

**QUEENSLAND
RUGBY
REFEREES
ASSOCIATION
INC.**

ANNUAL REPORT
October 1995

Queensland Rugby Referees Association Inc.

Annual Report 1995

Office Bearers - 1995

PRESIDENT

TONY MELLICK

VICE-PRESIDENT

GEOFF GARDINER

SECRETARY

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PHIL QUINN

COMMITTEE

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GREG HINTON

KEITH JENNINGS

PAUL MARTINEZ

ROSS MITCHELL

PAUL O'BRIEN

REX WARD

QRRRA President's Report 1995

Dear Members

There is no doubt this year has been a watershed with regards to Rugby in the world. There is not one amongst us who would have thought that the changes that have happened in the last six months were even remotely possible at this time last year. The challenge now as referees is to come to grips with what these changes mean to us.

My view, the cold hard truth is that to the 99.9% of us who referee around Queensland every Saturday and Sunday these changes mean nothing.

For the balance, your association needs to be acutely aware as to what professionalism is likely to do to the game, and make sure that the problems that are now being experienced don't transfer themselves to us. For these few referees it will be crystallised very shortly as to what professionalism will mean to them.

The Year in Review

This year has seen once again an ever increasing number of games and demands being placed on ourselves throughout Queensland. One has to wonder will the growth ever stop. David True in his report has looked at our operations on a more micro level and I don't intend to duplicate those remarks in my report.

However, a couple of issues I believe are worthy of mention. I was delighted at the QRRRA now representing all referees in the state. I was called upon by the Cairns branch to negotiate a settlement with the Cairns District Rugby Union on some Judiciary issues that arose early in the year. This was for the new One States first test as a truly representative body of all Queenslanders and I am very happy to say that the QRRRA was able to negotiate an outcome that was suitable to all parties.

There is no doubt that there is greater strength in numbers and now after the second year of One State we need to look to the future for the total development of referees in Queensland.

Looking forward to next year, the Executive and myself need to turn their minds to a

number of issues. First of these is to focus on the basics of what we stand for, that is provide referees to referee the game of rugby and to develop those referees to their full potential. It is my belief that sometimes we lose sight of what our role is.

In addition to this we have in the past provided development programs for elite referees and those tagged as "up and comers" but I believe that we also have to cater for the person who wants to be just the best referee in Townsville or the best fourth grade referee in Brisbane.

The challenge that faces us with the unfortunate demise of the Winfield Cup Competition which was bought about by Government Regulation, we need to be acutely aware of providing development programs for country based referees.

I give this undertaking to our country members, that I and the Executive are in the process in conjunction with David True, at looking at some possibilities for the development of these members.

I'd like to take this opportunity in Congratulating all referees in Queensland who were appointed to Semi Finals and Grand Finals, I'm sure that you represented our Association with esteem.

Thanks to the Executive for their contribution throughout the year and also to David True for his contribution both as a member of the QRRRA and that as the QRU Coaching Director for Referees.

In closing there is no doubt that the year ahead will provide some exciting new times for players. I believe that this is also true for referees. It is up to us an Executive to capture every opportunity available in the coming year to provide our members with the best possible games and the best possible development processes for themselves.

I look forward to meeting with you over this weekend and I am sure once again this Annual Coaching weekend will provide a platform for the coming year.

Kind regards

TONY MELLICK

Coaching Director's Report 1995

At the end of my third season in this position it is time to stop and review carefully the activities undertaken and the progress made before carefully laying the plans for the future.

During 1995, a major focus was again the training of new referees. 12 level one courses were held throughout the state with 186 participants gaining ARFU accreditation. Thanks must be immediately passed to Leigh Martin, Geoff Pegg, Andrew Cole, Mikel Mellick and Terry O'Connor for their efforts in running courses both in Brisbane and country areas. During the year Russell Trotter (ARFU), Justin Dwyer (NSWRU) and I completed the first Level one Instructor's kit which comes complete with video clips, Transparencies for overheads, lecture notes and format and other course material that will allow most experienced referees to run a course anywhere that will produce consistent training and is a basis for Australian Accreditation.

Along with the Level one Instructor's kit, we were able to produce the Level O kit for Walla referees. Using this kit, 5 level O courses were held which resulted in 55 Walla referees being accredited. It has been particularly pleasing to see the effect that properly trained referees have had on the game of Walla where consistency has been a problem. Wherever accredited referees handled Walla games, the level of player enjoyment was enhanced and parental understanding and support increased. There have been some outstanding contributors in the Walla refereeing ranks and I hope that they will continue their efforts in future years either as Walla refs or take their skills up the age groups. On a less than satisfying note, it was my intention to issue each practising Walla referee with a distinctive refereeing shirt, (they all received badges). For a number of reasons, not all received their shirts and a better system is required for the future.

Numerous touch judges courses were held during the year, particularly in Central Queensland where Regional Coaching Director, Dean Patterson has become the leader in recruitment and accreditation of touch judges. In CQ each club must provide a properly accredited and attired touch judge for the games or lose one competition point. Clubs voted the policy and have adhered to it.

The availability of these touch judges has had a positive effect on the games, with a reduction in foul play and more support for the referee. Where clubs have failed in their duty, points have been deducted. An additional benefit has been that some of the touch judges now see a greater role for themselves as referees, adding to our recruitment efforts. Other country areas in Queensland either have or are preparing to follow the CQ example and it is my hope that the idea will soon be adopted state wide.

For the second year, each region was asked to appoint a Referee Development Officer to act as liaison between myself and the local area. A meeting of the RDOs was held at the pre season camp at Canungra which resulted in a full weekend of training and discussion at Ballymore. The RDO programme has had mixed results. In some areas, the RDO has worked hard and effectively to recruit and develop referees on a local basis whereas in other areas little has been achieved. It is important to maintain the system, but more consistent results are required. To those who put in and achieved, congratulations, refereeing in your area is now in better shape. Despite my obvious disappointment in some areas in the country, it must be acknowledged that Country refereeing is substantially better organised and is producing a higher level of expertise in all grades than before. Nearly all areas have adequate numbers and country referees now see themselves as being part of the Queensland picture with no boundaries or limitations to their progress.

Referee coaching, which is known as CABing (Coaching and Advisory Board_ has continued in Queensland and at the time of this report, we will be holding our third Annual Referee Coaching Seminar at Ballymore. Years 1 and 2 each had attendances exceeding 70 people from around the state plus interstate and international observers. This year we have again increased the content and aim at issuing successful attendees with a level 2 CAB certificate. Referee coaching is predominately aimed at training people including current referees to assist others by coaching the individual to a better performance. This differs totally from the old system of "assessment" where the role of an observer was simply to watch, assess and grade, without the responsibility of improving. To

implement the training in Brisbane, a number of coaching panels were set up, each controlled by a chairman and containing a number of coaches (nearly always current referees) and a group of referees to be coached on a ratio of one coach to two referees. This in theory allowed for all referees in the Brisbane area to receive regular coaching. In our first year of operation this worked reasonably well with eight of the twelve panels producing 307 coaching reports for the season. This year, with more volunteers, the panels were reduced in size, but increased in number to 15. This reduced, rather than increased the workability and only 230 reports were received. A complete revamp of this system is being undertaken for 1996.

Captains reports were included in the Brisbane team sheet books for all Grade, Colts and Suburban games for this season and provided a useful guide to referees performance. I also believe that they have caused the captains to (sometimes) reflect a little more thoughtfully on the referees performance when confronted with specific areas on which to comment.

Appointments remain as the make or break of any Association and 1995 was no different to previous years. Thanks must go to Andrew Cole, Barry Leask and Scott Young (pool 3), Cole Barrett (pool 2), and David Stokes (pool 1) for their efforts. Difficulties remained for them and for our clients, the clubs, when game venues and times were changed at short or no notice, referees became unavailable at short or no notice or on those occasions when there were simply not enough referees to go around. Friday nights were always a nightmare for Cole and David and later Ross Mewitt who took over the pool 1 pullouts. More consideration from clubs and referees is required if the performance is to be improved in 1996. Consider that this year in Brisbane alone, referees were appointed to 21,125 games including 356 mid-week games.

The Representative Appointments Board under the Chairmanship of Norbert Byrne continued its good work as aid to the development of Queensland referees. Their support with the appointment of referees to regional and age championships has provided a great training opportunity which has benefited many referees in this state. On a National level, Queenslanders received only 14 of 70 centre-field appointments and 15 of 72 touch judge and reserve touch judge

appointments. This is a cause for major concern, particularly with a push from other areas to include the SANZAR or Super 12 games as National Appointments rather than the state based method which has been in place for many years. With this information in mind, we congratulate Ian Scotney on his appointment to the ARFU Referee Appointments board and wish him well. On a more positive note, Barry Leask achieved the rare honour of representing his country at the World Cup, Scott Young was awarded his first Interstate game, Andrew Cole scored the Japan Sevens and Berny Fienberg the Singapore Sevens. Well done, particularly to Barry who became only the second Queenslander and fourth Australian to referee at the World Cup.

The QRRA Committee has remained a strong support base for me. In particular I must thank Tony Mellick who has provided untold hours of energy and assistance. Tony's drive has been largely responsible for the growth and health of the QRRA in recent years. This year, the committee members, mindful of their state role were each given a clearly defined portfolio and asked to report on the activities relating to that portfolio at each executive meeting. In some cases, members worked diligently and portfolios flourished. Regrettably, in others, due to work pressures and other commitments, committee members were not able to meet the demands placed upon them and a degree of effectiveness of the QRRA was lost. This is not a criticism of those members but rather a recognition of the pressures that are placed on all honorary workers in any sporting body. Amongst the many things that were handled well were the pre-season camp at Canungra which was a great success thanks to Andrew Cole and Scott Young, with assistance from Colonel Peter Pursey, Major Ash Cooper, Dr Peter Hubbard and the Army Instructors and the Annual Interchange program and the never ending billet request handled by Keith Jennings.

There are now 700 accredited referees on our Queensland data base, most of whom are active. Regular communication is essential to keep everyone abreast of law changes, rulings, interpretations and current refereeing issues. During 1995 we published three editions of our state newsletter which was complemented on two occasions with the National Referees Newsletter. In 1996 we plan to again produce

three editions of our State newsletter, but have them printed as inserts to the National newsletter. It will be important to include more news and information from country areas to make this publication a better resource and communicator.

1995 is now ended as a rugby event and 1996 is already upon us. The Ballymore Air New Zealand Tens are just about here and will be an exciting start to the season which promises to bring many new challenges to referees at all levels. While the pressure is mounting on our

elite team to carry the Queensland flag, club rugby is undergoing change and growth and the demands on all levels of referee to provide competent skills are increasing. Fortunately, we have a wealth of talent and enthusiasm with which to work. Our referees in Queensland now see themselves as a team with a task and while striving for the top have also learnt to "enjoy the journey, not the destination".

