

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION

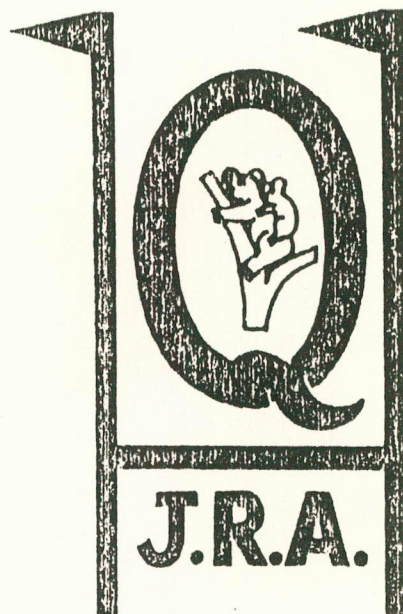


ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED AT BALLYMORE

1989

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR
RUGBY REFEREES
ASSOCIATION



18TH
ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTED AT BALLYMORE

1989

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR REFEREES ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES 1989

PRESIDENT: Frank Meek

PAST PRESIDENT: John Dee

VICE PRESIDENT: Geoff Pegg

SECRETARY: John Dee

TREASURER: Ces Menzies

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: Bob Kersnovske

Ross Mewett

Geoff Pegg

APPOINTMENTS BOARD: Simon McGarvey

Frank Meek

REGISTRAR: Simon McGarvey

LECTURE & EXAMINATION BOARD: George Houghton

Geoff Pegg

QJRU JUDICIARY DELEGATE: Colin Swain

QJRU DELEGATE: Ross Mewett

ROOM COMMITTEE: Ces Menzies

BILLETING OFFICER: Neville Newbold

HONORARY AUDITOR: Mr A Taylor



Presidents Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1989

The 1989 season commenced with the Wynnum Seven-a-Side Carnival at which all the appointed referees "arrived" to do their allotted games. The trend continued throughout the year, which hopefully means that we have solved our mailing problem - or maybe everyone received a personal phone call from Simon! Whatever the reason, there were only three games in the whole season where the appointed referees did not appear - which really is still three too many.

Our members were slightly down on last year and the appointments on the increase, resulting in each of our members doing more appointments than they have in previous years.

The "high" of the season would have to be the two referees being sent on our exchange programme with Taranaki and also the two being sent to Darwin for the Australian Under 16 Championship. Our selected members Ross Mewett and Geoff Pegg who went to New Zealand, and Bob Kersnovske and Nev Newbold who went to Darwin all came back with glowing reports. We in turn hosted Brian Crawford and his charming wife who had a marvellous time both here in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. Many thanks to Houghtons, the Reillys and the Newbolds for looking after the Crawfords during their stay. Our new innovation in appointing a billeting officer certainly worked well and a special thank you to Nev Newbold for taking on the position.

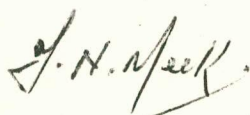
The "low" of the season without a doubt would be losing the Under 17 Qld v NSW fixture. Everyone is aware of our feelings regarding that and although at this stage we don't have correspondence replying to our letter expressing our discontent, I believe moves are about to ensure it does not happen again!

I considered our meetings to be well attended this year and I am sure everyone learned something from the lectures on the "Laws" put together in an excellent manner by George Houghton. It is imperative for the referees continued development that they obtain updates of law interpretation and change.

