



THE REDBACKS NEST

Editorial #2 – June 2010

Greetings dear readers and welcome to the second, rather tardy, edition of the Boroondara Rugby club newsletter. So far we have had quite a tough year. If it was raining palaces we'd have been soundly struck by an outhouse door or several by now. At the time of writing we are in raptures at our first win in the first grade but we have also had our first grade coach, Sone Sooaemalelagi resign. Sone has done a marvellous job in very trying circumstances and took the job in 2010 despite having to deal with serious health issues in 2009. We wish Sone the best and offer him our heartiest gratitude. There is more on this later in this issue.

The race home has begun and we are lucky to have a majority of home games in the remainder of the home and away. We have a number of major club events happening in the remaining weeks and we look forward to seeing all of you down at the club to support all our teams and support the club as we look to finish the year strongly after a poor start.

Note that we have a VERY special guest confirmed for our president's lunch on July 3rd. You'd be crazy to miss it.

Cheers, **Neil Hayes – Editor ("Purps")** (purpazoid@yahoo.com.au)

A Note From The President

Well we are half way through season 2010, decimated by injuries across all grades and hanging our heads a little low. This is the time when great clubs dig deep, and look within for the answers. Our Club captain Scott Baker led by the front a few weeks back and hosted a "court session" to welcome the new blood and look into each others eyes and ask for an extra effort.

Our first President's lunch the week before searched for sponsorship, investment and commitment from those without the "legs to play" anymore and was an overwhelming success, aided by the inspiring address and frank information session by VRU President Tim North about the state of the Union and the likely effect the Rebels Super 15 team will have in season 2011 and beyond. The lunch attended over tripled last years "test event" and have proven to be great success. We already have over 50 booked for the next (details within this edition)

Getting players on the paddock is now our greatest challenge. Playing stock will ensure we have a chance to be competitive. The alternative is not an option.

The committee has entered into an initiative to assist our position and a sub committee led by Club Stalwart and past President David "Ridgy" Neil has been formed to assist. This group has been empowered to review our players, coaching and team management needs and add value to the entire position. We have made some effective and immediate changes to the Senior Coach position with Mark Robinson taking a lead as First XV coach post the resignation of Sone (personal reasons) Sone there is a home for you at BRUFC once you have sorted life out.

I will formally report the outcomes and plans for the future in the next edition.

David a sincere thanks on behalf of the Committee executive and Club for your assistance.

Yours in Rugby



Craig Lovett
President
BRUFC

Vale John Dolan

On the 19th May 2010, John (The Pom) Dolan died whilst on holiday in Turkey. The cause of death is unknown, but he is now buried in Turkey. John had returned to the UK in 2001 to look after his sister in law after the premature death of his young brother.

John, who joined the club in 1966, was a player, a committee member, a Secretary and a team manager whilst with the club. He was very outspoken, too much so to some, but his heart was in the right place as far as the club was concerned.

He is survived by brothers in the UK, a cousin in Auckland and a daughter living in Tauranga, NZ, with whom he has seen or spoken to for many years.





The President Craig Lovett and the Board of Boroondara Rugby Union Football Club has the pleasure in inviting you to the

Boroondara Rugby President's Luncheon

In recognition of our sponsors, affiliate clubs and Rugby fellowship

Date: Saturday 3rd July 2010

*Venue: Boroondara Rugby Club - John Gardiner Reserve
Auburn Road, Hawthorn*

*Time: 12.00 noon for 12.30pm
(Until 3.30pm)*

Cost: \$50 per person

Dress: Favourite Rugby Tie & Jacket

Guest Speaker – Rod McQueen

*RSVP: Mel Panteli by Tuesday 22 June 2010
Contact – mellypanteli@hotmail.com*

"Weaving the fabric of Rugby fellowship through our club"

The British Invasion At Our Club – Love Those Poms!!

About June 2009, four 18 year olds from a little village called South Shields near Newcastle in England sent an email to several clubs in Melbourne. They wanted to spend their gap year in Australia and to focus on playing a season of rugby in Melbourne. After a series of emails and phone calls, the boys and their parents met up with Boroondara Vice-President/Secretary Tony Ward in London last September, and President Craig Lovett in December. By this time they had decided that Boroondara was the club for them.

These four lads, Michael Booth, Jordan Mackay, Grant Parkin and Grant Walker had played rugby together at Westoe Rugby Football Club since they were 5 years old. So keen were they on their rugby that they were all qualified to coach and referee, and all were helping coach their juniors. They played for their colts and from time to time had games in the seniors of Westoe.

