

# 1976 Presentation Night

Mick Emery & John (the Pom) Mitchell

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 1976 season was a difficult one for Pirates. Not only did we suffer from the occasional shortage of players due to injuries, or for unemployment reasons, but the club has also has a very high turnover of executive personnel.

The first problem is almost a perpetual one with the club, as Pirates have relied for a long time on the itinerant population of this town to make up the number of players to make up both grades, and as such are liable to lose key players with only a few weeks notice. With the limited number of players available, this creates instability in a team due to position changes that are inevitable.

We hope this situation will improve in future seasons, as many of the reserve grade players this year are in their first season of rugby, and have shown great enthusiasm for the game.

The club feels that in building up a greater nucleus of permanent resident players, stability in the teams and better results are inevitable.

The other problem this year has been the club executive. Midway through last season we lost the services of John Mitchell who had served the club very well in the five previous years, and was the person responsible for the organisation of the club's tour to New Zealand at the end of last season. To lose someone like John the Pom was a blow to the club.

At the same time we also lost the services of Greg Harrison who, for work reasons, was unable to spare the necessary to fulfil the position of secretary. He also resigned as reserve grade coach.

The club is presently functioning with its third treasurer of the season. The first resigner due to expected posting, the second, John Sanders, has just recently been transferred to Dubbo, after having done a tremendous job through the season.

The club executive has had little or no experience in administration and I feel that had it not been for a herculean effort by a few, notably Ian Blanch and some consistent support by the 'hard core' of the club, Pirates could have gone very close to folding up.

We need some support from past members of the club, as well as making a concentrated effort to gain more players and supporters.

All social functions this year have been very successful as entertainment, but have been a financial burden on the club due to lack of numbers.

Problems aside, my congratulations to the winners of the many trophies as they have been hard earned, and my deepest thanks to the donors for making these presentations possible.

Mick Emery.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The first Social of the year was the Christmas Party which was held at John and Chris Gaffney's home. Santa 'Flash' Claus was a big hit with the kids and also some young ladies who shall remain nameless.

Annual dinner put on by 'Babe' at the Tudor was again a big success, though a somewhat sad occasion as she was soon to be leaving the pub to retire to the country (Currabub)

Several shows were held at the Emery Arena with cricket, volley ball and tennis being played with great enthusiasm, highlighted by world class performances on the court by Burgs and Holmsey.

The Sports 'Day' at Dungowan lasted well into the night with good support, and the Fancy Dress ball although not a good night financially, could only be classified as a raging success.

## CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Although the 1976 Rugby team for Pirates was not a great success as regards to performances on the paddock, it was pleasing to see the general atmosphere maintained throughout the year was of a high standard. Another pleasing aspect was the number of younger players who joined the club this year. Hopefully with these players and a nucleus of the older hard heads the 1977 season will end on a more pleasing note than the 1976 season.

## **COACHES' REPORT**

The season started on a bright note with good results in the Armidale knockout and early local games, but results that followed did not always reflect true performances by some of our players.

The club would benefit greatly from more consistent training and attendance at all games by some of the better players. It is not the full responsibility of the coaches to get players fit, it is up to the players themselves and unless fitness is achieved, the lack of spirit and the will to win is very obvious to anyone watching the matches.

Players that showed determination on the field and produced consistent effort were Gary Burger, Glen Deitrich, Neil Blanch, Trevor Bailey, all fairly new to the game of Rugby, while old stagers Ken McPherson and John Bolen were the 'Iron Men' of the first grade pack.

Mal Corbett was outstanding in his leadership of the 2nd XV and his enthusiasm was a great boost to his young team, many in their first season of Rugby.

The outlook for next season is good with the rumoured return of several players from previous years and some promising imports moving to Pirates from other teams. With most players from last season staying on one must look for greatly improved results in '77.

J. Mikulski

## **SHINEY**

Pirates benefited financially this year from the recent sales of some cattle that the club purchased a few years ago.

The prices gained by five of these beasts were the top of the day at the new Tamworth Saleyards and fitting tribute must be paid to the man responsible for the supreme condition the cattle had maintained.

Rod Shineberg accepted the responsibility for the steers and has kept them in peak condition through the recent 'slump' in the market until their sale.

As long as there are people with the generosity and good nature of Shiney involved in our sport, Rugby has to prosper.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

'Babe' - for all that she's done and all she's put up with in the past.

Bob Monnox - for what he's got to suffer in the future (Good Luck, Bob).

Doc & Pam Emery - for use of facilities and coping with general rowdiness. Many thanks.

Wynney & Maureen - for opening their house to Pirates on numerous occasions and for selling tickets at the 'Shoo Shop'.

'The Girls' - Sue Coyle, Debbie Blanch, Leslie McPherson, Jenny Milkulski, Chris Gaffney, Maureen Wynne for all their help in keeping the club together and the boys happy.

'The Referees' - for always pulling us up during a game and telling us what we can't do.

Stewart Holmes - for doing a tremendous job getting the jumpers and his hangovers to the games in perfect condition.

Daly, Quincey and Sam Hudson - for some of that good old-fashioned know how which has helped some young players a lot more than these three desperates will ever realise~

Kenny Williams - for running guys (and girls) everywhere in his car and attending every function and game (despite being a non player.) A great guy.

## **"Special Committee Meeting 13th January 1976 - A Pirate Classic**

Meeting 13.176 Tudor Hotel

Meeting commenced 7.55pm

*The purpose of the meeting was to discuss this club's proposed entry for the Tamworth Centenary Celebrations Procession 19 March 1976.*

***It was resolved that the entry should be in the form of a small boat conveying a large keg, in colours of black and gold.***

*The secretary is to investigate the possibility of "give-aways" from the float in the procession.*

*A working party will meet at M Emery's on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 2.00pm to begin construction of the float."*