

## **AUFC President's report 2012**

### **Apology**

I am writing this 2012 report in late-February 2013, a day or so before the AGM where this report is to be tabled, such are the exigencies of life as a single father of 5, business owner, criminal lawyer and President of the biggest football club in the world.

I was going to do my best to reproduce my annual dinner speech, but find that intention compromised due to a lack of any decent notes. It's a long story. It involves lots of children and a (car) break-down. I suspect only the aptly-named 'Tonto the Unusual' would be interested.

I am sorry Spence, for making the inclusion of this report in the annual report difficult due to its lateness.

### **The Presidency**

I saw an interview with Eddie Maguire in which he described how he came to be appointed president at Collingwood. He said that it was if he and the other nominees were standing shoulder to shoulder along a line. The others all stepped backwards but Eddie missed the cue and stayed where he was. He was duly appointed. That's pretty much what happened to me. I was the only one of a group of Vice-Presidents preferred by Young Maddern, the outgoing president, who didn't flat-out refuse. Apparently that qualified me for the position. Nevertheless I feel honoured, privileged and utterly humbled to have been elevated to this lofty position in this greatest of all football clubs.

I have to say I felt at various times through the year the hopelessly vast size of the shoes Peter Maddern left for me to attempt to fill. I have had to comfort myself with the reality that it is pointless attempting to emulate him. Instead I have had to be content knowing that we have necessarily done things differently from each other. Mostly I expect I have done them less well to date. Hopefully there have been some things, however, that I have done reasonably well. It has been a steep learning curve. I certainly feel more qualified at the commencement of 2013 than I did at this time last year.

### **Peter ('Young'; 'Wide') Maddern**

Young's legacy, like that of Chocka's, is everywhere in this footy club. Peter commenced as a player in 1980. He played around 150 games in reputedly 'wide' fashion, and kicked over 200 goals. He was

a successful coach of the 'Glamour Side'. In 1988 he became Chairman - for a number of years - before working overseas.

Upon his return in 1996 he became President. He held that post continuously until his retirement last year; 16 consecutive years – the club record by a long way. During the term of his presidency the club won no fewer than 28 premierships including a glorious record 5 in 1997 on 'Super Saturday'. The A grade was the dominant division 1 team through the period 1996-2002, playing in 4 grand finals and winning 2.

Peter played *the* pivotal role in the renovation of the park 10 grandstand and in the Bob Neil no. 1 renovation project (including the wonderful new long-room facility). It is fair to say that he re-defined the president's role in terms of the passionate and active interest he brought to it.

He has also served over the years as tribunal advocate, club spokesman, member of the SAAFL executive, charismatic and eloquent 'Hold Your Bowlies' host, and much more.

Peter was made a life member of the Blacks some years ago. The club owes him an enormous debt of gratitude. For my part I am grateful that he saw fit to nominate me as a worthy replacement; for his very generous words at the last AGM when I was elected on his nomination; and for his friendship since the mid-80s. His influence at the Blacks is quite unique. I expect higher honours are imminent.

### **The Blacks**

I said to an understandably bemused group of A-grade squad members at the beginning of 2012 that my impression of the 'club' is that it is an entity of its own, with its own identity and values. They are not values that we as club members necessarily attach to it; the club just picks values up as it moves along in the world, and those values come together to form a 'culture'. There is no point, I have found, in attempting to define the club's 'culture'. As soon as you reach out to grasp it, it will pull away from you. It is unreachable just as it is indefinable. It just *is*. And it is simply awesome.

I heard Tadhg Kennelly describe the Sydney Swans' culture as defined by a "no dickheads" policy. I'd like to say that the Blacks have the same philosophy but I'm fairly confident the truth is that we maintain room for a couple of dickheads. Indeed, we embrace them. But we don't have malicious dickheads. Our dickheads win JT Goose awards. Congratulations to Hutchy this year. I had the good fortune of seeing the whole thing unfold. It was a fine performance. Pure JT Goose gold.

This club expects nothing of anybody. It just gives, unceasingly and generously. It is utterly benevolent. If you give back to it then naturally it is grateful and it will reward you in ways you could not have imagined, but it doesn't demand anything of you. It knows everything. It knows exactly what to do and when to do it.