DAVID TRUE
BALLYMORE - OCTOBER 1995

Queensland Rugby Referee's Association Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure

for the period ended September 30 1995

INCOME	1994	1995
Sponsorship & Donations	13,700.00	8,700.00
Subscriptions	5,880.00	3,505.00
Interest	114.86	135.13
Other/Fund Raising	4,580.00	1,147.67
Room's Committee Donation	-	2,500.00
Merchandise	4,021.00	4,285.00
	<u>\$28,296.26</u>	<u>\$20,272.80</u>
 EXPENDITURE		
Audit Fee	250.00	260.00
Affiliation Fees	400.00	110.00
Annual Dinner (1994)	4,652.89	1,367.50
Bank Charges	56.40	133.45
Printing and Stationery	1,936.05	3,273.00
Fees	207.00	48.00
Training Expenses	568.00	400.00
Courier	300.20	152.27
Equipment	3,400.00	126.00
Postage Expenses	269.15	301.30
Telephone Expenses	1,254.20	267.28
Entertainment Expenses	826.80	1,672.09
Travelling Expenses	142.95	2,331.70
Interchange & Development Expenses	5,363.25	-
Insurance	1,680.98	298.38
Merchandise	14,560.00	-
Touchdown Club	-	8,540.00
Floral Tributes	392.00	-
March Tickets	431.00	590.00
Trophies & Gifts	298.75	285.00
Pre Season Camp	2,640.00	1,370.50
Sundry	252.15	540.25
	<u>\$39,881.77</u>	<u>\$22,066.72</u>
Surplus (Deficiency)	(\$11,585.51)	(\$1,793.92)

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	1994	1995
Receipts	47,114.01	20,272.80
Payments	58,699.52	22,066.72
Surplus (Deficiency)	(11,585.51)	(1,793.92)
Opening Balance	18,553.58	6,968.07
Closing Balance	6,968.07	5,174.15

Represented by:

Cash at Westpac	63.77	-
Cash at Commonwealth Bank	14,670.20	21,631.29
Add outstanding deposits	1,660.00	-
Less unrepresented cheques	9,425.90	19,457.14
	\$6,968.07	\$5,174.15

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Due to the size and nature of this association, it adopts the cash basis method of accounting whereby items are brought to account as money is received or paid.

NOTE 2: RELATED PARTIES

The following have served on the management committee during the period:

Paul Harding	Paul Martinez
Tony Mellick	Ross Mitchell
Keith Jennings	Paddy O'Brien
Roger Masters	Phil Quinn
Geoff Gardiner	Mike Warren
Greg Hinton	Chris Donovan
David True	Ross Ajax

None of the above has received or is due income from the Association for the period ended 30 September 1995.

NOTE 3: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Additional funds of \$4,470.00 were banked after 30 September 1995 in respect of the fundraising lunch, resulting in a profit of \$5,617.00 being made on the event.

The \$15,000 sponsorship from Ausdoc in respect of the 1995 season remains outstanding at the date of this report; it is anticipated the money will be received in November 1995.

Brisbane Grand Final Appointments 1995

GRADE		REFEREE	TOUCH JUDGES	
1st		S Young	A Cole	B Leask
2nd		M Mellick	G Pegg	G Hinton
3rd		T O'Connor	I Robertson	M Agnew
4th		I Anderson	R Davies	R Milne
Under 21		R Brockett	A Cooper	F Meiklejohn
Colts 1		D True	C Barrett	P Smith
Colts 2		A Connor	P Harding	J Raukette
Colts 3		C Donovan	J Raukette	K Jennings
Women		J Lawrence	P Quinn	W Coutts
Byrne Cup Suburban A		A Dunne	R Bendeich	T Weir
Pegg Cup Surburban 2		L Monaghan	G Acton	E Marconi
Wyatt Cup Surburban 3		T Barker	B Hartley	M Talbot
Barber Cup		N Johnston	C Meibusch	L McConville
Edinburgh Cup		Clay Barrett	P Knibb	D Stokes
Scotney Cup		D Baynes	R Ajax	M Petrie
Suburban Colts		P Marks	M Abell	C Newton
Metway Cup		G Hinton	R Brockett	M Agnew
Metway Plate		T Weir	F Meiklejohn	
Under 17		R Zingelmann	B Kennedy	J McCarthy
Under 16		R Zinglemann	A Dinnen	M Wiggins
Under 15		R Mewett	D Viles	R Melloy
Under 14 Division	1	B Kennedy	T Tressider	A Dinnen
	2	J McCarthy	A Hindmarsh	J Garrard
Under 13 Division	1	P Gofton	N Allen	L MacKinlay
	2	D Elphick	M Cosgrove	N Pocock
	3	N Prasser	M Cosgrove	D Simpson
Under 12 Division	1	R Hoskins	J Kidd	N Allen
	2	J Morphet	P Armstrong	G Cree
	3	I McPhee	P Keech	P Burnett
	4	T Ryan	I McIntosh	D Neagle
Under 11 Division	1	A McGregor/Lowndes	R Elphick	P Armstrong
	2	G Stolz	M Gaffney	G Cree
	3	J Dilk	K Brennan	I McIntosh

Milestones Achieved in 1995

+ 650 Games	M Abell	682	+ 150 Games	G Hinton	198
				M Yeates	197
+ 500 Games	F Meek	534		M Mellick	194
				P Smith	193
+ 450 Games	R Mewett	454		I Robertson	193
	R Bendeich	453		M Smeaton	193
	B Leask	452		R Brockett	191
				D Murphy	185
+ 400 Games	C Waldron	448		A Connor	180
	B Fienberg	431		A Dinnen	175
	R Hoskins	428		E Marconi	166
	J Ezzy	407		M Warren	166
				K Jennings	165
+ 350 Games	D True	382		D Stokes	165
	R Zingelmann	363		C Donovan	158
	P Bechtel	355		D Sanders	152
+ 300 Games	G Houghton	342	+ 100 Games	J McCarthy	143
	I McPhee	317		C Elliott	141
	A Cole	305		C Newton	141
				P Gofton	135
+ 250 Games	S Young	292		N Prasser	125
	N Newbold	280		P Dempsey	126
	R Davies	277		M Black	124
	M Gahan	276		D Williams	123
	C Barrett	268		T Taito	122
	G Pegg	257		M Kiley	120
	T Dunne	256		J Lawrence	119
				J Murdoch	118
+ 200 Games	L McConville	249		G Stolz	117
	J Dilk	246		R Milne	114
	M Carmody	245		R Reid	113
	J Dee	241		R Ward	110
	B Kennedy	236		D Murray	109
	G Robinson	227		P Harding	108
	T Harland	220		M Jennings	104
	G Gardiner	214		R Collins	101
	T O'Connor	211		E Grant	101
	R Kersnovske	207			
	T Mellick	201			

Pool 1 Appointments Report 1995

Following the merger of the QJRA and the QRRRA at the end of the 1994 season, the three pools of referees, and the matches within those pools, were redefined. As a result a greater variety of matches were available to referee, allowing many referees to obtain appointments they probably would not have expected but have embraced with open arms.

A great deal of work still needs to be done to stabilise these pools and to ensure that there are more than enough referees to cover every game. It became extremely difficult towards the end of the season to cover every game after a referee had asked to be removed from his appointment. On that matter, there are some referees who should take a long, hard look at themselves and reassess their commitment to the QRRRA as there were many instances of pullouts which were unacceptable in their timing.

There were some outstanding contributors to the QRRRA in 1995. PETER GOFTON, "Mr Reliable" must surely take the prize for the most number of games and for always agreeing to fill in at short notice. There are a number of others, namely ROSS AJAX, ADRIAN DINNEN, DAVID ELPHICK, GEORGE HOUGHTON, JOHN MCCARTHY, IAN MCPHEE, RAY ZINGELMANN, BRIAN KENNEDY, DOUG BAYNES and MARK HOGAN - who all deserve special mention for their efforts and for making my job easier. My thanks to them for their assistance during 1995. To DAN VILES and ROB YOUNG, the public transport system has recorded a profit in 1995 thanks to your commitment to refereeing. Thank you for your enthusiasm and efforts this season and thank you all for contributing in 1995.

DAVID STOKES

Pool 2 Appointments Report 1995

Well, this is my fourth and final time that I'm going to try and write this out. I hope someone reads this because I'm just interested in seeing how many games I've done for the year. I don't know why, but I will write something. I think that I did a great job at the appointments and weekly changes. I did do a great job! It takes a wonderful and special guy to do it. The main reason I do the job is because you don't receive any phone calls in the off-season but when the season starts the phone never stops. This makes me feel popular and important. I never make mistakes in this job, because if anyone ever says I did, I just say it was David True's fault. It's good to have someone to pass the buck to. If anyone has problems with their appointments, I just pass them on to David. Family problems and I will provide my services at a fair price.

I think pool 2 had a great variety of games. They had Colts 2 & 3, Suburban 2 & 3, women, schools and fourth grade. One week they can be refereeing senior law, the next under 19. The ref can really develop his style and improve his ability. I would like to thank all the refs who I phoned up at the last minute to do games or those who I asked to do two games in a day. I have a few who I

would like to thank specially: IAN (Stats) SCOTNEY, DAVID (Bulldog) STOKES, DAVID (Sydney) TRUE, ROSS (I have a woman) MEWITT and ANDREW (Melrose Place) COLE. But there is one person who was a great help, did a lot for the Association and was a great help to me and that was GABRIELLE DAVIDSON of the QRU.

Finally, I would like to add a few points that the Association could look at next year:

- ▶ Two interchange weekends where all our interchanges are condensed;
- ▶ More feedback from coaches to the appointment boards;
- ▶ More interchanges within pools;
- ▶ If clubs wish to change the times of games, they must give a week's notice;
- ▶ A look at the times of club and school games, because it is hard to provide refs when all games are around the same time and if someone pulls out it is even harder.
- ▶ A mobile phone for me so that I feel really important.

Lastly, I wish to thank everyone for the enjoyable season and I hope to see you all in 1996.

COLE (don't ring after 9.30) BARRETT

A Report on the Activities of the QRU Representative Appointments Board

The Board, comprising Messrs N Byrne (Chairman), G Core, I Scotney, A Mellick, K Jensen and P O'Brien, met regularly throughout the season to receive reports on the performance of referees of the QRRA and, in accordance with the policy of the QRU, to appoint referees and touch judges to particular games. At its first meeting, the Board confirmed that referees would be appointed to games on the basis of demonstrated ability and performance; appointments would not be made only on the gradings of referees at the conclusion of the previous season. The Board agreed that, whenever possible, a Board member would provide a detailed report to the Board of all appointees. The Board continued the practice, established last season, of two of its members, Messrs Scotney and O'Brien, acting as coaches for the Queensland-based Panel Referees.

Throughout the 1995 Season, the Board appointed to some 49 games and, through the Director of Coaching - Referees, to two major carnivals.