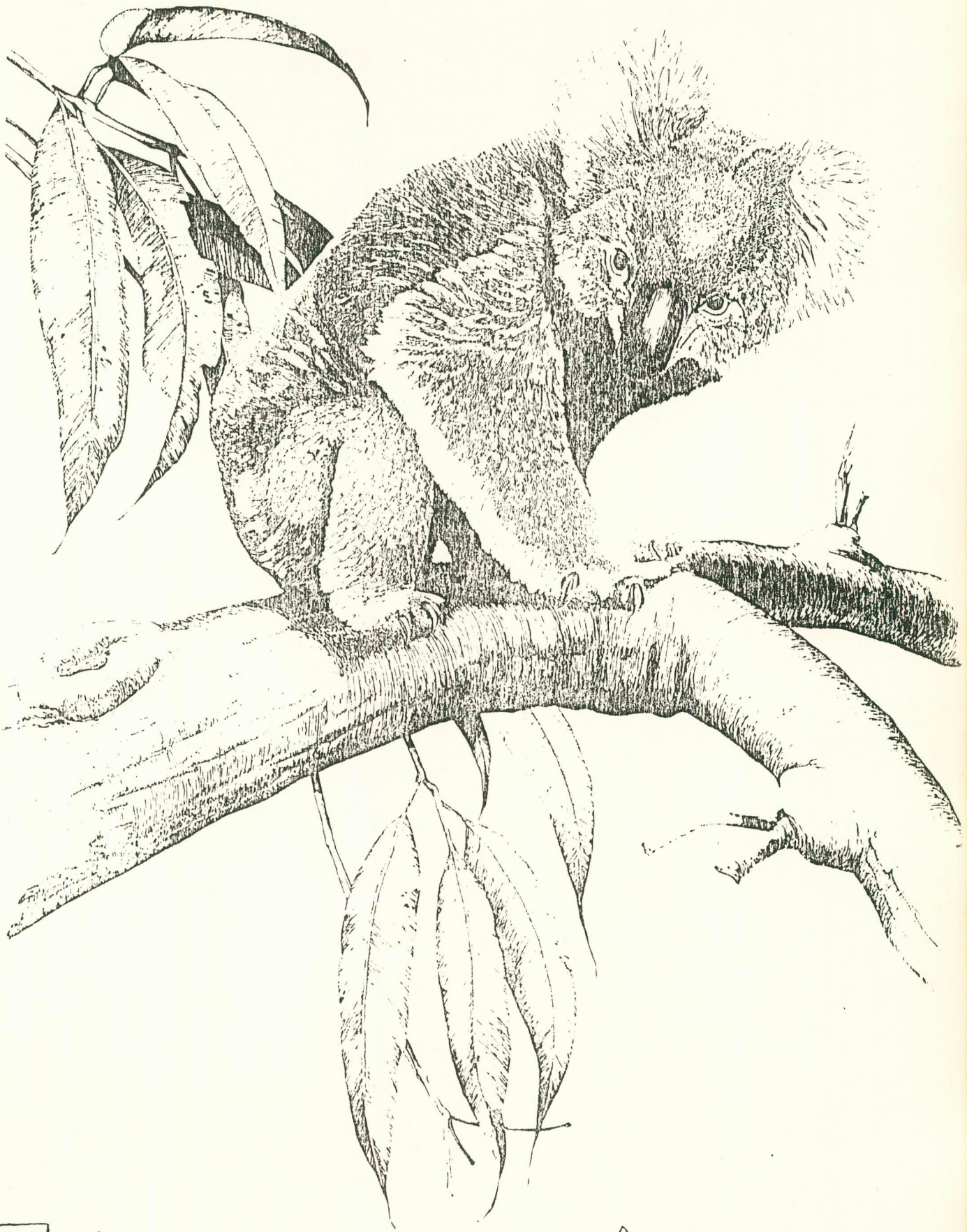
Simon McGarvey was our new Registrar this year and though everyone tried to assist as much as possible it is quite a horrendous task. Considering the ever increasing fixtures with our decreasing membership I consider Simon to have done a worthwhile job and thank him most sincerely on your behalf for the time and effort he put into the appointments.

Our annual dinner was held at the Italian Club, Newmarket and for those who took the time and effort to attend, I thank you and feel sure you would have enjoyed yourselves. It is pity that these dinners fail to attract more of our members. Perhaps an entertainment officer could be appointed - any volunteers?

To all the members who served on the committee a very special thank you. To Roy Elmer and the QJRU Management Committee our grateful thanks for supporting our members throughout the season and for the allocation of funds to enable our members to travel abroad. I trust you are all looking forward to the 1990 season and wish you all the best during the summer break.



FRANK MEEK
HONORARY PRESIDENT



Treasurer's

Report

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions	426.00	430.00
Sales:		
- Dress Jumpers	-	56.00
- Jerseys	498.00	338.00
- Socks	210.00	78.00
- Ties	40.00	20.00
- Cloth Badges	172.00	55.00
- Shorts	-	10.00
Members Functions	395.00	1,123.00
Donations:		
- Toowoomba Grammar School	375.00	350.00
- Associated Schools	500.00	-
- Ipswich Grammar School	150.00	-
Sundry	23.00	-
Referees Room	500.00	-
Referees Reimbursement	-	71.04
Bank Interest on Cheque Account	31.80	35.45
Touch Football	<u>169.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	3,489.80	2,566.49
Add: Closing Stock	<u>751.75</u>	<u>912.00</u>
	<u>\$4,241.55</u>	<u>\$3,478.49</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Purchases:		
- Jerseys	489.50	347.00
- Socks	109.30	112.00
- Cloth Badges	-	350.00
- Pennants	-	133.00
- Trophies	97.50	34.35
Postage & Telephone	-	25.00
Members Functions	1,147.30	2,092.91
Federal Tax	3.40	4.15
Air Fare - New Zealand & Cab Fares	-	617.00
Referees Room (Coca Cola)	-	71.04
Stock Writedown	<u>102.80</u>	<u>-</u>
	1,949.80	3,786.45
Add: Opening Stock	<u>912.00</u>	<u>895.60</u>
	2,861.80	4,682.05
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>1,379.75</u>	<u>(1,203.56)</u>
	<u>\$4,241.55</u>	<u>\$3,478.49</u>

