



2022

NORTHS PIRATES

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 SEASON

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OUR STORY

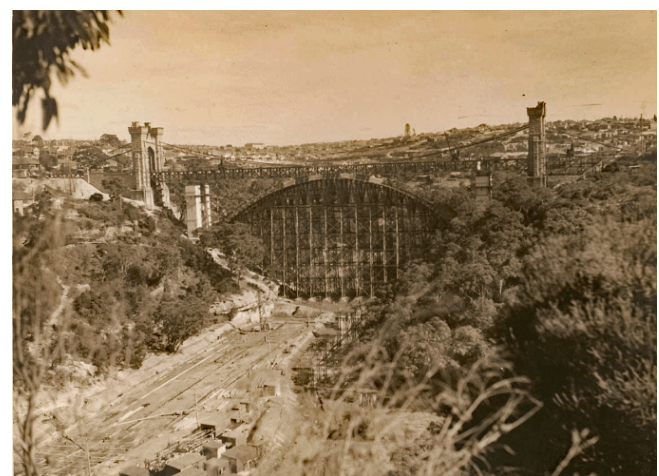
Norths Pirates

Norths Pirates Junior Rugby Union Club was originally called Cammbridge Bay which was made up from 3 clubs - Cammeray, Northbridge and Neutral Bay.

The Neutral Bay club was active as far back as the 1890s and predates Northern Suburbs Rugby Club. Cammbridge Bay rugby competed in the Sydney junior competition until 1987 when Norths Seniors took control and reformed the club as Norths Pirates.

The club is one of 4 feeder clubs (Drummoyne, Hunters Hill, Mosman, Norths Pirates) to the Northern Suburbs Junior Rugby Union (NSJRU) and ultimately to the Northern Suburbs Rugby Union Football Club (Norths Seniors) Shute Shield club.

Tunks Park Northbridge is the home of the Norths Pirates.



Tunks Park 1936



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After 2 seasons interrupted and cut short by COVID, we were finally looking forward to a full season with plenty of rugby in 2022.

And then it rained. And rained. And rained.

But despite all that – 2 seasons of COVID interruption, and the wettest season on record – our registration numbers remain strong, we had teams playing right through from u6s to u14s, and most importantly we saw lots of happy, smiling faces out there on the field.

I said at the start of the season that smiles of faces – kids enjoying their rugby – was the sole measure of our success as a Club. And based on what I have seen throughout the season, I think we can say that, despite all our challenges in recent years, we remain a strong and vibrant Club with many, many years of rugby ahead of us.

And although smiles on faces are our sole marker of success, there are a few season highlights that should be mentioned:

- We had 5 out of our 7 junior teams make the semi-finals in their division
- We had our U14s make it to the A-Division Grand Final
- We had around 20-odd players selected to play for Northern Suburbs District in representative or development teams
- We had 4 players selected to represent Sydney district
- We had 3 players selected as part of the Waratahs Gen-Blue Program – Oliver Smith, Hunter Chan and Taj Mailei
- We had yet another successful and enjoyable tour of Cowra
- We had Waratah Will Harris finally acknowledge his former life as a Pirate by wearing Pirates socks in a Waratahs game at Leichardt Oval
- We had our mighty U8s win the Chatswood Challenge
- And guess who was the first ever Club to run out on the new Allianz Stadium? That's right – the Norths Pirates!

What a season!

I acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors who have enabled us to continue to invest in grassroots Rugby development. I would also like to thank our opposition teams, Sydney Junior Rugby Union and Gordon Minis for all their organisation, our referees, Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club, North Sydney Council including Bernie, Dean and Dawn.

Thank you to our Coaches, Managers, AGCs, Committee members, and all of the people who have run the side lines, run the water, come down to Tunks on a freezing cold, wet morning to help set up and who've packed up at the end of the day – thank you all. The fact that we have so many people willing to chip in and help means, I think, that we are doing something right as a Club.

See you in Season 2023.

Go the Pirates!

Andrew Chapman
President



SPONSORS



I acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors who have enabled us to continue to invest in grassroots rugby development.



U6 RED

COACH: Brendan Martin, Jon Rhydderch
TEAM MANAGER: Brendan Martin

Rugby is a game that forges great and long-lasting friendships and this team had it all. From mates that just met in Kindy, little brothers of other Pirates, sons of Dads who played together, two brothers and one boy who came straight from wild west of Wagga Wagga!

A motley crew by any standard, but all with a willingness to listen and learn, ensuring that they had lots of fun making great play and scoring plenty of tries! What more could you ask for?!

It was an absolute pleasure to coach the team with Brendan and we are looking forward to the many years to come where they can build on the core skills that they developed this year.
Keep training hard boys!

The team:

Henry "Lightening" Rhydderch – a fast stepper who loves running hard in attack and defence

Jack "In and away" Martin – Speed to burn with plenty of tries. A classy out-side back in the making

Orlando "The Enforcer" Gasper – A natural rugby player. He can read the game and loves to run with the ball

Billy 'The Kid' Ryan - Like his namesake, he was fast of foot and hard to catch

Peter 'The Wizard' Ward – Dazzling footwork and speed off the mark

Edward "One-way" Sachs – No side steps in his repertoire, the front row calls. Loved the hard yards

John "The jack-hammer" Sachs – a dominant force to be reckoned with. One to watch next year

"Smokin" Joe Ritchie – Don't let his size fool you, he punches above his weight and age and smoked a lot of defenders this season

Thomas "The Tank" Pulley – Nothing scares him, nothing gets in his way. Loves the tough stuff

Albert "All Heart" Hindmarsh – His defence off the line was impressive. A real team player

U6 BLACK



COACH: Nick Thompson, Ed Wilson
TEAM MANAGER: Nick Thompson

The season almost finished too soon for these little Pirates, with the team really hitting their stride at the business end of the year! It was a great introduction to the game for the boys, and one in which lifelong memories were made. These characters showed a keen interest in learning the game and most importantly, had so much fun in the process. They were almost unstoppable from finding the try line coupled with a defence that any Pirate would be proud of.

Coaches Ed & Nick had such a great time watching the boys develop the skills and fall in love with the game. Onwards and upwards for these mighty Pirates.

Introducing the Mighty U6 Blacks:

Cadwy Jones – Fast on his feet and a trusted last line of defence. We're thinking Leigh Halfpenny highlights are on repeat in this Welsh family home!

Charlie Wilson – Shows a real turn of pace and hunger for the try line. This Pirate will be a real force to be reckoned with next year.

Felix Blanco – Twinkle toes and a sidestep to match! There will be plenty of tries for Felix in the years ahead.

Harrison Bender – Harry wants the ball and loves a run. Something tells us Harry wont be hanging out with the 'backs' much in his career.

Leo Lynam – First man to defend and most tries scored. Leo lead from the front and has a career looming in the centers!

Magnus Patterson Nash – A character on the field and off. Expect Maggie's fancy footwork will age like a fine wine...

