It had been a long bus trip to Wagga Wagga, starting out on Sunday night at Tweed Heads and collecting students throughout the diocese and arriving at our destination on Monday at lunchtime. The students settled in to the accommodation and headed into town. Tuesday morning was an early and cold start, heading to the rain soaked fields at 8am. We were lucky that the rain held off all day, pity about the wind though. All four teams played at least five round games throughout the day. Students played hard, put their bodies on the line and some got very wet and dirty. After a challenging day on the touch field, students cleaned up as best they could and we got back on the bus for the long journey home.

**Open Girls**

The open girls Diocesan touch football team consisted of: Brooke McCarthy, Mary Dibley, Taylee Eames, Djanaya Hampton, Jakaya Hart, Alannah Hemsley, Amber Horton, Jordyn Manning, Brittney Rudd, Christa Smith, Suzan Tong and Jessica Towle.

All of the girls played fantastic touch football throughout the day. The first game was against Southern Sydney and the girls started with a strong win 3-0. The tries were scored by Amber Horton, Djanaya Hampton and Susan Tong. The second game was against Canberra Goulburn and we won 2-0. The tries were scored by Brooke McCarthy and Alannah Hemsley. The next game was against a strong Bathurst team, this was an evenly contested match however we came away with the win 1-0. They only try of the game was scored by Jordyn Manning. The fourth and final games of the championship were against the eventual winners and runner ups of the competition, Parramatta and Broken Bay.
Unfortunately we were defeated by both teams, 5-0. The girls showed outstanding sportsmanship throughout the competition and should be very pleased with their effort and success.

Tahnee Johnston (Manager/Coach)

**15s Girls:**

The team consisted of Avalon Green, Georgia Harding, Alexandria Field, Yanah Fawaz, Beth Sherratt, Georgia Chaplin, Alex Avery, Isabella Lloyd, Hannah Gallagher, Chloe Saddler, Zoe Williams and Naomi Robinson.

After a few get to know you games and some warm up drills to get the blood pumping, the girls first game was against Canberra/Goulburn. The girls were off to a flying start and won convincingly 7 – 0; try scorers included, Hannah, Naomi, Zoe, Georgia C and Georgia H (3). Their confidence was high as they started the game against Maitland/Newcastle, but this team played a more structured game of touch football and the game ended in a 3 -1 loss – the try being scored by Yanah.

The third game was against Wollongong, the girls were successful with a 2 – 1 win. Try scorers included Chloe and Georgia Chaplin.

The girls were playing fantastic touch, communication was high and their defence was holding strong. The girls were again victorious in the fourth game against Southern Sydney. The score was 4 -0 and the try scorers were Zoe, Naomi, Chloe and Hannah.

The last round game was against the home team – Wagga Wagga, it was a tough see-sawing match which resulted in a 2 – 2 draw. This unfortunately left us one point short from making it into the semi-finals.
The girls should be congratulated on their efforts, skills and the way they came together as a team. They played extremely well and as their manager I was very proud of all of them. Two players were successful in being selected in the NSW under 16’s Combined Catholic Colleges team that will go onto compete in the NSW All Schools Touch Championships in late July; Chloe Saddler (Mt St Patrick College, Murwillumbah) and Naomi Robinson (St Mary’s Catholic College, Casino)

Cassie Allen (Manager/Coach)

15s Boys:

On Tuesday the 3rd of June twelve Under 15 boys’ representatives from various secondary schools of the Diocese of Lismore took to Jubilee Park in Wagga Wagga. Selections took place in early May and with very little opportunity to familiarise themselves with team mates they took to the field with enthusiasm. With 5 rounds games ahead the boys started the day off with high hopes against Bathurst Diocese.

In freezing and wet conditions it took some time to warm up and we ended up going down 3 tries to nil. Some great line defence from Jed Clarke and Lachlan Ross was a highlight.

Game two was against the towering and imposing MCC team. After some time to develop our game plan a little more the boys drove the ball much better with more options at the line. However MCC proved too slick and fast and we lost 9 tries to nil. Tom O’Keeffe and
Cody McKinnon chased hard in defence throughout the game, while Jake Eyre’s efforts in attack never ended.

Game three was against Wollongong Diocese and further improvement in our rucking and defence saw a much tighter game. Tireless rucking from Tommy Brennan saw him go through from half and pass to a diving Jack Sheaves for our first touchdown of the tournament. Another touchdown to Cody McKinnon was a highlight. We ended up going 4 – 2 but it was a spirited game.

Game four saw a determined Broken Bay team come out firing. Fine defence and rucking from the two youngest in the team, Tony Thompson and Luke Henderson was a highlight. While Ezra Gibson and Mason Taylor tried their hardest in attack we went down 4 -1 with another try in the corner from Cody McKinnon.

The last round game was against Wagga Wagga Diocese. After a long day with little rest the boys went down in a tight game 3-2. Blake Graham, Ezra Gibson and Jack Sheaves were excellent on attack and tries to Tom O’Keeffe and Jack Sheaves were highlights.

With only 3 players in our team being top age (15) we look at development of skills and building a solid team for years to come. It was a pleasure to coach a willing and enthusiastic bunch of athletes willing to learn. Coaches’ awards went to Ezra Gibson and Jake Eyre for their leadership and tireless efforts all day. Look forward to 2015.

Josh McCormack (Manager/Coach)

Lismore Dio Touch Team 18 Boys

This year’s team was a youthful group with the majority of the players available for selection next year. The team was selected primarily on their speed and skill.

The first game was a pleasing start with a 3 all draw against the strong Broken Bay team. Cody Hemmings was outstanding as captain scoring two of our tries. Game 2 was a fast match and the team hung in until the last 10 minutes going down to Bathurst 4-1. The game against Newcastle/Maitland was played in very slippery conditions but a single try to Arnold Walsh is all the team could manage going down 3-1. The boys had a disappointing loss to Wagga but managed to finish strongly against eventually runner up in Southern Sydney only going down 6-3 with great efforts from Daniel Boardman, Harry Crimmins and Liam Coelho.

The team voted and the Player’s Player for the tournament was Mitch Wilbow from St. Paul's High School, Port Macquarie and the Coach's Award went to Daniel Boardman from Xavier Catholic College, Ballina.

Congratulations to all boys involved. They displayed great sportsmanship in all games and every player was a fine representative their respective school. Good luck to our Year 12 players and I look forward to seeing the younger boys mature as players over the next 12 months.

Warren Lorger
Lismore Dio Touch Coach
18s Boys

Team photo next page .....