



# Cutting to the Chase

## Cutters On Track Despite Loss -Courtesy of Daily Mercury-

MACKAY Cutters coach Anthony Seibold is confident with the club's depth this season after a strong showing in the team's first trial.

Although the young STM Cutters lost 30-24 to the North Queensland Cowboys under-20 side on Saturday, Seibold believes the team is "heading in the right direction".

"I think it was a really positive start," he said. "I was really impressed with where we are at physically."

However, he said the team's kicking game needed to improve.

In a close match that kept spectators on their toes, the Cutters - missing a host of top players - were in front with fewer than 10

minutes to go, before two quick Cowboys tries sealed the win for

the visitors at Virgin Australia Stadium.

It was a marked improvement on the corresponding match last year, when the Cowboys won by 50.

"I think the young guys showed we've got a bit more depth than last year," Seibold said.

"All the players who put the jersey on put their best foot forward."

Halfback Damon Koolstra scored the first Cutters points of the year, converting his own try to give Mackay a 6-4 lead after the first quarter.

Dean Tass, Bureta Faraimo and Michael Comerford added to the

try tally, while Sarina's Rogan Dean showed his pace with a four-pointer for the Cowboys.

Seibold said he was particularly impressed with fullback Tass's efforts and thought Comerford led the side well as captain.

Comerford certainly had the support of the crowd, with one group waving masks featuring the 22-year-old's face.



*New recruit, Dean Webster put in a strong performance in his debut for the Cutters.*

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**Daily Mercury**



# Cutters Help Mates

*-Courtesy of Daily Mercury-*

HAVING undergone a knee reconstruction himself, Neil Budworth can relate to the fundraising efforts of the STM Mackay Cutters yesterday.

Senior team members Budworth and Jardine Bobongie were among Cutters who held a carwash at Porters in the city to raise money for the club's player welfare fund, which will be used to help meet the costs endured by injured players.

"It's really a good cause, because in the past we've had players who have had bad injuries such as knee reconstructions and this will help them not to be out of pocket," Budworth said.

"I had a knee recon-

struction so I know what it's like.

"It was a hard time for me because I didn't play for a season.

"It's tough mentally more than physically because you look forward to training and playing so to miss out for a full season is hard, but you push through it.

"Luckily for me at the time I had injury insurance, but not everyone does so this is why we're doing this."

The Cutters hooker, who will be entering his third season for the club when the Queensland Cup kicks off on March 10, said he had gained in experience from playing for Wales in the Four Nations tournament in

England in the off-season.

"To play against the top three teams in the world and to play at Wembley is a dream come true," he said.

"I thoroughly enjoyed playing for Wales and I think that for the World Cup in two seasons time we'll be a force to be reckoned with.

"I learned a lot from being in camp and playing at that higher level and hopefully I can take that through for the Cutters this season."

He said most of the squad was injury-free and should be right for the first-round away match against Redcliffe Dolphins.



*Skills Training Mackay Cutters, Jardine Bobongie and Neil Budworth help raise funds for player welfare by washing cars at Porters.*

## Launching in to 2012

On Friday, February 3 at 6:30pm, Souths Leagues Club hosted a sponsor's function to acknowledge the support provided by local business. This function included audio-visual presentations, interviews and the unveiling of the 2012 playing strip. Mackay Cutters CEO, Glenn Ottaway stated, "this was an important night for the club; without the support of our corporate sponsors the Cutters do not exist." He added, "in a small way this was an opportunity to repay the faith everyone has shown in us, and give them some insight into the year ahead." Guests took the opportunity to network with other sponsors while enjoying a few cold beverages. Special thanks to Teegs from Zinc who held the evening together, despite revealing that Club Captain Grant Rovelli plays with his 'Bubba' on the night before a big game.

On Saturday, February 4, the Mackay Cutters also launched their season to young fans. As part of the Mackay Junior Rugby League club sign on, Mackay Cutters staff and players were on hand to provide all juniors with free game tickets and merchandise. Thankfully the weather lifted and ground dried just in time for QRL and Cowboys staff and Cutters players to join the youngsters in Rugby League based games.



