

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,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are as pumped about 2025 as much as myself and the committee!

With our new committee now up and running, and to get 2025 started I felt it was a great time to provide you with an update on some of our plans for the 2025 season, partly based on feedback out of the AGM and to me directly over the past few months.

Personally my focuses for 2025 are to ensure we have a connected and harmonious group of players, coaches, AC's, managers, volunteers and parents. I would love to see our teams succeed on the field and in general, with the primary focuses being on development and enjoyment and to ensure that Cliff Oval and our club house is a safe and happy place for every member of our community and beyond.

2025 Committee

Our club has been lucky to have a strong tradition of committed individuals on the committee, and the 2025 committee continues that legacy. I personally would like to thank them in advance for the positive contributions they will make to our club throughout the season ahead.

Over the past few months we have made strong progress in several areas including events, sponsorship, finances and have met with council, state and federal members to ensure a strong and viable future for our club.

Financials

2024 was financially challenging due to major investments (new tackle mats, balls, and a canteen freezer) and rising external costs. To ensure the club's long-term viability, we must control costs, boost revenue streams, and improve overall operations. Together with our new Treasurer, Richard Webb, the committee is working on a plan for a successful future.

It's our responsibility to provide all players with the resources they need to improve both on and off the field. We've also commenced discussions with the council on cost management, such as oval hire and maintenance programs.



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Sanda

The Sanda tour is an important part of our Club, providing a unique opportunity for players and parents, that has now been running for over 25 years and will continue into the future, forging friendships through rugby. The Sanda Committee for 2023/24 did an amazing job raising funds through the canteen, meat raffles, the Black & Gold ball and sponsorships, resulting in a net surplus of \$5k, which will go towards supporting future inbound and outbound tours.

In 2025, the canteen will support our club in general and the Committee will make a balanced decision on the level of contribution the canteen will support to the Sanda fund towards the end of the financial year. With the assistance of the relative age groups, we will also continue to fundraise through other means.

In the next couple of months we will have an information night on the incoming Sanda Tour for 2025, this will mainly be for our U10s and U11s with some involvement from the U12/13 who have built relationships over the past two years.

Engagement

We're committed to improving our club by fostering better interaction with players and families. In mid-November we sent out an Engagement Survey to all registered members. We had a good response to the survey and value the feedback highly, so we thank those that took the time to complete it. We will recognise all the comments and look to address any areas for improvement. The main themes, but not limited to included:

- ◆ **Better communication** – we are continually looking to improve and are currently working on this, TeamSnap will be set up for 2025 very soon and we are working on some Whatsapp Channels in order to disseminate information faster and clearly. We are also working on how we use social media including Facebook and Instagram. We also acknowledge that there are some long-term issues with club emails landing in the junk/spam files, we are working on a solution.
- ◆ **Published events calendar** – we are close to publishing an events calendar with some exciting new social events, taking in the feedback from the survey and in general. Coaching Improvements and Positive Coaching Feedback – we will address the feedback with individual coaches and work on an age group first strategy this year. We should also recognise that our coaches give up a considerable amount of time to coach our kids, and overall doing an incredible job.
- ◆ **Change rooms** – whilst the change rooms are the responsibility of the council and are open to the public constantly, we do try and keep them clean. We will have a clean up day soon so please come up and help. We are also working with council on a solution for the girls to be able to get changed in a private and safe environment.



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Registration 2025

Registration opened on Friday 20 December 2024, and we encourage you, and others to get in early and sign up. This allows more time to plan the year out, understanding our potential numbers and ensuring we have everything ready for the new season. Please make sure all those wishing to volunteer also register.

All Minis in 2025 will receive Free Gilbert ball from Rugby Australia, and all U5s to U8s will receive a Free Wahu pack.

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



Girls Rugby

In 2025 we will continue to grow our girls' program. Justine, our VP Girls, is working hard in conjunction with others including SJRU to provide an offering.

