



THE RED MACHINE

Newsletter of the Marist St Pats Rugby Football Club Inc

PO Box 3472, Wellington

www.msprugby.co.nz

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Congratulations Victor

Congratulations to Victor Vito, Marist St Pat's seventh All Black and the first since John Schuster in 1987.

Victor says MSP is his 'family club' which he joined on leaving Scots College because of close family links. His uncle Gus Slade coaches the senior 2s and his first cousins Chris and Marcus Slade and Julian Tupai, all regular premier players, are almost like his brothers.

He credits MSP with a big part in his early development: "Being exposed to coaches like Brendan Reidy and Kevin Horan definitely helped me".

Victor was named in the All Black team on Sunday 30 May, the day

after he had turned out for MSP in their 48-0 win over Tawa. It was his 43rd premier appearance.

His first game in MSP colours was for the club's under-19s in 2005, but by the end of the year he was in the premier team. He was MSP's Sportsman of the Year in 2008.

Despite a heavy workload for the Hurricanes and Wellington Lions, Victor has always played for the club whenever possible. He is often at premier matches, or at the gym helping with trainings or at the clubrooms.

MSP congratulates him on his selection and wishes him all the best for a long and successful All Black career.

Plenty of action with second round underway

by John Holden
MSP chairman

Marist St Pats, 2010 style, is well underway. With 355 players in 11 senior teams and 214 players in 16 junior teams, MSP continues to be one of the largest clubs in the Wellington Union's competition.

The end of the first round saw some excellent results. The premiers finished runners-up in the Swindale Shield, the senior 1s earned promotion to the Hardham Cup competition, and the exciting under-21 colts team were runners-up in the Paris Memorial Trophy.

These results reflect the skill, energy and passion of all coaches, particularly Murray Tocker, Kevin Horan, John Duignan, Tony Meachen, Gus Slade, Geoff Owen, Sione Savaiinaea, Paddy Mapu, David Wanden, Bevan Packer, Steve McGill, and Damian Rapira-Davies and their management teams.

But the first-round results didn't end there. The under-85 Blues, coached by Andrew Robinson and

captained by Andrew Tait, prevailed to take the JC Bowl Trophy. The Reserve grade Internationals guided by Edwin Meachen and Cameron Bath have marched on from their 2009 season.

Congratulations also to MSP's players who have been selected for representative teams, particularly Victor Vito, the club's newest All Black, and prop Jeff Allen, who is part of the winning New Zealand under-20 team in Argentina.

Jeff was presented with a special award from the club by All Whites coach Ricki Herbert, who is now on World Cup duty.

Rugby World Cup 2011 is also coming alive. Volunteers can help with the RWC events being planned by Marist St Pats - if you would like to be involved, email the club on msprugby@xtra.co.nz.

Being part of MSP also offers great camaraderie. The Past Players and Supporters' Day was a great success and, with president Mick Robbers as the enthusiastic auctioneer, the 'Hair Raising' extravaganza raised

a tidy sum for Ronald McDonald House. 'MSP's Got Talent' is set down for 3 July and there are more theme nights to come!

A special memory was so many club players and supporters taking part in the St Pat's College 125-year jubilee celebrations. MSP was pleased to help sponsor 'Town's' jubilee publication *Sectare Fidem* that is available at the college office.

This year, club coaching coordinator John Duignan has introduced a Volunteer of the Month Award. Colts coach David Wanden won the inaugural April award, and secretary Geraldine Manu'a is the May volunteer for managing the Past Players and Supporters' Day. Warmest congratulations to both.

Finally, a word of thanks to everyone who attends games each week to support MSP teams. I continue to be impressed by the number of fair-minded supporters on the sidelines. Players appreciate this support and other clubs recognise it as another strength of the Red Machine.

Gordon Tietjens Test dinner speaker

Sevens coach Gordon Tietjens has been confirmed as a guest speaker at the Shamrock Club test dinner on Friday 16 July, as part of the MSP's big annual Test weekend in Wellington.

The pre-test dinner will be held at the clubrooms the night before Saturday's All Blacks v South Africa test at the Stadium. A second dinner speaker is still to be confirmed.

MSP has booked the Boatshed for pre- and post-Test match entertainment on Saturday 17 July. The clubrooms will be closed, but the Boatshed will be open from 3pm, with a big screen available for those who can't make it to the game.

