



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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New life in Spillane Cup tournament

A great Marist tradition, the Spillane Cup tournament, has been revived with a shift from an Easter to a pre-season timetable.

Marist St Pats sent two teams (above) to the new look tournament held in Rotorua on 10-11 March.

The A team defeated Ardmore Marist from Counties 67-7 on the Saturday while the Bs lost 24-29 to Auckland Marist Bs. Auckland gained two intercept tries in the last three minutes. The A team couldn't kick on the following day, going

down to HOB Marist.

MSP's teams ranged from premiers to school leavers, and the squad gelled together well. It was a competitive tournament and a great opportunity to match up against other Marist clubs.

Settled squads showing a lot of promise

*by John Spillane
MSP chairman*

Once again the Red Machine is clicking into gear with a small army of volunteers ensuring we are ready for another season.

Pre-season matches are underway and the senior's trip to Rotorua to compete in the Spillane tournament is fading into a very happy memory for all who attended.

We welcome new players, coaches, and managers to the club and thank you for selecting Marist St Pats as the place where you will enjoy the winter of 2007.

The club is fielding 10 teams and catering for every level of rugby.

The bulk of last year's senior

players have returned, and there's a big intake of school leavers, combined with the usual enthusiasm from the under-85 teams. Settled premier and senior squads with a sprinkling of new faces are showing a lot of promise.

As we prepare for the season proper we are also looking to our future. To this end, we are replacing the sawdust in the gym with a new synthetic turf surface.

This will relieve pressure on the training grounds and make the gym a far more versatile environment for the club and college - this project is underway now and will be completed as the season commences.

So please, dust off the raincoat,

get the umbrella off the golf trundler and let's see you at a ground soon, supporting your club.

The season opener against Ponoka at Evans Bay on 31 March, is the ideal opportunity. The premiers, senior 1s and 2s are the only MSP teams playing that day, but they are all playing locally.

We will have a big tent set up at Evans Bay Park, with food and refreshments available, so come along and have a look at what are shaping up to be some very competitive sides.

The clubrooms will be open the following week, from Easter Saturday 7 April, so let's get together and make this a very good year for everyone.

Coaches and managers 2007



Senior 1 coach Richard Higgs (left) and prem coach Brendan Reidy study the form in a pre-season hit-out against HOB Marist on 4 March.

Richard Higgs, the former premier and Wellington Lions flanker, is back coaching this year and taking the reins with the senior 1s.

'Higgsy' has always enjoyed the physical side of the game and mixing it with the players - several complained after a recent training that he was putting in the hardest hits.

On the management side, welcome to newcomers Keith Upton, Diane Young and Rosalie Meachen.

Diane hails from the Bay of Plenty, and Rosalie will keep a watchful eye on the under-19s.

Her son Edwin Meachen, in his first year of coaching, is taking

MSP's coaches and managers this year are:

Premier

Coaches: Brendan Reidy, Ian Snook

Managers: Bryce Tietjens, Terry Manion, Michael Sood

Senior 1

Coach: Richard Higgs

Managers: Keith Upton, Ray Scotson

Senior 2

Coaches: Brian Coulter, Gus Slade

Managers: Dave Malcolm, John Poutawera

Senior 3 Aces

Coach: Sekati Uelese, Sione Savaiinaea

Manager: Perelini Coffin

Under 85 A

Coaches: Mike Harper, Michael Sood

Manager: Jared Bath

Under 85 B

Coaches: Geoff Stretch, Chad Thornton

Manager: Nick Penfold

Under 85 Blues

Coaches: Andrew Robinson, Ian Fenwick

Manager: Richie Renouf

Colts

Coach: John Spillane

Managers: Tony Sellars, Diane Young, Ric Hurrell

Under 19s

Coaches: Edwin Meachen, Daniel McHardy

Manager: Rosalie Meachen

Presidents

Kaumatuā: Dominic Cavanagh, Mark Porter, Ken Carson

the under-19s along with Daniel McHardy. Edwin broke his leg playing last year and decided to coach

in 2007 to allow a full recovery. He continues a long tradition of Meachen coaches at Marist.



MSP'S 2007 management committee

Pictured at a recent management committee meeting are members of this year's group:

Back (from left): John Holden (assistant chairman), Pat Martin (club captain), Fr Geoff Broad (club chaplain), Ken Ah Kuoi, and Andrew Robinson.

Front (from left): MaryAnn Spillane (treasurer), Colleen Upton (secretary), Brendan Milne (president), and John Spillane (chairman).

Also on the committee this year are Pat Dunn, Andrew Egan, Henry Fidow, Will McGee, Matt McNeil, Brian McGuinness, and Alan Woods.

Short cuts

Sevens success



MSP sevens captain Chris Slade accepts the winners trophy at the NZ Marist 7s tournament in February, while tournament organiser Tony Meachen looks on.