The Board was very conscious of the development opportunities available to referees selected to be part of the Referee Development Squad, and commends to all referees the importance of this QRU sponsored development initiative. Similarly, the Board was aware of the impact on individual referees of the opportunity to participate in major carnivals during the season, again with the wholehearted support of the QRU, providing the opportunity for concentrated coaching and team building. It is pleasing to note that the ARFU has now adopted a similar approach to carnivals at the national level.

The Board acknowledges the assistance provided by DAVID TRUE in the capacity of Secretary to the Board.

PADDY O'BRIEN

The Cairns & District Rugby Union Referees Assn. 1995 Report

The CDRURA, firstly must thank TONY MELLICK and the QRRA, for their support in what was a very different year. It would be an understatement to say that our association was very disappointed with the management of the Cairns Rugby Union this year.

I would like to thank the Cairns refs for their dedication and tolerance this year, it was very hard to stay focused on the job. Being put in a position where you are forced to withdraw your services and then hand the matter over to the QRRA for a resolution was hard. Hopefully this situation will be resolved at the Cairns Rugby Union's AGM.

Despite the troubles off field, the Cairns referees managed to control 160 Senior games, 65 Junior games, 23 visiting School Teams from overseas, 5 Senior visiting teams, 10's, 7's, Women's, Golden Oldies Tournaments, Metway Bank 7's tournament, Metway School 10's tournament and the Malanda Milk

Tournament. The 1995 season allowed us to host many referees from around Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Queensland Country.

Our association was again lucky enough to have refs appointed to a number of rep games. We had L MARTIN and A DORAHY (Aunty) ref in Hong Kong, P FALK ref in Weipa. L MARTIN has been invited to PNG to again do their Grand Final. Our development program is on track, there was a good roll up to the level 1 referees course and we should see a Cairns Ref in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Japan, New Guinea and New Zealand in 1996.

Our association would like to thank our sponsors Ocean Spirit Cruises and Cathay Pacific Airways for their unlimited help and support in the 1995 season.

L MARTIN

Townsville & District Rugby Referees' Association 1995 Report

General:

The TDRRA had a successful season in which all referees were kept more than occupied. The Committee consisted of:

President

Vice President (and everybody's mentor)

Secretary/Social

Treasurer/Social

STEPHAN MUSSAP

PAUL MARTINEZ

DAVID PIERCE

EMILY DRUMMOND

(also known as Stephan's Senate)

TONY FRASER

BOB SPILLANE

Appointments Officer

Development Officer

Special thanks go to EMILY for untiring efforts with fundraising and organising social events throughout the season. The effort is truly heroic considering she also took on the enormous task of organising our President.

TONY FRASER also deserves a special mention. All games were appointed to without any glitches. All appointments were generally publicised two weeks in advance, this was especially important for Referees who were required to travel.

Development:

Development progressed with a low key approach. DAVID TRUE visited and watched all Referees during the first round of the competition. All Referees gained something positive from David's input, especially Stephan, Gabrielle and Scott, who, after being spoken to and advised by David, all suddenly developed a "I'm gonna Referee a Test Match" zest for their game. We also benefited from a visit by Paddy O'Brien who coached and advised several of our members.

All referees with the appropriate experience were given a taste of "A" Grade football with generally pleasing results.

The greatest boost to our development this year was the purchase of Ron Bourke's Video. Most Referees saw themselves in action. The video proved to be the best training tool available. For what it's worth any Association that hasn't used a video as a coaching tool should look into obtaining one. The results are well worth any expense.

Grand Finals:

The three Grand Finals were hotly contested. However, the appointments went:

A Grade

Res Grade

U/19

David Pierce

Colin Bamblett

Scott Lynch

Special congratulations should go to SCOTT LYNCH. A Grand Final in his first year with the whistle is no mean achievement.

1996:

The Committee for 1996 is unchanged except that we bid farewell to DAVID PIERCE who is off to Wasps in England to further his Rugby Physio career. The Secretary for 1996 is the most capable and tactful CHRIS MILLS. We will not be idle during the off-season with several events being planned like:

Fundraising

We are having several "Paul Martinez Memorial Car Washes".

Social

A Christmas Party on 9th December at Kevin (Pugs) McFarlane's.

A weekend at the Fraser/Martinez Mansions on Magnetic Island (3/4 February).

Referee/Touch Judge Course

Planned for Saturdays 23 and 30 February.

Burdekin 7s

The traditional start to the TDRU year 2 and 3 March.

Recruiting:

We have actively recruited during the season. We have seven new members confirmed for next year; we need more. With a likely Under 15 and Under 17 Competition starting next year we will need them.

Mt Isa Rugby Union Referees Association Annual Report 1995

The 1995 season started on a very positive note with Cloncurry joining the Mount Isa competition in C grade. Cloncurry must be congratulated on the way they played throughout the season. From a refereeing point of view it was a delight to see some new faces who's bad habits we did not know!

The lack of referee numbers in Mount Isa caused some difficulties again this year. Early in the season we lost Dennis O'Hara to Townsville. I have heard rumours that Bob Spillane promised to drink more XXXX if Dennis would move, obviously some sort of a deal must have been negotiated. However on the bright side Keith Staite moved back to Mount Isa after several years in Brisbane and joined the ranks of the referees. Alan McCarthy made great progress during the season. Alan also nearly gave up playing. I believe it was only on one occasion this season that he played a game and a half, refereed one game and ran the line in another. Not bad as we only have 5 games on the weekend.

A major recruiting drive failed to attract any new referees. However towards the end of the season a couple of people started to take an interest in refereeing so hopefully next year will see an improvement in numbers. I would

like to thank the coaches and players in Mount Isa who helped out as referees when our numbers were particularly short.

Due to the lack of referee numbers, qualified touch judges became an important issue to us. With this situation in mind, 26 players volunteered to sit through lectures, exams and field assessments to become qualified touch judges.

Due to a number of reasons only one rep match was played in Mount Isa this year, against Western Queensland. This limited the local refs chances to get exposure to other teams. However on the whole, I believe we refereed at a good level.

The reserve final was refereed by John Herring and the 'A' grade by Tai Iwikau. Keas featured in both matches and finished the season by winning both games. Congratulations to Keas and to the referees for two entertaining matches.

We are all now sitting back enjoying the 40 degree heat and waiting for the start of the 1996 season.

TIM GILBERT
MIRU REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Mackay Rugby Union Referees Association Annual Report 1995

President's Report for 1995

The 1995 season started with great promise. Our association hosted a NQ/CQ referees' seminar at Airlie Beach in February which was a great success. Thanks to Kev O'Halloran and Grant Liddell for doing most of the spade work in 1995 and for the proposed 1996 seminar over the Australia Day long weekend in January, 1996. Though Canungra is a fine idea, distance and cost preclude most of the NQ/CQ referees from attending.

The creditability of the weekend was further enhanced with the attendance of David True, Paddy O'Brien, Tony Mellick, Ron Bourke,

Dean Paterson and Duncan Hall. Most importantly though, the success was due to the large number of rank and file referees who attended. I can only hope that same will continue in 1996.

On the home front, our program of fortnightly meetings and in-service coincided with the Sarina Sevens which was conducted on a Tuesday night. From my point of view, the combination was very disruptive and must not occur in 1996.

The week to week appointments were once again handled competently by Grant Liddell who wore the dual hats of appointments officer and assessor. Grant's reward for a job

Mackay (continued)

well done was to be chosen to spend a week in Hong Kong helping in the transition of HK to mainland China, studying the insurance needs of 900 million Chinese and doing some assessing of HK referees in his spare time. And at the same time go on a diet. I'm not sure of 25% constitutes a "Pass" or not.

Our senior referee, Kev O'Halloran, continued as a member of the Australian panel with personal highlights being an England A game and TJ for the Ballymore Qld v NSW clash. We wish him further honours in 1996.

My role as President was made much easier through the diligent work of Secretary James Anderson, Treasurer Rod Leach and RDO Kev O'Halloran. After the initial clashes with the Sevens, our meetings settled down to normal. Kev rostered various referees to present a law discussion and also invited club coaches/captains to attend meetings and discuss laws and most importantly, the interpretation of same.

In 1994, our association had a fitness training session night with the Mackay rugby league referees. This continued successfully this year and currently both of our associations are negotiating three figure sums with Messrs Packer and Murdoch.

A TJ course was conducted mid year with nine (9) potential TJ's attending. Only two of the nine were able to participate as TJ's on a regular basis due to commitments as players. Though we have made progress in the area of qualified TJ's, it is an area that still needs plenty of work.

Assessors: Last year we had an influx of assessors from "down south". This year, through a combination of circumstances, Don Duffel was the only external assessor we had. His comments and perceptions were again professional and very much appreciated. That particular Saturday was a special day in Don's life as it was the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Borneo. I trust the day, the food, wine and port were a tad more enjoyable than this day in 1945.

As in any game, the hard yards are carried out by the boys in the engine room and it was left to Grant Liddell to continue in that role again. Thanks for a job well done Grant, or is it now Mao Confucius Liddell?

Sponsors: This year we negotiated a new sponsorship deal with McDonald Murphy Mobil Fuel Supplies. Luckily the new QRRR strip is the same colours as Mobil and this sponsorship certainly helped give our members a more professional look, both on and off the field. Thanks to Andy and Peter and I hope our association can be extended into the future.

Ray Waters (Qantas) and Ross Paddon (Ocean International Hotel) have continued to assist with airfares and accommodation and I am greatly appreciative of this. In addition, Sunstate and Cathay Pacific have been of great help with Grant's trip to Hong Kong.

At schoolboy level, Neil Sharp continued to handle the co-ordination of games and referee appointments. Thanks to Neil for a job well done.

To Jeff and the MDRU, I would like to express my thanks for your assistance throughout the year and I trust that this will continue in 1996.

The judiciary, under the chairmanship of Geoff Stenson, continued to meet on a "semi regular" basis. Because these meetings are at short notice, I would like to thank Geoff and his committee for their work and the role they play in Mackay rugby.

Finally, my thanks go to the most important people - the members of our association who week in and week out attend meetings, train, run the line and referee. I wish them all the best for 1996.

As this will be my last report as President, I would like to thank all who have supported me over the years in my role as President. At the end of a long hard season, we can look back with satisfaction to a successful year and, in my case, a number of successful years. I trust my successor will receive the same support offered me.

**STEVE RYAN
PRESIDENT**

Rockhampton District Rugby Referees Association Annual Report 1995

Office Bearers 1995:

President
Secretary/Treasurer
Appointments Board
C.A.B. Representative
Postal Address

PETER TALBOT
PAUL HOOLIHAN
JOHN FLOOD / TERRY MOORE
JOHN FLOOD
PO Box 5550
Rockhampton Mail Centre 4702

Grand Final Appointments:

	Referee	Touch Judges
U19	ANDREW PALMER	STEVE HODGE/DEREK GRAHAM
Reserve	TREVOR HOLME	JEFF COWLEY/TONY KAYE
A Grade	PETER TALBOT	PAUL HOOLIHAN/BARRY VAINS

Coming into the 1995 Season there were thoughts of the R.D.R.R.A. not having sufficient numbers due to retirements and transfers, but after running a Level 1 Course (which was presented by Andrew Cole and Michael Mellick) we again found ourselves with sufficient numbers.

