



THE RED MACHINE

Newsletter of the Marist St Pats Rugby Football Club Inc

PO Box 3472, Wellington

www.msprugby.co.nz

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Annual Prizegiving and Club Captain's Dinner

The end-of-season finale will be at the clubrooms on
Friday 7 September,
at 7.00 pm.

The presentation of awards starts at 7.30pm. A \$10 buffet meal will be provided at 8pm. Entertainment later.
- *All players, club members and supporters invited.*



DIVINE INTERVENTION: Even the support of Pope Richie and Lord Ally wasn't enough to give premier captain Craig Simeon (centre) and his team a winning edge in the Jubilee Cup final at the Westpac Trust Stadium on 12 August.

Despite vocal backing from the Vatican Army and MSP supporters, a crowd of 5000 saw Hutt Old Boys Marist secure their first Cup with an 18-10 win.

Many highlights in successful season

by John Spillane
MSP chairman

With the 2007 season closing for the 15s game and spring and summer beckoning, it is time to reflect on what has been a very successful season for the club.

MSP is back in a prominent position within Wellington rugby, and we have a big group of dedicated players, coaches, managers and administrators to thank for what has been a very enjoyable season.

I would also like to thank the supporters who turned out in their thousands at the final at the stadium, and in slightly smaller numbers at Evan Bay Park and other less prestigious grounds throughout the season.

Your presence and vocal support is absolutely appreciated by the players.

Looking at the trophy cabinet we may not have collected that much silverware, but we have none-the-less built on the efforts and hard work of past years to feature prominently in the key competitions.

Highlights include:

- Four teams made finals (where we won one, drew one and lost two).
- The premiers won the second round of the competition, dropping only one game and re-establishing MSP as a dominant force in Wellington rugby. Seventeen premier players were selected for various representative teams.
- In a result that bodes well for the future, the colts won their competition with a solid 20-0 victory over HOB Marist.
- The under-85 kg Red team drew their final after winning eight straight games. The under-85 Blues loss in their final was their first defeat since

July 2006.

- The smart new SAS jerseys were a huge success (although a bit too snug for me).
- The upgraded gym floor won over all critics and is proving to be a very useful training facility for the club, school and indeed the WRFU (who use it for rep trainings in many grades).
- The clubrooms operated well all year with some very big nights. The food from the kitchen was a consistent winner.
- The Shamrock Club again provided fantastic backing and I sincerely thank all the friends of MSP for their continued support.

This year has reconfirmed that MSP is a strong and viable club and I wish to thank everyone involved. I look forward to seeing you at the prizegiving and club captain's dinner on 7 September.

JUBILEE CUP FINAL 2007

Celebrated sports photographer Peter Bush was at the Stadium on

12 August to take these shots of the Jubilee Cup final.



LOCKS Nick Passi and Marcus Slade



DISAPPOINTED at what might have been....



THE FRONT ROW CLUB are all concentration: Jamie Parkinson, Ged Robinson, and Arden David, with Victor Vito at the rear.



THE VATICAN ARMY kept up vocal support, and formed part of a colourful crowd of 5000.



No 8 Alex Tulou on the burst, supported by Craig Simeon, Marcus Slade, and Victor Vito. Form like this has seen Alex called into the Wellington Lions.



A well-protected Reece Poutawera clears the ball

Colts clinch trophy

Buoyed by a good crowd at a windy Evans Bay Park, MSP's colts dominated up front from the start to win the second division final 20-0 over HOB Marist on 25 August.

With first-half tries to Jack Price and captain Tui Tuiatua plus a conversion and penalty from Tim Cederwall, the Edwin Meachen-coached side led 15-0 at halftime.

In the second half they shut the bigger HOBM side out of the game, and second-five Isaia Petelo added a further try in the last 10 minutes.

The result secured the the Vic Calcinal Memorial Trophy, and gave the team a second-round record of 10 wins from 11 games.



HAPPINESS is winning the final... colts celebrate at Evans Bay

Short cuts

NZ Marist colts on tour

Senior first prop Poasa Poasa was MSP's selection for the New Zealand Marist colts team that toured the top of the North Island in the last week of August.

Poasa captained the St Pats Town 1st XV in 2005, and he has made a big impression at MSP with his team ethic and robust play in two years in the senior 1s.

In making the NZ Marist colts side, Poasa joined representatives from 28 Marist clubs all over New Zealand. Past colts from other clubs have included Saimone Tau-moepeau, Gordon Tietjens, Dion Waller, Tony Coughlan, and even referee Paddy O'Brien.

The northern tour included games against Ardmore Marist in Counties, Northland Marist in Whangarei, North Harbour Marist, and the final game against Auckland Marist on 1 September.