Chris, along with Ryan Setefano in his first year out of St Pats Town, was selected to the NZ Marist team to travel to Samoa.

Sevens proved very popular over the summer, with MSP competing in tournaments in Mt Maunganui, Greytown, and New Plymouth.

Welcome return

Jamie Parkinson is back in action in 2007 after a year off with a foot injury. The Wellington B and Wellington Maori prop has been in great pre-season form.

Promising flanker

One promising newcomer is loosie Alex Tulou. The former Hastings High School and Napier Pirates

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Photos John Holden, Bryce Tietjens, Martin Paget, Keith Upton, and Terry Manion.

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player has played a lot of age-grade rep rugby in the Bay and trialled for the New Zealand under-19s.

Uptons in

Great to see the Upton family so involved in MSP rugby. When not watching Bernie in the Hurricanes, prop Kieran is playing, dad Keith is managing the senior 1s, and secretary Colleen is efficiently keeping the club's wheels turning over.

Homeward bound

Matt McNeil, the 2006 under-85 Blues coach, has had a short but productive stint on the club's management committee before he returns to his London home this April.

Matt was made a job offer he couldn't refuse. MSP wishes him all the best and hopes to see him back soon.

Around the grounds

Macalister Park, opposite the old Athletic Park, will not be available for rugby this year. Macalister's three fields will be given over to soccer.

Evans Bay Park has been confirmed as MSP's home ground. The premiers will play five of their 11 home games there in the Swindale Shield round.

No luck on St Paddy's Day

With the premiers playing Petone in a pre-season match on 17 March,



An invitation to the season's opening games

All club members and supporters are invited to the opening games at **Evans Bay** on **Saturday 31 March**.

The draw is:

Premiers v Poneke
Evans Bay Park, 2.30pm

Senior 1s v Poneke
Evans Bay Park, 12.45pm

Senior 2s v Poneke
Evans Bay Intermediate,
12.45pm

A big tent will be in place, serving food and refreshments.

Come along and help get the Red Machine off to a flying start in 2007!

(N.B. Clubrooms open 7 April)

you might think the weather gods would have looked after MSP given it was St Paddy's Day.

Playing into a howling gale and rain, the prems were down just 10-0 at halftime, with the forwards in great form.

However, after only 10 minutes with the wind at their backs in the second half, the ref strained a calf muscle, and the game was called off.

In the earlier matches against Petone, the senior 1s won 15-5, and the senior 2s drew 17-17.

Hot time at Spillane

It was a great tournament in Rotorua, but as these forwards will tell you, it was hot, with temperatures around 30°C.

Fortunately, the players stayed across the road from the Blue Lake, where the water was still warm for swimming late in the evenings and early morning.

MSP JUNIORS

Key junior dates coming up

Registration nights:

Monday 26 March, from 5-6pm, at the MSP gym in Evans Bay (and at the Open Day also).

This night is also a practice night for under-9 to under-13 tackle grades.

Junior Club Open Day:

Saturday 31 March at the MSP clubrooms in Hataitai. There's a 9:30am start for under-6s to under-8s, and a 10:30am start for under-9s to under-13s. Come along, register, and have a look around!

Season starts:

For ALL grades on Saturday 21 April 2007.



MSP's ethos of sport in schools

Archbishop John Dew has confirmed that he will continue, following the retirement of Cardinal Tom Williams, as the patron of one of Wellington's most successful sports clubs; the Marist St Pats Rugby Club.

Together with club chaplain Fr Geoff Broad, parish priest of St Francis de Sales, Island Bay, the two help to ensure that all those involved with sporting teams - coaches, managers, players, and supporters - reflect the club's ethos.

This is particularly evident in the Marist St Pats Junior Club for all primary school children.

At every opportunity, the junior rugby club applies the principles of both the Kiwi Sport FairPlay Charter and the Catholic Education Office guidelines on Sport in Catholic Schools.

Children from all Wellington schools are welcome and do, in increasing numbers, play for the junior club.

MSP supports the right of all children to participate in sport regardless of age, ability, ethnic background or gender, and promotes fair play that sets a foundation for lifetime physical activity.

By adopting such a policy, children from any circumstance are provided with self-development opportunities that may otherwise not be available. They can gain satisfaction from



Junior convenor Pat Dunn, his wife Cath, and children Eliza and Jacob.

achievement within a controlled, supportive environment.

Children who wish to play for Marist St Pats should contact the club's junior co-ordinator Pat Dunn (details opposite).

MSP junior contact

Any queries call junior convenor
Pat Dunn.

Ph 388 5780 (h), 496 4047 (w)
021 846 303

Email: juniors@msprugby.co.nz
You can also check out the club's
website:

www.msprugby.co.nz/junior