



SEASON  
REPORT  
**2023**

**PETERSHAM  
JUNIORS RUGBY**

[www.petershamjuniors.com.au](http://www.petershamjuniors.com.au)



# PETER SHAM

## JUNIORS RUGBY

# 2023

A club for everyone... Bringing people  
together since 1883

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## SHAMMIES AIMS

- Fun**  
Ensure all kids and parents have fun in a safe atmosphere where kids improve their abilities.
- Values**  
Ensure kids learn more than how to play rugby.
- Community**  
Ensure the Shammies play a role within our broader community.
- Coaches**  
Support all our coaches and managers to develop.
- Pathways**  
Connect our Club from minis through to seniors rugby.
- Partners**  
Align ourselves to progressive businesses within the Inner West with shared values.

## OBJECTIVES 2023

- Improve recruitment – 100 new kids
- Provide alternative pathways for players to stay in the game and connected to the Club e.g. referees, touch rugby, coaching, sense rugby
- Deepen connections with Shammies seniors and Sydney University Rugby
- Be the lead on 'Girls Rugby' in the inner west
- Evolve 'The Shammy Way' of coaching – improve coaching and managers through training and accreditation
- Rugby tourists!





# COMMITTEE

**John Kilkenny** *President*  
**Dad of Javier**  
(u14), **Thalia** (u9-u10)

**Trudie Harriman** *Treasurer*  
**Mum of Will** (u13)

**Dan Waterworth** *Club Coach*  
**Dad of Liam** (u13), **Finn** (u10)

**Nick May** *Gear*  
**Dad of Max** (u14)

**Helen McGlade** *Events*  
**Mum of Alex** (u13)

**Nick Gormly** *Registrar*  
**Dad of James** (u14)

**Tristan Worledge**  
*Minis* **Dad of Hamish**  
(u10s) **and Tobi** (u8s)



## COACHES AND MANAGERS

**U15:** Angus MacDonald, David Cooper, Mick Dandy, Simon Teong

**U14:** Eden Barros, James Breen, John Kilkenny, Marcie Kilkenny, Nick May, Scott Blackford

**U13:** Ben Khan, Juliana Bates, Troy Cameron

**U12:** Andrew Clarke, Laura Phemister, Nick Boyle, Peter Scott, Shogo Kikuchi

**U11:** Claire Zanotti, Kate Jamieson, Liz Bird

**U10:** Dan Waterworth, Kristy Allison, Nathan Lusted, Tom Taylor

**U9:** Melanie Robertson, Jeremy Wilcox, Paul Luchi

**U8:** Danielle North, Malcom Tangi, Tristan Worledge, Will Miles

**U7:** Eban Rainey, Stewart Bell

**U6:** Bryony Gerofi, Neil O'Donnell

**Sense Rugby:** Aaron Jackson





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



What a great year of rugby, no lockdowns, a mild winter, summer 7s, a big pre season... if you didn't get your fill of Rugby this year then you weren't looking. This was a milestone 140 years for the wider Club and it is great to be part of a community with such a rich history.

Another strong year for our Junior Club, we fielded teams from u6s all the way through to u15s. Unfortunately, we didn't quite have the numbers of an u16s team so some of our players played for Randwick this year, hoping to see them back in the coming years for our Shammies Colts team.

We had 250 registered players for the XVs game in 2023 with 100 players registered for 7s over the 2022/2023 summer. Recruitment remains our main challenge each year with so many different sports and activities competing for our children's time. Along with ARU, NSW Rugby and Sydney Juniors Rugby, we need to focus our Minis recruitment to grow a strong grass roots player and volunteer base. We are hoping the upcoming World Cup, Lions' tours and Olympics help us stimulate demand for our great game.

A first for the Club this year was to see one of our past players, Tom Maclean, play his first grade game for our Senior club. This is our vision for the Club, to create pathways for our young players so they can continue playing, coaching, refereeing or administrating rugby throughout their lives. Now our Seniors also have a women's team our junior girls also have a clear pathway.

Apart from the 2023 World Cup, the other event I am looking forward to is getting updates on our u13s tour of New Zealand. What makes our Club special is we love touring and sharing the good times with good mates. The process of preparing and planning for a tour is almost as good as the tour itself. Another great u13s fundraising Trivia night was held this year with a highlight being our own Shammies Rock band belting out the Club song in Marrickville town hall. Good luck to the u13s squad and may they all do us proud.



A special thanks to Sydney University Rugby this year – Teki, Adam, Kristin, and big Steve. The preseason and ongoing training provided throughout the season was first class and enjoyed by so many of our kids. Uni's contribution to both our coaches and players is much appreciated and gave us much for structure especially at the start of the season.

I thank our Club sponsors WestAshfield (now Holman Barnes Group), White Cockatoo Hotel, Belle Property Newtown, Red Rooster and CrossFit Play. Without your support we would simply not be able to provide the same level of services to our members.

All these Club achievements and activities of course would not be possible with all our volunteers. I thank you all for your contribution this year. A special thanks to the Committee for all your hard work behind the scenes – ensuring kit is available, canteen is stocked, fields are booked, first aiders organised and ensuring each team has everything they need to succeed is no small task each week.

My final ask for all our members is consider how you can contribute to the Club. A worrying trend we see across all clubs and sports is we are struggling to find volunteers. This has become very apparent post Covid. This year we have struggled to get parents to our events, committee volunteers are overloaded, and BBQ and canteen helpers are the same people each week. We cannot create a vibrant community club if the effort falls on just a few people and families. Over the next year we will be refreshing the Committee, and we are seeking new leadership for the Juniors Club. I encourage anyone seeking to make a greater contribution to attend our AGM in November and get involved.

Enjoy the summer break!

Yours in Rugby



**John Kilkenny (JK)** –  
Club President

### Key 2023 Club Achievements

1. 140 years for the Club – the Rugby community continues
2. Juniors transition into Seniors continues
3. Registrations steady
4. Back to back U13s tours of New Zealand
5. Successful Trivia night

# THANK YOU TO OUR CLUB SPONSORS

## Premium Sponsors



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## CLUB COACHES REPORT 2023

Once again the 2023 rugby season at Petersham Juniors Rugby Club was an exceptional journey filled with triumphs, challenges, and invaluable growth for our young athletes. As a club that fields teams from under 6 to under 15, our commitment to fostering a passion for rugby, while instilling values of teamwork and sportsmanship, remains unwavering. This season, we witnessed remarkable progress and unforgettable experiences on and off the field.

Our club continues to serve as the leading team for nurturing young rugby talent in Sydney's Inner West.

I'd like to thank the many dedicated coaches and managers without whom we would not get the kids out playing successful rugby.

Our teams successfully competed in Inner West Minis (U6-U9) age groups each Saturday and enjoying the famous St Lukes BBQ after each game. In Sunday SJRU graded competitions we fielded teams two U10 teams and with the might Blues making the semi-finals. In older age groups we fielded a single team in U11 to U15. Unfortunately, we were unable to get numbers in the U16 age group and Petersham Registrations ultimately played with the Randwick Warriors U16 squad.

Special congratulations go to both the U11 and U13 teams who made their respective grand finals only to bravely fall at the final hurdle. For the U11 there is always next year and for the U13 there is their upcoming tour to Christchurch and Queenstown.

The club continues to field numerous 7's teams through the many SJRU 7's waves. Of special note are the Petersham Girls who are playing in a joint venture with Wests at the U11 level.

PJRU continues to be a significant force within the Sydney Uni representative zone. The representative pathway sees numerous players, coaches and managers participate in this important pathway. Congratulations to all players and officials that participated in the various age state championships and gala weekends throughout the state.

Famously, Petersham is the touring club and we wish the big contingent of U13 Shammies families that will journeying over the ditch in the October school holidays to play games in Christchurch and Queenstown. Watch out NZ!

Looking ahead, Petersham Juniors Rugby Club is committed to furthering the development of our players. There continues to be work required to ensure connection of the younger age groups with the older age groups. Greater focus for 2024 will need to be a club wide focus on work at the break down!



**DAN WATERWORTH**  
- CLUB COACH

# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



13s rising high against Forrest



Gooooo Shammies! u8s first post game team cheer



Hugo u10s running into score



Charlie Gamble and Dylan Pietsch meeting the best back row in Australia



Thalia and Reica our u10s girl power





We are Shammie kids



Boys will be boys



U12s 7s Girls over summer



U6s with Allan



u8s running out with Seniors 2



u11s tribute to a tragic loss - Alfie a young Dural junior player



U9s tackling a big opponent





u14s Uni Shammies



u13s kicking action



Shammies Parents - we love you too



U15s Happy With Another Win



## CLUB FINANCES

Petersham Juniors Rugby Club Incorporated is registered as an incorporated association in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. Number INC1601391. A copy of the Club constitution is available by request to a committee member. The following financial statements were submitted for the club for the financial year ending 30 November 2022. Note this years financial report is not a complete year as we are adjusting our year end to 30 June from 2023 AGM.

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Y22 to 30 Nov 22</b>	<b>Y21 to 31 Dec 21</b>
Registration - net	\$38,942.25	\$34,145.00
Sponsorship	\$39,090.01	\$27,875.00
Tour	\$43,567.73	\$3,820.00
BBQ/Canteen	\$11,078.07	\$5,557.00
Shop/Gear sales	\$1,865.39	\$2,548.00
Fund Raising - Raffles	\$0.00	\$795.00
Try Rugby Funding 2020	\$180.00	\$0.00
Misc revenue	\$3,045.00	\$3,752.00
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$137,768.00</b>	<b>\$83,743.00</b>
<b>Costs</b>		
Gear - Kids and General	\$45,118.15	-\$39,030.47
Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Digital Marketing	\$4,288.53	\$0.00
Presentation day	\$11,639.20	-\$4,438.50
Committee/Coach/Mgr Meetings	\$109.00	-\$2,508.50
Affiliation	\$2,139.00	-\$1,892.05
Tour - contribution	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Ground Hire	\$6,003.60	-\$6,239.10
ANZ/pple Square Costs	\$0.00	-\$335.27
BBQ & Misc expenses	\$8,917.14	-\$2,141.40
Tour Costs	\$42,956.92	\$0.00
<b>v</b>	<b>\$123,671.54</b>	<b>-\$56,794.29</b>
Surplus/ (deficit)	\$14,096.91	\$14,368.51
<b>Cash held at Bank (Main Account)</b>	<b>\$54,975.00</b>	<b>\$49,197.00</b>

2023 has been a solid year for the club from a financial perspective. We have been able to maintain a strong cash position, despite experiencing a number of cost increases throughout the year. Our sponsors have remained a critical part of our community and aside from the financial support, provide a strong link to our community. We are grateful for their ongoing support be it financial, support in kind or volunteering at our events.

Our Canteen and BBQ remain a critical part of our ongoing fundraising and we appreciate the efforts of everyone in bringing this to life. Not only is the canteen an important source of revenue, it also contributes to the atmosphere on the day. We understand that volunteering time can be a challenge for many, but it really does help to contribute to our club in a meaningful way and helps build connections and club camaraderie.

In 2024 we will continue to look for ways to contribute to our club revenue to keep our registration costs down for families, but also to invest in the many activities we have been able to fund for our players and families throughout the year. If you have any leads on potential sponsors or partnerships, please reach out.





**PROUD SPONSOR  
OF PETERSHAM  
JUNIORS RUGBY  
CLUB**



**Anthony Tripodi**  
Principal

## **BELLE PROPERTY NEWTOWN SPECIAL OFFER**

**Belle Property Newtown will happily donate 30% of their sale commission to the Petersham Rugby Club, When a member lists or refers property for sale in 2023.**

Find us at 186 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042

Ph: 0411 127 045



Waratahs march past night



Love a good Camperdown sunset



# 1883 CLUB WINNERS 2023

This honour is proudly awarded by the Club to the players that the coaches deem to have epitomised the spirit of Shammies Rugby. The guidance provided to coaches to select a player for the award include:

### Effort

- Commitment to practice
- Effort on the field

### Attitude

- Good sport
- Respectful of players, coaches, managers and officials
- Maintains positive attitude

### Improvement

- Ongoing commitment to improve core skills, fitness and game knowledge
- Responsive to Coach feedback

### Team and Club

- Supportive of teammates
- Helps coaches and managers
- Displays Club spirit

Congratulations to these 1883 players for 2023!



**U8s Blues**

**Toby Herbert**



**U8s Maroons**

**Michaela North**



**U9s Blues**

**Charlie Furey**



**U9s Maroons**

**Roscoe Westgarth**



**U10s Blues**

**Xavier Alexander**



**U10s Maroons**

**Sidney  
Hawkins**



**Thalia  
Kilkenny**



**U11s**

**Hugo Erispe**



**U12s**

**Orlando Ponzetta**



**U13s**

**Jake Quailey**



**U14s**

**James Rowntree**



**U15s**

**Tom Larson**

# 100 GAME, 200 GAME AND LIFE MEMBERS CLUB

The 100 Game Club is for players and coaches that have represented Shammies for at least 6 seasons. Shammies warmly acknowledge the contribution made by them. Their enthusiasm, loyalty and dedication is the bedrock of the Club and is appreciated by all.

## 100 Game Club



**Fin Chanter**

### What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?

In my first game for the U6's, running across the field the wrong way and scoring a try on the sideline

### Do you have any pre-game rituals?

I always eat eggs for breakfast

### What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?

Going on the 2019 Shammies U13 tour to Japan with my brother's team and getting to play with a Japanese junior team at Yokohama rugby school.

### Who are your sporting heroes?

Michael Hooper and the Wallabies.

### Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?

Don't be afraid to tackle big people and always have fun with your teammates







**Finn  
Waterworth**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

My earliest memory is playing on the sideline watching my big brothers play for the Shammies. I was two years old

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

My Dad makes me a hot chocolate. I always tape my boots and socks up top!

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

Scoring the winning try to get our U10 team into the semi finals

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

Nic White, Michael Hooper and my Dad

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Don't be afraid to tackle. Just get out there and play and have fun!





**Fionn Rafferty**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies**

When I was playing a game when I was 6 or 7 I ran at full speed and penetrated the line and ran off and scored

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

Stretching and listening to music

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

During sevens I ended up on the wing and the ball spun through the back lines and ended up in my hands and I sprinted down the edge of the pitch almost like dancing on the sideline and made it through the defensive line and I see the try line so I dedicated myself to making it to the line I step on the gas... and in the corner I scored like a true winger. Btw I'm an eight

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

My sporting hero is probably Rob Valentini the outstanding number eight of the wallabies

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Get low in scrums in tackles at the break down always be low. Rugby is the lowest game.



**Harley Donohue**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

Getting Mr Whipee every weekend at St Luke's Oval

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

Having fried egg on toast for brekky before the game

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

Scoring my first try

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

James Tedesco and Michael Hooper.

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Work hard, train hard, play hard



**Jack Farley**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

I remember when the dads were on the field with us and it felt like we were all playing the games together.

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

I talk with my dad about the game ahead and what I need to be doing.

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

Having the opportunity to be selected for the Sydney Uni under 10s and scoring the teams first try of the tournament.

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

Outside of rugby I have a passion for wakeboarding and so my current sporting hero is Lachlan Fort who's the Australian number one.

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Listen to the coaches. They may sound strict at first but they will help you in game.



**James Junior Breen**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

1st year on Friday nights last in our last game we lost by a try to Coogee who beat us in our first game by 70 plus points

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

Cigarette and a whisky-jokes nothing here

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

beating Menai in semi final to make final. Had to get conversion to win game

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

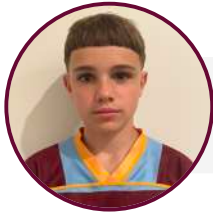
Matt Burton – Five eighth (Bulldogs)

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Listen to your coaches and enjoy the comradery.







**James "Jimmy" Reilly**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

Playing my first game in 2018 with my mates.

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

Warming up with the team and getting pumped up.

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

Winning the Semi-Final in 2019

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

Israel Folau

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Listen to your coach and have fun



**Michael Keenan**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

Earliest memory is being smashed in a half time demonstration game at Uni#2 and being carried off by my mum in tears.

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

Pregame rituals - bacon and scrambled eggs the morning of the game

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

90m try against Hunters Hill in this year's trial

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

Dylan Pietsch, Ronaldo

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Have fun!





**Mirei Kikuchi**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

My earliest memory of playing for Shammies is that when I was first time playing rugby in the mud, I was afraid to get dirty but my old coach told me that "this is rugby".

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

My pregame ritual is I don't eat breakfast.

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

My favourite moment playing for Shammies is when I did my first box kick during the game.

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

My sporting hero is Iliseva Batibasaga

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

My advice for new players joining the Shammies is that it isn't about your power it's about the team's power



**Otto Gerber**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

I remember our first game won at the shammies on Friday night and we sang the song loud and proud.

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

I have many, listen to music before a game and a Connor McGregor speech, have a shower before game, tape wrists and one weird one I never brush my teeth before a game.

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

I would say playing the grand final against Rockdale for Friday nights or winning in the last play against Manly was very nice.

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

Some of my favourite players are Tate McDermott, Beauden Barret, Damien Mckenzie and one of the new ones Carter Gordon.

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

Have fun and don't worry if you make mistakes because everyone is new one day, also train and play hard.







