be an **optional tackle competition** at the end of the season, which your coach will discuss with you when the time comes. U6 teams will have **5 players on the pitch**, while U7s will play with **6**.
- U8 – A big step forward as players begin their **first season of tackling**, with **7 players on the pitch**. Coaches will guide them through safe tackling techniques to build confidence and skills.
- U9 – The transition to structured rugby begins! U9s will start learning positions and play with **10 on the pitch**, setting the foundation for their move into junior rugby.

Exciting Giveaways This Season!

We've got some fantastic giveaways lined up for our Minis players this season!

Wahu Pack for U6, U7 & U8 - Players will receive a free Wahu pack when they register—perfect for some extra fun off the field!

Free Gilbert Ball for U6 & U7 - As a bonus, all players will also receive a free Gilbert rugby ball upon signing up.



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Juniors Update – Brad Loder

We hope that you are all as excited for the new season as we are! For those of you who are new to Junior rugby then this year is a big transition with larger fields, longer games, bigger squads and graded teams. Grading is a selection process which gives the players a fair and full opportunity to display their ability for selection and to be matched to the most appropriate grade to represent the Club.

Selection is a difficult and subjective process, with many contributing factors, interests and emotions involved for selectors, parents and players. It is the Clubs intention to ensure the selection process is clear, widely understood, fair, transparent and unbiased. The goal is that selection disputes will be minimised, and results will be optimised. Based on my experience, and external feedback, WRC has one of the most robust selection processes of all Junior rugby clubs. We will be providing more information about the process as we get nearer, but if you have any question in the interim, please contact me.

The selection process takes place over three stages:

Internal Trials: 9th & 16th March. Each age group is split into teams and play a series of shortened games against each other. This is to help the selectors make their initial decisions on provisional teams and positions. This takes place at Cliff Oval.

External Trials: 23rd & 30th March. The provisional teams play a series of shortened games against one or two other clubs. The idea is to see how the team and players perform against opposition in more match like conditions and to incorporate any feedback from the selectors from internal trials. These games will take place at Cliff Oval, or some age groups may have to travel to other grounds.

SJRU Grading: 6th & 13th April. Upon completion of the internal and external trials the selection process has been completed and teams selected. These grading days and games are organised by SJRU to help determine which division each team should be placed in with the objective that all teams within a division are competitive and there isn't a dominate team/s. These games take place at different venues across Sydney.

Trials can be a stressful time, my advice is to trust the process. Our selectors do a wonderful job, they are only human and they may make a small number of decisions not everyone will agree with but I am confident the process is fair and equitable.

U16s

We understand there has been a lot of talk around the formation of the team this year and the discussion around forming district-based teams via the allowance by SJRU to do so. The most important thing you can do, is to register with Wahroonga Rugby Club, this allows us to understand numbers and then work within our Gordon village and outside to have the best possible outcome for the players, there will be no Gordon based team in 2025. We are working hard on some high-level coaches to be involved in 2025 and we have your kid's development and enjoyment at the heart of it. At this stage we will be entering team in the SJRU U16 competition. We sincerely hope that you wish to continue to play for Wahroonga, this is your club, let's finish on a high





Another difference with Juniors is the Volunteer Roles Required:

Age Coordinator (AC): work closely with the VP Juniors to ensure each age group is operating smoothly. They also help appoint managers for each team and ensure they have all the relevant information

Ground Marshall (GM): the GM is a broad role but essentially it is to make sure the game/s run smoothly, including ground set up (home team), player welfare, and that everyone (coaches, manager, players and parents) conducts themselves with the appropriate behaviour, especially towards the match officials. To qualify as a GM you need to do a short online course.

Assistant Referees (AR): An AR helps the referee ensure that the game is fair and runs smoothly. They signal incidents of foul play, indicate where the lineout throw-ins should be placed, and adjudicate goal kicks and balls that go into touch. Course information to be sent out via AC's.

Manager: The manager is the primary point of contact for each team and are responsible for communicating to the team about games, training, updating TeamSnap and managing the kit. Foster team spirit and morale by encouraging participation in team activities and club-run events. Also, game day responsibilities such as entering players and scoring in Rugby Explorer

RETURNING
CLUB SPONSOR

SIMPLICITY
LOANS & ADVISORY

Simplicity Loans & Advisory backing
the Tigers again in 2025!

Simplicity are a leading commercial lending specialist with a commitment to supporting local communities.

For every business or commercial loan secured through
Simplicity, \$1,000 will be donated to the Tigers!

