

## DIRECTOR OF PROPERTIES

Most reports say what has happened and then conclude with thanks to various people.

I would like to reverse this by thanking those who helped first. Many things would not have happened or been achieved without the help of a number of people.

My thanks go to :-

- Ray Sandell, chairman of the Coasties in 1999. Ray gave tremendous assistance with the preparation of the grounds and in particular undertook to mark the fields each week not only for the rep matches but also for the Association's finals series.
- Those representative players' parents who assisted at the working bee at the beginning of the season. A lot of work was done that day and it made it possible for the park to look, and be maintained to look, presentable for the rest of the season.
- To Shane, Glen and Gary, the Community Service workers who assisted during the year. They all seemed to take a pride in the place and really put the effort into it.
- Paul Woodcock from East Gosford. Paul gave his own time and that of his workers to assist with the cleaning up of the grounds after and in preparation for the finals series, the Margins Cup and the State Titles. The grounds looked immaculate for subsequent events.
- To those associated with the Margins Cup for leaving the park in such a clean condition.

During the season, in addition to normal maintenance, a number of projects were completed at Plum Park. These included :-

- Painting of the seating, railings and chairs in the main grandstand.
- Painting of the main amenities block.
- Erection of fence across front of second amenities block.
- Cementing of path across front of main grandstand to second amenities block
- Cementing of pathway from tavern to scoreboard allowing dry passage to Field 2.
- Cementing of concourse area in front of tavern and under office.
- New external lighting around the main and second amenities blocks.
- Numerous other small projects including such things as new larger and more economic toilet roll dispensers and paper towel dispensers in toilets.

Considerable more work still needs to be done including the fencing of field 4, dugouts for field 4, paths from field 2 to second amenities, and various drainage projects, just to name a few. A number of these were scheduled for this year but much of the Board's time was taken up contending with other unwarranted disruptions to the Board's running of the Association. Also the early start to next season for the Coasties did not allow time for such things as a complete re-leveling of Field 1.

A lot of effort was, and hours were, put into the grounds over the season. A different approach was taken to their upkeep and, despite the adverse weather and the fact we still had as many games as last year, it was pleasing to hear comments at finals time that the grounds were the best people had ever seen them. To avoid some of the difficulties experienced at the commencement of the year alternative methods of re-turfing were implemented this year. It is anticipated that the cost of re-turfing will be less this year due to the better condition of the fields. The new turf has taken well and will provide a good surface the new groundsman.

**It is also noted that, when you take out the aborted cost of the indoor, the cost of maintaining Plum this year was less than half the cost of the previous year.**

During the year the Board worked in well with the Reps and as a result we had a system of co-operation as distinct from confrontation as had been the case in previous years. This I feel resulted in better understanding from both sides in relation to the usage of Plum and avoided many arguments when it was necessary to close the ground(s).

I have had 9 years on the Board and have enjoyed the experience. During this term Soccer has progressed in leaps and bounds with numbers doubling and I feel proud that I may have in some way contributed to this. I wish the incoming Board all the success to sustain this growth for players of all abilities.

KEVIN GIBBS