

O.M. NEWS



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From the EDITOR – Jenny Barr

News Flash: Super Hero!!

Massive congratulations to **Kendra Cocksedge** on winning the **World Women's Player of the Year**. This is obviously a huge achievement, especially given the calibre of the other two women nominated, Gaëlle Mignot (France) and Sophie Spence (Ireland).



Kendra is an influential member of the Black Ferns side, both for her prowess as a goal-kicker and the way she unleashes the talented New Zealand backline. She made her test debut aged 19 and this Women's Rugby World Cup winner is now firmly established in the national team. The 27-year-old was an integral part of New Zealand's success at the Women's Rugby Super Series, producing a kicking masterclass as her side beat world champions England along with USA and their hosts Canada to claim the inaugural title.

The nominees were announced one year on from the Women's Rugby World Cup 2014 final in Paris, when England beat Canada.

The tournament was a watershed moment for the women's game with huge audiences and record-breaking TV viewing figures giving a massive boost to the sport.

World Rugby Chairman Bernard Lapasset said: "On behalf of World Rugby, I wish to extend my congratulations to Gaëlle, Kendra and Sophie for securing their Player of the Year nomination, and for their skill, power, discipline and consistency required to excel at the highest level".

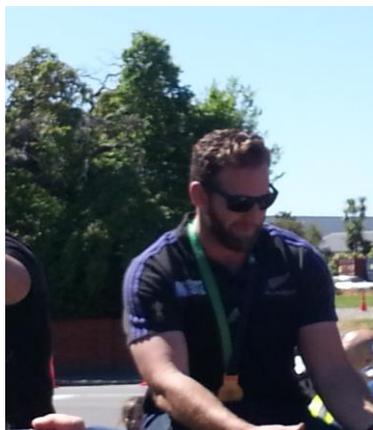
Old Maroons Christmas Gathering

**Monday 14th December 2015 from
5.30pm**

The Brewers Arms in Merivale



Rugby World Cup Champion – a winning history and a winner all round!!



Kieran Reid has long been associated with successful teams and we are proud to call him our own. Varsity boy Kieran is a wonderful representative of Canterbury rugby and we are proud of him and his achievements throughout 2015.

Kieran chatting to a fan during the Christchurch Victory Parade

'Boots Boobs and Balls' – Nicky Ewins (nee Inwood)

The OM AGM was successfully held on Friday, July 24th and one of the real highlights of the evening was the speaker, Nicky Ewins (nee Inwood). Her talk entitled 'Boots Boobs and Balls' grabbed our attention right away!

Nicky 'kicked off' with her Paris trip in 2006 where her luggage failed to keep pace with her travel movements. She arrived with just hand luggage - no bags, no clothes, no whistle and....no boots. She borrowed items – all too large – and refereed the game regardless. Her luggage arrived after the final whistle!

Most of Nicky's international refereeing career started with the 6 Nations. It's always a challenge to travel from a New Zealand summer to the depths of a European winter; mix this with budget accommodation – i.e. no gym – and you get an idea of the challenges. After mastering 'crouch, touch, pause, engage' in French she was on her way to embracing the culture. As her career has progressed, she has developed more confidence at that level, realizing that much of success is purely and simply down to self-belief.

Highlights of Nicky's career adaptability and meeting Alternating from International the Representative season brings is the reason that this



have revolved around the level of the game. games to Club Rugby to and the variety that this holds her passion.

Being part of the 6 Nations has also been a highlight – the social nature and fabulous times in Ireland and then being in Paris – City of Romance. The mix of the people, the culture and the French pomp and ceremony and then being invited to the Stade de France after the Women's final were definite highlights.

This was the first time that women had been invited to be part of this event and then meeting French player, Thierry Du Satoir was a definite 'moment'!!

Perhaps Nicky's most unforgettable memory was her time in Italy. The Italians, passionate about their rugby, are also a welcoming and totally hospitable host, shown in Nicky's refereeing of an Italy/France game two weeks after the Christchurch earthquakes. The competition is intense and Nicky likened their rivalry to a New Zealand/ Australia clash. Along with an Italian and a French flag flying at the game was a New Zealand flag and one minute's silence was observed out of respect for Nicky. After the game, the President of the Italian Rugby Union made special mention of what Christchurch had just been through, a memorable and incredibly touching moment for Nicky.

Nicky's cheekier side showed itself when she touched on the 'Boobs' part of her presentation. Cold, winter play meant that games tended to prompt comments like "feeling the cold Ref?" Nicky - well able to give as good as she gets – enjoys replying with "Not at all – it's just the company I'm keeping!!"