This has been my experience throughout my time with the Blacks; and never more-so than in 2012. I was a little anxious about the presidency. I worried in particular about the time commitment. The club knew exactly what to do. It rewarded my time in ways I could not have imagined. I have been struck by and gained immense satisfaction from these things in particular:

### **Amateurism**

1. the privileged opportunity to be immersed in a quite unique pool of immensely high quality young men, in all grades. Positive thinkers, committed, talented, intelligent, charming, polite, respectful, ambitious, oozing integrity; future leaders in society. What sets our young men apart, fundamentally, from other talented footballers in this competition is that they *all* play purely for the love of the game. It is a wonderfully self-generating philosophy – it means that we axiomatically tend to attract the sort of quality young men every other club strives for. Those other clubs just don't understand. It's surprising how many outsiders simply *don't believe* that we can survive at the highest levels without paying our players. This club – and all of its players and volunteers - is justifiably proud of its truly amateur status. It has always been that way and it will always be that way. It makes every win - in every grade - all the more glorious;

### **Community**

2. the wonderful sense of community the footy club offers to those who engage with it. I gave this example at the annual dinner: I woke up the morning after the Super Saturday 3 grand finals feeling slightly precious and in need of family. The kids were with their respective mothers. Neither ex – oddly enough - was terribly enthusiastic about seeing me. I thought I'd drop by the Cumby and see what was happening at Super Sunday. I cannot describe what a joy the day was. The sense of camaraderie - without distinction for football ability - was palpable. I emerged into darkness outside about 8 hours later, thoroughly intoxicated...with the joy of community. The day was everything the club is famous for. You get the same sense of community when you come along to watch a Blacks match. You can be guaranteed that you will be engaged, one way or another, in classic grass-roots football, lively discussion, and probably a beer or two;

### **Volunteers**

3. the number of fine people prepared to volunteer their time serving this club in one capacity or another; and the passion, dedication and joy they bring to what they do. We have a veritable army of volunteers. We need every one of them. I congratulate and thank them most sincerely for the invaluable work they do, and the grace with which they do it.

### **Life members' induction**

2012 saw the induction of an unusually large number of life members on account of the club's Constitution having been amended to award life membership for 200-game players instead of 250. I did some reflecting on this. It is a quite remarkable achievement to have played 200 games of amateur footy for the Blacks. Given the demands of student life (exams, holidays, snow and so on) and the relatively small number of games in a season, you'd have to have played for 12 or 13 years, generally, to be close to 200 games. That demonstrates loyalty and dedication worthy of recognition at the highest level. Hearty congratulations to all new life members. It is a richly-deserved honour; an absolutely outstanding achievement.

### **Hall of fame induction**

2012 saw the introduction of the Blacks' Hall of Fame. There were 2 inaugural inductees: Fred Bloch from the 'modern' era, and Dr Norm Gunning from the 'less modern' era. Both of these men have had an utterly profound effect on the football club and their elevation as inaugural hall of fame inductees is also richly deserved.

### **Dr N.S. (Norm) Gunning**

Dr Gunning was an inaugural inductee to life membership at the Blacks in 1952. His name is, of course, ascribed to the A grade best and fairest medal. The sense of honour attached to receiving this award has as much to do with its donor's history as it does to the club's history and the history of its recipients over the years. Dr Gunning first donated and presented this award in 1927.

Dr Gunning commenced at the Blacks in 1922. He was an outstanding player, either at full forward or full back. He played intervarsity football throughout his Blacks' playing career (1922-1926), was vice-captain of the club in 1926, and received a University 'Blue' in 1923 followed by an Australian 'Blue' in 1926. He represented the State in the inaugural state amateur game in 1925, and again in 1926.

In 1923 and 1924 Dr Gunning was club Secretary. Later, he held the position of President from 1937 until 1946. Dr Gunning was an inspirational early leader of the club and served with distinction both as an outstanding player and administrator.

### **Dr Fred ('Chocka') Bloch**

Chocka was an outstanding footballer. He made his debut for North Adelaide in 1961 having been recruited from Berri. In 1965 he was North Adelaide's best and fairest and, I believe, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Magarey Medal. He played State footy for South Australia during the 60s. He was a star in a star-studded North Adelaide team.

Fred was the A2 coach at Uni from 1968 to 1971. In 1980 he took over as A1 coach. He coached the following year as well. In 1982 he assumed an administrative role at the Blacks that took various forms over the years including secretary, keeper of records, author of annual reports, recruitment officer and ultimately 'football director'. He was famous for slipping Blacks references into his accounting lectures and exams.

