



# 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 # 27 – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008, the official newsletter of the Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club.



## President's Update

G'day Fellow Unicorns,

As we lead into the AGM, I thought it was important to update you again on the current position of the club. The playing season may have ended but the committee, coaches and players have still been busy and the following is a summary of the current state of the mighty Unicorns.

### Infrastructure

I detailed in an earlier communication that the committee has adopted an infrastructure strategic plan and that this plan was being implemented with the support of the Council.

Our work with the council is continuing with the current status as follows:

- The Council has re-affirmed that we will be allowed to play on Orrong Park next season. This means that we will have two grounds side by side for the first time ever.
- Council have committed to the improvement of Romanis reserve (our current ground) playing surface and will continue watering it throughout summer either by trucked in water or the new bore.

- The council is letting a new contract to establish a deep bore at the north end of Romanis Reserve which the Council is confident will provide quality and volume of water for irrigating both Romanis Reserve and Orrong Parks during the summer months.
- The Toorak park master plan has been issued and we have taken a leadership role within the Toorak Park users group. This will ensure that our interests are best represented as the Master Plan is developed and implemented.
- We have established a summer training gym in the Victory Square change rooms (these are located adjacent to the Toorak Park synthetic cricket nets).

### Training Gym

The training gym is now operational and will allow our players to train together over the off-season.

The equipment includes a two pin loaded stations comprising a number of activity stations including bench press, squat machine, shoulder press, leg and calf curl machines, two pulley stations, free weight bench press, squat rack, boxing bag, and speed ball.



The committee is confident that this facility will become a year round asset available for all club members to use. All members are encouraged to take advantage of this equipment that has been kindly donated by members of the Club.

## Playing Operations

For the first time in many years our playing operations have continued past the end of the season. This has taken the form of a comprehensive program developed by our Director of Coaching Mitch Canning and his dedicated team. We have also launched the MRUFC Academy which dovetails with the off-season program and will develop our high performing players. The Academy and off-season programs have been well attended and include the following:

- Fitness testing
- Rugby skills training
- Allied skills training (wrestling, water polo, boxing etc)
- Nutritional information, and
- Team building.

We have had approximately 25 players participating in the off-season program and have had three teams in the summer touch football competition, so player fitness and skill levels should be at their highest ever as we enter the season.

We have also been recruiting strongly with contact with over 45 players to date and this has seen the arrival of the first of several players from NZ and we are also hoping for some players from the UK. These players have been playing at a high level and will bring an increased level of skill and professionalism to the club to supplement our current senior players.

We are currently in the process of purchasing next year's playing kit and will have a special kit just for the 100th year game and a first grade strip for our centenary year next season that represents a combination of our old and current colours.

The competition next season will revert to the traditional Dewar shield home and away format with the VRU planning to have eight teams in the first grade competition.

## Financial

Financially, the club is in a very strong position. This year has been one of prudent cost management and strong revenue growth. As a result, I expect our Treasurer Owain Stone to announce a significant profit at the AGM. We have secured much of our sponsorship for 2009 and already received ASF project funding from members that will ensure our centenary year is a wonderful success.

In addition, our strong financial position ensures the funding of the following projects as required:

- Our overseas recruiting program;
- Watering of the both playing grounds should the Council's second bore fail;
- Appointment of a clubhouse manager to maximise revenue and minimise wastage and leakage from the bar operations again next year; and
- Continuation of the ASF projects for improved infrastructure, training equipment and even the club history.



## Social

The season saw the continuance of many favourite club functions and the inclusion of the Ladies sideline picnic and trivia night during 2008.

The establishment of the social calendar for next year will ensure another fun year off the field. In addition to the usual events such as President's Club lunches, the Greek night, Junior nights etc we will have some very special 100th Anniversary events.

## 100th Anniversary

The club's 100th Anniversary represents a very important milestone for the Club. The establishment of a 100 year sub committee has identified a number of initiatives to support this milestone including a players lunch (past and present) in February and a gala ball in April, new 100 year tie, and other merchandise opportunities.

## ASF Projects

ASF projects provide an opportunity for members to support their Club with a tax effective donation. Existing and new ASF projects planned for 2009 include the following:

- Gym and Training Equipment Development
- Ground Development (current project)
- History/Memorabilia
- Rugby Academy (including junior development /coaching sessions and other expenses)
- Higher Competition Fund (to sponsor individuals/teams that emerge from the Academy)

All members are encouraged to participate.

## Juniors

The Junior club continues to grow with a record number of juniors due to the hard work of a few very dedicated parents. We are currently recruiting a junior sub committee to strengthen the management and development of our junior Unicorns. For too long we have left this to an over-worked junior coordinator and it is time to add some strength to the management of the juniors. The junior sub committee structure is to be established and will include new positions of Treasurer, Commercial, Rugby Operations, Recruitment, and administration.

