

DISCIPLES UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS – D.U.S.C.

This sub-group of the Tenison Woods Education Centre, has worked hard to prepare a wonderful evening on 21st October, to celebrate the Australian



Sporting Spirit. The small but enthusiastic committee planned a special dinner at the Kahibah Sports Club with guest speakers, former test cricketer, Rick McCosker and ABC Sports Commentator, Gerry Collins. In planning the evening, the Sub-committee's original aim was to bring people together in a

congenial atmosphere to think about links between sport and faith. Our objective was to meet people where they are at – to tap into their world.

A great gathering of people were checked in by Trish Brogan and Kim Wickham and the night began with some warm-up singing from the MacKillop Youth Group who were tuned up by Rick.



Sr Maureen Salmon had prepared some classic pictures of Australian Greats of Sport to decorate the tables and serve as a talking point for the guests.



A very happy atmosphere pervaded the room as people mingled before the meal and enjoyed meeting old friends. Nick Wickham, Ellen Royan and Patricia Egan were pleased to have a face to go with the well known voice of Gerry Collins from Grandstand radio.



Gerry's partner, Robyn Bonomini was delighted to meet Sr Colleen and reminisce about Coll's sister, Anne who had trained her and taught her about compassion in nursing .

The centre of the evening was the exchange between Rick and Gerry as they gave us an insiders' view of their varied careers and the great Sports people they had been privileged to know. A real highlight was Gerry's recounting of the Gold Medal swim by Duncan Armstrong and the whole of the room was on the edge of seats as he called this historic win against the odds. Spontaneous applause greeted this exciting moment.

A wide range of topics gave an interesting variety to the evening touching on high and low points in the lives of Wayne Bennet, Darren Lockyer, John Eales, Ashes Tests including the Centenary Test, The World Cup, Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney Olympics ... A real feast for any Australian. In their presentation Rick and Gerry emphasised values like teamwork and community and decency and the strength that comes from within.



There was no preaching but the message came across loud and clear that the qualities that ensured success on the sporting field were also qualities that Christians needed to live fruitful

lives. After all it was St Paul who first drew our attention to the links between sports and faith.

One could not doubt the passion that these two speakers brought to the evening. As a culmination, Rick announced the Cricket Team that God would put into the field and with great insight gave a list including St Paul, St Peter, St Barbara, St Sebastian, and of course Our Lady who would have to be a great spin bowler if she was able to make the sun spin at Fatima!



Many thanks to DUSC for planning and conducting a very enjoyable evening.