Overall, Nicky's speed and decision making have made her the success that she is. Given that the bounce of the ball can influence what happens next, she sees her role as ref as being able to oversee the flow and keep out of the way. She describes her worst nightmare as an indecisive half-back, as it's all about keeping the game moving. Being referee can be lonely job and it can be a long 80 minutes, so keeping positive is vital. As she's matured in her refereeing, Nicky has developed a strong belief in her abilities which has had the result of her really enjoying the last five years because she's taken the pressure off herself. She's had great support from the New Zealand Rugby Union as well as from home and readily admits that it's all about controlling the controllables and being prepared to fail before you can succeed. Nicky's final comment is worth quoting:

"I've been blessed with my opportunities – the travel, the people I've met and being part of a wonderful rugby family." And we just think that we are fortunate to have her as part of the Old Maroons fraternity.

Gerard Cross turns 60!!

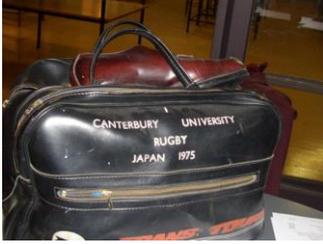


The AGM also saw us acknowledging a 60th birthday – Gerry Cross celebrated this milestone on July 31st this year. It was great to be able to recognise this event and to pay tribute to Gerry for all he does for the Club.



1975 Japan Tour Team 40 Years On Reunion Auckland ANZAC weekend

Report by Kevin Jennings (a stunningly talented 1st V) – abridged version



A most enjoyable reunion weekend for the 1975 Japan tour group kicked off on the Friday night of ANZAC weekend at the Barbarians clubrooms at Eden Park. This proved to be a great venue for greetings and reminiscence, and we appreciated the generous hospitality of the Baabaas. Many commented on the immediate sense of belonging again, 40 years since the tour, although only five years since our last meeting in Christchurch. Catching up with great team mates and good friends, and the sharing of stories (some of which were true) honed the expectations for a weekend of conviviality and wonderful memories.

Saturday morning saw many attending the Dawn Parade at the Auckland War memorial, a chance to join with the thousands of New Zealanders and Aussies to pay our respects on the centenary of the Gallipoli landings. Saturday afternoon and the Northcote Tavern catch up - another good venue for mingling, talking and laughing. Just how good we were seemed to increase with each function!

Dinner at the Billfish restaurant on the waterfront was also a memorable occasion, and another chance to chat in depth with team mates that we don't see much of as time goes by. It was good to catch up with Tony Cookson, a club member who, while not part of the tour group, was a good friend and teammate of many. Tony made the flattering observation that we all looked remarkably fit and healthy. I think we had all had enough to drink at that stage to agree with his judgement and as the evening developed further some were even considering coming out of retirement!

A trip to Waiheke Island on the Sunday proved to be a highlight. This was a chance to catch up with anyone we hadn't had a good chat with. The bus trip to the beachfront restaurant on the far side of the island, and a long and convivial lunch, loosened a few inhibitions. Subsequently we were privileged (together with some stunned members of the public!) to see a modern version of an old Tour favourite – Alouette – performed in glorious technicolour by the wives and partners. Impressive.

Some reflections on the ferry ride back to Auckland included just how lucky we were to be part of the tour experience in '75. We are indebted to the leadership of the tour, the vision, passion, energy and organisation skills of Laurie, Bolty, John C and Ian Lockie that allowed us all to participate, contribute and succeed. The tour continued the great relationship with Japanese rugby, and added to a solid foundation for the club's domestic success in the late 70s and early 80s. What a privilege to be part of such a team. Big thanks as well to all those Auckland based players and partners for their organisational efforts – I believe the meetings

at Galbraiths may continue - perhaps to address the whispers of our next reunion being in Japan 2019 for the world cup?

Allan Hunter

Allan Hunter meets the Queen and Governor General – 2014 commemoration of the D-Day landings. He was gifted this trip by the NZ Defence Forces.



Allan also received rugby memorabilia from the Racing Rugby Club in Paris



Allan modelling the gear at the Old Maroons 2014 Christmas gathering at the Brewers Arms. A striking figure of a man!



Memorial to a Memorable Coach



Kurt Davies and Rob Sullivan at Osaka University with plaque in memory of Laurie O'Reilly a hugely successful coach of UCRFC in the 70's and father of Women's rugby in Canterbury.

Photo taken on the recent (May 2015) NZU trip to Japan.

50 Caps Presentation

Four new caps were recently presented to players Andy Ireland, Sophie Anderson, Kristina Illston and Clare Smith for their 50 game achievement.