Oliver Thompson – The tall timber who only knows one way – straight. Ollie was always in the mix, and always with a smile.

Oscar Keller – Hungry for the ball and runs into space. Opposition teams wont know what hit them when Oscar learns which direction is the try line!



U7 RED

COACH: Dean Mumm
TEAM MANAGER: Nina Collinson

Whilst this year has been characterised by bad weather, muddy boots and missed games it has still been a cracking year for the U7s Reds. A year older and a little stronger the vast majority of players were returning from the U6s and there was a clear difference in their ability on the field.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a large number of players in our team and this meant that rotation and sharing players with the opposition during games was something our boys became accustomed to. The spirit of rugby was well alive though as the boys volunteered to put their jerseys on inside-out and join the opposition team in readily taking on their own Pirates teammates.

It was incredibly pleasing to see the concepts of running straight and through a defence rather purely around a defence is starting to come. It is also promising to see the boys starting to connect, look up and push forward as a defensive line. These concepts will be central to progressing as team as we move into tackle next year.

These boys are a great bunch of bright and talented little men and when they were on with their concentration, they were able to match with any side in the competition. A very big thank you to my co coach in Dean Hyde, and to Nina Collinson for tireless efforts organising the boys, parents and coaches.

A huge thank you to all the parents for your support and help this year, particularly for those that put their hands up to set up the field, sat on the BBQ and most importantly for turning on Thursday training

U7 BLACK



COACH: Sean Walford
TEAM MANAGER: Jay Zonoobi

Despite the rainy weather causing numerous cancellations – the Blacks Pirate spirit has not been dampened. We have had a fantastic season, where every pirate has improved week by week. Most importantly we've had lots of fun.

This year, I have often seen the 'penny drop' as the team have quickly formed defensive lines, performed excellent tackles, and started to offload passes at the right time. Towards the end of the season, we have progressed from speedy individual runs to a collective team progressing up the pitch and sometimes breaking the opposition line through passes - leaving (even) me speechless! At times it's been a little flustered with passes directly to the face, blocking our own teammates, dropped balls – but everyone is looking up for the pass and trying their very best. Some great player moments include Cooper no longer fearing the tackle, Logan the 'step', Loui's spaghetti runs, Maxwell and Phillip's speedy wing dashes, the 'tackling machine' Eira, Jack, Ralph and Mo kamikaze runs, Lachlan and Oliver running through the smallest of gaps and Hudson the huge boot often finding the neighbouring pitch.

Many thanks to all the parents for being taxi drivers, training posts/blockers and keeping the team fed/watered. Huge shout out to Larissa our chief negotiator and magician in finding a dry pitch (A Super Star!), Jay for your weekly motivation/bribes with the 'player of the match' goodies/certificates, Curtis for your refereeing/coaching and Carwyn for your mathematical system for fair substitutions - it has worked!

The U7 Pirates Black have grown to be a great team and should be very proud of themselves. I look forward to next season and watching all players progress with the resolute Pirates Spirit- argggh!



U8 RED

COACH: Andrew Sprout
TEAM MANAGER: Louisa Raven

A lot was achieved in 2022 regarding the U8 Red team. The boys embraced the physicality around tackling. Most of the team signed up to the Bouise tackling camp in March and gained some valuable skills. However, we started the season slowly, losing most games and struggling to work out the breakdown and how to work as a team. Halfway through the season things changed. At the Windsor gala a number of our boys became more involved. The team learnt that straight running and blitz tackling are important elements of the game. The second half of the season saw the Red team win most games. It was personally rewarding to work with this team and see the boys grow in confidence and enjoyment for the game.

Individually, Eddie Wright's straight hard running and Dean Lance tackles were a highlight of the season. Joshua Jagessar's deft sidestep and speed off the mark created some beautiful tries. Axel McQueen's try saving tackles and ability to break the line were wonderful to watch. Thomas Bryant became a leader of the team, read the game well and was one of the best in the ruck and passing the ball. Curtis Bunting in his first rugby season picked up the game immediately and was one of the most elusive runners with the ball. Hugo Ashdown and Peter Raven grew in confidence after the Cowra tour, showed good tracking skills and a desire to steal the ball at the breakdown. Lastly William Sprott was a tenacious tackler and demonstrated the importance of having a good fend.

U8 BLACK



COACH: David Baker, Nathan Hill
TEAM MANAGER: Kris Roberts

What a season! Between COVID and downpours, felt like a constant battle to get the kids on a rugby field. Despite the challenges, the boys of the U8 Black Team showed incredible spirit, enthusiasm and grit to produce a great season. They trained with smiles on their faces and played their hearts out in the weekend games. Every one of them contributed to the mighty blacks and they showed us all what it means to be part of a team.

Daniel provided hard running lines in attack, enthusiasm at the breakdown and steel in defence. Max grew in confidence in each game, with some great runs at the back end of the season. Henry dazzled with his fast feet and got the cheer of the season when he (finally....) produced a tackle. Connor found his mojo with bullocking runs through the midfield and some lovely tries, Gus was our 'shooter' in defence, always up and at them quickly to close down the space in front of him. Small in stature, big in heart, Lucas brought enthusiasm, positivity and a beaming smile whenever he walked on the field. James was our speed machine, tries in attack and never say die attitude when chasing back in defence. Tristan gave the team menace at the breakdown, always in the thick of things and strong in the tackle. Don't think we've ever seen an U8 tackle quite like Jim; passion and commitment to contact with scant regard to his personal safety! Alexander set the field alight with his footwork and speed to burn, a prolific try scorer this year.

Thanks to all the boys for their efforts and to the parents for their commitment each week. It has been a pleasure to be involved with this team and we look forward to welcoming them back next year into the U9s!.

David, Nathan and Krisanthi

COACH: Adam Ashcroft and Trent Scrivener
TEAM MANAGER: Jono Rhydderch

What a Year! The team has stayed strong with a core group of boys from St Marys Primary over the last few years but the team were bolstered by a few new recruits that have seen the light and moved on from soccer to play the game they play in heaven. All the boys bonded well and it felt like a strong team from the outset.

With preseason training pretty much being non existent due to our favourite Mexican friend "La Nina" it felt like it could have been another year like the last. With a few of the Dads overly excited to see the kids playing rugby with contact for the first time it brought us all down to Tunks Park for the first game on a miserable day. Super excited to finally get a start the coaches thought it would be good to get down an hour early and do a training session. Whilst standing in the rain waiting for the competition we found out that the competitors changed the draw last minutes, leaving the team down there in the pouring rain for 3 hours, training, playing each other and then finally playing their first game. It was a season opener like no other. The kids were tired for weeks! It was really great to see the kids transition from non contact to full contact. Some of the kids took a little while to enjoy the rough stuff but after a few games it was evident that it was a good way for the kids to let off a bit of steam from their school week. Still learning the multitude of rules in rugby its been a bit of learning curve for the kids but in short they have all played amazing and the level of passion, commitment and improvement from all the kids has been truly inspirational.

