



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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Support MSP in the Jubilee Cup semi-final!

Marist St Pats will take on Petone in the semi-finals of the Jubilee Cup on

**Saturday 4 August, at
Evans Bay Park
Kick off at 2.30pm.**

The team is having a great year – help the Red Machine go all the way by coming along and giving your full support!



PREMIER CAPTAIN Craig Simeon accepts the Andy Leslie Trophy from Andy Leslie, the former All Black captain after whom the trophy is named. It was presented to the team after the match against Petone, for securing top qualifying spot in the Jubilee Cup round. The result has given the team a home semi-final at Evans Bay Park on Saturday 4 August.

Time to rally support for semi-finalists

*by John Spillane
MSP chairman*

As we approach the business end of the season it is easy to focus solely on the impressive and much-welcomed form of the premiers.

And what a great achievement to finish top (winning the second round with a week to spare), and gaining the right to host a home semi against the old foe, Petone.

I am sure that a huge crowd will be at Evans Bay this Saturday to support our boys (note the slightly earlier 2.30 start time).

Several other teams in the club are also progressing well through their grades with the Colts, the under-85 Blues, and the under-85

Reds all in line for some silverware this season.

Possibly the most impressive achievement within the club in recent times is the run of Andrew Robinson's under-85 Blues team who also play their semi-final this weekend.

This side is unbeaten in 22 games since July 2006. Last Saturday they defeated the Poneke 'Dogs of War' – anyone who has followed this great grade over recent years will know that this is an outstanding effort, and I am sure it has sent a shiver down opposition spines for this weekend.

As we prepare for the semi-finals and whatever comes after that, please also spare a thought for the

teams that don't get the accolades, the lads that turn out week after week to battle for precious and sometimes scarce victories.

MSP has the possibility of collecting the silverware because of the efforts of the boys who play for the teams that 'feed' the grade-winning sides – with players who are willing to provide back-up to their mates and who really understand the MSP culture: Club – Team – Me.

Please get involved over the weeks to come. The players really value the sideline support.

And be sure too to come up to the clubrooms and enjoy the uniqueness of Marist St Pats and the friendship of your clubmates and supporters.



TROPHY WINNERS: The premiers at the Petone Rec after being presented with the Andy Leslie Trophy on 28 July for winning the second round.

Although the team went down 34-39 to a last-minute Petone try, they had already secured top spot with six straight wins.

The team scored five tries in the match, to go with 11 from the previous week's 69-15 hammering of Wests.



SUPPORTERS' CLUB:

Part of the regular band of supporters at Evans Bay Park are (from left) Fr Brian O'Connell SM, Fr Geoff Broad, Alan Woods, and Robert Gray.

They are pictured here after the premiers' 17-16 win over HOB Marist on 14 July.

Prizegiving on 7 September

One of the big events on the MSP calendar is the Annual Prizegiving and Club Captain's Dinner. It will be held this year on

**Friday 7 September
7.00pm, MSP clubrooms**

The evening will feature a \$10 buffet dinner and live entertainment later. It's a great end-of-season finale - all players and supporters welcome!

Senior 3s' fundraising dance

The other event to watch out for is the senior 3s' dance on

Saturday 4 August

at the clubrooms. Tickets for this 'siva' are \$10 per head, and a live band will provide the music.

All funds go to the senior 3s' end-of-year trip to Christchurch.



OBITUARY

Frank Ryan

It is with sadness that the club heard of the passing of life member Frank 'Smiler' Ryan on Wednesday 18 July, a deeply respected former coach of Marist and Wellington.

Frank first came to the old Marist club in 1941 from Nihoniho in the King Country. Wearing the No 8 jersey, he played senior A (premier) rugby for Marist from 1947 to 1952, and was part of Jubilee Cup-winning teams in 1948 and 1950.

His distinguished coaching career began in 1956 when he took the reins of the senior seconds. In 1959 he took over the top side, and won Jubilee Cups in 1960 with Ivan Vodanovich as captain, and in 1962-63 with Mick Horan as captain.

Frank then moved on to repre-

sentative coaching, being sole selector/coach of the Wellington Colts from 1964-70, and the well-performed Wellington A team from 1971-74. He went on to become a North Island selector from 1979-82.

His love of the game and willingness to help out at all levels was illustrated by the fact that when he ceased his North Island selection duties, he began coaching at Holy Cross school in Miramar.

He then went on to coach at St Pats College, a role he continued well into his seventies.

A president of Marist St Pats in 1978, and of the WRFU in 1987, Frank spent most of his working life with the Dairy Board, and was their chief accountant when he retired.

