

GOLDERN OLDIES REPORT.

Saturday 28th July saw the Vintage Ports celebrate their 25th Anniversary in style with a dinner/dance at the Westport Bowling Club. They were joined by the Pirates main club and past and present players had a “ball” so as to say.

Vintage Port members travelled from Brisbane, Canberra, Newcastle and the Gold Coast to join local members in a trip down memory lane with guest speakers relating highlights of each of the seven World Rugby Golden Oldies Festivals attended so far. The current players were astounded to hear that the “Ports” are undefeated in all these 25 years. You need not have drunk the commemorative port to understand why the tries get longer and more plentiful and the tackles more fiercer.

Ben Doon, the “Ports” mascot would have loved to have been there to see the Maori Haka performance by Willie Kuki, “Bails” and Tom Eastham. “Ports” club captain, Leon Anderson did a fine display of dirty dancing for his Reserve Grade charges – as only a good coach could do. Pirates president “Besso” and Vintage Port member Dale Hubbard had a novel way of letting guest speakers know when the audience had heard enough. They were physically lifted from the microphone.

The band was aptly named “The Bull Antz” and provided a great backdrop for dancing into the wee hours. Also a big thank you to Neville “Mole” Marks and Charlie Brown for supporting our commemorative jersey auction. A big thank you to all those who attended and to those involved with organisation. We still have commemorative ties and port for sale.

On the playing side the Ports took a team to Walcha on the 21st July for a great Rugby weekend. Again we were undefeated (boring) in a fast and furious game with the sheep farmers scoring first. The Ports had to dig deep to come from behind to snatch a draw. A special mention to Mark “Morris” Minor for a gutsy performance on his way to the chiropractor. Country hospitality and Rugby was at its best with Walcha’s main club playing Narrabri in the afternoon for a home win. The dinner at the Commercial Hotel was superb and the only dampener on the weekend was the Wallabies loss to the All Blacks in the Bledisloe and Tri- Nations game televised live on Saturday night.

The Sunday morning after we woke to a –4 C morning at 7am with a quarter of an inch of ice over the cars. It was all good.

Our coming events are as follows:

Games- Forster Gala weekend – 13th October- this will be an overnight stay and possibly a bus trip for those interested.

Social – Bago Winery day trip on Sunday 9th September.

NOTE YOUR DIARIES NOW.

The Pirates Presentation Night will be held on Saturday 18th August at Flynn’s Beach Surf Club so please support a great season’s end.

Good luck to the Pirates senior side in the Grand Final today – we love to celebrate a win. - Go the Pirates.

Leon Anderson
Club Captain - Vintage Ports.