Some stand memories through the season have been;

-Playing against Mosman prior to Norths Seniors – The boys played against Mosman prior to the 1st Grade Seniors. Being mid way through the season and winning every game it felt like it was too good to be true. The unbeaten Norths Golds were unbeatable. Well we met our match against a decent Mosman team at North Sydney Oval. Although it was a tight game the atmosphere and the hospitality of the seniors was amazing. The lollies and hot chocolate in the sheds after was a good touch.

-The Cowra Gala Day – The city boys travelled out to Cowra to get a lesson on how the tough country folk play rugby. Much to our surprise it was the other way around with the boys playing 2 games and clocking up record points against Bathurst and Cowra. With a couple of the Under 8 Reds and Blacks filling in it was evident that the team gelled quickly and enjoyed a couple of decent wins

-Battle of the Beaches Gala Day – With some of the Gold Team travelling out to the Northern Beaches to compete in the Gala Day it was not expected to compete too heavily against the 20 or so teams. The team formed quickly and looked like they were very keen to play competitively. With 4 wins from 4 games we progressed into the semi finals but disappointingly lost to KWP by a few tries whom progressed to win the silverware.

Congratulations and thank you to all the parents, grandparents, siblings but especially the whole team of boys that have been a pleasure to coach.

A special thank you to;

-The speed stars that have finished off the set pieces being Finn, Flynn and Harry

-The enforcers that have stood up, taken on the competition and shown how Norths boys don't back down being Jax and Freddy

-The surprise stars when they get the ball being Jack, Oscar, Josh and Timmy

The solid half back with a surprising amount of speed being Ollie.



U9 RED

COACH: Cesare Caoduro, James Keeler
TEAM MANAGER: Michelle Lee, Tanya Ferguson

Charles Finn

Charlie, apart from being a gentleman on and off the field has fast become a capable ball runner and tackler, leading the team across the field when he's been available on Saturdays.

James Finniss

James will become Australia's version of Richie McCaw. Bone jarring tackles and runs well with ball in hand, James created more turnovers than your average cake shop. A huge season again.

Adelaide Reynolds

Addy represents everything we love about rugby. Her ability to simply have a go, her enthusiasm around the park and in contact, especially when tackling is brilliant.

Sam Blainey

Sam eased into the season and in the second half of the year, became a hard running, tackling, rucking machine. We look forward to seeing more running into contact next year!

Beau Pulley

Beau exploded at the Windsor gala day this year, running the ball like No.8s of old. Very comfortable with ball in hand we can't wait 'til he runs into more space in 2023!

Archie Carnegie

Is he a back, a forward, a coach, a rugby reporter? Archie is all of these and more. Some of the tackles he made were felt across the grounds, his fearless running brilliant. His go forward and approach to the season was greatly appreciated by all. Well done Archie.

Ripley Jackson

Rip carried on his form from last year and had another great year as one of the team's most exciting players. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see as much of Rip as we'd have hoped given school commitments, but he always had a big impact when he was available for the Pirates. Rip brought determined running, strong tackling and competition for the ball (the crowd always enjoyed yelling 'Good rip, Rip!' when he often dispossessed an unsuspecting opponent). We have valued Rip's 'lead from the front' attitude and hope to see more of him next year.

Hugo Magill

Hugo emerged this year as one of our stars around the ruck with sniping runs, a great passing game and an uncanny ability to pinch the ball. He was another member of our squad who we had to share with his school team, and no doubt he enjoyed and benefited from playing in different teams, formats and competitions. We were always pleased when he was able to bring his guile to Pirates games. Hugo always showed great team spirit and was a key contributor to the playing group.

Marcello Caoduro

Marcello has continued to be one of the quickest and most dangerous runners in our team - let alone the competition. However, aside from the try scoring that resulted from his running, Marcello should be commended for using his speed to always chase in cover defence. He could always be relied upon to get back and keep the pressure on opposition breaks. Furthermore, his desperation in then making the try-saving tackles showed his tremendous team spirit and commitment. Another standout year from Marcello!

Henry Hutchinson

The 'man with the dummy and the swerve' continued to grow in stature this year. Henry picked up on his elusive form from last year and as his confidence increased, he continued to score tries through his wide-running and deception. With the space and structure of the under 10s coming next year, he will be a great asset as an attacking outside back.

Oscar Huntington

We were thrilled to have Oscar join our ranks this year (so too his dad!) and his experience and steady play were a great asset to the team. Oscar brought a settled structure to our play - not just in the middle, but around the field. He was always reliable at lineout and scrum time and provided a calm, disciplined presence to the whole squad. His hard work around the ruck, strength as a runner and consistency as a defender laid the foundation for his team mates and we look forward to his contribution again next year.

Charlie Stone

Despite looking fragile, Charlie is a great strong player when it comes to clean out, always one of the first to be on the ball, and very fast when he gets a chance with the ball. We have enjoyed watching his confidence growing throughout the years, and can't wait to see him in full swing on the big field next year.

Jack Mytton

Jack is one of the most complete players in the team. He can run, he can tackle and he can clean. He is always where the ball is, and someone other players are looking as example. He takes games very seriously and doesn't miss a chance to run for a try.

Nick Duffy

Nick is our "tackle guy". Always laser tracking for those legs and ready to snap when it is time to fire. When the coach needs to remind and demonstrate how a proper tackle his performed, Nick is always the player to look for. He is a great runner too, and a pleasure to watch.

William Strefner

We love watching Will in his very visible headgear, performing dummies, doing great stepping and then run to score a try like he's chased by a lion. Will is another pillar of the team, always one of the first kicking the ball around at training and during the game warm up. We also love watching him extending his arm to keep away players form his very precious ball!

Isabelle Buttling

Izzy, is our lioness. She is fast, she is strong, and she is a true Pirate! She is always there for the team, no matter is it is a rack, a tackle or having a go with the ball. She doesn't fear to be tackled by bigger kids and she is definitely someone to keep an eye on in the years coming.

Felix Koscharsky

Felix is our last addition to the team, but we, as coaches, and the team, have immediately felt like he was always been part of the squad. Sure he will do great playing a full season next year, and support the Great Wall of Pirates!

COACH: Ant Vida, Ben Richards

TEAM MANAGER: Sallie Watt, Sally Baker

The 2022 season for the Under 10 Reds was great fun but also a very big challenge.

The season started off with internal trials and a grading gala day at Manly. The team played some great rugby on the grading day and were graded to play in B grade as a result.

The team had big wins against Easts and Lane Cove in the first 2 games of the season. After these stellar results we found ourselves promoted to A Grade from the third game onwards. The standard of rugby in the higher grade was a big adjustment with no easy games and highly competitive playing environment.

The forward pack were always competitive with our front row of Jasper, Edward and Felix anchoring the scrum. Max, Alex and Caleb were our locks and ensured our scrum was very solid. Matt and Callum took turns playing number 8 and did an excellent job. Henry was our utility player and had the hard task of covering both hooker and halfback.

