

# Goulburn Rugby Union Football Club



## MONARO FIRST DIVISION:

1st Grade Minor Premiers

1st Grade Premiers

2nd Grade Premiers

Club Champions

# 2007 Yearbook & Annual Report



## 2007: The Year in Review

Welcome to our year in review and thanks for being a part of Goulburn Rugby in 2007. It's been a sensational year for the club and the club president and coach, along with the presidents of the various Goulburn Rugby intra clubs, will speak more on that in this book.

Along with those reports, we are extremely fortunate to have full match reports from every match this year, courtesy of publicity officer Pete Oliver and the Goulburn Post. On top of that, the Folksy Red briefly came out of self-imposed retirement for the first few matches this year and so we have included his columns from the Post.

From the shaky isles, Kev Kara - who organised the end of season tour to New Zealand for interested players from the Goulburn, Taralga and Crookwell clubs - has penned a report on their exploits, which is included, along with the season statistics, faithfully recorded by Gary Stephens each year, and the results from the presentation night.

It has been a truly remarkable year for the club and we hope you enjoy reflecting on it with us.

## **Life Members**

John Bell  
Bruce Bailey (dec)  
Gordon Cabot  
Nick Els  
Bert Geissler (dec)  
Win Healey (dec)  
Greg Hussey  
Kevin Kara  
David Klem  
Matthew Klem  
Dr Doug McCulloch  
Brian "Snow" Maloney  
John Osmond  
Ken Player (dec)  
John Shiel  
Gary Stephens  
Terry Tilden  
Sam White

## **Committee & Staff for season 2007**

### **President**

Matt Klem

### **Committee**

Jack Cunningham

Peter Greaves

Kev Kara

Rob Sheekey

Sam White

Bob Whittaker

### **Managers**

Gary Stephens

Liz McLoughlin

### **Senior Vice President**

Liz McLoughlin

### **Strapper**

Anthony White

### **Junior Vice President**

Robbie Cosgrove

Aaron Wild

### **Waterboy**

Geoff Shepherd

### **Secretary**

Colin Groves/

Chris Gordon

### **Registrar**

Gary Stephens

### **Grounds Marshall**

Bob Whittaker

### **Treasurer**

Paul O'Rourke

### **Coach (1st & 2nd Grade)**

Matt O'Rourke

# President's Report

**By MATT KLEM**



*Club president  
Matt Klem in  
the Grand  
Final*

Thank you for being a part of Goulburn Rugby this year. 2007 has been an exhilarating and successful year. We achieved great things due to the efforts of many people but, as always, it all happens thanks to the many generous sponsors of the Fizzy Reds, Tablelands Reds and Fizzy Reds. Without their support clubs such as ours would not operate and our great successes this year are largely thanks to those sponsors, in particular the Goulburn Soldier's Club. Thank you for your generous support.

2007 saw the Fizzy Reds return to Carr Confoy. With this there was also a change at the helm, with Sam White stepping down and Jack Cunningham filling the President's role.

Thanks to Jack and his team of willing volunteers for another fine job of organising and running a successful Friday night comp. Thanks to the coaches, canteen helpers and supporter of the Fizzy Reds. You are the lifeblood of the Goulburn Rugby family.

2007 is the second year for the Tablelands Reds. Congratulations to Peter Greaves, the coaches, managers, players and supporter of the U18's, U16's and U15's. U16's and U15's had mixed seasons with some tough opposition met and some great rugby played. A special thanks goes to Annette and Heelian for their efforts in the canteen and on the sideline.

U18's had a great season, playing some great rugby. There are some great prospects coming through that hopefully the Dirty Reds will see next year. You only have to look at Benny Moore who is the first Tablelands player to play senior grade in 2007, and is more than capable of mixing it with the big boys. Once again well done and it is great to see you all here tonight supporting our Club.

Now, to the seniors - the Dirty Reds - and what a list of accomplishments they achieved this year.: Monaro Club Champions; Minor Premiers – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade; Undefeated Premiers – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade; Premiers – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade These were outstanding achievements and congratulation must go to all involved for what became our best year in a long time.

The season started with Ben Pearson at the helm, though some unfortunate family circumstances saw Pearson withdraw from the coaching role. As the news filtered through the club all involved showed tremendous support to the Pearson family, and it is great to see the outcome of this trying time has been so positive. A special thanks to Pearson your efforts over the years. Well done mate.

Congratulations to Matt 'Push up King' O'Rourke for taking on the 1st and 2nd Grade coaching positions, to give the commitment that Chook has was a huge ask considering he had to travel from

Canberra every training session, sometimes to find 10 blokes at training on a cold winters night. Well done Chooky.

Thanks to Anthony “fingers” White for all your efforts throughout the year. A lot of people did not know Whitey had an operation mid season on his leg and to turn up week in week out in pain without complaints was a real credit to Whitey. We wish you a full recovery and you can’t retire yet as we would like you to christen the new strapping shed in 2008.

Without Whitey ‘s talents many players would not be able to take the field each week, thanks for attending to our injuries on a week to week basis and advice. Without Whitey and Back on Track, I would not have been able to be part of the Grand final winning team. Thanks mate.

Thanks also to Gary Stephens, the stats man. Now we can finally say that Stevo was not the last man to win a 1st grade Grand final as I have been reminded for quite a few years. Thanks for your efforts throughout the year. All our statistical information is only available due to Stevo’s efforts.

Stevo’s stats for 2007 tell us the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - 523 points for, 43 against
- 74 tries, 6 against – a great defensive effort
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 312 points for, 140 against
- 37 tries, 22 against – a great Club Championship effort

And alongside Stevo again was Geoffro, Stevo’s sidekick and the sausage sandwich king. A great effort, without Geoffrey the team would be very dehydrated on Saturday’s. He is our number one supporter and plays a very important role during the games. Well done Geoff.

Congratulation Anthony Allport, for finally paying his fees and also for receiving the Monaro Rep Player of the Year. To all the Monaro Rep players congratulations on your selection.

Thank you to all the players and supporters, for your commitment shown over the 2007 season. Due to Poidevin Oval being like concrete at the start of the season we had to surrender our home ground advantage and play the first round away, to all players credit they stepped up to the mark and showed support by maintaining our numbers for these games.

The second round saw the return to Poidevin Oval though there was a hitch, no bus trips and two forfeits. The players put this aside and focused on the task ahead with first grade winning the major semi-final proceeding to the grand final, and second grade winning minor semi-final with a show down in Cooma for the Final. With this we had our final bus trip to Cooma winning convincingly and setting the stage for a Double header in Goulburn for the first time in Goulburn Red’s history.

And then the day. Grand final day in Goulburn. Congratulations to both grades, an excellent outcome. Congratulations to all involved. Thanks to all the helpers on the day, without your support it would not have happened.

A special thanks to all the supporters that turned up on the day and throughout the season, it was appreciated and we know that you were all as excited in the Premierships as the players were. The day will go down in Club history, and as President and a player it will never be forgotten.

To the Fermenteds, we have not seen much of you guys on the paddock this year, more so in the Bar area. The 9th September saw Fermenteds strut their stuff in a Gala Day at Poidevin Oval and they are poised for a bigger and better season 2008.

The Rugby Ball was again a fantastic success. 420 people attending to let their hair down. Thanks to the sponsors for their donations and memorabilia items for the auction.

Thanks to the Soldiers Club, Amanda and Murph for all your help, Dan the functions co-ordinator, a great job done, Ben and Kylie for an outstanding meal served to 420 people, thanks to Lizzy, Matt, Welshy, Em, Lisa, Col, Trudi, Sam, Nico, Cossy, Tetley and all the other helpers for your assistance in organising and setting up of the most successful ball yet.

Thanks to Sheekey for the MC. Thanks to the fastest talking auctioneers east of the Great Divide, Nico and Nev, these three guys did an outstanding job, a credit to you all.

To Gordo and Pete, thanks for all your photography and filming for 2007. Gordo has done a splendid job in producing a magnificent DVD presentation of the Club games of 2007 as you have witnessed tonight. Gordo thanks also for your time in the canteen this season.

Thanks to the rest of the committee for an outstanding year. It is a thankless job, once again thanks for your efforts this year.

Liz – Thanks for all your work from Junior to Seniors, your IT skills, counselling, putting up with me. Without Lizzy's organization skills we would be reinventing the wheel each year. Thanks mate.

Col – Canteens and the book of knowledge on the constitutions.

Chooky senior – The GST and cash man, I will be fronting the O'Rourke high court first thing Monday morning to explain the expenditure of Presentation Night. Thanks for all your time.

Bob – The ground marshal, great job and always there to lend a hand.

Cossy – Friday night juniors canteen, and always around when odd jobs need doing.

Tetley – The line-marking king, the quiet achiever in many aspects.

Kev and Jack – Fizzy's through to Senior's always there to lend a hand and senior guidance .

Newby – The serial pest, Club Captain, Club Morale at an all time high. Well done.

Last but not least, to my family, Trudi, Zach and Toby, thanks for allowing me so much time to give to this great Rugby Club. As President for 2007 it is a year not to be forgotten.

- Two Premierships,
- Great bunch of blokes to play footy with,
- Club morale at an all time high,
- Successful Ball,
- and, The Dirty Reds family.

Thanks for the season. Enjoy your night.

# Tablelands Reds' Report

By **PETER GREAVES**  
**President Tablelands Reds**

Once again, this year we attempted to raise a team in all age groups, from 13's to 18's. As with the previous year, we did not have the numbers following through from the Fizzy Reds therefore we had to drop the 13's and combine the 14's and 15's to make up a team for the 15's age group.

The 16's had a stand alone team with some very good individual talent in the side, but struggled with numbers from match to match. The 18's had good numbers from the pre-season right through to the end of the competition. Most of these lads had come up from the Fizzy's and progressed through the Tablelands junior sides.

The three teams started the season in 2nd grade of the ACT Junior Competition, but the 15's and 16's struggled against the well drilled and well bonded school sides. It was therefore decided early in the competition to drop the 15 and 16's back to the third grade competition where they were much more competitive, so much so that the 15's could have made the semi finals if they did not have to forfeit their last game due to school excursion commitments.

The 16's as mentioned earlier struggled with numbers, especially at training, which makes any teams task of being competitive difficult. However on a positive note there are some very committed, talented players within the team who will be a valued asset for the 18's next year.

The 18's had another good year, with unofficial training starting in late February with very good numbers attending. Official training commenced in April at Carr/Confoy playing fields, where we managed to squeeze in a nearly full size field in front of the canteen area. It was good to have these facilities available as Rugby Park was closed due to the drought conditions.

Just prior to the competition season starting we tried to organise a Goulburn under 18's representative side to play Oak Hill College as a pre-season warm up, but, unfortunately Trinity College would not release their players. This is something that we need to look at for next year as it would be a positive for Goulburn Rugby to have a representative side, it gives the players a goal to aim for and will lift rugby in the communities eyes. Needless to say the game went ahead, but we were comprehensively beaten. Even so, it was a great day, something that the lads really enjoyed and look forward to doing next year.

We had a very young side this year with most of the team just turning seventeen and three of the players still sixteen, this all goes well for next year when we will still have a large nucleus of experienced players who will be much bigger and stronger, an important issue in this age group, when a year can make a big difference.

The team finished fifth in the comp with a 50% success rate This team had a fantastic esprit de corps, were very competitive in the second grade comp, and were unlucky not to make the finals.

Some highlights to come out of this year were:

1. Jacob Kara being selected for the U16 ACT Representative side.
2. Mat Skelly and David Waters being selected to play in the U18 ACT Combined Secondary College Representative side.



# Fizzy Reds' Report

By JACK CUNNINGHAM  
President Fizzy Reds

The year started off well in January with early registrations and a full committee. We ended up with just over 200 junior players including players from Crookwell and Taralga. The breakdown of our teams and players this year was:

- Six under 12 sides
- Four under 10 sides
- Six under 8 sides
- Six under 6 sides.

The year seemed to run reasonably well when we could finally get onto the fields to play and with the council's new couch grass surface planted back in the spring of 06 it looked as if we would have a terrific surface to play on for a change.

As the winter set in and the frosts hit it became evident that the couch grass would not handle the environmental conditions and it died of and once again and we were reduced to playing on a poor surface. All the players handled it well and nobody complained. The standard of play was once again satisfying with all the under 12 sides being reasonably competitive. I think in the end though the 2 best sides played out for the premiership with the crusaders winning what was a tough game quiet convincingly in the end.

In the under 10s the top 3 sides had some great tussles but the reds had a long unproductive season although they always turned up for training and put in win loss or draw. Again it was quiet evident that once the children moving up from under 8 into under 10s and playing tackle for the first time got used to the physical nature of the game the standard of the games improved. It was also evident that if we can keep some of these young kids we will have some very good junior sides in the future. Under 8 and under 6s seemed to run reasonably smoothly and I seemed to get only good reports from any body re these 2 age groups.

The year started off with all enthusiasm and we had planned to get away to 3 or 4 gala days. This did not happen and I feel that this was one disappointing aspect of the year. It was not our fault though as there seemed to be a general apathy out there and there were no invitations forth coming. We held a gala day and sides from Broulee and Yass turned up to play us. Goulburn won all the junior games but ran out even with Yass in the under 12 and considering the Yass side was made up of under 13s it was a real credit to the boys.

As the Dirty Reds had such a good year with both sides making the grand final and as such we had all the grand finals at Poidevin it was decided to play the under 12 grand final as a curtain raiser to the senior grand finals and I think all the players got a thrill out of it and will remember it for the rest of their life , it also added some thing to the carnival nature of the day.