While these four lads set about planning their journey, a fifth, Stuart Woodhouse, decided that he too wanted to join the trip. Stuart recovered from an operation quicker than expected, and so felt he could get back into rugby as well. Stuart had also played his junior rugby at Westoe with the other four, but had received a partial scholarship and played his later rugby at Durham School. Stuart has also received coaching from the maestro, Jonny Wilkinson. The first contingent arrived in Australia at the end of January, followed by Stuart in February.

In the meantime, in a remarkable coincidence the club was contacted by Darren Masters “out of the blue”. Darren had spent the previous 6 months of his working visa in Sydney, and had decided it was time to move on, but he also wanted to play the rugby season in Melbourne. Darren hails from Ampthill, about 65 kilometres north of London, where he has played all his club rugby.

So by the end of February, Ellen and Tony Ward, along with their son Andrew, had half a rugby team residing in their house. Not only that, but it was a whole front row with loose forward flexibility, a half back/full back, fly-half/full back and fly-half/centre combination. If only we could all understand what they were saying – because it is mostly very funny once they have repeated it several times and more slowly. Everything they say about the “Geordie” accent is true.

Since training started, all six lads have been to every training session, attending even though Michael, Stuart and Jordan have been sidelined through injury at various times for weeks on end.



They have all helped with the club's junior training, providing skills development for the younger brigade. In addition they have taken on a full coaching role with the club's under 16 team, working with John Abrahamsen on that team's development. As this side is a combined team with Box Hill, it means their weekly schedule involves Monday nights at Box Hill, Tuesdays with the juniors early, followed by their own training, Wednesday with the under 16s at Hawthorn, Thursday training, and Saturday matches – and coaching the under 16s in the morning if their schedule allows it. All six also participated in the Green Shirt referee's course.

It is fair to say that the local rugby players could certainly learn from the dedication of these English lads. If they are breeding English players with this amount of enthusiasm, then English rugby has a great future ahead. To date the Boroondara colts rugby season hasn't achieved the results that had been hoped for with only one win on board. The team has suffered from injuries and lack of availability during the season. However, the boys themselves have met with some satisfaction, with Grant Walker, Jordan Mackay and Stuart Woodhouse being selected for the Victorian state squad, and Michael Booth being added later. It would not surprise if the other two made the squad as well, as Grant Parkin and Darren Masters have shown a great deal of resilience and skill worthy of higher representation.

Another mate from Westoe, Jon Irving, has also travelled to Melbourne and is currently playing seniors with the Melbourne rugby club. These seven English lads could not resist the temptation to travel to Sydney for the Test against the Wallabies. They had an experience of a lifetime, as one of their club mates originally from Westoe, David Wilson, played in the front row for England. David Wilson gave the boys his guest tickets, and then arranged for the boys to join the English touring party for the post match celebrations. The fact that England won by a point and that last kick from Jonny Wilkinson made this trip all the more memorable for them.

While bunking at the Wards, they have taken on casual jobs at a number of places through club contacts, and will go home with a wide range of experiences to relate – concreting, unpacking containers, sorting potatoes, building demolition, firewood stacking and delivery, and exam room set up and pull down. Any other job offers would be more than welcome, as they hope to save enough money to travel to other parts of Australia before they have to return to South Shields.

The Boroondara rugby club has indeed been lucky that these lads chose to play their rugby at the club – they have all proven to be popular with their club mates and other members. One life member, Colin Hopkins has even taken to making special dishes as treats for them on Thursday nights, and the Wards definitely appreciate some of the weight coming off their grocery bill. It is hoped that the rest of the season brings more success and high spirits that their efforts deserve.

Michael, Jordan, Grant, Darren, Grant, Stewart - good luck for the future lads, it has been a pleasure having you here.

Changes

As mentioned in the editorial, our senior coach Sone Sooaemalelagi has resigned. There was a lot of pressure on Sone this year and he gave everything but in the end has found he can not continue in the role due to various pressures. A huge amount of respect and gratitude must go out to Sone for an amazing effort in extremely challenging conditions.

In a tough year we find ourselves under amazing pressure in terms of match day management and coaching now. We thought we would ask if any of you could help out with manager duties with Seconds and Firsts. At the moment Steve Donnelly has been doing it for both sides on his own - and sometimes running touch as well. If you could share it around when you are not playing, helping out with keeping the score sheet, the water up to the players, collecting jerseys etc - that would be a big help. (don't worry, laundry and transport for the jerseys is sorted). We've got only a few weeks left and we've got a couple of people running extra shifts above and beyond the call. If you can and will help, give the editor an email and we can talk about ways we can all pitch in to get this club rolling sweetly through the last couple of weeks of this season.