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>
<u>MEMBERS FUNDS</u>		
Accumulated Funds	6,990.95	8,194.51
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>1,379.75</u>	<u>(1,203.56)</u>
<u>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</u>	<u>\$8,370.70</u>	<u>\$6,990.95</u>

Represented By:

ASSETS

Cash at Bank	2,118.95	476.15
Stock on Hand:		
- Dress Jumpers	28.00	28.00
- Jerseys	90.00	84.00
- Ties	320.00	390.00
- Metal Badges	3.75	17.50
- Cloth Badges	310.00	350.00
- Socks	-	42.50
- Beer Glasses	-	18.00
- Souvenir Glasses	-	56.00
- Flags	-	28.80
Half Share Referees Room	<u>5,500.00</u>	<u>5,500.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>8,370.70</u>	<u>6,990.95</u>

LESS LIABILITIES

	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</u>	<u>\$8,370.70</u>	<u>\$6,990.95</u>

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION

AUDITORS REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989

We have audited the books and records of the Queensland Junior Rugby Referees Association for the year ended 30 September 1989 and wish to report that the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the Statement of Income and Expenditure are a true record with respect to the year ended 30 September 1989.

HORWATH & HORWATH (QLD) PTY.

A.R. Taylor
.....
A.R. TAYLOR
DIRECTOR



Reports

QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION REFEREES ASSOCIATION

CANTEEN ACCOUNT

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Gross Profit from Trading	864.52	2,391.05
Raffles	-	31.00
Interest on Cheque Account	<u>87.50</u>	<u>34.13</u>
	952.02	2,456.18
<u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>		
Insurance	173.95	147.52
Food	60.00	-
Federal Debit Tax	<u>7.00</u>	<u>7.15</u>
	<u>240.95</u>	<u>154.67</u>
	711.07	2,301.51
Less Transfers to:		
- Q.R.R.A.	500.00	-
- Q.J.R.A.A.	500.00	-
Less Purchases:		
- Video with warranty	524.00	-
- Locks & Keys	-	9.00
- Curtains	-	100.00
- Glasses	-	25.00
- Bar Fridge	250.00	-
- Fans & fitting	<u>270.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,044.00</u>	<u>134.00</u>
<u>CASH (DEFICIENCY)/SURPLUS</u>	<u>\$(1,332.93)</u>	<u>\$2,167.51</u>

Note: Creditor Q.R.U. Club - \$476.00 September.
Purchases taken up in this year's trading and not yet paid.

QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION REFEREES ASSOCIATION

CANTEEN ACCOUNT

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>
Cash at Bank as at 30 September 1988	2,875.21	1,158.20
Receipts	<u>3,458.50</u>	<u>5,332.83</u>
	6,333.71	6,491.03
Disbursements	<u>4,290.00</u>	<u>3,615.82</u>
Cash at Bank as at 30 September 1989	<u>\$2,043.71</u>	<u>\$2,875.21</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement	<u>\$2,043.71</u>	<u>\$2,875.21</u>

TRADING STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989

Sales	3,171.00	5,765.70
Less Cost of Sales		
- Stock on Hand Previous Year 30/9/88	415.57	463.07
- Purchases		
Beer, Spirits & Wine	1,922.97	3,162.47
Soft Drinks	<u>358.08</u>	<u>164.68</u>
Cost of Goods Available for Sale	2,696.62	3,790.22
Less Stock on Hand Current Year 30/9/89	<u>390.14</u>	<u>415.57</u>
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>2,306.48</u>	<u>3,374.65</u>
Gross Profit from Trading	<u>\$ 864.52</u>	<u>\$2,391.05</u>

QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION REFEREES ASSOCIATION

CANTEEN ACCOUNT

AUDITORS REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989

We have audited the books and records of the Queensland Rugby Union Referees Association Canteen Account for the year ended 30 September 1989 and wish to report that the Summary of Receipts and Payments, the Trading Statement, and the Profit and Loss Statement are a true record of the trading of the Canteen for the year ended 30 September 1989.

