

In the Downtime – Local Rugby

By Darren Gallagher

In The Downtime is a regular feature in dFM in which we talk with a member of the ADF about their hobbies and outside of work passions. This issue we're talking with Leading Seaman Steve Morrison, a Navy Reservist, about his out of work passion for local Rugby. Steve was on CFTS at the time he and Darren had a chat about Navy, Rugby and Reserve Service.

dFM: So firstly, what is it that you do in the Navy?

SM: I am the Operations Manager at the Patrol Boat Headquarters.

dFM: Have you found CFTS different to full time service?

SM: No, not really.

dFM: Any tears in the glass eye that are making you think about coming back on board full time again?

SM: I am currently in the process of transferring from the Naval Reserve to the Permanent Naval Force.

dFM: I understand that you are married to a Petty Officer (Writer). How has it been for you to not be the Career Member?

SM: It certainly has been different being the one left at home and not going away to sea. It has given me a whole new perspective.

dFM: Well, enough about work, on to more manly stuff like footy! When did you first slip on the boots?

SM: I first started playing football as a kid - when I was about nine years old. I always wanted to play Rugby but my Mum wouldn't allow it as she said it was too rough so I started playing AFL. I finally started playing Rugby when I turned 13.

dFM: AFL huh? Not quite what all the Rugby puritans would have wanted you to do, but I guess you came over in the end. How many different clubs have you played for?

SM: I have played for St Edmunds College Canberra, (age 13 years and on) HMAS KUTTABUL, HMAS WATERHEN, HMAS ALBATROSS, Eastwood (Sydney), Macquarie University (Sydney), Royals (Canberra), Gungahlin Eagles and Casuarina Cougars (NT) - since I joined the Navy at 17.

dFM: Which club are you playing with at present and how long have you been with it?

SM: I am currently playing for the Casuarina Cougars Rugby Club. I first started with this club in 1999, and play with them whenever we are posted to Darwin. (We have had 3 postings here since 1999).

dFM: What is it that you like the most about Rugby, what have been the highlights?

SM: I love the game and the friends I have made. Probably the most recent highlight was when my team participated in the Singapore Cricket Club Rugby 7s Tournament in 2005. I also played there in 2000. My team has a standing invitation to attend each year.

dFM: Is it a family environment? Are families involved in the off field activities?

SM: Yes, families are more than welcome to come along and support us. When we aren't playing Rugby, the team does a bit of sightseeing. Last year my wife and I went to the Singapore zoo and to a bird park and we have also gone across to Sentosa Island fun Park - heaps of water slides and things like that.

dFM: Dare I ask, favourite player of all time?

SM: John Eales

dFM: How long do you give yourself before it might be time to hang up the boots?

SM: If my wife had her way I would have hung up my boots yesterday, but I think I still have a few good years left in me.



The mighty Casuarina Cougars

