Diocesan Primary School
Rugby Union Gala Day

After two previous attempts the gala day was finally held on the 30 June at the International Stadium, Coffs Harbour. The day had been cancelled on two previous occasions due to extremely bad weather and flooding. The day presented itself with overcast conditions, yet very little chance of rain. Unfortunately three schools had to pull out due to previous commitments with Athletics Carnivals programmed in.

This years gala day saw nine teams participate and the day took on a different look, as teams were playing for positions that would eventually find themselves playing off for the Cup, Plate and Bowl. The teams were broken up into three pools of three and played each other in the respective pools in the preliminary rounds. Teams were then seeded and placed in pools for the playoff for the Cup, Plate and Bowl honours.

This concept was extremely well received as it allowed the improving Rugby schools to play off against schools of similar skill base and size. All teams played four games during the day and were competitive to the final siren.

The day was especially enhanced by the fact that we were extremely lucky to have Mr Bruce Frame- ARU North Coast Development Officer, Mr John Searl- NSW ARU Development Manager and four boys from John Paul College who are in the Rugby Referring Development program, officiating on the day.

St Augustine’s Maroon, Coffs Harbour, Holy Family Skennars Head and St Carthage’s Gold, Lismore found themselves playing off for the Cup and the chance of representing the Lismore Diocese in Sydney as the Diocesan winners. This pool was hotly contested and went right down to the wire. St Augustine’s, Coffs Harbour were announced the eventual winners of the day, but not before a great arm wrestle with Holy Family, running out the eventual winners 26 - 7.

St Augustine’s will now go on and represent the Lismore Diocese in Sydney on the 8 August at St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill. We would like to offer our congratulations to the team and good luck to the boy’s in Sydney. Make sure you cherish the experience.

The Plate play-offs was also keenly contested amongst St Joseph’s Laurieton, St Joseph’s Alstonville and St Augustine’s – White. St Joseph’s Alstonville eventually were announced the winners of the Plate.

The Bowl playoffs were between, Mary Help of Christians Sawtell, St Carthage’s Blue Lismore and St Joseph’s- Alstonville. It was great to see these players playing off for the Bowl as it allowed them to show their skills against players of a similar standard. Most of these players were new to the game of rugby union. The skill level was high and the enthusiasm was higher still right up to the final whistle. Congratulations to Mary Help of Christians Sawtell for taking out the Bowl by winning both their games.

Finally, a big thankyou to all players, coaches and parents that participated on the day. It was played in true rugby spirit with all teams being equally supported in a positive and encouraging way.