Sixteen (16) people attended the Level 1 and around ten of those were initiated into the refereeing ranks. We are fortunate that out of this influx of referees we have a number who are very enthusiastic. We were also fortunate to pick up the services of Trevor Holme, who hails from the Hunter Valley region. Trevor has added experience to the ranks, which was a concern for us after losing three experienced referees at the end of '94.

Our thanks go to Andrew Cole and Michael Mellick for presenting the Level 1 Referees course in March. Numbers for '95 were around the same as '94 (37 Members) with around eight of these non active. For the coming season it would be hoped that some younger referees can be found to join the ranks. Experience will be lacking in '96, so it is hoped that tolerance is paramount with coaches and teams. This also will place a bigger workload on our coaching advisory board members. John Flood and Terry Moore were again giving good, constructive advice to our referees during the course of the season.

Referees were also involved in coaching their peers and this was very beneficial to all involved. Some steps have been taken to video games for coaching purposes, maybe in

'96, this will be used to the advantage of all concerned.

Some mention should be made of the improvements in refereeing standards due to coaching activities, Derek Graham, Jeff Cowley, Tony Kaye, Warren Brown and Steve Hodge have improved dramatically with their refereeing this year, well done guys and keep up the good work.

Refereeing achievements for the '95 season have been reduced this year compared to the '94 season, this could have been due to the fact that there were less rep appointments. Peter Talbot was selected to referee at the Country Carnival at Emerald. He was also appointed to Rockhampton v's Central Highland and Rockhampton v's Kansai.

The 1996 season will bring a new President to the R.D.R.R.A., with the transfer of Peter Talbot to Brisbane, and maybe an injection of new enthusiasm. Sponsorship for 1996 has not been confirmed by the Morning Bulletin but it is hoped that it will be continued. Without the support of this sponsorship, times would be difficult for this association.

In closing, I would like to thank all referees for their efforts for the 1995 season and hope to see them on the paddock for 1996.

Yours in Rugby

PETER TALBOT
PRESIDENT, R.D.R.R.A.

Central Highlands Rugby Referees Association

Annual Report 1995

Referees:

Danny Doyle (RDO)	Emerald
Paul Tyndall	Emerald
Mick McKenna	Emerald
Brian Cullen	Emerald
Gordon Lane	Emerald
Kurt Andrews	Clermont
Greg O'Brien	Capella

The Central Highlands lost Moranbah to the Mackay competition and with them Mike Haynes as referee. We wish him well in the future.

Due to work transfers we have also lost referees in Dysart and Blackwater but at the same time increased numbers in Emerald.

In Emerald this year we saw the start of regular "Golden Oldies" games as curtain raisers to the senior games. We also saw the growth of Walla rugby to the point where a junior competition will start next year.

This will place extra duties on the referees, albeit welcome duties.

There is a move to playing both competition games each Saturday in the one town. This is welcomed by the Referees Association as it

will enable all the resources to be in one place which will allow for feedback, observation and coaching on a regular basis.

Danny Doyle travelled to Muttaborra to referee the Western Queensland Grant Final won by Longreach Collegians and Mark McGrory from Longreach in turn refereed the Central Highlands Preliminary Final won by Clermont over Capella.

Kurt Andrews refereed the minor semi-final and Danny Doyle the major final with Paul Tyndall refereeing the Grant Final between Emerald and Clermont which was won by Emerald. Danny Doyle and Gordon Lane were touch judges.

Uvex Australia continue to generously sponsor the Central Highlands referees and provide us with uniforms, travelling expenses and other costs.

As stated, the double headers in each town should further improve refereeing. We also hope to make more use of the interchange concept. These should help to further help to lift the Central Highlands referees standards.

DANNY DOYLE

Wide Bay Rugby Referees Association

Report 1995

The 1995 Rugby season in Wide Bay began with the Hervey Bay 7's tournament held at Pialba Oval. This was followed by a number of weeks of pre-season matches (usually 10-a-side) hosted by each of the other Wide Bay clubs leading up to the Country weekend in Emerald at Easter. The Wide Bay Colts and senior side certainly performed better at this carnival than it had in other years.

The News Mail competition kicked off one week later on Saturday 22 April. The WBRRA had 11 members in 1995. Two retirements had occurred since 1994, and we gained two new referees. Welcome to Mark Royes of Kingaroy, formerly of New Guinea and Central Queensland, as well as Jim Baxter,

high school teacher in Kingaroy. Jim had been the inaugural coach of the fledgling club, the South Burnett Thrashers but had decided to give refereeing a go. (Is that a climb up or down the Rugby ladder, I hear you ask.)

Referees from 1994 who came back for more punishment were Mick Brennan, Greg Myers, Roger Rooms, Brendan Egan and Gary Craig. Long established referees including Ray Sandford, Peter Menzies and Alan Courtney decided to be members (without the pain and suffering) and be available for touch judging duties. They joined Gary Brandon, our judiciary chairman who still makes himself available for running touch.

Wide Bay (continued)

The 1995 season ended in Wide Bay on August 26. This was the grand final between 1994 premiers Bundaberg Brothers and the Maryborough Mudcrabs. This was the Muddies first grand final appearance for nearly 5 years and throughout the '95 season had been playing eye-catyching running rugby. This was due to coach Geoff Davies. Yes, the same coach who took Brisbane University to a number of grand final appearances in the early 80's. Geoff had been a resident in the Wide Bay for a couple of years since his transfer, but had been unable to make the coaching commitment until 1995.

On the day the two sides were fairly even with many try scoring opportunities not taken in the half. Maryborough led at half time 6 to 3. In the second half it was close up until 10 minutes before full time. Two quick tries saw Maryborough run out winners 22 - 3. Both sides played good football and this pleased the home crowd whose numbers were swelled because of Maryborough's home ground advantage - the first since 1984.

Referee for the match was Gary Craig with Greg Myers and Mark Royes running touch. Mark had refereed an earlier game, a Colts match between Maryborough/Hervey Bay and Bundaberg Colts. Before that game was a first for Wide Bay, a girls Walla Rugby game between two of the local high schools.

1995 has seen its highs and lows for the WBRRA. One highlight was QLD Country vs NSW Country played on 20th May in Bundaberg. Besides being a night game, it was memorable because it was the first wet weekend we've had in 1995, and the last since then. That's right, we've not had decent rain since May. Geoff Pegg was the referee and I hope he got back home safely on the plane. At least it gave him time to catch up on some sleep. I know I needed some that Sunday afternoon.

One low point for us in the country still is the difficulty we have to get our referees seen and appointed to matches in Brisbane. This is a big goal for our members. Two of our referees had matches arranged in the big smoke after many phone calls, only to find no one had been able to come, watch and make some comment to them. They felt disappointed to say the least.

Our AGM will be in November, combined as a Christmas party I imagine (more headaches to come). Wishing all of our fellow members throughout the state the best of season greetings and see you in 1996.

GARY CRAIG

Sunshine Coast Rugby Referees Association Annual Report 1995

Structure:

There are four components of the SCRRA. The operation of all four are outlined below as are any areas of common concern.

The Executive:

The governing body - concerned with administration, communication, financial management and responsible for all QRRA obligations. While outlining structures members have no input into either appointments or coaching and development.

President
Secretary
Treasurer

The Appointments Board

Maintenance of an availability register of referees and their grading. Appointment of referees to all matches under the auspices of the SCRU, SCJRU and the SCSSRU. Requests can be made to coaching and development for areas requiring special attention. Membership is by appointment of the Executive.

Senior Grades
Schools
Juniors

Sunshine Coast (continued)

CAB - Coaching and Development

Regular coaching and review of referees at all levels who are actively seeking to improve or maintain appointments of profile in Sunshine Coast Rugby. Responsibility for all in-servicing and accreditation up to Level I within the association. Membership is by appointment of the Executive.

2-3 Referee Educators (retired or near retiring referees) who will become CABs.

A grade/Representative panel referees to act as mentors for groups. A similar set up should exist for Mini/Midi and Walla referees.

Rank and File Referees

- Level O
- Level I Pathway
- Level I
- Level II
- Level III

Refereeing of all games appointed by the SCRRA. Contribution to the democratic processes of the association and executive. As such the following rules of thumb should apply:

- ▶ The Executive is drawn from the Rank and File via democratic processes.
- ▶ The Appointments Board will also be drawn from the Rank and File but members should be aware of the need for right and proper conduct where areas of conflicting interests arise.
- ▶ The CABs should be experienced referees who have attended the appropriate training sessions made available by the QRRA. They should not be extensively involved in the weekly appointments of the Rank and File as this would reduce their availability to coach. They should not have any input into Appointments.

Coaching and Refereeing Development

DECEMBER	11	SCRCA Meeting	Including "Off-Season Squad Training"
	11	SCRRA Meeting	Including "Physical Preparation for Refereeing"
JANUARY	ARFU Level II TSS		January 26 - 29
FEBRUARY	12	SCRCA Meeting	Including "coaching Skills - Planning"
	12	SCRRA Meeting	Including "What to Expect From your CAB?"
	24	SCRCA Level I	
	24	SCRRA Level I Referees	
MARCH	11	SCRCA Meeting	Including "Scrummaging"
	11	SCRRA Meeting	Including "Refereeing Phase Plays"
	22	SCRCA Level I Pathway	
	22	SCRRA Level I Pathway Referees	
	22	SCRRA Touch Judges Course	
APRIL	15	SCRCA Meeting	Including "Organising a Defensive Pattern"
	15	SCRRA Meeting	Including "Refereeing Lineouts"
	13	SCRCA Level O	
	13	SCRRA Level O Referees	
MAY	13	SCRCA Meeting	Including "Coaching Backs"
	13	SCRRA Meeting	Including "Refereeing Advantage"
	13	SCRCA Sports Medicine Course	
JUNE	17	SCRCA Meeting	Including "Cross Training"
	17	SCRRA Meeting	Including "Refereeing Scrums"

Sunshine Coast (continued)

JULY	15	SCRCA Meeting	Including "Effective Communication:
	15	SCRRA Meeting	
AUGUST	12	SCRCA Meeting	Formalisation of the SCRA for 1997
			Establishment of a Coaching Panel
	12	SCRRA Meeting	Establishment of a Technical Advisory
			Including "Refereeing Women"
OCTOBER	14	SCRCA Meeting	1997 Agenda
	14	SCRRA Meeting	1997 Agenda

(All topics for SCRCA and SCRRA meetings are only suggested.)