Our backline was always well organised and had lots of pace out wide. Jack at halfback and Josh R at flyhalf was a solid pairing and ensured the rest of the backline received quality ball. Ed L and Zenon did a great job sharing the inside centre role. Both players ran the ball up strongly and tackled well.

We were lucky enough to have lots of skilful outside backs which was a blessing and also a curse. At times it was hard to play everyone in their preferred positions. Lucas and Leon scored long range tries off the back of excellent backline moves. Will and Josh L played well on the wings. All our outside backs did a great job and improved throughout the season.

Ed B was our standout try scorer. He scored a lot of the team's points and produced some excellent runs and long-range efforts. In defence, Josh R and Jasper led the way.

There were many highlights during the season but our two wins against the Harbord Harlequins were the most memorable. Our first win in A Grade was in the wet at Curl Curl. We managed to just hold out Harbord who had a try disallowed on the bell for a 14-12 win.

Our best rugby of the season was played in the return match against Harbord at Keirle Park. On a wet Friday night under lights and in difficult conditions we won 28-12. The forwards and backs constructed some great plays and scored some excellent tries. It was also our best defensive effort of the season.

Our loss to Easts in round 6 was one that got away as they scored on the bell to win 19-14. After trailing for most of the game, we managed to score quick points to lead 14-12 with only a few minutes to go. Unfortunately, Easts found a way to score in extra time.

On the representative front, it was great to see members of the team play for the Northern Suburbs Development Squad. Congratulations To Jack, Josh R, Max, Matt, Edward V, Ed B, Leon and Ed L on their selections.

Overall, whilst the number of wins were down on last season, the team was always competitive and should be proud of the effort they displayed. Playing in A grade is a tough task and it's a credit to the squad that everyone kept enthusiastic and motivated throughout a challenging year.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Sallie Watt for all her hard work once again managing the team. Thanks also to our Co-coach Ben Richards, for all his help with training and on game day. Many thanks also to all the parents for their help and support throughout the season.

Finally, thanks to the players in Under 10 Reds for a great season. Keep developing your skills in the off season and see you in 2023!

U10 BLACK



COACH: Will Hughes and Andy Winter
TEAM MANAGER: Kaye Healy-Smith and Scott Smith

Our step-up from U9s to U10s, playing on a full field and with contested lineouts and scrums, wasn't made easy by a rain affected pre-season and a soft track at Tunks that wasn't conducive to expansive play!

And so, a bright start to the season under lights at Newport – that eventually saw the electronic scoreboard tick over in our favour after an ebb-and-flow game – proved to be a false dawn! We found ourselves on the wrong end of the less fancy scoreboards at other grounds, lacking cohesion and teamwork. Our poor run of form culminated in a big loss to Manly and an even bigger loss to Easts – which would come to be known as the “Mother’s Day Massacre”.

However, behind the scenes we worked hard at training, learning to support each other in open play, retain the ball in contact and to spin it wide away from the breakdown. Assisted by a downgrade to a lower division, this newfound teamwork soon saw the U10 Blacks in the contest.

Narrow losses against Penrith and Briars still followed but we were in the game for the full 40 minutes and the corner had been turned with combinations starting to form in open play. We won 5 of the last 6, beating Lane Cove, Pittwater, Easts and the Raiders twice, and only narrowly losing to Coogee by 5 points. The standout was undoubtedly the 53-5 win over Easts; but not because of the score line, rather the satisfaction at the whistle after having played a wide and flowing game of rugby with excellent teamwork and support play and absolute commitment in the tackle and the breakdown.

This well-deserved change in fortune for our developing team saw the U10 Blacks finish second on the ladder to Coogee, hosting a home semi-final as fitting reward for all the hard work and dedication throughout the season. This team should be enormously proud of how far they have come as individuals and more importantly, together as a playing group.

Sebastian Bates – first name on the team-sheet each week, due to his total commitment and hard, straight running at pace. He owns the front row at Tight Head Prop and is one of our best “go-forward” players, excellent at the line break, always where the ball is and leading by example all the time.

Tex Costello – generally played at #2 by virtue of his pin-point line out throws, but versatile anywhere in the front-five. He loves the scrum contest and is always disappointed when the opposition requests uncontested scrums. Another committed ball carrier going forward and great at clearing the ruck.

Wylie Lewis – sporting a haircut perhaps more suited to other footy codes, Wylie is something of the team comedian, especially on the training paddock. But come game-day, he is a strong, enthusiastic ball runner and fantastic team player. If not sharing the hooking duties with Tex, he is otherwise rock solid at the back of the scrum and great over the ball in open play.

Noah Solomon – Another rock of our front row at Loose Head, Noah is the ultimate team player; he has played every game this season and has never missed training. He is always at the breakdown, tirelessly working to win the ball and never shy of getting stuck in at the contest.

Hugo Arnold – has played everywhere in the scrum and even once or twice in the centres throughout the season but has seemingly now cemented himself in the “Cauliflower Club” at Second Row. Reminiscent of Wallaby great, John Eales, he has slotted many a conversion from the touch line. A strong ball runner that our opposition finds very hard to tackle.

Archer Healy-Smith – Our other regular Second Rower, Archer is the focal point of our lineouts and a direct runner when on the ball. He is an excellent communicator, constantly guiding the team around the park and asking good questions in training to better understand the play. As such, he regularly wears the captain or vice-captain's armband on game day.

Isaac Hill – another Cauliflower Club convert in 2022, starting the season in the backs but finishing strongly in the forward pack based on his desire to be on the ball at every opportunity. With autopilot always set on a course for the try line, Isaac is a fearless runner with the ball and one of the best at retaining and recycling possession at the breakdown.

Oscar Robinson – with his name inked on the team sheet and a shoo-in at #8, he plays with natural strength and abundant passion. Oscar has clearly based his running game on the Jonah Lomu highlights reel, regularly breaking the gain line and having little regard for would be tacklers, leaving a trail of crumpled defenders in his wake as muscles across the white stripe to score.

Natalie Higson – our starting nine and in true Half-Back style, a general of the midfield, bossing the forwards at the ruck and setting the back line free with some quick and accurate passing. Fast around the ground, Natalie is always at the breakdown, constantly working to recycle the ball and set-up the next phase of play, but never shy of the contact making more than a few try saving tackles throughout the year.

Mac Scott – a relative newcomer to rugby but a natural sportsperson, Mac is another versatile Half-Back comfortable at both nine and ten. However, after perfecting the “show and go” and “Campese-step”, he has made first receiver his own regularly breaking the line to score himself or send his outside backs into space.

Ralph Hindmarsh – winner of Best and Fairest in U8's, Ralph has continued to develop as a rugby player and is proficient in all aspects of the game; good awareness, great hands, a solid tackler and not at all shabby with the boot either, regularly sharing the kicking duties. However most noticeable is his Tim Horan-like ability to hit the gaps in the line at pace from #12, always looking for an offload to allow the game to flow.