HORWATH & HORWATH (OLD) PTY.

A. R. Taylor
.....
A.R. TAYLOR
DIRECTOR

ROOMS COMMITTEE REPORT

I have pleasure in providing the trading statement for the Referees room for this past year. As can be seen from the figures our actual profits from trading were substantially down on the previous year. However I consider the season was still very successful. Basic reasons for the decline in profits were:-

- (1) The abnormally high turnover during World Cup Year
- (2) A notable decline in visitors to the Room after Big Matches this year.
- (3) Provision of drinks in the Referees' Change Room all year
- (4) Hosting of a number of "free drinks and eats" meetings during the year.

As can be further seen from the figures, a large amount of the previous year's trading profits has been injected back into improvements to the Room during this current year. These include a video recorder; a refrigerator for the Changing Room and overhead fans in the Room. We were further pleased to donate \$500.00 towards both the Senior and Junior Association end of season functions.

The Room functioned effectively and efficiently on Meeting Nights and Big Match days, though generally staffed by a handful of stalwarts, and as usual I express my sincere gratitude to Tim Harland representing the Senior Association for his invaluable assistance.

C. J. Menzies.

Q.J.R.R.A. REGISTRARS REPORT - THE FACTS

Throughout the 1989 season, the Association appointed to 1099 games. This represents an increase of 137 games on the 1988 season and an increase of 252 games on the 1987 season. We again saw an influx of new referees during the season, however the overall number of "active" referees decreased from 54 to 53.

When you consider that the Association appoints to an average of 64 games a weekend, several members were appointed to 4 or even 5 games a weekend. To all those members who usually at very short notice refereed the additional game or two, my special thanks. One member who shall remain nameless but with the initials R.M.) one Saturday travelled to The Southport School in the morning to referee 2 games and on his way home to Brisbane detoured via Ipswich Grammar School to referee another game. That is what I call dedication. To all those members who travelled far and wide during the season, thank you.

Once again, the perennial problem of abuse directed at the referee continued with disastrous effects. One of our junior members was forced to "hang up his whistle" due to continuing harassment from the sideline. No member should be subject to such abuse. Players must be made aware to accept the referees decision, be it right or wrong. Overall, many favourable reports were received by the Association from various clubs and colleges.

It would be remiss of me not to mention personal milestones achieved by several members during the past season.

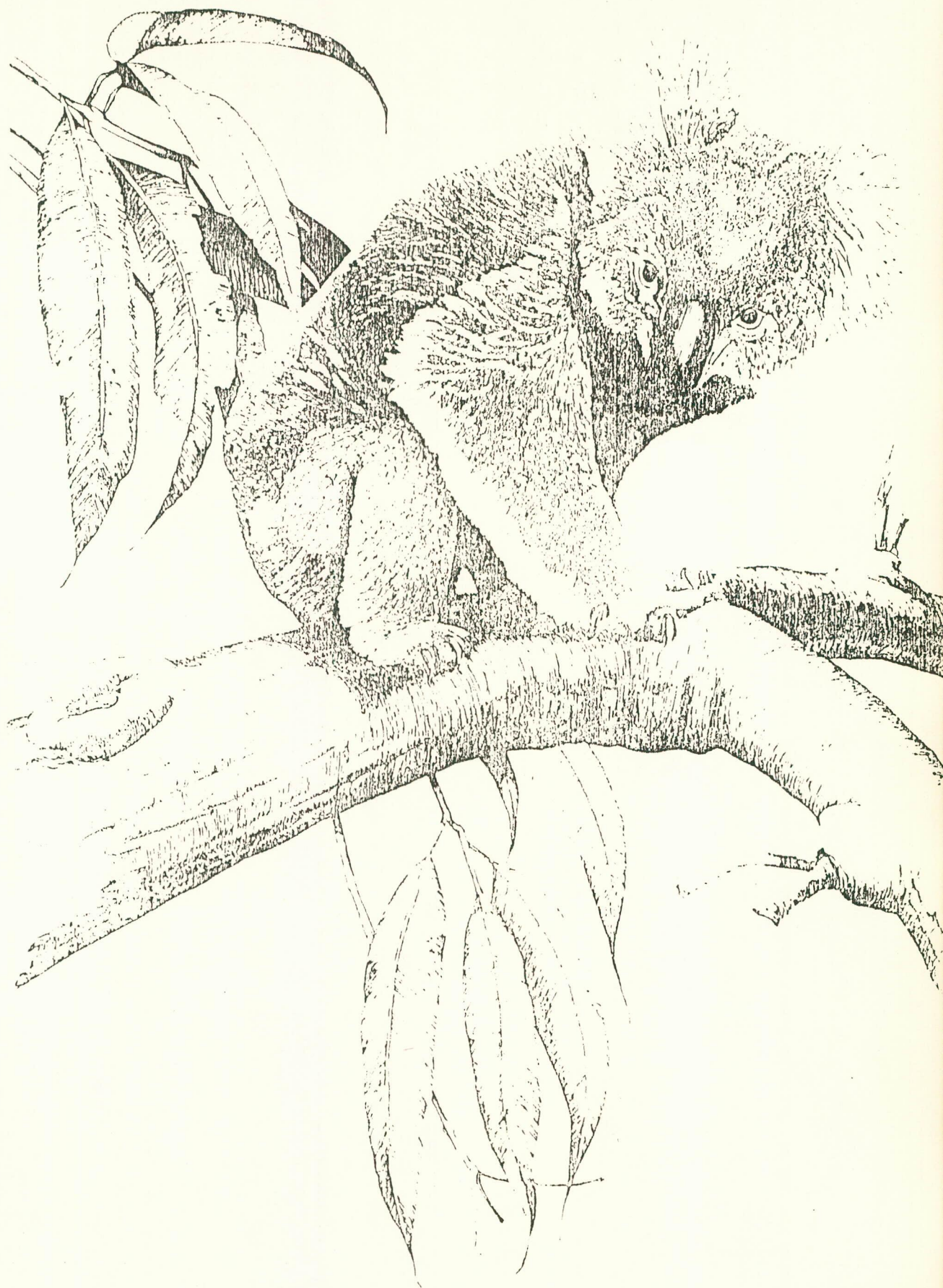
1. 250 games
 - Roy Hoskins
 - Frank Meek
2. 200 games
 - John Dee
 - Ross Mewett
 - Simon McGarvey
3. 150 games
 - Michael Abel
4. 100 games
 - Danny Cummins
 - Bob Kersnovske
 - Neville Newbold
 - Roy Sargent
5. 50 games
 - Paul Creevey
 - Gerard McCaffrey
 - Lockie McConville
 - Ian McPhee
 - Bruce Milne
 - John Murdoch
 - Gill Robinson
 - Colin Swain