Western Qld Rugby Referees Association

President ANDREW KING
Secretary/Treasurer JOHN CHISHOLM

1994 Accredited Referees:

(3) JOHN CHISHOLM (L)
ANDREW KING (L)
MICK HAYDEN (B)

1995 Accredited Referees:

(5) JOHN CHISHOLM
ANDREW KING
MARK McGRORY (L)
JOE ABOUD
DAVE FULLER (L)

Unaccredited Referees:

(5) MICK GALVIN (L)
GAVIN COOK (M)
ADRIAN BROWN (L)
BILL RINGROSE (L)
WILLIE CHANDLER (B)

Unaccredited Referees:

(4) ANTHONY LYONS (L)
ADRIAN BROWN (L)
WILLIE CHANDLER (B)
BILL RINGROSE (L)

1995 Rugby Season:

Name	Games Refereed	Exchanges/Rep Games
John Chisholm	5	1 - Mt Isa 1 - U19 Rep
Andrew King	4	1 - Brisbane U21 1 - Reef-Beef Open
Mark McGrory	6	1 - Mt Isa 1 - Brisbane 1 - Emerald
Dave Fuller	2	
Joe Aboud	1	
Anthony Lyons	1	

Grand Final: Collegians 20 - Muttaborra 7
Danny Doyle Ref
Andrew King/John Chisholm Linesmen

Western Qld (continued)

1995 has, generally speaking, been a successful year for the referees association. The WQRRRA formally set up at the beginning of this year and our main aim initially was to improve the standard of refereeing, which (in theory) would improve the standard of rugby.

Having accredited referees bought credibility to the association although some players still found big deficiencies in our whistleblowing. My argument to some players was to stop playing and put a whistle in their mouth. As yet they haven't come forward.

Once the association had settled into the season we set out goals and objectives we felt should be initiated. These were:

- (i) Videoing of all games;
- (ii) Referees reports after their games;
- (iii) Referees course;
- (iv) Linesman course;
- (v) Sponsorship of association.

We achieved all of these to varying degrees with the exception of the linesman course. We are looking at doing this course in the next couple of months.

Approximately four games were videoed. The later games were played at night hence we could not record. Availability of people to video the games was another problem we encountered during the games. We hired the video each time and it proved its worth after a citing by the referee. The replay showed the player was not at fault and the citing was dismissed. Because of the flu going round at the time of the Grand Final, we didn't have a video in use. One time when we really needed it.

Referees Reports (Coaches Report) were done when we had enough manpower on the day. If everything is being done on the day we require 5 people for each game (ie. REF/2LM/1 Video/1 Statistician). Obviously because of different reasons reports were not done for each game. However any exchange referees that came out we have reports to.

The Referees Course was held and originally said they would attend. Realistically I thought 6 but only 3 turned up. I suppose 3 is better than none. The three that turned up became referees so the course was successful. Our thanks to the RRA for flying Geoff Pegg out to run the course.

Longreach Outback Travel generously sponsored us for the year. With this money we bought 10 sets of referees clothes, and paid

for our referee exchanges during the year. Also the video hire was made possible by this sponsorship. Again, we thank Longreach Outback Travel for their generous sponsorship.

Midway through the year we wrote to WQRU and expressed our views as to how we thought teams could benefit and problems we saw with teams. That is BACKCHAT; O/SIDE AT RUCKS; LANGUAGE; etc. The general feedback from WQRU was that they (the clubs) were generally satisfied with the way the referees association was going.

The association has tried a number of new initiatives within Western Queensland and while we have been successful in most, we have to ensure that we press on with those that haven't been as successful. However we can't rest on our laurels and expect things to run smoothly next year. Now we know the ropes I feel we are in a position to show that we expect teams to accept the decision of both the referee and linesman.

One aspect that is worrying is that not all clubs are participating in gaining accredited referees or coaches. Because of this I feel teams are missing out on learning the laws of the game and this ultimately leads to frustration in games, which leads to foul play, etc. Each club has been given the opportunity on more than one occasion to attend the courses offered.

The highlight for 1995, although very minor to other regions, for me was the seven-a-side tournament in Muttaborra when all our referees and linesman were outfitted in correct attire, immediately showing the union the referees association was serious about the challenge of improving rugby in Western Queensland.

Finally, I would hope that 1996 will see us purchasing a video recorder. This will make it easier for not only us but the judiciary etc and teams hopefully will be able to get copies to help them improve aspects of their game.

The Western Queensland Rugby Referees Association thank the Queensland Rugby Referees Association for all their help during the year. Without the support of QRRRA we would not have our referees and we would not have implemented these ideas, which initially came from meetings held by the QRRRA.

ANDREW KING
RDO WESTERN QLD RUGBY

This Year's Activities on the Downs

As with each new season, the cry goes up that "we seem to start earlier each year" - 1995 was no exception - the first QRRRA Executive meeting in mid January, the first meeting of the QRU Rep Appointments Board also in January, Canungra in early February, the North Queensland seminar at Airlie Beach a week later, the Downs Level 1 Course in mid February, the first monthly meeting in early March, Queensland v Canterbury two days later, City v Country a week later and the first WSC game on 25th March - and all this before the first inter-club game!

The Downs Executive was a blend of the old and the new - Paddy O'Brien as President, Tom Fahy as Vice President, Michael Darcy as our hard-working Secretary, Rob Imray accepting the arduous role of Treasurer, Ian Anderson backing up as the RDO and Geoff McIntyre again accepting the unenviable task of Appointments Secretary. As well as accepting a position on the Downs Judiciary, Marcus McManus joined Geoff McIntyre as the principal referee coaches for the season, providing much needed feedback to most of our referees during the season.

With a small increase of new referees, the Downs Branch of the QRRRA was able to meet all of its commitments throughout the season - despite frequent, late-Friday night telephone calls! We managed to maintain a corps of about 25 referees which, allowing for the odd injury and work activity, allowed us to provide the service needed by our Union. We were fortunate to have Dave Doherty join

our Branch when his company transferred him to Dalby from Mackay, just before the start of the season. No so fortunate was the loss through injury of one of our senior referees, Ian Morgan, half way through the season; here's hoping he'll be back on the paddock soon.

As in previous seasons, we entertained a visiting South Australian referee as part of an ongoing exchange programme; it was interesting to hear him talk of the problems of his Association in the heart of Australian Rules territory. Graeme Harris, accompanied by his wife Julie, was our exchange referee to Adelaide in late June.

Obviously on the basis of not having enough to do, Paddy O'Brien was appointed as the President of the Darling Downs Rugby Union in the middle of the season; mind you, it saves us an invitation for the Annual Dinner!

Early September saw the playing of the Downs Grand Finals, a culmination not just of the player's year but also for the referees. Grand Finals appointments saw Steve Connelly in charge of the C Grade, Brodie Basingthwaite the Under 19, Dave Doherty the Reserve Grade and Graeme Harris the A Grade.

And so, back to gardening - about here, dear?; how deep do you need this hole?; I thought you wanted it over there; oh! you've changed your mind! (Roll on season 96!)

Queensland Rugby Referees Association Gold Coast - President's Report 1995

The 1995 season has been both a productive and enjoyable one from the Executive's point of view and hopefully for all members.

For the first time in some years we re-introduced the panel system to assist in appointments for local competition games. Ross Mitchell was our Grade Appointments Officer and did a marvellous job under sometimes trying circumstances ensuring that the local clubs got the best that our Association could provide.

Our Association was blessed by the number of regular first grade players who have now turned their skills to the art of refereeing. They include Peter Lingard, Wayne Couper, Leigh Wahlstrom, Gary Wheeler, Andrew Harris, Andy Date and Roscoe Fay. It is pleasing to see that so many club players have not forsaken the game entirely upon their retirement and have sought to give it the benefit of their rugby knowledge from the business end of a whistle. I have no doubt that rugby anywhere can only benefit from ex-players of this calibre turning their hands to refing.

Gold Coast (continued)

All good administrations require hard workers and ours this year was Phil Casey, Secretary extraordinaire. He did an enormous amount of work as both Secretary and Treasurer and our Association is indebted to him.

We accepted the task of appointing to all Junior Rugby games on the Gold Coast this season for the first time. Matthew Duly, our Junior Vice-President took on the job of making those appointments and did an excellent job. Starting anything from scratch is not easy but he gave of his best and the results showed.

Our Representative and Finals Appointments Board consisted of David Lindsay and Brian Cahill. They also doubled as Coaching and Advisory Board Members together with Ross Mitchell, Phil Casey and Mick Eastwood. The Coaching and Advisory Board this year carried out more sightings than in the previous two years combined and I feel sure that our members have benefited as a result.

Congratulations to our grand final referees who, for the 1995 season, were:-

First Grade	Ross Mitchell
Second Grade	Mick Eastwood
Third Grade	Peter Lingard
Colts	Fred Haumaha

Having just completed my fifth term as President of the Association and having been on its executive continuously since 1981, I consider it an appropriate time to stand down from all executive positions for the 1996 season. I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as President and thank our members for having given me that opportunity.

MICK EASTWOOD
GOLD COAST

Interchange Report

Convenor Keith Jennings

The 1995 season saw a record number of interchanges both inward and outward. The table below lists the details -

NAME(S) OUTWARD	ASSOCIATION/ LOCATION
G. Pegg/K. Jennings	North Harbour, Auckland, NZ
M. Kiley	Hamilton, Hamilton, NZ
C. Donovan/G. Acton	Taranaki, New Plymouth, NZ
M. Agnew/J. Raukette	Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ
T. Weir	NSW, Sydney

INWARD

B. Morrison/R. Murray	North Harbour, Auckland, NZ
G. Fairweather	Hamilton, Hamilton, NZ
C. Hunt	Taranaki, New Plymouth, NZ
A. Stead/D. Barry	Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ
A. Halmarick	NSW, Sydney

NAME(S)	ASSOCIATION/ LOCATION
G. Gray	Victoria, Melbourne
L. Curtis	ACT, Canberra
R. Waler	NSW North Coast, Lismore
I. Valentine/D. Paton	Hong Kong, Hong Kong
H. Takaoka	Kansai, Japan

There were also useful exchanges between the Gold Coast, Darling Downs and Sunshine Coast Associations, plus interstate and overseas referees for the Queensland and Australian matches.

I would like to thank the following members for their help in billeting our visiting referees - Cole Barrett, Trevor Cichero, Chris Donovan, Paul Harding, Bob Hartley, Greg Hinton, Keith Jennings, Brian Kennedy, John McCarthy, Geoff Pegg, John Raukette, Peter Smith. Also, thanks to the Smiths for hosting an evening at their place when the majority of visitors were in town.

Interchange Report (continued)

The QRRA's thanks go to one of our sponsors, Driza-Bone, for the continuing generous sponsorship of coats for each of the inward and outward interchanges. They are great gifts and much appreciated, especially by the visitors.

NORTH HARBOUR, NZ, 1995 - Geoff Pegg & Keith Jennings

The unavailability of several referees due to work commitments saw Keith Jennings join Geoff Pegg (on the day before departure) as the second referee on the North Harbour interchange. As Geoff said "what a duo, Oldies but Goldies!!". Following a good flight we were met at Auckland by their I/C convenor, Henry Wilcox (known to many other Brisbane refs.), who was not only one of our hosts, but also our personal travel guide during the coming week. After a brief tour of One Tree Hill and the Harbourmaster's quarters, we met our first billets, Tim Simmons and Dave Molloy, at the rugby watering hole at Takapuna. Several beers later, Geoff hit the jackpot securing a monster meat tray in the raffle which was put to good use at a BBQ at Dave's place on Sunday afternoon.

