



1977

PRESIDENTS REPORT

At the start of the 1977 season it looked as if the Club would fold due to the lack of players and supporters, but due to the enthusiasm of a few, support from the media and the press, the Club found new life. A problem the Club has always had is that the majority of its players are not permanent residents.

Thanks to Dennis O Callaghan who offered his services as 1st grade coach. Dennis was like a new light in the Club, and inspired the players both in their attitude towards the game, as well as conditioning them for the season. They were the fittest teams that the Pirates Club had put on the field in many a season. Thanks- also to our 2nd grade coach, Ken Phillipson, who eventually took over the role as coach for both teams in the latter part of the season, as work commitments did not enable Dennis to attend all games and training sessions.

Although the Club did not make the semi-finals this year the results of the games indicated that they played well during the season. Injuries struck hard this year with several players being in doubt with regards to football in the future; however, I hope that their enthusiasm towards the game and Pirates will not be deterred.

The Club will certainly miss Trevor and Judy Bailey for their efforts in Club activities this year. Also, there are five or six others who will be leaving and they will also be missed.

A special thanks to Ian Blanch, Mick Emery and the committee for organising and running the Wills Cup.. To all those who assisted, thanks for showing others what Pirates can do when they put their minds to it.

Thanks must go to our hard working social committee, who organised social days, a pool party, pie and beer afternoons, barbecues and guessing competitions. Congratulations to Leslie Macpherson for winning the Miss Pirates Quest and to Kim Monnox who was runner-up, and thanks to those other girls who contributed to the Quest.

To Trevor Bailey our secretary, and other committee members and office bearers, thanks for your support during the season.

Thanks to our donors during the year and for this presentation night, and to Bob Monnox for his hospitality and help during the season.

Lastly, congratulations to all those who have worked hard and been fortunate to receive awards for their effort during the season.

John Bolden.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The year of 1977 has been a financial success! The Social committee undertook a variety of fund-raising activities, some being highly successful. : A pool-side party was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Mahony and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all! Our thanks to the Mahonys for making their home available. Two tennis and B.B.Q. days were held at Dr. Emery's and President John made his home available for two Pie & Beer afternoons. Many thanks to both the Emery's and the Bo1dens for their hospitality...Two B.B.Q.s were also held at Dungowan and a great time was had by all. However, the main fund-raising came from a Quest Competition in which fifteen girls- took part.. I wish to congratulate the winners, Leslie McPherson and Kim Monnox for the magnificent effort!

I wish the incoming Social Committee every success for the coming year.

Bev Bucknell.

BUCCANEER May 1977 - raffle crisis

RUGBY REPORT Vs MOREE

Last Saturday's matches at No.1 Oval were played under adverse conditions. Going down 12-3 in First Grade and only 10-4 in Reserve Grade was a fair result.

The score in First Grade should have been closer. If the backline followed their instructions Pirates would definitely, have scored one try and possibly another.

When we decided to play a team on a definite set pattern it should be followed. If players don't follow set patterns then heads must roll. We are a team. We have proven in the last few weeks that playing as a team we can defeat anyone on our day.

The First's forwards are improving each game. They must be pleased with the amount of ball won on Saturday. They surprised many a 'one eyed supporter'. Our Backs not to be overlooked for their efforts tried. There are four backs coming back into First Grade this week. This should strengthen our side. Glen is back in his rightful place as fullback.

Dave King must be on the improve gaining 3 points in the best and fairest comp, two games in a row. Keep it up.

The side to play Gunnedah at Gunnedah this Saturday is:

Ian Blanch, N. Donnelly, C. Easter, M. Emery, K. Phillipson, P. Wynne, D. King, T. Emery, G. Burger, R. Grills, R. O'Dell, H. McKidd, S. Holmes, W. Artuso, G. Dietrich.

Our 2nd Grade side is still third on the points table. We need a win on Saturday if 'we are going to make the semis. with only three games to go to the end of Round 1, we would be in a great position if we won these.

Last Saturday we saw the side give the game away. Bad defense and lack of fitness on some players behalf cost us victory. The younger players acquitted themselves well. The older players, till they ran out of puff, went well also.

If they could attend one nights training a week then Pirates would definitely be at the top. It is up to you blokes.

Mal Greber and John Milkulski had good games, It should not be too long before we see these and a couple of others in firsts.

Players are asked to meet at 11.30 a.m. at Riverside Car Park on Saturday to arrange transport.

SEX REPORT

Having gained your interest, I would like to report on a few things which should be of interest to all Pirates. First, the good news.