**Tom Jamison**

**What is your earliest memory of playing for Shammies?**

My first training of u6s. I didn't know anything and we had to do some drills with Coach Matty Travis. It was fun...kind of

**Do you have any pre-game rituals?**

I talk in my head about what I am going to do, breathe

**What is your favourite moment playing for the Shammies?**

Too many to choose but this year when I scored 3 tries in 10mins against Lane Cove

**Who are your sporting heroes?**

Aaron Smith, Jonah Lomu, Ritchie McCaw, Will Jordan, Dan Carter

**Any advice for new players joining the Shammies?**

If you make a mistake, think about what you are going to do next and don't let people get into your head

**Coaches :** Shogo Kikuchi, Andrew Clarke



## PAST 100 CLUB MEMBERS

### 2015

**Players :** Bertie Alcock, Will Burraston, James Crawford, Tom Maclean, Harry Russell, Tommy Treharne  
**Coaches :** Michael Crawford, Nik Treharne

### 2016

**Players :** Lipina Ata, Nils Basic, Ben Brown, Eric Carney, Josh Cartwright, Frankie Davies, Oscar Greville, Finnley Harding, Siasoi Mahe, Kye Martin, James McGregor, Maran Petkovic, Harry Stephens.  
**Coach :** Tim Greville

### 2017

**Players :** Hugh Crakanthorp, Fletcher Gill, Jack Lennox, Lucas Pollard, Quillan Ung, Conor Dunn.  
**Coach :** Ben Stephens

### 2018

**Players :** Tom Chanter, Oscar Swerdlow, Andrew Lyons, Mannix Ung, Spencer Davies, Aston Lebler.

### 2019

**Players :** Billy Nicoletti, James Gormly, Tom Lennox, Elijah Hassan, Willem Teong, Lucas Kohen, Ewan Gleeson, Brendan Bennett, Maddox Oddy, Sam Hassan, Finnley Harding, Jules Holland, Oscar Ortolani.  
**Coaches :** Simon Teong, Ryan Swerdlow

### 2020

**Players :** Aiden Lee, Declan Cohen, Giovanni Briguglio Magarinos, Jasper Cohen, Jasper Jones, Javier Kilkenny, Jemima Zoud, Jonas Cook, Josh Chen, Kyle Ritchie, Liam Waterworth, Max Blombery, Nate Travis, Noah Zoud, Owen Lloyd Jones, Ryan Gleeson, Sam Cameron, Sam Rudd.  
**Coaches:** Martin Davies, Peter Lloyd-Jones and John Kilkenny (JK)

### 2021

**Players :** Dominic Cheng, Ezekiel Barros, Jack Cooper, Julius Rego, Kobi Hetariki, Levi Mikhiel, Rowan Bhatia.  
**Coaches:** Frank Rego

### 2022

**Players :** Alexander Mitchell, Edward Walker, Fletcher Lapthorne, Hamish Kelly, Jake Matthews, James Baranowski, Josh Baranowski, Louis Ruelle, Max May, Owen Charles, Walker Gaff, William Harriman-Khan, William Jamison  
**Coaches:** Richard Chen



## PAST 200 CLUB MEMBERS

The 200 Game Club is for players and coaches that have represented Shammies for at least 11 seasons.

### 2020

Thomas Maclean, Tommy Treharne

### 2021

Frankie Davies, Kye Martin, Nils Bacic, Oscar Greville

### 2022

Quillan Ung

**Coach:** Nik Treharne

## SHAMMIES JUNIORS LIFE MEMBERS

We celebrate those who have made a lasting impact to the wonderful club we have become:

**Inducted 2018 – Michael Crawford (Granny)** President 2009-2013

**Inducted 2020 – Adam Dunn (Dunny)** President 2014-2019

**Inducted 2022 – Sarah Pinchbeck and Jo Bacic**



## SHAMMIES ON TOUR 2022

Ask any adult if they went on a sports tour when they were young and you will see a broad grin appear across their face and their eyes slowly gloss over as they reminisce of a school or club trip to distant lands with their mates. An adventure where they battled fierce opposition, embraced local culture, developed their game and represented their team with passion and respect...and maybe enjoyed one or two 'what goes on tour, stays on tour' moments – you get the picture.

In all seriousness, touring holds immense significance for Petersham Rugby as it offers a unique opportunity for our children to develop beyond the confines of the training field. It fosters team bonding and camaraderie, essential elements in rugby and in life. Young Shammies learn to work together, trust one another, and develop a deep sense of unity that translates into improved performance – as well as a long-lasting bond between mates.

Overall, touring serves as a vital stepping-stone in the Shammies journey, shaping young athletes into well-rounded, skilled, and mentally tough individuals, setting the foundation for future success in the sport and in life.

Oh, and by the way, it turns out being a 'grown up' on a Shammies under 13s tour is just as awesome!

Our 2022 tour to New Zealand stands up against these criteria for a successful tour. This band-of-brothers boarded a late flight to New Zealand on what turned out to be an adventure they will never forget. Resplendent in their new gear, the team (and parents) arrived in Christchurch in the early hours, ready for a local tournament against some tough Kiwis, eager to rip into their Aussie opposition.

We jumped straight into the rugby with 3 games on the first day in a small comp put on by Christchurch Rugby Club – a club with great facilities including a bar with a balcony, enough said! The Shammies took on a powerful U15s women's team. This proved to be a good wake up call to the boys who had to work hard for what turned out to be a convincing 4 try to 1 victory.





Next up, and in quick succession, was the Christchurch boys u13s, followed by the South Canterbury representative boys u13s. On paper, we were facing a hiding from well drilled, physical and skillful boys, but our forwards continued to dominate and developed quicker and quicker ball for our backs to take advantage of with dizzying skill. Yes, we lost both games, but by a big margin? Absolutely not, the local teams were left a bit shocked by only just beating this rag tag bunch of Aussies by a single try, 35-28 and 28-21 respectively.

Bouyed by the boys barnstorming ball play, we set off to West Melton, leaving the city behind for the beautiful local countryside. West Melton gave us a great reception and looked quite relaxed when the lads stepped down from the bus – in hindsight the boys now regret having Justin Bieber as the team song off the bus (I should point out, no forwards voted for Bieber, just the backs). Local smiles soon turned to beaming grins when, at half time, West Melton found themselves up by a fair few tries. But, but, but, our Shammies were not having it, and turned the second half into a Melton meltdown, ending with a 49-28 victory. A second game against Sheffield was equally packed with end-to-end drama, but our boys continued the winning streak with a close 21-14 win.

Time for a breather, and some well-deserved R&R. Lazy breakfast? Spa day? Round of golf? No chance, we took in one of New Zealand's longest zip lines at the Christchurch Adventure Park. Queenstown beckoned, but not before enjoying the delights of Christchurch, including a local curry, a televised Bledisloe in Christchurch rugby club, and some local cultural immersions. The touring party were treated to some boating in traditional craft where they learnt about the local Māori and the region we were based in.

Rugby was pushed to the back of our collective minds in Queenstown with lots of adventure to be had in the myriad challenges the area offers. A wet and wild whizz on the shotover jet was followed by some truly frightening driving on the Queenstown go-carts from adults and children alike.

By this point the boys had come together as a proper unit, working together to make sure all had fun, and demonstrating great pride in their Shammies club. They felt invincible, capable of overcoming whatever New Zealand had in store for them next...and so we kept on heading south!

The town of Gore is far south in the south-island. A region of stunning views and dark rain clouds. The locals are hard-working, tough and resilient, so the coach trip to the game was quiet and reflective – and no that had nothing to do with the previous night's exploits (well, maybe a bit).





If the weather and the relative wilderness wasn't enough to put fear into the kids, the prospect of getting turned over by their VERY OWN COACHES HOME RUGBY CLUB was too much. That's right, coach James Breen took the boys back to where it all started, Pioneer Rugby Club, where his picture could still be found in the club house hall of fame.

We'll be honest, a week of touring and some pretty average weather in Gore made the boys look a shadow of the team that shocked West Melton and Sheffield. They needed picking up, they needed motivation, they needed inspirational speeches. What they got was some hungover parents and, for many of them, their first Haka. It wasn't looking good.

What happened next will probably go down in folk lore as one of this team's finest moments. Pioneer are a good club with pedigree. They weren't here to make coach James look good! But the Shammies were in town and despite exhaustion and the odd injury, the boys ignored the rain and the wild support from the school kids that had just finished for the day and gave us the result of the tour. We had ruthless line breaks, end to end tries, massive tackles, strong scrums, fast ball, accurate passes and even a maiden try from big Charlie. The game was special for the result and the manner it was played in. It was great for coach James who could be proud of his boys in his own manor. It was great for the parents to finish on a high. More importantly, it was a special moment for the boys who learnt about themselves and the power of the tour. The club house afterwards was just as much a highlight with Pioneer putting on a feast, our coach driver leading a sing song, and all of the boys involved, mixing and laughing together like long lost friends. What a way to end the tour.

The parents could not have been more-proud of this team, and the club is grateful to all of the boys for their dedication, team spirit, senses of humour and all round rugby brilliance.

A tour is only as good as the organising party, and all of the u13s players and parents are hugely appreciative of our own. Ray Reilly, Helen McGlade, Jack Glover, and everyone else that worked tirelessly on schedules, logistics, gear, fund raising, match day preparation, extra activities etc. etc.





## PETERSHAM SHAMMIES SUPPORTERS GROUP REPORT

The PSSG was established to enable anybody and everybody to become a member and hence a supporter of the on and off-field activities of both the Senior and Junior arms of the PRUFC.

Membership is thrown open at the beginning of every calendar year and in 2023 we had over 60 members.

This year we introduced the **"1 to 15 Supporters"** where 15 generous individuals paid \$1000 each in PSSG membership. The \$15,000 raised was specifically used to cover the costs of the registration fees of the Colts players for the 2023 season. The spend was an easy decision – the ongoing lifeblood of our wonderful club is greatly added to by attracting and encouraging Colts players and facilitating the flow of players from the Junior's ranks through into the Seniors, via those Colts teams.

It is only in the last two years, as the age groups in the Juniors have marched on, the flow from one organisation to the other has begun to bear fruit. Magnificently during 2023 there were a number of ex-Juniors playing in the Senior sides ..... and two of those players, Thomas McLean and Jack Reilly have gone to the very top of the playing ranks in our club by running out to play **1st Grade Kentwell Cup** – the top team in the top division of Subbies Rugby.



### 1st 15s Patch – Circa 1960s

As many new families become associated with The Shammies each year, there is always a fascination for the wonderful and rich history of our club.

**2023 was the club's 140th Season.**



**Wendell Sailor and Adam Dunn at the 2023 Club Luncheon**

Petersham was established in 1883 and we are the oldest continually operating rugby club in the NSW Suburban Rugby (Subbies) competition.

Much has happened in 140 years of providing boys, men, girls and now women, the chance to play the sport of rugby for Petersham.



PRUFC's first ever Womens Team – 2022

**Our club emblem bears some very unique and special features.**





Much of this is on the back of the unsurpassed dedication of one of the most influential people ever involved in PRUFC – the enigmatic Ron “Crackers” McLean. Ron McLean was the Secretary / President of the club for 46 years, from 1946 till 1992. He took over this mantle just after the Second World War when, along with all aspects of life, Rugby had to re-establish itself. NSW Rugby asked Ron McLean to put together teams to tour country NSW and the southern states of SA and TAS to play exhibition games, to get the momentum rolling once again.

It was during these years and tours that Petersham were given permission to adopt the official NSW floral emblem of the WARATAH as part of the club’s emblem – and so it remains to this day. It is also unique, the word “AUSTRALIA” makes up part of our club emblem.

In 1964 Ron Mclean began to plan and put together an “Around The World Rugby Tour”, and in 1967, following the enormous efforts of Ron, Petersham Rugby embarked upon the first “World Tour” of any rugby organisation in the history of the world. It had never been attempted prior – 6 weeks and 10 games in the USA, England, Wales, Channel Islands, France, Spain, Italy, Hong Kong and The Philippines.

Although the team was not an Australian Representative side, the club was indeed “Representing Australia” and permission was therefore sought and granted to include the word

“AUSTRALIA” as part of our club emblem – **and that’s how it came to be.**

In fact – so well respected is the PRUFC, the photo below shows a Petersham Club Pocket and tie displayed in the Museum of “The Home of World Rugby” – Cardiff Arms Park (now The Millenium Stadium) in Cardiff, Wales.

Hard to see in this photo below, but about 1/3rd of the way down on the RHS, just above the short guy’s head, a close look will spot you the PRUFC Blazer Pocket – There’s not many / any other Rugby Clubs awarded such an honour.



**Petersham leaving on the '67 World Tour**



**A blazer pocket from tours in 1969 & 1971**

## U6S SEASON REPORT

Our Under 6's rugby team embarked on a remarkable journey this season, focusing on fostering a love for the game, building teamwork skills, and creating an environment where every player could thrive and learn the foundations of the game. We're delighted to highlight the enthusiasm and dedication our young players exhibited on the field. The real achievement lies in the smiles, bonds, and progress each player made throughout the season.

This season was filled with heartwarming and unique stories that defined our team spirit. From the shyest player taking their first steps onto the field with a newfound confidence, to the spirited team players who brought laughter to practices, every player contributed their own special touch to the team. One of the standout memories from the season was our first gala day at Riverwood Park, when the players all stepped up to play multiple games against new teams and not only grew as rugby enthusiasts, but also as individuals who know the value of camaraderie and mutual support.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our exceptional volunteers, parents, and players who made this season unforgettable. A special mention to our U7 coaching mentors, who gave us lots of inspiration and guidance at training on Tuesdays. To the parents, your unwavering support, from cheering on the sidelines to providing snacks, created a wonderful sense of community that resonated with our young athletes. And finally, a massive congratulations to our incredible players for their boundless energy, willingness to learn, and for being the heart and soul of the team.

As we reflect on this season's accomplishments, we eagerly anticipate what the next year will bring. With newfound skills and a strong sense of teamwork, our players are poised to take their learning to the next level. We'll continue to emphasize fun, personal growth, and sportsmanship as we move forward. The bonds formed this season will undoubtedly grow stronger, and the memories we've created in most of our players' first experience of rugby will remain cherished for years to come. As we bid farewell to this season, we can't help but feel excited about the future of our Under 6's team.

Here's to a fantastic season and the exciting adventures that await us in the coming year!

**Neil O'Donnell, U6 Coach 2023**  
**Bryony Gerofi, U6 Manager 2023**





## Player profiles



### Angus Taylor

Another of our young players, Gus has been a dedicated member of the team, always committed to training and games, ready for action. He has developed

his running game and ball handling abilities, and is always happy to share the ball with his teammates. He possesses strong determination that makes him a standout player, and is a highly regarded member of the team.



### Arlo Sommariva

Arlo embodies courage and tenacity. His fearlessness in the face of larger opponents has been obvious as he speeds up the field in search of the try line. He

is resilient and happy to take risks, and has greatly improved his focus on the field at training and games, making him a highly valued member of our team.



### Arthur Down

One of our youngest players, Arthur has stepped up as a valuable member of the team. Always happy to give new things a go at training, he has made strong improvements to

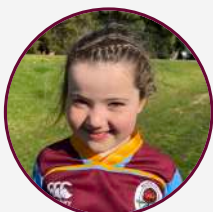
his ball skills and understanding of the game. We have enjoyed seeing his smiling face on Saturday mornings, and seeing his confidence grow throughout the season.



### Billy O'Donnell

Billy brings a dynamic blend of speed and versatility. His ability to seamlessly transition between different positions has led to impressive developments

in his overall game understanding and adaptability. Billy's remarkable agility and quick decision-making on the field leave opponents struggling to keep up.



### Brianna Kirwan

Brianna is a true team player, and you can always count on her. Her rock-solid defensive skills have established her as an invaluable asset. Her commitment to mastering

positioning has meant she is stalwart in her ability to hold the line and find attacking opportunities.



### George Gerofi

George's defensive strategy sets him on track as a future full back, and his ability to read the flow of the game and make calculated decisions has greatly evolved, contributing

to his team's success. His dedication to understanding the nuances of rugby has led to improvements in his ability to orchestrate plays and set up scoring opportunities.





**Madeleine Down**

Maddy's exceptional agility and short side running have consistently amazed both opponents and spectators alike. Her dedication to honing her evasive skills and mature attitude at training and games has paid off, making her a valuable and respected member of the team.



**River Easter**

River's accurate kick offs have consistently put his team in advantageous positions on the field. Another of our top try scorers, his dedication to refining his attacking skills has led to noteworthy developments in his ability to read the game and make crucial tactical decisions.



**Tom Clampett**

Tom's running speed and ability to find gaps in the other team's defensive line have set him apart as a standout player. His uncanny accuracy and ability to read the game continue to improve, and have made him one of our top try scorers. Tom's dedication is evident in his tireless effort at training and his enthusiasm on the field on Saturday mornings.





## U7S SEASON REPORT

As we wrap up an enthralling season, our young U7s have shown their true colours on the field when it matters.

Their defensive prowess was a marvel to behold with numerous try saving touches and robust play out wide, exploiting gaps in the space and gaining valuable ground down the middle. Their performance defied their age, displaying an understanding of the game well beyond tender years.

A stand-out achievement was the team's rapid grasp of the offside rule, a feat few others in the competition could match. The added pace to the game was evident, with every player giving it their all, making for some thrilling Rugby. Watching Finn, Mitchell, and Zach evolve into hard-running try-scorers was one of the season's high points.

Not to be outdone, Ed and Thomas's willingness to put in the hard yards for the team was truly commendable. Meanwhile, Xavier's defensive work was a masterclass in how to hold the line.

The season also saw Killian's rapid development in his debut season. Daniel and Crawford both provided more than a few great 'afterburner' moments.

One of the moments that was most pleasing for us as coaches was realising early on that we had enough players for two teams - a great problem to have.. The second face-off between our own ranks undoubtedly made for the most thrilling game of the season.

This year also brought us some unique stories. Who could forget Nate and Oscar? The pair, formerly at odds, formed an unlikely duo known as the 'Lawyers', showcasing teamwork at its finest (and sometimes a little too exclusively?).

Another highlight was witnessing Drummoyne's 15-minute possession without a score - truly a testament to our defensive mettle.

Off-field moments were equally intriguing. Watching Chris and Lincoln's "catch me if you can" training antics was pure entertainment. And who could forget Waiti's first try? The double act of Isla & Evie was another crowd pleaser, with Isla's gala day performance being nothing short of spectacular.

Heartfelt thanks go out to our dedicated managers, coaches, parents and players for making this season possible.

As we look forward to next year, there's plenty of excitement in store. The team is more than ready to introduce new elements such as tackling into their game. The focus will be on enhancing our passing skills to balance our strong running game. If this year is anything to go by, we can expect more hard work and dedication on the defence front.

In conclusion, this season has been a journey of growth, resilience and teamwork. As we pack up our boots, let's take a moment to celebrate these young warriors who have shown us what it truly means to play U7s Rugby.

## Player profiles



### **Bo Hanniford**

Bo Hanniford has shown great determination and resilience throughout the season, and developed quickly towards the end of the season.

His natural strength and stamina have been key traits that have greatly contributed to his performance on the field. The lad can run all day, as if he's channelling his inner Energiser bunny, tirelessly darting across the pitch without losing an ounce of steam.

Though we only introduced it in the final few training sessions of the year, Bo's tackling skills already show promise. He looks as lethal as a croc in a waterhole, making him potentially a formidable force in next seasons defence.

For the upcoming season, the main area for development we have identified for Bo is to demand more of the ball. This will not only enhance his overall game play but also increase his influence on the field, making him an even more integral part of the team.