Our first games were at the Glenfield Rugby Club on Saturday afternoon, with Keith having the reserves and Geoff, the A grade, between Glenfield and Marist Old Boys. As Glenfield won the A grade 39-6 with their captain 'Doc' playing his 100th game, the after match function was rather a celebration, with Doc being presented with his Club blazer for his achievement. Geoff responded on behalf of the referees. We were well looked after by the host club, together with quite a few other North Harbour referees - including would you believe - Geoff's long lost brother - Buzz. Well, not quite his brother, but a dead ringer for our beloved Peggie. Buzz, as we found out later, was the young student who ran naked onto Eden Park in a cricket test match between Australia and NZ when Greg Chappell scored a ton. Greg played an elegant square cut on Buzz's naked buttocks before he was carted off to the clink, with Greg out soon after. We then adjourned to a very nice local seaside restaurant with several other I/C refs. and wine and dined well into the evening. Sunday a.m. saw us have a light training session at Takapuna and then in the p.m. to a Golden Oldies tournament at the

Navy Rugby Club. Some light hearted officiating was followed by some serious drinking before we headed off to a BBQ at Dave's place.

We attended the North Harbour referees weekly meeting on Monday night at their Takapuna HQ and exchanged ties etc. as well as many beers, courtesy of the local members. With no games scheduled mid week because of school holidays, and the weather being typical NZ, raining, Henry became our tour guide, and we visited Kelly Tarton's Underwater World, and viewed part of the great scenery of the North Island. As the weather cleared on Thursday morning, we were able to do some solid training around the Whangaporeia golf course with the Association President and one of their assessors, Graeme Marsten - score cards are definitely not available for viewing. Friday evening, Graeme took us for a few beers at the local Rugby League waterhole which was quite an experience, followed by dinner and a few games of snooker at the Commercial Club.

Saturday we refereed at the Albany Reserve, the new home ground of the North Harbour Rugby Union, for games between Marist Old Boys and East Coast Bays. Keith had the U21s, Geoff the reserves and we then TJ for Dick Ross, the North Harbour Number 1, in the A grade. The weather had turned foul again with pouring rain and cold conditions, but with Keith's insistence that he spoke to THE MAN, the rain stopped about 10 minutes into our games and started again after the A grade finished. When the after match function concluded, including some sweet talking to a petite young physio, we attended another dinner with Association members and I/C refs. from Hawkes Bay. Time to change billets, Geoff for his fourth, and Keith his third, with a moonlight drive to Dick Ross's farm, north of Auckland. A relaxing Sunday watching the Kiwis win the first race of the Americas Cup, roaming around the farm and a scenic drive and a walk through one of the few remaining native forest parks in the area, before adjourning for a venison BBQ with the Ross family. Then back to Henry's place for our final night, followed by a quick shopping spree through Auckland's souvenir shops before the flight home on Monday p.m.

Interchange Report (continued)

We would like to thank all our hosts and the North Harbour Association for their generosity and a great time – it was much appreciated, and to the QRRR for the opportunity to broaden our refereeing experiences.

CANTERBURY, NZ, 1995 – Mike Agnew & John Raukette

We left Brisbane on a very mild mid-winter's morning in July with a temperature of 20 degrees. The day before, Christchurch had been 12 degrees and for winter that would be fine. Unfortunately a cold snap took place overnight and rain, snow and ice greeted us with an Antarctic temperature of 5 degrees. We knew that our Driza-Bone coats were in for a lot of wear for the week.

Most games had been called off as the Council had closed grounds as a result of all the rain. We were very grateful for the two gentlemen who gave up their school games for both of us to have a run. We were appointed to four games in total and all of high standard. The assessors were generous in their time and helpful in their coaching reports. They were forced to stand in the rain and snow for hours, watching two Aussie referees, and for that we are grateful.

The spirit and commitment of the members of the Canterbury RRA was very evident. We attended a coaches meeting and were amazed to find how many ex-referees still gave up every weekend to assessment and coaching. Each Saturday afternoon after rugby a significant number of referees gather for a couple of hours in their referees room at Lancaster Park for a social occasion. The spirit and friendship of all members was evident.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all members who made our trip so much fun. Our billets were amazing and the time they gave to us so that we could see some of the Canterbury area was really appreciated by both of us. This is a rugby experience that will be etched into our memory forever.

We would like to thank the QRRR for giving us the opportunity of meeting new friends and gaining a broader rugby refereeing experience.

HAMILTON, NZ, 1995 – Merv Kiley

It was Tuesday morning 4 July and I was in theatre at St Andrews Hospital, Ipswich guiding a remarkably trusting, yet experienced surgeon through a rather difficult intracorporeal cholelystone jejunal anastomosis. The procedure had been tedious, delicate, not to mention boring when the silence of concentration was shattered by the constant beep of some electronic gadgetry. After the anaesthetist realised he had not lost the patient he frowned at me despairingly indicating that it was my pager. I nodded politely and scrolled the message "please ring Keith Jennings urgently" it read!

Something fishy was going on here I thought, Keith Jennings never rings me. Maybe I had forgotten to pick up some visiting refs. from the airport, perhaps I had left some sweaty jocks in the change rooms at Ballymore (not that I referee much there these days), so I returned the call with a sense of anxiety. Keith was blunt and to the point, "could you travel to NZ this Friday at 10 a.m.?" Could this be a lucky break? Trevor Cichero had fallen at training and damaged several ribs, making him unavailable for interchange. The wind was taken from my sails when told that I was at the bottom of a long list of possible candidates, who unfortunately, could not go. None the less, the challenge was there, I had to test the employee/employer relationship to the maximum to achieve leave at such short notice. To Keith's relief it was granted. After very hasty preparations I was away to the land of the long white cloud.

Boy is that long white cloud long and wet! To make matters worse, the Driza-Bone coat Keith threw in the back of my car on the way to the airport was the wrong size. Geez it was cold. However I wasn't there to complain about the weather, I was to referee! At least I thought I was. I had landed in NZ bang in the middle of school holidays, games were at a premium. My first game was a first fifteen game between Frazer Tech and Whapa.... Boys High. It was pouring rain, zero degrees with a wind chill factor of -5 degrees. Initial thoughts strayed toward refereeing the game in my track suit which almost became a reality, when after a boot check I discovered my shorts were back at my host family's house. Fortunately this was only 5 minutes drive away. Despite the conditions, excellent

Interchange Report (continued)

ball skills were displayed and a flowing game of rugby resulted. The standard was not unlike our own GPS first fifteen competition.

By Sunday the weather had worsened, most fields became paddocks of mud, resulting in many games being cancelled. I was selected to ref. an U19 game between Marists and Lamington - the field, originally part of the local show grounds, produced a vile stench after being disturbed. It was like running with bricks on your feet. Achilles, calf and hamstring injuries were a major concern, making a pre match warm-up routine essential. Regardless of the prevailing conditions, once again amazing skills were demonstrated in the bog, with a very entertaining match receiving accolades from both teams and spectators at post match functions. Unfortunately, regional politics intervened mid week which saw me deprived of the opportunity to referee a first fifteen curtain raiser to the NZ Maoris v Waikato and run the line for a curtain raiser for another Waikato game. My third and final game was on my last Saturday in NZ; a top of the table clash between Hamilton Old Boys and Frazer Tech, a semi-final in fact. Conditions unfortunately had not improved, yet once again, an amazingly skilful game, producing a nail biting finish with Old Boys scoring on full time to finish the victors.

Despite the unfortunate lack of games the interchange was an amazing experience. The members of the Hamilton/Waikato RRA have some very fond memories of Qld refs. over the years, sharing some hilarious stories of my predecessors' antics. As a result, the hospitality afforded to me was absolutely amazing, with some great friendships forged. Their Association is extremely keen to maintain the relationship with Qld, and I hope I provided some credence to this cause. To any ref. given the opportunity to participate on an interchange, grab it! It is a most amazing and rewarding experience. I trust I did my Association proud, it was an honour to be selected and I thank Keith Jennings and the interchange selectors for even considering me.

TARANAKI, NZ - 1995 Chris Donovan and Geoff (Garty) Acton

The trip to Auckland from Brisbane was interesting to say the least. Two well dressed

referees on their first overseas interchange stood out like 'country toilets' on a Jumbo full of Japanese travellers in our matching navy jackets, Ballymore ties and fawn trousers. Catching the eye of Cyril the airline steward led to a guided tour of the aircraft including the cockpit, a complimentary first class toiletries kit and a bottle of French champagne. High altitude drama took place on board when, not long after leaving Brisbane, a male Japanese tourist had a major heart attack, with no recognised medical assistance on board. Naturally, our two well dressed referees got into the swing of the drama by ordering yet another fourex tinnie and suggested lightening the aircraft load of excess baggage to enable the intrepid lads to get to Auckland on time.

Following a connecting flight to New Plymouth 'with legs crossed' all the way due to the absence of toilet facilities, our intrepid refs. arrived safe and sound but still on cloud nine. Following a hearty Mt. Egmont burger at Macfarlanes cafe at Inglewood, we finally arrived at the Harris's dairy farm about 35 minutes from New Plymouth and 10 minutes from Stratford. We stayed with the Harris family for about seven days of the trip, getting involved in all aspects of farm life. For two accountants from Brisbane CBD, it was a lot like the movie 'City Slickers', shifting the break, moving cattle and walking through cow shit and mud every morning (Footrot Flats style). With the World Cup rugby starting to get into full swing during the interchange, this was the start of an experience we will remember all our lives, "rural rugby New Zealand style, cold, tough, wet, hospitable, invigorating, natural, earthy, friendly, cold, wet, hospitable and downright an outstanding experience".

Our first matches were at Hawera (Southern Rugby Club), with Geoff officiating the Under 21s between Southern Blue and Southern Green, and Chris the senior reserves between Southern Club and Spotswood United. Geoff Acton (alias Garty Acton) put in a sensational first up NZ performance and had the assessors asking for more. Chris followed, but with the domestic law of the sin bin option for senior players made known to him just before the match, five players were sin binned during the game by an ever keen Aussie ref. Notwithstanding the on field decisions, our intrepid lads from Aussie were treated like

Interchange Report (continued)

kings from a foreign land in the Southern club rooms after the match by the club officials and other local referees. It is the first time, I believe, that the visiting Aussie referees have been assessed by the local parish priest even at the expense of being late to say Saturday evening mass.

