



# 'OLD PIRATES'

## Meeting No.3 - April 2017



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Minutes of 'Old Pirate's 3rd Meeting held at the Clubrooms on Thursday 27th April

**Present:** Big Buccaneer (BB), Heather, Gypo, Rick, Doddsy, Witty.

**Apologies:** Fairy, whose kids had taken him off to Disneyland at his request. Apparently, Fairy has an infatuation with Peter Pan and Wendy. Heather said that she felt that this was an unusual obsession "but it takes all kinds".

Apology accepted; Moved Witty, seconded Heather.

**Correspondence Inward - 3 letters received:**

1. A letter received from Brett (Harold) Wilson complaining bitterly that all the clubs' All Black members were mentioned in the last newsletter by name and number except him. He noted in his letter that he had played for the club and coached championship winning teams. He considered his exclusion to be an insult and requested an apology.
2. A letter from John Thurston stating that he considered that the club had a poor attitude toward the veterinary fraternity. He said that he no longer had any interest in becoming a Crew member.
3. A note from Alan 'Buck' Buckley stating that he had correctly answered the question at the 'Old Pirates' day quiz but Doddsy didn't hear him because he was drowned out by someone who had been drinking excessively. He said that he answered at the same time as Undies and considered that the quiz was run inappropriately and the purpose his letter was to register his protest.

**Correspondence Outward - 3 letters sent:**

1. A letter sent to Harold Wilson from Big Buccaneer which stated that he, Big Buccaneer, rejected Harold's complaint because he had not paid his Old Pirates sub yet. BB said that "off the cuff I can recollect that Harold was All Black number 846 and that he played 3 matches for the AB's in 1983". He added that Harold was a bit of a whiner and wouldn't get any apology from him. BB said that he didn't want to sound superior, but some of the crew might like to know that 16 All Blacks have been 'Wilson's' commencing in 1884 with Bob Wilson who played 6 matches for the AB's without ever playing provincial rugby. He said that it may not be of interest to the Crew, but personally, his research was pointing toward the fact that at 16 apiece, there had been an equal number of Wilsons and Smiths who have been AB's. He said surprisingly, the Browns are falling well behind

at half that number. BB said that unfathomably only 4 Jones's had been All Blacks. BB commented "that statistically, it certainly was not a matter of keeping up with the Jones's".

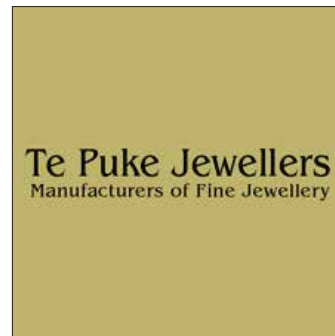
Heather said she was totally 'blown-away' by BB's knowledge and only wished that other Crew members had his intellectual capabilities..... but she wouldn't hold her breath on that one.

2. A reply sent to John Thurston stating that the club did not intentionally impugn the veterinary profession and that the decision not to invite him to become a Crew member was based entirely on competency considerations.
3. A reply to 'Buck' saying that regretfully, despite the unfortunate incident that he described, the club cannot alter the results of the 'Old Pirates' quiz. BB said that it was unusual not to hear Buck, however he wished him well in next seasons quiz.

#### **Minutes of Previous meeting:**

- Sponsorship direction was discussed with the main committee to advise who is to be responsible for the distribution of the sponsorship booklets and the follow up with businesses.
- 'Old Pirates' main project is to be determined this coming week.
- Heather reported that membership keeps growing – the last two being paid by Bones Pattie and Bones Johnson. She said that it was funny but taking these 2 subs reminded her of that old Negro spiritual song called 'dem dry bones'.....which she said was sung by 'The Delta Rhythm Boys' who were a very popular musical group that made this song well known through their performances on radio, television and on Broadway. Heather said she and Murray really, really liked spiritual things. She said that 'up in the Territories' she often heard strange things in the night but often it just turned out to be Murray's irritable bowel problem. BB thanked Heather for her usual informative observations.

**Financial:** Heather reported that the bank Account stood at \$4000.00



#### **General Business:**

- The Crew sends hearty best wishes to Graeme Crossman currently recovering from triple by-pass surgery.
- Sad news hits hard – none harder than the passing of Doug Rollerson. United Pirate coach, player and club mentor through the early years of professional rugby. RIP All Black No 758. 'Old Pirates' has recently allocated some of its revenue to players who have been injured and have lost their ability to earn. This is something that we do to support our players and our club.
- Apparently, Harley Sowman is travelling in Europe. It was noted by Gypo that last season Harley had promised Old Pirates a meat-pack for raffling. As the meat-pack has not been received, BB requested that Heather send a letter to Harley asking if he intended to honour his promise.
- 'Old Pirate' day last Saturday was an outstanding success. Great to see Go-Bake' (Russell Baker) and other old faces. One of the highlights of the day was the awarding of the Jack Gray cup.

This cup is awarded annually to the Best Under-Performing 'Old Pirate' of the Season. In presenting the cup, BB said that it had been a real struggle to choose the winner as most of his Crew had similar non-performing qualities and equal and obvious deficiencies. In receiving this seasons award, Gypo, in his acceptance speech said that he was "sincerely humbled" to have received the trophy. He commented that the only other trophy he had ever been awarded was a small medallion that his mother gave him when he stopped bed-wetting at the age of 11.



The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.

