

Dirty Reds take out Crescent Head tournament

By Joshua Lloyd

The Dirty Reds have followed on from last year's premiership by winning the Crescent Head Rugby Sevens tournament last month.

The annual pre-season tournament attracts clubs from all over NSW, and the Drummoyne Rugby Club was thrilled to beat defending champions Hamilton in the final.

"This victory was very promising as it showed that we had a large percentage of players returning from last season and that the players are fit and raring to go early in the pre-season," club spokesman and second-rower David Mew said.

The team, made up of players from Drummoyne's first and second grades, played the opening match at 8 am and took the field for the decider at 7pm.

Drummoyne cruised to the final undefeated, and continued their dominance early as they raced to a 22-0 lead.

However the extra six minutes allocated to the final took its toll, with Hamilton scoring three unanswered late tries against a tired Reds defence.

Drummoyne managed to hold on, and claimed the title in a nail-biter 22-21.



Left, the Dirty Reds Sevens team scrum down against Newcastle's Merewether Carlton during the tournament. The Dirty Reds took out the Crescent Heads Sevens event held last month.



Mew nominated Josh Asuasua as the standout player for Drummoyne, with the player netting eight tries from the six matches.

"Everyone on the team got onto the try scorers sheet and most people got more than one," Mew said.

All except club captain and 'the king of sledg-

ing Nathan Landrey', who failed to trouble scorers and "was lucky to miss out on a nudge for not scoring a try".

Drummoyne now revert to 15-a-side when they open their season against last year's semifinalist Campbelltown at Drummoyne on April 5.



Buyer confidence, competitiveness and intensity continued to grow last year and, as a result, we saw house prices grow by up to 10% and units 5 – 10%.

We are fortunate in our marketplace that we enjoy the same benefits of other areas that are close to the CBD and are surrounded by water as these have been the best performing markets. However, the outer suburbs and their markets continue to struggle. This has been evidenced in our new

office at The Waterfront at Homebush Bay where sales volumes have increased, the prices that have been achieved are somewhat disappointing.

Our rent rolls in both offices experience continued upward pressure on rent increases and there seems no sign of this abating due to the shortage of existing stock, the shrinkage of existing stock, lack of new stock and a nett population growth in Sydney of approximately 40,000 people per annum. Reports that the population of Sydney is growing at more than twice the rate it was four years ago would silence any calls to remove or restrict negative gearing according to the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales (REINSW). Recently, some academics have argued that restricting negative gearing is one answer to the problem of affordable housing.

People that live here already are finding it increasingly hard to find rental

accommodation as our monthly vacancy rate data indicates," said REINSW President Steve Martin. "Last month it was 0.9% in all parts of Sydney, giving people already in rental accommodation nowhere to move to and forcing those looking for a home into competition for a very shallow pool of vacant properties.

"With the city's population said to be growing at 1400 a week the situation is getting worse month on month. We know that some people are resorting to short-term lets, which are usually rented out as holiday accommodation, as a means to have a roof over their head, but this is no long-term solution. If negative gearing was removed, or restructured, it would drive more people out of the rental property market at a time when we desperately need additional, not fewer, property investors," said Mr Martin.

"We all know the rental situation is at crisis point. Incentives, not disincentives, are the fastest, fairest and most practical means of addressing this issue, which, with more people flooding into Sydney, is going to move from bad to worse."

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