Saturday night rolled on with an annual interchange referees dinner at a restaurant in New Plymouth. This weekend, Taranaki RRA was hosting referees from a number of neighbouring provincial centres including Thames Valley, Hawkes Bay and North Harbour. The evening was a memorable one with large doses of NZ hospitality. Sunday morning embraced the intrepid lads from Aussie with a champagne breakfast to watch the All Blacks v Ireland match sitting around a log fire and an outside temperature of about 2 degrees. Later in the morning, it was off to Eltham to officiate a couple of Maori tribal games. Geoff (Garty) drew the short straw and refereed a women's game followed by a senior match in appalling conditions (2 degrees, sleet, rain and wind). Following the match 'Garty' was taken from the field straight into the car rapped up in a blanket and driven back to the log fire, foregoing a trip to Rugby Park to watch the match of the day. Sharing the showers with the players at Eltham, both men and women, was not on for Garty.

This story would not be complete without a brief mention of the Toko Junction tavern. The tavern could easily provide a setting in Wal Murray's cartoons. All patrons arrive straight from the farm for a pint ('handle') in Swan dries, overalls and wellington boots. We arrived for a few 'handles' towards the end of a competition at the tavern where you shear a sheep, eat a cold pie and skull a pint of DB bitter in under three minutes, all in the public bar.

During the interchange the intrepid Aussie refs. attended the Taranaki RRA fortnightly meeting which was not unlike the format of some of our meetings including discussion and interpretation of laws lead by the chief assessor. A guest speaker for the evening was former NZ rugby league national coach, Howie Tammati.

The lads from Aussie managed to get in a couple of school boy matches during the week prior to a big day on Saturday at Opunake.

The standard of play and behaviour at school by level was a real delight and is a credit to all those involved in junior rugby in Taranaki. Duties on Saturday afternoon at Opunake included refereeing senior 3rd A Coastal v New Plymouth Old Boys and Under 21 Coastal v Central followed by running touch for the senior division one match between Coastal (coached by Graham Mourie) and Eltham (boasting a former all black). Running touch in jerseys and track suit pants was the order of the day. Socialising in the club rooms afterwards was again a treat and we were treated like honoured guests once again.

Another referees dinner followed visits to a couple of different club rooms at the home of Ray Hopkinson. The boys from Queensland decided to let the hair down with Garty Acton in particular enjoying NZ hospitality until the wee small hours, Chris having fallen foul of the dreaded Bailey's Irish cream. We would the trip up with a trek up Mt. Egmont during a snow fall, a truly exhausting but glorious experience. Tired, beaten and sick, the intrepid refs. from Aussie headed home suffering with a mixture of emotions sad to leave, but keen to go back to warmer climates.

We would like to sincerely thank the following people in particular for their kindness and hospitality: Graham and Adrian Harris, Craig and Sandy Sole, Clayton Imbs, Mr and Mrs Ray Hopkinson, Cyril the Qantas airline steward, and finally, hearts and kisses to the lovely brunette from the bank in Stratford (names withheld to protect the innocent). We would also like to thank the QRRRA committee for allowing us the opportunity to go.

SYDNEY 1995 - Tim Weir

On Friday 26 May around lunch time I managed to slip into the Ansett Golden Wing Lounge at the Brisbane Airport sans ticket for a slap up nosh of pate and beer, then skipped down to Qantas to board my 3.00 p.m. flight to Sydney for my first interchange weekend.

Upon arrival at Sydney Airport I came across a delightful little girl holding up a card with the name of Kim Weir written on it. I took a stab and was rewarded by the announcement that her name was Kelly Murphy and her dad was Don Murphy and that I was staying in her room and because I was from Queensland

Interchange Report (continued)

I was getting the only heater in the house and that she was leaving Teddy in the room for me in case I got scared or missed my family. Having established this, I shook hands with her father who apologised and informed me that ordinarily Kelly wasn't normally so shy.

That night I stayed in Kogorah with Don Murphy, his wife Anne and three kids – Kelly (9), William (4) and Nicola (2.5). Sydney was very cold by comparison but I survived the night with the help of a heater and Teddy.

Saturday I was picked up at 9.00 a.m. by a young ref. (whose name escapes me) and driven to Manly Oval. At 1.30 p.m. I refereed Manly and Southern Districts second grade on a ground that's main feature was a 20 square metre shin deep, stinking, black mud hole right in the middle of the field. Apparently, this quagmire resulted from the combination of three turf cricket wickets, a week of rain and an entire morning of rugby.

The game was fast and entertaining and, at times, quite physically taxing on the players due to the exertion required to run, ruck, maul in 2-4 inches of shoe stealing mud. I was assessed by retired panel referee Sandy McNeil who not only enjoyed my effort, but was remarkably impressed by the clean state of my boots in comparison to that of the mud-caked clobber of the players. This, I stated (as he nodded in agreement), was due to my ability not to get sucked in too close to the rucks and mauls and to the fact that my boots cost me \$200.00, I cleaned them specially for the trip, and I didn't want to get them too dirty. This last bit of my explanation impressed him so much that he said "Tim, you'll go far". Just how far and in what direction is the most worrying part of his comments.

One penalty try and three occasions where I would have used the sin bin (had I remembered it existed in NSW) and the game was won convincingly by Manly; something to something not quite as much.

After the game and a beer at Manly Clubhouse I was ferried by another referee (whose name also escapes me) to Brian Kinsey's house for a BBQ dinner. We had a great barby attended also, amongst various Sydney refs., by interchange refs. from Wellington, NZ and South Australia (whose

names I also don't recall). We all swapped ties and did the obligatory speeches and then I discovered that my billet had "stiffed" me.

So at midnight I found myself stranded two hours from home, turning blue from cold and wondering how to approach Brian K. about the possibility of me curling up on his sofa for the night. However, I was rescued by the son of a prominent ARU official who let me bunk at his house. Whose bed I slept in that night and was I found in the bedside table drawer will forever remain undisclosed; or at least until my refereeing days are over, which could be sooner rather than later if this gets printed. By the same token I could choose to use this little bit of into to my advantage, in which case don't be too surprised when I do my first test match next year.

I was deposited back to my billet in time for the 2.30 p.m. return flight the next day. I had a terrific time, enjoyed my game and look forward to the opportunity to do it again.

KEITH JENNINGS

Australian University Games

Darwin NT (September 24th - 30th)

The games commenced on Sunday 24th September at 7.00 p.m. The opening ceremony was held at the Marrara Sports complex which welcomed approximately 4000 students from all over Australia. This central venue for many of the sports enabled competitors to view sports in which they were not participating.

The long distance travel to Darwin meant that only eight teams participated in the Rugby which was held at the NT ground of Rugby Park, Marrara. Teams participating included the Universities of Queensland, Central Queensland, Western Sydney, New England, Sydney, New South Wales, Northern Territory and the Australian College of Physical Education.

Pool games commenced at 3.30 p.m. on Monday with four games each day. The duration of the halves was 20 minutes. Quite sufficient given the heat and humidity of that time of day. The Rugby Park ground was in excellent condition, well grassed with a firm surface underneath which was watered each evening. Rugby Park is a credit to the NT Union and in terms of surface I would rate it very highly.

I refereed on each day except Thursday when another local referee was available. Finals were held on Thursday and Friday with 20 - 30 minute halves depending on significance of the match.

On Friday evening I was appointed to the final between the University of Queensland and University of Western Sydney. The game was open and fast with Hawkesbury (UWS) winning 31 - 7. They thoroughly deserved their win. They were certainly the most professional and skilful team at the rugby. I later learnt that in the month prior to the games that UWS trained in garbage bags to help them adjust to the expected climate of Darwin.

Competition over the week was very close with most games being won by 7 to 10 points. Referees were impressed with the good standard of play even though the number of teams was limited. It appears that the most dedicated Rugby Universities and Colleges were the ones that came north.

During the pool games on Wednesday I suffered a slight leg muscle strain. Following the match, within minutes of the identification on the injury I was ushered into the games organised medical centre in the Marrara gymnasium and was seen by a doctor. After my visit to the doctor my injury was referred to one of the five physiotherapists who volunteered their services for the games. One of the physio's happened to be Dave Pierce from Townsville - one of our members. Congratulations to the organisers for their forward thinking. I was not the only person who needed such attention. I later learnt there had been a number of serious injuries including bone breakages. Every game, regardless of the sport, had a sports medicine person attending.

On Saturday evening at 7.30 p.m. I refereed the Northern Territory and Australian Universities XV. It was a great honour to be appointed to the game and I thank those involved in my appointment. The game was won 30-12 by the NT. They played very physical rugby and even though this was their first representative game for the season they were obviously the better team on the night. The 35 minute halves after a week of rugby for the Uni students really became apparent in the latter part of the second half. The last 10 minutes of the second half had the referees' legs feeling a little like jelly.

My special thanks and appreciation to the NT Rugby Referees Association who looked after me, particularly Jeff and Lorraine Fraser, David, Chris and Rachel Hart and Bruce Miller who welcomed me back to the NT after a 14 year absence and really made me feel at home again. Also to Tim Watson, the NTRU Development Officer whose wife was expecting their first baby.

TERRY O'CONNOR

Canungra Assault 1995

WHO DARES WINS!!

14/2/95

The group was enthusiastic. Indeed, enthusiasm was exceeded only by the gaiety and range of the dress, which included post box red track suits, Bronco's strips motley T shirts and mix and match army greens.

For these were the Intrepids. Superior beings to those who chose the soft options of cricket and gold and who chose instead to survive the Canungra Assault Course. Or to be politically correct, the Confidence Course.

Underlying the enthusiasm however, the gathering was nervous. Well, some more than others. Some, who had secretly worked on their upper body strength, glanced about smugly at their less well prepared neighbours. Not that they lacked bulk, it was just that the upper body had in the off season, moved south.

Tight, forced laughter and perspiring upper lips betrayed the closet trainers however, as all stood shuffling nervously waiting for the "safety officers".

Then at last, a familiar face in army cams.... or is it. Surely that's not good old Ash. Ash of the stubbies and T shirt, the willing smile, hail fellow well met Ash, good old Ash.

Gold old SAS Ash.

Past possible insults or offences flick through 40 minds as they take in Major Ash, Special Air Services Regiment, trained in a thousand exquisitely painful ways to repay real or imagined affronts. The, reassured by a familiar smile that transforms Major Ash into Good ole Ash, the group presses closer as if by some mystical osmosis, they may acquire new skills and survival techniques.

Now Major Ash is joined by Captain Hugh. Captain Hugh, on exchange from the British Army looks as though he learned to play Rugby at Fugby, spent yesterday wrestling Goose Green from the Argentinians and intends to spend today squaring a few send offs. He proceeds to further erode the now increasingly nervous throng's confidence with

non-so-subtle inferences about unfortunate past relationships with referees and possible retribution.

Captain Hugh explains that sinning up a rope and traversing a 30 metre gap on a similar string is child's play, promptly makes it look like just that and springs to the ground with a glance around that suggests he would like nothing better than to have all 40 referees on the end of a rope.

The less fit, knowing in their hearts that this bodes ill for them, begin to look around for escape routes. The closet trainers begin to wish they'd done those extra chin ups instead of elbow bends on Wednesday.