I had the good fortune to be around when Chocka's 'administrative' influence was peaking, from about the mid-80s. Of course I speak of the legend Bob Neil, the most profound Chocka creation of all. Chocka master-minded and choreographed the whole thing; and the inimitable legend lives on, nearly 30 years later.

Chocka hosted 'Hold your Bowlies' virtually every week. It was ribald, hilarious, touching at times, and definitely not PC. He hosted what has become known as 'Super Sunday' in his back yard at Netherby for many years. This was particularly courageous. Fred's wife Maida dug and later covered the toilet pits in the back yard.

Fred did all things at the footy club through about 30 years of dedicated service. He was duly awarded an Order of Australia in 1999 for "service to youth and Australian Rules Football through the Adelaide University football club".

The contemporary fabric of the Blacks has Chocka's fingerprints all over it. His influence on this footy club has been utterly profound. His elevation to the Blacks' Hall of Fame has been delayed only because we haven't had a Hall of Fame until now. He was a unanimous choice as an inaugural inductee. He is truly a club legend.

Those at the annual dinner will recall Chocka's acceptance speech. It could have gone several different ways: humble, reverent, lengthy; typical of such speeches...or not. He chose 'not'. It was classic Chocka and utterly hilarious.

### **Michael Weatherald OAM**

Mick Weatherald ('Weathers') is dearly loved by those at the Blacks who know him. He coached the A grade team through the mid-80s and he and Chocka formed a formidable partnership. Weathers was awarded an OAM in 2012.

Weathers knew *every* player's name at the Blacks - through all grades – together with their strengths and weaknesses. Typically he focused on their strengths. He made a lot of young men feel really good about themselves in their developing years. His award is a just recognition of his commitment and dedication to sport in this State.

### **Congratulations**

There are many others to be congratulated for their efforts and achievements in 2012, including but not limited to the following:

- all of those who won club service and merit awards;
- Nigel ('Wolverine') Venning for taking control of the Greys' football team (the over 35s) and making it such a success both on and off the field;
- coaches, players and support staff of all teams that made the finals; especially the division 2 reserves team coached by Mick ('Spud') O'Leary, which came out of nowhere to snatch a well-deserved B-grade flag;
- best & fairest and other trophy winners in all grades. Seb Paynter was a most deserving winner of the Gunning Medal for the best & fairest A grade player;
- Trimmers, Mase and our A grade team for making the grand final and permitting our elevation back to division 1 where most of us feel we 'belong'. The players were understandably disappointed at losing the grand final. I'm not going to say the loss didn't matter, but getting back to division 1 was in itself an achievement that brought a lot of joy to a lot of Blacks people;
- Andrew McIntyre for his selection in the SAAFL team of the year, and Brad Davis for his selection in the State under 23 team. Both had fine seasons. Macca was one of our prize 2012 recruits,

along with Josh Willis, Lachy Roach (on a 1 year loan) and the Paynter brothers Seb and Will. All played pivotal roles in our success in 2012;

- our Intervarsity All-Australians Alex Wills (All-Australian captain), George Hurley-Wellington and Charlie Parsons. We're pretty hopeful that Alex will join us sooner rather than later (not this year regrettably). George's game against Tea Hee Gully in the first final was a stand-out in a fine season. He was unstoppable that day. Charlie Parsons' improvement through 2012 was quite remarkable. He may well be our number one ruckman in 2013;
- Ben ('Bunny') Warren for being awarded the Blacks' amateur coach of the year. I had the good fortune to witness Bunny's inspiring leadership and care for his players on several occasions through the year;

### Thanks

Likewise there are many people to thank. A selection follows (in no particular order):

- Sam Bridgwood, our indefatigable Chairman. There is no harder worker at the footy club, I venture to suggest; and yet he gets everything done with admirable élan. I don't know how he does it all. Moreover, I don't know how his employer permits him to do it;
- Malcolm ('Rulebook') Ashwood for his tireless work around fund-raising and the Greys and all things Blacks-related. The Greys' lunches were outstanding successes and a lot of fun. Malcolm put the Melbourne lunch together single-handedly with typical persistence and expertise. This fellow is a star;
- the committee. The talent contained within this select group is seriously off the scale. To a man they are dedicated to the preservation and advancement of all things good about the Blacks;
- Tom Martin (deputy Chairman) and Peter Sharley (Senior Vice President) for their advice and assistance on discrete issues through 2012, as well as for their committee involvement;
- Adrian Howard (football director) and Wayne Abrey (Secretary and delegate). Howie is the genial 'go to' man for all things football and electronic. Screecher (fittingly named) gets a monumental job done with a minimum of fuss.
- the coaches – all of them. Those who coach the lower grades do just about everything on match days including cooking the barby. Every one of our coaches inspires admiration for their

dedication to their team and the footy club. They are all men of integrity; outstanding role models for the young men they coach;