At the end of the season we sent an under 10 and an under 12 side across to Canberra for there annual 7 a side carnival. This is an unofficial state championship with sides from all over NSW attending again we performed well and finished just out side the playoff positions which was disappointing. It was quiet obvious that the sides we played have played as a side all year and we have not but all the kids enjoyed themselves and had a great day.

The final of the year was the Subway presentation day held at Poidevin oval on a beautiful sunny day in August. Along with the games played on the day all the kids appreciated the Tee shirts they were presented with.

In closing I would like to thank all the committee and especially Scott Shearer, Kevin Kara and Sue Williams for their terrific support throughout the year. I could not have done it without their help.



# Fermented Reds' Report

By **GARY STEPHENS**  
President Fermented Reds

2007 has been a quiet year for the Fermented Reds. A combination of non-availability and lack of playing numbers, led to the cancellation of several games.

We eventually hit the paddock on the 10 September 2007 hosting our old friends and combatants, the Kiama Blowhards. Several former Dirty Red "legends" - John Bell, Peter Lucas, Ian Gulson, Matt Ryan and David Stephens, joined a group of keen novices and seasoned Fermenteds to put up a solid first up performance.

Justin Kell, David Neal, Sam Tabner and Shane Nelson, all threw themselves into the action with little thought of self-preservation. It was a pity the season began and ended the same day (there may be some players who disagree with that thought). Many thanks to our referee Brendan McKavanagh and Matt Klem for organising the canteen.

2008 sees the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Fermented Reds. Lack of playing numbers is still an issue but 2008 is looking more positive.

As a result of ringing around to get a team together for the Kiama game, we now have list of prospective players for next year. If anyone knows of any person that may be interested in being involved with the Fermented Red's (we can never have too many players), please get them to contact me.

Finally, I would like to thank Mick Harris, our outgoing Secretary, for his many years of hard work and dedication to the Fermenteds cause and welcome his replacement Kate Hartin.

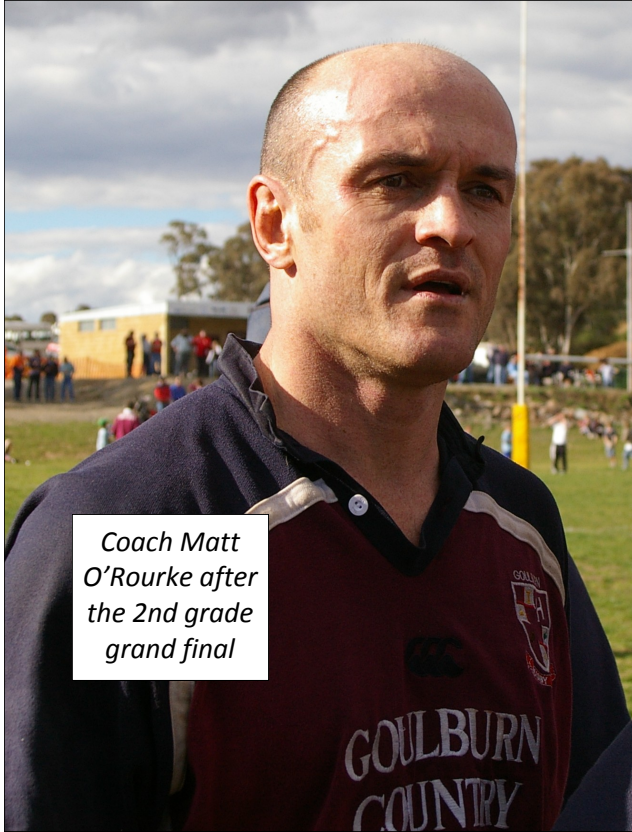
The Golden Oldies Rugby philosophy is "fun, friendship and fraternity". Come and try it. See you next year.

## **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Gary Stephens also played in the one Fermented Reds match played this year, and received a beauty of a shiner for his efforts. On the positive side, Gary was one of two former players (Sam White being the other) to be inducted as a Life Member this season thanks to his many years of helping the club. Congrats on the life membership, sorry about the shiner.

# Coach's Report

By **MATT O'ROURKE**  
First & Second Grade Coach



*Coach Matt O'Rourke after the 2nd grade grand final*

The Goulburn Dirty Reds enjoyed a highly successful seasons on many fronts during 2007. Both first and second grade teams won their respective premierships, there were strong senior player numbers avoiding the need for players to back up during away games, continued development of the junior club, successful off field events including the Annual Rugby Ball and the planned development of Poidevin Oval over the coming off season all indicate the strength of the club, with the prospect to consolidate this position over the coming seasons.

The firsts finished the season as deserved undefeated premiers. Capably led by Anthony Allport in his first season as captain, firsts scored 523 points for, while only conceding 43 points, beating all comers throughout the season.

Much of the current teams' development can be attributed to the influence of Ben Pearson over recent seasons. Coupled with a well balanced team of younger and experienced players, firsts have the prospect to potentially dominate the competition for a number of seasons to come.

Mikael Webber and Neil Gustafson were standout performers amongst the younger players, while the more experienced Dave Anable, Matt Klem and Geoff Caldwell provided strong direction and a stabling influence for the team each week.

The backrow of Pieter De Beer, Chris Kilby and Anthony Yoe were without peer and secured possession consistently to establish and winning platform week in and out. Charlie Brewer adapted well to the challenges of the front row, while rugby new comers Ben Green and Dean Thompson improved as the season progressed, they all will be better players next season.

The next challenge for first grade is to maintain the dominance established during 2007. With application to fitness and training and a determination to develop their game beyond that of 2007, this team can be the benchmark over the next seasons. The job is to realise that goal.

The 2nd grade team were not the competition front runners but improved their game to take out the premiership by the barest of margins. Seconds had a number of former first grade players adding their experience to the younger and less experienced team members.

The standard of second grades game genuinely improved, with the final 3 games of the season being quality fixtures. Ben Moore and Joel McPherson grew in stature as the season progressed and should play many seasons in first grade in the years to come.

Ben Pearson, Jason Kremer, Nick Hartin, Aaron Wilde and Evan Dougal are all first grade standard players, although fitting them into an undefeated team was difficult. A successful reserve grade team is the essence of a successful club as pressure for places in first grade is applied establishing valuable positional depth.

The fruits of the junior program were evident this season with Ben Moore and Dale Backhouse successfully integrating into the senior club. Ben Moore in particular enjoyed a successful season and will play a higher standard of rugby as he matures. Ben is a wonderful example of what the club can hope to expect from the junior program. Congratulations to all involved with the junior club, you can all take credit for the positive contribution of the junior club to the senior teams.

The club support staff including Gary Stevens, Anthony White, Geoff Shepherd, Bob Whitaker, Liz McLaughlin and Colin Groves generously gave their time each weekend to do the things that get teams on the paddock, but generally go unnoticed by the players and spectators.

As members of the rugby club you have all contributed positively to the success 2007. Club Presidents do not come any better than the tireless Matt Klem, the Dirty Reds are fortunate indeed to have Klemmy in the club.

Grand Final day was a fitting highlight of the season, with the Reds demonstrating to the local community a successful and cohesive unit. It will be a day remembered fondly by all involved, players and spectators alike. This experience will provide cherished memories for all for a range of different reasons and should provide momentum going into 2008.

The Future of the club looks positive, with a great sense of camaraderie amongst the players on and off the field. Club Captain Boyd Newby led from the front with after game festivities and was a suitable choice as club captain.

I personally would like to see the club develop the standard of play in a stronger competition to demonstrate their true ability as a team. Regular hard games are the best way to develop players and refine game plans which was lacking at times during 2007.

The Dirty Reds offer a good brand of country rugby, with a strong rugby family supporting the players in their endeavours on the field. Now the club has climbed to top of the competition and won it's first premiership in 30 years, I urge those coming back in 2008 to defend this position with passion and not drift into the rugby wilderness for another 30 years.

# Monaro First Division Draw 2007

		<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2</u>	
Harden	v RMC	21-Apr Harden	16-Jun RMC	Deferred to Sat 21st July
Goulburn	v Yass	Yass	Goulburn	
Hall	v Cooma	Cooma	Hall	
Tugg / Royals	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		28-Apr	23-Jun	
Goulburn	v Cooma	Goulburn	Cooma	Now 6th June
RMC	v Tugg / Royals	RMC	Phillip Oval	
Yass	v Hall	Hall	Yass	Now 21st April
Harden	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		5-May	30-Jun	
Harden	v Tugg / Royals	Viking Park	Harden	
Hall	v Goulburn	Hall	Goulburn	
Cooma	v Yass	Yass	Cooma	
RMC	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		12-May	7-Jul	
Harden	v Hall	Harden	Hall	Now 14th April
RMC	v Cooma	Cooma	RMC	
Goulburn	v Tugg / Royals	Viking Park	Goulburn	
Yass	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		19-May	14-Jul	
RMC	v Goulburn	Goulburn	RMC	
Yass	v Harden	Harden	Yass	
Tugg / Royals	v Hall	Phillip Oval	Hall	
Cooma	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
			21-Jul Comp Bye	
		26-May	28-Jul	
RMC	v Hall	RMC	Hall	
Yass	v Tugg / Royals	Yass	Phillip Oval	
Cooma	v Harden	Cooma	Harden	
Goulburn	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		2-Jun	4-Aug	
Yass	v RMC	Yass	RMC	
Cooma	v Tugg/Royals	Cooma	Viking Park	
Harden	v Goulburn	Harden	Goulburn	
Hall	v Bye	Bye	Bye	
		9-Jun Comp Bye		

**Finals Series Dates: 11th August, 18th August & 25th August.**

# Monaro First Division Results 2007

## Round 1 - 21st April

### 1st Grade:

Goulburn	50	def	Yass	5
Cooma	26	def	Hall	15
Hall	25	def	Tuggers	22
Tuggers			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Goulburn	32	def	Yass	0
Cooma	22	def	Hall	19
Royals	22	def	RMC	3
Royals			Bye	

## Round 2 - 28th April

### 1st Grade

Hall	22	def	Yass	12
Goulburn	15	def	Cooma	0
Harden			Bye	

### 2nd Grade

Hall	18	def	Yass	5
Goulburn	10	def	Cooma	22
Harden			Bye	

## Round 3 - 5th May

### 1st Grade:

Tuggers	50	def	Harden	5
Goulburn	72	def	Hall	7
Yass	31	def	Cooma	8
RMC			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Royals	63	def	Harden	0
Hall	12	def	Goulburn	12
Cooma	24	def	Yass	3
RMC			Bye	

## Round 4 - 12th May

### 1st Grade:

Cooma	20	def	RMC	0
Goulburn	43	def	Tuggers	5
Hall	41	def	Harden	19
Yass			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Cooma	20	def	RMC	10
Royals	19	def	Goulburn	5
Hall	34	def	Harden	21
Yass			Bye	

## Round 5 - 19th May

### 1st Grade:

Goulburn	53	def	RMC	0
Harden	12	def	Yass	29
Tuggeranong	7	def	Hall	12

### 2nd Grade:

Goulburn	42	def	RMC	5
Harden	22	def	Yass	10
Royals	34	def	Hall	7

## Round 6 - 26th May

### 1st Grade:

Goulburn	53	def	RMC	0
Harden	12	def	Yass	29
Hall	12	def	Tuggers	7

### 2nd Grade:

Goulburn	42	def	RMC	5
Harden	22	def	Yass	10
Roy	34	def	Hall	7

## Round 7 - 2nd June

### 1st Grade:

Cooma	24	def	Tuggers	15
Goulburn	20	def	Harden	0
Yass	17	def	RMC	14
Hall			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Cooma	18	def	Royals	15
Goulburn	20	def	Harden	0
RMC	17	def	Yass	7
Hall			Bye	

## Round 8 - 16th June

### 1st Grade:

RMC	82	def	Harden	7
Goulburn	43	def	Yass	0
Hall	20	def	Cooma	18
Tuggers			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Harden	24	def	RMC	22
Goulburn	24	def	Yass	10
Hall	34	def	Cooma	32
Royals			Bye	

## Round 9 - 23rd June

### 1st Grade:

Yass	31	def	Hall	20
Harden			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Hall	26	def	Yass	7
Harden			Bye	

## Round 10 - 30th June

### 1st Grade:

Goulburn	39	def	Hall	5
Tuggers	48	def	Harden	10
RMC			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Goulburn	15	def	Hall	12
Harden	24	drew	Royals	24
RMC			Bye	

## Round 11 - 7th July

### 1st Grade:

Goulburn	55	def	Tuggers	0
Hall	24	def	Harden	14
Cooma	51	def	Yass	5

### 2nd Grade:

Royals	19	def	Goulburn	7
Hall	10	def	Harden	7
Cooma	52	def	Yass	10

## Round 12 - 14th July

### 1st Grade:

Goulburn	20	def	RMC	0
Hall	27	def	Tuggers	7
Yass	20	def	Harden	0
Cooma			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Goulburn	20	def	RMC	0
Royals	24	def	Hall	19
Yass	20	def	Harden	0
Cooma			Bye	

## Round 13 - 21st July

### 1st Grade:

Goulburn	20	def	Cooma	10
RMC	50	def	Harden	0

### 2nd Grade:

Goulburn	12	def	Cooma	5
Harden	22	def	RMC	0

## Round 14 - 28th July

### 1st Grade:

RMC	38	def	Hall	14
Tuggers	31	def	Yass	19
Cooma	55	def	harden	5
Goulburn			Bye	

### 2nd Grade:

Hall	18	def	RMC	7
Royals	48	def	Yass	0
Harden	22	def	Cooma	16
Goulburn			Bye	

## Semis - 11th August

### 1st Grade:

Maj: G'bn	18	def	Cooma	6
Min: Tug	25	def	Hall	21

### 2nd Grade:

Maj: Roy	32	def	Cooma	7
Min: G'bn	52	def	Hall	22

## Finals - 18th August

1st: Tug	8	def	Cooma	7
2nd: G'bn	26	def	Cooma	0

## Grand Finals - 25th August

1st: G'bn	55	def	Tuggers	5
2nd: G'bn	15	def	Royals	14

# Match Reports from the Goulburn Post

Round 1—Saturday, 21 April 2007

## Reds bury Rams

By PETER OLIVER

### FIRST GRADE:

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 50  
Yass Rams 5**

The Goulburn Dirty Reds sent an ominous warning to the Monaro competition on Saturday, thumping the Yass Rams 50-5. Fullback Rob Sheekey scored a hat-trick in the seven tries to one win over Goulburn's rival of 130 years, in a game where the Reds never really hit top gear.