Then Major Ash and Captain Hugh are joined by Captain Mike who promptly runs up a 12 foot vertical wall to show how he intends that we should do it later.

At this time, cricket begins to look like a good option. However, the medical orderly, ably assisted by his wife and suckling child quietly sheep dogs the recalcitrants back into the mob. The opportunity lost.

Gentle rain begins to fall, further lowering spirits and raising anxiety as the group follows the "safety officers" to preview the course.

In a blur, one after another, the obstacles are explained. Surely that's all. But no. Then the end, or is it the beginning. The group gathers apprehensively around the first trial, a set of monkey bars 10 feet over a water hole. Or is it mud, hard to tell. Major Ash shows us how it is done by sprinting across the gap like a spider monkey. We half expect to see him sprout a tail.

How hard can this be? Kids do it at school every day. A knot of closet trainers presses forward, eager to prove their prowess. One wins the jostle to the front and in a quick move meant to emulate Major Ash throws

Canungra Report (continued)

himself onto the bars. One hand, two, three.....yes. It is mud!

As the guinea pig wipes mud from his eye and embarrassment from his face, the jostlers lose themselves in the crowd. Others step forward however and help Elizabeth to the front. She scampers across the top and lands safely on the other side. Encouraged, others cross, some by the high road, some by the low, some via the 10 foot drop and the subterranean route before moving to trial number two.

Then follows the swing over Crocodile Creek, the scaling of the Eiffel Tower, the Pole Challenge, the Cargo Net Scramble, the Pole Wal, Boggo Road Wall, Captain Hugh's bloody Rope Traverse, the Underground River, No Man's Land Crawl, Burma Bridge, Moat Wall, Beaurepair Bridge, and finally..... The Water Tower.

One thing becomes apparent. Confidence does build, together with teamwork and a bonding of spirits.

As each one climbs the six metre tower and steps into space, team mates urge encouragement. Successive splashes and bobbing heads announce survival of the survival course as the group explores new found confidence in exchange of stories, already growing in the telling.

By 8.00 p.m. there are two groups in the mess. Those who dares, and those who didn't.

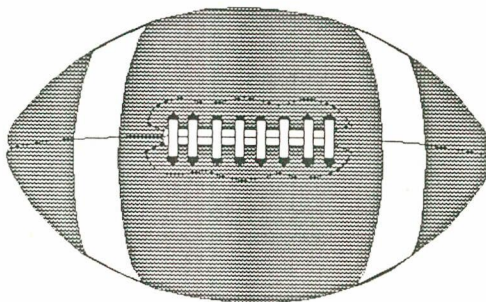
Those who didn't sulk moodily in an isolated corner reassuring each other with "sensible" discussion about possible injury avoided and comparing golf handicaps. Others of their ilk attempt to bolster flagging egos with a futile run over the target with Elizabeth, who dared and would have no truck with those who didn't.

At the increasingly rowdy end of the mess, those who dared regale each other with their prowess and delight in shared dangers survived. Unfeelingly, comments directed at the other end of the mess become more pointed and pernicious as the night wears on. The sulkers shift discussion to the merits of early nights and retire, mumbling the cadence "Proper preparation prevents piss poor performance" to universal derision and a call for another round from the rowdies.

Wild exaggerations become fact, tentative, timid crossings emerge as reckless, abandoned charges and wide eyed, scrabbling failures loom large as valiant attempts at the impossible.

But none the less....they did dare and in the end, they did win.

by IAN ANDERSON



Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
Wade Biggs	1994															–	3
Jim Bladett	1995		1												2	3	3
Max Black	1990					1		1	1	3	2					9	124
Mike Borgen	1995														9	9	9
Kevin Brennan	1994														11	11	21
Rod Brockett	1988	3	3		6			5		1				3		21	191
B Brown	1995		1										1			2	2
Tim Browning																–	6
P Burnett	1995														31	31	31
Jonathan Burr	1993													3		3	20
Mick Carmody	1986															–	245
Phil Castle	1995		1												2	3	3
Barry Christensen	1991															–	58
Ben Christensen	1994															–	39
Nick Christensen	1993		1				1		3			3	4	5		17	68
Trevor Cichero	1990		7						1			1			21	30	90
Andrew Cole	1984	3	3	10						1			1	3		21	305
Richard Collins	1990					1	3		3		2	4	6	4		23	101

Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
Andrew Connor	1989		5		2	2		1			3		4	1		18	180
Ashton Cooper	1994		5			5	2	3			1		2	4		22	45
M Cosgrove															23	23	23
Wayne Coutts	1993		1				3		3		2	2	4	8		23	61
Phil Cranich																-	3
Greg Cree	1995		1												27	28	28
S Cuffe	1995						2		1				1	2	5	11	11
Russell Davies	1984		5		4	2	1	1		1			4	3		21	277
Ron de Cleene	1994															-	2
G Dearlove	1995		20												17	37	37
John Dee	1985		4			1	1				3			2		11	241
Paul Dempsey	1986															-	126
Joseph Dilk			11												60	71	246
Adrian Dinnen			10										1	1	39	51	175
Chris Donovan	1995		9			1	2	1	3		2	3	5	5	5	36	158
Tony Dunne	1986		1	6	2								2	3		14	256
Anthony Dusting																-	26
Craig Elliott	1990												4	2		6	141

[illegible]

Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
Peter Gofton			50						1				1		42	94	135
M Gousgrove	1995		2									1		1		4	4
K Granger	1995				2	1		1					1	1		6	6
Eric Grant	1992		6				3		2		3	3	3	6	13	39	101
David Grogan														3	1	4	5
Lyle Hadwell	1994															–	3
Greg Hansen	1994		1									1	3	3	1	9	23
Jeffrey Hansen	1994															–	33
Paul Harding	1991		1			6	1	4			3		3	3		21	108
Tim Harland	1981		1											7		8	220
N Harrod	1995								1				3	1		5	5
Bob Hartley	1993		3				2		1			2	5	2		15	52
Rob Heperi	1994		1				3		2		1	3	3	5		18	24
D Hestie	1995					2							3	3		8	8
Geoff Hill	1993															–	22
Tony Hindmarsh	1995		1												19	20	20
Greg Hinton	1989	3	11	6	1					5			1	4		31	198
M Hogan	1995	16													43	59	59

Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
R Hopper	1995		2												22	24	24
Roy Hoskins			4												33	37	428
Jock Hossack	1993					1	3				1			5		10	55
George Houghton			18											1	53	72	342
C Hunt (NZ)	1995														6	6	6
Terrence Hunt	1989															-	88
Doug Hutchings	1993														22	22	68
Tony Iveson	1995		5												23	28	28
Keith Jennings	1988						3		1		1	1	2	2		10	165
Michael Jennings	1991															-	104
Mark Johnson						1	2	2	2		2	3	1	5		18	67
Neil Johnson	1993		3													3	42
Peter Keech			15												26	41	49
Brian Kennedy			2				1					1		1	33	38	236
Robert Kersnovske			2				3		1		1	2	8	4	2	23	207
D Keys	1995														10	10	10
James Kidd	1994														24	24	43
Mervyn Kiley	1986		21			5		3			2		1	1		33	120

[illegible]

Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
Lockie McConville			8			1	2		2		1	2	6	6	7	33	249
R McDougal	1995														2	2	2
A McGregor-Lowndes	1995														15	15	15
Iain McIntosh	1995														30	30	30
Tom McIntosh	1995														10	10	10
Luke MacInlay	1995														9	9	9
Gregory McLean	1994															-	8
Ian McPhee			42										1		59	102	317
Andrew McTaggart	1993														1	1	4
Frank Meek			17											1	49	67	534
C Meibusch	1995						1		1		2	2	6	3		15	15
Frank Meiklejohn	1994		11		5	6		4		3			4		2	35	64
Mikel Mellick	1990	2	4	3	4					4			4	2		23	194
Tony Mellick	1986		1													1	201
Rob Melloy	1992														28	28	83
David Metrikas	1994		4				1		3		3	1	2	6	4	24	35
Ross Mewett			4								2	2		6	52	66	454
Russell Milne	1989		5		6	4	2	5					3	1		26	114

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Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
Geoff Pegg	1987	1	12	9	1	1				1			3	6		34	257
Petrie	1995		1													1	1
Neville Pocock	1993														20	20	37
Bruce Prasser															18	18	65
Nick Prasser			6											3	28	37	125
Michael Pye	1994														1	1	6
Phillip Quinn	1992		1						4			4	8	6		23	90
Rodney Quinn	1994															-	3
Enrico Rabaglino			5												20	25	65
John Raukete	1987		2			1	2		1		3	2	2	6		19	218
P Rea	1995		4						3	1	2	1	2	2		15	15
N Rees	1995		1		4			1		1						7	7
Ralph Reid	1989						1		1			2	5	5		14	113
Shane Richards	1994															-	1
M Roache	1995		1												6	7	7
Br Ian Robertson	1989		2	1	7	1				4			3	3		21	193
Gil Robinson			6						1				1		5	13	227
Tom Ryan	1994		5												40	45	74

Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
David Sanders	1989		1				1		2		1	3	3	5	2	18	152
Mark Sayers	1992								2			1	1	1		5	37
John Scoble																-	7
Simon Scoble			3												7	10	49
Don Seipel															3	3	36
Robin Sen	1994															-	27
B Sexton	1995														4	4	4
Steve Sharman	1994		8						1		2	3	7	5	2	28	34
M Shaw	1995											3	2	4		9	9
D Simpson	1995														8	8	8
Mark Smeaton																-	193
Peter Smith	1986		1	5	1	1				2				7		17	193
Luke Spence			4			4	1	1	1					3		14	95
T Spender	1995														4	4	4
K Staite	1995														16	16	16
Richard Steel	1994															-	8
Rod Stevens	1994															-	8
David Stokes			8				4		3		1	1		1	32	50	165

Name	Joined Assoc	Rep	Other	1	2	3	4	U21	Women	1	2	3	Suburb	School	Jnr	1995 Total	Total Games
George Stoltz			1											1	48	50	117
R Sturgess															3	3	3
R Sun	1995								1			3	5	2		11	11
Ron Swanwick	1994													1	5	6	21
Tony Taito	1992		5				1				2	8	11	4		31	122
Michael Talbot	1993		4				5	1	2		4		3	2	1	22	59
Terry Tressider	1994		6											1	36	43	68
David True	1988	2	20	6						5			1	2		36	382
Tu Tuiloma	1993		3						1			1	10	2	1	18	43
S Ucsinski	1995		1						1				1	6	2	11	11
Derek Unicom	1994															-	3
Daniel Viles	1994		26						1				1	1	29	58	83
Col Waldron	1978													2		2	448
Rex Ward	1991		6						1			2	10	9	1	29	110
Michael Warren	1990		6				3		2			1	4	5		21	166
Tim Weir	1994	1	6		4	3		3		4			3	1	1	26	47
Royce White	1994															-	9
Marty Wiggins	1995		11												20	31	31

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