Andy Ireland, Sophie Anderson,
Howard Joseph (All Black), Kristina Illston.
Absent Clare Smith



VIPERS REPRESENT!

Congratulations to Rob Sullivan and Kurt Davies who have been playing on the NZ Universities tour to Japan, and to Elia Elia, named in the Samoan U-20 team contesting the inaugural Under 20 Oceania Championship.

Old Rivals Day – Varsity vs. Lincoln University

The results (all vs. Lincoln University)

Seniors 25-45

Div 2

Div 3

Premier Colts

Colts

Watching the game: John Phillips, David Murchison, Ian Culpan, Bruce Ullrich and John Creighton



VIPERETTES – DEFEND THEIR CLUB RUGBY TITLE

8 August at Rugby Park, Captain Whitney Hansen led the team to a tight win 21-19 against Christchurch. These were clearly the top two teams in the competition

- Viperettes Played 14, Won 13, Points for 675, Against 84
- Christchurch Played 14, Won 12, Points for 818, Against 126
- Our congratulations to the Coaching and Management team: Ernie Goodhue, Mark Meates and Kaye Goodhue
- Our team included the Japanese national team hooker Seina Saito (at right)
- Whitney (No. 8) and Jessie (Loosehead Prop) Hansen are the daughters of All Blacks Head Coach Steve Hansen
- Players of the Day: Jess Hansen and Liz Pera



We are pleased and proud to announce that **Demi Sakata** has been appointed as one of Vice Presidents of the Japan Rugby Football Union – 29th June 2015



Our two Super Rugby Final winning Highlanders and Old Maroons 'Vipers' celebrating after the game on Saturday 4th July 2015
Patrick Osborne and James Lentjes



August 2015 - Andy Ellis practicing for a possible post-rugby career as an underwear model!

Canterbury University and Melbourne University

Inaugural tour March 2016 – then annual reciprocal

We are organising a tour to Melbourne to play Melbourne Uni in March and are fundraising at the moment. We would like to gauge from you if the Old Maroons may like to contribute?

Give us a call. 021663856 Andy Hall - Andy Hall <Andy.Hall@dls.co.nz>

Basically we need to breathe a bit of something extra into the club, and as you know, a tour is always a great memory. The idea of the tour is to meet Melbourne Uni in an annual game. Details of an ongoing event still need to be sorted and I think that this will only be done as a result of getting the initial interchange underway.

We also want to link closer to the UC and, as such, we are having the Rec staff come with us to exchange notes with Melbourne Uni staff. In the future, it would be great to expand this into including more of the academic staff.

The team will be made up predominantly of seniors with some div 2 and colts as well as around 6 new players to the club. This then becomes an incentive for new talent and a great method of getting a social connection through the teams. We will have the scholarship programme running parallel to this and, if a player misses out on a scholarship, he may still be keen to join just to go on tour.

I'm trying to raise \$20k. We have made an application to the Student Union for \$7k and I am hitting up a few friends for some money; so far, a few thousand has been raised. Next year we will fundraise throughout the year and get the money sorted by other means, but to get this first tour underway and get the concept into the fabric of the club, this sponsoring is the way to go. **Any help would be great!**

Vipers play important role in the ITM Cup Premiership win for Canterbury

Canterbury have now won the cup 7 of the last 8 years with their only miss being in 2015 Vipers provided the Captain – Luke Whitelock – and stunning winger – Patrick Osborne.

Summer Work

Our thanks to Paul Cane at Stresscrete for offering summer work to an engineering student. This is an important way for us to keep our players.

This summer Cam Watkins, also an engineer, benefited from this opportunity. Our thanks to Old Maroons who are able to respond to these requests.

Canterbury NPC Premiership Winners 2015

We are proud to announce that the winning team included two representatives from Varsity: Patrick Osborne and Luke Whitelock (Captain)



Money! Money!

Donations are always welcome. As we do not have an annual subscription, financial assistance is always greatly appreciated.

If you have stories and memories or current events and activities of interest, including photos, we forward look to receiving them.

Please forward to: The Editor, Jenny or Ruzz Barr rjbarr@ayrshire.co.nz or
PO Box 36173, Merivale, Christchurch 8146

UCRFC Old Maroons Committee: President: Ruzz Barr; Treasurer: Lindsay North;
Secretary: Craig Dickson; Committee: Don Davison, Jacqui Stewart, Dallas Seymour,
Michael Dineen, Rowly Brown and Sarah Helmore

UCRFC Website: www.ucrugby.com