

Charters Towers Rugby Union 30 year reunion

Charters Towers Rugby Union Club celebrated its 30 years of existence in the modern era in style.

The weekend started with a Bang Tail Muster at the Phillipson Road Club house. Many of the old Bulls and their heifers turned up. This was after James Doyle hosted a number of them in a round of golf at the Charters Towers Golf Club.

Friday night all the noted riders from stations near and far gathered at the Arthur Titley Centre for the gala Ball. Many original Bulls were there and who would be the ring master but none other than mercurial auctioneer and real estate agent, Jim Geaney. Special guests included former Wallabies,

Peter Grigg and Tom Lawton. Our original President and founder Bob Armstrong came up from Sydney for the event. He was chaperoned by patron, Ron Edgar. Shield cricketer, Luke Feldman was there as was Acting Deputy Police Commissioner, Col McCallum and his lovely wife Ros. (Col was an old Bull in the eighties whist in charge of the local Stock Squad. Bulls representative players, Joe Vitelli and Geoff Lawler made the trip up from Brisbane with their families.

Local grazier, Peter Costello (Fanning Downs), who played in the original team, made use of two of the visitors from the south, policeman Lou Strohfeldt, son Lachlan Strohfeldt and former employee of Jim Geaney, Warren Inch. He had them out working weaners on each morning before the celebrations.

Many of the younger players always ask why it is called the Dave Thomas Field. Well Dave turned up from Mackay to answer all their questions about how he alerted the fledgling club to the availability of land for their home field.

Longest playing member of the club is local veterinary surgeon Greg Smith who has played with the club for thirty years, although these days prefers to coach the Junior Bulls and run out for the Knackered Bulls Golden Oldie team.

Yes some of the old bulls pulled on their boots for a game of Golden Oldies football on the Saturday.

One of the sides even smuggled a former president and lady player in as hooker: Louise McKinnon.

Before the game Jim Geaney transported some of the more ancient bulls around the oval in his 1937 Utility

The game day finished with the present-day Bulls playing Townsville Brothers for the John Fry Shield. John was tragically taken in a helicopter accident near Ravenswood whist working as a stock inspector with DPI. His parents, brother Peter and other family members came up for the game.

Everyone agreed that it was a fantastic weekend. All were thankful to Councillor Norah Vinson, Tash Mossman, Cathy West and their team of helpers for making the weekend a resounding success.