The club extends its deepest sympathy to his two daughters and their families.



COLTS TOPS IN IDOL CONTEST: Ian Leota (left, with microphone) proved to be the brightest of MSP's off-field stars when he won the MSP Idol night on 7 July. Aided by a backing band including (from left) the Hopgood brothers Jonathan and William, and coach Edwin Meachen, the colts showed once again that they will be the stars of the future.

MSP players in Wellington reps

Congratulations to the following MSP players who have been selected for Wellington rep teams:

Wellington Lions

Miah Nikora
Bernie Upton

Wellington B

Jamie Parkinson
Nick Passi
Craig Simeon

Wellington Colts

Ryan Kuggeleijn
Jackson Martin
Marcus Slade
Alex Tulou
Julian Tupai

Wellington under-19

Sean Hay
Ryan Setefano

Wellington under-18

Tui Tuia

Wellington Maori

Dan Kauraka
Jon Paul Tocker

Short cuts

Brothers in arms

Sets of brothers starting for the club's premiers is a fairly rare event, but it's happened twice this year - first earlier in the season when lock Bernie and prop Kieran Upton took the field, and more lately when second-five Chris and lock Marcus Slade started against Tawa.

Chris and Marcus have been so tight this year they even spent 10 minutes together in the sin bin during the 69-15 win over Wests.

More brothers



These brothers, Budgie (left) and Henry Fidowsen, are bound to be out supporting all MSP's teams in the finals listed below that are coming up.

Calling all supporters

While the top-of-the-table prems have a semi-final booked, three other MSP teams also have good chances of taking out their respective grades.

Check the draw and come along and support:

- the under-85 Blues in their semi-final on 4 August

- the under-85 Reds in their 11 August semi, and
- the colts who are a good bet to make their final on 25 August.

Volunteer of the year

MSP has nominated Pat Dunn for the Dominion Post-WRFU 'Volunteer of the Year' award - and not just because he recently put his boots back on to help out a depleted premier 2 side play the Johnsonville premiers.

Pat, a former MSP President and current committee member, also runs the club's junior rugby, a role that would merit a knighthood.

His Johnsonville appearance consisted of a 15-minute cameo more than 20 years after he first played premier and rep rugby.

Injury woes

Julian Tupai has had a terrible run of luck with injuries this year. Last year's premier fullback and the club's top try scorer, Julian was selected in the Wellington Academy, and a bright 2007 beckoned.

But in a pre-season warm-up last March, he broke his ankle and was out for 12 weeks. In his second game back, on 30 June, he broke his hand with five minutes to go in the game against Poneke B.

Julian has still been selected for the Wellington Colts and he should finally see some game time during August and September.



MUD LARKS: Premier props Sean Coburn (left) and Jamie Parkinson leave a muddy Evans Bay Park after the 17-16 win over HOB Marist - at least, we think that's who they are.

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All correspondence to Marist St Pats, PO Box 3472, Wellington.

Email: msprugby@xtra.co.nz

Web: <http://www.msprugby.co.nz>

SHAMROCK CLUB MEMBERS 2007

Marist St Pats appreciates the great support from Shamrock Club members including:

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 The Pines
 3 Phase Electrical Ltd
 TME Electrical Contractors Ltd
 Tony Jackson Cars
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BEFORE AND AFTER: MSP's under-85 Blues team have organised themselves an alternative strip for home games, and they unveiled it (above) in their 14 July clash with the MSP under-85 Black team. The Blues came out on top 30-10, and gave their flash new tops a decent dose of Martin Luckie Park mud into the bargain (below).



Blues 22 games undefeated

MSP's under-85 Blues 7-3 win over perennial grade champions Poneke has given the team a 22-game undefeated streak, with their last loss back on 22 July 2006.



FASHION STATEMENT: The MSP crest on the smart-looking Blues jerseys

Playing in division one, the Blues' 2007 record is played 16, won 15, and drawn 1, which comes on the back of winning their last five games of 2006.

Big wins this year have

included 45-0 over Tawa, and 46-5 over HOBM. Even when not playing well, the team has managed to scramble wins, with a last-minute 50-metre intercept by Will "Chewie" Jurie to avoid a draw with OBU a memorable case in point.

The only game in which the team was not victorious this year was the 14-all draw with defending champions Poneke. That draw also meant the team missed out by one bonus point on winning the JC Bowl for the first-round winner.

However, they made amends on 28 July when they defeated Poneke 7-3 in the second round, to inflict that team's first loss for several seasons.

Winger Miles "Bones" Tait leads the Blues try scorers with nine.