Get Out Your Diaries!!!!

Pencil them in, a range of important dates for games (both Junior and Senior) and all important club functions. Grab a pen and some whiteout. If you see something in your diary that clashes with a Boroondara event, well just whiteout over that wedding date! We must give a very special mention for the president's lunches. If you ain't getting muddy with the footy, get a seat booked. Get your mates and book a table.

- 31st July Bledisloe Cup – Etihad/Colonial/Docklands Stadium
- 1ST August – Junior Club Presentation Day combining our Annual Auction
- 7th August – Return to Kiwi's reunion for ex-players – Match vs. Moorabbin
- 14th August Ladies Day - Girls come along and be our guest for a light lunch and some Bubbles
- 21st August – Senior Club Presentation Night – Last regular season match vs. Power House

Junior Notes

- The Juniors are delighted that we have 3 state rep players. Trevor Hosea in the under 12s, Tah Hosea and newcomer to the club, Henry Stowers, in the under 14s. Tah has also been appointed captain of the state under 14 team.
- Please grab your diary and circle Sunday 1st August as we are planning our Family Day
- Our combined Under 16 squad has been fielding full sides most weeks as a combined squad with Box Hill. A big thank you to Jordan and the other UK colts for their assistance with John Abrahamsen
- We have entered an additional under 8 team and the under 10 & 12 team are full – so the growth in the juniors looks strong
- We have been short of numbers due to injuries in the older teams and are looking for more players (especially in the under 14 – 16 age range) so if there are any nephews or sons of the seniors that are looking for a game we would love to see them – never to late in the season to join up

2010 Draw – Last 7 Rounds Of Senior Teams Regular Season

For seniors, Premier 1, 2 and 3 are pretty well together. Note that when we play Southern Districts, the third grade side is Cerberus.

Week	Times Premier 1, 2, 3	Opponent	Venue
10. 3 rd July	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Harlequins	Boroondara
11. 10 th July	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Powerhouse	Boroondara
12. 17 th July	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Southern Districts	Souths, Carrum
13. 24 th July	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Melbourne	Orrong park
14. 31 st July	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Box Hill	Boroondara (Bledisloe Night)
15. 7 th Aug	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Moorabbin	Boroondara
16. 14 th Aug	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Melbourne Uni	Boroondara
17. 21 st Aug	Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm	Powerhouse	Albert park

BRUFC PRESIDENT'S LUNCH – 3 JULY 2010
CONFIRMED GUEST SPEAKER
***** ROD McQUEEN *****
SUPER COACH OF THE MELBOURNE REBELS



Craig Lovett, President of the BRUFC is excited to announce the attendance by Rod McQueen at our next President's lunch on 3 July as our Guest and Key note speaker. This is a real coup for our club and should be the highlight of the season.

Rod has agreed to address our 1st XV team prior to the game. A real honour for our leading "Redbacks"

About Rod McQueen:

Rod McQueen is arguably the most successful coach in the history rugby. During his time as Australian coach, the Wallabies held every championship trophy including the Bledisloe Cup, Cook Cup, Tri-Nations Trophy, Tom Richards Cup and World Cup. As a Wallaby Coach he had an impressive 81 percent winning ratio. He led the Wallabies to victory at the 1999 Rugby World Cup in Wales, where they defeated France in the final, becoming the first nation to ever win the World Cup twice. The following year Australia won the Tri Nations Series for the first time ever.

In 2001, having retired as the full time coach of the Wallabies, Rod published his book, *One Step Ahead*, in which he discussed his successes in both business & sport. The book became a recognised guide on how to incorporate the best of both into life. Rod McQueen is on the board of several major corporations and consults to multi-national companies. In 2006 he was appointed to the International Rugby Board. His fresh ideas and willingness to think outside conventional ideals of rugby were first introduced at the NSW Waratahs in 1991 and ACT Brumbies in 1996 before he became the Australian Coach at the end of 1997. In January 2010, Rod was enticed out of retirement and signed on as the Director of Rugby and Head Coach of the Melbourne Rebels, the new Super 15 Rugby team to be included in the competition from 2011.

BRUFC is honoured and privileged to have such greatness in attendance at our President's Lunch. We have 70 seats available at the luncheon, with only a few seats remaining. RSVP to mellypanteli@hotmail.com asap to reserve your space. The dress of the day is Jacket/Blazer and Rugby Club Tie.

A Note From The Great Man, John “Nobody” Eales

Foreword for Boroondara

The advent of the Melbourne Rebels in the Super 15 is not the start of rugby in Victoria but more aptly the stoking of a fire that has been burning for about a century.