Overall, Bo Hanniford is a promising player whose strength, stamina and tackling skills make him an invaluable asset to our U7s Rugby team. His progress this season has been substantial and we are excited to see how he will excel in the upcoming season.



### **Chris Muagututia**

When it comes to sheer grit, tenacity and willpower, few on the under U7s Rugby pitch can hold a candle to the dynamo that is Chris Muagututia.

Known for his tireless workrate and a mental toughness that belies his tender years, Chris consistently proves that he's not one to shy away from the rough and tumble of the game. His willingness to play on through knocks would make even the toughest Wallabies veteran proud.

His running and evasion skills are a joy to behold. Agile as a wallaby and swift as a coursing river, Chris has left many a defender clutching at thin air as he zips past them. His individual tries have been nothing short of spectacular, often leaving spectators and rivals alike in awe of his talent.

However, every rising star has areas ripe for development. For Chris, it's about harnessing his natural affinity for running to a more direct approach. While he has the speed and agility to leave defenders in his wake, a more strategic approach to his runs could elevate his game to stratospheric heights.

To wrap up, Chris Muagututia is a force to be reckoned with on the rugby pitch. As we head into the off-season, one thing's for sure - if Chris keeps working hard and playing with the same enthusiasm he's shown throughout this year, he'll be one to watch when the boots hit the grass again next season.





### **Crawford Laing**

Crawford Laing's raw pace and ability to outmanoeuvre opponents have turned heads and raised eyebrows in equal measure.

His speed is something to behold. The sight of Crawford flicking on the afterburners and leaving flabbergasted opponents in his wake was a highlight of the season. His ability to find an extra gear when it matters most is truly exceptional.

However, every rising star has areas for growth and development. In Crawford's case, there's work to be done on his defensive running. Mastering this aspect of his game will undoubtedly enhance his overall performance and make him a more rounded player.

Additionally, Crawford needs to start demanding more of the ball. With more possession, he'll have more opportunities to use his formidable pace and game-changing abilities.

In conclusion, Crawford Laing is a young player brimming with potential. He has all the tools to take the under U8s season by storm. There's an air of anticipation amongst fans and fellow players alike - we can't wait to see what he delivers next season.



### **Daniel Hong**

One player who has often caught the eye as a U7s' speedster, Daniel Hong has often found himself catching opponents off-guard and injecting real dynamism into the team.

Hong's team ethic is another feather in his cap. He's not just a player who knows how to score and run fast - he knows the value of the team. His willingness to work for the collective cause and his knack for being in the right place at the right time makes him an asset to any side he represents.

Like any promising player, there's always room for growth and development. For Hong, it's about asserting his presence more dominantly on the field. Demanding more of the ball and making himself available for passes is where he needs to step up his game. It's about making every touch count and stamping his authority on the match.

So, here's a message for Daniel Hong as we wrap up this season - keep learning, keep listening, and never stop having fun. Rugby is as much about the journey as it is about the destination.



### **Edward Glanville**

Edward Glanville has the uncanny ability to ‘ghost into space’ and be in the right place at the right time, making him an outstanding asset to the U7s team.

Ed’s mastered the art of the ‘never-say-die’ attitude, like a bulldog chasing a meat pie, never giving up until he’s got what he wants. His covering tackles are a thing of beauty made of pure determination.

What sets Ed apart from the crowd is his outstanding team ethic. He’s not just playing the game; he’s living it. He seems to have a sixth sense for where the action is. His team-mates know they can rely on him when the going gets tough.

In conclusion, Ed Glanville is showing all the right signs for an impressive career in Rugby. With his never-say-die attitude and uncanny ability to find space, he’s a player to keep an eye on. As they say in the world of Rugby, ‘form is temporary, class is permanent.’ It looks like Glanville has got class in spades. Keep up the great work, mate!



### **Evie Casamento**

Evie Casamento’s first season saw burgeoning confidence coupled with an increasing willingness to ‘give-it-a-go’.

Casamento’s journey through the season has been one of steady growth and continuous learning. She’s shown she’s not afraid to put herself out there, tackling new challenges headfirst. The key for her moving forward? Persistence. The more she ventures onto the field, the more opportunities she’ll have to hone her skills and amplify her game.

One of the defining moments of Casamento’s season was a tantalisingly close attempt at her first try. It was a moment that epitomised her growth throughout the season.. It may not have been a score on the board, but it was certainly a big tick.

The 2023 season has undoubtedly been a formative one for Casamento. She’s successfully navigated her first season of rugby, demonstrating resilience and determination. As she dusts off her boots and hangs up her jersey for a well-earned break, there’s an undeniable sense of anticipation for what next season will bring. Well done, Evie, for getting your first season of rugby under your belt. The game awaits your return.







### **Finn Easter**

Finn Easter got better and better the more the season went on, showing an ability to dominate games with a mixture of strong running and clever reading of the game. His knack for finding space amidst the chaos of a match was always a highlight, and his ability to make and gain ground the icing on the top.

Easter's reading of the game is also very advanced for his age. He displays an innate ability to interpret the field, anticipate movements, and adjust his strategy accordingly, like he has a bird's-eye view of the game

There's potential for further development.. There are times when he could be more proactive, seeking out the ball rather than waiting for it to find him. It's this mix-up in approach that could elevate his game to new heights.

In conclusion, Finn Easter's trajectory this season has been nothing short of remarkable. It's clear that with continued dedication and focus on development areas, there's a bright future ahead for this young player. Keep up the hard work, Finn. We can't wait to see what next season holds for you.



### **Isla Jefferson**

Isla Jefferson's mental strength, strong running and raw pace made her an invaluable asset to the under U7s Rugby team.

Jefferson's elusive ability to weave past opponents with an almost balletic grace has been nothing short of breathtaking, whilst her never-say-die attitude makes spectators stand up and take notice and is inspiring to teammates. Se embodies the spirit of rugby - fearless, relentless and always ready to tackle any challenge head-on.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the gala tournament, where she shone bright. Her performances were a masterclass in U7s rugby, leaving an indelible mark on everyone who witnessed it.

In conclusion, Jefferson's season has been phenomenal in every sense of the word. She has demonstrated not only extraordinary skill but also a level of maturity and determination that sets her apart. As we look forward to the next season, there's no doubt that Isla Jefferson is a player to watch.





### **Killian Rochford**

Killian Rochford's debut season showed a natural talent for running, not just in the offensive, but also in tracking back and preventing the opposition from scoring.

Even on the toughest days, Rochford's energy never wanes – he's always ready to take on new challenges and push himself to new limits. This willingness to get involved in every aspect of the game has made him a key component of our team's success.

One area where Rochford could look to improve is in being more vocal on the pitch. While his actions speak volumes, developing his communication skills could further enhance his overall game and leadership potential.

In conclusion, Rochford's first season with the under U7s has been promising. His willingness to immerse himself in the game shows promise.



### **Lincoln Rainey**

As someone playing up a year, the fact that Lincoln consistently stands out on the field is not underappreciate.

One of the most striking aspects of Lincoln's gameplay is his elusive running style. His ability to weave through the opposition's defence, combined with his remarkable pace, makes him a formidable force on the field. Lincoln has time and again proven that he can outrun even the nimblest of opponents.

Despite playing up a year, Lincoln does not shy away from challenges but instead embraces them. One area Lincoln could further develop is to work on his tendency to drift in and out of games. Maintaining consistency would lift his performance to new heights.

Lincoln's training sessions occasional duels with Chris are a spectacle, akin to watching a hare try to catch a gazelle (and vice versa).

In conclusion, Lincoln Rainey is a player to watch out for. As we look forward to the next season, we anticipate seeing his game develop even further.



### **Mitchell Randerson**

Mitchell Randerson is an unwavering workhorse for the U7s, with a spirit that never tires.

Randerson's quick-fire reaction to opposition attacks is a spectacle not to be missed. His ability to read the game and respond in nanoseconds is truly remarkable. This young player's razor-sharp instincts have saved the team on more occasions than one could count.

Adding another string to his bow, Randerson has enriched his play by bringing in the art of try scoring as the season unfolded.

In terms of development, Randerson can focus on further refining his attacking prowess. Building on this season's progress, the future holds great promise for him if he continues to hone this aspect of his game.

In conclusion, Mitchell Randerson is a player with ceaseless dedication, and the upcoming season promises great things for this young talent as he continues to develop his attacking game.





### **Nate Bell**

Nate Bell's natural confidence on the pitch has proven to be one of his greatest assets, along with a chess-like ability to spot opposition gaps..

In tandem with Oscar Parker, the dynamic duo fondly known as "the Lawyers", Bell has shown a willingness to combine with an often single-minded focus that showcases potential for future seasons.

However, no player is without room for development. Bell's passion for the game sometimes translates into a confrontational attitude towards the referee. While Bell's strategic style is commendable, introducing a more direct approach and more passing backwards will elevate his game further.

One particular highlight that stands out from this season was one trash-talking incident - already a rarity in U7s - where one "You'll never get past me." comment was followed seconds later by the very same player quite easily getting past him. A humbling experience but also one that showcased his competitive spirit, love for the game and willingness to have a laugh.

Looking ahead, Bell's future in the sport looks promising as the game becomes more physical, Bell's potential to excel is apparent. His strong presence on the pitch suggest he's a player to watch out for, and it's sure to be an exciting ride!



### **Oscar Parker**

Oscar Parker has a competitive spirit that rivals any senior player, which means his contribution to the U7s cannot be understated.

His running game is something to marvel at, providing hard and ground-gaining runs that have been instrumental in securing victories. Oscar's ability to exploit gaps and outmanoeuvre opponents with his agility and speed is a testament to his natural talent and hard work during training.

But it's not his offensive prowess that makes him stand out. Oscar's cover tackling is as reliable as clockwork, always there when you need him, halting enemy's advance with a determined reliability and passion for never giving up.

One area Oscar has shown significant improvement in is his focus. He's realised that the key to success lies not in arguing with the referee, but in concentrating solely on the game at hand. It's this change in attitude that promises him an even brighter future.

In conclusion, Oscar Parker is a star with an impressive portfolio of skills and a competitive spirit that can't be dampened. The future is definitely bright for this young player, with the potential to reach dizzying heights. Keep developing, Oscar, we're all excited to see where your journey takes you next.





### **Rokowati "Waiti" Tuivuna**

As the U7s Rugby season wraps up, one player, Rokowati "Waiti" Tuivuna, has grown in confidence, as well as showing an outstanding attitude, both on and off the field.

Her willingness to make ground with front-foot, forward running is a strength that's continually stood out. She shows an ability to read the game and pick the best lines to run that isn't always instantly apparent unless you look for it.

Moreover, Waiti's attitude is infectious. She brings a positive energy to every training session and game, uplifting those around her. Her commitment is evident in the consistent effort and determination she brings without fail.

As rugby becomes an increasingly physical game, it's evident that Waiti will become even more of a force on the field.

Having Waiti as part of the team has been a joy. Her positive attitude have made her not only a key player but a favourite amongst her teammates. As we look forward to next season, there's no doubt that Waiti is one player to look out for.



### **Thomas Leydon**

Thomas Leydon has an age-defying ability to focus that allows him to bring to the U7s team a level of consistent performance that makes him a huge team asset.

Leydon's willingness to listen, learn and better himself sets him apart from many of his contemporaries. He's shown an immense propensity for absorbing technique that sows the seeds of future progression.

No one can question his effort on the field either. Whether it's executing a crucial tackle or making an impactful run, he always bring the maximum output. A reliable performer, he's been instrumental in many of our victories. His sustained performance level has been a real highlight and something worth taking note of.

On the training field, he's a true pleasure who constantly strives to better himself. A coach can ask for nothing more than a player who brings h dedication and eagerness to learn. It's clear that if Leydon carries on with this same spirit, he's destined for more significant success in the future. Thomas is the embodiment of focus, effort and a willingness to learn, and a major asset to the U7s..



### **Xavier Holman**

Xavier Holman is an intelligent player who combines strong ball handling skills and ability to anticipate the opposition's movement, two factors that contributed to him forming a major part of the teams defensive prowess.

Another feather in Holman's cap is his shadowing technique. His growing confidence in asking for the ball bodes well for future development as the game evolves in the U8s.

If there are opportunities to improve, maintaining focus throughout the entire duration of the game may be one but this is not a criticism, rather an area of development, and one that will undoubtedly propel his game to new heights.

We're excited to see how Holman will progress in the U8s. His current trajectory suggests a promising future, and we can't wait to see what the next season holds.





### **Zachary Rash**

Zachary Rash demonstrated astounding progress during the course of the season, and ended it as both a scorer of great tries and self-appointed last line of defence.

Zach demonstrates great enthusiasm on the pitch, as a real live wire able to lift the spirits of his teammates. He's not just a motivator; his deceptive pace proved to be more and more challenging for opposition defences as the season progressed

This season, we've seen him make covering tackles in one moment, then weave through defences in the next breath. His finish to the season was nothing short of outstanding, leaving us all in anticipation of what he might deliver next season.

In conclusion, Zachary Rash is an emerging rugby talent whose enthusiasm, pace and defensive skills have left an indelible mark on the under U7s Rugby season. His potential for growth and development is immense, promising an exciting future in the sport. Keep it up, Zachary!



## U8S SEASON REPORT

The Under 8's rugby union season has been a whirlwind of growth and excitement on the field. From the early days of learning and practicing those essential rugby skills like tackling, rucks, scrums, and line outs, the team has truly stepped up their game. And let's be real, things are getting serious out there!

One of the standout achievements of the season has been the impressive boost in confidence when it comes to tackling. Week by week, these young players have shown remarkable progress in their ability to bring down opponents with determination and grit. A special shoutout goes to Toby H, Max M, Cooper, Mason and Matthew, our fearless forces on the field, making their presence known through their high confidence in tackling.

Rucking has also been a development this season, with phase play becoming a regular feature of the team's strategy. Watching these pint-sized powerhouses rucking and winning the ball at the breakdown has been a thing of beauty.

While the spotlight often shines on the try-scorers, there are countless unseen contributions of players who are part of the all-important breakdown, encompassing tackling, rucking, and jackaling. These players embody the essence of teamwork and highlight the saying that true champions thrive in the shadows.

Let's not forget about the line outs and scrums – these young players have been taking on these complex aspects of the game with enthusiasm and determination. They've improved with each and every set play, listening to the coaches and increasing in skill and finesse.

Our Under 8s have not just stayed within their age bracket; they've ventured into the Under 9s, proving their mettle time and again. Arkie, Cooper, Mason, and Max A have turned heads with their skills, demonstrating that potential knows no bounds and age is a mere number.

An enormous thank you to Will Miles for taking charge of the coaching this season; volunteering week nights and weekends to corral a group of enthusiastic and excitable 8-year-olds is no small feat! This gratitude extends to Tristan Worledge and Malcom Tangi for their on-field coaching during games and assistance during training. Thanks also to Danielle North for taking on the role of team manager. Lastly but most importantly, a shout out to all the families for providing their children with the opportunity to experience rugby – bringing them to training each week and structuring Saturdays around game times. We appreciate the effort!

Looking ahead, the team has every reason to be excited about the future. With the ongoing improvement across all aspects of the game, it's clear that they're on a trajectory of continuous growth. But it's not just about the skills – the sense of team spirit and fun that has been so evident this season will undoubtedly continue to flourish. So, here's to more thrilling matches, more unforgettable tackles, and a whole lot more laughter on and off the field. Go Shammies!





### **Arktos (Arkie) Harwick - Miles**

Arkie's like a force of nature on the field! With those new rules, he's become a wrecking ball, using his size and speed to break tackles and make defenders wish they'd stayed home. He's like a vacuum cleaner for opposition players, always the first one there to say, "Nope, not today!" And hey, his tackling game's been on a serious growth spurt this year. Watch out, world, Arkie's ready to unleash chaos and create opportunities – he's not just a player, he's a game-changer!



### **Charlotte Kirwan**

Charlotte's got speed, a knack for breakdowns, and she's cleaning up like a champ. Tag versions are her playground, but she's gearing up to unleash her power in the physical tackle game. All she needs now is a splash of self-confidence to complete the puzzle and become a breakdown beast. With coordination, strength, and speed in her arsenal, Charlotte's on track to be the terror of the turf! Keep boosting her mojo, and watch her rock that rugby world.



### **Cooper O'Keefe**

An explosion of power in both attack and defence. With the ball he is an unstoppable juggernaut blowing through opposition players with a palm off that hit harder than most players tackles. Most impressive this year has been Cooper's commitment to learn the rules of Rugby Union so that he could more effectively use his intimidating arsenal of skills he has imported from Rugby League



### **Henele (Hene) Tangi**

Through a challenging season beset by illness and injury, Hene has shown grit and determination week after week. The hard work has paid off, and now back at full health we are seeing Hene showing that hunger for the ball combined with blistering runs up the touchlines with perfectly timed steps to avoid defenders looking to take him out.



### **Henry Taylor**

Grit, determination, and guts. Henry is the smallest player on the squad after demanding to play up a year at the beginning of the season. Though often coming up against players twice his size, Henry has shown time and again, that he is one of the most resilient players in the club. With a focus on passing Henry is set to become the next great scrum half of the Shammies.



### **Jacob (Jake) Cox**

While he has been honing his rugby skills for a couple of years, this is Jacobs first season playing competitive rugby. He brings an infectious sense of fun to the team that you cannot help but be swept up in. Jake will make a great hooker, playing a pivotal role in directing set piece plays from the lineout and scrum.



**Joji Tawake Tuivuna**

Another new addition to the U8 family, Joji is the unstoppable force of the Blues line up. He has scored tries with literally every opposition player hanging off him. His endurance and confidence in his own abilities have increased each week this season. Joji is a great team player able to wrap up defenders before offloading the ball to a shammies teammate for a clear run to the try line.



**Jude Barros**

Jude the Jackler. Jude brings an infectious positivity to his rugby, always the first to laugh and to put his hand up. But his positivity shouldn't fool anyone. Jude is one of the first to breakdown and is fearless at the ruck. He has worked hard on his tackling and rucking and has repeatedly won turnovers from the opposition at the most critical of times. Jude brings his passion for the game to his commitment to the team.







### **Mason Megna**

Mason is a great defensive player. Using textbook tackling techniques and impressive upper body strength to take down the ball carrier and turn the momentum of the game back towards the Shammies. He is also a strong runner, often demanding that opposing teams commit several defenders to bring him down. Excelling in the more physical aspects of the game Mason is a future front rower who will surely be a primary workhorse of future teams.