Why you should choose Simplicity Loans & Advisory?

- Expert guidance
- Tailored solutions
- Community commitment

No matter what your business finance needs are, get in touch with Matt and the team at Simplicity.

Matthew Johnson, Managing Director
E: matthew@simplicity.net.au PH: 0487 555 222

Coaching Update – Dion Bowen

Preseason preparations – thank you very much to the coaches, parents and players that turned up to make our Preseason Come & Try event on 7th February a success. The minis and juniors that turned up all had a great introduction to the season and it was pleasing to see our club making new players and families feel welcome!

Coaching appointments – there have been several questions regarding coaches for 2025, as with every year, and as per our policy, coaches will not be appointed until after the trials process is complete. All coaches assisting with preseason do so in a 'caretaker' mode, working with the entire age group.



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Equipment – We have undertaken an audit of our training equipment finding a need to purchase new gear for the 2025 season. We have refreshed our stock of red and yellow cones which are targeted at setting up the fields for Minis Game Day. We've also purchased WRC Tigers Customised Hit Shields which we look forward to trialling during March. In 2025 we will be providing teams with WRC Tigers branded balls, kindly sponsored by SIXT. They are due to arrive in April due to production timelines, so watch this space.

Coaching accreditations - Rugby AU has released a new coaching pathway in 2025 which has changed the names and structure of previous courses. In addition to a Working with Children Check, all coaches are required to hold their SMART Rugby accreditation and given the updated structure we recommend that you do the refresher course which will cover you and extend by 12 months.

As always, the club expects all Juniors Coaches to be accredited to Level 1, which is now known as "Junior Coach" accreditation. Our Club Coach is planning for WRC to host a course in 2025.

Girls Update – Justine Brindley

The 2025 season for girls will include teams playing the Sera Naiqama XV a side competition! This is the first time we have had access to a full XV competition run on a home and away basis for the girls and this is super exciting! The competition includes the following age groups of u12, u14, u16 and u18. It runs the same time as the boys/mixed competition commencing with:

- Trial Galas – 6th & 13th April
- Round One – 4th May
- Grand Finals – 31st August

Whilst we are super excited to have this offering to run teams in a competition of this size, we will need squads of around 20 to be competitive. We are encouraging girls to join the club – **please register as soon as possible to show interest!**

As a club we will need to monitor our numbers. We are also exploring other options e.g. joint ventures to ensure we can get our girls in a team to play club rugby! The SJRU have also made a new rule that girls who are u13 and above can no longer play in a mixed team with dispensation and they must play in a girl's only team. This is unfortunate as we have several girls who have followed this pathway. If you fall into this category, please contact vp_girls@wahroongarugby.com.au for a discussion on options.

There is also only one 7s competition available in 2025 for club rugby girls and this is late October/November, so if you want to play before then jump into the cool technical XVs designed for all types of players!

We look forward to a great 2025 season! Please tell your school mates and friends an exciting season of XV awaits!!



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Registration 2025

Please continue to register for the 2025 season, it is important to assist with our planning to understand numbers, so we know how many teams and therefore equipment, gear, managers, and coaches require. Please make sure all those wishing to volunteer also register.

Please visit the below page on our website for instructions on how to register, with a link to Rugby Xplorer:

Registrations



Or go direct to Rugby Xplorer to register via the below link: myaccount.rugbyxplorer.com.au

WAHROONGA TIGERS JUNIOR RUGBY
#TRYRUGBY
WE WANT YOU!

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2025
MINIS (U6 - U9): 5.30PM - 6.30PM
COME & TRY / SKILLS & DRILLS, NEW AND EXISTING PLAYERS WELCOME
JUNIORS (U10-U16): 6.30PM - 7.30PM
PRE-SEASON, LIMITED CONTACT COMMENCES

SUNDAY MARCH 2, 2025
MINIS (U6-U9): 3.00PM - 4.00PM
COME & TRY / SKILLS & DRILLS, NEW AND EXISTING PLAYERS WELCOME
JUNIORS (U10-U16): 4.30PM - 6.00PM
PRE-SEASON, CONTROLLED CONTACT

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE & ZOOOPER DOOPER !!
QUERIES: MINIS@WAHROONGARUGBY.COM.AU

NEW CLUB SPONSOR

d'Albora

d'Albora Marinas, supporting the Tigers on and off the water in 2025!

We're incredibly excited to announce that d'Albora, Australia's largest premium marina and hospitality network, is getting behind the Tigers this season!