Annual general meeting

The club's AGM will be on the last Thursday in November, the 29th, starting at 7pm at the clubrooms. Further notice to follow.

Under-20 rep

Congratulations to Matt Mullany on his selection to the Wellington under-20 rep team.

Coaches and managers 2008

MSP is looking to appoint coaches and managers for the 2008 season.

The club enjoyed a lot of success in 2007, and both roles bring their own rewards. If you would like to be part of what promises to be a good year in 2008, contact either chairman John Spillane on 021 248 0342, or club captain Pat Martin, ph 027 358 7099. Email pat.martin@paradise.net.nz.

Sevens tournaments

Sevens has proved popular at MSP in recent years, and the club will be well represented at various tournaments coming up. These include:

WRFU under-21 sevens

Saturday 8 September
Maidstone Park, Upper Hutt

American Ambassador Sevens

Saturday 15 September

Local Point Sevens

Saturday 22 September

WRFU Sevens

Saturday 6 October

Check the newspaper or the WRFU website for venue and draw details.

If you want to take part, contact club CCO John Duignan on 021 223 3160.



Reds share title

The under-85kg Reds had a great season, going undefeated in the second round, 12 points clear of the second placed team, and drawing the final 13-all against Tawa.

Coach Geoff Stretch

says the team had a lot of new players, and it was a pleasure to watch them develop and earn the Reds' second consecutive title.

Chad Thornton and Nick Penfold had a big part in the team's success, Geoff says, and he also appreciated the support from the under-85 Blue and Black teams.

LEFT: Reds prop Brent Ewing has the ball in hand, with James Sheehan ranging outside and Jared Crawford coming up in support.

Familiar face on billboards

If the face on the SPARC billboards around town seems familiar, that's because it features MSP under-85 Blues coach Andrew Robinson.

Andrew was coaching his team at Martin Luckie Park back in May when renowned photographer Peter Bush introduced himself and asked if Andrew would mind him taking a few photos.

SPARC had enlisted Peter to take photos as part of a SPARC marketing campaign to highlight the benefits of volunteering in sport and recreation. He photographed Andrew and his team in their match against



POSTER BOYS: Andrew Robinson (centre) with Miles Tait and Kevin Loo.

Tawa, and later took photos of Andrew's wife Rachel at her weekly washing of the team jerseys.

Many benefits in volunteering

Most of us will have done volunteer work at some time in our lives; maybe as a children's sports coach or school fundraiser. Such work for the greater good of communities - and in particular promotion of our national game of rugby - should be included in an individual's CV!

New Zealand has been practically founded on the backs of volunteers - it is estimated that we spend more than 250 million hours a year in volunteer work, worth more than \$2 billion.

People generally volunteer in areas they are passionate about. They can use their talents to produce great results.

Volunteer work also gives people the opportunity to use skills, especially in leadership, that they may not get to use in paid employment. By demonstrating skills gained in voluntary work, people can apply for paid roles that use similar talents.

Putting your voluntary experience to work with MSP helps to identify additional transferable skills. It will increase your confidence in your worth to present to future employers, particularly if you are planning on returning to the workforce.

Volunteer work for MSP is important, not just for the community but also because employers value it.

And MSP offers plenty of volunteer opportunities! If you would like to contribute in any way whatsoever, we can make the opportunities available! Contact us at msprugby@xtra.co.nz.

As an example, the club is currently seeking assistance to develop IT projects such as web distribution of newsletters, and information and text messages to players and supporters.

Become a Marist St Pats volunteer; a member of the Red Army!

A trophy with tradition

One of the trophies this year's premier side collected was the Viv Haigh Memorial Trophy, secured after their 9-3 first-round win over Wests.

The trophy is named after Viv Haigh, who first played for the old Onslow club in 1929. After his promising career was cut short by injury he turned to administration and coaching.

He was the Onslow club's treasurer for 16 years, and a popular and highly respected club member.

After Viv's untimely death, W.B. Griffiths presented a trophy in his memory for competition between the Onslow and Marist clubs. Marist won the first match, played on 14 May 1960.

Marist later merged with St Pats to become Marist St Pats, and Onslow



MSP life member Dan Kelly with Jan Stewart, daughter of Viv Haigh.

merged with Athletic and Karori to form Wests. Today the trophy is contested by MSP and Wests premiers in the Swindale Shield round.

Junior Prizegiving

The juniors' end-of-year extravaganza will be on

**Saturday 15 September
MSP clubrooms, Hataitai**

**9.30am: under-6s to under-8s
10.45am: under-9s to under-13s**

The RED MACHINE is compiled by Pat Martin. Printing by Milne Printers. Photos Peter Bush, John Holden.

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