Skills Training Mackay Cutters Sport and Rec Trainee and player, Andy Gay unveiling the new look Cutters Home jersey.

### Executive Officers Report—Glenn Ottaway

It has been a busy start to 2012 but we go into the new season well positioned both on and off the field. The January (early February) period has seen us officially launch our 2012 season and play our first trial game both with positive results. We now look forward to possibly the biggest event in Mackay Rugby League history as we play as part of the much anticipated NRL Trial Game between the Cowboys and Titans. Most importantly we finally have competition draws

for the Intrust Super and Mal Meninga/Cyril Connell Cups. The exciting news is that the cards have finally fallen our way and we will surely pack Virgin Australia Stadium on February 17 when we play the Northern Pride in all 3 grades. This will be the first time this has happened in our clubs short history. Junior Development sponsor DMS will be the game day sponsor for our season opener and have some great ideas to help make the event a great success.

Our new Kooga training kit has arrived and all players have commented on the quality, comfort and design of the new kit. Our allocation of sponsors merchandise and tickets will be distributed in the coming month. Hopefully we can make our home games a sea of maroon as we cheer on our boys to success in 2012.

Carn' the Cutters!

Issue 2

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## **Coach's Report—Anthony Seibold**

We have hit the five week mark until we run out at Dolphin Oval to play Redcliffe in our opening encounter of the 2012 Intrust Super Cup. As the season approaches the focus changes very much from hard physical type work, core skills and part team work to a more whole team focus. Last night our younger players and some of our new players wore the 2012 Heritage jersey for the very first time. We had a hard fought 30-24 defeat against the NQ Cowboys 20's team. In the corresponding trial last year we lost 56-6, so we knew the game would test our younger players. The performance was very positive, though in the end we were disappointed to lose after leading 14-10 at Half Time and 24-14 with 12 minutes remaining. Dean Tass was outstanding as was our Captain for the night Michael Comerford. Jason Schirnack showed that he will be a crowd favourite in 2012 with his aggressive and all action approach. If we can harness his aggression in a controlled manner he will

certainly add impact to our pack. Others to show up well included Chris Gesch and Dean Webster. The game was even more pleasing when you consider who we rested or were with the Cowboys NRL team in Brisbane. Players who did not play but would make a pretty fair footy team included David Milne, Liam Taylor, Chad Grin-tell, Moses Pangai, Grant Rovelli, Michael Morgan, Lewis Balcomb, Neil Budworth, Sam Hoare, Dane Hogan, Tyson Martin, Jardine Bobongie, Matt Minto and Kelvin Neilsen. It shows we do have real competition for spots in 2012 and we do have improved depth. Our trial period over the next month is crucial in building combinations, integrating the Cowboys allocated players and picking the players who perform best in the trials. We will introduce many of the above players in the next game v Central Qld Capras prior to the NRL trial at Virgin Australia Stadium and finish with somewhere near our best 18 for the final trial in Moranbah on

February 25<sup>th</sup>. The Intrust Super Cup goes to a Top 5 format in 2012 rather than the previous Final series featuring 6 teams. This makes the challenge tougher for all clubs as the competition gets stronger each season and the clubs get more even in depth and quality. There will not be a lot separating the top 8 or 9 teams again this year looking at the squad lists. Considering the Cutters best finish ever was a 6<sup>th</sup> position finish in 2010 and that the club has never won more games than it has lost in any season it shows that we still need to make big strides and improvements this season to get into that top echelon of clubs. We are working hard to improve in 2012. There will be ups and downs for sure but we have made a positive start at training and in trial game 1.

Thanks for your support in 2012.

## **Player Profile**

**Name:** Andy Gay

**Position:** Halves / Fullback

**Career Highlights:** International debut for Wales.

**Goals for 2012:** Secure a starting spot for the Cutters.

**Biggest Pest at Cutters:** LT (Liam Taylor)

**Prime Minister for a Day:** As little as possible (like the current one)

**Down to your last \$10:** Blackjack



### **Board of Directors**

**Chair:** John Glanville

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**Executive Officer:** Glenn Ottaway

**Head Coach:** Anthony Seibold

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**Sport/Rec Trainee:** Andy Gay

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