

## **East's Rugby Union – AGM – Presidents Report – 2021**

Welcome all East's members to the 2021 AGM.

2021 was a very successful year at East's and fortunately was only subject to minor interruptions due to COVID.

As per our Treasurers Report, East's were able to maintain a strong financial position in 2021. This is particularly significant given the last two years of general business instability.

### **Junior Season:**

It was another fantastic year in our Junior Rugby Community.

With only minor interruptions due to COVID, the following teams made the finals;

U13 Gold, U13 Red, U14 Blue, U15 Blue and U16 Blue.

Although we had 5 teams make the final series, and 4 teams make the Grand Finals, unfortunately we were unable to secure a flag in 2021. It was a great effort, nonetheless.

Our Junior Girls 7s Programme had an amazing season with our U14 and U16 Girls having success throughout the season:

Congratulations to both teams!

Whilst we had a strong year on the field, we were again very proud of our registered numbers and the support given by all junior members. Our registered numbers across all junior age groups was in excess of 1000, which again cements East's as the largest Junior Club in Brisbane. This was a very humbling result as we were concerned about the impacts of COVID in 2020. I can't thank our Junior community enough for the support given in 2021.

### **MRP:**

Our modified rugby programme was also back after a shortened year in 2020. It was a very successful and fulfilling year in 2021 and we are very proud of all our MRP players, mentors and Families.

We are looking forward to our 2022 MRP programme.

Thank you to the Ginger Cloud Foundation for supporting and promoting this wonderful programme.

### **Senior Season:**

Whilst it would be very hard to top 2020, our seniors and colts performed admirably in 2021.

We started a year with a stirring victory against Gordon in the Australian Club Championship and our year was off to a great start.

Our registered numbers improved again in 2021, with a total of nearly 500 across Seniors, Colts and Vets. With these numbers East's fielded Premier Men and Women, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (2 teams in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade competition). Colts 1 to Colts 5 (2 teams in Colts 4 competition).

The season had some minor interruption in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round due to COVID, however this had little effect on a great season.

We had 6 teams make finals in 2021 including;

Premier Women, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Colts 1, Colts 2, Colts 3 and Colts 4.

And from these finals we were able to secure 3 flags. Congratulations to Premier Women, Colts 3 and Colts 4.

A very special mention to ;

- Our Premier Women team who are now back to back Premiers
- Colts 1 team for 2021 who were minor premiers and the team to beat all year. Unfortunately, they came up short in the Grand Final but congratulations on a great year and we look forward to welcoming most of these young men into the Senior programme in 2022.

Easts were also able to secure the Doughty Shield (Club Champions) for the second year running. A big congratulations to our whole Senior Rugby community for achieving this very significant milestone.

We also had a very strong showing in the 7s season with a full summary in the Senior Rugby Directors Report.

I would also like to say a big thank you to our Old Boys team. 2021 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year our Old Boys team is an official club team. A big thank you to thank Josh Stanbury for his efforts to organise and manage this team.

Also, a big thank you to all Coaches, Managers and volunteers who assisted with our Senior Programme in 2021. Without these selfless individuals our club doesn't succeed. At this time I would like to make a special mention of Moses Rauluni and Mark Bartholomeusz. Moses and Mark finished as coaches of Premier Grade in 2021. Thank you very much for the wonderful achievements and efforts over the last 3 years.

More details on all Rugby in 2021 will be provided in the respective Snr and Jnr reports later in the meeting.

## **Events 2021;**

Our season launch this year at Howard Smith Wharves was very successful and saw the year kicked off with a bang.

Our Ladies day event was also an exceptional event under the Marquee at Easts, which sees the dawning of a new era in this regard.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our major fundraiser Boots N All due to COVID. This was very disappointing but out of our control.

We were able to run our Junior Raffle which was an amazing fundraising success. A big thank you to our Junior Community for getting behind this important activity.

We also have the annual Golf Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December which is now a fixture on the calendar and has again sold out in 2021.

## **Members, Board, Sponsors, Dignitaries and Staff:**

The club spirit and culture in 2021 was exceptional and seemed to grow off the back of the last couple of tough years due to COVID. So a huge thank you to all members and volunteers who are the backbone of our great club.

I would like to thank all 2021 board members for the huge amount of dedication, commitment and loyalty that has been invested in our club;

Dave Waldie (VP), Darren Crothers (Treasurer), Nathan Spooner (Junior Rugby Director), Quentin Masson (Senior Rugby Director) Helen Clarke (Marketing Director) Luke Fraser (Facilities/Clubhouse Director). The support each have provided me in my roles has been exceptional.

I would like to thank our 2021 Major Sponsors including Cromwell Property Group, Mullins Lawyers, Green Beacon Brewing Company, Oxworks, CV Services, Life Gear, Gotzinger and Norman Park Dental Surgery. The growing support from our sponsors is very much appreciated. Without this our club cannot survive and thrive.

I would also like to thank all of our other important sponsors including Jersey, Fence Signs, Field Maintenance and Training Shirt. The combined value of which is imperative to the club success.

A sincere thank you to John Mullins for his assistance to me over the last 4 years and for his continued contribution to Easts as Honorary Solicitor. Our club is a stronger and wiser organisation for John's continued contribution.

I would like to thank Cr Krista Adams for being Club Patron in 2021 and for her continued support of our club.

I would like to thank our full-time staff members General Manager, Michael Lucas, Rugby Manager Tyrell Barker and Rugby Administration, Erin Toohey.

The growth and development of our staff in 2021 has been significant. Michael has shown amazing leadership and has been an endless source of energy, drive and commitment.

All the core functions of the Club now run smoothly and efficiently with systems in place due to the efforts of Michael, Erin, and Tyrell. Well done team Tigers!

Thank you also to Rachel Pietila our Bookkeeper for her efforts in 2021.

I would also like to thank our casual staff in 2021. A special mention to Kelly and Karl Stringer. The time and effort you and your family put into our Club is amazing. True Tigers for Life.

**Farewell from me:**

Finally, before I officially stand down as President this evening, I would like to say thank you to the members of Easts, for allowing me the honour and privilege of holding the office of Club President for the last 4 years. I have a lot of amazing memories, too many to mention. I look forward to watching the club go from strength to strength over the coming years.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Box', written in a cursive style.

Simon Box

President

Easts Rugby Union