### **Matthew Conti**

Kilo for kilo he is one of the hardest working members of either team. Matthew's deceptive power have taken down many unsuspecting attackers, with his speed and knack for finding space outside an opposition line leading multiple tries. A scrum half in the making, Matthew shows a great read of the game, which I hope to channel in to on field leadership once the coaches are relegated to the sideline next year.



### **Max McQueen**

Max has developed into one of the most committed rugby players on the team. He is regularly involved in all aspects of the game. This year he has worked hard on his tackling and taken on and brought down some of the biggest opposition runners. He brings positivity and commitment and desire to win and score tries. Max is fearless, keen to be involved across the rugby pitch and brings a smile to every game.



### **Maximilian (Max) Akai**

He can step! He can kick! He can run! He has fun! Looking to next year when coaches step off the field, Max is set to be one of those playmakers to organise the rest of the team. While he has the skills to make an impact anywhere in the backs, Max is developing to a broader strategic sense that will allow him to direct play and defence from the centres or flyhalf.



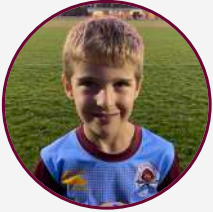
### **Michaela North**

An all-round player developing in all aspects of the game. Early in the season Michaela showed her team mates how to clean out and secure the ball. Her strong foundation skills in attack mean that she can be relied on to gain meters when she has the ball and securely take it to ground for the next phase.



### **Sacha Beattie**

With the natural speed and agility Sacha is a born winger. With a limited team focus on passing this year this has meant that she has been getting out of her back row comfort zone and into the fray of the forwards. She has shown a great awareness of where her teammates are and has done a good job of positioning herself to receive the ball. As we build our passing game Sasha will be there to take the ball through open space and over the line.



### **Thomas Polito**

Over the last couple of years Thomas has shown that his superior speed and special awareness make him a one man try scoring machine. This year Thomas channelled these talents into the team aspects of the game, quickly getting to the breakdown to secure a clean ball for his teammates. He has really matured in his understanding of the game this season.



### **Tobias (Toby) Worledge**

This season Toby has been trying out the roll of fullback this season, looking to sweep around to catch any line breaks. Where he has been most effective through is at the break down where he has shown great improvement in his tackling and protecting the ball. Occasional flashes of brilliance have shown the potential lurking in him. Toby is showing great flanker potential and is sure to be the scourge of scrum halves everywhere in coming years.



### **Toby Herbert**

Toby has matured as a player this season showing an ability to read the game and look for opportunities to support his teammates. Leading by example he has shown great discipline at the breakdown, jackaling the ball for quick meters, and clearing out opposition to set up some clean shammies ball. Combined with a strong commitment to the tackle Toby has a noticeable impact in all aspects of the game.





## U9S SEASON REPORT

With our previous two seasons either shortened or delayed due to covid and the weather, it was with much anticipation and equal relief that our pre-season commenced as scheduled and without interruption.

We welcomed Aiden, Max, Daniel, Levi, and Patrick to our ranks and a timely addition indeed with games moving to 10 a side. However, some players from season 2022 did not return. Stuck between fielding one side with many reserves or an ambitious project of committing to both a Blues and Maroons team, our four U/10s stepped up and played every Saturday morning. An enormous debt of gratitude then to Dylan, Finn, Paddy and Thalia.

But 'stuff happens!' So responding to our little ones being sick, injured or away and with revised draws, the customary organising of gala days and everything "non-coaching" related, it was again enormously reassuring to have Mel at the reigns managing us. Thank you!!

As is customary in U/9s, coaches were soon moved from on-field to sideline duties. And as we paced up and down the pitch, it provided Paul and Jeremy the opportunity to experience our parental involvement at close range. Welcome to our new parents and thank you to all our U/9 community for providing such a supporting environment for our children.

Now in our second season of contact, the ever present need to improve our tackling and general skills at the breakdown presented its challenges to the coaches who also understood the need to have fun each time we trained and played. Playing on a larger field offered its challenges and it took us a few weeks to appreciate the need to be present at the break down very early. By season's end though, both Blues and Maroons were recycling ball for multiple phases of attack and executing two and three passes at times. With a view to the more organised U/10 competition, both coaches cautiously introduced a few specific positions for certain players. There is plenty here to be optimistic about!!

It seems no Shammies season is complete without a Tuesday visit by some NSW Waratahs. The team was privileged to have ex Shummy Charlie Gamble and his Waratah team-mate Dylan Pietsch offer expert assistance on a chilly night in early May. Again, so many smiles!

A special thank you also to our Senior men's First Grade coach Logan who would often just "appear" at any one of our training drills and provide simple yet instantly effective tips for the team. Paul and Jeremy learnt a bit too!

The 'unofficial competition' provided our fair share of wins and draws (just ask the players) but importantly, every player improved some aspect of their game. No matter the result, each short post-match gathering produced visible smiles as the provider of the snakes approached.

It has been a rewarding season with plenty to look forward to in 2024. Hope to see everyone back.

## Player profiles



### **Aiden Sharp**

Always works at improving his skills, always turns up on time ready to go with a smile on his face. He's strong and well-liked by all. Congrats Aiden on a really strong season well done on all of your hard work you have made really visible progress! We look forward to seeing you next year.



### **Ada Marshall**

Ada has an awesome sidestep on her and her technique at breakdown is second to none. She is great fun to be around and has improved throughout

the season. It also has to be said she shows terrific resilience, when she gets crunched, she gets back up ready to go time & time again...tough!



### **Alexander Shepherd**

The 'captain' of the defensive line, Alex was known to move off his line and pressure opposition attack on the first play. Alex is a great listener and was eager to immediately

implement any advice at training and during games. He was usually the first player to arrive at the break down and became increasingly effective with his involvements there.



### **Bill Taylor**

Tough rugged let me at'em Bill, he loves the rough stuff and never ever takes a backward step. At every opportunity Bill will charge at the opposition he is strong

& determined and always smiling. Our Captain this year and he leads by exemplary example.



### **Charlie Fury**

Charlie made the move from wing to half back this season and what a success it proved!! While Charlie's passing game improved out of sight, he was equally dangerous running the

ball. He made many meters with speed and a swerve and his toughness in defence was an inspiration to all.



### **Daniel Gardiner**

Recruited from the Oz tag ranks, Daniel soon proved to be a formidable opponent for any defensive line. Some deft ball skills complimented his no nonsense running.

Daniel's crashing runs into and then through the Briars' defence early in the season was all the more inspiring when we realised he'd done so with a chipped bone in his foot. This is one tough ambre'.

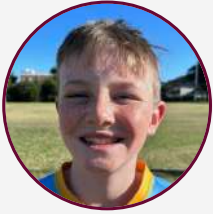


### **Dara Forrest**

A true competitor, Dara never took a backward step. He was always "game aware" and when combined with speed he'd score a try out of nothing. Dara was very courageous,

often playing on when injured. He trained hard, really worked in defence and was a real asset to the team.





**Dylan Lusted**

In addition to his U/10s duties, Dylan played every game for the Blues. He consistently cleared out at the breakdown, owned a tackle any "leagueie" would be proud of and was a habitual try scorer. Some early season combinations with Tom were fun to watch. Dylan was just awesome this season. Well done.



**Finn Waterworth**

Finn terrorised defences with his acceleration and sidestep and really made a difference when he was on the field. Finn backed up from his U/10 duties and we were always a real chance of victory when Finn played. His defensive efforts at the break down were quite handy too!



**Flynn Field**

Superb teammate with a natural ability, always thinking of others and always smiling. For one of our physically stronger players, he is also fast and skilful and extremely capable. The more Flynn believes he can, the more he will achieve.



**Henry Willcox**

Loves scoring a "meat pie" and looks for any opportunity to do so. Henry is fast, with a great sidestep he also possesses good rugby smarts. He instinctively runs with the ball carrier always supporting and giving them options, he is crafty at the breakdown and enjoys testing the referee's boundaries.



**James Mansour**

James' enthusiasm continued from last season. He asked many questions in trying to improve his game. James was our line out thrower and as the season progressed he became more confident in taking the ball into contact.



**Levi Thomas**

Levi showed a real commitment to training and his positive attitude set a great example for the entire team. Levi produced many weaving runs but he was equally effective as our back up half back. Levi played tough, always taking on larger opposition players. A great season!



**Maximillien Rabet-Bray**

A gifted and elusive ball runner with a great determination and fend. In defence, Max is courageous and is now one of the best at getting front on and low in his tackles. Always smiling, always listening, always working on his game. Great season Max, allez la Shammies!!



**Paddy Taylor**

King of the breakdowns, he disappears into a ruck and emerges with the ball and he can strip a ball from an opponent in a maul before they know they know what's happened. He has an excellent rugby brain; he is fearless and we thank him for his support.



**Patrick Homan**

Patrick was among the first at games and become more confident as the season progressed. He worked hard on his catching and passing and it was pleasing to see

Patrick begin to take the ball into contact.



**Roly Willcox**

Well done our super halfback. Roly's ball handling has become slick and fast whether it's a long cut-out pass or a little deft pop pass. He organises his backs into both

attack and a solid defence formation. Roly has put a lot of work into his game this year and it would be worth wager, he one day kicks a drop goal to win a final.



**Roscoe Westgarth**

Strong, courageous and a gentleman. Roscoe runs hard with the ball & gets stuck in at the breakdown, every aspect of Roscoe's game has improved this year... the

team look to him as their talisman. Be proud of your efforts mate, you have had a great season.



**Ryan Weeden**

Ryan made the most tackles this season, awesome determination to keep running down his opposite number and making memorable try saving defensive cover tackles.

Ryan listens carefully at training and works hard at improving his skills. He should be very proud of his season.



**Thalia Kilkenny**

Our top try scorer for Blues! Thalia doesn't like to go around players. Why waste time? She charges bravely straight through the middle. Thalia has been a heroic,

tough and delightful team member. As a coach the only difficulty is not awarding her player of the match every game.



**Thomas Luchi**

Strong, fast and always heavily involved, Thomas took his game to another level this season. He scored many tries and stole much opposition ball, but importantly Tom is

learning to use his outside support. He was very effective in contact and his competitive nature was fun to watch.







Pre season with Uni



United by Rugby Union.



Shammies Showdown u9s



## U10S SEASON REPORT

The transition from the genteel surrounds of Concord and Inner West Minis, Mr Whippy and Coffee vans gives way to the realities of grade SJRU Sunday competition in the U10s. Based on the Shammies philosophy that kids get better at rugby by playing more minutes we went with 2 teams Maroons and Blues – meaning all kids played all minutes. While this proved difficult with mid-season illness and family travel the kids had a great year.

Both teams excelled in the early grading games to the point that both teams were moved up divisions. Maroons to C and Blues to D. Tuesday trainings were ran as one big team – meaning that the connection between the 2 teams was retained.

A massive thanks to all parents, coaches, managers, ground marshals, scorers, assistance referees, orange and snake providers. Rugby is a sport for community and connection, and I think that we achieved that this year!

A big congratulations to the U10 Blues on making the semi-finals... an experience that will be important next year.

Coach: Dan Waterworth, Nathan Lusted, Tom Taylor  
Manager: Kristy Alexander





## Player profiles



### Aidan Boyle

Aidan has continued to develop in confidence as our outside centre. His low tackling style is a real asset to the defensive line and his commitment to the break down when required

is to be commended. Aidan has continued to find space in attack with his speed and confidence out wide.



### Cormac Wolfenden

Mack is the glue that bonds our strong pack together. He ensured we dominated scrums and rucks. He never gave up on the chase even when outpaced. Somehow he had a knack of breaking the first

tackle. Well done Mack on a great season.



### Dylan Lusted

There were numerous times throughout the season where you could be forgiven for mistaking Dylan for George Gregan and "that tackle". His cover defence was amazing

and was hard to run down in open space. Fantastic season and 'Stay Strong' Dylan.



### Eleanor Sato

A great season from Eleanor. Eleanor's confidence in tackling has grown enormously this year. Her defence out wide over the season has improved and

really helped the backline work as a cohesive unit. A last minute try by Eleanor to win the match against Newport was most definitely a season highlight for the team.



### Finn Waterworth

Our warrior half. Finn consistently takes down kids 2 or 3 times bigger than him. He shows no fear or preservation for his body. If there is a tackle that needs to be made, Finn gets the job done every

time. His read of the game is superb, and he continuously took advantage of slow opposition. Rest and recover for next season Finn. Rep Honour: Sydney Uni U10's



### Hamish Worledge

Hamish continued his elusive runs. He would confuse the opposition with his side step and pivot. He also made some crucial tackles which helped us secure the ball or a penalty. Great season Hamish.



### Hugo Mesley

His speed and stepping has seen Hugo continue to cause havoc for the opposition. He scored one of the greatest tries ever seen at Camperdown Oval with a brilliant individual 95

metre run eluding 17 tackles. Great stuff Hugo.



### Jack Farley

While Jack was a late inclusion to the squad, he quickly ingrained himself into the team. We all quickly realised the power and speed Jack possessed. This inclusion

firmed up our defence and gave us a new attacking weapon. You legend Jack.



**Jakob Rainer**

Jakob moved up to U10's this year from playing down a grade last year. Jakob has proven to be one of our more influential players this year. His low tackling technique is a thing of

beauty, and he has been one of our strongest defenders this year. Jakob is also a strong running centre and consistently finds solid metres with the ball in hand.



**Joey Jefferson**

Joey was accidentally signed up to play "Rugby" by mum this year when the family thought he was joining a team to emulate his beloved Sydney Roosters in the NRL. This minor mistake has resulted in Joey

joining the shammies and developing a far greater passion for rugby union. Joey has been a key team player and shown strength when tackling and plenty of tries with his speed and agility. We hope to keep Joey as a convert forever.



**Leo Hewlett**

Leo joined the U10 shammies this year in his first year of rugby. He has a natural ability on the field and has quickly become a key team player at the breakdown. Leo is consistently the first player in

at the clean out and has an awesome workrate around the ruck. He is a hard running forward and has a strong kicking boot which has proved handy as our key goal kicker this year.



**Liam Lategan**

Liam was the driving force of the front row. His work rate was second-to-none. Whether it was with the ball or in defence.. His bustling runs made it near impossible

for the opposition to stop him. Another great season where you go from strength to strength Liam.



**Lincoln Meseke**

The wrecking ball. It was great to watch Lincoln develop his skill over the year. He has learnt to use his size and strength to get us into attacking positions. He even got white line fever

with the number of tries he scored this year. Awesome season Lincoln.



**Mali Smith**

Mali's strength has been a real asset to the forward pack this season. She is a powerful running prop who makes good metres every time she has the opportunity to take a hit up. Her efforts in the scrum have been

evident with a very competitive scrum pack throughout the entire season.



**Owen Crealy**

Owen joined the team this year as his first year of rugby. He has shown a huge transformation as a player over the season. Owen has natural speed and can find the try line out wide when given the opportunity. His

commitment in defence has also improved over the season and we look forward to seeing Owen continue to develop over the coming years.



**Paddy Taylor**

Paddy continues to show his passion for rugby and the shammies on the field every week. He has developed his leadership skills this season in the scrum half position and

can be heard rallying the team and directing the forwards at the break down. Paddy's rucking skills this year have been impressive this year as he isn't scared to jump in and help out the forwards when the opportunity presents itself.





**Reica Kikuchi**

Our silent assassin. The opposition knew when they were tackled by Reica. Her strength and speed are very deceptive and caught out unsuspecting opponents. She is a great

team player that is always there in support. Congratulations on a great season Reica.



**Rory Clampett**

Rory has committed to the hooker role this season. A key member of our scrum and attack, Rory has shown a solid work rate at the breakdown throughout all games. He consistently supports his

teammates with a quick clean out and has shown good tackling technique against some much larger opposition.



**Ryan Tappin**

We certainly missed Ryan in the second half of the season. His tenacity to win the ball at the breakdown was unbelievable. I wish I had a dollar for every turnover he secured. Well

played Ryan.



**Seyi Barros**

Seyi is our hardest player to any contest. His never say die attitude saw him lethal with ball in hand and destructive in defence. While there were not as many tries as previous

seasons, his work rate around the middle of the park was exceptional. Well done Seyi.



**Sidney Hawkins**

Sid's work around the ruck was awesome. Sid would do a lot of stuff that others wouldn't. His constant focus was for the Shammies to win the ball. You could see the difference when he was

not on the field. Another stellar season Sid.



**Spencer Neil**

Spencer has had an excellent year this year. He has been a real asset in both attack and defence. His work around the ruck has been really strong and frequently cleans out to ensure the team maintain

possession. Spencer has also shown that he can find space off a quick tap and has made some big metres with his hard running style.



**Strath Stevenson**

Strath is a strong runner of the ball, often making good metres through the middle of the ruck. He has good vision to his teammates in support, and always attempts to make a good

pass. His tackling has improved throughout the season and his natural size will be an asset as he continues to develop his skills at the break down.



**Thalia Kilkenny**

No matter whether it is at centre or lock, whatever the position, Thalia would get the job done. Some of her runs swung the momentum in our favour and gave us great

field position. Her linkage to outside runners was superb. It was a top season Thalia.





**William Stringer**

Will joined the shammyies UIO's late this season and slotted straight into our backline. Will has quickly developed an understanding of the laws of the game and started making some solid

contributions out wide. With a few games now under his belt we're sure he will continue to have a bright future at the club.



**Xavier Alexander**

Xavier's efforts this year have not gone unnoticed. He has consistently played a full game for the Blues and often backed up for a second run with the Maroons at every opportunity. Xavier plays some of his best

rugby when he has the ball in hand and a little bit of space to take advantage of his strength and hard running technique.









## U11S SEASON REPORT

As another season draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Petersham Junior Club for their support and encouragement. Particularly JK & Dan Waterworth for all their hard work behind the scenes. We would also like to thank Shogo and the U12s for accommodating our boys for some preseason training, which really helped us to hit the ground running.

Another huge thank you goes to our team manager Kate Jamison, who has gone above and beyond this season and has been so helpful in keeping us all on track. Also a special thank you to Giles Rafferty who's expert scrum training had our forward pack demolishing the set piece at the back end of the season. Finally, to all the U11s parents for your patience, trust and kind words of encouragement.

It's an absolute pleasure for us to coach this side and it's made a lot easier by all the support we get, so thank you.

