



# THE RED MACHINE

Newsletter of the Marist St Pats Rugby Football Club Inc

PO Box 3472, Wellington

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## 1970s' reunion a great success

Members of some of MSP's finest rugby teams reminisced over their glory days at a highly successful reunion of 1970s' players, managers and coaches held over Queens Birthday Weekend in June.

The 1979 team contained three All Blacks and a Maori All Black captain - Tim Donoghue tells the story inside.

**FOND MEMORIES:** From left; Brian Dickson, Kevin Horan, Tu Wyllie, Bill Te Oka, and John Wootton.

PHOTO: ROSS PINKHAM



## Time for big changes to Spillane Cup

by John Spillane  
MSP chairman

The Spillane Tournament is a Marist tradition. Many past players have very fond memories of their travels to this Easter tournament where rugby was played, lies told, and lifelong friendships made.

For a number of years now, MSP has sent age-grade teams to the Spillane. This year, two age-grade teams set off for Napier accompanied by the young coaching team of Chad Smith, Willie McGee and Mike Renouf.

The lads were full of energy and received a brief pep talk before boarding the bus and setting off to make history.

Tony Sellars, John Poutawera and Alan Woods were also there to see them off. Alan loaded trays of healthy food onto the bus, and Tony loaded his car up with "breakables" before driving to Napier (it is always handy to have a car for unexpected

trips to casualty wards etc).

And so it began...

I would like to be able to continue with a real Cinderella story about games played and goals achieved. Unfortunately, I feel we need to call in *Fair Go!*

Firstly, the two teams arrived in Napier to be told that instead of two games each over two days, they would have only one game each! For some tourists, this would mean very little football over the weekend.

Secondly, instead of playing age-grade teams, MSP was drawn to play against two senior teams - North Harbour Marist on Saturday and Wairoa on the Sunday.

This was a particularly disappointing as Alan Woods had confirmed with the hosts earlier in the week that MSP would play two games each against other age-grade teams.

Our management team were very disappointed. They felt that the hard work in getting the teams together and the investment by the club and

players (circa \$10,000) was looking like paying very little dividend.

The games were understandably hard and the managers report that MSP played well. Even though we did not record a win we acquitted ourselves with distinction on and off the field.

The tourists report that overall they had a very good time (socially) and that the coaches and managers were (mostly) very well behaved.

This report is not presented as a hard luck story, but rather as information to members.

Times have changed and the club believes strongly that the Spillane Tournament has a future, but not as an Easter event. I see the issues that plagued this trip as being proof absolute that changes are necessary.

The recommendations of MSP or other Marist clubs to move the tournament to either a pre- or post-season event must be acted upon if the Spillane is to survive.

## Coaches honoured at 1970s' reunion

by Tim Donoghue

Members of the champion 1978-80 Marist St Pats senior A rugby teams celebrated a reunion weekend from Friday 2 June to Sunday 4 June 2006 in Wellington.

The 1979 MSP Jubilee Cup winning team was one of the best sides ever to take the field in the history of New Zealand club rugby. So it was appropriate that team members should honour their coaches Brian Coulter and the late Mick Horan in their own personal and special ways.

Former club chairman John Knox made a small presentation to Mick's widow, Jo Horan, for a lifetime of service to the Marist and Marist St Pat's clubs at a function at the MSP clubrooms on Friday 2 June.

Tony Duffin too made a similar presentation to his fellow life member Coulter - who was accompanied as always by his wife Carole at the reunion weekend - at the Latitude 41 restaurant function on the Saturday night.

Following in the official speaking footsteps of captain Kevin Horan and Maurice Standish, a number of former players also paid their own

individual tributes to Coulter and Horan in their impromptu speeches at the dinner.

Captain of the 1978-80 teams Kevin Horan and his wife Jan travelled from Japan - where Kevin has a coaching contract - to be there, and Billy Te Oka and his wife Anne-Marie travelled from Australia to attend.

The champion 1979 team was in its embryonic stages in the late 1960s when Coulter, who played halfback in one of Wellington provincial rugby's finest wins (over the Springboks on Athletic Park in 1965) assumed the coaching job of the old Marist Club from Mick Horan.

Beneath their protective umbrella, the MSP juggernaut went on to sweep all before it - in 1979, played 20, won 20, with 391 points for and 123 against. This sequence was part of a 42-match winning run.

The 2006 premiers and coach Brendan Reidy did their bit to help make the weekend a great success with an outstanding 30-21 win over Poneke on Kilbirnie Park.