In conclusion, my thanks to all the clubs and colleges who throughout the season warmly welcomed our members. To the Q.J.R.U. management committee for their continued support. To the families of all members thank you for continues support and understanding. Lastly but by no means least, to our President Frank Meek. Without Franks guidance and assistance, my job would have been unbearable. Due to work commitments, it is unlikely that I will be able to continue on as registrar. To the incoming registrar my best wishes.

SIMON MCGARVEY
REGISTRAR

Q.J.R.R.A. REGISTRARS REPORT - THE FIGURES

<u>REFEREE</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ABEL: M	117	38	155
BISHOP: J	107	17	124
BIRD: A	15	19	34
BRICKETT: R	130	19	149
CHETHAM: C	7	8	15
CREEVEY: P	21	29	50
CUMMINS: D	87	33	120
DEE: J	197	29	226
DENMAN: G	0	2	2
DILK: J	0	6	6
DOLLAR: M	0	7	7
FORBES: M	6	3	9
FORSTER: G	24	6	30
GAFFNEY: M	14	17	31
HARLAND: T	0	14	14
HOLZHEIMER: R	0	15	15
HOSKINS: R	221	31	252
HOUGHTON: G	101	32	133
HOWARD: G	0	10	10
JASPER: A	8	8	16
KERSNOVSKE: B	82	28	110
KOTZUR: T	0	14	14
KUNST: T	0	21	21
LAWRENCE: J	59	28	87
McCAFFREY: G	33	18	51
McCAFFREY: M	10	4	14
McCONVILLE: L	40	24	64
McCOSKER: B	154	27	181
McGARVEY: S	173	39	212
McPHEE: I	31	23	54
MEEK: F	211	49	260
MENZIES: C	304	15	319
MEWETT: R	178	33	211
MILNE: B	36	37	73
MORRIS: M	0	9	9
MURDOCH: J.	28	41	69
MURPHY: D	16	26	42
NASH: L	0	11	11
NEWBOLD: N	88	36	124
NEWCOMBE: B	0	5	5
PEARSON: R	20	29	49
PEGG: G	58	16	74
REILLY: P	0	5	5
ROBINSON: G	42	38	80
RUSSELL: D	0	16	16
RAUKETE: J	0	27	27
SARGENT: R	69	34	103
SIMPKINS: D	16	19	35
SWAIN: C	43	21	64
SWANWICK: R	59	21	80
VIRGEN: R	80	5	85
WILLIS: B	0	14	14
ZINGLEMAN: R	23	23	46



Inter- Changes

TARANAKI INTERCHANGE 14 - 21 JULY 1989

The Pilot of the Fokker Friendship bade us Welcome to Taranaki, New Zealand as the plane landed at New Plymouth airport. What a welcome, Cold, Wet and Windy. There to meet us was Clive Wheeler, my billett for the next three days. On the drive from New Plymouth to Stratford, Clive's home town about 60km inland and some 1500 feet above sea level, we were advised that this weather was normal and would not prevent us blowing the whistle on the playing field the next day.