- team managers, assistants, runners, boundary umpires, water runners, et al. Respect to all;
- Marcus ('Aussie Bob') Trimboli and Jamie Mason. Both are moving on. Both are fine men indeed, have given outstanding service to the Blacks, and were instrumental in our elevation into division 1 (the first time this has happened, incidentally). Trimmers had outstanding success with the A grade without quite reaching the elusive flag. We hope to retain him as a Vice-President in 2013. Mase is interstate. We wish him all the best and hope to see him whenever he can make it out;
- Mike Daws and the Adelaide Uni Sports Association, who have been enthusiastic supporters of ours through 2012. We are most grateful for Mike's assistance. He is a champion bloke; a great man to have on our team.

### **Tribunal**

2 appearances, 2 acquittals, 1 shattered umpire retired. Yet another good year.

### **2013 – Challenges & Opportunities**

The 'vibe' at this time last year was palpably optimistic. The 'vibe' this year is almost overwhelming. There are some immense challenges facing the Blacks this year, but there is every reason to be confident and excited about our prospects back in division 1. We have the players, the coaching and training staff, and the administrative expertise and support to go one better than SPOC did last year (bearing in mind we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in div 2 in 2012). There is no reason, we firmly believe, why Tex Walker and Beate Lennon can't be lifting the division 1 trophy in 2013.

### **Recruiting**

The committee and others have been busy in the off-season. The list of 'boom' recruits to date is impressive, and 'O' Week is not yet over.

The likes of Sean Rusling (Collingwood); Lukas Antoniadis (Gepps Cross); Damian Cunningham (North Adelaide); and Sam Krieg (Birdwood) will join a formidable A-grade outfit. All of these young men could happily demand big bucks at other clubs but prefer to play for the Blacks for the love of the game and the indefinable Blacks 'culture'. We welcome them and all other recruits most

enthusiastically. I look forward to presenting the traditional bootlaces at the President's keg in the near future.

### **Coaching**

Bruce ('Beatle') Lennon was appointed A-grade coach for 2013 late last year. Bruce played AFL for Richmond, and well over 200 league games for Sturt, where he is a life member. He is well known to many at the club, universally liked, and regarded very highly indeed. He brings a wealth of playing and coaching experience, an easy-going disposition, and a passion for success. He has fitted in just beautifully as we knew he would.

Simon ('Alby') Dennis is Beatle's assistant. Simon likewise played at Richmond and Sturt (and Norwood, I am reliably informed by Rulebook), also has extensive coaching experience, and likewise brings a cool head and easy disposition. He is a significant asset to the coaching team and the club.

John (Jack) Paynter provided some back-seat strategic coaching insights last year. In 2013 he joins the coaching team on a more formal basis as 'chairman of selectors'. John is a Sturt legend – a champion player - and father of A-grade stars Seb and Will. He is a thoughtful and insightful football observer. There aren't many - at any level - with more experience and expertise.

David Barnes is the strength and conditioning coach for 2013, having joined us part way through 2012. The A grade squad has been training since November last year. Feedback suggests that Barnesy's dedication and innovative training methods will result in the fittest squad the Blacks have ever fielded. He is a great asset to the footy club.

Our coaching and conditioning team is *2<sup>nd</sup> to none* in this competition and likely to be the envy of many of our wealthier rivals. We are well-placed indeed.

Sadly, at the time of writing our 2012 C-grade coach **Paul ('Cyril') Rhigas** has given notice. Cyril has been a passionate Blacks man since he joined us from a Broads-view. He will be sadly missed as coach, but will hopefully remain firmly involved in some other capacity.

Sam ('Tyro') Timmons also moves on having done a fine job with the Bastards in recent years. Yet another fine man who always has the club's best interests at heart, in passionate fashion at times. I take full responsibility, Tyro, for the Bastards' first-round loss. (Apparently my pre-game address wasn't sufficiently inspiring. I was holding a somewhat awe-struck 5 year old girl by the hand and had a restless 2 year old boy in my arms at the time).