Well, there is so much we can say about this wonderful team. It's been another fantastic season for the boys, and they should all be very proud. We were so glad to see the majority of the team back this year to continue building on the great season they had last year. Falling short in the semis in 2022 had really lit a fire under the boys and they showed up with renewed focus, determination, and dedication to take it one, or two steps further in 2023.

This season was filled with some great on field moments and some very hard-fought battles, but what we are most proud of is the remarkable growth in confidence and support the boys demonstrate towards one another both on and off the field.

Throughout the season, the boys have exhibited some fantastic personal skill development and an elevated understanding of the game's strategies and techniques. All the boys have shown a real dedication to mastering the specific skills of their positions, as well as exploring how their jigsaw piece fits into the great rugby puzzle.

Training was more evolved and complex for them this year with drills that incorporated more independent decision making and communication. There was also a step up in intensity of matches and the skills of their opposition, which resulted in some very closely contested games that often had them emerging victorious after coming from behind or grinding out hard-earned wins with only a point or a kick in it. The progress the boys have made both at training and on game day should be commended and finishing as minor premiers two years in a row is a huge achievement.

We had five boys selected for the Sydney University rep squad and two in the Combined Catholic Schools squad. All those boys represented the Shammies with great pride. They brought back new skills to the team to help elevate everyone around them, including us coaches.

We are so proud of how they stand united, motivating one another when the going gets tough and celebrating each other's successes with genuine enthusiasm. Looking ahead to the final games we know that the boys will take all the lessons learned, skills acquired, and memories made into the semis and hopefully the grand final, but regardless of the outcome it will all undoubtedly serve as a foundation for the seasons to come.

We would like to make a special mention of Jack Farley and Harry Pinkerton who joined us for the beginning of the season. Jack has now joined the u10s where we hear he is playing outstandingly. A difficult moment for all his team mates to see him go, but he made a wonderful contribution to the team both last year and this year (like his beautiful - yet illegal in u11s - try from the back of the scrum) Thanks Jack!



And a thank you to Tom, Carter and Finn for being great team players and joining the forward pack when required. It's always tough playing out of position but you all stepped up with great tackles, set piece and ruck work and most importantly putting the team first.

Finally Claire and I would like to say a huge congratulation to the boys on another outstanding season. Remember that success isn't just about the wins or position on the ladder, it's about the friendships you've made, the skills you've learned, and the memories you've created together. As your coaches, we couldn't be prouder of your achievements and the way you've represented Petersham Rugby Club.

Go Shammies!



**Alex Corben**

Alex is the quiet achiever by definition. Always calm, always focussed and always delivering! Again and again! He has been very consistent this season, both at training

and in the game. A true pillar for our scrum and for the team, ensuring continuity of the game with some brilliant ruck activity, support runs and pick and gos. Alex loves being on the field, whether at training, where he is one of our most diligent trainers, or on Sundays, where he begs to get back in the minute he's replaced! The only thing that seemed to keep him off this season was sickness. With that focus, Alex leads by example and we are certain he will continue to deliver and grow with the team next season!



**Blake Dickson**

It was great to see Blake continue for his second season with the Shammies and to see him continuously improve in all the different aspects of rugby. More

specifically, Blake is very active in the rucks, endlessly defending his mates and possession. He has also worked hard on his lineout and demonstrated his skills on game day winning lots of ball at lineout time. Blake is also a pleasure to coach, as he brings a very positive and playful attitude, as well as helpful and insightful suggestion on how the team could improve, how the trainings are run or potential lineout calls. We can't wait to see him again with the Shammies next season, continuing to be a great teammate, build on his rugby skillset and to enjoy playing the game!



**Byron Barrett**

Last year, Byron was a winger, but this year, Byron stepped up to bring his tenacity, resilience, and great fighting spirit to the forwards, debuting as hooker! Almost

the smallest on the field, Byron has really shown his strengths as a hooker, and worked really hard to learn new skills to end up as the reference for all the forwards with his excellent scrum / ruck attitude and positioning. A real team player, Byron selflessly moves from ruck to ruck to secure possession. With such an attitude, Byron will continue to shine and grow in confidence to get more runs with the ball, like we've been seeing towards the end of the season. A pleasure to have on the team, we can't wait for next year!



**Carter Rolfe**

It's obvious to everyone watching that Carter is a wonderful rugby player who could probably play any position well. He is fast, strong, and confident in his

abilities. Although he scored many great tries and demonstrated some fantastic skills this season, what we are most proud of in Carter is his leadership and voice on the field. He always contributes to team discussions with enthusiasm and knows how to lift the whole team with his energy and can-do attitude. Carter should be commended on his efforts; he played consistently well in both the forwards and backs and can always be relied on to lead by example. He has worked hard on his goal kicking and how he can lay a platform for those around him. Carter was also selected for the Sydney Uni Rep side this year. Congratulations on a great season Carter!



### **Finn Chanter**

Finn's greatest critic is himself as he always strives to play at his very best and give 100% in everything he does on the field. He takes representing the Shammies

and his position as a leader in the side very seriously and it doesn't go unnoticed. This year Finn has played for us at both 10 and 12 which has allowed him to develop a well-rounded skill set. At 10 he directs the tempo of the game well and continues to improve his decision making and distribution. At 12 he has had more space and freedom with the ball which has seen him showcase his speed and positive ball carries into contact, often breaking the line and scoring some classic tries. His goal kicking was once again an asset to the team as is his cool head and leadership as vice-captain. His hard work was rewarded as he was picked for the Sydney Uni Rep again. Well done Finn!



### **Finlay McFarland**

From a total beginner last year to one of the strongest players on the field this year. What an incredible season Finlay has had!

Finlay is very athletic and takes rugby technique and self-improvement very seriously. He trains hard and has absorbed tackling, rucking and scrum skills quickly, improving almost every training session. This has made him one of our top defenders on the field, a consistent contender for the Forward of the Match medal and was even selected for the Sydney Uni u11s rep team which was a great reward for all his hard work. Finlay has continued to work on his attacking abilities and has had few quality ball carries, eating up lots of meters towards the end the season. Finlay is also very respectful of his coaches, teammates, and opponents. A great season for Finlay and no doubt many more to come.



### **Fionn Rafferty**

Fionn is a leader in the making. Always willing to help and advise his teammates, propose his views to improve the team and lead by example (even

as a safety advocate, when he stopped his run through the defense to pick up his mouthguard!). Fionn worked hard towards his goals and got rewarded by representing the Combined Catholic School team and making it to the subs short-list for the Sydney Uni u11s! Fionn is a very powerful player and has made great impacts for his team through big straight runs, strong tackles, and countless turnovers in the rucks. We can't wait to see what Fionn brings to the Shammies next season, as we know he will keep working hard and continue to grow into an amazing leader.



### **George Furey**

George continues to work hard on all his core skills. Once again, he is one of our most diligent trainers and always leads by example. Whether they are winning or

losing, George's positive leadership has kept the boys focused on the task and inspired them to keep heads held high. He has taken on more leadership this year as Captain, leading the pre-game warm ups and team chat. George always leads by example and his positive encouragement and kindness is the glue of this side. His game awareness has improved and often makes his impact felt in both defence and attack. At both 10 and 12 his cool head and accurate passing game has laid a wonderful platform for everyone playing outside of him. He was again selected in the Sydney Uni rep side and we can't wait to see what next season has in store for him. Well done George!





### **Harry Johnson**

Harry is one of the quiet achievers in the team. He trains hard, listens, and seeks feedback to improve himself. He is very reliable on the field, working with

his fellow forwards to secure ball possessions in rucks and scrums. His secret weapon is his ability to slide through the defence, finding the gaps on the outside, accelerating and bringing his whole team forward! Working as a great support in attack, whether for pick and goes or waiting patiently behind the backs for his opportunity, Harry is a key player our continuity and possession. With such a hard-working attitude, Harry will continue to be a fantastic teammate next season.



### **Hugo Erispe**

This was definitely an amazing season for Hugo! A season where he's blossomed and revealed himself to be a strong leader in the team and for

the forwards in particular. Leading by example as always, but now also taking the lead in the scrum, to bring the team together and increase their intensity. You can find him easily on the field, fearlessly carrying and endlessly tackling, always taking the team forward. Always hungry to play and have fun on the field, Hugo has been filling in for Canterbury on Friday nights, often playing against bigger teams. As a recognition, Hugo was selected both to represent Sydney Uni ulls and the Combined Sydney Catholic school team. He came back from rep with extra skills and motivation while also taking it upon himself to actively guide and talk to his teammates at training and in the game. He not only shown great rugby skills on the park but also great team spirit and great leadership this year! In recognition of his personal growth as well as his outstanding attitude and commitment we would like to recognise him with the 1883 Award! We can't wait to see how he will drive himself and the team even further next year!



### **Iggy Downes**

Iggy has proven to be a real handful for the opposition this year. He is a gifted athlete who seems to have an innate rugby intuition, poking holes in the defense

with his step, speed, and deceptively strong leg drive. He often finds the weak shoulder of opposition defenders and glides right through them with ease. He has occupied the wing for us this year and scored some fantastic tries but stepped up to try his hand at 12 in our last game of the regular season and had one of his best games of the year. With a bit more focus at training to work on the accuracy of his pass and keeping his depth to run onto the ball, we think we will be seeing much more of Iggy in the center channels next year. Well done Iggy!



### **Jono Peacocke**

Jono is a consummate team man, always smiling, always positive and encouraging of his teammates. This year he has put his hand up for more responsibility and was

always looking for ways to improve his skills whilst focusing on his core role as scrum half. Jono stepped up to try his hand at number 10 in two games for us this season and didn't look out of place at all, using his crisp passing skills to straighten the attack and get the ball in space. His urgency to the ruck has been fantastic, his pass has continued to improve as has his decision making, putting in some clever clearing kicks to relieve pressure. He is one of our most committed players, always trying his best and taking on feedback. Fantastic season Jono!



### **Joon Soo Woodhead**

For his second season with the Shammies, Joon Soo has shown again how skilful and strong he is. Joon Soo loves playing, and you can see his face light up when he gets

to enter the field for game time! He is a very powerful tackler and has a deadly leg drive ability. You can usually recognise him on the field by the 2-3 players hanging off his back while he runs straight towards the try line! A dangerous scrum opponent as well, which is where he and his fellow forwards have shone towards the end of the season. We cant wait to see him fend through more defences next year and continue to train hard with his teammates!



### **Mac Callon**

Mac has had another great season! He was selected in the Sydney Uni rep side and brought many new skills back to the team, particularly his wider vision of the game

in attack. He is a serious competitor and has been a handful for the opposition, especially around the ruck and down the blind side. His quick thinking and his speedy foot work from the back of the ruck has put many opposition teams on the backfoot. Mac should particularly be commended for his improved communication and organisation of attack. With more work on his passing speed off the ground he will continue to be a class scrum half for the Shammies for many years to come. Well done Mac!



### **Michael Keenan**

Michael has improved every aspect of his game this year. His tackling and back up play has improved from last season, and he has grown more confident, finding his

voice on the wing, and letting his teammates know he is there and ready for that ball! He often finds himself in the right position, holding his depth in attack or coming off his wing in defense and ruck support. He is lightning quick and when he is in space he is very hard to run down. Michael should be commended for his enthusiasm and dedication. With some more work on stepping back inside and looking for support players to make that last pass, he will continue to be a threat on the wing. Great season Michael!



### **Rafael Curach**

Once again leaving the opposition in his dust! Raf had another fantastic season. Patiently waiting out on the wing to unleash his deadly pace. He not only scored

some great tries for us this year but really improved his defense and game awareness. At training Raf worked really hard on timing his run and keeping his depth. He also found his voice on the field, so his teammates know where he is. With continued work on linking up with support players (if they can catch up to him) we know Raf will continue to improve. He does everything with a smile, is a great influence on all his teammates and great fun to watch from the sideline. Well done Raf!



### **Tom Jamison**

This year Tom has really cemented himself as an outstanding utility player. Tom doesn't care where he plays, he just wants to be on the field, and he takes every opportunity to make an impact. He has been a handful in both attack and defense and has made huge improvements with his ball handling, passing and decision making. He has demonstrated some solid defense and some spectacular tries this season. By straightening up his attacking runs he has been able to showcase his devastating step and has found his voice to let his teammates know he's ready for the ball. Tom is developing into a very well-rounded player who always gives 110% Well done Tom!





### **Will Shepherd**

Wow! What a season! This was Will's first year with the Shammies and it is safe to say he has left his mark. Playing mostly at 13 for us this year, he well and truly made that position his own. Not only solid in defense making some huge hits, he is also creative and selfless in attack, always looking for the right option to pass or tucking the ball under his arm for a barn storming run. Will not only displayed some exceptional solo skills but was crucial in drawing in defenders and getting the ball out wide for several try assists. Will is one of our hardest trainers, always listening, always looking to improve. He has fit in with the side seamlessly and we can't wait to see what he brings next year. Congratulations Will, a standout season!



## U12S SEASON REPORT

What a memorable season of rugby from the U12 Shammies. The season began with the challenge of moving from 12 to 15 players on the field, as well as welcoming 12 new players, with a variety of rugby experience, to the team. We needed to onboard the newbies quickly, stick tight to positional play and keep our heads during the game and that was just the coaches!

All in all, it was a season that provided ups, downs and plenty of magic moments, none more than when the Shammies played Mosman on Friday night under lights. The atmosphere was electric, the gin bar and disco were back, and you could sense something special was going to happen. The Shammies delivered in spades winning a hard-fought game against Mosman U12's and John Eales, rugby royalty, was there to see it happen.

Every player has grown this season and we are so incredibly proud of the team for their commitment and character. Some tough losses during the middle of the season may have caused some teams to give up; but the U12 Shammies kept training hard, furthering their rugby knowledge and developing as a team. After a late season comeback (including a draw with the first placed team, win over the second placed team and 69-0 win in our final game versus the fourth placed team), we missed the finals by a whisker. Bring on spring 7s and season 2024 XVs as the U12 Shammies are marching up.

Whether we won, lost or drew – what was always most important was building that sense of rugby spirit and good sportsmanship. Congratulations to the entire team for receiving an invitation from Lindfield Junior Rugby Club to participate in a gala afternoon with Kawanishi – a touring Japanese team. It was an awesome afternoon that was enjoyed by players and parents alike and demonstrates the high regard that the Shammies was held in by fellow teams. Congratulations also to our Sydney Uni representatives who trained hard for several months, developed bonds with players from Balmain and Canterbury, and won 3 from 6 matches at the state championships – a fantastic achievement.

A big thank you to the coaches, managers, parents and grandparents for your support and encouragement during the season. Thank you also to the hard working club committee – from uniforms to fundraising to communications – your efforts are sincerely appreciated. We look keenly forward to season 2024, up the Shammies!



## Player profiles



### Callum Middleton

Callum, a team-oriented player, excelled with precise positional play in the forward position. Callum's adept ball distribution enhanced team attacks, and his supportive, cheerful demeanour was

ever-present. With his positive attitude and dedication, and as he embraces contact and refines his skills, Callum's growth as a rugby player will flourish.



### Charlie Cox

It was great to welcome Charlie back into the U12 Shammies and what a stellar season he had. A dynamic centre who terrorised the opposition with speed and agility. As defences toughen, Charlie's path to success in

2024 lies in persistent hard work and mastering basics. His seamless re-entry into the team reflects his commitment and skill, fantastic effort CC!



### Charlie Scholes

Charlie was new to the U12 Shammies but quickly excelled as a hardworking and committed player with remarkable fitness. Developing a niche in the pack, he pressured opposition inside

backs with swift breakdown skills. Evolving into a back-row role, Charlie's off-the-ball efforts in attack and defence were commendable. Charlie showed unique skill with some deft kicking late in the season. His consistent dedication to improvement is evident in every match and we can't wait to see Charlie back in 2024.



### Dylan Abbott

Dylan, a rugby newcomer, displayed courage and a strong learning spirit, well done on your impressive debut season! Your development and growing confidence on the field

are clear signs of your potential. We eagerly anticipate your continued growth in the upcoming year. Focusing on mastering the basics and enhancing existing skills will set the stage for a stronger 2024.



### Finley Askew

Finley, a new addition to the U12 Shammies, impressed this season with his strong work ethic, leadership and commitment, willing to put his body on the line week in and week out. Continuing to focus on the basics

while maintaining his dedicated approach will ensure growth. Congratulations, Fin, on a fantastic season. As a dynamic number 10 and leader, you've guided the team effectively. Your representation on the U12 Sydney University team was well-deserved, and we look forward to your return next season.



### Harley Donohue

Harley is an entrant to the 100 club this year and as a seasoned veteran. He's known for his adaptability and strong work ethic.

He seamlessly transitions between roles, willingly filling gaps wherever the team requires. His versatility has seen him shine both in the forward pack and the backline this season. As he continues to hone his skills, Harley's commitment to refining rugby fundamentals promises a bright future, making him a player to watch out for in the upcoming seasons.



### **Harrison Peart**

In his debut season, Harrison was a welcome addition to our Shammies team. Harrison embarked on learning rugby fundamentals and made remarkable progress. Possessing size and robustness, Harrison's attentive approach to training coupled with application of learned skills delivered results for the team. With the emergence of potent forward ball-running skills, Harrison's journey as a promising player is underway and we look forward to his return in 2024.



### **Hugo Rutter**

Hugo, our seasoned and dependable number 2, adds stability to our set piece and shines in attack. Hugo's game understanding and insights benefit the team both on and off the field. His solid

scrummaging, precise lineout delivery, work in tight at the breakdown and potent running make him a valuable asset. A powerful short-range scorer, he's enhancing his lineout throws and promises further growth next season.



### **Huxley Urakawa**

Huxley was new to the U12 Shammies team but instantly impressed as a dynamic winger who infused fun with sidesteps that can turn the game in an instant—a true metre eater. Congratulations on your U12

Sydney Uni rep honors, Huxley! Your dazzling footwork sets you apart and provides energy to the team. We eagerly anticipate your continued development on the field in 2024 refining positional play and building your rugby knowledge.



### **Jamie Phemister**

Jamie was the Shammie's lightning-fast centre and a leader on and off the field. Jamie's electrifying speed invigorated our U12 backline and delivered game-changing tries. His

representation in the U12 Sydney University team is a testament to his talent and commitment. With his season shortened by a shoulder injury, we eagerly await Jamie's return to the team next year ready to tear through opposition defences again.