After a quiet uneventful night, Saturday morning loomed gloomy, wet and windy. Mt Egmont standing glorious approximately 5km away with its dazzling snow capped peak certainly did not help to motivate me to venture outside into 5 degree temperature and pouring rain when informed that I was to referee a under 21 game at Eltham, about 10km away, at 11am. Arriving at the ground, I found both teams, Bell Block and Eltham, very eager to play in the conditions, a field completely waterlogged - certain to be a quagmire of red mud after 80 minutes of football. Surprisingly, the game was of a very good standard and apart from being covered in mud from head to foot at the end of the game, the players and coaches were very happy with the match. The invitation back to their Clubrooms for a hot supper and cold beer displayed their enthusiasm for the social aspect of the game. The eventful nights begun that night and on Sunday I journeyed to Rugby Park in New Plymouth for my next game, a Taranaki under 16 trial. To trudge through 6 to 12 inches of mud for 70 minutes was an exceptional achievement, not only for myself but the players as well, especially when the mud was only content when relieving one of ones boots at every step. The conditions were atrocious to say the least but to experience such is quite memorable.

Monday presented a bright picture with the sun shining and the availability to do some sightseeing of this picturesque countryside. A brief interlude was to referee a Shield final at the Cardiff Primary School, a very enjoyable duty as the ground was dry and firm, before venturing to the local RSL to socialize with more of the local identities. I moved to my next billett, Gary Urbahn who lives at Hawera, on Tuesday and most of the day was spent touring around the district. That night, the local Referee Association had a "POT LUCK TEA" at Gary's place that was a very enjoyable social evening lasting well into the morning. To my surprise and delight, a 1st Fifteen match on Wednesday that I had been appointed to between Hawera High and Stratford High was cancelled due to the ground being too wet to play on. Hard to believe but it happened. Thankfully, I was glad it was called off as the temperature was about 3 degrees and the wind was coming straight off Mt Egmont. No Rugby, great, off to the Hawera races we went for an afternoon in the Members. No such luck, too wet to run and the races were abandoned after the second race. No problem says Gary, off to "The Furlong Hotel" for the afternoon to discuss the form of the local fillies. At least we didn't lose any money there.

Good news on arriving home, a 1st Fifteen match at Waitra between Waitra High and visiting Otrohanga High on Thursday morning at 10am. The fine sunny day and firm fast track put a smile on one's face but the 0 degree ground and 3 degree air temperature certainly "Blue" the Qld suntan. An excellent game of rugby equivalent to the GPS standard here in Brisbane. Back to the Primary School on Friday at Stratford to referee two games, u/10 and u/12, in the District School Competition. The weather, although sunny, had not improved on the temperature scale from Thursday and I really felt sorry for the boys running around in bare feet. Even the locals were admitting it was DAMM COLD.

I moved in with my final billett, Graham Harris in Inglewood, on Friday afternoon. Finals time in the District competition and an appointment to an under 17 major semi at Bell Block on Saturday between the Top North and Top South Taranaki teams. The game was a very enjoyable one to referee with the final score being 6 - 4 to the North team. After taking in a Senior Rugby Match that afternoon, it was off to the Official Referees Dinner that Night. A thoroughly enjoyable evening with both Ross and I receiving a Presentation of a Taranaki Referee Association Tie and having the opportunity to personally thank out hosts for a wonderful time.

Our last day in Taranaki shone brilliant which allowed final sightseeing of Mt Egmont, the first time one could actually get up to the snowline some 3,000 ft above sea level, and the final game of our visit. I was appointed to the Final under 21 Trial between the North and South Taranaki Teams which was played at the Bell Block grounds. This would of been the best game I controlled during the week and the one that I enjoyed the most. I put this down to the fact that it was a final trial and the players skill level was of a high standard. The Club hospitality was once again to the fore, even on trials day, when Bell Block invited us to join the players for supper and enjoy some cold refreshments.

To be selected to go on the Interchange was an honour for myself. I would like to thank the Association and the Queensland Junior Rugby Union for the opportunity to have met new friends and gained a broader experience in refereeing.