### **Women's Footy**

The Blacks will have a team in the women's competition in 2013! This is a welcome and overdue innovation. It will be fascinating to watch this take shape.

### **The Greys**

Both the undefeated over-35s team and the Greys in more general terms are pivotal to the ongoing success of the Blacks. Membership of the Greys brings untold benefits. Any potential Grey reading this who hasn't heard from Rulebook *will* hear from Rulebook shortly, make no mistake. When the Greys machine is set in motion (e.g. in relation to career opportunities for young Blacks) it is an astonishing thing to behold. Our alumni network is awesome.

### **Parents**

We held the inaugural parents' day at Bob Neil no. 1 during an A-grade match last year. Matty Allan and others went to considerable trouble to make it work. It provided an opportunity for parents and club officials to meet and mingle over lunch. It was a great success; long overdue, and something we intend to focus on more in 2013.

### **The long-room**

This has proved to be everything we hoped it would be; a multi-purpose venue with the most spectacular game day view of grass-roots footy in the State.

A particular highlight in 2012 was the match day lunch hosted by our generous sponsors Minter Ellison Lawyers. Wayne Jackson, former star Black and premiership player, dual All-Australian amateur and CEO of the AFL; and the Vice Chancellor Warren Bebbington were notable attendees.

A further highlight was the reunion lunch for the incredibly successful Blacks of the 1960s. Multi-preiership Coach Alan Greer and champion player (All-Australian captain) John Sangster joined the A-grade players in the rooms pre-game and then were able to join in the club song with the B-grade. It was a delight to be there to see the joy it brought to Alan and John.

The long-room will continue to be a major attraction and source of funding for the Blacks. It is a fantastic facility.

### **Sponsors**

### **The Cumby**

2012 was our first season at the Cumberland Arms hotel (the “Cumby”). We are thrilled with the relationship that has developed between the owners (Johnno and Tom Waltham), the staff and the club. Notwithstanding some teething problems as we all adapt to more regimented liquor licensing laws (vodka pyramids are a definite no-no, for future reference) Johnno and his staff were always respectful and understanding of our members and we trust the reverse was also true. We see this as a long term partnership and look forward to growing our numbers and events at the Cumby again this year.

### **Corporate Sponsors**

The Blacks are also most grateful for the generous support of our corporate sponsors:

- Angoves Family Winemakers (Alex Worthington);
- Minter Ellison Lawyers (Andy Cosh);
- T & R Pastoral (Blacks premiership players Darren Thomas and Evan Maxwell);
- Hayes Knight Accountants and Business Advisers (Grant Miles); and
- McArthur Recruitment (Matt Hobby)

Grateful thanks also to our various individual sponsors, donors and members. On account of Rulebook’s unique dedication, membership is at an all-time high.

We look forward to the continued support of all of our generous sponsors through 2013.

### **Lights**

We are currently seeking funding - with the assistance of the Sports Association - for a lighting upgrade. Initially the focus will be on Bob Neil no. 1, with a view to bringing the lights at the main oval to match standard so as to permit night games; particularly where Saturday games will otherwise clash with AFL matches at the new Adelaide Oval. Over time we hope to upgrade the park 10 and other lighting to an acceptable standard.

### **Administration Assistance**

Funding has been approved through the Sports Association (with an equal contribution from us) for an administration officer to be employed by the University, based in the Sports Association office, dedicated to working (at least part-time) for the Blacks. We expect that a suitably qualified expert will be capable of providing assistance in all areas of Blacks’ administration including but not limited

to pro-active and targeted marketing, sponsorship, funding and grant opportunities. Our hopeful expectation is that this assistance will effectively pay for itself in quick time. It is a great opportunity for us and one we intend to take full advantage of.

### **Anzac Day**

Plans are in place to host an Anzac Day match at Uni Oval. This is a really exciting concept. We are working to make it a reality.

### **Hold Your Bowlies**

We welcome back Tom Colebatch (“the Bitch”) from Perth to assume control of ‘Hold Your Bowlies’ from the very capable and dedicated Matt Allan. We can expect some ego-centric fireworks if Tom’s annual dinner speech is any guide.

