

History

Oatley Junior Rugby Union Football Club

Club History

The Oatley Junior Rugby Club was formed in 1958 as a foundation club of the junior competition in the St George district. Our first team entered the Under 12 competition. By 1968 the Club had 240 players, 13 teams competing and had also collected 13 premierships.

In 1969 the name of the Club was changed to the Oatley Rugby Club, reflecting a change of direction as senior teams began entering the Sydney Suburban competition. By 1973 the Club had achieved 17 premierships and was an important feeder Club for The St George Rugby Club.

1974 saw the formation of the first Oatley "Open Age" team and entry into the Sub-District competition with immediate success, winning the Walker Cup and remaining undefeated all season. The team followed on to win the Grose Cup in 1975. During the 1980 season the decision was made by the Club to "populate or perish". Player nos. were low and only a major campaign would keep the Club intact. The hard work was rewarded with a win in the Radford Cup. Steady development through the early 80's saw the Club build strongly to be a constant force in the 2 nd division of Suburban Rugby.

The Junior Club, which had struggled so hard for nos. throughout the late 70's and into the 80's was beginning to see a resurgence, and the introduction of the Rugby World Cup in 1987 was the catalyst for growth in Rugby overall. From 3 junior teams in 1990 the Club has expanded to be a Rugby force south of the harbour. We currently field 12 teams ranging from Under 6's to Under 16's. The success of those early years has been rekindled, with many premierships secured in recent years.

The Senior Club currently Field teams in the Under 19's Rugby Club Cup, Colts (Under 21's) and 4 Open age teams in 2nd Division NSW Suburban Rugby.

The Club is proud to have four Wallabies don the bottle green and gold of the Oatley Rugby Club. Bruce Battishall, Gary Gainsford, Barry Stumbles and Rob Horne.

50's and 60's

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Committee	Committee	Committee	Patron
1958	Mick Flemming	Frank Alderton					
1959	Mick Flemming	Frank Alderton					
1960							
1961	Ewan Martin	Jim Yeomans	Lloyd Foster				
1962	Ewan Martin	Jim Yeomans	Lloyd Foster	G. Thompson	Ivan Jackson		Dr. W. Muir
1963	George Thompson	Jim Yeomans	Robert Hill	Ivan Jackson	R. Michel	J. Pomfret	Dr. W. Muir
1964	George Thompson	Jim Yeomans	Robert Hill	Ivan Jackson	R. Michel	J. Pomfret	Alan Cameron
1965	Jim Yeomans	Ivan Jackson	Noel Eccleston	R. Michel	R. Hunter	T. Woodfield	Alan Cameron
1966	Jim Yeomans	Ivan Jackson	Noel Eccleston	R. Michel	T. Woodfield	Dick Adams	ald. Curlisa
1967	Jim Yeomans	Ken Staples	Noel Eccleston	R. Michel	Les Mort	R. Hunter	Mayor Curlisa
1968	Jim Yeomans	Ken Staples	Noel Eccleston	R. Michel	Dick Adams		Mayor Curlisa
1969	Jim Yeomans	Ivan Jackson	Noel Eccleston	R. Michel	Dick Adams	Ken Staples	Mayor Curlisa

Life Members

The following List details the names, their Life Member number and the year the Life Membership was awarded.

Name	Number	Year Awarded
Mick Bradley	20	2013
Mick Waudby	19	2011
Robbie Cameron	18	2011
Justin Baratta	17	2009
Mike Heal	16	2008
Kerry Smart	15	2006
Ross Williamson	14	2006
Richard Sheehan	13	2004
Paul Byers	12	2004
Bruce Smart	11	1998
Laurie Yeomans	10	1996
Graham Williamson	9	1995
Keith Bennett	8	1993
Rod Dunn	7	1992
Jim Yeomans	6	1970
Paul Bennett	5	Year Not Known
Laurie McMartin	4	Year Not Known
Ivan Jackson	3	Year Not Known
Noel Eccleston	2	Year Not Known

Sport

RUGBY UNION

Spirit of rugby

OATLEY Rugby Club celebrates its 50th anniversary next weekend (June 10) not only as a sporting club but as a focal point for the Oatley community for three generations of players.

One of the club's life members, Laurie Yeomans, described it as a community club that tries to foster the spirit of rugby for all shapes and sizes.

"The spirit of suburban rugby in Sydney is that if you want to run around then there is always a place for you," he said.

And rugby players of all shapes, sizes and ages will turn out for the club's 50th anniversary dinner to be held on Sunday, June 10, at the Conca Dora reception centre at Riverwood.

More than 450 ex-players and current players and their families and club supporters will attend to celebrate the club and its history.

Oatley Rugby Club was founded in 1958 by members by the Oatley Baths Swimming Club, Ray Stevens and Jim Yeomans, the father of Laurie Yeomans.

In 1958 the club had only one team, the under 12s and games were played at Hurstville Oval.

Since then the club has grown to have over 500 registered players and has fostered three Wallabies, Garry Gainsford, Barry Stumbles and Bruce Battishall.

The first senior team was formed in 1974 and won the premiership in its first season.

The club moved to HV Evatt Park at Lugarno in the early 1980s and this is still its home ground.

The club now has 19 teams including 13 junior teams ranging from under 6s to under 16s, as well as under 19s and under 21s Colts who play in the Sydney Suburban competition, and four open-age teams. In 2005, they were the club champions of the third division of the Sydney Suburban competition.

One player, Rod Dunn has played close to 450 senior games with the club over the past 32 years. Dunn started



Old warrior: Rod Dunn (above) who has played more than 450 games with the Oatley Rugby Club; and (below) the club's first senior premiership team, 1974.



playing rugby with Oatley as a child and is still playing in his mid 40s, as well as coaching. His son, Tim, plays in the under 9s and his daughter Lauren won the player of the year in the under 7s several years ago.

Yeomans described Dunn as the spirit of rugby.

"It is very rare that a player has played 400 games for the same club," he said.

Tickets are still available for the 50th season dinner but booking are essential and can be made by phoning club president Richard Ekholm on 0412 393 882 or by going to www.oatleyrugby.com.

CYCLING



A taste of Ital

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THE Hurstville I time last Satur Kempt Field, H

It was the first annual Sydney drawcard at a

The event att categories who purpose built 5 Field.

It was support Living, FRF Cour and the Italian 1

Hurstville Cou to ensure that ti

Many state an competition with Champion Robe Club, ahead of t Lang, with Phil C

The three plac through the 40-h hold off a belate Criterium champ Scott. Dale Scarf with Kris Koke, fr placed rider.

Win

HAVING just r four days tro Jindabyne wi

friend and co crime Gordon J say to me "wh

want to go f that's what you ing?"

My rank...



Under Lawrie
Yeomans R . Oatley premiers

Oatley under 16 1964



They had tough and robust forwards who were often found in packs and a team was never formed that could match them in the backs. Though their style of playing Rugby was irregular and rash, they had mighty little science but a mighty lot of dash.

And they wore funny little jumpers that money could not buy, and their boots were always unpolished and their throats were always dry. And they used to train those players drinking schooners in the pub, they were demons were the members ofTHE OATLEY RUGBY CLUB.

It was somewhere up the north side, in the city's smoke and steam that a Rugby club existed called the Saint Ives Rugby team. As a social institution t'was a marvelous success for its members were distinguished by exclusiveness and dress. They wore natty little jumpers that were gold and blue and sleek for their cultivated owners only wore them once a week!