Geoff Pegg

TARANKI INTERCHANGE

On Friday, July 14 Geoff Pegg and I flew out of Brisbane to New Plymouth, via Wellington, on our exchange with the Taranaki Rugby Referees Association. We were given a preview of the weather conditions as we landed for it was raining heavily.

This kind of weather did offer us the opportunity to referee in conditions which we would never see in Brisbane. My first game was played on a field 30% under water. This was to be the worst of the six I refereed as the rain let up a few days later.

After this I refereed five more games, culminating in the North v South Under 17 Taranaki trial match. The other games were three primary school matches - one of which began with a Haka - and an Under 19 club match, all of which were of an extremely high standard.

I would like to thank the Association for giving me the opportunity of refereeing in New Zealand and would like to say that this trip should be the aim of every referee.

ROSS MEWETT

AUSTRALIAN UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIP - DARWIN

July 1-8, 1989

We finally arrived in Darwin on Sunday 2 July - some 22 hours late due to a "minor technical fault" with our aircraft. Waiting around Brisbane airport all day, being told at regular intervals that the flight would be departing in two hours, is not the most enjoyable way to spend a Saturday, particularly if, as was the case with the Tasmanian team who travelled with us, you had been travelling since 6.00am the same morning.

After a 6.30am take-off on Sunday morning and two attempts at landing in Darwin, we were met by our billet, John Hall, and promptly introduced to the hospitality that was to be prevalent throughout the whole week.

The delayed arrival of both Queensland and the Tasmanian teams caused a number of games to be rescheduled. It is a credit to the organisation of the NTJRU and particularly the tournament organiser, Roger Rudduck that the rescheduled games were played without any evident disruption to the programme.

Because of the temperature during the day - the locals complained of being cold one day when the maximum was 27° - all games were played in the evening. First game kick-off was 5.00pm with the final game at 8.00pm.

With the games being played in the evening, Bob and I had all day free. We used the time to see as much of Darwin as possible.

On the Wednesday, we were the guests of the Western Australian team on a visit to the Crocodile Farm some 40kms out of Darwin, followed by a barbeque lunch at a delightful natural billabong called "Berry Springs". We were assured the billabong was "croc free". Needless to say, we waited until the boys had tested the water before taking the plunge.

On Thursday Bob and I took a coach trip to Kakadu National Park. The six hours on the bus were well worth while to gain an all but superficial insight into the natural beauty of the region.

Friday evening was occupied by the Presentation Dinner, held at the Hotel Darwin. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening capped off by an extremely witty after dinner speech by the recently retired Administrator of the Northern Territory, Commodore Eric Johnstone, who, we were to discover, was the step-father of John Hall, our billet for the week.

The disappointing aspect of the tournament was the method of allocation of referees to games. Apart from Bob and myself, the only other visiting referee was Paul Ballantyne from Western Australia. In spite of only having three visiting referees, I was allocated two games and Bob three games, during the entire tournament, all of which were between division two teams. These appointments could be understandable if the standard of refereeing was high. Unfortunately, in a significant number of games, the standard of refereeing was not consistent with the quality of football being played. The appointment of referees reached a farcial climax when, on the finals day, a NT referee was appointed to the game between NT and SA whilst one of the visiting referees was rewarded with running touch for two games.

By general consensus the best referee at the tournament was Paul Ballantyne from WA yet on finals day he was appointed to the 3rd and 4th playoff between Qld Metro and Qld Country, a game he had already controlled earlier in the week.

Another significant factor which became apparent during the tournament was that Bob and I were the only visiting officials who were not receiving some level of reimbursement of expenses, which in our case, were not insignificant, including paying the \$35.00 cost for the Presentation Dinner. To the best of my knowledge, all officials received from their home unions a daily meals allowance. Some even stretched to the hiring of cars for personal transport.

Notwithstanding the problems of appointments and expenses, the week in Darwin was an enjoyable experience amongst a large group of people whose major aim was to enjoy the game of Rugby for the game's sake.

However, if the appointment to represent Queensland at the Under 16 Championship is to continue to be a worthwhile aim for our referees, I feel the question of appointments and expenses must be addressed.

N NEWBOLD

REPORT OF THE U16 AUST. CHAMPIONSHIPS

WHEN NEV NEWBOLT AND I WERE SELECTED TO REFEREE AT THE U16 AUST. CHAMP. IN DARWIN I FIRSTLY THOUGHT OF TWO THINGS 1. HOW HOT WILL IT BE AND 2. DO I NEED A SUIT. THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WAS NOT LONG IN COMING AFTER WE LANDED AT DARWIN AIRPORT.