### **Committee**

We look forward to welcoming a new deputy Chairman, other new committee members and one Scott (“Stump”) Uppington, who has generously volunteered to take on a kind of all-encompassing role around recruitment, player retention, player liaison, movement between grades and the like.

### **The APPS**

I will paraphrase on this topic, hopefully without losing any of the relevant subtleties or accuracy:

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the Blacks in 2013 is the operation of the “Approved Player Points System” administered by the Community Football League. The Amateur League – along with most other leagues in this State – is affiliated with the Community Football League and has accordingly adopted the APPS as, effectively, a replacement for the demonstrably unwieldy ‘salary cap’. (Imagine that; a ‘salary cap’ in the “Amateur” league).

The APPS applies a scale of points that attach to a player recruited to the SAAFL, according to where that player was recruited from. Country leagues and SANFL reserves recruits attract 3 points; SANFL league players attract 4 points; players recruited directly from the AFL attract 5 points; players recruited from rival SAAFL clubs attract 2 points. The A grade team at every club is permitted a total of 15 points only in every minor round game; increasing to 17 for finals matches.

The APPS applies to all clubs in the SAAFL. It applies to us notwithstanding that (a) it is a replacement for the salary cap and (b) we have never, do not, and will never pay anybody to play

footy for the Blacks. This is not, however, its most ironic feature as it applies to the Blacks. More ironic is that, notwithstanding our purely amateur status – in contradiction to just about every other “amateur league” club – the APPS *actively disadvantages* us in quite profound fashion:

any player who returns to the SAAFL club where he played junior football returns to that club (regardless of where he was recruited from) for zero points. We do not, of course, have juniors - unlike the vast majority of the district clubs - and cannot therefore avail ourselves of this concession. We have given the junior concept considerable thought. It remains a thought only, for all sorts of practical reasons.

You might think the college clubs would suffer the same disadvantage. During the first (trial) year of the operation of the APPS, however, it was apparently agreed at Executive level that the old scholar clubs could have the benefit of the junior concession for players who had played football for the school the old scholar club is said to represent.

Let's say we were hoping to pick up a lad who had most recently played AFL football and had attended St Peter's College and played footy for the school. The same player would come to us with 5 points (1/3<sup>rd</sup> of our weekly allowance), but would go to SPOC for zero points and would therefore have no effect on their weekly allowance. Similarly an AFL player who had played junior football at Broadview would return to that club with a zero points allocation but would attract 5 points at the Blacks.

Prior to 2012 various promises had been made: Uni was a special case; we would be looked after; there was no need to worry about the APPS. Notwithstanding these promises we were somehow left out of the College exemption granted in 2011. Indeed, it would appear that we were in the dark about it until much later. It would appear that the college exemption did not make it to a delegates' vote in the usual way. (The delegates represent each of the SAAFL member clubs).

We agitated this issue at various times in various forums through 2012. We met with the CFL and the SAAFL. We were told that we would need to bring an application to the delegates to permit the simple amendment to the SAAFL regulations we sought. Naturally our application was unsuccessful, notwithstanding that it sought simply to permit a legitimately-enrolled student of a tertiary institution to play for the football club representing that institution for zero points, and was ably argued by deputy Chairman Tom Martin. Why, after all, would any rival club delegate vote for an amendment that might permit us to compete on a more level playing field?

It is hardly surprising, actually, that we find ourselves in this position. Historically the Blacks have consistently had to battle against the odds. It is one of the reasons why we are *easily* the most successful amateur club in the history of the competition. Adversity makes us stronger, and we have integrity (and Bob Neil) on our side.

We have not yet had to face the reality of picking an A grade team according to our points tally. Hopefully we will avoid this again in 2013. It will be a sad day indeed; an outrageous disgrace arguably, if one of the few truly amateur clubs in this competition - one of the finest representatives of inclusive, grass-roots, amateur sport in the State - is forced to bow to this sorry inequity.

That said, we expect to win this battle as we have many others over the years. We have additional options to explore yet. It may be that the APPS consumes itself in time in any event, as it happens. It is a half-baked monster, with all due respect, as is the unilateral college concession.

### **Finally**

There is a tangible air of expectation around the club as we prepare for 2013: a real sense that – with the depth of talent and experience we have at all levels in all grades – we can make some very special things happen this year, both on and off the field; Bob willing. The footy club will, as always, be a great place to be in 2013.

MICHAEL DADDS  
President, AUFC