It was a case of something old and something new for the Reds. Pete de Beer made a long awaited return to the first grade side, after missing last year with an injury, while there were a few new faces in the mix. Last year's second grade players' player Ben Green made the step up to the first grade squad, while Dean Thompson made his run on debut.

The Reds got off to a solid start, with Sheekey testing the Rams' defence out wide with some blazing runs, and it didn't take the Reds long to open their account.

The Reds' forward pack mauled the ball up from a lineout, grinding away at the Rams' defence before spinning the ball out wide to Sheekey, who shimmied in and away to score next to the posts after 12 minutes. Flyhalf Mick Webber slotted the conversion for a 7-0 lead.

Although the Reds were hammered by the whistle, they still managed to turn over plenty of Yass ball at the breakdown, and defended grimly on their line.

The whistle blew once too often for Webber, who earned an early halftime break after venting his frustration at referee Glenn Piazza.

It was scrappy stuff from both sides, who struggled to control the ball until winger Jay Butler crossed in the corner for to take a 14-0 lead, before Sheekey crossed just before the break.

The Reds switched to a game of pick and drive, mixed up with some superb play through the backline, making easy yards up field. When veteran Martin Browne smashed his way over for a try, the game looked in the bag, with number eight Anthony Yeo adding to the Rams' misery with a barge-over five-pointer.

The shellacking wasn't over, with Webber adding a try to his name and Sheekey notching up his third. Debutante, Dale Backhouse came on as a replacement and scored his



*First grade captain Anthony Allport in the season opener*

maiden Reds try.

The Reds backrow continued their great form of last year, and with the experience of de Beer, will again be a factor this season. New prop Charlie Brewer had a massive game up front, with his high work-rate around the paddock a testament to his background on the flank.

The discipline from the Reds was at time dire; luckily they played well enough for it not to become a factor. One disappointment for the Reds will be the late, and very soft try, scored by the Rams' Brett Waters from a Yass kick off.

The 3-2-1 went to the outstanding flanker Chris Kilby, who was all over the park for the full 80 minutes, Brewer and Thompson. Hooker Anthony Allport again played his typical bustling game, earning the players' player accolade.

### SECOND GRADE:

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 32  
Yass Rams 0**

In second grade the Reds also recorded a victory, knocking over the Hoggets 32-0. Flanker Jason Kremer had a memorable Saturday, scoring two barnstorming tries from half-way and picking up the players' player award.

Outside centre Pat Little also picked up two tries, including a sensational near length of the field intercept after the Reds had been camped on their line.

The 3-2-1 went to Kremer, Moore and winger Jono Hart.

## I'm back!!!

By THE FOLKSY RED

The Goulburn Dirty Reds got off to the best start they could hope for in 2007, easily disposing of the Yass Rams in Yass. The result was good one for the first grade lads but the win for the second graders was outstanding.

The Reds have struggled for numbers at training all season until last Thursday when several players made their training debut for 2007. That hit out proved to be the key as they were to fit and far too organised for the Yass lads.

Jason 'Cosmo' Kramer had one of the best individual games I have seen. He played with ample aggression in both attack and defence. It was the kind of performance that will have most first graders on notice.

If the Reds are to win a first grade comp they will need second grade to be putting up performances like they did on Saturday. Pressure for spots is a great sign of depth, which the club has been chasing for some time.

There were a number of very talented players running on in second grade on Saturday and if that team plays more often than not they will win more often than not.

Another impressive performer on the weekend was 'Mr Yabbie of the Year' Charlie Brewer. 'Bruiser' made his debut in the front row on Saturday and the 2006 'Animal of the Year' didn't let any one down. 'Poi Poi Moi Moi' is a strongly built individual and while he isn't built like a traditional front rower he brings intelligence and cunning. He is filling a huge hole for the Reds and his hoping his form holds.

Some impressive debuts for the Reds on the weekend. 'Big Red' Jono Hart played his first game for the two Dirties on Saturday.

He looks a likely customer with some light stepping that is sure to come in handy on the dance floor at the RSL.

Speaking of debuts 'the little plumber boy' Dean Thompson made his contact sport debut on the wing in first grade, much to the disappointment of his mother Vivienne. Viv (I hope it's ok for me to call you that) had to have thought she had protected her little boy from it, but 'LPB' defied the odds to debut at age 33.

Much to the delight of 'Big Phil' the boy goes good. 'LPB' looked dangerous in attack and solid as a rock in defence. He also received a best and fairest point for his efforts. Congratulations big dog.

Here's hoping that a certain business partner who signed a legally binding contract might locate the top left hand side of his chest some time soon and honour his word. I won't hold my breath.

Dale Backhouse had a big debut for the Dirties as well on Saturday. He was solid in second grade and then came on at fullback in first grade to score a try. He then also made his first appearance on a bus trip for the Reds.

Rumours are floating about regarding his performance on the bus but it sounds like 'Cowboy' Newby and 'Yeo Dog' Yeo took care of you well. To his parents I offer a formal apology but I have the numbers of some good lawyers if you require them.

On to the serious stuff now and the performance of the day. There were some notable performances.

It came down to two plays. The runner up is unlucky to miss out but I'm thinking it could be a new award for the club. I will go away and look for some sponsors for our new 'Harold Holt Award of excellence'.

Chris 'Shadow' Kilby is the first nomination of the year. Shadow was asked if he would like another refreshing beverage at the Soldiers Club. He responded with a 'yes, but I just have to go to the bathroom first'. The shadow wasn't to be seen again.

We are appealing to the club to lock down one entry to the bathrooms. The shadow has done the old two-door trick. In one way. Out the other and goone. Disappointing form 'Shadow'. Sponsors.... Call me. I don't think this will be the last incident of its kind in 2007.

The winner of the first play of the day is the entertainment machine Boyd 'Fred Astaire' Newby. Consider the floor at the Soldiers club dominated. He smoked it up with many a willing dance partner.

The ladies couldn't get enough dance time with the big man as one after another queued for a chance to 'trip the light fantastic' with the light footed second rower. It was a golden performance.

Not so golden was the performance of his off-sider Anthony 'Yo-Yo' Yeo. He couldn't find a tree in a forest. In a room full of ladies looking for a dance partner no one wanted a bar of him. He danced solo so poorly that people cheered when he eventually left the establishment. He was an embarrassment to the club, his family and himself.

I expect a formal written apology before he is allowed to play for the club again. It is time the Willie Mason clone started to look at himself.

Well that is all for this week folks. Souths are up 10-6 and I need to cheer them home. This weekend will see the Reds either host Cooma or travel to Cooma ground availability pending. Poidevin is struggling a little and the boys will have to move to Carr-Confoy if we can find some posts. Till next time.

Go the Rabbits!

I mean Reds.



## Forwards push Reds to a sloppy victory

By ROB SHEEKEY

### FIRST GRADE:

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 15  
Cooma Red Devils 0**

The Goulburn Dirty Reds turned in a sloppy performance, but were good enough to get away with a 15-0 victory over the Cooma Red Devils in Cooma on Saturday.

The Reds had their backs to the wall most of the day and many of the younger players were playing their first game ever in a thing called rain. They also had to overcome a lengthy three-hour plus bus trip to the ground, which almost resulted in second grade missing the start of their encounter.

As expected in the weather conditions it was a fierce battle up front. The contact was heavy and the opportunities to spread the ball were .

In the first half the Reds were able to spread the ball to the fringes of the Red Devils defence and make some good yardage. Poor handling and poor options more often than not snuffed out these opportunities.

The Reds were able to open the scoring when continued infringements from the Cooma forwards resulted in the Reds being awarded a penalty within kicking range. Mikael Webber obliged and the Dirty Reds took a 3-0 lead.

Late in the first half the Reds continued to pressure the try line through powerful forward movements. One after another the Reds rolled forward and gained the ascendancy. Cooma's defence eventually gave way and Peter De Beer had the first try from a nice piece of work from the forwards. Webber converted from out wide and the Reds took a 10-0 lead into halftime.

The start of the second half saw the end of any free flowing rugby as mistakes became the order of the day.

The Reds never looked like conceding a try at any stage throughout the match but were unable to finish off the determined home team. The Reds continued to take poor options and when they did take the

right option their handling let them down.

Eventually weight of possession and pressure on the line resulted in the Reds second try this time through second rower Charlie Brewer from a pick and drive from the back of the ruck. Webber was unable to convert and the Reds took home a 15-0 victory.

There are a lot of things the Reds can go away and work on this week with the one positive being that they played poorly and still got the points. Their defence has also been very good and if it continues to improve then teams will struggle to score points against the local boys.

The points reflected the game with one point to second rower Ben Green, two points and players player went to flanker Chris Kilby with Anthony Yeo awarded the three points.

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### SECOND GRADE:

**Cooma Red Devils 22  
Goulburn Dirty Reds 10**

Dirty Reds second grade side continued to show signs of improvement and despite going down 22-10 look to be a competitive outfit in 2007.

A delayed arrival into Cooma didn't give the boys much time to warm up and as a result were very slow out of the blocks. They gave Cooma a 22-point head start before they eventually settled down to play some rugby. Once they did start to play they were dominating all over the park.

The second grade lads were able to score twice. The first try came from a pick from the back of the scrum by Ben Pearson who was too strong for the Cooma defence. The second try was very similar with second rower Jason Kremer crashing over for his third try in two games.

Wyatt Elford made his return to the Reds side and shared a point with debutant winger Daniel Little, who showed plenty of promise. Selby Miller got the two points with Jason Kremer picking up the three points and Players' Player.

The Reds away season continues as they travel to Hall with high hopes of knocking over the Bush-rangers in both grades.

Round 2 - 28th April 2007

## Goulburn unassailable lead

By THE FOLKSY RED

The Dirty Reds were unstoppable on Saturday afternoon solidly defeating Cooma in both grades in the boat races at the Cooma Ex Services Club.

Despite some questionable sizing portions from the home side with their players' player mugs being unable to hold anywhere near the amount of fluid that the schooner glasses that the Goulburn boys were given, our lads smashed them.

There were some outstanding performances. 'Little Patty' Pat Little brought along his pint-sized cousin 'Little Dan' Dan Little who showed an amazing amount of talent. He put Goulburn into a huge lead. He started even and finished quickly enough for us to be up by a full vessel in a short space of time.

Wyatt 'the finisher' Elford did the rest and it was a historic day for the locals. We don't win many boat races especially one's that the 'Shadow' Chris Kilby competes in.

So the boys celebrated.

The pace was frantic on the bus on the way home and not everyone could handle it. For those that have seen the documentary 'March of the Penguins' the similarities were uncanny.

The general plot in the documentary is how they work as a team to survive the brutal elements through the arctic winters. Fascinating watch. Anyway the bigger stronger penguins that work as a team survive. Those that don't play the team game perish (as do the smaller and older penguins). Sleep almost guarantees death.

Well a rugby team on a bus creates a hostile environment where song and survival become your only thoughts. The liquor is your -50 temperature and your howling wind. You must overcome it to survive.

'Baby' Benny Moore holds a special place in Goulburn rugby hearts being the first player to come from the Tablelands Reds and play in the seniors with the Dirties. Against all odds Ben did all the right things and somehow survived the environment.

Little Patty and Little Dan on the other hand found themselves giving into fatigue and survival of the fittest claimed some victims.

No one would have thought that Bredbo would have brought such an early end for the weary travellers seeing as it's only half hour from Cooma and two and half hours from Goulburn (Rugby bus trip time excluding compulsory stop at the Bushranger).

The boys were well behaved and all had a good time. At least I think they did I can't really remember.

Week two nominations have come in for the 'Harold Holt Award of Excellence'. I am in negotiation with sponsors over naming rights. Some good offers are on the table. One week till the major announcement will be made.

Back to the nominations. Peter DeBeer. Matthew 'El Diablo' O'Rourke. Ben 'Brown' Green. Peter 'zephyr' DeBeer is easily a winner. Zephyr was always travelling on the bus until it was due to depart Cooma. Where is Peter? The crowd asked. Goone on the breeze he was. Rumours drifted about as to what had happened to him. All were solved upon entry to the Bushranger at Collector. He disappeared with week one nomination Shadow.

These two will need to be watched all season because these types of shenanigans will be a weekly affair.

The courage award went to Anthony 'Yo-Yo' Yeo. He was again spotted dancing on the RSL dance floor. Reports were that upon arrival the floor was packed. Within one minute of taking to the floor empty.

After last's week's performance and having had a team talk to at training about his 'dancing' to go back on the floor takes courage.

The Dirty Reds would like to inform all patrons of the RSL and of the broader Goulburn community that the dance floors will be safe from now on. The club has flown him to LA to the exclusive J-Lo Dance Studio where he is under going extensive rehabilitation for this dreadful infliction.