With a range of prime marina locations offering berthing, boatyard, boat sales and hospitality facilities and services across QLD, NSW, VIC, they can provide an end-to-end marine lifestyle to suit your boating needs.

d'Albora Akuna Bay, located on Cowan Creek is nestled in the Ku-ring-gai National Park, close to Wahroonga Rugby Club and surrounding suburbs, offering wet and dry berthing facilities, full service boatyard and waterfront dining at licensed Shed Café or San Martin function centre.

Visit www.dalbora.com.au or call **1800 32 52 672**



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Key Dates for your Diary (*subject to change*)

DATE	JUNIORS	MINIS
Friday 14 February	6.30pm – 7.30pm Limited contact commences New & existing players	5.30pm – 6.30pm Come & Try Rugby New & existing players
Friday 14 February	Waratahs Vs Highlanders – Live @ the club from 7.00pm	
Friday 14 February	Commands Mouthguard will be onsite for their custom fitted mouthguards	
Sunday 23 February	4.30pm – 6.00pm Preseason controlled contact New Juniors Welcome	
W/C 24 February	6.30pm – 8.00pm Mid-week training commences Tues – U12 & U13 Wed– U14, U15 & U16 Thurs – U10, U11, Girls (TBA)	
Sunday 2 March	4.30pm – 6.00pm Preseason controlled contact New Juniors Welcome	3.00pm – 4.00pm Come & Try Rugby skills/drills New & existing players
Sunday 9 March	Internal Trials Week 1	
Friday 14 March		Mini's Training commences and continues each Friday night U6/U7 - 5.00pm to 5.45pm U8/U9 - 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Sunday 16 March	Internal Trials Week 2	
Saturday 22 March	Waratahs March Past (Tahs vs Brumbies) Whole Club	
Sunday 23 March	External Trials Week 1	
Friday 28 March	THE FIRST SCRUM- Season Kick-Off with entertainment for the whole family, please bring your friends along regardless of if they are part of the club	
Sunday 30 March	External Trials Week 2	King of the Hill Gala @ Hills Rugby Club
Saturday 5 April		Round One
Sunday 6 April	SJRU Grading Week 1	
Sunday 13 April	SJRU Grading Week 2	
2 & 4 May	Round One	
31 May	Trivia Night	



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Communications

To help us communicate more effectively as a club we will also be using WhatsApp Tigers Community for communication in 2025. All current WhatsApp groups are being migrated under the Tigers Community and new groups will be added as and when needed. Don't worry the Community will be a one-way communication channel from select committee members, you won't get smashed with responses! Also, your own team group will not be accessed by anyone outside your team group.

Use this link to join our [WhatsApp community](#).



Coaching and Age Coordinator Expressions of Interest

Please continue to get your EOI's in for coaching and AC and reach out to Dion, Brad or Chloe if you have any questions.

Coaching, we are currently seeking further nominations across all age groups.

Expression Of Interest



Age Coordinator, we are currently seeking nominations for U6 & U16.

Expression Of Interest



Sponsorship Update – Alex Honson

Our club has always been blessed with great sponsors and this season was no exception. I'd like to once again acknowledge the continued support that the club receives from our major sponsor, Ray White Upper North Shore.

In the coming weeks we will be announcing several new sponsors who have joined the club over the off-season. The support of our sponsors ensures that we can continue to provide our players with new training shirts every season and our coaches receive new coach apparel. Their funding allows the club to purchase new footballs, new tackle pads and other critical training equipment.

We have recently added a new sponsors page to the Tigers website which will both acknowledge to contribution of our partners and provide information regarding special offers for our members. Please take a few minutes to check out the sponsor's page [HERE](#).

Please support the Tigers by supporting the businesses that support the club.



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Events Update – Ali Hoovey

Our Christmas at Cliff event on Friday 6 December was so much fun!! After a few quiet months at Cliff, we are ready to kick off the 2025 season with our first event of the year, our season opener:

“The First Scrum” - Friday 28 March 5:30-8:00pm

With lucky door prizes and a raffle to set you up for the season, bring your friends for a fun filled night!

Keep your eyes peeled for more exciting events this year, including a Trivia night, and the chance to watch the 2nd Lions test live at the Club house!

Tours

Mini's - we have kicked off discussions with Mudgee about continuing our July holiday tour to Mudgee for the fourth consecutive year, information will be sent via Chloe in due course.

Juniors – sadly, the Coffs Challenge for the U10,11,12s this year will not go ahead for us. Given the way Easter falls this year within the school holidays and other factors, the tournament will take place the week prior to the holidays and therefore it is not a viable option for several reasons including SJRU Grading is on that weekend. We are working on some other options potentially in July. Please reach out to Brad Loder if you think you may have an alternative location for our teams to tour in 2025.

