

# Waratah Shield 2008



## Waratah Shield Final, T.G. Milner Field Sunday 7th September 3.00pm

The gathering for the Waratah Shield Final at T.G. Milner Field was a wonderful occasion. Many old boys were present as well as many current parents and friends. It was great to gather to watch our 2008 1st XV compete with the fine St Augustine's team who in the end prevailed over Stannies 26 to 16. Congratulations to our boys on a memorable season and it was great to catch up with so many old boys, parents and friends who are so supportive of and interested in the College.

Stannies progressed to the final of the Waratah Shield to play St Augustine's College Brookvale. St Augustine's proved to be a very strong opponent with two Australian Schools representatives in the side. Stannies qualified for the final after an impressive semi-final win against Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School from Tamworth (41-10). Stannies had already played St Augustine's once during the year and came away with a hard fought 14-8 victory on the way to an undefeated ISA 1st XV Premiership.

### *Stannies, The Waratah Shield and continuing links across generations*

Stannies had the opportunity to be the first Stannies 1st XV to win the O'Neill Shield (Western Associated Schools Champions), ISA 1st XV title and the Waratah Shield in the one year, having already captured the first two. The 2008 1st XV was captained by Sam Roberson, who was selected to play in the Australian Schools side against Fiji as a Bledisloe Cup curtain raiser on Saturday 13th September. Sam is the ninth player to represent the Australian Schools from Stannies. Stannies also gained a record six ISA 1st XV representatives in 2008, including Sam, James Elliott, Harley McAllister, James Read, James Toole and Billy Veitch.



Stannies is the only country school to ever win the Waratah Shield (1974, 1980, 1981, 1995) and there are many links between those sides and the present players at Stannies. The 1974 side was captained by Mark Collins, whose son Tim scored the premiership winning try for the 2nd XV against Oakhill this year. Paul Whiteley was also a member of this 1974 team and his son Barton was a member of the 2008 team. The 1980 & 1981 sides were both captained by Richard Grant, with all Stannies sport during those years coming under the control of our current President Fr Doug Akehurst, CM. The 1981 side also contained Charlie Toole (Australian Under 17s representative) whose son James is a current member of the 2008 1st XV, and James Grant (ex-Wallaby) who has coached the 14As in 2008. The 1995 side was coached by current staff member Bruno Rossitt and was captained by Stephen Butcherine.