



Around the Grounds

Not a bad start to the serious stuff at HQ last Saturday.

Thirds did their job as the entertainers and got the day off to a great start with a dominant 31-10 win over Engadine, setting up the victory with a four-try first half whilst running into a decent southerly.

Seconds got pitched into a grand final replay first up against Vincentia and scored early to lead 5-0 for most of the match, only for the Van Goghs to cross late after sustained pressure for a converted try and a 7-5 win.

Firsts did basically what they did in most games last year - absorb and negate everything the opposition could throw at them in the first half, before the superior skills, fitness and flair kicked in to run riot in the second on their way to a 41-6 win over the Lions.

Two wins from three grades in the first round would have been like gold a few years back, but the Mighty Blueys have set some fairly high benchmarks since last year's re-establishment as the Illawarra rugby powerhouse.

Oh well, it gives us something to aim for when we trek over the mountain to Bowral this Saturday.

It's been a while since the Blueys have taken on the Blacks in three grades at Eridge Park, so we must painfully remind them of what they've been missing.

JUNIORS

The Mighty Blueys juniors had a tough time in their first round games last Sunday, with lack off numbers a telling factor in the early part of the season.

Our under 14s look strong again this year and the under 10s will also challenge, but we need an influx of new players to help the other age groups along. Nonetheless the players all did their very best and wore their blue jumpers with bravery and honour .

ROUND 1

U10 – Avondale 25 Def Vikings 20
U11 - Tigs 52 def Vikings 0
U14 – Vikings 69 def Tigs 7
U15 – Kiama 46 def Vikings 24

There has to be a big push to try and recruit new juniors, with our under 11s and 17s most desperate

for players.

The club is holding a free Try Rugby Union Day next Wednesday (April 13) for kids from 7-17 and will continue to visit schools in second and third term to spread the rugby gospel and hopefully encourage youngsters to get involved with Vikings juniors.

We will also conduct a Schools Gala Day at Vikings on the 27th May to generate more interest.

If you can help at the Try Rugby Day or school visits or the Gala Day, contact Junior Coaching Coordinator Nick Matts on 0431161739.

If you know of any schools that what to be involved in these programs - put them in touch with Nick.

ROUND 2 (Sunday April 10) at Vikings
Vikings U7 – Bye

Vikings U10 v Avondale - 9am

Vikings U11 v Campbelltown - 10:00am

Avondale U12 v TechTahs - 10:50am

Vikings U14 v TechTahs - 11:40am

Vikings U15 v Bowral - (deferred due to rep duties)

Vikings U17 v TechTahs - 12:30pm

A message from Vikings junior chairman James Caldwell.

We only have five home games this year and will need parents to volunteer some of their time this Sunday to make the day run smoothly.

It will be a long while before we have another home game so please give some time to help us make the day a success, and not such an effort for the regular small number of people who selflessly help out.

What we will need for Sunday:

U10 Parents to arrive at 8:30am to set up canteen

U10 parents to fire up BBQ at 8:30am

U11 parents to run canteen from 9am when U10s play

U11 parents to cook BBQ from 9am when U10s play

U10 parents to take over on canteen at 10am when U11s play

U10 parents to cook BBQ from 10am when U11s play

U11 parents to run canteen from 10:50am when U12s play

U14 parents to cook BBQ from 10:50am when U12s play

U17 parents to run canteen from 11:40am when U14s play

U17 parents to cook BBQ from 11:40am when U14s play



VIKINGS RUGBY CLUB

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*U14 parents to run canteen from 12:30pm when U17s play
U14 parents to cook BBQ from 12:30pm when U17s play
U17 players to help clean up ground to close the day*

*The coaches/managers and parents will need to be responsible for running this weekend.
I should be able to get there by 11am but it would be good to get a volunteer to be ground manager for Sunday as it will most likely only be for one Sunday this season.*

Please get back to me 0403 008 903 if you would like to volunteer to be ground manager for a day.

Junior Coaching Coordinator

Nick Matts has been appointed the club's Junior Coaching Coordinator, responsible for up skilling our junior coaches and ensuring continuity from juniors through to grade on the coaching and learning of basic skills.

He will also run weekly sessions with the juniors to support their coaches.

This is a paid position, fully covered by sponsorship. However we are seeking additional funding with the aim of expanding Nick's role into the schools in our catchment area to provide a Junior Development and Recruitment-type role to ensure we continue to attract junior players to Vikings.

School visits have already started with Nick and a few of the senior players running clinics at Mt St Thomas PS on Friday mornings.

The response from the kids and teachers has been fantastic and they have all really enjoyed learning new skills particular to rugby and passing the footy around.

The plan is this year to visit many other schools around the area to introduce them to the great game of rugby and provide a pathway to playing. Upcoming school visits (player volunteers needed)

29th April - Wollongong PS (9am-11am)
5th May - Figtree Heights PS (9am-11am)
6th May - Wollongong PS (9am-11am)
9th May - St Bridgets (9am-11am)
12th May - Figtree Heights PS (9am-11am)
13th May - Wollongong PS (9am-11am)
16th May - St Bridgets (9am-11am)
19th May - Figtree Heights PS (9am-11am)
23rd May - St Bridgets (9am-11am)

Easter weekend games

Please note our round four games against University will be played under lights on the Thursday, April 14 at Uni to free up the weekend for the Easter break.

First and second grade will play on the Thursday night, with the seconds likely to kick off around 6:15pm with first grade to follow around 8pm.

The third grade match will be scheduled for a later date - most probably a one-off spectacle on a Thursday night as well.
Stay tuned for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

What: The Riddla Sportsman Luncheon

Date: Saturday, 21st May

Details: ANZ Stadium will host this fantastic event. With 500 seats available, they are expecting a full house. 6:30pm kick off, so the plan is to take off straight after the Kiama game on a mini bus. Guest speakers, raffles, auctions, and lots of good food and beer. Sounds like a cracking night!! Cost will be \$120 per person if you get a table of 10 together or \$150 for individual tickets. Have a chat to your mates and if you think you might be able to make it, contact Tim Fisher on 0408696504 to get your tickets. The sooner you get in, the better, so don't waste time!!



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If you are interested in sponsoring Vikings Rugby Club please contact Andrew Barrett on 0403476880 or email info@wollongongvikings.com.au

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