

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

1965 N.S.W. UNDER 14 AND UNDER 8 STONE

P.S.A.A.A. RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM

PAPUA / NEW GUINEA TOUR

REPORT ON THE 1965 N.S.W. UNDER 14 AND 8 STONE

P.S.A.A.A. RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM THAT TOURED

PAPUA / NEW GUINEA

We left Mascot Airport (Sydney) on Thursday, 26th August, 1965. Our tour lasted 18 days and was a great experience for everyone in the side. I will break the report into two sections, Education and Sport.

1. EDUCATION

We flew everywhere we went on our trip and were welcomed and cared for in the best possible manner. At every place of visit we attended School, Bar-B-Que and Leagues Club Receptions. Our ports of stay were firstly, Rabaul (five days) secondly, Lae (six days) and lastly, Port Moresby (six days). We learnt many things about the schools in the Territory and how they are organised and run. The schools are very modern and are divided into European and Native High Schools. The education, in my opinion, is not of a high standard because most of the European schoolchildren are in boarding schools in Australia.

The towns Rabaul, Lae and Port Moresby are fairly modern as they have been re-built since the war.

We were billeted by Europeans, however, in Rabaul the majority of us were billeted with Chinese families.

Our trip included visits to cocoa, copra, rubber and coconut plantations, native villages and markets, Sogeri Plateau, the Kokoda Trail, war cemeteries and other places of great interest.

We met many European people and teachers who really helped make our trip as wonderful as it was. Such men as :-

Mr. S. Pike)	
Mr. Wellbourne)	Rabaul
Mr. J. Amesbury)	
Mr. B. Knight)	Lae
Mr. Coehn)	
Mr. Cochren)	Port Moresby

If we weren't playing football or visiting places or on conducted tours we still found plenty to do, such as swimming, golf, squash, shopping etc.

I was Captain of the team and on the tour made 15 speeches at receptions, bar-b-ques, tours and things of that nature

We all learnt a great deal and you would have to see it to believe how fantastic it all was. The Europeans live in comfortable, well-ventilated modern houses and the majority of the natives live in their respective villages.

2. SPORT

Unfortunately, we had no luck in our football losing all games. We should, in my opinion, have won four games, however, no post mortems.

The grounds were in excellent condition for football, very green and soft. We were fortunate in one way, having European referees. We played in temperatures of 85° and the humidity was about the same. This made us very tired and lethargic, however, we did our best. We played 30 minutes each way and had five to ten minutes half time

Our oppositions were all natives and their ages ranged from 15 to 18 years and they were nine stone or more. Seeing that we were U/14 and U/8 stone, they had a great advantage over us. The main factors of our defeats were the extreme heat and the speed of our opposition.

During the tour we trained very hard with Mr. Green, (Coach) at varying times, like 6.00 a.m. or 4.30 p.m. Before the first game we trained at 11.00 a.m. and this made some of us tired.

Games Played

Saturday, 28th August	-	Played Rabaul .. defeated 35 - 0.
Monday, 30th "	-	Played New Britain .. defeated 11 - 5.

Friday,	3rd	September	-	Played Combined Papua/ N.G. .. defeated 28 - 0
Saturday,	4th	"	-	Played Combined Papua/ N.G. .. defeated 8 - 5
Monday,	6th	"	-	Played Lae .. defeated 5 - 3.
				(Three games in four da
Wednesday,	8th	"	-	Played Combined Papua . defeated 5 - 2.
Saturday,	11th	"	-	Played Combined Papua . defeated 10 - 0.

It can be easily seen that we had little rest between our respective games. Even though we were defeated in all games there wasn't much in the scores except for two.

The natives are not excellent footballers, just fast and straight up and down. They are very rough and tough and never seem to get hurt. One boy in the Combined Papua/New Guinea side broke his collarbone, we also had some ailments.

In future years, should a similar team be sent up to New Guinea, it should consist of 20 players or more. Rugby League is very popular up in New Guinea and the standard is gradually becoming better season after season.

I don't think we could have done as well as we did without the help, coaching and guidance of Mr. Green and Mr. Warwick.