### **Jack Speirs**

Jack stands out as a diligent team player who remained alert and engaged no matter the opposition. Jack's commitment was evident through his diligent training efforts and attentive

approach during drills. His dedication to improvement is commendable, and his quiet achiever persona adds value to the team's dynamic. With time and practice, Jack's potential as a rugby player will continue to grow.



### **Lachlan Harden**

This year Lochie engrained himself as an integral member of the Shammies squad: hard working, hard hitting and highly effective at the breakdown. Lochie was Mr Everywhere – whether at training or in the game, he was regularly our most reliable and effective forward at the breakdown and in defence. Lochie also regularly left both forward coaches with bruised ribs, taking delight in showing how hard he can hit. Lochie applied himself with eagerness and determination to win the ruck and will be even more effective as he develops skills to read the ruck, maintain his feet and enter through the gate. We look forward to a smashing 2024.

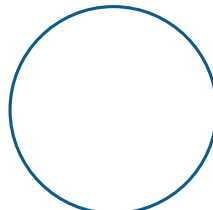




**Jarvis James**

Jarvis' rapid rise, from rugby newcomer to dominant player, is rooted in his dedication and ability to translate training to matches. Jarvis stands out for his formidable running, hard

hits, and skilful play, paired with an eagerness to learn and consistent peak performance. Excelling in scrums, penalties, and line-outs, Jarvis's journey exemplifies his commitment and aptitude, making him an indispensable asset on the field. Mastering his breakdown role and refining his running height will make him unstoppable.



**Kerrie Mocolutu**

Kerrie, a powerful winger, invigorated our attack and defence. Kerrie's standout moment came during the iconic Friday night victory against Mosman, where her unyielding determination and all-out effort

shone through. Keep up the rugby basics and continue to grow your rugby knowledge to deliver further development in 2024.



**Lawson Boyle**

Lawson, a fearless winger, embodied strength and dedication, consistently putting his all into the game. Steadily improving his catch-and-pass skills and defensive line speed,

Lawson's growth was evident. The highlight of Lawson's season was 'that tackle' against Narrabeen. His selflessness shone as a team player who prioritised others, and his role as the team's trombone player during victory songs added to his spirited presence. Lawson's commitment on and off the field is truly remarkable.



**Max West**

Max was new to our team but quickly showed us he embodies courage, commitment and a thirst for learning. Congratulations on a remarkable first season, your dedication shines. As

you progress through Spring 7's and beyond, we're excited to witness your evolving rugby skills. Your commitment to improvement sets the stage for an exciting journey ahead in the next season.



**Mirei Kikuchi**

Mirei, our dynamic half-back, showcases explosive versatility across the back line and stands out as a team player. Mirei's determination and high skill level helped push the team higher every week.

Mirei mastered the box kick by the end of season, making one coach in particular very pleased. Congratulations on representing U12 Sydney University and joining the 100 club! Keep up the talk on the field as your voice is so important to the team, Mirei's future looks bright, and we can't wait for her to rip into season 2024.



**Mylo Booth**

Mylo was a commanding presence in our Shammies team with robust power and exceptional set-piece skills, especially in the lineout. An integral part of the tight five,

Mylo's strength enhanced our scrum's performance and lineout dominance. A powerful ball runner, he drove forward momentum when needed. Mylo's impact was undeniable, his growth potential lies in becoming a formidable force at the breakdown. A veteran Shammies, we can't wait to see Mylo again in 2024.



**Nyah Ibrahim**

Athletic and skilled, Nyah has evolved into an exciting rugby player. His standout performance against the Raiders showcased his prowess, with impactful runs, off-the-ball dedication and

a memorable try, earning him a well-deserved man-of-the-match title. As Nyah’s journey continues, his potential shines brighter with each game and consistent performances will deliver a commanding presence in the 2024 season.



**Orlando Ponzetta**

Orlando stands out as the powerhouse in our U12 Shammies team, embodying hard-running prowess and formidable tackling. A talisman for the pack, he sets the commitment standard

while developing front-row skills and leadership qualities. Orlando’s unwavering work ethic defines his standout year, resulting in a place on the U12 Sydney University rep team and our 1883 award recipient for 2023. His undeniable impact as both player and leader foreshadows further achievements in his promising rugby journey.



**Robbie Clarke**

Robbie is our industrious and dependable forward leader who thrives on hard work and consistency. His pick-and-drive expertise adds crucial go-forward energy, while his prowess in ball jackling stands

out. This season, Robbie’s grit has shone as he fearlessly tackled challenges on the field. A vital pack leader, he sets and maintains high team standards. His commitment is recognised with a spot in the U12 Sydney University team, reflecting his influential role in both performance and leadership. Robbie’s growth involves mastering intricate forward play, showcasing his adaptability in both tight and structured phases.



**Robbie Walker**

Robbie “Texas Walker” was a stalwart in our forward pack, known for his well-rounded abilities. He’s robust, fast, and experienced—a reliable asset on the field. Robbie’s pivotal role spans tight and

looser play, shining in both attack and defence. His commitment solidifies his place as a key player in the pack. Keep working hard on the rugby basics, do the little things well and you’ll be rewarded.



**Saachi Williams**

Saachi brought a thrilling X-factor to the U12 Shammies with hard-hitting runs and fierce tackles at every game played. His magnetic personality is a unifying force; Saachi is a skilled, aggressive player who embodies energy

on and off the field. His respectful demeanour pairs with an unyielding drive to excel, evident in every ruck, run, and tackle. His representation in the U12 Sydney University team underscores his talent and dedication. 2024 offers opportunities to solidify rugby fundamentals for consistent success.



**Samuel Smith**

As a newcomer to rugby this year, Sam was a powerhouse on the field embodying robustness, courage and impactful play. With potential as a talented backrower

or hooker, Sam demonstrated effective tackling, setting a high standard for our defensive structure. Samuel showcased his aptitude for learning the basics quickly, further development hinges on developing a natural technique at the breakdown. Congratulations for a strong start to your rugby journey.





**Samuel Ware**

Sam was a newcomer to our Shammies team and brought competitiveness and versatility, excelling in positions from centre to fullback, with adept kicking skills. His cool-under-pressure demeanour

shone in crucial moments, like the electrifying, game-tying, after the buzzer conversion against ladder leaders Sylvania. Samuel's composed performance and versatility made him a valuable asset and earned the nickname "Ice Man". Ongoing learning and skill enhancement will fuel his development and we eagerly await Sam's return next



**Thomas Stockwell**

Thomas, nicknamed "The Iron" for his ability to flatten the opposition with his tackling skills, delivered impactful performances on the rugby field, combining grit and determination with skill to

elevate the team every week. Congratulations to Thomas for his versatile and team-oriented approach this season. His representation for the U12 Sydney University team highlights his commitment and talent. Thomas's dedication and potential make him a standout player to watch in the coming seasons, focusing on rugby fundamentals and skill enhancement will further elevate his game.



**Tom Strudwick**

Tom was a newcomer to our Shammies team this year, his tenacity and courage made him a standout in tight. Tom's commitment and promising form were evident during his time with the team, especially in breakdown drills. The Shammies eagerly anticipate his continued growth in the upcoming years.









## U13S SEASON REPORT

I would firstly like to thank John Kilkenny and the Committee for their tireless efforts again this year. We are most appreciative of the work that goes on behind the scenes to get all teams in the club on the field and through till the end of the end of the season.

To Juliana (Jules) Bates, our manager. Thank you on behalf of the parents and boys for your amazing effort in managing logistics, communications, rosters, and technology that makes coaching the easy job. We are blessed to have such a wonderful manager.

To Ben Khan, it has been a pleasure to work with you again this year coaching the boys. To have put ourselves in a position to win back-to-back premierships, is mainly due to the way you have moulded the forwards into one of the most dominant packs in the competition.

To all of our parents, those returning and those joining us for their first season with The Shammies. It makes the job of coaching and managing so much easier with such a supportive, willing and harmonious group of families. We certainly had the most enthusiastic bunch of supporters in the competition this year, and the players, Ben, Jules and I thank you very much for it.

As we look forward to embarking on our tour to NZ, a big thank you to all those that have contributed to organising and fundraising for the tour. The efforts of all have not gone unnoticed, but a special mention to Trudie Harriman, Katrina Lee and Amy Stewart.

What another great season for the PJR U13 team! After taking the U12E premiership last year, we were elevated to D grade and subsequently C grade after being regraded after Rd 3. The team made it into the grand final, and while we fell short, losing to Mosman 31-17, the players should be very proud of their efforts. It has been a great achievement to play in the grand final 2 grades higher than what we played last year. It is just rewards for the ongoing improvement of the players who returned from last season, as well as the invaluable contributions of players that joined us for the first time. The fact that players old and new were able to bond so well, so quickly, respect what each player brings to the group, and play with and for each other has been the secret to another successful season.

With 24 players, unfortunately, not all boys had as much game time as we would have liked to provide them, however all boys have contributed to our success. Rugby is a team game that relies on everyone doing a job to the best of their ability (which is all we ask of them). While our dominant performance this year could not have been made possible without some key players, equally we could not have performed as we did, had it not been for the contribution each player has made when they have taken the field. My hat goes off to many of our players who have been restricted to less game time and thank them for their selfless commitment to the team.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that 15 of our boys represented Sydney University at the State Championships. In an exceptionally tough competition, we had a very difficult pool including the eventual winners, Parramatta Two Blues. We came away from the weekend bruised and battered, but a win on the final day that showed tremendous grit and determination that made our club side better for the experience.

It has been a pleasure co-coaching a great bunch of young men, all of whom display respect, humility and a desire to improve. It has been a joy, not only because of our on field success, but also in seeing friendships developing amongst the group with boys who have been brought together by the wonderful game they play. They should be very proud of being runners up this year.

**Coach - Troy Cameron**

## Player profiles



### **Aiden Lee (SUJRU)**

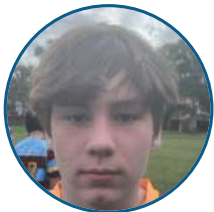
Aiden has had an outstanding season this year and certainly one of our best players. In a similar fashion to Will HK, Aiden's defensive efforts are well known, but he exhibited a running game that punished

teams for any slight lapse in defence through the middle.



### **Alex Mitchell**

Alex is another player that received limited game time this season, however with the limited opportunities he had on the wing this season, he made the most of them.



### **Alex Moore (SUJRU)**

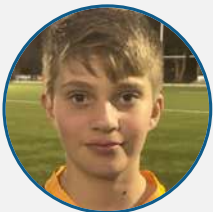
Another season of brutal hard running at oppositions. Alex knows the shortest way to the try line, and his straight running is a highlight of his game, along with his hard-hitting defence.

We decided to move Alex into the centres for our semi final, and he did not let us down, making invaluable meters and solid in defence. An untimely illness meant he was unavailable for the GF, and he was sorely missed



### **Fidel Alvarez**

Fidel joined us this year, with Balmain unable to field a side. On a number of occasions this season, he used his speed and flair to score some wonderful tries from nothing. (SUJRU)



### **Harrison Bell**

Harrison's season was disrupted with a serious arm injury, but he returned with his smiling face and really showed great improvement from last year, especially with his effective defensive game.



### **Isaac Newman**

Isaac returned to the Shammies this year, after a rest from club rugby last season. It was great to have him back, and his bustling running game was a highlight. He continues to improve and made a very positive contribution to the team.





**Jack Phillips**

Jack was returning after a serious arm injury in the last round last season, however he played with confidence from day one. Jack has a determination that enables

him to perform admirably. While he had limited opportunities with the ball, his improvement in defence, and his grit, made sure he never let the team down.



**Jack Stewart (SUJRU)**

The high number of outside backs in the squad meant Jack was another with limited game time this season. Whether with the ball in hand, or in defence,

he is a determined player that makes the most of his opportunities.



**Jake Quailey (SUJRU)**

Sorry Jake. Its cut and paste from last year's report! "Jake is blessed with speed to burn, and makes the most of it. His blistering runs, often created points from nothing" Another

great season for Jake, using speed that others envy to its full potential. He became a marked man in the competition, with other teams recognising his distinct locks, but usually he found a way through (or around) no matter how they tried. After a number of fantastic seasons with the team, it is just rewards that Jake is our 1883 award recipient for 2023.



**Julian Doyle (SUJRU)**

Julian was another player that joined us for the first time this year. From the first game he played, he made a positive impact on the team, with his determined running

and rugged defence. A serious arm injury in the first game of the state titles put a pause on his season, but he returned in time for the finals where he made a positive impact.



**Kristian Mackay (SUJRU)**

Kristian played the majority of his games this year at inside centre. He has played an important role in the success of the team this year with his solid defence

and with ball in hand he never takes a backward step. Kristian overcame a mid-season neck injury sustained in a school game, and he should be proud of the way he has overcome the physical and mental challenges associated with that.



**Liam Waterworth (SUJRU)**

Liam has had another excellent year and continues to develop into a very handy # 9. He has the heart of a lion, and as one of the smaller players on the field, his defence in the front line is an

inspiration to his team.



**Lucas Villate-Gallagher (SUJRU)**

Our captain. I am sure his team mates would agree that Lucas was clearly our best and fairest player this year. I had a message from the Easts

coach one Sunday afternoon, reading "I see your Ferrari/bulldozer got 4". I didn't have the heart to tell him we pulled Lucas off at half time in that game. Full credit to Lucas for the way he uses his size, speed and skill. He has torn games apart from prop, number 8 and inside centre, and is equally at home in any of those positions. A true leader, who lets his actions speak for themselves, and conducts himself impeccably.



**Liam Waterworth (SUJRU)**

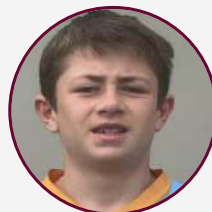
Liam has had another excellent year and continues to develop into a very handy # 9. He has the heart of a lion, and as one of the smaller players on the field, his

defence in the front line is an inspiration to his team.



**Mahe Ward**

Mahe joined us mid-season, and was another who made consistent effort, and never let his team down. He improved with every game and put his hand up to fill any position required.



**Matt Tydd (SUJRU)**

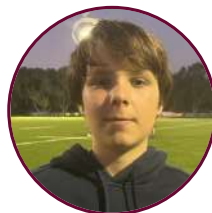
JMatt slotted into #10 this year, and has made the most of the move. He is developing every week, in managing a game and finding the right balance of running and passing. He has

great fundamental skills that will enable him to continue to improve, and a competitive nature that makes him hard for oppositions to contain.



**Marvin Cheung**

Marvin joined us this year having not played rugby. He didn't get many opportunities to play this year but was keen to train and learn more about the game, which hopefully provide a foundation for progressing further.

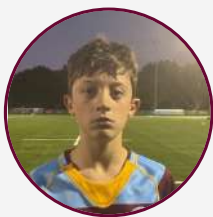


**Rocky Hawkins**

Rocky is one of those players who I cannot thank enough for his continued dedication to the team. He is most often a player to play only half a game, but he never complains, and goes about

his game and training without fuss. He is a real team player, and his team should be indebted to his selflessness.





**Owen Charles (SUJRU)**

Owen continues to develop into a well-rounded rugby player. He has really taken a shine to being lifted in the lineout, and his combination with Sam in the scrum

has been invaluable. He uses his speed and determination to full effect, and was able to move to flaker when required.



**Sam Cameron (SUJRU)**

Sam continues to improve all facets of his game. His running game has become more effective as he has grown in confidence, and he continues to develop as a goal kicker.

Aside from his contribution physically, Sam has played a great role in bringing the boys together, which is never more evident than when he is leading the club song after a victory.



**Sebastian Triccas (SUJRU)**

Seb has made an invaluable contribution to the team this year, mainly through his versatility. In juggling a large squad, and trying to work bench as best we could,

Seb made it easier, knowing we could put his almost anywhere on the field to do a job. He was thrown onto the wing for our last 2 games, and his defence was a highlight.



**Tom Catanzariti**

Tom has, without a doubt been one of our most improved players this year. His tall frame and speed, has made him a handful for the opposition, and his ability to

place himself in the right position on the field enabled him to score a few great tries this year.



**Tom Heaton (SUJRU)** "The Bomb" joined us for his first season with the Shammies, moving from Drummoyne. As a front rower, he never took a backward step whether in the scrum or in general play.

His ball carries improved greatly as the season went on and his metres gained were invaluable.



**Tom Nelson (SUJRU)**

Tom really worked hard on his strength and fitness over the off season and throughout the year. It paid great dividends, and it showed in his performances with a powerful running game

that created plenty of momentum for us.



**Will Harriman-Khan (SUJRU)**

Will has again made a massive contribution to the team this year. His defence is impeccable, however his running game around the

ruck, and his ability to disrupt opposition ball has really developed, and where he has made a major impact this year.



**Zac Schlomka (SUJRU)**

Another player that came across from Balmain. Zac was another who showed how versatile he is, in playing a range of positions this year from #10, centres, wing

and fullback, and never let the team down. His determination in defence was a key feature of his performances this season.







## U14S SEASON REPORT

Our team has continued to flourish, building upon the success of our remarkable 2023 New Zealand tour. The camaraderie and spirit within the squad remain strong, and our pre-season preparations were greatly enriched by the dedicated training sessions with Sydney University on Monday nights.

Our large forward pack and high-energy back row matched the prowess of our set pieces and ruck work against every opponent. This solid foundation set the stage for our backs to excel. The backline found its rhythm, guided by the cohesion between our halves and flyhalf. New additions to the center positions injected dynamism, complementing the skillful outside backs who showcased their flair, resulting in some spectacular tries.

As we strive for continuous improvement, our focus remains on refining the fundamentals: fitness, strength, tackling, and catch-and-pass skills.

Our season highlight was our victory over Manly Savers in round 7 symbolized the tenacity of our team. Despite facing setbacks, our relentless determination led to a thrilling 25-21 win. This display of true spirit resonates with the core values of our squad.

We were thrilled to welcome back the Lloyd-Jones and Zoud families to our Shammies family, fostering a sense of unity. We hope to see more returning faces next year.

Congratulations to our captain, Max May, for his selection to the Sydney U14s Red representative team, building on his outstanding performance at the U14s State Championships where he showcased his abilities and commitment to the game.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to parents, friends, siblings and all our other supporters, whose encouragement fueled our progress throughout the season. I extend my gratitude to the coaches, manager, and volunteers who dedicated their time and expertise:

- Scott Blackford: Coach
- Marcela Kilkenny: Manager
- John Kilkenny: Assistant Coach
- Eden Barros: Assistant Coach
- Nick May: Assistant Coach

As we bid farewell to this season, I eagerly anticipate the return of all players next year. I encourage everyone to stay active over the summer, engaging in other sports or Rugby 7s. Let's continue to recruit new players to join our ranks for the 2024 season.