The club and the Goulburn Post would like to offer 'yo-yo' our full support and wish him well with his recovery. Solve this problem once and for all and lets move on as a club. Hall Bushrangers at Hall this weekend for both grades. I encourage all to come along. Hall is a beautiful part of the world and you haven't seen country hospitality until you have dined at the famous Wood Duck Inn.

Till next time. Later

Round 3 - 5th May 2007

## Rampaging Reds run riot over Hall

By PETER OLIVER

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 72  
Hall Bushrangers 7**

THE Goulburn Dirty Reds had a plan against the Hall Bushrangers - spread the ball and score out wide. They did just that, running in 11-tries to one in a very lop-sided match at Hall.

It took a while for the Reds to kick into gear, but the floodgates flew open once they did. The opening stanza was peppered with bruising defence, with flanker Ben Green pulling off several big hits.

Flying fullback Rob Sheekey scored the first of his three tries after the Reds put the ball through the hands and exposed Hall outside. Mick Webber slotted the conversion for a 7-0 lead.

Three minutes later mercurial scrum half Jeff Caldwell burst through the defensive line and danced around a number of players to extend Hall's misery to 12-0. Webber had an indifferent day with the boot, missing a couple of relatively easy conversions.

The Reds punched holes in the Hall defensive line with consummate ease, making big metres as the Bushrangers' forwards tired.

Hooker and captain Anthony Allport barrelled his way over under the sticks after spreading the ball out wide and bringing it back in, and several Bushranger heads began to fall.

Webber nailed a penalty after the Bushrangers were offside at the breakdown, and veteran fly-half Matt Klem fended off several would-be tacklers to score near the sticks, to end a miserable first half for Hall, with the Reds leading 25-0.

The Reds came out fired up in the second half, and scored at will. Winger Jay Butler crossed the line twice, and replacement forward Ben Moore scored as well. Bustling prop Charlie Brewer had a 10 minute stint on the sideline, after a Hall defender's head bounced off his elbow during a run.

The Reds were relentless in both attack and defence, playing all over hapless Bushrangers. But the try that had the sideline cheering was by flanker Boyd

Newby. Newby gathered the ball near the halfway line and took off, showing a turn of pace and fleetness of foot that many didn't know he had. The crowd cheered as he slammed the ball down, capping a truly miserable thrashing for Hall.

It wasn't the largest defeat the Reds have inflicted on the Bushrangers, with the Goulburn side racking up an 85-0 drubbing last season.

The 3-2-1 went to Jason Kremer, who continued his hard running and hitting from second grade, and may now prove hard to shift; Allport and Sheekey, who was also awarded the Players' Player.

It was a statement of intent from the Reds, with their best yet to come.

They take on the Tuggeranong Vikings this weekend, in what could be their toughest assignment yet.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 72** (R Sheekey 3, J Caldwell 2, J Butler 2, B Newby, A Allport, M Klem, B Moore tries, M Webber 7 con 1 pen) **defeated Hall 7.**





*Jason Kremer evades the Tuggeranong defence*

**Round 4 - 12th May 2007**

## **Reds storm to top of ladder**

By **PETER OLIVER**

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 43  
Tuggeranong Vikings 5**

The Goulburn Dirty Reds are perched at top of the division one ladder, following their 38-point shellacking of the Tuggeranong Vikings. However the win may have come at a cost, with skipper Anthony Allport leaving the field early in the match with a head/neck injury. Allport had his head twisted as he scored the Reds' first try from a scrum and had to be replaced in the front row by Ben Pearson.

The Reds were dominant with the ball in hand, constantly smashing into the Vikings' defence and punching holes. Second-rowers Jason Kremer and Boyd Newby led the way, hammering away and tiring the Vikings defenders. But the Reds' defence was awesome as well, punctuated with great pressure on Tuggeranong's kickers, who had several balls charged down.

Kremer was rewarded for his hard running early on in the piece, getting into a bit of space and streaking away to score for a 12-0 lead. Newby then set Mikael Webber up shortly after, breaking through the line and offloading to the flying centre.

The Reds' hard running was beginning to take its toll on Tuggeranong, with the luckless Vikings losing three players after the opening 20 minutes. It was easy going for the Goulburn side, making quick yards up the ruck and out wide. Fast recycling at the breakdown by the Reds' loose forwards helped keep Tuggeranong on the back foot.

At times Goulburn were too keen at the ruck, with the referee hammering them with penalties. It wasn't all one way traffic; the Vikings mauled a try over right on the bell to open up the game at 17-5.

The slaughter continued in the second half, with Dean Thompson scoring his first try for the Reds. Fullback Rob Sheekey took the ball to the line, burst through and threw a great pass to Thompson, who beat the cover defence to dive over in the corner.

The Reds kicked on with the job, and were unrelenting in attack. Martin Browne scored, Webber added a second and prop Charlie Brewer scored his first five-pointer for the season at the death. It was a much improved showing for the competition front runners, who are now nine points clear on the table from RMC.

Last year's premiers Harden are last on zero, but still have two games in hand.

The 3-2-1 went to Webber, scrum-half Jeff Caldwell and Kremer, with flanker Pete De Beer earning Players' Player honours.

In second grade the Reds went down 19-5 in a fighting effort against reigning premiers Royals. Robbie Cosgrove scored the lone try for the Dirty Twos, who were rock solid in defence and played with plenty of heart against a side that ran in plenty of tries in last year's match up. The 3-2-1 went to Ben Pearson, who also scored Players' Player, Cosgrove and hooker Benny Moore.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 43** (M Webber 2, A Allport, C Brewer, M Browne, D Thompson, J Kremer tries, M Webber 4 cons) **def. Tuggeranong Vikings 5.**

## Reds make a telling statement

By ROB SHEEKEY

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 53  
RMC 0**

On Saturday afternoon the Goulburn Dirty Reds made a statement to the entire Monaro competition, thumping second placed RMC 53-0 and opening up a 14-point lead at the top of the table.

Going into the encounter RMC and Goulburn had very similar results and the weekend's clash was shaping up as a beauty, and it was, if you were a Goulburn supporter.

The Reds forward pack was dominant. Time and time again the Reds demolished the RMC scrum and won ball against the RMC throw. The backline's defence was again rock solid and their speed was too much for RMC to match.

The game opened in attacking fashion with RMC's front rower breaking the line from the kick off only to be cut down in a beautiful tackle from winger Jay Butler.

Five minutes into the match the Reds failed to find touch with a clearing kick. RMC kicked down the centre of the field straight to the evergreen Jeff Caldwell, who spread the ball wide to find the fullback who reached out to put the Reds up 5-0.

Soon after Dean Thompson ran a beautiful inside line to cross over to put the Reds up by 10 which would soon become 17, when Allport barged his way over from an exquisite rolling maul set from a line out win on the 22-metre line.

Before the haltime siren rang Webber crossed for the first of his tries and despite some wayward kicking from the try scorer the Reds took a 22-0 lead to the break.

To RMC's credit they continued to battle throughout the contest, however they couldn't win ball from the set piece, their backs couldn't find any holes in the defensive line and they continued to lose ball in the loose when they strung phases together.

Even when they kicked the ball they ended up being hurt by some very good kick returning from the back

three.

The Reds coach Matthew O'Rourke had asked his team not to show the lapses in concentration that they had done in previous weeks and the players responded.

The forwards' straight running began to find holes everywhere in the RMC defence and resulted in Webber and Allport crossing for their second of the afternoon while Ben Green and Charlie Brewer snared tries from some hard straight running.

With the score teetering at 48-0 the crowd wanted to see the Reds rack up 50 and in the dying seconds the DIRTIES delivered with the best try of the afternoon.

Good interchange of passing up the middle of the ruck saw front rower Charlie Brewer find some space and clapped on the pace.

When the defence caught him he was able to find Allport in support who flicked a quick pass out to winger Jay Butler who dived over in the corner.

The 53-0 scoreline to the Reds was a true reflection of the game. They dominated in all aspects and in RMC own words "they will need to go back to the drawing board and do a lot of work if they are to challenge".

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 53** (Webber 2, Allport 2, Sheekey, Thompson, Butler, Brewer, Green; Webber 9 Con.) **def RMC 0.**

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**The Dirty Reds second grade** side was also able to rack up a victory on the weekend defeating RMC 42-5.

They had 23 players on the weekend for the clash and are starting to show signs of improvement and gelling as a team.

They put together some excellent phases and if they can keep the team together and training as a unit they will be a huge chance to challenge for the title.

First grade points went to: 3. Charlie Brewer, 2. Ben Green, 1. Matt Klem with Brewer taking out players' Player. Second Grade players' player was Cameron Neville.

## Ruck 'n' roll

### Goulburn Dirty Reds 24 Young Yabbies 14

Goulburn Dirty Reds' coach Matt O'Rourke sprang a surprise on his troops during their bus trip to Harden on Saturday. O'Rourke told his first grade squad that Harden had forfeited, and instead they would play the Young Yabbies.

This would guarantee the Reds a bonus point win, despite the result against Young. And the game against the Yabbies gave the Reds the tough hit-out they needed. The Reds lacked intensity for most of the match and wasted several opportunities, making the final result a little too close.

The Yabbies are currently on top of the Northern Competition's first grade, and they tested the Reds' composure and skill.

The Reds were the first to score, attacking the Yabbies' left flank through the backline. Fullback Rob Sheekey was put through a gap, offloading to winger Jay Butler, before centre Mick Webber crossed the line for a 5-0 lead. This soon increased to 12-0 when Sheekey scored, again following a backline move, Webber converting.

At this stage it looked like another blow out score was looming, and the Young players were beginning to struggle - throughout the match several Yabbies were on their knees fighting for air. It was a tough grinding affair, but Young's second wind kicked in, stretching the Reds' defence.

Sheekey grabbed his usual double for the match, and

the Reds looked home and hosed. But the Yabbies stormed back, crossing twice and causing some worries for the Goulburn faithful on the sideline.

Captain Anthony Allport secured the game with a customary bustling run, barging his way over the line, and leaving the Young fullback with a severely

busted nose. Webber's conversion was wide, but the Reds had survived the hit-out.

Harden looks to have forfeited first grade for the rest of the season, despite taking out the premiership last year.

Because of the first grade forfeit, second grade was

also forfeit, but it gave the second grade a chance to work on some combinations.

Winger Pat Little and number eight Ben Pearson were strong for the second graders, who lost fly-half Robbie Cosgrove and back Jono Hart with suspected broken ankle and dislocated shoulder respectively.

## Rams to the slaughter

### Goulburn Dirty Reds 43 Yass Rams 0

IT was wet, muddy, but at times fun to watch. The Goulburn Dirty Reds notched up their eighth consecutive win on Saturday with a torrid 43-0 win over rivals Yass Rams.

It's been 130 years since the two clubs first met, and it was the home side celebrating in style on a waterlogged Poidevin Oval. With the field in dire condition for most of the season, the Reds have had to wait until now for a home game. Poidevin Oval, like most other sports fields in the district, received a pummelling from last week's rain, but it held up surprisingly well.

The Reds were aggressive early on, hitting Yass hard at the breakdown, with the home side's forwards dominant throughout the match. Their only concern will be their line-out, which was wayward at times.

The slick ball and puddles of water didn't restrict the Reds' style of play, and they had plenty of chances early on to cross, only for the move to come unstuck.

Rampaging second rower Ben Green played a wonderful game in a man of the match effort, and was the first to score for the Reds in the right corner. Centre Mick Webber slammed the kick home for a 7-0 lead, and like many teams before them this season, Yass prepared themselves for the onslaught.

The Reds didn't help themselves at times; a flat backline meant there were some passes that were ruled forward. But when the backs were on song, they were superb.

Scrumhalf Neil Gustafson burst through a gap, and looked home when he was wrapped up by some desperate Rams de-

fence. Centre Jay Butler set up the next try when hammered a Rams defender, leaving him stricken in a puddle. Butler headed towards the line, and offloaded to Dean Thompson, who threw a wonderful pass to fly-half Jeff Caldwell as he fell. Caldwell dived over for the Reds to take a 12-0 lead into the break.

It was more of the same in the second stanza, with the Reds running riot. Number 8 Anthony Yeo finished a fine move from the backline, with Webber slipping the hard-running back-rower through a gap about 20 metres out.

Captain Anthony Allport added his name to the point scorers' list, and Webber scored a five-pointer after fullback Rob Sheekey made a break.

Sheekey scored his requisite try for the match, and Thompson scored on the full time bell for a solid 43-0 win in the wet.

The Reds are now 12 points clear of RMC on the Division one table, with an incredible for and against of 279 points. Annoyingly for coach Matt O'Rourke and his troops, the Reds have yet another bye this weekend, which will rob them of valuable momentum.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 43** (Allport, Green, Yeo, Caldwell, Webber, Thompson, Sheekey tries, Webber 4 con) **def. Yass 0.**

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**SECOND GRADE** continued their fine form, running out 24-10 winners over the Hogs.

Ben Pearson had a solid display at number 8, scoring two tries and again pushing his first grade credentials. Replacement forward Nick Harton and second rower Terry Hannan also scored tries to push second grade into third position on the ladder.





*Dirty Reds Ben Green, Charlie Brewer and Jeff Caldwell regroup behind Cameron Neville against Hall*

**Round 10 - 30th June 2007**

## **Reds hold up Bushrangers**

By **PETER OLIVER**

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 39  
Hall Bushrangers 5**

THE wet weather usually sees sides go into their shells, afraid to use the slick ball in case they turn over valuable possession. Not so the Goulburn Dirty Reds.

The Reds played an excellent expansive game on Saturday in the mud and puddles of Poidevin Oval, running over the top of the Hall Bushrangers 39-5. The win also sees them stretch their unbeaten streak to eight games, with a remarkable for and against of 335-22.