In N.S.W. all schoolboy Rugby League teams are controlled by one body, namely the N.S.W. P.S.A.A.A., however, in Papua/New Guinea the schoolboy Rugby League centres of Rabaul, Lae and Port Moresby are controlled individually.

This was an experience the boys and I will never forget and we are greatly appreciative to the N.S.W. Rugby League and N.S.W. P.S.A.A.A. for making such a memorable trip possible.

PETER CLARK,
Team Captain.



SCHOOLBOYS TO NEW GUINEA By Barry Ross

In August 1965, 17 excited 14 year old schoolboys flew out of Sydney to New Guinea. They were members of the NSW Combined High Schools eight stone (51 kgs) team and this was probably the first Australian representative schools rugby league team to tour overseas. The side was coached by Brian Green from Beacon Hill High and the tour opened with two matches in Rabaul, 800 kms north east of Port Moresby. Then they played three games at Lae, 305 kms north of Port Moresby, before finishing with two games at Boroko, Port Moresby. The NSW boys lost all seven matches and this suggests that the boys were overmatched. Tour captain, Peter Furnis-Clark, from Newcastle Boys High, confirmed this, saying..

“ Many of our opponents were shaving, while some even had facial hair. But on saying this it was a great and unforgettable experience, as most, if not all of us, had never been out of NSW, or even been on a plane, let alone the New Guinea jungles. “

A star athlete and scholar at high school, Furnis-Clark, captained his school football team at five eighth and played school cricket with Gary Gilmour, who went on to play 15 Tests. After school, the tour captain played some rugby league and then changed to rugby union. He went on to become a dentist and practised for many years in his home town before retiring in 2017. Stuart Airlie from South Sydney Boys High (now co-ed) was the vice captain and lock forward. He played grade football with both South Sydney and Newtown, while on 26 June 1971 at Henson Park in Sydney, he captained South Sydney to a 13-10 win over Canterbury in the Presidents Cup final. After some injuries, he gave up football to concentrate on his studies and became a teacher after graduating from Balmain Teachers College. He taught for 37 years, 19 as a Principal, with the NSW Department of School Education and is currently teaching Maths to pre-service teachers at Southern Cross University, Coffs Harbour where he and his wife have lived for many years.

“ Although it is more than 55 years ago, I still have vivid memories of that tour, “ said Stuart. “ We were billeted by the expats, who were all very friendly. The grounds were packed for all of our games and it was totally different to what we had ever experienced. The locals teams played in bare feet while we wore sandshoes. We flew in DC3s in New guinea and often the locals would have dogs and other animals on board with them. ”

The two Wollongong boys, winger John Lumsden and second rower, Neil Gilmore did well in football after school. John, whose father Jack Lumsden, played one Test for Australia in 1952, represented Country Seconds at the SCG in May 1973 and also won three first grade Illawarra Premierships with the Western Suburbs club and one with Jamberoo in the Group 7 competition. John has been working for Boral for the past 11 years and lives on the Central Coast. Neil Gilmore played over 100 first grade matches and won a first grade Premiership with Corrimal in the Illawarra competition, as well as having a season with English club, Leigh. Alan Constable won a first grade Group 11 Premiersip with Forbes and represented Western Division, while Peter Corliss also played first grade with Forbes and served as a long term local administrator of the sport.

The team members and their respective high schools were Peter Clark (Newcastle), Stuart Airlie (South Sydney), John Wilson (South Sydney), Ron Olander (Newtown), Norm Devine (Dulwich Hill), Alan Riddell (Picnic Point), Frank McIvor (Picnic Point), John Lumsden (Dap[to), Neil Gilmore (Bulli), Peter Corliss (Forbes), Alan Constable (Forbes), Mal Downie (Arthur Phillip), Norm Booshand (Campbelltown), John Westaway (Barraba Central), Guiseppi Giardina (Meadowbank), Craig Vaughan (Kingsgrove North), Peter Herman (Vaucluse). Several of the team have passed away and these include Neil Gilmore (2011), Peter Corliss (2017) and John Wilson (2017).