Thank you for your commitment, passion, and unwavering support.

**Yours in Rugby, James Breen, u14s Head Coach**

## Player profiles



### Alexander McGlade

Alexander McGlade stood up for the u14s this year. His strength and fitness improved, his gameplay motivated his teammates. Alex has become a key

part of our set-pieces with reliable line out throwing and solid hooking in the scrum – just what you want from your number 2. Always present at rucks and mauls, he has become an anchor for the team. Strengthening his ball running skills, adding power and dynamism will take Alex to the next level.

Alex, your dedicated training resonates. Your progress is clear, teamwork laudable. Congratulations on a fantastic year, Alex!



### Angus Pagan

Angus joined the Shammies at the tail end of the 2022 season, new to rugby as well as the club. Playing B-grade rugby could have been a challenge, but Angus has

shown he is at home in the higher grades. Whilst not one of our biggest forwards, Angus uses the techniques that he has perfected through training and hard work to great effect on match day. There are several highlights for Angus throughout 2023, from his broad grin after getting smashed in the first gala day, all the way through to flooring the biggest kid on the pitch in the last game with a textbook tackle. Keep working hard at training, stay curious about how to play the game and build up your strength. You have natural talent and a bright future in this game, and we can't wait to see what you can do in 2024.



### Archie Iggo

Archie Iggo is a rugby neophyte, but you wouldn't think that when you watch him embracing rucks, mauls and tackles like an experienced flanker. He has worked hard to understand

the game and has honed his tackling skills, becoming a coach's asset. There is still a long way to go but it looks like a great journey ahead. There is some natural talent in you Archie, so prioritise your strength and fitness, and continue to develop the basics. Archie's open-minded approach and enthusiasm to muck in with the more experienced players has been inspiring and reflects Archie's dedication. Keep it up Archie!

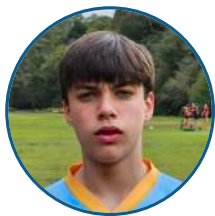


### Ashanti Afu

Ashanti Afu held firm as a dependable prop, stabilising our scrum. As a new player to the team, it took some time for Ashanti to establish herself and get her confidence. But like all true front rowers she was soon

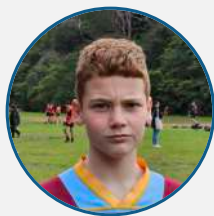
putting the backs in their place and building solid platforms for them to attack. As Ashanti learns the game, and develops her fitness, she will go from strength to strength. A mid-season broken ankle was devastating for Ashanti but her resilience shines through. Welcoming Ashanti to the Shammies has been a pleasure. With dedication, a promising future awaits.





### **Billy Hyne**

Billy Hyne is another new Shammie and a much-needed backline dynamo. He excels with speed, evasion, and field awareness. Billy brought his school experience to the Shammies and made an immediate impact, contributing skills, rugby understanding and strong team spirit. It's always great to see new players find a place in an established team and offer something new. The coaches praise his positive attitude and fast hands. Keep working on your strengths and fitness and bring it back next year – we can't wait to see what you can do in your second season.



### **Bryn Hall**

Bryn Hall's dedication to the team is unwavering – a true team player who consistently attends practices and offers steadfast support. A nasty early season injury could have knocked Bryn's spirit

and would have seen less resilient boys walk away, but not Bryn. He must hold the record for most hours at practice in a moon boot! When Bryn returned to playing he looked like he had never left. Whilst not a big lad, he packs a punch in the tackle and never shirks a challenge. Working on the hands and getting some speed will transform Bryn into a great winger. The team has benefited from Bryn's enthusiasm and passion for the game and club.



### **Charlie Swindail**

Charlie Swindail, Big Charlie, the Big C, the player you always want to be first off the team bus! Charlie has found his feet this season, becoming a formidable tighthead prop. He blends strength, ferocious rucking

and reliable hands with infectious enthusiasm and a unique sense of humour. The big change with Charlie this year has been his confidence. Previous years have seen that little hesitation to get involved or to go for a big move. The U13s New Zealand tour was the catalyst and it's been a pleasure to see the journey continue in 2023. Charlie even treated us to some 5 pointers this season with opposition defensive lines crumbling as the Big C beat them into submission – a dream for the front row purists out there! Like most 1 to 3s, strength and fitness is a priority, just don't lose the enthusiasm (or the hair!).



### **Cruz Savea**

Cruz Savea brings speed, great hands, speed, strong tackling, speed and committed rucking. And did we mention he was quite fast! Cruz is a rugby natural and has thrived

playing across the backs. The wing is his home though and he has done considerable damage there throughout the season. Cruz has not had the best of luck this year with injuries but he has shown his class and rugby intelligence. It is too easy to forget that this is only Cruz's second season of rugby. Cruz put in a great shift with the Sydney Uni rep team. Keep working hard Cruz and don't let the knocks get your down. Your growth is paving the way for a bright future.



### **Daniel Villate-Gallagher**

Daniel Villate-Gallagher stands out as a powerful, elusive runner, providing crucial go-forward momentum to the backline. He is as powerful as a forward, as fast as a winger and has the agility of a full back

– so makes a perfect centre. It gives our 9 and 10 huge confidence when they look over and see Dan with his hands up ready for the ball, and the forwards breath more easily when they see Dan in the defensive line. Dan is the missing link we needed in the backline. Another new Shammie and another fine young man that has quickly become an asset to his team. His U14 Sydney University representation adds to his journey. Keep excelling, Dan – your second season as a Shammie promises to be immense.



### **Edward Walker**

Edward Walker shines as a robust, powerful runner with exceptional fitness and relentless work rate. His defensive game has seen a significant leap in 2023. Refining body height

during carries and pre-contact footwork will enhance his effectiveness further. Ed had a standout year with the Shammies, marked by hard work, dedication, and strong leadership. An unfortunate injury marred his later season, but his early-season commitment and focus on his core role were evident. His representation with U14 Sydney University adds to his accolades. Keep pushing forward, Ed!



### **Ezekiel Barros**

Zeke is the Shammie cannonball. Toss him the ball and let him go! Some of his mates may have grown a bit more over the last 12 months, but none can match Zeke's zeal and explosiveness

with the ball in hand. He continues to be an evasive ball runner with remarkable fitness and unwavering determination. All teams need their motivator, the fire in their belly, the heart at the team's core. That is Zeke Barros. Always the one building the team up before games and the one that takes defeats the hardest. It's what makes Zeke invaluable to the Shammies. Keep working on your strength and conditioning and further develop your breakdown skills Zeke, just never lose your 100% attitude and gritty on-field determinism. Zeke's U14 Sydney University representation adds to his accomplishments. Keep pushing Zeke and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.



### **Gus Glover**

Gus Glover excels in teamwork and possesses an uncanny ability to anticipate plays. A true team comedian, he brings light-hearted energy. Emphasizing extra

training to enhance core skills reflects Gus's commitment to growth. Anticipating Gus's return in 2024, his unique blend of talents and dedication are eagerly awaited.



### **James Gormly**

James Gormly is a game-changer, excelling in open-field running, speed, and offering second-row cover defence. Tall and powerful, fast and agile, good hands and a fearless rucker – what can't James do!

Continue to work on tackling with impact and your body height in contact. James brings his experience from other sports, notably basketball which has given him that extra boost in lineouts and all round athleticism. Congratulations on your U14 Sydney University representation – a testament to your growth.



### **James Rowntree**

James Rowntree is an absolute pest to the opposition. He excels in his relentless work rate, solid rucking, and proficient jackling but his ability to put in try-saving tackles has knocked the wind out of opposing teams so often this season. Prioritising ball carrying and advancing the defensive line at speed will expand his game even further. James is an indispensable asset in our forward pack, offering crucial structure and impact. James has bought a maturity and dedication to training this year and turns up with commitment to better himself and his teammates. This has been recognised with the Spirit of Rugby 1883 award for 2023, a thoroughly well-deserved reward for a great season.





### **Javier Kilkenny**

Eat, sleep, rugby, repeat. That is Javier Kilkenny in a sentence. His passion and enthusiasm is second to none and has helped "JK Junior" become the foundation from which the

U14s is built on. We talked to the team about needing to play different positions due to a lean squad - Javier took on hooker, flanker, centre and even half-back throughout the season, never complained (much), and was awesome wherever he played. He thrives in the rough stuff putting in jaw shuddering tackles and bulldozer clear outs. His leadership through actions sets a prime example. Seek out those ball-carrying opportunities and back yourself Javier, it will enhance your overall influence. Believe in your abilities, Javier, we do! Congrats on your U14 Sydney University representation - a testament to your continued growth.



### **Jimmy Reilly**

Jimmy Reilly stands out with lightning-fast footwork and agility, adeptly transitioning between defence and attack. Focusing on open-field tackling techniques, including low leg chops for effective

takedowns, will further elevate his game. Although Jimmy's appearances in 2023 were limited, his dynamism remains invaluable to the team. We appreciate the energy he brings whenever he plays.



### **James Junior Breen**

James Junior Breen shines in his precise passing, exceptional fitness, sharp game understanding, and coachable nature. Enhancing communication, game control, and timing of

runs will amplify his impact. James is evolving into an adept half-back, and his growth is evident. His core strength of passing remains pivotal - keep honing it.



### **Larissa Daniels-Maifea**

Cometh the hour, cometh the woman. When we were down on our knees with our already lean squad reduced even further through injuries, Larissa came to the rescue. Off the back of an amazing state champs with

Sydney Uni and representation at the City / Country representative weekend, Larissa put the blue and maroon hoops back on and shored up our back line. The tackles are harder than last year, the rucking more fierce, and the ball running just gets better and better.



### **Levi Mikhiel**

Levi Mikhiel excels in cleanouts and displays precision in lineout jumping. Focusing on adding aggression to tackles will elevate his performance. Your dedication is commendable, Levi. Keep up the hard work - your growth is promising and we look forward to seeing you back in 2024.



### Max May

Max has continued his rugby journey by developing his ball handling and defensive positioning, building on his strengths of dominant carrying, tackling and rucking. He led from the front this season as U14s captain by making decisive decisions, motivating the team and developing a good rapport with officials. It's the body-on-the-line style of rugby that Max plays that sets him apart though. He won't shy away from a tackle, only ever runs forward, and his continued dedication to his strength and fitness means he is hard to put down. Max's power and positioning has seen him cross the line (typically with a few 'hangers on') a whopping 13 times, not bad for a Prop/No. 8. His impressive ability and work-rate was recognised by Sydney University, and further by the Sydney Representative 'Red' team – a feat he should be immensely proud of.



### Noah Zoud

Noah Zoud shines in his exceptional high ball skills, robust tackling, and powerful running. Further honing high ball catching and tackling techniques will enhance his contributions. A hearty

welcome back, Noah! Your strong return was marked by a thrilling try and outstanding tackles. Your presence is valued in the Shammies family – here's to witnessing your continued growth and impact on the field.



### Otto Gerber

Otto Gerber stands out as a robust defender, adept passer, and versatile runner with tactical kicking skills. Focusing on game management and communication will amplify

his impact. Otto, this has been one of your standout years. We believe flyhalf is your forte, and as you mature, your decision-making skills and teamwork will shine. Your potential is right there – keep reaching new heights.



### Owen Lloyd-Jones

Owen Lloyd-Jones excels in jackling, fitness, and precise lineout throwing. Enhancing strength and ball security during runs will amplify his contributions. Owen, your return is a boon. Your

absence was felt last year, and we're thrilled to have you back, spicing up our front row dynamics. Your skillset is an asset – keep making your presence felt on the field.



### Rui Tsuji

Rui Tsuji thrives in ruck work, his coachable nature, offering lineout jumping options, and outstanding training ethic. Progressing in game understanding, tackling technique, and strength

training will elevate his game. Rui, your second year has been nothing short of incredible. The growth you've shown since last year is fantastic. Your contribution to the forward pack hasn't gone unnoticed, JK was particularly expressed with your backline defensive play against North's. Keep up the fantastic work – you're on a great trajectory.



### Spencer Bowerman

Spencer Bowerman stands out with his acute game awareness, solid defense, and effective communication. Leveraging speed for cover tackles and continuous speed improvement will add to his strengths. Spencer, your consistency shines yet again. Coaching you is a pleasure – your selflessness and adaptability make you an invaluable team player. Your U14 Sydney University representation is a testament to your commitment. Keep pushing forward.





**Thomas Mallinson**

Thomas Mallinson boasts strength, remarkable team spirit, and impactful close-range running. Notably, his lineout lifting has seen improvement. Prioritising fitness, flexibility, resilience,

and refining scrum technique will enhance his contributions. Thomas is a true character in our forward pack, showcasing his passion on the field. Your commitment doesn't go unnoticed – your big heart makes you a standout. Keep up the effort, Big Tom!



**Thomas Lennox**

Our preseason prep was rocked with the news that Tom Lennox had injured his ankle, putting him out for the season – such a shock for one of our most consistent and valuable

players. Full credit to Tom for digging deep and staying focused during the long spell on the sidelines. Tom stayed in touch with the team, encouraging his mates when they needed it and sharing his wisdom on game day. The happy ending is that Tom healed up quickly and got himself fit to play the last few games. He put in a sterling cameo in his first game (2 minutes, no action!) then came back strong to round of 2023. We can't wait for a full season with Tom in 2024 – just don't get hurt again!









## U15S SEASON REPORT

The curtain has fallen on an exhilarating season for the U15s Petersham Juniors Rugby Team, marked by determination, growth, and mateship. We fell just short of making the semi-finals; however, the players can hold their heads high with a respectful outcome securing 4 wins, 1 draw, and 4 losses in what we can only call a challenging campaign this year.

This season was far from ordinary, as our players faced an uphill battle against both formidable opponents and the cruel hand of injuries. Despite these setbacks, the team's spirit remained unyielding, a testament to their commitment to the sport they love. With resilience and dedication, our players rose to the occasion, demonstrating remarkable skill and heart against opposition who often boasted entire benches of substitutes, whilst we had none. A team highlight has to be pushing the top team, Wests Pirates all the way in a close 28-17 loss and coming from behind to beat eventual grand finalists, Forest 17-12 at Forestville.

What truly sets this season apart is the extraordinary effort displayed by every member of the U15s Team. Our players poured sweat and perseverance into every match, forging a bond among the players that surpassed the final score. Through adversity, the team found unity, and as Coaches we were heartened to witness how they supported one another on and off the field.

As the season unfolded, our young men honed their understanding of the game, evolving into more strategic and adept players. Tense situations, once a source of trepidation, were met with poise and confidence, a testament to the growth of their mental strength. The team's conduct and sportsmanship also improved throughout the season, as they learned to temper their emotions towards both opponents and referees alike, fostering a more positive and respectful atmosphere on the field, something the Coaches were focused on to assist with their development this year.

As we conclude this season, the U15s Team stands as a testament to perseverance, sportsmanship, and the power of teamwork. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the players, their families, and supporters, all who have contributed to what was a challenging, yet enjoyable season. Here's to a triumphant return in 2024 and an U16 squad free of injury and looking to improve on our ladder placing this year. We hope to welcome everyone back for preseason in February 2024! Onwards and upwards!



### Alex Phemister

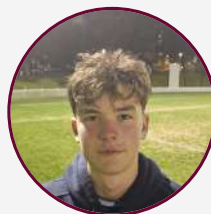
Alex "The Impact " Phemister. With commitments to league, his appearances were like lightning strikes, leaving an indelible mark whenever he graced the field. His addition brought a new dimension of power to our forward pack, altering the course of our battles. In our last game, Alex's performance was nothing short of sublime, showcasing his prowess across the entire park. His commitment to hard work is as unwavering as his spirit, embodying the true essence of a team player. As a second-row prospect, he's a diamond in the rough, and his potential is boundless. Alex's development journey involves nurturing self-confidence and recognising the dominant force he's destined to become. It's about backing himself and his skills, knowing that his presence alone can sway the course of a game. With a mindset of self-assuredness, there's no limit to how far Alex can take his game.



### Cooper Caldwell

Cooper "Mighty Mischief" Caldwell, our team's pocket-sized dynamo! Tougher than a stale biscuit, he tackles giants like he's herding puppies. Leg injury against

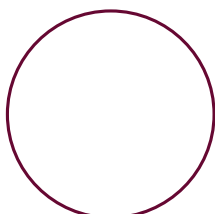
Oatley? It's like he turned it into an accessory, flaunting it on the field. Temper? He's gone from volcano to campfire, with a hint of spark. Trouble avoidance? He's practically trouble's arch-nemesis. Base of the scrum? He manipulates it like a chess grandmaster. Cooper's a mini-tornado of energy, leaving laughter and awe in his wake. Keep your sights on the "Mighty Mischief" – the big heart in a small package! Just keep that temper in check!



### Edwin Guy

Eddie "The Versatile Virtuoso" Guy, in his debut season with the Shammies, Eddie has proven to be a chameleon on the field, seamlessly transitioning into nearly every position like

a seasoned pro. His explosive prowess in both attack and defence is like a fireworks display on game day. As a deep thinker of the game, he's a strategist beyond his years, making every move count. Eddie's development path begs the question: "Is there anything he can't do?" With his boundless potential and unwavering dedication, the sky's the limit. Whether he's honing a specific skill or embarking on a new challenge, there's no doubt that Eddie will continue to shine bright, leaving a trail of awe-inspiring moments for everyone lucky enough to witness his journey.



### Finn Moroney

Finn "Finds The Gap" Moroney, a whirlwind in attack. His fearless approach to the game is matched only by his ability to sniff out gaps in the defence, leaving opponents in his wake. Finn's absence due to injury most of the season was a noticeable one. As he charts his course to become a formidable number 8, Finn's development journey takes two crucial directions: enhancing his communication skills on the field and collaborating with his fellow forwards to ensure he has the support he needs. By

mastering the art of conveying his intentions and working harmoniously with his teammates, he's set to become a formidable linchpin of any forward pack.