Rugby has always held a proud place in the spirited sporting landscape of Melbourne. With the likes of Sir Edward Weary Dunlop, ‘Ted’ Jessop, Ewen McKenzie, Andrew Hoath, Digby Ione and others it has also made a solid contribution to Australian rugby.

Melbourne's is a rugby heart which beats strongly through the passionate junior clubs, through the schools and all the way to the international scene. While there has never been a shortage of passion perhaps at times there has been a shortage of mediums to channel that passion.

I've seen this passion first hand in the support given to the Wallabies but also, and just as importantly, I have seen it in the school and the club rugby communities of Melbourne.

Rugby is still the game for everyone. It is still the game for every body-shape, size or sex. It is still the game for any class, creed or colour...and that's why we love it.

In our country, underneath the broader international successes of the game, sit many untold stories. They are the stories of the clubs. Boroondara's story is one of those.

To celebrate 90 years as a rugby club takes a lot of effort, however to succeed, as Boroondara has done in its various forms, takes more than that.

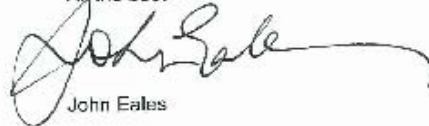
It takes the passion to stay late and pick up the cones after training, to cook the BBQ, to coach the juniors, to sell the raffle tickets, and to transport the boys and to turn out the lights.

And that same story is playing out all over the nation in every club. I have seen this passion first hand at Boroondara when I took a training session with the junior club one evening. You can't manufacture that kind of passion overnight – it takes time.

We all have our clubs; mine is Brothers in Brisbane, my son's is the Musman Whales in Sydney, yours is Boroondara in Melbourne.

Congratulations on all that you have achieved to date and may the camaraderie and revelry of your years ahead be as productive as those of your history.

All the best



John Eales

Sponsorship 2010

Boroondara is fortunate in having some very generous sponsors this year. Our major sponsor is Penrite and our partner sponsors are "OMG! Creative" and Hilditch. Cleanevent are again on deck and the junior rugby of the club will be sponsored by Quick Access.



New Clobber

The 2010 jersey has been released (see below) and it is very schmick. More details on new merchandise including Jerseys, stubby holders, all playing accoutrements and pricing etc will be available soon on the club website.



Supporter Hoodies & Senior Team Jerseys

Club Supporters Jerseys - \$70
Shorts- \$25
Socks-\$12

Polo-\$35
Hoodie-\$55
Stubby Holder-\$10

Membership Packages

The “Redbacks 100” Club

The 100 Club has been a source of fantastic entertainment to rugby tourists the world over and at Boroondara we are no different. We believe that Redbacks 100 Club at Boroondara will prove to be just as rewarding during the course of the year. More importantly it embodies the true spirit of club rugby in the modern day and allows everyone to engage in a club that continues to give so many people so much enjoyment. Please read on and discover how you can support our great club.

We are looking for sponsors to get involved in what we believe are a unique club with a proud history and we want you all to be a part of it. **How it works.....**

Each member of Redbacks 100 Club will receive annually:

- Redbacks 100 Club polo - Numbered
- One membership of the “Tankard Club” (see below)

- A “place at the table” at each of President’s Luncheons during the course of the season
 - Speakers and guests of significance
 - Featured home games of significance
 - Minimum of 2 events
- A “place at the table” at the Clubs Annual Senior Presentation Night
- Recognition on The Redbacks 100 Club page of the website
- Recognition on all sponsor documentation
- Exclusive One on One or Group session with Club Director of coaching throughout the season

Season 2010 added incentive: A copy of the soon to be released best seller from John Woodhouse about the history of our club (including recognition in the book)

Membership cost per season \$500 including GST

The Tankard Club

In keeping with having a social drink at your rugby club, and the fact that you want to make a contribution to the on and off field success, we have developed “The Tankard Club” for that purpose!

Everyone likes to have a drink with their mates at the club and what better way than to have a personalised tankard to share a cleansing ale or lemonade with your mates. The social aspect of our club is without doubt the ability to catch up with old friends and foes from playing days or to meet new people who share a similar passion for the greatest game of all.

To share a drink and reminisce on the “good old days”, stories of past conquests

and great rugby experiences, or to discuss the performance of the on field battle - what better way to spend a Saturday afternoon. **How it works.....**

A club tankard personally engraved with your name, preferred nickname and tankard club membership number and Tankard Club logo. Secured at the club for your use.

Tankard filled with beer or soft drink for your first drink any time you; The Tankard club member attends the club rooms. eg: training nights (when open bar), game days, feature events.

Recognition on the website.

Membership cost per season \$250 including GST