It wasn't the best of starts for the Reds, with outside centre Mick Webber missing a very straight-forward penalty after only a few minutes. Webber had an abominable day with the boot, missing several more kicks from in front, and even had the indignity of watching his ball slide off the tee as he kicked.

Fullback Rob Sheekey bagged another three tries, and set up the first one when he made an incisive run through the Bushrangers' defence, attracting several defenders before offloading a deft pass to number eight Anthony Yeo, who strolled over untouched in the corner for a 5-0 lead.

Webber looked to atone for his poor kicking when he was put though a gap and was ready to streak away when the referee called it back for a forward pass. He made up for it moments later after Yeo hit the line and passed, and Webber made no mistake, crossing the line to stretch the lead by 12.

Inside centre Cameron Neville and fly-half Matt Klem

switched positions in attack, with Neville often at first receiver and finding runners to hit the line.

The Reds' defence on their line was stoic, and when the Bushrangers had the ball their attack was stifled quickly by the enthusiastic Reds defence. Their scrum was equally up to anything the Bushrangers could throw at them.

Winger Neil Gustafson added another five points to the score when he found an overlap and streaked away to score on the outside, and Sheekey scored his second before things turned a little pear-shaped for the Reds.

Hall scored a soft try through the gate at the breakdown, and the Reds began to get hammered in the penalty count. From the sideline it looked like they lost their way for a short while, but they soon broke out of the mire for Sheekey to nail his third try. Webber was the last to cross the line, but again missed the conversion.

It was a solid showing in the mud, and the Reds only showed one or two ill-effects of their haphazard draw, which sees them alternate games with bye weeks.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 39** (Sheekey 3, Webber 2, Gustafson, Yeo tries, Webber 2 con) **defeated Hall 5.**

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In second grade the Reds kept their hopes of a top four finish well and truly alive with a nailbiting three-point win over Hall. Fly-half Nathan Hewett was the star for seconds, surprising many in the crowd with his previously unknown ability to catch the ball. Second grade's back three of Evan Dougal, Matt O'Rourke and Ben Pearson were again superb, harassing Hall at the break down throughout the match.

The centre combination of Martin Browne and Pat Little crossed for the Reds tries, with hooker Benny Moore kicking a penalty and conversion.



## Reds slay Vikings

By ROB SHEEKEY

**Goulburn 55  
Tuggeranong 0**

The Goulburn Dirty Reds kept their undefeated season alive with a dominating 55-0 victory over the Tuggeranong Vikings on Saturday.

The Reds ran in nine tries in wet and muddy conditions and look to have all but secured the minor premiership with their ninth win and eighth bonus point of the season.

Despite the score line the Reds certainly did not have everything their own way.

The forwards had a tough day with the big Vikings pack looking to use rolling mauls and tight pick drive rugby to get themselves going through the Reds pack. They were able to build and sustain periods of pressure on the Reds, but a determined defensive line was able to stand strong in the face of the onslaught.

It took the Reds 20 minutes to crack the Vikings' defence when the ball was spread wide to the left and the ever green Matthew Klem charged down the sideline to cross out wide for the first of his three tries, to put the locals ahead 5-0.

It didn't take long for the forwards to start to assert some dominance up front and roll the play down into attacking areas.

The Goulburn side has shown all season that if you allow them to attack your line for extended periods they will score points and this weekend was no different.

Anthony Yeo and Anthony Allport were rewarded for their hard work with a try each before half time. Webber was able to convert both giving the Reds a comfortable 19-0 lead at the break.

It didn't take the Reds long to find their feet in the second half and secure the bonus point with Mikael Webber scoring in the first two minutes from the break. From there the Reds had found their feet and rhythm and the Vikings were out of the match.

Goulburn's forwards combined beautifully with one another and put the defence on its heels time and time again. Klem took advantage of this crashing the ball straight through the Vikings loose forwards with six defenders unable to stop the 100kg+ frame of the fly half. Webber converted to take the lead to 30-0.

Jay Butler finished off some impressive lead up work from Cameron Neville and Klem found a flying Butler out wide, who drew the fullback giving him his third try of the after-

noon. Butler contributed again in the lead up to another try, throwing a pass for Sheekey to cross the line. Webber's conversion made it 50-0 and the Reds vocal fans thought it could not get any better. They were wrong.

Reds interchange back Nathan Hewitt who had been cost a try earlier from a dubious refereeing decision took things into his own hands. Hewitt picked the ball up from the back of a maul and took off. The large frame of Hewitt charged down the field. The Vikings fullback came across but Hewitt charged through the great hit to power over for the try of the afternoon.

It was not the Reds' most impressive display of the season but there were some outstanding contributors on the day.

Chris Kilby and Matthew Klem shared a best and fairest vote. Open side flanker Pieter De Beer received the two with number eight Anthony Yeo continuing his sensational form being awarded the three points.

De Beer was voted player's player. The Chicks were in no position to select a Chicks' Pick with none of them seeing any of the game.

**Goulburn 55** (M. Klem 3; A. Yeo; A. Allport; M. Webber; J. Butler; R. Sheekey; N. Hewitt; Tries Webber 5 conv.) **def. Tuggeranong 0**

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

Second grade had a much tougher clash taking on the top of the table Royals side.

The Dirty Reds boys went at the Royals side hard and jumped out to an early lead with hooker Ben Moore darting down the side line and converting his try to put the locals ahead 7-0.

From there the locals were unable to build any pressure. The referee let the Royals constant on field refereeing distract him from the job and as he ran out of steam, allowed them to referee the game.

With Royals lads having complete control of the whistle the Reds were unable to get any momentum. Royals were able to level the score through a push over try.

The ball left the scrum four times only to be kicked back into it by the half- back. It then rotated through the 90 which apparently is not enforced any more either to level the score.

The locals were not good enough on the day making too many mistakes to build any real pressure. The locals went down 19-7.

Evan Dougall was awarded the three best and fairest points with Pat Kolio receiving the two points as well as the player's player votes with Nick Harton receiving the one point.



*Jay Butler tries his luck out wide with Anthony Allport and Rob Sheekey in support*

**Round 9 - 21st July, 2007**

## **Reds triumphant in tough test**

**By PETER OLIVER**

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 20  
Cooma Red Devils 10**

IT was tough, it was torrid, and it was a hit-out that the Goulburn Dirty Reds desperately needed.

In what could be a grand final preview, the Dirty Reds ground out their toughest win of the season against the Cooma Red Devils at Poidevin Oval on Saturday.

The Reds were coming off a forfeited match by RMC, and were pumped for what loomed as a stern test. While the Goulburn side has put plenty of points on most teams in the competition, they only racked up a 15-0 win in their last encounter.

While it was a pretty scrappy start at times, the Reds showed tremendous forward momentum from the get-go, consistently hammering over the advantage line and pressuring Cooma's defence.

The Reds were awesome in the trenches, with the forwards pushing the Cooma pack around at will.

But it took the Reds the best part of half an hour to cross the white chalk. Centre Mick Webber put the Cooma kicker under plenty of pressure, charging down a clearing kick from inside the Cooma 22m. Luckily for Webber the ball bounced his way and he crossed for a 5-0 lead. Webber had a shocking day with the boot, failing to land a single conversion from four chances.

Cooma really muscled up in defence, with several Reds players on the receiving end of some bell ringing tackles. That didn't stop winger Neil Gustafson picking up the first of two tries in the corner, after the Reds mounted a sustained attack on Cooma's line.

Cooma seemed set to let the floodgates open after flanker Pete de Beer scored down the left-hand side, but stuck with the Reds through a penalty goal. While Cooma were solid, they never really looked like breaching the Reds' wonderful scrambling defence.

Their sole try came against the run of play, when a long cut out pass from Matt Klem was snavelled, and Cooma scored under the sticks to trail 15-10. It was the only blot on Klem's copybook, with the veteran enjoying a solid performance.

Niggle began to sneak into the game, and tensions simmered with some small scuffles breaking out in back play. Reds supporters' hearts were in their mouths as the match was set to go down to the wire, until Gustafson scored again in the corner to give the Reds breathing space before the final bell.

While it wasn't quite the great escape, it was a match that tested the Reds' resolve under fire. The Goulburn lads showed character and class to keep their unbeaten streak of 11 matches alive.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 20** (Gustafson 2, Webber, de Beer tries) defeated Cooma 10.

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

The Dirty Twos also recorded a win against the Red Devils, running out 12-5 in a great performance that has cemented their spot in the top three. Evan Dougal and Nick Harton scored for the Twos in a spirited match.



2nd Grade Semi Final - 11th August, 2007

## Dirty Twos hold up Hall

By PETER OLIVER

Goulburn Dirty Reds 52  
Hall Bushrangers 22

THE Goulburn Dirty Reds second grade side is one match away from joining their first grade counterparts in a home grand final.

The Dirty Twos scored 35 unanswered points in the second half to blow the hapless Bushrangers off the park, and booked themselves a must win match against Cooma this Saturday.

In an exciting and fast paced start, the Twos made easy ground, using the strong running of Terry Hannan and the kamikaze attack of Jason Kremer.

Ten minutes into the match, flanker Evan Dougal took a quick tap metres out from the Hall line, and barged his way over for a strong try. Young hooker Benny Moore converting for a 7-0 lead.

The Twos looked to further extend their lead when a cut out pass found a flying Hall back, who streaked away for a converted try.

Hall added to the Dirty Twos' misery when they barged over for a pushover try after a penalty at the breakdown, and shot out to a 14-7 lead, which was further extended when they slotted a penalty

But the Twos didn't give it away, and hit back straight away. Dougal took a quick throw in from the lineout, and young scrum half Joel MacPherson launched a long ball out

to flyhalf Cameron Neville, who ran 50 metres through some very ordinary defence.

The Twos' joy was short-lived when Hall scored a lucky try. The Twos had a scrum near the half way line, but the ball spurted out the back of the scrum. Hall's scrum half put it on the toe, and poked it through and scored.

The excitement for the half didn't end there. The Twos had one final crack at Hall's line, and fullback Dean Thompson went close to scoring in the corner. Somehow, a punch up broke out, and the Twos' centre Nathan Hewett was sent to the sin bin right on half time.

The Twos came out firing and their next try was superb, with Neville chipping the ball into open space, and a divine bounce finding the arms of the flying Patty Little. The conversion was wide, but the scores were even.

From there the Reds never looked back - Moore crossed for a try of his own after ripping the ball off big Doug Webster, and winger Nathan Stewart got in on the action, crossing near the corner. The introduction of Pat Kolio added to Hall's woes. The big Samoan wreaked havoc up the middle, dragging players with him and making big dents in the Hall line. One of his runs led to a try for Thompson, who scored another one shortly after.

Hannan got the last try of the match right under the sticks, and the Dirty Twos came out ahead in a match full of fire and niggles.

The Dirty Twos now travel to Cooma this Saturday, and a win will see them take to Poidevin Oval in a fortnight to take on the rampant Royals outfit.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 52** (Thompson, Little, Stewart, Neville, Dougal, Hannan, Moore tries, Moore 4 con, Neville 2 con) **defeated Hall Bushrangers 22.**



1st Grade Semi Final - 11th August, 2007

## Goulburn to host Grand Final

By PETER OLIVER

### Goulburn Dirty Reds 18 Cooma Red Devils 6

GOULBURN will host the division one grand final after their grinding win against Cooma on Saturday.

In a match dominated by the whistle, the home side fended off a strong challenge from the second placed Red Devils 18-6.

Both sides took their forwards up the ruck early on, with the Reds' Ben Green and Boyd Newby loving the hard yards through the middle.

It didn't take long for the Reds to cross the white line, after some great recycling of the ball by Goulburn's forward pack, fullback Rob Sheekey took the ball outside Cooma's 22m line. Sheekey, usually more renowned for his pace in the open, showed plenty of leg drive to beat three defenders and drag a fourth over the line to score.

Outside centre Mikael Webber missed the conversion from in front, and it was the last time the Reds would trouble the scorers in the first stanza, despite being camped inside Cooma's 50 for most of the half.

Things nearly went pear shaped for the Reds from the re-start, with Cooma's flanker scooping on the loose ball from the ruck. Winger Neil Gustafson showed a mountain of strength, and hauled him into touch just out from the try line.

Cooma got on the board shortly after, with the Reds penalised for not rolling away right in front.

The Reds had their chances to score, and several chances either went to ground or into touch.

It was here that the referee injected himself into the game, awarding several frustrating penalties that robbed both sides of any momentum.

Both Newby and Sheekey were flattened by illegal hits off the ball that escaped the ref's attention, and the home side was once again pinged for not rolling away right in front of the sticks. Cooma took the lead for the first and only time of the match, out in front 6-5.

The little momentum the Reds had was further cruelled by a calf injury to fly half Matt Klem, who was helped from the field. Cameron Neville, who had an interesting and immediate impact on the match, came on to replace him.

Neville, along with a Cooma flanker, was sin binned late in the first half for an incident at the ruck, and with both sides down to 14 men, the match petered out to half time.

The Reds weren't aggressive enough at the breakdown, but they rectified that after the break. The pack began to muscle up at their set pieces and around the paddock, giving their back some momentum to get rolling. However, inevitably, the referee's whistle would blow after two or three phases, and both sides would have to start from scratch.

With 25 minutes to go Cooma were penalised, and Webber nailed the most important kick of his season, giving him and the side some much needed confidence. From there the Reds never looked back.

Although their case of the fumbles continued in the second half, the Reds did enough to set up camp outside Cooma's try line.

The game was sealed when monster truck prop Dave Anable smashed over next to the sticks. Pete Debeer had gone close the previous ruck, and from there Webber flicked the ball to Neville, who pirouetted in the tackle, offloading the ball in midair straight onto the chest of the rampaging Anable.