Jack Hersey – another from the crash ball Centre mould, Jack is a direct ball runner who is very strong in the contest and good at securing the ball at the breakdown. One of our more dependable tacklers, he is a rock in the backline, but when called upon to play out of position he looks equally at home in the Second or Back Row.

Henry Hughes – the third of our rotational goal kickers, Henry is deadly accurate with the boot and has helped seal a few tight games with some excellent kicks at goal. However, this wouldn't be a season in review without calling out Henry's uncanny ability to spot an intercept and once in the clear he is hard to catch, turning the opposition and the match in the process.

Ben Winter – and to the quicks in the outside backs, Ben is one of our out-and-out speed merchants! Occasionally starved of possession out wide, when he does get the ball, he is a proven finisher, turning defenders inside-out and beating most for pace, bagging a few spectacular tries this season and also frequently running down opposition plays with try saving tackles.

Billy Parberry – our other speedster, Billy is lightning quick, has a great step and runs with sheer determination. He has an eye for the gap if playing Outside Centre or can exploit the space out wide when on the Wing. He rarely gives the ball up in attack and is establishing himself as a solid tackler in defence.

Wilbur Price – and on the subject of tackling, last but certainly not least is our “tackling machine”, Wilbur. Fearlessly committed and with textbook technique, he regularly cuts down players more than twice his size and has made many try saving tackles this season. With the versatility to play at Hooker or Wing, Wilbur is an outstanding team player.

Stay fit in the off-season Pirates and keep practising your basic skills. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, marshals, assistant referees and supporters. See you all in 2023...

COACH: Michael Kaldor
TEAM MANAGER: Kylie Costello

After the last two interrupted seasons, surely it wouldn't happen a third time... Then Covid invited its mates, rain and flu, for another horror winter. The Whatsapp group was in overdrive from mid-March! The Blacks were a relatively new team, with only half the group coming from the 2021 U10 Blacks. The remainder included 5 boys trying rugby for the first time. The result was a big squad with a wide range of rugby experience and skills. A 'melting pot' that needed to get to know each other... and needed a lot of focus on the basics of running, passing, rucking and tackling.

The many washed-out training sessions early in the season didn't help this inexperienced squad. The limited time was spent on those base skills, meaning more advanced play in the ruck, scrums, lineouts and backline were not progressed.

Despite having a pool of 17 players, when covid, the flu and (non-rugby) injuries struck, we were often scrambling for players. But with last minute help from the U11 Red team and occasionally the U10 Reds, we were able to field a team, just.

The season started with a three game winning streak and high hopes of a big year. Unfortunately a run of four losses put paid to that dream. At least a few of those losses were close results that could have gone either way. The potential was there, but with interrupted training and many absentees, it was difficult to field a consistent team each weekend and this definitely affected our success rate.

It came down to the final round of the season. It was our 'do or die' moment. A win to make the semis. Or lose and hang up the boots for another year. At 12-nil down by half time it wasn't looking good. But the boys showed great spirit to fight back late in the game to win 17-12 and finish third on the ladder, achieving a semi final play off.

In the finals week, we added an extra training session and entered the elimination semi against KWP with confidence. Despite being the underdogs, the boys played very strongly to lead 14-0 early and 19-17 during the second half. Sadly, a few missed tackles late in the game ruined our chances and the season ended there.

The highpoint of the season was definitely the last minute win to get to the semis and the two strong training sessions in the extra week. If the boys can carry that energy and skill level into next year, it will be the basis of a good season.

Finally, thank you to the enthusiastic dads who helped at training and on game day. And the biggest thank you to our super-organised team manager, Kylie Costello.

Coaching is the glamour job compared to the backroom work of the manager. Kylie did a superb job in re-scheduling washed out games; keeping on top of the draw; organising field set up at Tunks; confirming player eligibility for the semis; and generally solving the mysteries of Rugby Xplorer! Definitely could not have done it without her.

Hopefully, the same crew of players and parents will be back in 2023 and we can continue where we left off!

See you all next year.

Michael Kaldor

COACH: Andrew Bunting, Andrew Sprott
TEAM MANAGER: Sallie Watt

Under 11 Red finished the season one short of the Grand Final unable to get passed Oatley in the Semi Final but the boys did themselves and the club proud in the way we went about our game.

The best compliments coming from the referee after the Semi who said to me the boys were fantastic, playing in the right spirit with nothing but respect for the officials. The absolute best feedback we could be given.

We started the season with a squad of 17 which was well balanced - a good split between backs and forwards, a few new players who were experiencing "the Pirates" for the first time and we were all the better for having them in the team - Ollie Wiseman, Archie Tonkin, Tommy Campbell, Luke Bulfin and Cooper Anderson.

Unfortunately, we lost Ollie (for us not him) to a term three trip around the country. Tommy had an early season (non-rugby related) injury delaying the start of his journey but once he was in full flight he was integral part of the team learning to play half back, centre and wing and doing each job admirably. Tonks added some real size to the team, we benefited on multiple occasions when he galloped down the field leaving would be defenders in his wake, he ended the season with four tries and 63 line breaks.

Coops A was playing Rugby for the first time and was thrust straight into the front row club, which is an exclusive club. Unfortunate for him to miss the Semi Final picking up an injury in the final training session, we certainly could have used some grunt up front against Oatley but I am sure Cooper has learnt plenty from this season and will come back stronger in 2023. Luke joined us for a pre season in the 7's and never looked back. Luke made a real impact through the season with some of the best long range tries scored. With a big frame, at top speed he is a tough one to bring down and I look forward to seeing him really developing his skills in the coming years.

Arch Daly was another new addition to the team but not the club, rewarded for some strong performances early in the season he was selected in the Reds for 2022. Arch is the long striding winger with deceptive speed and strong defence who goes about his business quietly but confidently.

The remainder of the team was returning from our shortened 2021 season and each and everyone of them helped shape the team into what we were.

Cyan continues to improve, showing what we can look forward to in years to come with some dominant scrummaging against Oatley, working with Harry and Archie to really disrupt the oppositions ball. Harry is Harry. Always bringing the energy and competitive edge to the team which we always benefited from, a natural leader who is learning that paying hooker gives you the freedom to impact the game in a multitude of ways.

Asher and Hayden spent most of the year working together locking the scrum. Both would be considered the workhorses of the team scrapping and scraping for all the possession we could get at the breakdown. Both managed to cross the white paint for three tries each which was reward for the effort they both showed throughout the season. They do the non glamorous things really well, cleaning out and securing possession. Danny was our Mr Fixit. Always putting the team first, Danny spent much of the season at No.8 but filled in at Hooker and Half Back when needed, not an easy thing to do, especially when you have a build best described as a cross between a bulldog and a whippet, full of energy Danny never stopped and his defence awesome, putting his body on the line, often against much bigger players. His couple of tackles against Balmain certainly stand out as highlights. Our backline started with Jackson at the base of the scrum, what Jackson might lack in size he makes up for in heart. He works harder than anyone and is always looking for ways to improve his game.

