



# UNICORN TALES

the official newsletter of the Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club

[www.melbournrugby.com.au](http://www.melbournrugby.com.au)

Welcome to Unicorn Tales Issue # 19 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008, the official newsletter of the Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club.



**CLEANING**

## President's Report

G'day Fellow Unicorns,

It is with much sadness that I must give you the news of the passing of one of our club greats, Major General John Stevenson AO. John was a former player, Club Captain, Patron (for 12 years over two terms) and a Life Member. Our condolences go to his family, particularly to his wife Anne, daughter Wendy, son in law Geoff and his grandson John Nettle who continues the family tradition of playing great rugby at Melbourne. John's funeral is at 2:30 pm next Wednesday 6 August at St George's Church in Glenferrie Rd, Malvern. John was a great Australian and a great clubman and he will be missed by all.

In other news, the souvas were great and the rugby fantastic last weekend and lets hope to Wallabies can repeat their performance this weekend in Auckland.

This weekend we are playing Cerberus, Eltham and the Harlequins Southern Pillar - all away so see the website for maps and details. However, all our juniors are at home for a rare showing, so please get down and support them from 0900 on Saturday morning – there will be bacon and eggs for breakky available.

I hope to see you all at one of the games this weekend.

Cheers,

*Jed Macartney*

## This Weekend

### 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008

3:15PM: **Pillar** - Harlequin Souths v Melbourne Barbarians  
Riviera Park, Eel Race Rd, Seaford (Melways 97 F10 & 11)

1:30PM: **Lightning** - Cerberus v Melbourne Green  
Dampier Rd, HMAS Cerberus (off Stony Point Rd, Crib Point)(Melways 194 H4)

3:15PM: **Lightning** - Eltham v Melbourne Blue  
Pitt St Rugby Field, Bridge St, Eltham (Melways 21 J6)

09:00AM: **Under 8** - Melbourne Blue v Endeavour Hills White

09:00AM: **Under 8** - Melbourne Green v Endeavour Hills Maroon

09:00AM: **Under 10** - Melbourne v Endeavour Hills Maroon

10:30AM: **Under 12** - Melbourne v Footscray

Romanis Reserve, Orrong Rd, Prahran (between High St & Malvern Rd) (Melways 58 H6)



## Under 18 Side

We are trying to put together a Melbourne U18's team to enter a district competition, starting towards the end of August, comprising of 5 matches.

### We need more players!!!

So far so good, we have quite a few committed from local schools. However, if any club members have friends, sons, relatives etc who might like to play or train please contact Neil Hay on 0405 983 633.

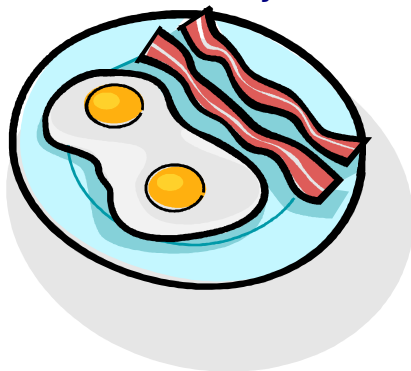
Training will be Thursdays at 6.30 – 8.30.

## Social Calendar

**Junior BBQ has been cancelled this Thursday evening** but we have a

**Bacon & Eggs Breakfast on Saturday**

**It's no quite breakfast in bed but on a cold Melbourne winter's morning you can't be too fussy.**



There is now a bacon and eggs breakfast, on Saturday morning, at the ground, for the juniors

**Time:** From 9:00AM  
**Cost:** Gold coin donation  
**Where:** Orrong Park BBQ

## Last Weekend

**26<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

**Pillar:** Melbourne Barbarians 3 Eastern Suburbs 31  
**Penalty:** Anton Pilli

**Lightning:** Melbourne Blue 5 Harlequins 19

**Under 12:** Melbourne 0 Southern Districts 24

We fronted up to beautiful, downbay Seaford on Saturday last well under strength. Five players were scratched due to representative commitments, school commitments, snow commitments and then a late scratching who couldn't quite get fired up enough.

The 12 who made the effort, put in the most spirited showing of the season. Regretfully, it has taken until the eleventh hour for the team to realise what can be achieved with some good, old fashioned rugby Dave Brockhoff would be proud of.