### **Flynn Carle**

Flynn "Rocket Man" Carle, our team's supersonic whirlwind! His speed? Usain Bolt's jealous. Worked really hard on his defence this year and his

work at the breakdown, becoming a complete package! Multitasking? He swaps roles like a rugby shape-shifter. Tougher than a two dollar steak! Future goals? From whispers to on-field orations, turning opponents' kicks into fireworks, grabbing high balls like a vacuum. And as for haircuts? With a trim, he might achieve warp speed! Keep an eye on our "Rocket Man" – rewriting speed records and style norms, one game at a time!



### **Fred Dandy**

Fred "The Fearless" Dandy, the embodiment of leading from the front. He doesn't just talk the talk; he walks the walk and then charges headfirst into the fray. With a visible mantra of "ball before safety," Fred's zero

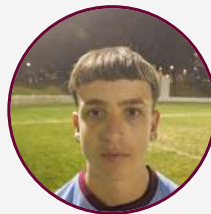
fear approach is a beacon of inspiration for the entire team. His absence for part of the season, whilst sunning himself in Europe, was deeply felt – a testament to his indispensable presence. Fred's journey forward centres on becoming the master of the breakdown. Already a force to be reckoned with, let's set his sights on unravelling the intricacies of rucks and mauls to the point of perfection. Opponents beware, because 'the fearless' is on a collision course with mastery, and there's no doubt he'll leave his mark on every breakdown situation.



### **George Agapiou**

George "The Tackle Survivor" Agapiou, the dynamo of our squad. With strengths that include enthusiasm rivalling a stadium full of fans and the ability to extract

pure enjoyment from his Rugby, George is a joy to have around. He's not just a player; he's also a hero, surviving a legendary tackle from none other than Big Tom during training – a feat worthy of its own trophy. As for his development, George's mission is to work on his fitness while maintaining the field as his playground. Fitness and speed, you've been warned – George is coming for you!



### **Hamish Kelly**

Hamo "Captain Everything" – our team's one-man rugby symphony! Captaincy? He's practically the team's coach, cheerleader, and referee rolled into one. Tackles? He

hugs opponents like he's their long-lost cousin. Backline? He conducts it like a maestro with a rugby baton. Breakdown? He's the bouncer at the ruck party. Kicking? His foot's a Picasso brush on a rugby canvas. Goals? His kicks have GPS coordinates for perfection. Humor? He's like a stand-up comedian with a rugby ball. Goals ahead? Maybe a haircut? Nah, keep doing what you're doing – you're our triple-threat Hamo tornado on the field! One thing though – go back and listen to your 10-year-old self after that GF win – and make sure we see you next year!!!



### **Harry Bibrack**

Harry "All-Heart Warrior" Bibrack, our team's dynamic spirit lifter! He's so tough, they say he uses barbed wire as dental floss. Determination? He chases the bouncing rugby ball like it stole his lunch money. Leg injury? It's practically a legend now – he's was the team's honorary mascot for the majority of the season. A true team devotee, he'd carry water bottles to the moon if needed! He's so nice, he once offered a rival player a handshake mid-tackle. But once Harry got back on the field it was like he never left! Goal ahead: evolving from silent ninja to field commentator, turning rival kicks into our counter-attack crescendo. Harry is a pleasure to have around and as if we couldn't love him anymore, he started bringing homemade cookies for after the game! Seeing Harry play a full season injury-free will warm the heart – and the scoreboard!



### **Jack Cooper**

Jack “The Silent Dynamo” Cooper, though quiet in demeanour, his impact on the field is anything but. With tackling skills that could halt a charging rhino and a resolute refusal to take a single step backward, Jack is a testament to unyielding determination. It’s as if he was born to be a loose forward, embodying the essence of gritty rugby. His development goal is to become “The Jackal” – a master of turnovers and breakdown dominance. With his innate ability to silently dismantle opponents’ attacks, he’s poised to become a thorn in the side of every opposition. Watch out, because the quiet storm is brewing, and Jack will be ready to unleash breakdown havoc in 2024.



### **James Baranowski**

“The Brick Wall”, we only see him once his League commitments finish, but the squad loves it when we do. Tackling is his art, speed is his middle name, and running perfect attacking lines are his personal masterpiece. When James hits the field, defences start trembling, and opponents start rethinking their position choices. His secret development plan involves creating a clone. One James will dominate the rugby season, while the other continues to dazzle in rugby league. Who needs superheroes when you’ve got James!



### **Jesse Tallon**

Jess “the Jewel” Tallon – the bling on the wing – our team’s sparkling spectacle! Kamikaze? He’s like a rugby missile with a diamond tip. Tackles? He hits like an axe with a flair for fashion. And with speed to burn! Hard to imagine that Jesse is new to rugby and only joined us more than halfway through the year. His speed on the field is matched by the speed with which he is learning his new craft. He’s more curious than a cat with a PhD. Jesse’s enthusiasm for learning is an inspiration and he is a pleasure to have around. But the highlight must be his match-winning try against Randwick, or maybe some St Ives ribs that are still bruised! We can’t wait to see Jesse further develop his passing, tackling technique and positional play even more in season 2024. We have certainly unearthed a rare treasure in “the Jewel”!



### **Max Blombery**

Max “The Scrumsmith” Blombery, the linchpin of our front row. With an uncanny knack for scrums and an ability to hook the ball like a magician, Max is the embodiment of set-piece excellence. His aggression on the field is as calculated as a chess move, making him a controlled force to be reckoned with. Off the field, you’ll find him donning matching tracksuits like a true style icon, even when sidelined due to injury. A broken thumb unfortunately impacted his season, but we look forward to working with him in 2024 to develop both his breakdown impact and precision line out throws.





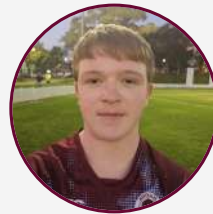
### **Michael Henry**

Michael "I Play Entire Games Now" Henry, donned the super hero cape this season and in moments of dire need played entire games with a tenacity that redefined both the team's and coaches' expectations of him. His dedication to improving his ball running skills was evident in every meter gained, body height conquered, and possession secured – he's becoming a true ball-carrying maestro. Michael's voice isn't just booming; it's a primal roar that echoes through both the opposition and our own ranks. Whether rallying his comrades or striking fear into the hearts of the opposition, his vocal prowess was legendary. As for development, Michael's path is paved with a relentless pursuit of improved fitness and mental strength. A can-do attitude and a love for hard work will become his new mantra. Embrace the grind, and you'll soon find it's a journey you'll come to cherish. Michael's unwavering commitment to this season is an inspiration, a testament to the power of resilience and the rewards that await those who rise to the challenge. Well done!



### **Oisín Moore**

Oisín "The Shapeshifter" Moore, a true embodiment of selflessness. His willingness to transition from the wing to number 6 this season for the betterment of the team showcases his team-first attitude. Oisín's commitment to the collective cause was palpable, as he adapted seamlessly to his new role. At the breakdown, he was like an Irish terrier – relentless, tenacious, and always willing to do the dirty work. Tackling opponents double his size was no feat too daunting. Oisín's development trajectory is a continuation of his journey as a forward. The 'moore' he immerses himself in this role, the more he'll refine his skills and understanding of the position.



### **Ollie Carle**

Ollie "The Prop Phenom" Carle, another wrecking ball in our squad. Starting this season as a barnstorming loose head prop, he's like a force of nature on the field, leaving opponents wondering if they're facing a player or a freight train. His seamless transition to this new position is a testament to his adaptability, and he's a living embodiment of progress, continually improving with every passing week. Ollie's commitment to putting his body on the line in both attack and defence is a hallmark of his dedication. Ollie's development journey is now about mastering the dark arts of being a loose head prop – the subtle techniques that only the truest connoisseurs of scrummaging understand. With his already impressive foundation, there's no doubt he'll elevate his game to new heights, becoming a true force to reckon with in the scrum and beyond.



### Ryan Tallon

Ryan "Rugby Riddle" Tallon – our enigmatic team addition! A quiet achiever with the determination of a bulldozer, he's the Rubik's Cube of rugby potential. He's like a curious

explorer in a new world. Enthusiasm? It's as if Ryan has found a treasure map in each tackle. We have loved Ryan's zest for getting involved and learning his new trade as a rugby outside back. Some early struggles with his alarm clock on game day were quickly overcome as Ryan knuckled down and got stuck into everything that a rugby game could throw at him. Keep up that thirst for learning and keep that alarm set for next season! We are expecting big things!



### Sam Fernley

Sam "Mr Versatile" Fernley, our team's position-shifting enigma! He's like a puzzle master, fitting into backline roles like a seasoned pro. Defence? He guards the

advantage line like it's the Crown Jewels. Nice guy? His tackles come with a side of apologies. Team newbie? He's blended in faster than a chameleon at a rainbow convention. His next goal? Swapping silence for on-field symphonies, getting in rivals' heads, turning their doubt to our advantage. Watch out for "Mr Versatile" – the adaptable man of action with a heart of gold and a tackle that speaks volumes!







**Sam Rudd**

“Sam-pede” Rudd – a powerhouse phenomenon! Size? He’s like a mobile mountain range. Strength? He could lift a rhino with one hand. Speed? He’s

faster than a rumor in a small town. Fend and swerve? Opponents avoid him like Monday mornings. And a joy to coach – he’s a marauder with manners! Sam even spent some time in the forwards – to add “versatile” to the list of superlatives to describe this gentleman giant! We lost count of how many tries Sam scored but the highlight has to be his three against Oatley! Next on the agenda? Finding his voice and realizing his running is like a freight train on a sugar rush. We can’t wait to see another “Sam-pede” let loose in season 2024!



**Stuart MacDonald**

Stu “The Gentleman” MacDonald, a beacon of kindness in our squad. His charisma knows no bounds, captivating not only the team but also apparently earning a

special place in the hearts of the fairer sex. Stu’s absence due to a hand injury was a noticeable void this season, with his return in our last two games showing what we had missed. Stu is poised to ascend as a second-row powerhouse. As he transitions into this role, his development areas of focus are clear: cultivating aggression across the field and honing his scrummaging prowess. By channelling his inner force and mastering the art of the scrum, he’s set to become a dominant presence on the pitch. Looking forward to seeing Stu in full flight in 2024!



**Tom Hall**

Hallsy, our “Gap Guru” – a dynamic centre and occasional fullback with silky skills and a booming boot. His powerful, gliding runs and versatile play keeps opponents guessing, while his powerful kicking turned teams around for our speedy chasers. A highlight has to be his goal-kicking in the wind at Pennant Hills – a sight to behold! Tom’s friendly banter, deep camaraderie, and unyielding support for teammates make him a team asset that inspires both on and off the field. Challenges ahead? Quieter quips in

training(!), focus like a cat stalking a laser and staying put in defence like a bouncer on a VIP list, will make Hallsy unstoppable in 2024, whilst still being the comedic compass of our team’s success! Eshay brah!!





**Tom Larsson**

Tom “Deadly” Larsson, the embodiment of destruction on the field. With a ball in his hands, he’s like a tornado, tearing through defences like they’re made of paper. His tackles are

seismic events, rattling the opposition to its core. Despite his quiet demeanour, Tom’s leadership is unmistakable – he’s the silent general who leads from the front, motivating the squad with his unwavering determination. Tom’s journey forward involves the pursuit of two pillars: fitness and scrummaging prowess. By honing his physical condition, he’ll become an even more fearsome presence around the field. And as he delves into the art of scrummaging, he’ll transform into a complete rugby powerhouse, ready to leave a trail of awe-inspiring plays and dominant scrums in his wake. Tom’s spirit epitomizes the heart and soul of rugby, and his dedication is a beacon for all those who share his passion for the game.



**Will Brothers**

Will “Mr Nice Guy” Brothers, the embodiment of camaraderie, he’s not just liked; he’s adored by the entire squad, bringing unity and humour whenever he is present. On the field,

his surging runs through the opposition’s backline are like a thunderous applause, leaving defenders in awe. And when it comes to cleaning out opposition forward packs at breakdowns, Will’s determination is a force of nature. But even nice guys should have goals. Will’s development roadmap includes amping up his fitness, ensuring he’s a dynamo from whistle to whistle. And in 2024, we are calling for a new hair style – because a fresh ‘do is the mark of a player who’s ready to rewrite the rulebook on and off the pitch.



**Will Chanter**

Will “The Savior” Chanter, the cavalry that answered the Shammies’ call when we needed it most. Stepping onto the field for our final two games, Will’s defensive

pro prowess was a sight to behold – he defended like a warrior with unwavering commitment. His adept distribution from the scrum-half position allowed our fellow backs to unleash their attacking prowess with flair and finesse. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Will for his invaluable assistance during our time of need. His selflessness and dedication made a significant impact on our team’s performance. As for development, we have a simple request: Feel free to join us for the entire season in 2024. With your skills, heart, and team-first mentality, you’re a perfect fit for our squad.



**Will Teong**

Will “Team Man” Teong is rugby’s true gentleman. A deep-thinker who never tires of striving to improve his own game and the fortunes of the team around him. His

knowledge and experience was a true asset to the team this season. Apart from watching his passing game flourish as a result of his hard work, another highlight has to be Will’s disregard for self-preservation against Wests, where he threw himself at much bigger opponents and displayed a courage we’re not sure he knew he possessed (even though we’ve known it was there all along)! A late-season leg injury robbed us of seeing Will reach the summit of season 2023, but we know he will keep refining his passing game and finding his voice for 2024, where the sky is the limit. Will may just be the rarest of rugby unicorns, a polite halfback that people love to be around!





## SYDNEY UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

Petersham Junior Rugby Club is part of Sydney University rugby district. There are 12 Junior Rugby Districts in the Sydney metropolitan area. Together with our friends at Canterbury and Balmain, we provide selected players to trial for the representative team for Sydney University Juniors.

The selected players participate at the NSW State Junior Championships held in June each year. These are for ages 10 through to 16 and are very competitively contested by the Sydney District teams, 2 combined NSW Country teams and often Victoria and ACT selections.

In 2019 Adam Dunn (Shammies Life Member) was appointed as the Sydney Juniors President.

2023 Representative Players for Petersham Junior Rugby Club that competed at the State Champs were:

### U10s

Finn Waterworth, Hamish Worledge, Hugo Mesley, Jack Farley, Joey Jefferson, Liam Francois Lategan, Reica Kikuchi, Ryan Tappin, Seyi Barros, Sidney Hawkins, Tom Jamison, Xavier Alexander.

Coach: Dan Waterworth

### U11s

Carter Rolfe, Fin Chanter, Finlay McFarland, Fionn Rafferty, George Furey, Hugo Erispe, Mac Callon.

Manager: Chris Furey

### U12s

Finley Askew, Huxley Urakawa, James Phemister, Lucas Villate-Gallagher, Mirei Kikuchi, Orlando Ponzetta, Robert Clarke, Saachi Williams, Thomas Stockwell.

### U13s

Aiden Lee, Alexander Moore, Fidel Alvarez, Harrison Bell, Jack Stewart, Jake Quailey, Julian Doyle, Liam Waterworth, Lucas Villate-Gallagher, Owen Charles, Sam Cameron, Sebastien Triccas, Thomas Nelson, Tom Heaton, William Harriman-Khan, Zacharie Schlomka.

Coach: Troy Cameron and Ben Khan

Manager: Julie Wheway

### U14s

Cruz Vasea, Daniel Villate-Gallagher, Edward Walker, Ezekiel Barros, James Gormly, Javier Kilkenny, Max May, Spencer Bowerman.

Manager: John Kilkenny

Congratulations also to Max May who was selected to represent Sydney Red team and trialled for the u14s Sydney team.





Our u13s coaches backing up for Uni

# 2024 AND BEYOND PLAN

## Vision

"A Club for everyone, bringing people together since 1883"

This vision statement encompasses the two principal aims of the club.

1. "A Club for everyone" relates to the fact we are a community-oriented organisation based around the sport of Rugby Union with a primary aim of providing a place of belonging and attachment to our locality (Petersham and surrounds). "Everyone" means we do not discriminate and include all abilities, genders, race, religions etc.
2. "Bringing people together since 1883" is reference to our long history as a club. We use history as a reference point to what has made us successful in the past and as a guide to what will help us be successful in the future.

## Objectives

1. Our kids and parents have fun while improving their rugby skills and knowledge
2. Our kids learn more from our Club than just how to play rugby
3. Coaches are well resourced and have opportunities to develop
4. We play a role within our broader community outside the sport
5. Partner with progressive businesses within the Inner West with shared values

## Measure of success

Our primary measure of success as a Club is to achieve and maintain a Club player register of 300+.

## Strategy

### Diagnosis

- Rugby union as a sport is struggling to attract new players because of poor PR, underwhelming Wallabies/Waratah performances and a perception of being a dangerous sport
- Female participation is surging across Rugby Union because of increased profile through Super W and Olympics and improved pathways
- Inner West change in demographics over the years has helped boost Rugby Union awareness in the area
- Members join the club because they live in the area and/or know someone connected to the Club
- Players leave the club because of other sporting/school conflicts, desire to try another sport, relocation from area, quality of coaching/managers
- Female participation is unstable and not club centric yet. Heavily influenced by a few key players/schools and opportunities to play.



### *Guiding principles*

- Leverage our existing networks as they are our greatest source of new recruits
- Players and parents having fun will help retain and attract new members
- Improving female and wider community group participation will improve the member base long term
- Actively managing safety concerns and perceptions help retain and attract new members

### *Actions*

To achieve our objectives we need to:

1. Improve recruitment – 100 new kids per year
2. Schedule team and club social events throughout the year.
3. Emphasise to coaches/managers the importance of fun at practice and participation in games
4. Provide alternative pathways for players to stay in the game and connected to the Club e.g. referees, touch rugby, coaching, Sense Rugby
5. Provide opportunities for girls to train and play across all age groups
6. Better integrate Sense Rugby into club and engage local Indigenous groups
7. Document the 'The Shammie Way' of coaching – develop coaches and managers through mentoring, training and accreditation
8. Ensure as many age grades as possible travel outside of Sydney to play Rugby
9. Deepen connections with Shammies seniors and Sydney University





# Your Local

## ***Proud supporter of Petersham Juniors Rugby Club***

White Cockatoo Hotel sits alongside Petersham train station on a quiet residential street. We offer all day dining, seasonal cocktails, local craft beer and a great selection of Australian and imported wines. Take away also available from our boutique bottle shop.

Currently undergoing some renovations, we will soon have an additional large sunny courtyard space, pool tables and a pinball room. We cannot wait to welcome you back soon!

30 TERMINUS ST, PETERSHAM

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