• **For the full account of the reunion, plus photos and a list of who was there, see the MSP website - [www.msprugby.co.nz/history](http://www.msprugby.co.nz/history).**

## South African commentator to speak at Shamrock Dinner

Hugh Bladen, the voice of South African rugby, will be the feature speaker at this year's Shamrock Club Dinner.

Held annually the night before the Wellington test, the dinner is a highlight of MSP's calendar.

A former Transvaal flyhalf, Hugh Bladen is well known to New Zealand rugby fans as the commentator for Super 14 and Test matches in South Africa.

Sharing the podium with him will be local comedienne Pinky Agnew. The dinner will be held on Friday 21 July at the MSP clubrooms, beginning at 7pm.

The following day, as is normal now on Test day, MSP's clubrooms will "adjourn" to the waterfront for the day.

With the test scheduled to kick off at the Stadium at 7.30pm, Shamrock Club members can enjoy a pre-Test function at the Boatshed from Saturday 4pm onwards. Other club members are invited to attend pre-match drinks at the Rowers.

Post-match, all members are invited to the Boatshed where a live band will be playing.

Some Shamrock Club Test Match packages are still available; if interested, contact either:

- Tony Duffin - ph 463 3316
- Alan Woods - ph 0274 439 176
- Steve Witkowski - ph 384 5811 or
- Bob Metcalf - ph 472 0071.

**REMEMBER! - MSP's clubrooms will adjourn to the Rowers and the Boatshed on Test Day, Saturday 22 July.**



## Senior 2s back on winning trail

MSP's senior 2 team started the season in great style with six straight wins. After a string of losses, they bounced back to form on 1 July with a 35-17 win over OBU - Mike Duncan converting all five tries.

The team is (back, from left): Brendan Nally (coach), George Fasala, Simon McOscar, Rocky Leofa, Mike Renouf, Callum Jones, Glyn Woolhouse, Tim Sterne, Liam O'Brien (captain), Manuel

Gyorgy, Liam Martin, Jason Paese, and Theo Waterhouse.

Front, from left: Gus Slade (coach), Arnold Politini, Hoani Siueva, Irana Tagaloa, and Turlanga Uelese.

Personnel changes since this photo was taken before the game against Avalon have seen Henry Cook, Fabian Aspinall, Mike Duncan, Jamie Tansley, Alastair McBride and Troy LaMaster join the team.



# MSP Ball back in fashion

The tradition of the Marist Ball was revived on 1 July this year when 160 members and supporters gathered at the Pines for the MSP Shamrock Ball.

Organised by J.P. Tocker, Lauren Andrews, Libby Carson, Bryce Tietjens and Craig Simeon, the night was a roaring success - even making the 'society pages' of the *Dominion Post*.



Above left: JP Tocker, Craig Simeon and Will Magee get to know each other.

Left: Stephanie Malcolm, Jana Bint, Penny Martin, and Deborah Simeon.



# Top points' scorers

With the season over half way through, the club's top points scorers up to and including 24 June are:

		Tries			
Julian Tupai	premier	11			
Jackson Martin	senior 1	7			
Ben Kilkenny	under-85 A	7			
Alastair McBride	senior 2	6			
Andrew Woods	under-85 B	6			
Marc Le	senior 1	6			
Jope Nabou	premier	6			
		Kicking points	Total points		
Fa'atonu Fili	premier 1	98	98		
Mike Duncan	senior 2	79	94		
George Ironside	under 19	70	70		
Daniel Kauraka	senior 1	45	60		
Nathan Bridgeland	under-85 B	43	63		
Ben Kilkenny	under-85 A	42	77		

(Thanks to Barrie Smith for the stats)

# World Cup colt back with prems

Premier prop Arden David will be back in action for MSP in July following a month away with the NZ Colts team that competed in the under-21 World Cup in France in June.

He played in four matches including the semi-final against South Africa, and says he learnt a lot on a great trip.

"It was the first time I had been in a New Zealand rugby team, and that had been one of my goals."

He started in two matches, including the loss to eventual winners South Africa. Three SA colts have since been selected for the Springboks' Tri-Nations team.

New Zealand then beat Australia 39-36 in the play-offs to come third overall.

Arden, now 104kg, began his rugby as a four-year-old with Norths, but says MSP has always been his 'family club'.

An old boy of Wellington College, Arden made the first XV as a flanker but says rugby wasn't really his focus at school. Athletics was a big interest - he represented New Zealand in the discus and shot put - and he also enjoyed swimming, rowing, and volleyball.

It was only on joining MSP in 2004 and becoming part of a talented senior one side that he began to concentrate on rugby.