Coops continues to be Mr Reliable at 5/8. Defensively Cooper is outstanding, rarely missing a tackle when the opportunity arose. He saved our bacon on numerous occasions sprinting after the opposition to bring them down before they knew what had happened. There is so much going on from five eight and Cooper continues to grow in that position. With a good kicking and passing game the outside backs were often the beneficiaries although Coops speed helped him to pick up a swag of tries for the season.

Henry, Jake and Xavier were the glue of the backline, holding it together. You would have to walk a long way to find a better defensive combination in the middle of the field which is demonstrated by our superior for and against throughout the season. Having won less games than the other leading teams we maintained the superior points differential, mostly due to the number of points scored against us. Opposition teams had to find a way around us as they were not getting through the middle.

Henry has been tried in a few different positions, including the front and back row but he really found his home at inside centre after his month-long sabbatical to the USA. With hard straight running we were able to get on the front foot and over the advantage line time and time again.

Jake always does what Jake does best and that is run, with any open space Jake will find a route to the try line, either slicing through or darting around. Jakes defence is also a highly rated part of his game when combined with his speed he was able to shut down potential tries early.

Xav moved between centre and wing and was excellent in either position. A hard aggressive ball runner and tackler Xavier helped us get over the advantage line in the wider channels and was never taking a backward step when a ruck or maul came his way, cleaning out like the forward he was maybe meant to be.

Myles was another we relied on to fill in whatever position was required but more often than not we found him at half back or on the wing. As a halfback Myles brings all the tenacity you would expect. He is an excellent defender in close to the ruck, he has the energy and fitness to get around the field effortlessly and his passing game is developing nicely. As a winger Myles reads the game well and can adjust quickly from defence to attack.

One of the most pleasing things for us as coaches was watching the team really grow as players individually but more so as a team. You will see plenty of teams rely heavily on one or two players, the U11 Reds were a team to the core which is displayed by the try scoring stats. Unfortunately, Cooper Andersons season was a little interrupted with injury and illness and he was unable to get over the try-line (there are front rowers who will go 10 years without a try but they are still the first chosen in any team). Every other team member was able to score at least one try with Cooper W and Jake sharing the spoils with 9, Luke getting 6 with the remaining tries spread pretty evenly across the team.

From a coaching perspective it was an enjoyable year, the boys were easy to coach and eager to learn making each Wednesday a fun couple of hours, let's hope 2023 bring more of the same with less rain.

A special congratulations to Harry, Hayden, Jackson, Cooper, Jake and Myles (U10s) for being selected to represent Northern Suburbs Junior Rugby at the State Cup held at Tuggerah. A fine reward for the hard work put in to develop your game. I encourage all our Pirates to trial for next year's state championships. It is a great experience for everyone, selected or not.

Thanks must go to Andrew Sprott for his tireless work to help the boys get better each week and for being the Yang to my Ying, we go about things a little differently but your enthusiasm is infectious.

Tim Spencer, stats guru and coaches aid every Wednesday, thank you.

To Sal for all the hard work that goes on before the weekend to ensure we are compliant and on top of the IT and match day requirements. Things never went pear shaped which is testament to your professionalism and experience, we are lucky to have you in charge.

Thanks also to each of the volunteers who were able to run the BBQ, set up the ground, pack up the ground, run the touch line, be the ground marshall, run water or enter the scores. It takes every one of you to make game day work.

I am sure the parents had as much fun as the boys which made the season highly enjoyable. We step up to 15 a side and a full field next year I look forward to doing it all again.

See you in 2023.

Andrew B

COACH: Tom Larkin, Charles Huntington

TEAM MANAGER: Josie Marshall

Andy Larkin - The undisputed workhorse at the breakdown – but quiet achiever Andy is not. Always ready to pump up the team or make that crucial steel or a run for the line with players slipping off him. Any game without Andy was all the more tough for his absence.

Angus Whyte - An interrupted end of the season but proved his worth early with Angus's ability to play in numerous positions in the forwards and even a stint in the backs. Angus has enormous presence on the pitch and ball skills to match.

Archie Callow – Sharing the scrum half duties early on Archie made this role his own by delivery fast ball and darting runs that even had his own team guessing where he might turn up. In one word – electric.

Blake McManus – When Blake was in the team he was one of our harder players to stop – with a great step and ball handling he lifted the team whenever he had a run. Needs to be reminded that Rugby trumps Golf.

Connor Price – Every team needs a Connor. Off the field and at training, will always make people smile. On the field when the switch is thrown, an aggressive ball runner who this year transitioned from hooker to back row nicely.

Daniel Chapman – As u12's captain Daniel lead from the front with tough runs, reliable rucking and great team spirit – Pirate runs deep with this one. Whilst mindful not to over use his authority, when Dan spoke his team (and coaches) listened. A true sportsman who was prepared to play any position required of him.

Harrison Marshall – This was a breakout season for Harry where he matured into being pivotal in helping the back line finally play as a united team rather than a bunch of individuals. 'Backs ball' was his catch cry as he tried his best to get the ball wide so that our pacemen on the wings could get a run.

Harrex Cook – the most improved player in the pack Harrex proved himself a huge asset at both Hooker and Prop. Always listening at training and ready to improve – nothing was too much trouble and there was plenty to like in his Tupou'esque hitups.

Henry Hay – Henry is a true competitor. Like a dog with a ball who doesn't want to give it up. Fast, aggressive, and a want to beat each player in front of him. A strong outside back developing his running and passing game.

Jack Matthews – One of our wing men. A regular right throughout the season. Always a smile on his face and a pleasure to have in the team. This year, Jack has developed as a winger who can run, tackle and go into contact confidently. Keep developing Jack.

Jonathan Sapias – We didn't see enough of Jonathon this season but when we did, most teams couldn't keep up. In space, Jonathon is one of the most dynamic runners you'll see. Fast and fearless, his ability to slip away from defence was a delight to see.

Jonti Beale – If there was a stat for bumping players, Jonti would win it by a country mile. Jonti is a tough ball runner and never one to shy away from contact. Playing nearly all positions in the scrum, Jonti was a key member of this year's team putting in the hard yards across the field.

Josh Lim – Josh is a little like Batman. You think you're in the clear and BANG, he'll hit you like Owen Finigan. Josh brought strength to our defence this year and a really tough body at the breakdown.

Kalan Strudwick – Our go forward guy in the centres didn't disappoint this season. Lead the way with the ball terrorising backlines throughout the comp. Kalan was the centre piece around our attack and a solid goal kicker who is getting stronger each game.

Michael Flanagan – Michael is one of those players every team needs. While owning the full back position, when asked he stepped into other roles which he did with a smile and the capability of a seasoned veteran. Tackle, run, pass – a solid season from our utility back.

Nicholas Huntington - It is thought Nick must be of Argentinian origin given his scrummaging technique is world class. The scrum throughout the season was a big highlight of the Pirates forwards domination. Nick was also a real work horse throughout the season especially around the breakdown.

Nicholas Van Kerkwijk - Another great season from Nick who remains one of the fastest outside backs in the competition. Some great improvement throughout the season with Nick's positional play and ball handling skills.