For girls aged U12 and over we will offer a Xs season running Sundays from April to August with semis and finals. This is an exciting time for girl's rugby as it enables girls to participate in a full and stable rugby competition. It will be run at the same time as the Juniors season and will have grading matches in April. Later in the year from October the Spring 7s competition will be run.

I am working closely with our building partner, council and local members to find solutions for our girls to ensure they have dedicated facilities within our clubhouse. As we work towards a stronger girls program both Justine and myself are always available to hear your ideas.



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

DATE	JUNIORS	MINIS
20 December	Registrations opened	
Friday 7 February	6.30pm – 7.30pm Come & Try Rugby New & existing players	5.30pm – 6.30pm Come & Try Rugby New & existing players
Friday 14 February	6.30pm – 7.30pm Limited contact commences New & existing players	5.30pm – 6.30pm Come & Try Rugby New & existing players
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 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
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
Friday 14 March		Mini's training commences
Sunday 9 March	Internal Trials Week 1	
Sunday 16 March	Internal Trials Week 2	
Sunday 23 March	External Trials Week 1	
Sunday 30 March	External Trials Week 2	
Saturday 5 April		Round One
Sunday 6 April	Grading Week 1	
Sunday 13 April	Grading Week 2	
2 & 4 May	Round One	



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Coaching and Age Coordinator Expressions of Interest

We have always been blessed with incredible coaches and AC's, it is recognised across the whole of the SJRU community and 2025 will be no different. Andrew Hill has done an amazing job and we are lucky to have the very capable Dion Bowen (even though he is a Kiwi) stepping up to take over as Club Coach. Dion is now looking for EOI's for coaches across all age groups in 2025, please fill in the below form and reach out to Dion if you have any questions.

[Expression Of Interest](#)



Below is the EOI's for AC's across all age groups, if you are interested in finding out more about what these roles entail please reach out to Chloe Steele for Minis and Brad Loder for Juniors.

[Expression Of Interest](#)



Volunteer Opportunities

Our club relies on the dedication of many volunteers to keep things running. You don't need to coach or manage to make a difference. The sense of community and connection is incredibly rewarding. We also have a few committee roles available Secretary, Registrar, Facilities, Summer Programs and Bar Manager. Please reach out if you are interested!

Sponsorship

A key part of our revenue and ability to provide Tiger's gear and training equipment comes from our sponsors. We are still seeking new sponsors for the 2025 season; please contact Alex Honson at sponsors@wahroongarugby.com.au

We have been fortunate over the past few months to bring on several new sponsors, which we will be announcing soon.

I'd also like to thank our major sponsor, Ray White Upper North Shore. They've supported the club for over 15 years and remain a vital part of our success. As part of their generous sponsorship, for every house sold by a Tiger's member, they will donate \$1,000 to the club, last year we had four Tiger's family sell via Ray White which is \$4,000 to our club. I have personally sold my house through Ray White late last year and cannot recommend them any more highly.



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Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Proctor, President of the club the past three years. He's passionate about our club, was always available and has great ability to get things done. I would also like to thank outgoing committee members Rebecca, Claire, Chucky, Helen, Chantal, Hilly, and Summer for their contributions to the committee and the club in general over many years. Lastly, a big thank you to Penny Webb and her family for their exceptional management of the canteen this year.

We must again acknowledge those who were recognised in 2024 by our club, our new Life Members, Karen Gilbert and David Proctor, Presidents Award – Chucky Stewart and Rick Tunks and the Campese Award, Oscar Widdup. Thank you all for your amazing service to the club over an extended period of time.

Have a great start to 2025 and we look forward to seeing you back at Cliff in the coming months!

Regards

Dan Hearne
President Wahroonga Rugby Club

NB. Some recipients may be receiving this due to JV teams in 2024, this is not an attempt to promote WRC over your current club but more the difficulties in some circumstances to separate out. We wish you all well in your rugby endeavours in 2025 regardless of the club you represent.