Also on the Saturday afternoon, the premiers will battle it out with Norths at Evans Bay in the Jubilee Cup round.

The test weekend is always a big occasion on MSP's social calendar and a great opportunity to catch up with players and supporters.

Shamrock Club members get first preference on tickets for Friday's dinner so, if you can't make it there, head on down to the Boatshed on Saturday evening.

Support from All Whites coach

It's highly unlikely that any football World Cup coaches would have been down at their local rugby club two weeks before the tournament started, but that's exactly where All Whites coach Ricki Herbert was as he dipped in to his pocket to help out an up and coming MSP star.

The story began on 15 May with a whip around on MSP's Past Players and Supporters' Day to help out Jeff Allen, the premier prop who had been picked in the NZ Under-20 team to contest the Junior World Cup in Argentina.

At the packed clubrooms, Ricki Herbert was enjoying some relaxation before departing for the World Cup. He was invited up to make an impromptu speech, and he commented that no matter what the sporting code, it is great to see a club supporting its young players.

He contributed generously to the



MSP prop Jeff Allen, a member of NZ's Junior World Cup-winning team, with All Whites coach Ricki Herbert

collection, and then went to present the player-of-the-day awards.

In a great show of club support, the collection raised \$1100. With the club matching that, Jeff was able to depart with a healthy sum in his back pocket.

He has since gone on to have a fine tournament, playing in the team that defeated Australia 62-17 in the final on 22 June.

Rugby World Cup volunteers sought

Recruitment has started for more than 5000 volunteers needed to host the thousands of international

and local visitors who will enjoy the Rugby World Cup when the tournament kicks off in September next year.

The NZRU is looking for volunteers to perform a variety of roles - see www.rugbyworldcup.com/ volunteer for more information.

MSP will also be looking for volunteers to help out during the World Cup.

The club hosted some highly successful functions during the 2005 Lions tour and plans to once again showcase the club and its facilities to overseas rugby fans - if you can help, email msprugby@xtra.co.nz.



Centurion club beckons

Fullback Apoua Stewart (left) is the next premier set to join the 100-game club following his 98th premier appearance against Upper Hutt on 19 June.

He should hit the ton against Poneke on 3 July, and join current centurions Jamie Parkinson, John Paul Tocker, Chris Slade, Fa'atonu Fili and Ged Robinson.

Both Fa'atonu and Ged reached the 100-game milestone this year. The number of premier centurions reflects an experienced and settled squad that has turned around a slow start to the season and put in some top performances of late.

◀ APOUA STEWART in action against Tawa last year.



Short cuts

Wellington U20 selections

Congratulations to Paul Tuia, Ben Nansett, Liu Taituave, Ano Kapeli, Henry Mullin and Solomona Sakalia who have been selected as part of a wider Wellington under-20 training squad.

The final team will be selected later in August.

Volunteer of the month

Geraldine Manu'a won May's 'Volunteer of the Month' award not just for her normal work as club secretary, but also for her efforts in organising the Past Players and Supporters' Day.



GERALDINE MANU'A

Geraldine has a flair for organising big occasions, from the annual prizegiving to Cup final days.

Last month, colts coach Dave Wanden was the inaugural award winner for all his development and recruitment work with the colts.

Congratulations to both Geraldine and Dave.

A flock of Tuias

Some sort of club record might have been set when the MSP senior 1s played against Tawa on 29 May. In the side were four Tuia brothers plus a Tuia cousin.

Brothers Sio and Lucky were flankers, Tui was No 8, while Paul and cousin Ben played on the wings.

Several years ago, a trio of Robinson brothers - Ged, Phil and Chris - held up the senior 1s front row, but the flock of Tuias will be hard to beat.

New magazine launched

Former MSP player Ben Christie is editing a new magazine that should be of interest to many Wellingtonians. Ben is the son of former MSP chairman Terry Christie and brother of MSP centurion Matt.

He recently returned to the capital to edit *FishHead*, a Wellington magazine - see www.fishhead.co.nz.

Gerard's getaway

Gerard Wilkinson is keen to see any MSP members at the resort apartments he is now running at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast.

Gerard, a former New Zealand water polo player as well as a centurion for MSP and the Wellington Lions, was back at MSP for Past Players and Supporters' Day.