It would have taken a truck to stop the human wrecking ball from that far out, and Webber added the extras.

A final penalty to Webber put the match beyond doubt, and the celebrations began.

The Reds will now take a week off to nurse their injuries, and will wait and see this weekend to find out who they will play in the grand final.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 18** (Sheekey, Anable tries, Webber 1 con, 2 pen) **defeated Cooma 6.**





*Cooma mounts a spirited but ill-fated fight-back*

2nd Grade Final - 18th August 2007

## Twos into grand final

By PETER OLIVER

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 26  
Cooma Red Devils 0**

Goulburn will have two sides contesting this weekend's grand finals, after the Goulburn Dirty Reds second grade side thumped Cooma to earn a place against Royals.

The Dirty Twos were a determined outfit, and blew the Cooma side off the park in a dominant first half performance, posting 19-unanswered points before the break.

The Twos were aggressive at the breakdown, cleaning out well and pilfering plenty of Cooma ball. And it didn't take long for the Reds to convert it into points, with young scrumhalf Joel McPherson putting flyhalf Cameron Neville over from short range to open up a 7-0 lead.

While the Reds continued to dominate right around the park, the best was yet to come, with the highlight of the match a good old-fashioned push over try.

Matt O'Rourke took the ball from a lineout, and the forwards drove from five metres out to barge over in the corner, with Cooma's pack powerless to stop the

rampant Reds' pack.

With the Goulburn supporters on the sideline screaming for the forwards to push, the pile of bodies ended up over the line and the ref was on the spot to award the try. Evan Dougal came up with the ball in front of a small but ecstatic group of Goulburn fans, and Moore slotted the conversion to stretch the lead.

The Reds' hard running forwards were hammering over the advantage line with ease, and flying lock Jason Kremer put the fear of God into some of the Cooma backs with some ferocious runs.

Their third try came from some good work by Neville, who strolled through some terrible defence and put on a pass for Nick Harton, and the flanker crossed the line untouched.

The Twos lost some momentum when Ben Pearson was sin binned for a liberal use of his boots. Pearson can consider himself unlucky, with the Cooma player laying all over the ball on the Reds' side of the ruck and making no effort to move.

From there the second half was bogged down into a real battle of attrition. Things again fired up when some good ball through the hands saw Dean Thompson cross over in the corner at the death, and a frustrated Cooma player gave him a push in the back.

The fiery winger took exception, and an untidy scuffle broke out right on full time. The conversion was successful to put the icing on a memorable day for the Goulburn Rugby Union.

In stark contrast, it was a utterly miserable day for Cooma, with their first grade side going down to Tuggeranong at the death.

Cooma held a slim 7-5 lead with minutes to go, but Tuggeranong got their highly potent rolling maul going, and pushed the ball more than 20 metres up field, before calmly slotting a field goal to snatch victory.

Friday's Goulburn Post will contain a full preview of the upcoming weekend's matches, including player profiles and a stroll down memory lane with Goulburn's most famous player, Simon Poidevin.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 26** (Thompson, Dougal, Neville, Harton tries, Moore 2, Neville goals) **defeated Cooma Red Devils 0.**

# Second Grade Player Profiles

Goulburn's second grade side will be looking to get the club off to a perfect start tomorrow when they try to unseat the reigning premiers, Royals

Coach Matthew O'Rourke concedes that it will be a tough ask to knock off Royals, but the Dirty Twos haven't disgraced themselves against the most dominant side this season.

"We had two games against them, both games were beaten 19-5 and 19-7," O'Rourke said.

"They have been beaten this year, but they've got a lot of experienced players, they know what it takes to win a

comp. Their experience will be their strong point so we need to have enthusiasm. Last time we played them we got a try very early in the piece, and then fell off it."

"But Royals will just grind away, and grind away, and will play a game that will spoil and disrupt. They'll use their experience to challenge us and that'll require a lot of discipline from us to counter that. Royals, like Tuggeranong, have a very strong forward pack and we don't need to be mixing it more than we need to."

Like their first grade counterparts, the Dirty Twos have speed to burn out

wide, and may have to run around Royals if they wish to succeed. The back three of Pat Little, Nathan Stewart and Dean Thompson can be dynamic in open play. They used that speed to their advantage in the pasty two weeks, sending Hall and Cooma crashing out of the finals race.

The only Reds player to have experienced grand final glory is Jeremy Hunt, who tasted that as a fresh-faced youngster back in 1992 when third grade won the competition. Hunt will lace on his boots again this weekend when he comes off the bench to inject some go forward into the match."



**Doug Webster**  
*Prop*  
He will need to be at the top of his game against Royals' scrum



**Ben Pearson (c)**  
*Hooker*  
Experienced and aggressive, does everything in top gear



**Aaron Wild**  
*Prop*  
Bustling forward, lives to pick up and drive or run the short ball



**Nick Harton**  
*Lock*  
Has come a long way this season, improving with each game



**Jason Kremer**  
*Lock*  
Puts the fear of God into the defensive line with his big runs



**Ben Moore**  
*Flanker*  
Moved from hooker. First Tablelands Reds player to make grade.



**Evan Dougal**  
*Flanker*  
A quick thinker and often in the middle of a ruck pilfering the ball



**Matt O'Rourke**  
*Number 8*  
The Reds' most experienced player and first grade coach



**Joel McPherson**  
*Scrum half*  
Promising half, growing in confidence with each match



**Cameron Neville**  
*Fly half*  
A match winner. Can and will do anything with the ball



**Pat Little**  
*Winger*  
Has no fear and will happily smash blokes twice his size



**Nathan Hewitt**  
*Centre*  
Strong runner in open space, will be looking for a big game



**Robbie Cosgrove**  
*Centre*  
Experienced head out wide. Will help organise the backline



**Nathan Stewart**  
*Winger*  
A good finisher, returns the ball hard back into the opposition



**Dean Thompson**  
*Fullback*  
Fiery player in his first season, shows plenty of potential



# First Grade Player Profiles

While the 1977 side that last hoisted the first grade premiership contained some legends of Goulburn rugby, such as Brian "Snow" Maloney, Noel Perrin and Gary Stephens, it also contained a young firry redhead, fresh out of St Patrick's College.

A Randwick Rugby Club reunion weekend tomorrow means Simon Poidevin won't be able to make it back to Goulburn but he shared some of his memories of playing for the club in his gap year.

"1977 was one of my most enjoyable years in rugby," he said. "I played my first trial for the Dirty Reds at what is now called Poidevin Oval, with no idea that one day that sacred ground would carry my name. I played pretty well that day and coach Billy O'Neale and Terry Tilden gave me the thumbs up for first grade."

"The grand final that year was played at the Worker's Arena against Bowral and we put them away comfortably. What followed was a two day celebration and we

were all lucky there were no booze buses in those days. Winning that grand final was a very special thing for me and was made even more so by a fantastic bunch of blokes in that team.

To the Dirty Reds teams in the grand finals he said: "This chance will never come again for many of you, so don't make the people of Goulburn and district, your families and yourselves wait another thirty years for the great Dirty Reds to win a grand final. Make every second count. Every second."



**Dave Anable**  
*Prop*  
Monster prop, very reliable at the set piece and with ball in hand.



**Anthony Allport**  
*Hooker (c)*  
Bustling ball-runner with a superb step and spin at the line



**Charlie Brewer**  
*Prop*  
Massive workrate around the field, will defy a hand injury and play



**Boyd Newby**  
*Lock*  
Hard-running lock and club captain, wears his heart on his sleeve



**Ben Green**  
*Lock*  
A pack-a-day habit doesn't slow his Kamikaze approach to the game



**Chris Kilby**  
*Flanker*  
Usually disrupting opposition ball, a quiet achiever who works hard



**Pete DeBeer**  
*Flanker*  
Always in perpetual motion, can be found in the thick of the action



**Anthony Yeo**  
*Number 8*  
Gives the Reds plenty of options from the scrum, another hard hitter.



**Jeff Caldwell**  
*Scrum half*  
Evergreen half with plenty to offer, often heard organising the defence.



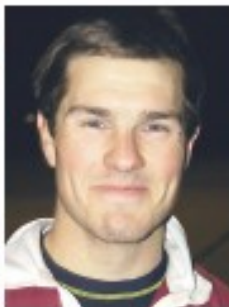
**Matthew Klem**  
*Fly half*  
Experienced game breaker, will keep the backline flowing.



**Neil Gustafson**  
*Winger*  
Fast, versatile and very unpredictable when he's got room to move.



**Martin Browne**  
*Centre*  
Always muscled up in defence and attack, another experienced head.



**Mikael Webber**  
*Centre*  
Goal kicker and leading point scorer, will need to be on song with the boot.



**Jay Butler**  
*Winger*  
Powerful runner with a strong fend, a marvellous finisher to any backline move.



**Rob Sheekey**  
*Fullback*  
Lightning fast custodian, will look to add to his bucketload of tries this season.





Goulburn's Dirty Twos celebrate the club's first grand final win in 15 years

**2nd Grade Final - 25th August 2007**

## Moore kicks Twos to win

By PETER OLIVER

**Goulburn Dirty Twos 15  
Royals 14**

THE Goulburn Dirty Twos caused a boilover at Poidevin Oval on Saturday, knocking off defending champions Royals.

Young Goulburn product Benny Moore was the star with the boot for the Dirty Twos, kicking five goals as they got home in a nail-biting 15-14 victory.

Royals were their own worst enemies, with a parade of players shown yellow cards for foul play or killing the ball. Goulburn got off to a promising start, creating an overlap out wide, but the ball found the deck and the play broke down.

Moore slotted an early penalty after Royals continued to slow the ball down at the breakdown.

Royals hit back soon after, chipping the ball through and scoring for a 7-3 lead.

For all their experience, Royals soon lost the plot.

They lost one player in the bin for a cheap elbow to a Reds player's head, and yet more infringements gifted the Dirty Twos more points through Moore for a 12-7 lead. The referee soon tired of Royals' spoiling tactics, sending another one to the sin bin.

The crowd erupted when winger Pat Little made a barnstorming run down the sideline. Little looked to score for all money, but was smashed into touch a metre out from the try line.

The referee brandished his yellow card again at Royals, and Moore nailed his goal kick of the match.

The Dirty Twos had to defend grimly for the final part of the match, but a late try from Royals under the sticks closed the gap to one point. But the Dirty Twos held out, and celebrated when the final whistle went.

It was a hard earned victory for the Goulburn second grade side, who showed a veteran side that experience doesn't always count for everything. The Dirty Twos did all the little things right, and didn't let themselves fall into Royals' negative style of play.

**Goulburn Dirty Twos 15 (Moore 5 penalties) defeated Royals 14.**

# After 30 years...

1st Grade Grand Final - 25th August 2007

## Red Wash!!

By PETER OLIVER

IT was the perfect end to the perfect season for the Goulburn Dirty Reds. The undefeated first grade side won their first premiership since 1977, running riot over a hapless Tuggeranong Vikings side 55-5. But they weren't alone, with the Dirty Twos side getting the glory earlier in the day with a nail-biting 15-14 victory over the competition front runners Royals.

The rare double was completed in front of a massive home crowd, with winger Neil Gustafson crossing the whitewash four times to blow Tuggeranong off the park. His fellow winger Jay Butler got the ball rolling with a try early on, chasing down a chip kick to dive over in the corner. The home crowd could tell they were on a good thing, and settled in to watch the show.

The Reds' game-plan was to avoid Tuggeranong's powerful pack, and they stuck to it, with veteran fly-half Matthew Klem putting on the side's second try, kicking a chip over the top for Gustafson to fly onto the ball, shrug off the Tuggeranong winger and dive over for a 14-0 lead. But for a while, the Reds had to showcase their defensive skills, repelling waves of Tuggeranong attack. The Reds were also on the wrong side of the penalty count, as they struggled to counter the Vikings rolling maul.

Captain Anthony Allport took it one step too far, and was yellow carded for again collapsing the maul. But the Vikings couldn't take advantage of the one man overlap, and the Reds defended their line ferociously. The Reds extended their lead through a Mikael Webber penalty, and they constantly looked threatening with the ball in hand.

Butler again put his powerful running on show, making a break and fending off a couple of Vikings players. He was brought down just short of the line, but from the ensuing ruck rampaging second rower Boyd Newby rammed his way over the line next to the upright. The score was 24-0, and the game looked beyond doubt before Tuggeranong finally got their maul going and crossed just before half time.

The break didn't slow the Reds down, and they continued to hammer Tuggeranong through the backs. The Goulburn side scored one of their best tries of the season after the break.

Flanker Pete Debeer picked up a loose ball at the line out near the Reds' 22, and raced up field. The fleet-footed flanker stepped past several would-be Vikings' defenders,



*Four try hero  
Neil Gustafson  
makes another  
break*

and off loaded to Ben Green, who was trailing in support. Green pinned his ears back and raced for the line, but ran out of room and flicked the ball back to Anthony Yeo. Yeo charged for the line and passed to Allport, who smashed his way over the line. The try sent the crowd and players into raptures, and Webber put the icing on the try with a glorious sideline conversion.

Another individual effort from Gustafson saw the Reds extend their lead to 38-5, and Chris Kilby, who had been the only Reds' forward not to score this year, got in on the act and crossed near the corner. Gustafson ended the game with his fourth try, with the ref's whistle kicking off celebrations right around the ground.

For those involved in last year's heartbreaking grand final loss against Harden, it was a redeeming win. It's been a long season for the Reds. They've overcome a lack of a home ground for the first half of the season, and the best that the Monaro competition could throw at them to come out on top.

