



## DOWNLANDS RUGBY NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2018

Welcome to the Downlands Rugby Newsletter for June. The Rugby season is well & truly underway for the boys with the girls 7's commitments also due to commence. This newsletter reflects on some of the events which have occurred over the last few weeks and up coming Rugby commitments.

**v BSHS SATURDAY JUNE 2** : Downlands will travel to Brisbane on Saturday June 2 to play against Brisbane State High School. We will be taking two buses with the first bus taking the U13 & 14's departing at 6.30am. The second bus with U15 & 16's players will also depart at 6:30am. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV will travel on the 25 seater College bus. Matches will be played at 9am (U13B & 14B), 10am (13A & 14A), 11am (16a & 15B) & 12pm (1<sup>st</sup> XV & 15A).

**v BGS SATURDAY JUNE 9** : Downlands host Brisbane Grammar on Saturday June 9. More information including match times, will be provided in the week leading up to the event.

**TRAINING SHIRTS** : The Downlands Rugby training shirts will be here early next week and will be circulated to those players who have been regularly attending trainings and are committed to the season ahead.

**BLESSING OF THE BOOT** : Will be held on Thursday 31 May in the grandstands on the main oval from 3:30pm. All Rugby players, boys and girls, will need to be present.

**WEEKLY STUDENT RUGBY MEETINGS** : Weekly Rugby meetings for all players will be held every Tuesday at first lunch ie. 11am. The venue for the first meeting next Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May will be held on the grass hill next to the canteen/tuckshop. The weekly meetings are designed to keep all students informed of Rugby achievements and commitments.

**GIRLS 7'S TRAINING** : The girls 7's training will commence in Week 8 on Thursday June 7 from 3:20-4:30pm. Venue tbc. More information on Girls 7's tournaments that Downlands will be contesting in Term 3 will be available asap.

**BILLETS NEEDED FOR VISITING UK SCHOOL** : English school Sevenoaks will be visiting Downlands from Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 July. Two matches will be contested – U16 and 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Billets will be required for two nights. Any Rugby families able to help out can contact Murray Archibald – [archibm@downlands.qld.edu.au](mailto:archibm@downlands.qld.edu.au)

**TRIALS V AMBROSE TREACY COLLEGE** : Downlands hosted Ambrose Treacy College on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May and were successful in all four matches. It was a great day of Rugby with all teams playing some entertaining Rugby. See match reports below.



**UNDER 13** : The Under 13 squad had a very positive hit out against a very determined Ambrose Treacy College on Saturday. Given the boys had only four training sessions prior to the game, the outcome was extremely heartening. The first half was quite disjointed with little continuity. Kurt Rouhead led from the front and proved to be a handful for the opposition defenders. Ruben Sullivan and Carter Blades also looked dangerous at every opportunity. The second half proved to be a massive improvement for Downlands. The team's attack structures gained momentum which allowed greater width in attack. The forwards provided quicker ball for the backs and as a result, they could mount sustained phases of play. It is a shame that the game had to be terminated early due to a serious injury to one of the opposition players. The game was played in a wonderful spirit which is a credit to every boy who took field on Saturday. Best & fairest points : 3 Kurt Rouhead, 2 Ryan Moody, 1 Ruben Sullivan

**UNDER 14** : The U14 squad had a great win to start the season beating Ambrose Treacy College 49-22 in an entertaining game. They displayed great attacking ability and looked very dangerous with ball in hand. They were strong at the break-down, physical in contact and used the ball well to find space. This led to nine tries being scored for the team. The majority of these tries were scored by the backs after strong leadup work by the forwards. While the U14's attack was very good, there were many defensive lapses. This area of the game needs improvement and it will be the focus of the team's training sessions for the coming weeks. Michael Loulanti was outstanding when he took the field with his powerhouse running game. He was well supported by Michael Toohey and Zac Bailey. It was though a great start to the season, with a lot of potential shown. No doubt as the season progresses and with continued hard work at training the performances will keep improving. Best & fairest points : 3 Michael Loulanti, 2 Michael Toohey, 1 Zac Bailey / Harry Marshall

**UNDER 15** : After a positive two weeks of preparation, the boys came together well and put in a solid effort against Ambrose Tracey winning the game 36-17. A rough start to the game saw us make a few silly errors but the boys soon found a bit of structure and started playing some good rugby. We dominated the game from the first whistle but lacked structure and discipline in key areas of the field which saw us not capitalize where we should have. Many positives can be taken from the game this weekend, it has also given the coaches a good platform to work from and key areas to focus on. The U15s have massive potential and we will endeavour to keep working hard and growing as a team. Stand out players on the day were, Albert Dynevor, Willem Pienaar, Doug Collins and William Blades. Will Blades got the backs moving and looking dangerous all game. Albert ran hard and smart lines, putting himself and others around him into space. Doug and Willem were strong ball carriers and grafted defensively throughout the game. Best & fairest points : 3 Willem Pienaar, 2 Doug Collins, 1 Albert Dynevor

**DOWNLANDS RUGBY CAMP** : The annual Rugby Camp was a huge success with all age groups well represented in very challenging conditions. The day kicked off with an introductory skills camp for our Yr 5-6 students which was followed by training activities for the U13-2<sup>nd</sup> XV teams. From 10am the internal trial matches started with the highlight being a very closely contested match between the U16's and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV. The girls 7's skills clinic also conducted from 10am with approximately 25 girls enjoying the session put on by Lachlan Parkinson from the



QRU. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV then took on a very solid Nudgee side in a trial match to complete a thoroughly enjoyable day.

**A-Z RUGBY PRESENTATION** : Around 25 parents and students enjoyed an evening of discussions on the laws and terminology of Rugby. The presentation was entertaining and informative and proved a valuable learning aid for those participating.

**REFEREEING KIDS RUGBY COURSE** : The Darling Downs Referees Association hosted a RKR Course at Downlands with 30 plus students, parents and club representatives enjoying the session run by international referee Rohan Hoffman.

**U13-15 GYM CIRCUIT TRAINING** : Our younger aged Rugby players have been enjoying the gym circuit training on Mondays and Wednesdays under the guidance of members of the Academy of Fitness and High Performance. These sessions will continue through till the end of Term 2.

**FRIDAY MORNING TRAINING** : Between 25 and 50 players have committed to early starts on Friday morning since the start of the term. The trainings will continue through to the end of Term 2.

Yours in Rugby

Murray Archibald  
**DIRECTOR OF RUGBY**