He made the Wellington under-19s, and then the Wellington Academy. Being told that he was 'lucky' to make the academy only made him determined to do better. In 2005, he was selected for the Wellington colts - with a year to go - and MSP's premiers.

Arden set himself the goal of making the national team this year and, after playing well for the academy side, said he was speechless when Brian Lochore read his name out. Now he is looking forward to the rest of the club year.

"I'll be trying to push on - I've still got a lot of fire to burn. Hopefully, MSP can make the top four. There's a lot of good young guys and we've just got to put it all together."

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# Terry Manion's 28 years' service to MSP

*Terry Manion, Kevin Allan, and Alan Woods were awarded life membership of Marist St Pats at the club's AGM last November. Terry is profiled here.*

Twenty-one years ago, Terry took on the role of club captain of Marist St Pats. He had joined the club when it was established in 1971 and, in 1978 and 1979, he was manager of the club's under-21 2nd division teams.

In his club captain's column in the 1985 annual report, Terry made these comments:

"The game itself seems to be going through a period of change. Rugby has become the victim of competition which is facing all sports - the competition for sponsorship, reduction in injuries, better facilities, increase in numbers, and retention and improvement of administrators.

"With this in mind I want to ask now



**TERRY MANION**

that all players think about what is ahead of them in 1986. Think about what you are going to contribute to Marist St Pats. I want you to think about helping the club, training purposefully, supporting your coach, conducting yourselves on and off the field in a fitting manner, and respecting the man who controls the game every Saturday."

This epitomises what Terry has done for our club ever since. He became the manager of the under-21 1st division teams in 1986 and 1987, and in 1988 was manager of the senior Bs. He stepped forward again as club captain in 1989.

In 1997, while manager of the

senior 1/premier 2 team, he managed the MSP side which won the North Island Marist Sevens Tournament at Whakatane.

In 1998 he was manager of the senior 1s, and in 1999 became assistant manager of the premier side that won both the Jubilee Cup and the Swindale Shield.

In 2006, seven years later, Terry still carries out that assistant manager's role.

Clubs like Marist St Pats depend on dedicated volunteers who will work long hours on the absolutely essential but less glamorous tasks week after week.

Terry J. Manion has truly practised what he preached 21 years ago.

An astute administrator, a deeply loyal Marist person, and an ever popular club member, MSP is indebted to Terry who has given great service in a wide range of tasks.

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## Unbeaten under-85 Bs march on

Twelve games into the season the under-85kg Bs remain the only unbeaten MSP team, with a clean sheet of 12 wins and a staggering record of 329 points for and just 30 against.

Coach Geoff Stretch says the results reflect an across-the-board team effort.

"Last year we had a few stand-out players but this year everyone's playing well. It's the second year together for most of the players and

we're starting to see some good combinations."

Geoff, the son of MSP life member John Stretch, says he's loving coaching, particularly as the team plays a very open style of game with plenty of tries scored through the backs.

Halfback Scott Aitcheson captains the side, and No 8 Simon Gini has been in fine form. Others to shine include second-five Tony Natoli and utility back Troy Dehar.

Crunch time for the team will

come on 15 July when the 21 teams playing under-85 rugby split from two divisions into three. To date, the Bs have been clearly the best side in the second division - they beat third placed Wellington 35-3 - but they will find the going tougher when they play the bottom teams from division one.

"It will be a test for us," says Geoff. "But we should be challenging ourselves. I'm confident we have the ability to win the grade."

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## Highlights of juniors' weather-interrupted season

*by junior convenor Pat Dunn*

The season has been in full swing for the juniors since Saturday 29 April. While the season is now 10 weeks on, several playing days in June were hit by cancellations.

Over a nine-week period, four Saturdays were affected by cancellations. Last year, only one weekend of junior rugby was cancelled.

Congratulations to Rory English on his selection for the under-13 Wellington Zone team to compete against their Western Bays and Hutt

Valley counterparts in July.

Congratulations also to

• Siale Siale, Tuakana Allan-Moetaua and Faresa Tasale, all under-13 players who have been nominated for the under-12 Wellington Zone Rugby team.

• Madison Lauder and Khodi Simeona who have been nominated for the Wellington Zone Girls Rugby team to compete with the Western Bays and Hutt Valley teams.

On behalf of MSP junior rugby, we wish all our rep players well in these upcoming tournaments.

This year, MSP has fielded 21 junior teams with over 280 players registered. For the first time, the tackle grade teams from the under-9s to under-13s were weighed and photographed.

This was done at the MSP clubrooms in early May by representatives from the Wellington Zone Junior Rugby Committee including grading convenor Tam Miratana. Its aim was to ensure players are properly allocated to the correct team based on their year of birth and weight.