Oliver Gormley – Oliver is a true team player who played a variety of positions but did his best work as a hooker. He was pivotal in the Pirates dominant scrum and was a great ball runner around the edges of the ruck.

Oskar Halley – Oskar developed well throughout the season becoming both a very strong defender and a strong ball runner. Oskar was always keen to get involved and had a great attitude to training and playing.

Patrick McLachlan - Another great season for Paddy who remains a menace at the breakdown for the opposition and a great defender. Always punches well above his weight when he puts the Pirates jersey on.

Sam De Vlieger – Another fantastic season from Sam who managed to notch up 100 games for the Pirates which is a huge achievement. It shows a big commitment to the club and his team mates. Sam thrived in the winger position all season both in attack and defence.

Toby Walton – Toby continues to be a devastating forward in broken play with his pick and was a real feature this season. Toby put a huge stamp on the second row position and was a great contributor to the team all season.

Thomas Beerworth - Tom had a breakout season this year using his unique size and speed to his advantage to become one of the top try scorers. We look forward to seeing what havoc the young Jonah Lomu will inflict next season.

COACH: Alf Garcia-Bennett, Adrian Wake
TEAM MANAGER: Adam Welsh

Overview
A great year for the u13 Pirates with some great rugby played, friendships made and/or strengthened and strong improvements made across the group.

The year kicked off with a record number of new Pirates to the age group and in no time at all, the new and more seasoned Pirates looked like they had been playing together for years with the strong camaraderie and communication and off the field. All of the new Pirates quickly learnt and displayed the Pirates values and is great to have them as part of the club.

Along with the record number of new players, 2022 also saw a record number of Pirates players reaching their 100 game milestone. This is an amazing achievement having played with the Pirates since the u6's and the boys were rewarded with a 100 game commemorative jerseys presented by the current Waratahs and ex-Pirate player, Will Harris. Well done again to Eddie, Jono, Cooper, Hugo, Brian, Alex, and Mitch.

The team performed strongly through the year, winning eight of their twelve matches and coming in second on the table behind Ryde. A couple of unfortunate injuries and numerous bouts of Covid and illness created some challenges for both coaches and players and made it difficult to maintain consistency across positions though the boys performed admirably and played some great rugby. It was particularly pleasing to see the strong level of improvement across the group and some of the stronger players helping those that are newer to rugby improve and enjoy their rugby.

A home semi final at Tunks versus Wakehurst was much anticipated and just reward for the team's effort through the season. Unfortunately for the boys and perhaps, after beating Wakehurst twice through the season, having one eye on the grand final the following week, got off to a slow start which allowed Wakehurst to build up a strong lead at half time. Despite a gallant effort in the second half, the lead proved too great to pull back and Wakehurst took the victory and went on to win the grand final.

Congratulations to all of the u13 Pirates for their 2022 year. All of the 13's Pirates displayed strong teamwork, sportsmanship and the willingness and effort to develop and improve their rugby skills that was a joy to observe for the parents and coaches and will no doubt see this group of young men continue to enjoy their rugby for many years to come.

Player Write-up 2022 – Forwards

Cooper – part of the strong front row combination this season to not only hold but push opposing scrums off the ball. A strength that will become ever more important in the coming seasons.

Paddy – the hooker and keystone in our strong front row combination. Paddy demonstrated a strong lineout throw this year, accompanied by a season of improved tackling and strong offensive runs.

Mitch – consistently the final go-to player in our front row combination, Mitch was one of our many quiet achievers of the team working hard in a forward dominant gameplan. Mitch is committed to the team and remains a pleasure to coach.

Struan – a coach's favourite type of player who listens carefully, puts the coaching tips into action and gains confidence from game to game. Struan has improved throughout the season as a front and second row player, quietly going about his business and being one of the strongest players in the breakdown. You only win games when you've got the ball!

Oli – his first season in rugby starting at school and joining halfway through the club season. Injury restricted Oli to only two games but we saw a player of the future with a desire and commitment to win the ball in defensive and run through the opposition when on attack. There's a lot to look forward to for Oli.

Callum – the quiet manner hides the work rate of this big engine who was central to the success of our forwards this season. Callum is quick to the break down and is remembered on several occasions for making three consecutive tackles to bring opposition progress to a standstill.

Jono – one of our more versatile forwards, Jono has often been stabilising factor in our tight five or ready to break off with speed from the back row. His breakdown work and strong running with the ball are two factors which saw him picked for this season Northern Suburbs rep team – congratulations.

Nick – you wouldn't think Nick only joined the team this season, becoming integral to the back row as a hard and fast tackler, but also taking up the captaincy for most of the season. The team song words may have come slowly but the Pirate spirit certainly didn't.

Eddie – a tough year for Eddie on the injury front but was always there to support the team come game-day, and it still didn't stop him being selected for the Northern Suburbs rep team. Eddie is an impact player typified by our win at Wahroonga where he came on midway through the first half to immediately score two quick tries and take charge of the game.

Sam – a new Pirate this season where the biggest question has been, forward or back? Generally used as a forward his work rate was immense and his running from the back row was only bettered by the angles he'd choose when running as an inside centre. Great to watch and lots to come.

Zane – there's lots of raw enthusiasm in another new Pirate this season. Zane made most training sessions this season and his willingness to listen and learn has seen him improve throughout. His slight frame is deceptive to the strength he has in the breakdown.

Sinclair – still fresh to rugby, Sinclair has been a great team player switching between the forwards and backs as the games required. Sinclair showed the Pirate spirit in our semi-final loss when he made his best tackle of the season.

Beanon – a new Pirate this season and also new to rugby, Beanon had a great first season and is an asset to the club. Although only played a handful of games, his attitude, teamwork and willingness to get stuck in were great to watch that included many strong hit ups through the middle. Look forward to see Beanon continue in the Pirates and further develop his rugby over coming years.

Backs

Harry -Played his first season for the Pirates and displayed a very rounded and dynamic game at scrum-half, consistently harassing the opposite 9, and scoring many individual tries. He is a versatile player and his positive attitude and constant encouragement was a great asset to the team.

Leo-His first season for the Pirates, Leo was one of the most improved players this year, coming out of his shell to show us just a glimpse of how strong a rugby player he can be. Despite his strong pass and running, he particularly excelled in defense with exemplary tackling from the scrum-half position, in one home game performing 5 continuous tackles on advancing forwards. He is a relentless rugby player with courage and determination.

Billy- New to the Pirates from St Aloysius' College and playing at fly-half, this season saw him develop his decision making skills to become our playmaker and guardian of the all-important game-plan. A strong individual runner evidenced by many tries scored throughout the season. He performed well in his kicking duties which will become essential as he grows into his number 10 role.

Hugo- This was a valiant year for this seasoned Pirate who overcame knee injuries to make strong performances as inside center. He executed the game plan very well, both in attack and in defence where his tackling has improved significantly. Consistent in support play, performing critical tasks to this season's successes. We missed his usual precision kicking this year due to his injuries, but we look forward to seeing that aspect of his game next year.

