

EASTWOOD CHARCOALS RUGBY CLUB
JEANS AND JERSEY NIGHT
JOHN HAYNES LOUNGE, EASTWOOD RUGBY CLUB.
SATURDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2017.

On a balmy Summer's evening, the Eastwood Charcoals Rugby Club held their inaugural Jeans and Jersey Night at the Eastwood Rugby Club to facilitate the 2017 registration of players, partners and social members. Common sense prevailed however as there was a noticeable absence of jeans due to the oppressive weather conditions.

As the writer entered the coolness of the John Haynes Lounge with family in tow there was a noticeable energy emanating from the room. Whether this was due to the excessive consumption of alcohol or the first official sighting of Dome's hairless legs at a social function, is yet to be determined!

A big thank you to Kevin "Easter" Show for bringing our newest registered Charcoals member, Pat McConnell along to the evening. Pat has yet to have a nickname bestowed on his good person. No doubt that will be a swift process knowing the Charcoals players!

It was good to see "Slabbs" Rodgers, sans wobbly boot at the function together with "Hipster" Teki sporting a new silver-flecked full beard. (very chic Mr, Teki!). Hopefully this will give a whole new fearful dimension on the playing paddock. As always, it was also great to see "Hoges" (and Mrs "Hoges") at the function. Your continuing support Hoges as our most respected referee, is always appreciated.

The Charcoals were privileged indeed to have some long distance attendees at our function. Woody Hume and his lovely wife Gabbie, travelled up from Canberra and "Phantom" McCarthy made a surprise appearance all the way from Launceston in Tassie ("Launi" to the locals). It would certainly be remiss of the writer not to acknowledge also the long distances "Lord Jim" Dunn travels in the course of his duties as our new 2017 President. Now that's commitment!

Clan Chaney was represented by Diane, daughters Natalie and Claire and grandson, Matthew. Claire was our official photographer and took many pics over the course of the evening. These will be up on the Charcoals Facebook page and website in due course.

President "Lord Jim" Dunn welcomed those present and gave an overview of a busy schedule ahead in 2017 for both players and social members commencing with the Port Macquarie Tour on 3 – 5 March and the St. Patrick's Night game at T G Millner on 17th March. He then made presentations to a future Charcoals player, Matthew Bezkorovainy which was gratefully accepted by his mother Natalie; to our official Photographer Claire; to Edwina for her unwavering support throughout Greedy's rugby career and to one of our newest Charcolettes, Gabbie Hume.

Charcoals Club Captain, Grant “Morgs” Morgan then proceeded to mount (is that the word?) a small domestic step ladder at the front of the room (which I understand, travels everywhere with him in the boot of his car) and outlined the proposed 2017 playing schedule with a greater emphasis on home games at T G Millner.

It was pleasing to see such a large number (gaggle?) of Charcolettes present including Julie, Dale, Carol, Diane Chaney, Diane Hogan, Bernie, Edwina, Margaret (Madam President), Jenny and Gabbie. They appeared to be enjoying themselves immensely thanks to the free champagne, great food from Wings Restaurant and the presence of rugby gentlemen.

In a dimly-lit corner of the room, the Hawera Meatworker and Greedy were overheard discussing meat smokers, future outback shooting expeditions and strategies to avoid 80 kg bilbies on NSW country roads!

The evening culminated in a robust rendition of the Club Song ably lead by Dome which frightened the hell out of a sleeping babe. “Taxi”!

Sincere thanks must go to “Tiny” and Dale Harrison of Independent Pipe Fabrications for sponsoring the evening, our own Bean Counter, Dome and Starry for distribution of the new Charcoals kit.

I could not conclude this report without acknowledging the vital support of our 2017 sponsors; Bob and Carol O’ Shea of Firequip, Paul “Magic” Johnson of Dynamic Composite Technologies (DCT), Con Grigoriadis of First National Real Estate, Pymont and Marty Rodgers of Impact Automation.

Let’s have a big turnout for our first game of the 2017 calendar at Port Macquarie on the weekend of 3 – 5 March. Not only is it a great experience but it’s Pom’s shout for the first beer(s)!!!

See you in Port.

Remember, Punt high and follow through!

Yours in rugby.

Rabbs (that’s 2 b’s)

(Roving Scribe and Part-time Minstrel.)