



**FERNTREE GULLY EAGLES JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
PRESIDENT'S DINNER DANCE SPEECH
21 JUNE 2008**

WELCOME:

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club Dinner Dance 2008.

Please be seated – entre is about to be served.

I would like to begin by acknowledging key people, supporters and sponsors of our club:

- Ray Abley from **Ray Abley Real Estate** (A long time supporter and major sponsor of the club)
- Chris Rhodes from **Pools R Us** (also a long time supporter and sponsor of the club)
- The Hon Nick Wakeling – Member of Parliament, and Member representing Ferntree Gully, Victoria
- Paul Waters (**President**), and also representatives of the Ferntree Gully Eagles Senior Football Club

Welcome to you all.

It's great to see so many people here celebrating and enjoying a social evening together. The football season literally takes over once it commences, so it's good to take time out mid-season to enjoy each other's company and perhaps get to know a few **new** people at our club. For those of you here tonight who have read the latest edition of the club newsletter (and I would think this is ALL of us), you will have noticed that I threw out a challenge for us all to individually make a point of introducing ourselves tonight to five people that we do not know....Let's see how we go!

The Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club is pleased to host this Dinner - again at the Mulgrave Country Club – a venue we have used each year for this occasion over the past several years. May I say that their hospitality and assistance has been second to none!

Tonight, there will be no purchasing of raffle tickets. Instead, each person present has been given a raffle ticket – and prizes will be drawn accordingly. We will also have an auction of several items later tonight; and some more surprises! **All of this after our main meal.**

In the meantime, dinner will be served, and Jimmy will entertain us throughout the evening. To all of you, thank you for being here, welcome, and enjoy the Dinner Dance!

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH:

In thinking about the key messages I wanted to give tonight, what better way to do this than to reflect on our past to determine where we are today and where will be in the future....

The Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club (formerly known as the 'Knox Opportunity Youth Club' and also as 'The Knox Eagles Junior Football Club') was founded in 1972. There is over 36 years of history, which when combined with the Ferntree Gully Eagles Senior Football Club who has over 100 years of history – one can indeed say that we are proud to be associated with a club so richly anchored into the Ferntree Gully area.

The reason that we exist as a club is to encourage, promote and facilitate:

- The playing of Australian Rules Football;
- The pursuit of fitness and health; and
- Social interaction and integration.

I think we achieve all of these!

The draft mission statement of the Senior club is:

- To provide a safe social and sporting environment to the local community.

It's my view therefore, that the Junior and the Senior Clubs are philosophically well synchronised and well suited to each other.

Some of the **key challenges** facing the Club include:

- Risk management and legal compliance issues
- Recruitment, retention and development of quality people involved in the Committee, Executive, volunteers, and so on...
- Access to quality facilities at the club
- Demographic and economic issues
- Cultural and emerging communities in our area

In thinking about our **achievements** in the last twelve months, the following come to mind:

- The development of a new joint website (thanks to the time, energy and efforts of Robert Saltalamacchia and all of the Website Administration Team);
- The development of our new Electronic Newsletter (thanks to Sandro Maio and Sharon Nied who each week give so freely of their time);
- Developing a Strategic Plan for the Club that will link to the Senior Club;
- Developed a series of club policy documents which have all been posted on the new website to ensure greater transparency and consistency;
- Applied for Bronze Level of the AFL Quality Club Program;
- Held our very first ever Orientation Night for new players and their families;
- The recruitment of all of our qualified Coaches, Team Managers, Trainers and officials (without whom we would have no teams to field); and
- Encouraged strong participation by Mums in all facets of our club;

TO NAME A FEW

There are also so many people to thank and I will try to do this now in the hope that I don't miss out anyone – please bear with me as I work through this (albeit extensive) list. It is important that people are recognised for their efforts and contributions:

- My Executive (Gary Bass, Sharon Nied, John Evans) without whom I could not function. Also to Cherie Wilson who so competently prepares the agenda and completes meeting minutes;
- The General Committee, all of whom contribute so passionately and provide both support and practical assistance;
- The Coaching Co-ordinator – Joel Farrelly (who gives so much of his time to the club in this and other roles);
- The Trainer Co-ordinators – Frank Compasso and Lisa Mack (they make themselves available to every Team and Trainer as required. Frank also gives so much as one of the trainers at the Senior Club.)
- We have a group committed to reviewing and improving our Sunday Night Player Awards nights – well done! (Held a very successful Sunday Night function at the Senior Club Rooms).
- To all the Mums who give so much week in week out – we must find a way to repay you!;
- To Sharon Nied and Terri Dunstone our Uniforms and off-field wear team (Terri also looks after our Banners for players playing milestone games);
- Presentation Day Committee – lots of work and preparation is required for this day yet that continue to keep their eye on the ball!
- Our Property Stewards – Neil Purdon and Rob Alty (who provide an incredible tracking record of all goods – I wish I could have a memory like theirs!)
- To Peter Cole our Grants Officer
- To Ruth Turner (who has so competently replaced our Jo Doherty in the Canteen); and to PJ behind the bar.
- To Greg Lawson – taking care of our Honour Boards
- To Lisa Mack and Graham Ryan – our sponsor co-ordinators
- To Andrew Wright – our Auskick liaison person

There is one person that I would, in particular, like to recognise tonight – this person has completed a mountain of work in co-ordinating and arranging our Dinner Dance tonight -**Trina Jacobson** – Trina, please come up as we would like you to accept a small token as a sign of our appreciation of your energy, efforts and co-ordination. On behalf of the Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club – THANK YOU!

(Certificate to Mulgrave Country Club – Presentation)

I also have a presentation to make to the Coach of the Under 15 Premiership Team of 2007 – Joel Farrelly. Joel – please come up. On behalf of the club, and thanks to Michael Bourke from Memorabilia Magic, here is a framed account of that special moment in August 2007. We will proudly display this in the club rooms as a memento of that occasion – we could not think of a better time to present this and we think it fitting that we do this tonight at our Dinner Dance. **CONGRATULATIONS!**
(We will also present this frame to the players tomorrow (Sunday) night.)

Thanks to Jimmy tonight;

Thanks to our sponsors who have donated to tonight's raffle:

- Mick Reilly (Ferntree Gully Heating and Cooling)
- Joe Cilmi (Scandal Hair)
- Rebel Sport
- Graeme Gardner
- The Urbano Family
- Total Work Wear
- Metabo

Thanks especially to Michael Bourke from Memorabilia Magic who has donated and arranged for tonight's Auction.

Thanks for your attendance;

Thanks for your continued support of the club;

Sam Cavarra

President

Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club