Please contact Katrina to offer your further support to the Club.

## Senior Management Committee

I have taken on board a number of recommendations to broaden and deepen the existing committee structure and am proposing a stronger organisation structure for 2009. Under this proposed structure each committee member will be responsible for a functional area of the Club and will be invited to recruit non-committee members to assist. The proposed structure for the committee in 2009 is attached.

In developing this structure a number of Club members have offered their assistance to the Club bringing the number of active volunteers to a level that I have not seen on the Club before.



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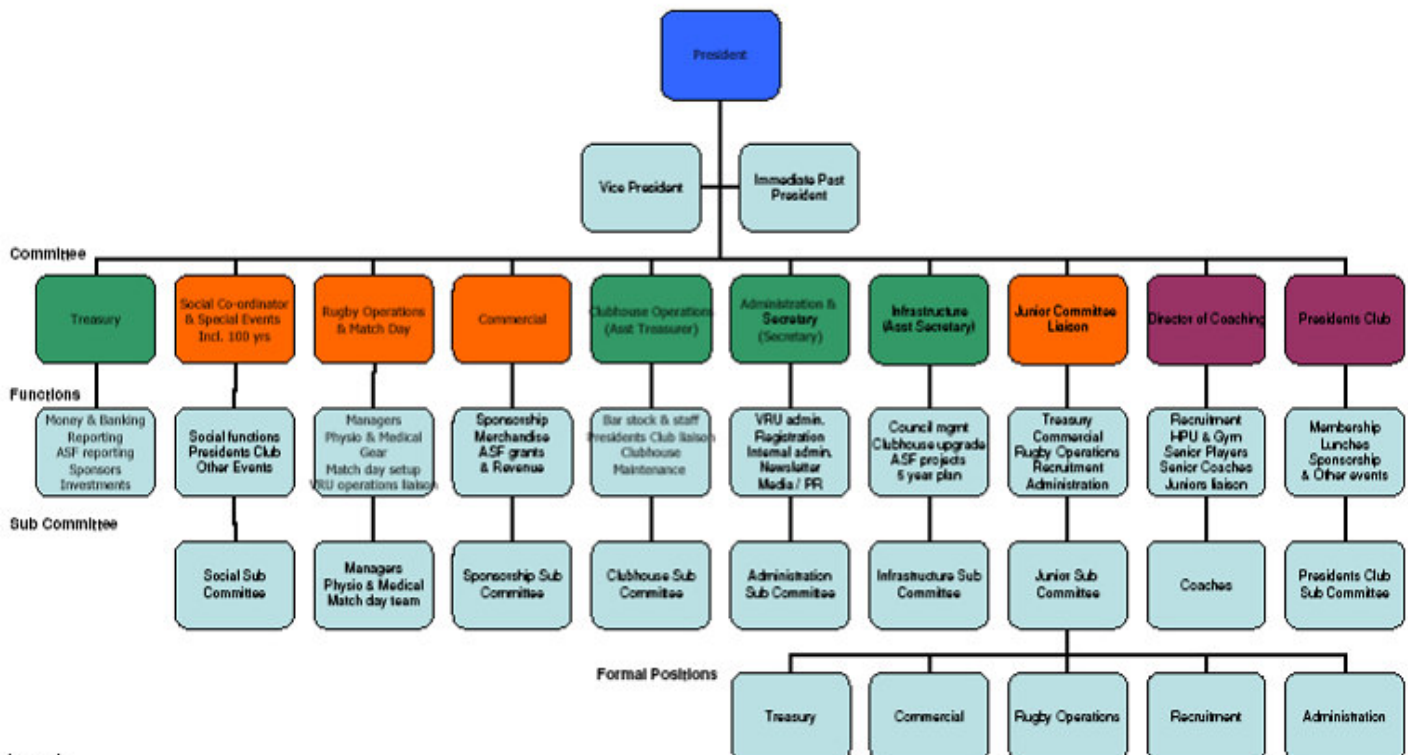
I would like to formally acknowledge the extreme hard work of the other committee members and the coaching team that has led to the results above. The committee is the strongest that I seen it in the past five years with people who are committed to the club and who actually do the work that they say they will. Likewise, the coaching team is now settled into a very strong unit that will ensure improving performance on the field and a successful season next year.

If anyone has any questions about the club or what is happening please give me a call on 0416126267.

Cheers,

*Jed Macartney*

## Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club Organisational Chart Proposed for 2009



Legend:  
Green - Executive Committee  
Orange - Non Executive Committee  
Purple - Non Committee  
Pale Blue - Functional Responsibilities  
Vers: 1, date: 251108



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