



C/o Melbourne University Sport
University of Melbourne
VIC 3010
www.melbourneunirugby.com



Fine Blue Lines – March 2009

Count down to kick-off for season 2009 is underway!

With less than 5 weeks until the first competition game, training has been underway since late January, with reasonably strong numbers of 50-70 per session in attendance. The sessions have been well organized with an emphasis on fitness and basic skills. As the trials and season proper approach, greater emphasis will be placed on contact work and set pieces.

A special welcome to the many new faces to the club. It is very pleasing to see a good number of foreign students, first-year Colts and new players from overseas and domestically. One challenge has been the lack of access to grounds from the Council due to the drought; however, the coaches and players should be congratulated for their attitude in overcoming these problems.

Round one is Saturday 18 April with a game against Box Hill (2009 is the 50th Anniversary for Box Hill and the first club they played was MURFC) followed by Round two (Saturday 25 April) against Southern Districts at home, both of which will be very tough games.

Victorian Bushfires

The club has been tragically affected by the horrific fires which occurred in Victoria on Saturday 7 February 2009 and continued for several weeks. David Chapman (MURFC 1986 to 1990) was reported as one of the faces from the Front Line, on the front page of *The Age*, Friday 13 February. Jan Culka, (MURFC, Australian Universities and Victoria in the early sixties) lived in Sun's road Marysville. Jan's house was completely destroyed which included some of his rugby memorabilia. The club has sent a Centenary jersey to Jan.

Vale – Tony Fitzgerald

On Tuesday 24 February former MURFC player Tony Fitzgerald passed away after a long battle with thyroid cancer. Tony represented Melbourne University from 1970 through to about 1978. Tony was a great club man. He was Club Secretary in '73, Club Captain & Gordon Sturtridge winner in '74. He received a full university Blue for Rugby in '75, the Justin Hobbs 'Spirit of Attack' in '75 & '77 and was 1st XV captain in 1978.

In 1979 Tony moved to Darwin and represented the Northern Territory. Most recently, he was the Chairman of the Anti-Discrimination Commission in Darwin where he lived for the last fifteen years. The club passed on our condolences through Peter Hone to Tony's family and we placed the following notice in *The Age* on Tuesday 3 March

FITZGERALD, Tony

A well known lawyer and outstanding rugby player of the 70's for the Melbourne University Rugby Football Club died in Darwin on February 24 after a long fight against cancer. Fitz is remembered with much affection by his friends from the club.

From the coaches box

Two coaches have recently attended the Level II coaching course – Stan Carnes and Matt Beissel. The club has appointed Troy Mytton as the club strength and conditioning trainer for 2009. Troy joins us from the Waikato Rugby Union where he has been involved in a number of U16, U18 programs with the WRU.

Director of Rugby Adam Nicholson will be running a Smart rugby course on Sunday 5 April 10.00am – 12.00pm. All players interested in coaching at schools or the club/Academy this year must complete a Smart rugby course. Contact Adam Nicholson, adam@alliancepeople.com.au Mb 0423 242-864. The pre-season schedule is as follows.

Saturday March 14 Vs Albury, Albury

Saturday March 21 Vs Rivcoll/Ag Coll, Wagga Wagga

Saturday March 21 VRU 10's, Cerberus.

Saturday March 28 Vs Boroondara, at Boroondara 3 games: Colts, 3rds/2nd, and 1st games

Saturday April 4 Vs Moorabbin at Moorabbin 3 games: Colts, 3rds/2nd, and 1st games.

Sunday April 5 Club Carnival Day/MU Rugby Academy Session, MURFC clubrooms



Club Fees are now due :

\$200 Senior Players, \$120 Colts/Students and \$100 for non-playing members.

You can pay on-line at <http://www.melbourneunirugby.com/join-the-club> or to one of the managers

The Peter Hone Scholarship

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 Gillies (Mb 0414 235-002) ian.gillies@credit-suisse.com



Melbourne University Rugby Academy

The Academy program for 2009 has kicked off with sessions on Sunday 8 March and Sunday 15 March: 9.00am-11.00am at the University of Melbourne sporting field (artificial hockey field in the middle of the athletics track). A good number of young players attended both sessions.

The 2009 MURA program can be viewed at www.melbourneunirugby.com/academy.

MURFC 'Legends' side Australian Masters Games 27 Feb-1 March 2009

(Report provided by Richard Lowe)



MURFC entered a 27 man squad into the 12th Australian Masters Games played in Geelong from Feb 27 to March 1 2009. Six games in three days was always going to be tough and the depth of the reserve bench was already being tested when news of an Ian Gillies back injury 2 days prior to the competition even starting arrived. Something about a slip in the bathroom? Or was it a result of the Viagra sample that was in the Masters bag that all competitors received?

Uni's competition started with a first up 14 – 5 win against a Harlequins/Southern Districts combine. In the late afternoon the competition reconvened in beautiful down town Corio. The Mosman team (sponsored by a Neutral Bay real estate company) were feeling at home in Geelong's industrial heartland. The second game for day 1 was against Moorabbin. In hot conditions Uni defended stoically against a larger Moorabbin outfit. Little did we know at this stage that the 37 – 5 score line would be Moorabbin's closest game of the competition and the only one in which a try was scored against them.