Fergus- An unfortunate season for this long-time Pirate, marred by a wrist fracture whilst playing in Orange for St. Joseph's College early in the season. However, he had a very strong finish in the last three games showing his potential speed and breaking often through the defence as our outside center. Looking forward to seeing him in action again in 2023.

Brian- A demanding season for this Pirate who is a versatile player that had to play in the centers, full-back and wing positions to cover for injuries. His strongest contributions were in attack, supporting his team mates in cleaning duties when these were isolated. His commitment to the Pirates is unwavering as shown by him reaching his 100 game milestone and we look forward to seeing him back next year.

Ethan- One of the most improved new players to the Pirates, developing a very strong and fast run in the wing. He was rewarded with a beautiful try against Hornsby. Towards the last matches he found his tackling game, which will become part of his arsenal next season. Always ready to listen and willing to learn and will no doubt continue to hone his more wing-specific skills such as a side step and finding space in the defensive line. An excellent season.

Kobe- A frequent recipient of the un-official T-bone prize for fearless tackling, which he used to intimidate the opposition. He was rewarded with a couple of nice tries on the wing which is a position that he will continue to grow into with his speed and continuing work on a strong side-step. He was strong in support, always injecting passion and positivity to the team.

Edward- A strong performance as a winger who was able to show his speed and strong ball skills on many occasions. Edward continually improved his skills in defence and in communication with the other backs through the year, which allowed our back line to look and be more structured and stronger. I look forward to seeing Edward become a prolific try scorer on the wing in future years as he capitalises on his speed and ball skills and continues to develop his finishing skills.

Harry W- Dependable in the full-back position, this Pirate had a consistent season with excellent contributions in attack and defence. He was secure under any high-ball and was able to mount strong counter attacks on all occasions. As kicking will become more important for the fullback position in years to come, Harry should continue to develop this part of his game that will see him grow into an even better no. 15.

COACH: Mark Chan, Ben Squire
TEAM MANAGER: Elise Mittelheuser

They say to be the best you gotta beat the best...and this season has definitely brought the best out in the mighty Pirates U14s.

Initially registered in C grade, and due to a successful gala grading day campaign, we were then moved into B grade. To our surprise ... it was soon announced that this division would then be merged with the A Grade competition. At first ...this had us very concerned for players safety, as we are a smaller side, and knew we would struggle to get any training sessions in, as a full team due to the boys school commitments.

The boys soon put our fears to rest, by pulling off some outstanding wins against some very large and skillful opposition sides, often clawing their way back from being behind on the scoreboard for most of the game.

This was a testimony to the team's resilience and never-say-die attitude, which saw self belief become a part of this team's character. This would ultimately see us very proudly finish 2nd on the overall ladder for the regular season.

This had us us playing in a tough A Grade semi final game against a very strong and determined Blacktown side, which saw the boys fight tooth and nail, to once again come from behind and eventually win by 2 points, and book a place for ourselves in the A Grade Grand Final with Dural.

Unfortunately despite a strong start and gaining an early lead in the Grand Final, we went down to a very strong Dural side who finished their season in A grade undefeated. Our boys kept fighting valiantly to the end in true Pirates' spirit!

There have been so many monumental moments throughout this season, almost too many to mention, but the way the boys have pulled together tightly as a team, at critical times has been one of the most pleasing aspect of their game this season. Individually every player has improved and matured as a rugby player, and all have demonstrated that they clearly understood their role on the team.

The forwards with coach Ben Squire, this season have worked hard on their set piece, which has massively improved, especially the scrum, which often had our boys pushing the bigger packs around. Their work rate at the breakdown also improved greatly which allowed us to get good front foot ball for our sharp and devastating backline.

The back line as usual was running sharp and slick and resulted in many spectacular tries out wide.

Besides a grand final appearance (the first Pirates team in its history to play in an A Grade Grand final), it was also pleasing to see that the team had good representation at the NSW State Cup for Northern Suburbs Juniors with two of our players also being chosen for the NSW Waratahs Gen Blue Program. This couldn't have been achieved without the support of their team mates and the success of the team overall.

What was significant for this team was that the boys have become more than just team mates, they have become really good friends and mates for life. They have fought bravely for each other and encouraged each other right through this season, making this team a real force to be reckoned with.

A special thanks goes to Coach Ben Squire (and waterboy) and our team managers Elise Mittelheuser and Anne Nesbitt. We also thank the arghmazing community of parents and families who have supported the boys so enthusiastically this season.

Hope to see everyone back for season 23 and build on the success of this season!



NORTHS PIRATES

CLUB AWARDS 2022

BEST & FAIREST AWARD

U6 Red
Billy Ryan

U6 Black
Leo Lynam

U7Red
Matthew Collinson

U7 Black
Hudson Healy-Smith

U8 Red
Curtis Bunting

U8 Black
Jim Scott

U8 Gold
Jax Ashcroft

U9 Red
Marcello Caoduro

U10 Red
Ed Burke

U10 Black
Wilbur Price

U11 Red
Hayden Bunting

U11 Black
Sam Diddams

U12
Kalan Strudwick

U13
Nick Sidoti.

U14
Oliver Smith



COACHES AWARD

U6 Red
Joseph Ritchie

U6 Black
Cadwy Jones

U7Red
David Bryant

U7 Black
Eira Davies

U8 Red
Thomas Bryant

U8 Black
Daniel Duffy

U8 Gold
Flynn Scrivener

U9 Red
Isabelle Buttling

U10 Red
Jasper Bae, Max Humphrey

U10 Black
Sebastian Bates

U11 Red
Jake Mears

U11 Black
Otto Kaldor

U12
Nicholas Huntington, Michael Flanagan

U13
Struan Daly

U14
Jeremy Bremner, Yousif Salman





NORTHS PIRATES CENTURIONS 2022

James Donnell
Taj Robertson
Daniel Chapman
Sam De Vlieger
Tom Harmer
Lachlan Antcliff

Paddy Delaney
Rory Keeler
Patrick McLaughlin
Jack Fitzgerald
Hunter Chan

NORTHS PIRATES 10 SEASONS 2022

Max Prykiel
10 Seasons
2013-2022

Elise Mittelheuser
10 Seasons
2013-2022

Tony Prykiel
10 Seasons
2013-2022





NORTHS PIRATES PERPETUAL TROPHIES 2022

RGW Cornforth Award for Sportsmanship – Natalie Higson

Player with the Biggest Heart – Max Prykiel

President's Award – Hunter Chan

Coach of the Year – Charles Huntington

Darcy Henry All-Rounder Award – Oliver Gormley

Life Membership – Di Keeble, Trevor Dunne, Greg Hill, Nick Eastman





THANK YOU

To our committee, our coaches, our sponsors, our volunteers, our team managers and everyone else who assisted in the 2022 season, thank you.





NORTHS PIRATES 2023, THE FUTURE LOOKS GOOD