The Club is having a far happier year than last year. From the point of performances, the Club must be happy that at last we know the flavour of winning. Even the pukka gentlemen from Rugby Park came to watch us play a top side like Moree, not to witness a cricket score (which we used to be so good at) but to watch a good game of rigger. Full credit must go Dennis O'C for getting us reasonably fit., and especially to Ken the Gronk for taking over the coaching so keenly and successfully as he has. However, it's a bloody pity to see the paltry dozen or so at training sessions. With a bit more effort from the non-trainers, both grades could quite easily make the semis.

On the administration side, the Club is also going well. The Club's bank account is growing, and all our bills have been paid. However, the situation could be better; on my estimates, the Club still has fifteen players who are unfinancial. You know who you are, how about paying, pronto. There are also three players not registered by the zone - but this can't be fixed until the zone gets around to supplying some more forms.

Overall, the Club's image in the community is definitely on the improve. Last week I went to Inverell and Warialda, and was quite surprised at the number of people who I wouldn't have thought knew anything about Rugby Union. who remarked on how the Pirates were going this year. (You see, dark discolourations on the face in the proximity of the eyeball tend to attract comment)

"There was a man from Woodstock, who had difficulty locating his.....

Right, I know all this prattle is boring, however, now to the bad news,

Pay attention:

Our big, much vaunted Guessing Competition looks like being a great big flop, Not only that, as I write this, the Club is going to have to kick the tin for \$1,000 (i.e. a piddling 200 tickets) just to pay for the prizes. So the only people to gain will probably be the Tableland Travel and the prize winners. The potential \$5,000 we could have netted could be reduced to making our bank account look as rich as a toddler's piggy bank. Great stuff my boys. Forget your own ground for another five years.

It's pretty poor when you consider the tremendous efforts of Bev and Dennis Bucknell in organising the competition. The Club is terribly fortunate in having their backing, and it's an understatement to say we haven't done their efforts justice. Ian Blanch and Kick Emery must feel great about the prospects of the profits we made from staging the Wills' Cup going to subsidise the guessing competition,

Lets us now be positive. There are eight days and two competition rounds remaining before the drawing date on 28th May', We all have to get out and sell more tickets. (Don't say you've sold all you can - between Leslie Macka, John Bolden, Bev Bucknell and myself we've sold over 200 tickets),

I suggest that on the two Saturdays remaining, groups of two or three Pirates could plonk themselves at the doors of places like Myers, Big W, Treloars etc. not to mention the pubs and just plain sell to the public. (There is no doubt the tickets are good value" well presented and sell themselves).

When we go to Gunnedah, everybody should sell at least five tickets - I'll be reminding their officials that Pirates helped them last year with their fund raising for a Club Trip.

Lets all admit to ourselves that the efforts so far have been weak-as-piddle. The Pirates have a good reputation for Club Spirit. lets see it in action.

Now back to your middies.

P.S. I have 20 pairs of sox left at \$2.50 each. Rule Books are available at \$1 each or may be borrowed for short times.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Bev Bucknell.

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Great photo by legendary NDJ photographer Paul Matthews who captured this magical moment between Pirates and Narrabri in 1977. Mal Greber is on the left with Cameron on the right. Zinga and Easter consider whether to go back or play on.

Extracts from BUCCANEER 3rd June 1977

From the secretary

It looks like our near disastrous Guessing Competition turned into a great little success, thanks very much. The last two weeks of the competition saw a complete reversal and thanks to the tremendous efforts and the club spirit of most Pirates you will be pleased to know the club made approximately \$3,000 profit. Mind you that's not quite near the \$5,000 we could have made but as they say, \$3,000 is better than the proverbial kick in the bot tom

I think all Pirates should give Leslie Macka. a peck on the cheek for her efforts At last count she had sold some \$845° worth of ticket so well done Mrs Macka!

In recent matches two players have. put in so much effort in their game that they got themselves creamed, again and again. The rest of you can help by lifting your game to match theirs. Just in case .you don't know who they are it's Burgs and Dave King.

I am particularly sorry to see the old man Blanch suffer an 'injury. Hope it. does not keep him out for long as a man with that ability to star against Tamworth Rugby Club, the local derby is upon us very shortly.

The new rules are going to make the infamous "Banacek" move a common place, and since we invented that move, keep your wits about you.

In recent games I have noticed the lack of fire and vigour that should be put into a game. Stir yourselves up and drive them forward, not merely hold them.. Hold your temper and I am the first to admit it puts you out of thee game and lets the team down.