Day 2 of the competition saw a bunch of old fat bastards turn in to a bunch of stiff, sore old fat bastards. However, due to the Melbourne Silverbacks announcing their withdrawal from the competition Uni only had to play the 1 game on the Saturday. With no need to keep anything in reserve for the afternoon Uni went on the record a convincing 24 -10 victory against arch foes Eltham.

On Sunday the final pool game against Geelong was to prove to be the most exciting match of the competition. Both teams had lost only to Moorabbin.

The victor would win a place in the Gold/Silver play off, the loser would be going for Bronze. Uni led for virtually the whole game and had defended well, containing Geelong's live wire number 10. Unfortunately, in the last play of the game the slippery 5/8th managed a line break and scored to take Geelong to a 10 - 7 victory.



Craig Albiston - MURFC Vice President - showing a clean pair of heels (to some old, fat bald player)
Source: Geelong Advertiser



Self-managed superannuation fund experts

Day 3 The bronze medal play off was never in doubt with Uni showing their true skill in playing great attacking rugby against a battered Eltham squad, running out easy winners in a 36 - 0 try fest.

The Masters Games squad will hopefully provide the core for a highly competitive team for the VRU Masters grade competition. All interested players should contact Nigel Aiken (na@giantred.com) or Richard Lowe Richard_Lowe@itss.vic.gov.au 03 9664 7514

MURFC - Bronze medallists - Australian Masters Games 2009 - 35 and over



Supporters Lunches

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:

- i) Saturday 2 May v Powerhouse (Round 3)
- ii) Saturday 20 June v Moorabbin (Round 9 Heritage games)
- iii) Saturday 8 August v Harlequin

To register your interest please contact Peter on 9509-0426 or email chone@bigpond.net.au



Social Calendar. Mark the following dates in your diary!

Saturday 25 April - Club Pub Crawl

Saturday 23 May - Club Trivia Night

Saturday 11 July - Cocktail Night

Friday 18 September - Club Annual Dinner and Awards Night



Commemorative game MURFC v Sydney University FC - Saturday 6 June

In a similar fashion to the very successful centenary match played in 2008 on the main University 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.

A welcome drinks reception will be held on the evening of **Friday 5 June at MURFC Clubrooms** and 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 for further details, and put this date in your diary!

Sponsors Corner

Costa Exchange has signed up as the clubs new Gold Sponsor, taking over from Nova Capital who have done a great job in supporting the club over the last 3 years. Part of the Costa group of companies, **Costa Exchange** is one of the largest fresh produce growing, packing, marketing, distribution and exporting companies in the southern hemisphere. With locations around Australia and strong relationships at the supply and customer level, CostaExchange has a nationwide reputation for quality. The club thanks Elliot Jones, GM - Sales and Operations at Costa Exchange and a recent past player for introducing MURFC to Costa's (and his "rugby nut" Zimbabwean boss!) and facilitating the 2 year sponsorship agreement.



The Imperial Hotel, located on the corner of Bourke and Spring Sts in the City has signed up as a Silver Sponsor and the new "club pub". The Imperial is part of the Open Door Pub Company (ODPC) portfolio of pubs and is a Melbourne hotel icon. They will be our new "home away from home" when we play away and will be the venue for a number of Club functions, including Super 14 finals and test matches. The club thanks ODPC's CEO Michael Thiele, Craig Ellison their Ops manger and the venue manager Joe Baily for their support. Thanks also to Club stalwart, Rolly Burt for the introduction to Michael.

MURFC sincerely thanks the support of all its sponsors. With our sponsors continued commitment to the club over the years and the years to come they have been instrumental in helping to build the robust financial base from which we are able to deliver strong results both on and off the field. So please, support those who support us!

Royal Park Touch

(Report provided by Peter Shaw)

JAG



Royal Park Touch celebrated its final round for the 2008/09 season on Wednesday 11 February. It was Grand finals for some but touch for all as the BBQ's were fired upped and the beers cracked open to celebrate the season's conclusion. All 300 players participated. In social grade D2 Virgin Jokers were up against Trev and Barb. Both teams had been in the competition for many seasons but never cracked it for a GF win. In the end the Jokers got up 3-2.



Virgin Jokers



Dunneworthy

In D1 Can't Touch This played Tiggy Touchwood who was looking to go back to back with premierships in D2 and D1 in consecutive seasons. But it was the new boys from Can't Touch This who won by a single try in a very tight and high standard contest. In C grade it was Dunneworthy who started in the competition in 2000/01 against the new guys from the Panthers. The result was a narrow upset win to Dunneworthy for their first win north of the Yarra, after many years of trying.

In the top grade last years premiers Novacastrians were up against the big improvers over the year Easy Touchy Tiger. The result was a win to Easy Touchy Tiger who gradual improvement over the season saw them finally get passed the Novacastrians in the big one. In the wrap up senior referee Cliff Winnett remarked on the massive improvement over the season by all teams and that plenty of the winners were teams who had played in the competition for some time. The president of the competition Peter Shaw added that the excellent spirits and great attitude of the players and referees in all games (not just finals) in final round like the whole season had lived up to the motto of the Royal Park Touch which is: "Social touch in the heart of Melbourne"

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. Visit www.vicrugby.com.au

Winged Victory! Stronger, faster, fitter!

MURFC Committee

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