**Goulburn Dirty Reds 55** (Gustafson 4, Allport, Newby, Kilby, Butler tries, Webber 6 con, 1 pen) **defeated Tuggeranong Vikings 5.**

## 2007 First and Second Division Competition Tables

### First Division

<u>1st Grade</u>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Bye</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Total</b>
Goulburn	11	11	0	0	2	10	430	32	62
Cooma	11	6	5	0	2	7	279	148	39
Hall	12	7	5	0	1	4	241	305	36
§ RMC	11	6	5	0	2	8	339	202	36
Yass	11	5	6	0	2	4	177	275	32
Tuggeranong	11	4	7	0	2	5	214	291	29
§ Harden	11	0	11	0	2	0	72	476	4

§ 4 Points deducted as per Competition Rules for late Forfeit in Final Round

### 2nd Grade

<u>2nd Grade</u>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Bye</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Total</b>
Royals	11	9	1	1	2	9	353	90	55
Goulburn	11	7	3	1	2	5	211	90	43
Cooma	11	7	4	0	2	6	223	163	42
Hall	12	7	4	1	1	6	230	193	40
§ Harden	11	4	6	1	2	6	152	231	28
§ RMC	11	2	9	0	2	2	99	238	14
Yass	11	1	10	0	2	1	72	306	13

§ 4 Points deducted as per Competition Rules for late Forfeit in Final Round

### Second Division

<u>Second Division</u>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bungendore	12	10	2	0	7	359	168	47
Taralga	11	9	2	0	7	374	73	43
Jindabyne	11	7	3	1	5	234	138	35
Crookwell	11	5	5	1	4	280	253	26
Uni-Norths	11	4	7	0	7	178	218	23
Boorowa	11	3	8	0	2	134	290	14
Wests	11	0	11	0	3	57	506	3

P = Played, W = Won, L = Lost, D = Drawn, B = Bonus Points, F = Points For, A = Points Against, Total = Comp Points

## Best Fairest Points 2007

<b>First Grade</b>	21.04.07	28.04.07	05.05.07	12.05.07	19.05.07	16.06.07	30.06.07	07.07.07	21.07.07	
Opponent	Yass	Cooma	Hall	Tuggeranong	RMC	Yass	Hall	Tuggeranong	Cooma	
Result	50-5	15-0	72-7	43-5	53-0	43-0	39-5	55-0	20-10	
Round	1	2	3	4	5	8	10	11	9	TOTAL
Anthony Yeo		3				2		3		8
Pieter DeBeer							3	2	2	7
Ben Green		1			2	3				6
Charlie Brewer	2				3		1			6
Chris Kilby	3	2						1		6
Matt Klem					1			1	3	5
Jeff Caldwell				2			2			4
Ben Pearson			3							3
Mikael Webber				3						3
Ben Moore			2							2
Dean Thompson	1					1				2
Jason Kremer				1						1
Neil Gustafson									1	1
Terry Hannan			1							1
										0

<b>Second Grade</b>	21.04.07	28.04.07	05.05.07	12.05.07	19.05.07	16.06.07	30.06.07	07.07.07	21.07.07	
Opponent	Yass	Cooma	Hall	Royals	RMC	Yass	Hall	Royals	Cooma	
Result	32-0	10-22	12-12	5-19	42-5	24-10	15-12	7-19	12-5	
Round	1	2	3	4	5	8	10	11	9	TOTAL
Ben Moore	2		2	1	3		2		3	13
Ben Pearson			3	3		2	1			9
Evan Dougal						1	3	3		7
Jason Kremer	3	3								6
Cameron Neville						3				3
Nick Harton								1	2	3
Robbie Cosgrove				2					1	3
Adam Tucker					2					2
Jono Hart	1				1					2
Pat Kolio								2		2
Selby Miller		2								2
Terry Hannan			1			1				2
Daniel Little		1								1
Nathan Hewett					1					1
Wyatt Elford		1								1

**FIRST GRADE STATS**

<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Mts</b>	<b>Tries</b>	<b>Conv.</b>	<b>Pen.</b>	<b>FGoals</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Average</b>
1	Anthony Allport	GRU	11	7	-	-	-	35	3.18
2	Dave Anable	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
3	Dale Backhouse	GRU	3	1	-	-	-	5	1.66
4	Charlie Brewer	GRU	10	3	-	-	-	15	1.50
5	Martin Browne	GRU	7	2	-	-	-	10	1.42
6	Jay Butler	GRU	11	6	-	-	-	30	2.72
7	Jeff Caldwell	GRU	11	3	-	-	-	15	1.36
8	Robbie Cosgrove	GRU	7	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
9	Pieter DeBeer	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
10	Evan Dougall	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
11	Ben Green	GRU	11	2	-	-	-	10	0.90
12	Neil Gustafson	GRU	8	7	-	-	-	35	4.37
13	Terry Hannan	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
14	Nick Harton	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
15	Nathan Hewett	GRU	3	1	-	-	-	5	1.66
16	Jeremy Hunt	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
17	Chris Kilby	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
18	Matt Klem	GRU	9	4	-	-	-	20	2.22
19	Pat Kolio	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
20	Scott Kremer	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
21	Jason Kremer	GRU	5	1	-	-	-	5	1.00
22	Pat Little	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
23	Joel McPherson	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
24	Ben Moore	GRU	4	1	-	5	-	20	5.00
25	Cameron Neville	GRU	6	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
26	Boyd Newby	GRU	11	2	-	-	-	10	0.90
27	Matthew O'Rourke	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
28	Ben Pearson	GRU	7	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
29	Mick Peden	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
30	Rob Sheekey	GRU	11	13	1	-	-	67	6.09
31	Nathan Stewart	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
32	Dean Thompson	GRU	9	3	-	-	-	15	1.66
33	Adam Tucker	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
34	Mikael Webber	GRU	11	11	38	5	-	146	13.27
35	Doug Webster	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
36	Aaron Wild	GRU	5	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
37	Anthony Yeo	GRU	10	4	-	-	-	20	2.00



## SECOND GRADE STATS

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	Pen.	FGoals	Pts	Average
1	Dale Backhouse	GRU	7	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
2	Cristo Brit	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
3	Martin Browne	GRU	4	1	-	-	-	5	1.25
4	Robbie Cosgrove	GRU	6	1	-	-	-	5	0.83
5	Evan Dougall	GRU	7	3	-	-	-	15	2.14
6	Heath Elford	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
7	Wyatt Elford	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
8	Artie Grados	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
9	Aaron Granger	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
10	Brad Gray	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
11	Chris Griffin	GRU	8	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
12	Neil Gustafson	GRU	2	1	-	-	-	5	2.50
13	Terry Hannan	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
14	Jono Hart	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
15	Nick Harton	GRU	8	3	-	-	-	15	1.87
16	Nathan Hewett	GRU	9	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
17	Jeremy Hunt	GRU	10	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
18	Dan Kite	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
19	Pat Kolio	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
20	Scott Kremer	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
21	Jason Kremer	GRU	7	3	-	-	-	15	2.14
22	Shaun Less	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
23	Pat Little	GRU	10	5	-	-	-	25	2.50
24	Daniel Little	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
25	Dillon Mackie	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
26	Glen McCulloch	GRU	2	1	-	-	-	5	2.50
27	Joel McPherson	GRU	10	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
28	Selby Miller	GRU	6	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
29	Ben Moore	GRU	11	3	20	2	-	61	5.54
30	Cameron Neville	GRU	6	5	3	-	-	31	5.16
31	Matthew O'Rourke	GRU	8	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
32	Ben Pearson	GRU	9	4	-	-	-	20	2.22
33	Mick Peden	GRU	4	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
34	Jason Smith	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
35	Nathan Stewart	GRU	11	3	-	-	-	15	1.36
36	Dean Thompson	GRU	3	3	-	-	-	15	5.00
37	Adam Tucker	GRU	11	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
38	Andrew Wardon	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
39	Doug Webster	GRU	10	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
40	Aaron Wild	GRU	9	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
41	Anthony Yeo	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00

**COMPLETE CLUB STATS**

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	Pen.	FGoals	Pts	Average
1	Anthony Allport	GRU	11	7	-	-	-	35	3.18
2	Dave Anable	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
3	Dale Backhouse	GRU	10	1	-	-	-	5	0.50
4	Charlie Brewer	GRU	10	3	-	-	-	15	1.50
5	Cristo Brit	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
6	Martin Browne	GRU	11	3	-	-	-	15	1.36
7	Jay Butler	GRU	11	6	-	-	-	30	2.72
8	Jeff Caldwell	GRU	11	3	-	-	-	15	1.36
9	Robbie Cosgrove	GRU	13	1	-	-	-	5	0.38
10	Pieter DeBeer	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
11	Evan Dougall	GRU	10	3	-	-	-	15	1.50
12	Heath Elford	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
13	Wyatt Elford	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
14	Artie Grados	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
15	Aaron Granger	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
16	Brad Gray	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
17	Ben Green	GRU	11	2	-	-	-	10	0.90
18	Chris Griffin	GRU	8	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
19	Neil Gustafson	GRU	10	8	-	-	-	40	4.00
20	Terry Hannan	GRU	12	1	-	-	-	5	0.41
21	Jono Hart	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
22	Nick Harton	GRU	9	3	-	-	-	15	1.66
23	Nathan Hewett	GRU	12	1	-	-	-	5	0.41
24	Jeremy Hunt	GRU	11	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
25	Chris Kilby	GRU	11	1	-	-	-	5	0.45
26	Dan Kite	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
27	Matt Klem	GRU	9	4	-	-	-	20	2.22
28	Pat Kolio	GRU	5	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
29	Scott Kremer	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
30	Jason Kremer	GRU	12	4	-	-	-	20	1.66



### COMPLETE CLUB STATS

#	Name	Club	Mts	Tries	Conv.	Pen.	FGoals	Pts	Average
31	Shaun Less	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
32	Pat Little	GRU	12	5	-	-	-	25	2.08
33	Daniel Little	GRU	3	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
34	Dillon Mackie	GRU	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
35	Glen McCulloch	GRU	2	1	-	-	-	5	2.50
36	Joel McPherson	GRU	11	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
37	Selby Miller	GRU	6	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
38	Ben Moore	GRU	15	4	20	7	-	81	5.40
39	Cameron Neville	GRU	12	5	3	-	-	31	2.58
40	Boyd Newby	GRU	11	2	-	-	-	10	0.90
41	Matthew O'Rourke	GRU	9	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
42	Ben Pearson	GRU	16	4	-	-	-	20	1.25
43	Mick Peden	GRU	5	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
44	Rob Sheekey	GRU	11	13	1	-	-	67	6.09
45	Jason Smith	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
46	Nathan Stewart	GRU	12	3	-	-	-	15	1.25
47	Dean Thompson	GRU	12	6	-	-	-	30	2.50
48	Adam Tucker	GRU	12	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
49	Andrew Wardon	GRU	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
50	Mikael Webber	GRU	11	11	38	5	-	146	13.27
51	Doug Webster	GRU	11	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
52	Aaron Wild	GRU	14	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
53	Anthony Yeo	GRU	11	4	-	-	-	20	1.81

# END OF SEASON TOUR - NEW ZEALAND

For the first time in around 18 years, the Goulburn Dirty Reds decided to take an end of season tour overseas. That decision was later broadened to include players from the Crookwell and Taralga clubs under the banner of Southern Tablelands Rugby. Dirty Reds stalwart Kevin Kara was the moving force behind the tour and he recorded some of the highlights of the first six days. Time constraints and print deadlines prevented us from including the final four days. Here are the highlights of those first six days.

By KEVIN KARA

## Introduction:

It was originally identified that the Goulburn Dirty Reds in conjunction with the Crookwell Dogs and the Taralga Tigers Rugby Union Clubs had not ventured on an overseas rugby tour for the past ten years. The suggestion was put to the Goulburn Rugby committee and was taken on board and given the green light as long as no funds were used to subsidise the tour.

The first process was to find out where the boys wanted to go and how much money did they want to spend. It been the world cup year and the All Blacks being the favourite in would be only sensible that we go to the shaky isles to either celebrate with them or offer condolences to them, in which the latter became evident.

The process included the negotiation of a suitable time, places to visit, length of tour and cost. Four tour organisers were approached to supply suitable costing and venues to stay at. We had gained some excellent quotes in which it was decided that we go with International Sports Tours how deal with all types of sporting tours.

The tour we elected to take was a ten day tour of the North Island of New Zealand with bunji jumping, jet boat ride, fishing and a game of rugby.

Final tour party consisted of: James Brewer, Ross Copland (coach), Robyn Reese, David Reese (tour speaker), Nathan Hewitt (our maori chief), Wil Headley, Luke Moloney (coach), Ian Moloney (charcoal, debt collector), Charles Brewer, Sam Croker, Matt Chalker, Mikael Webber, Justin Smith, Tom Hand, Ben Green, Mitchell Hogan, Colin Chalker (Podge, the Judge), Joel McPherson, Benjamin Moore, Tyman Buckley, and myself Kevin Kara.

## DAY ONE

4.30 am in the morning - whose idea was that? We headed to the airport with passport, jerseys, boots and dressed in our tour gear (stripe

shirt & tablelands vest). All arranging their own transport, with some going the night before to start the festivities early, where by little to no sleep had by a couple.

We finally gathered at the food court and listening to some tales of what happened the night before. The check in was quick and the exchange rate was not too bad as well. We managed to get on the plane when a serious announcement was made.

"For the comfort of all passengers there will be no alcohol served on this flight". So one of the tour members claimed to have heard, I'm glad I never heard that. So with a feed, a movie, and a couple of beers later, we landed in windy Wellington. On finally getting the plane sprayed what for no one knows, we slowly lined up to go through customs. Now as everyone knows you are suppose to line up in front of the signs that say "Australian and New Zealand passport only" it's amazing how many people get this wrong but that's another story.