Felix and Olly led the forwards with some great, spirited go forward and some solid mauling against a bigger and more mature Souths pack. Some great tackling from some of the newer recruits kept the top of the table opposition to 3 tries at half time.

The team came out in the second half and showed some great resolve under some intimidating Souths tactics. Souths scored a lucky try just after half time, with some of the Melbourne players clearly obstructed trying to get to the ball carrier. The rest of the half was spent camped in the Souths quarter, but we just couldn't get the ball over the line. Great runs by Sam and Will were cut down with the line only metres away. Olly took the ball up with great purpose.

The score was Souths 24, Melbourne 0 - which was not a fair indication. Weel done boys.



## Last Weekend Cont'd:

### Under 10: Melbourne 20 Moorabbin 7

Melbourne U10's travelled to Moorabbin on Saturday for the decider in a best of three. When they first met, earlier in the season, Melbourne pulled off a nail-biting win. On their second encounter Melbourne were unable to overcome a larger stronger Moorabbin side.

This time Moorabbin were short numbered and both sides agreed to a seven aside match to keep things even. This made for an expansive game with both teams passing the ball wide and running in space. Melbourne's hard work on their tackling technique from Thursday's training clearly payed off. Melbourne took an early lead with tries from Tim, Vince, Russell and Stephen. Moorabbin fought back strongly to trail by only a couple of tries at half time. Moorabbin continued to apply pressure early in the second half but began to falter as the advantage of Melbourne's extensive bench meant that they had fresher legs as the game went on. Vince and Arron were tireless in both defence and attack. Sam managed to tie the opposition in knots with a few confident runs, scoring once and feeding Tim for a memorable team try. Millicent demonstrated her increasing confidence and in doing so secured the Coach's award. James was tenacious in defence regularly pulling down opposition players twice his size for which he received the Best Defender award. Towards the end of the match Moorabbin struggled to lay a hand on Tim as he dodged and sprinted past the would be tacklers. His haul of 9 tries made him the clear choice for the Best Attacker. [Players: Aaron(3), Campbell, Harrison, Jack, James, Kate, Millicent, Russell(1), Sam(1), Stephen(1), Tim(9), Vince(5)] Final Score: Melbourne 20, Moorabbin 7

### Under 8 Green:

This weeks game was against Boroondara. Melbourne Green had previously played this team in the pouring rain and it had proven a tough encounter, so expectations were for the same.

The Boroondara team tested our normally tough defence in the first half and jumped out to a lead with a few well executed tries. The boys never panicked and worked hard to develop the defensive line we have seen so often this year and as time progressed the game started to turn.

As the game progressed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the Green boys further demonstrated their progression this season with teamwork in attacking rugby. Passing through 6-7 sets of hands, using the full width of the field and working hard to get the ball to a player in space led to some of the best executed team tries we have seen from this team.

Through the significant efforts of every player in the team, a first half deficit was turned into a solid win at the final whistle. There were simply too many fantastic contributions from everyone this week to name them all. Especially given the overall game was dominated across the board by straight running, drawing in the opposition and passing quickly to outside players to run in tries.

Well done to all, keep up the great work.

## Social Update

The recent Greek BBQ proved to be a success with a fabulous turn out and new members to the club. The Greek food and beer were delicious and the Aussie tri nation team managed a win, which topped the night off! Yakka and George did a wonderful job and worked tirelessly all day, therefore a huge thank you to them for their generous contribution to the club.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August** is the next event for the ladies of the club. The 'ladies sideline picnic' is a new venture this year and hopefully a really fun day. The tent will be situated on the main pitch sideline and be decked out with chairs, nibbles and champagne. Please let me know by Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> if you can attend. The cost is \$10 to cover drinks and nibbles.

Please check the website for other social events that are coming up soon!

*Holly Ames*

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**\$35.00**



#### Club Beanie

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#### Club Jacket

100% nylon rip stop shower proof, featuring extra long tailored hemline, fully lined micro fleece, zippered pockets, hidden tuck away hood, elastic draw cord on waist and hem. Sizes M-3XL.

**\$70.00**

For details on the rest of our great merchandise, please go to [www.melbournrugby.com.au](http://www.melbournrugby.com.au) and follow the links.