He's offering a special deal for club members - see the MSP website for details.

Mixed memories for Reserves

The Reserve Internationals had the distinction of being the first MSP team to play an official WRFU game on the new artificial surface at Te Whaea, behind the Winter Show buildings, when they met the Upper Hutt J8s on 19 June.

The park is expected to get a heavy workout as a training venue during next year's World Cup, and several grades are now regularly being drawn to play there, on Friday evenings as well as Saturday.

Unfortunately, the history-making game will have mixed memories



BEN NANSETT (left) and CHARLIE GRAHAM - see 'Twin towers' below

for the Reserves, who lost their first match in two seasons to end a 27-game winning streak.

They went down 14-15 to a last-minute Upper Hutt try, but said they couldn't blame the artificial turf, which they described as a good, even playing surface.

Twin towers

Young locks Ben Nansett and Charlie Graham (pictured above) were jointly awarded player-of-the-day following the premiers' 49-0 win over Upper Hutt on 19 June.

Ben, who was having his first premier start, and Charlie stepped up for injured locks Nick Passi and Matt Egan and stood out in a top forward effort.

Top points' scorers

With the second round underway, the club's top points scorers up to and including 19 June are:

		Tries	
Filipo Aukusitino	senior 3	11	
Josh Price	U85 Green	8	
Chris Slade	premier 1	8	
Sloane Toeaso	senior 2	7	
Ryan Setefano	premier 2	6	
		Kicking points	Total points
Fa'atonu Fili	premier 1	99	109
Richard McKenzie	reserves	55	55
Joe Burns	U85 Red	52	57
Chris Slade	premier 1	47	87
Liam Jackson	U85 Green	47	57

(Thanks to Barrie Smith for the stats)

Junior Club round-up

by Karin Graham

The Junior Sausage Sizzle on Old Timers' Day was yet another fantastic celebration of Marist rugby.

A mixture of Junior Committee members and

U13 Opens - kids and mums and a few other junior team representatives on the day - were all keen to get in and support their Junior Club. Thanks to St Pats College for providing the shelter.

The sausage sizzles have been a great success and we plan on being at all the Evans Bay home games, weather permitting. Huge thanks to parents, kids and Junior Committee members who have given up a bit of time on Saturday afternoons and helped out.

Thanks also to all the ball boys who have shown up for all premier home games - great to see so many of you.

New jerseys have been ordered and soon all our junior teams will finally be proudly wearing the unified colour of *red*! Thanks to Claire Meredith for all her



PENINA FITISEMANU (centre back) and her band of willing helpers

wonderful organisational skills in making this happen, and to the support of the senior club.

Calendar dates to note

Sat 10 July	No junior rugby
Sat 31 July	Junior Club night
Sat 28 Aug	Last game
Mon 30 Aug	Junior photos
Fri 10 Sept	Junior prizegiving



Junior committee members (from left): Martin Paget, Karin Graham, Paul Kelly and Neil Murphy ►

Congratulations to Wellington reps

The following children have made Wellington rep honours - congratulations to them, and we know they will make MSP Juniors proud!

U11 Grade

Finn Meredith
Yasheek Rosario
Thomas Woods

U12 Grade

Naitoa Ah Kuoi
Utu Ah Kuoi
Zac Lemon
Willie Savea
Jacob Turrell
Junior Uelese

U13 Restricted grade

Savesi Apolo
Eamon Carr
Ethan Meredith
Saia Paese

U13 Open grade

Keli Naufahu
John Sione
Issac Tolova'a

Girls rep team - combined

U11-U13s

Selestina Vaaua-Hamlin

School holiday program

Juniors will be able to train at the Evans Bay gym in the first week of the July school holidays.

On Tuesday 6 July and Thursday 8 July, U8-U10s can train from 10am-11am, and the U11-U13s from 11am-12.30pm.

All juniors in those grades are invited - coaches have all the details.

Past Players and Supporters' Day photos

Photographer Dave Lintott took some great photos at the Past Players and Supporters' Day in May, including those at right.

Match photos are on the MSP website (www.msprugby.co.nz) at Teams, and supporters' photos are at History.



Noreen O'Callaghan



John Knox



Mick Nansett

The RED MACHINE is compiled by Pat Martin. Printing by Milne Printers.

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