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University of Melbourne, VIC 3010
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Fine Blue Lines – December 2008

Best wishes for the festive season!

The MURFC Committee would like to wish you a prosperous and festive Christmas and New Year. We would also like to take the opportunity to highlight a number of exciting developments which are planned 2009, the centenary of the Victoria Rugby Union.

Committee Update

After winning the Colts Premiership Andrew 'Macca' McPhillips has seen the light and decided to join the committee as Vice President Operations. Andrew has been a great addition to the club joining us from the Uni Club in Canberra after several years of distinguished service. He runs the Melbourne Office of Dixon Advisory – Self Managed Superannuation Fund Advisors and Administrators one of the club's sponsors.

From the coaches box

The 2009 coaching team will be led by 2008 Premier 1 coaches Paul Webster and former Wallaby Matt Cockbain. Webby and Matt will be very well supported by the bulk of the successful 2008 team including Stan Carnes (Premier 2), Premier 3 coaches Duncan Stevenson, Angus Armstrong, Justin Hawkins and Colts Championship coaches Matt Beissel and James Cavanagh. In addition to this the club has been very fortunate to secure the services of a few new coaches including the very experienced Adam Nicholson, Director of Rugby and former Premier 1 player Gab Navuni who will be assisting Stan with Premier 2. Furthermore, specialist coaches Ricky Dumigan, Luke Cross and former Wallaby Dave Fitter will be helping out throughout the year.

Pre-season Training starts Tuesday 20 January – on campus

Like 2007 and 2008, the first 6 weeks of training will be at the University of Melbourne Campus. Meet at the barbeque area next to the main hockey field/Beaurepair Centre at 6.15pm to start at 6.30pm. Training will include: boxercise, spin cycle, ball skills and lots of fitness given the 2009 season will be played under Experimental Law Variations (ELVs). We are investigating pre-season games against Rivcoll (Wagga) and Albury on either (or both) 14 and 21 March as well as Melbourne-based pre-season games.

MURFC 'Legends' side Australian Masters Games 27 February, Geelong

The Australian Masters Games (over 35 years at 1 January 2009) will be held in Geelong from Friday February 20 until Sunday March 1, with rugby currently scheduled for the last 3 days (Friday 27/2 - Sunday 1/3). MURFC is entering a side which could lay the foundations for the Gents to win the shield in 2009.

If interested contact Rich Lowe direct. Richard.Lowe@itss.vic.gov.au 03 9664 7514

MURFC Club Carnival Day – Sunday 5 April, HG Smith Oval

The club has invited a number of special guest coaches from Sydney University Football Club and 1-2 referees to be involved in the MURFC Club Gala Day. The day will include sessions on the ELVs and will also be opportunity to complete registration forms and pay membership fees for 2009 (same as 2008): \$200 Non-students, \$120 Students and \$100 for non-playing members.

Commemorative game MURFC v Sydney University FC – Saturday 6 June



In a similar fashion to this year's very successful centenary match on the main oval an exhibition match will be played on the Queens Birthday Weekend, Saturday 6th June to commemorate the first match between MURFC v SUFC 100 years ago (also played in Melbourne). The program will feature an inter-College curtain-raiser between Trinity

and Ormond, the first game between these two colleges also played in the early 20th century. The MURFC v SUFC game will be a Barbarian style match featuring former Wallabies on both teams. The entertainment will continue that evening, with a Foundation Dinner on campus. It is expected that a fairly large contingent from SUFC will travel from Sydney including Peter Hemming, Chair of SUFC Friends, Chair of ACT Brumbies Friends and Executive Chairman, Heathley Ltd.

The weekend will provide a fantastic opportunity to see University-style rugby and renew connections with players, ex-players and supporters alike. Spread the word, keep an eye on the website in the New Year for further details, and put this date in your diary!

Sponsors – News Flash!



Former player Giuseppe Boemo, now Managing Director of Sprint Gas has recently signed on the club's Principal Sponsor for the next 10 years. Sprint Gas is an automotive LPG & CNG conversion kit manufacturer and distributor. They provide the latest in automotive alternative fuels conversion products to the industry. This is a fantastic outcome for MURFC and was kindly organised by Craig Albiston. In addition to the 10 sponsors committed for 2009 Craig has signed on The Imperial Hotel (Cnr of Spring and Bourke Sts) as the Club's supporting pub. It is a great venue and no doubt many members will visit the Imperial Hotel to watch the 2009 Super 14 and Tri Nations games. We thank all our Sponsors for their continued support which enables the club to provide one of the most professional community rugby structures in Victoria.

Please support our sponsors listed above as they support us!

Royal Park Touch

RPT has just reached its halfway mark of the 2008/09 seasons. With a record 31 teams entered (over 300 players) the competition goes from strength to strength. This is an important part of the club's off-season program with the involvement of girlfriends and partners, it attracts new players to the club and provides another source of income. This year's competition is being managed by Peter Shaw and Luke Cross. Further details can be found at www.royalparktouch.com

Supporters

Peter Hone advises that the Supporters lunches in 2009 will follow the same format as previous years with three clubhouse lunches to coincide with home matches; last Saturday in April/ first Saturday in May, June test day, and early August. Further details will be provided once the VRU releases the home/away draw for 2009.

The Peter Hone Scholarship

Campbell Thomson has retired as Chairman of the "Peter Hone Scholarship Fund" and we thank Campbell for his development and stewardship of the scholarship. Ian Gillies (MURFC Past President and Player) has succeeded Campbell as Chairman and we trust that Ian will continue Campbell's good work. The Peter Hone Scholarship is open to players leaving secondary school for tertiary study. The scholarships are awarded for a

term of one year to members of the Club who are players and who are enrolled at and attending a course at the University or other tertiary institution. If you know a schoolboy player considering tertiary study and you feel they would enjoy the MURFC experience, contact Ian (Mb 0414 235-002).

Melbourne University Rugby Academy



The Melbourne University Rugby Academy (MURA) successfully held its inaugural program at the end of 2008. Over 25 schoolboys from around Victoria descended on campus to receive expert coaching advice from former Wallabies Matt Cockbain, Dave Fitter and Ricky Dumigan, Luke Cross, Adam Nicholson and Gab Navuni. The Academy has been established to attract prospective students to the University and the rugby club.

The 2009 MURA program can be viewed at www.melbourneunirugby.com/academy. The club is intending to invite special guest coaches including for Wallaby Rod Kafer and Scott (Razor) Robertson (All Blacks).

Victoria Rugby Union Centenary Year 2009

A reminder that 2009 is a huge year for the club and the Victorian Rugby Union. The VRU will be scheduling a number of special events in 2009 – keep an eye on its website www.vicrugby.com.au. The season is shaping up to be a good one for the club with some potentially strong on-field performances. We look forward to welcoming back to the club some past members. All players should be thinking about how they can improve their performance in 2009!

Best wishes for the festive season and a prosperous 2009!

Stronger, faster, fitter!

MURFC Committee