OUR TRIP WAS DELAYED BY 22HRS DUE TO "TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES" THEN "ENGINEERING PROBLEMS" AND FINALLY OUR 9.00AM FLIGHT WAS CANCELLED AT 5.15PM DUE TO ENGINE FAILURE. THE WAIT AT THE AIRPORT WAS ALL TOGETHER ANOTHER STORY SUFFICE TO SAY THAT 3 RUGBY TEAMS, OFFICIALS, AND REFEREES GOT VERY BORED. THE NEXT DAY AT 6.00AM A SPECIAL FLIGHT WAS ARRANGED AND IT WAS THE SAME AIRCRAFT, BY THIS TIME WE HAD MISSED THE OPENING CEREMONY. ON APPROACH TO DARWIN AIRPORT WE HAD TO ABORT OUR FIRST ATTEMPT AT LANDING AS THE WHEELS WOULD NOT LOCK DOWN SO IT WAS ONE MORE TIME AROUND AND WE THEN TOUCHED DOWN TO LOUD CHEERS, FROM ALL ON BOARD.

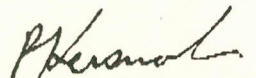
WE WERE MET BY OFFICIALS OF THE N.T.R.U. AND OUR KIND HOSTS FOR THE NEXT NINE DAYS KAREN AND JON HALL AND WERE WISKED UP TO THE AIRPORT BAR FOR A QUICK ONE WHICH WAS MUCH APPRECIATED AFTER OUR TRIP (I DID NOT REALISE DARWIN WAS SO FAR AWAY). WE THEN WENT STRAIGHT TO RUGBY PARK AND WHILE JON WENT BACK TO WORK NEV AND I WATCHED THE GAMES. AFTER A SHORT TIME STANDING AT THE PARK IN THE SUN TIES WERE REMOVED AND THE QUESTION OF A SUIT NEVER AROSE.

THE GAMES FOR THE MOST PART WERE PLAYED AFTER 4PM AND UNDER LIGHTS AT NIGHT TO AVOID THE HEAT OF THE DAY. REFEREEING IN TEMPERATURES OF 31 DEGREES CAUSED A LITTLE CONCERN BUT THE WORST AFFECTED WERE THE SOUTHERN TEAMS, I.E. TASMANIA ETC., BUT IT WAS ENJOYABLE ESPECIALLY THE FACT THAT YOU HAD THE SUPPORT OF SEVERAL BROTHER REFEREES ON THE SIDELINES WHO CAME TO YOUR RESCUE WITH ADVICE AFTER THE GAME AND A COLD DRINK.

THE HIGH STANDARD OF PLAY MADE REFEREEING FOR THE MOST PART AN EASY TASK AND THE LEVEL OF SPORTSMANSHIP AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE PLAYERS ALLOWED EVEN THE LOSERS TO AT LEAST ENJOY PLAYING. ONE EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS A GAME BETWEEN TWO TEAMS WHO WERE PLAYING OFF FOR LAST AND SECOND LAST PLACE NAMELY TAS AND N.S.W. COUNTRY. COUNTRY WERE THE MORE SKILLED BUT TAS DID NOT LACK HEART AND AT HALF-TIME IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE TEAMS SHOULD BE MIXED UP TO PROVIDE MORE EVEN COMPETITION. THE REST OF THE GAME WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A TAS PLAYER IN COUNTRY COLOURS SCORING A TRY.

THE TRIP WAS NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY. WE GOT TO SEE A LITTLE OF THE TOP END, KAKADU, BERRI SPRINGS AND DARWIN TOWN ITSELF THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR HOSTS KAREN AND JON WHO LET US USE A CAR AND THE WEST AUSTRALIANS WHO TOOK US TO A CROCODILE FARM AND THEN ON TO A BAR-B-Q LUNCH.

THE CARNIVAL OVER A FINAL FUNCTION WAS HELD IN THE 'GREEN ROOM' OF THE DARWIN HOTEL AT WHICH THE GUEST SPEAKER WAS THE OUTGOING TERRITORY ADMINISTRATOR (GOVERNOR). THE FLIGHT BACK WAS UNEVENTFUL AND AFTER A VERY ENJOYABLE 9 DAYS WE RETURNED TO MUNDANE BRISBANE. I WOULD RECOMMEND TO ANY REFEREE, IF SELECTED, TO ATTEND SUCH A CARNIVAL AS THE EXPERIENCE IS INVALUABLE.


BOB KERSNOVSKE
QJRRRA