Sanda – our friends from Sanda are locked in to visit in August this year, you will see more from Polly in the coming weeks mainly aimed at the U10, U11 & U12s.

Gear Update – Susie Loder

Tigers Gear Online - due to many requests, our Tiger Gear is now available to purchase online. Use this link to buy all your favourite Tiger gear and head over to the [Tiger Shop](#).

Pre-loved Tigers Gear - We will shortly be running a pre-loved stall outside of the gear room and will let you the times soon. Donations of Tigers gear including shorts, hoodies, jackets, trackies and boots that are in good condition are welcome (no training tees please), please give your donations to Susie in the gear room.

Committee Updates

Registrar - Justine Brindley is moving across from VP Girls to the Registrar role, this is a massive role, especially this time of the year, so we are very grateful to have someone has skilled in this area to take over this position. We will now start the search for a replacement in the very important role of VP Girls.



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Sanda – I would like to welcome Polly Clayton to the committee who will look after Sanda. With the August inbound tour about to get started with planning, Polly will be looking for volunteers to join the Sanda committee. It is personally amazing to have Polly on the committee, I have known Polly since the early 90's when we both worked at Norths Rugby Union Club (Norski's).

Committee Vacancies

We are looking to add to our 2025 committee to ensure the ongoing success of our club. It's really important that we fill these roles with new members, it doesn't matter what age group your kids are in or if you have volunteered previously and it's also important that we have a good cross section of our club represented and that we are always succession planning, so please have a look at these roles and contact me or any of our committee members;

1. VP Girls
2. Facilities
3. Communications Manager
4. Summer Programs
5. Bar Manager

Committee Contacts

PRESIDENT	Dan Hearne	president@wahroongarugby.com.au
VP JUNIORS	Brad Loder	juniors@wahroongarugby.com.au
VP MINIS	Chloe Steele	minis@wahroongarugby.com.au
TREASURER	Richard Webb	treasurer@wahroongarugby.com.au
SECRETARY	Process Started	secretary@wahroongarugby.com.au
REGISTRAR	Justine Brindley	registrar@wahroongarugby.com.au
VP GIRLS	Vacant	vp_girls@wahroongarugby.com.au
CLUB COACH	Dion Bowen	clubcoach@wahroongarugby.com.au
GEAR	Susie Loder	gear@wahroongarugby.com.au
COMMS	Dane Squance (temp)	comms@wahroongarugby.com.au
EVENTS	Ali Hovey	events@wahroongarugby.com.au
SPONSORSHIP	Alex Honson	sponsors@wahroongarugby.com.au
CANTEEN	Ali Sindel	canteen@wahroongarugby.com.au
SANDA (new)	Polly Clayton	japantour@wahroongarugby.com.au
FACILITIES	Brad Loder (temp)	facilities@wahroongarugby.com.au
BAR MANAGER	Dave Gilbert (temp)	bar_manager@wahroongarugby.com.au
SUMMER PROGRAMS	Vacant	summer@wahroongarugby.com.au



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Player Profile

Name - Will Kerr

Favourite Rugby Moment? Making the semi-finals in my first season and watching my mate win the game with a conversion on full time. Also making my first Gordon squad in 2024.

Best sporting achievement? Getting a silver medal in the 100m Butterfly at the NSW Championships in 2024. Also playing in a grand final in my first season at the Tigers.

What do you want to achieve in 2025? I'd like to see my Tigers team make the grand final this season and win it. I'd also love to play for Gordon again in 2025.

What is your favourite rugby team? NSW Waratahs who I have proudly supported for my whole life.

Why do you play rugby? To play with my mates and play a contact sport. Since joining the club I've made heaps of new mates. Glad I switched codes from soccer.

What is the best thing about playing for the Tigers? The buzz on a Friday night at Cliff Oval.

Dan's Comments – I chose Will for this because he is everything we want to see a kid be around the club. He is super polite, cares for his club and mates, always willing to help, listens and is enthusiastic about life. Yes, Will is a great rugby player (and swimmer) but it's the other stuff that matters!



Regards

Dan Hearne
President Wahroonga Rugby Club

NB. Please advise me directly via email you wish not to be included in these communications.

Corrections - In the January Newsletter I stated that U6-U9s receive a Gilbert rugby ball, unfortunately this is not the case, this year it will be U6-U7s that receive the ball



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