We finally get through customs (boys clean your football boots next time before you get on the plane) and meet our bus driver Lindsey Ferguson. With a quick tour party photo, then off for a bit of a bus tour of Wellington, and then onto our accommodation. Twenty minutes of unpacking and then back down in the foyer for a walking tour of windy Wellington. Twenty years ago it was windy and wet in Wellington when I last toured here so things hadn't changed.

We seemed to be shown allot of bars in which we were not going to argue with. We finally came to a bar on a corner where the boys settled in for a couple of beers an NPC (Wellington verse Crusaders) game of rugby and a good meal. The younger crew decided to venture on a bit further and came across some interesting night spots. Some of us ventured to find a mascot in which we weren't too sure on what to get. Others stayed and enjoyed some of the local hospitality and give our interpretation on why and how Australia is going to win the world cup.

Well with a half a dozen shops visited and few bars we were still none the wiser on what we were going to get for a mascot so back to the original bar and few more beers till the wee hours of the morning.

### DAY TWO

...and a good nights sleep for some (those who got to their beds). Big breakfast, that's what we needed. Well the old brigade are all here where are young blokes was the question? I think we made arrangements last night with the bus driver about a morning sightseeing tour including view from Mt Victoria, Lambton Quay and Waterfront. If time permits, visit Te Papa for self guided tour.

This gave the boys an opportunity to get a bit of fresh air into their lungs and swap stories about the previous night adventures. The photos on some of the boys mobile were soon deleted after a comment was made, "are you sure they are ladies sitting on your laps". The boys had ventured into one of the night clubs in which you were given change in their own night club currency or as we found out "mermaid money" which could only be spent there.

Mt Victoria, the cake tin ("why is it called the cake tin?" and "why is the red shed called the red shed, asked one of the coaches. "Because it looks like a cake tin." And the sheds are all red, came the reply from the bus driver). Smart people, us Kiwis. The look out to the South Island and allot of photos later we were off to Te Papa for a look into the local indigenous culture. Question was asked "what the hell is Phar Lap doing here?"

Feed of good old New Zealand fish & chips, scallops, paua fritter, and oysters was the call for lunch to be washed down with L&P (Lemon & Pairoa) soft drink.

Well apparently we needed to get back to our accommodation where we had made arrangements to go for a training run. But before we did we had to take a last minute dash to a store to find us a mascot that was to lead us to infinity and beyond (or on our tour at least). Well what you know we found the most appropriate mascot called "Donkey" who was to get a big reputation as the tour went on. Who should carry him where ever we go was the next question, which was soon to be determined in the first of many Kangaroo courts.

Training gear on and its all back on the bus for our first training session. Luke is in charge of the forwards and Ross is in charge of the backs and like always the rest to the side. Before training started a certain garbage bin was visited by one of the boys where by he proceeded



*Kev Kara helping at the Goulburn canteen this year.*

to leave his tea, breakfast and lunch in a colourful arrangement next to it. Well a very good training session had by the boys as the old brigade walked across the road to watch a couple of games of school boy sevens. Well it's back on the bus and plans for the nights festivities, breakfast and departure time sorted. A meeting is to be held back at our hotel bar at five o'clock with designated duties and the sitting of our first kangaroo court and don't be late.

As with all previous tours, what happens on tour stays on tour and if you do the most ridiculous of things you have to pay to an elected judge and his jury in a kangaroo court hearing (the proceeds going on the bar on the last night of tour). The court also had elected both the coaches to be the defence lawyers if someone would like to dispute their charge, but at a cost of double if they were found guilty of the original crime.

Kangaroo court sitting number one, and with a few arriving late made it easy for the pot to start filling up. "Court is now in session, Judge Podge presiding" (with his hat up side down and long white beard made a picture for all to see) and his trusty debt collector (charcoal), the locals thought these Aussies are crazy.

Many items were mentioned from the boys in Sydney, to the plane trip, leaving the football in Goulburn, the "Mermaid Bar" night club, not making it to the room. To leaving that poor garbage bin to watch over someone's meals. Then the presentation of the mascot in which it was decided that the two youngest will carry "Donkey" with them everywhere they went, Matt Chalker and Ben Moore. The court had

made a good impression on all, and accusations were coming out of left field, which had made the required result, and that was to make our fines cover not only the last nights drinking but also a deposit for the next overseas rugby tour.

Planning decisions were made for the rest of the evening with the time and place to watch the Aussie England game and was agreed on, back at this same bar. So up for a quick shower and change and out for dinner and a couple of beer and hopefully we will make it back to watch the game.

Ten o'clock (Maori time) and this colourful duck sees the light and heads home for a quick nap to make sure he gets up to watch the game. I awoke with all intentions on going down to the bar but with the convenience of a remote control next to me and the TV in front of my warm bed on well might as well stay here.

Well that wasn't good to watch as all rugby addicts know if your forwards don't stand up the team goes no where. I could see old blokes at home (sunny Goulburn that is) - Wiz, Shielsy, Doug, Dicky, Klemy, Tilly, Perrin, Buckley, Snow, Tinka, Pig, and all the rest taking off their gold jumpers and placing them back in the storeroom for another four years, and thinking back on how much I coped when the All Blacks went out four years before.

### DAY THREE

Five in the morning and still most of the boys hadn't returned from their Saturday nights adventures.

Eight o'clock, well into **day three** and down for breakfast and let's see what the mood is like? Hell not many here for brekkie, but the old brigade are all here waiting for the next game downing there bacon and eggs, looking for some sort of answer. "Well that wasn't good" was my short but to the point opening. I opened the door and in they all walked. "Those bloody forwards, wouldn't feed them" "should have bought on subs earlier", "not a good way to end your career", "Sack the coach" and last but not least "hope your All Blacks do better".

Well ten o'clock and in the bus and off to Napier (notice how I didn't mention the All Black loss) couple of boys laying on the floor getting a bit of shut eye early into the four hour trip. Beautiful scenery with allot of green hills and rivers flowing, wind mills on the peaks and a little drizzly rain coming down. Well half way through the ranges and a quick emergency stop for a couple of boys to yodel into one of New Zealand's rivers. Stop for lunch on the way and head to the local fish and chip shop.

Arrive in Napier and straight to an NPC game (paid by the tour fund) Waikato play Hawks Bay and a great game of rugby won by the local side Hawks Bay in a close match.

Arrive at our accommodation, the Bluewater Hotel, nice digs. Quick phone call and no game available due to their players were all away and their season had finished a couple of weeks back, but a quick catch up with one of Goulburn's sons Scott Klem, older brother of our president, at the bar with one of the local players.

The New Zealand contingent of the Klem family are all going well and like always the CEO (wife) has full control of Scotties along with those little All Black supporters future. No one wants to talk rugby at the moment so let's see what's to do in this place for entertainment.

### DAY FOUR

... and a bus tour around Napier and street walk with shopping and lunch to be done, then onto a game of golf at one of the local courses. Game of Ambrose, off to a good start some of us hit the ball that remain on the course and others well passing traffic just wasn't safe.

Well into it and already there's an incident "has anyone seen my phone" "try ringing it" was the reply. That's a good ideal, so with someone else's phone off he goes back tracking through the course. Twenty minutes later and hundred dollars worth of mobile calls, "found it". There were some unusual golfing styles exhibited on the day, with some standing too close to the ball after tee off, some getting an electric shock on the fence on the other side of the road, to some looking around for another ball.

Well the golf all done and only the presentations to take place, with the wig and dress going to worthy recipient Tom Hand and the classes with the unusually. Bus picks us up and back to our digs for a training run and a game of touch. Scottie and Alison turn up with the nippers and we sit back and have a bit of a catch up. Spot a sea food outlet, next door to our digs, so in we go roomy and I, a kilo of mussels, kilo of prawns, half a kilo of scallops (real scallops), oysters, kinas, loaf of bread and butter and back to our room for a seafood entree. End up at the bar taking the left over's for the rest, then down the road for a main meal and a couple of beers.

### DAY FIVE

... and we had a good night out at the wharf with the boys being attracted by three female pensioners at the restaurant with bread crumbs falling on them.

Well in the bus and over the Ahimanawa ranges we head with snow still on the mountain peaks, fields of tall pine trees, creeks running into rivers and acres of green pastures drooled over by our farmers on board.

The bus floor was again being used for sleeping arrangements, and the boys made the most of the opportunity to catch up on some shut eye. From Napier to Taupo it took about three hours by bus. We pulled into the lake to book for our fishing challenge: the old (or should I say experienced) verses the young. That is Charlie and his four against wise men of Charcoal, Podge, Luke, Ross, and me in who could catch the most fish, then into town for some lunch and a bit of shopping.

Back to the boat where we were taken out by a local fishermen who like all the others promise nothing. Well an hour into it and all we had to drink was coffee; since none of us were quick to grab a carton of grog to drown our rugby sorrows. The weather begins to come in with misty rain and we begin to tell tales of the one that got away. Well low and behold the rod straighten and we begin to get excited the first of the fishing crew (Charcoal) take his stance and brings in the first fish, a good size fish so we thought but only to be cast back into the depths of Lake Taupo.

We managed to catch a couple of others with the same result, well the look on some our fishermen when he threw the third one back in. I commented to a couple of local Taralga residents that I had pulled out a couple of trout half the size from the famous Woolshed Creek and in the pan before the rest of the house hold even awoke. The looks and the comments were something like "if he throws another one back in he's going in after it".

Well no sooner said when off the line goes again and younger of the crew Lukas steps up to pull the plug from the lake with a bow on the rod only to lose it just short of the boat. All our hearts sank because we knew that it could have been our best hope to win the bet. The mayor of Taralga Charcoal started to make the tide turn when he pulls in a good size fish, over the legal limit length of 45cm, then only to be beaten by the next one by Ross. With in the last twenty minutes we pull another big one to finish our bag.

We were grudgingly met by the opposition at the boat ramp where we cheerfully showed off our catch. The stories come thick and fast from the opposition but all they had was photos to prove they had caught something. The young team admitted they had loss the bet and the old boys are still waiting for there carton.

We headed back to the Suncourt Motor Hotel, our accommodation, where the bus driver had delivered our bags to our rooms, for a shower, wash dry and iron the clothes and quick nap before we had to meet back at the hotel bar for the next court sitting. The rain was starting to set in outside and the locals kindly informed us that there was no water meters in this country and that a drought to them was two weeks without rain.

We all assembled at the bar to the call of Judge Podge with faithful debt collector at his side and as per previously boys were late and donations were made straight away. Again fines were issued and no resistance was had from the accused.

After the court sitting we share the three very well cooked trout that was prepared by the chiefs at our hotel for entrée before we dispersed in all directions for our evening adventures. Donkey was seen out at a night club with a few of the boys and an elderly judge was also heard to say that it was a great night out meeting other tour groups.

One of our touring party didn't see the small step leading up to the fire place and proceeded to head butt the brick work on the way down to the floor, she was ok but we suggested she should have a couple of classes of wine as pain relief. We have our first game tomorrow and I need my beauty sleep so I'm in bed early again.

## DAY SIX

We get back into the tourist mode with sight seeing of the Huka falls, thermal power station, jet boat rides, and bungi jumping. The boys have a great day participating in all the activities. Charlie, then Sam, Mitch, Tom, Ben & Donkey and one of the boys as video shows, had to be nudged over the side of the platform because the girls had to have their break for lunch. Poor Mikael Webber.

Mate twenty minutes looking over the side then jumping back was not a good thing to watch, but you did entertain the crowd that began to gather and give some encouraging words, "jump you mug", "we haven't got all day", "don't look down", "shut your eyes", well he would never lived it down if he hadn't jumped and It's appropriately that he along with Matt Chalker would lead the team onto the field that evening.

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***Here is where we must leave Kev's tour diary. Hopefully the last four days, which Kev said were the best part, will see print soon.***

# Season 2007 Club Awards

## **Best & Fairest Players**

First Grade - Anthony Yeo  
Second Grade - Ben Moore

## **Most Improved Players**

First Grade - Ben Green  
Second Grade - Pat Little

## **Players' Players**

First grade - Pieter De Beer  
Second grade - Ben Pearson

## **Mark Longhurst Most Outstanding Prospect Award**

Ben Moore

## **Chris Brown Clubman of the Year Award**

Matt Klem

## **John Osmond Most Dedicated Player Award**

Dean Thompson

## **Kevin "Bubby" Fitzsimmons Encouragement Award**

Jason Kremer

## **Rick Buckley & Joe Fitzgibbon Outstanding Achievement Award**

Anthony Allport

## **Simon Poidevin Breakaway of the Year Award**

Chris Kilby

## **Goal-scorers**

**First Grade** - Mikael Webber (38 conv. + 5 PG = 91 points)

**Second Grade** - Ben Moore (20 conv. + 2 PG = 46 points)

**Club** - Mikael Webber (38 conv. + 5 PG = 91 points)

## **Try-scorers**

**First Grade** - Rob Sheekey (13 tries)

**Second Grade** - Cameron Neville, Pat Little (5 tries each)

**Club** - Mikael Webber (13 tries)

## **Pointscorers**

**First Grade** - Mikael Webber (146 points)

**Second Grade** - Ben Moore (61 points)

**Club** - Mikael Webber (146 points)

**Animal of the Year** - Aaron Wild

**Village Idiot** - Charlie Brewer

**El Meato (Butchered Try) Award** - Rob Sheekey

**Dummy Spit of the Year** - Rob Sheekey

**Yabby Award** - Charlie Brewer





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