

When we look back on 2009 in years to come I have no doubt it will stand out as one to remember. The world has changed in 2009.

There is not a person I know who has not changed the way they go about their lives in 2009.

It's tough out there. The silver lining appears to be that there is a stronger work ethic and sense of teamwork emerging as people are rightfully fearful for their family, friends and community as the global economic crisis threatens the status quo.

Having spent some pre-season time with our own QR Reds, I sensed a real feeling of self-belief, of team, of support.

Whilst we lost the season opener to the Bulls, it was a performance that will ensure no team takes us lightly. It was a game that proved yet again that the bounce of the ball can determine the outcome. After some close calls last year it would be nice if we got a few of those bounces this season!

I have read all the pundits' predictions and feel the Reds will do better than that, much better. Time will tell.

Having strong home ground support always helps a team and we have great value ticket and membership offerings this season, so please get on board and call 1300 733 899 today for your season membership.

The new State Cup kicks off this weekend with the 10 Premier teams plus teams from Logan City, Darling Downs, Rockhampton, Cairns, Townsville and a second team from the Gold Coast all taking part.

This initiative is designed to expose country teams to Premier-level competition and give Premier clubs a structured pre-season competition before the Hospital Cup matches kick off.

The State Cup will also mesh in with the Hutchinson Builders Country Championship to form more a co-ordinated playing season across the state.

The ORU Board has had its first meeting for the year and faced the stark realities of the economy. It's going to be a tough year for us, indeed all clubs, sub-unions and affiliates as sponsors and supporters review their expenditure and trim their corporate and family budgets.

You will have read that the ARU has made budget cuts and we are no different.

The one possible ray of sunshine is the federal government's economic stimulus initiatives. They have made it very clear they want to support infrastructure projects that provide immediate and sustainable jobs. We hope to have our council approval for the redevelopment of Ballymore out soon and we are ready to go which will provide 400+ construction jobs and 300+ permanent jobs.

Needless to say we are lobbying hard but you can help – please call your federal member's local office and register your support.

Welcome to our newest sponsors, Nissan Australia (supporting our grassroots rugby efforts), fund manager Mirtna Capital, business communications specialists Comscentre and Audi Centre Brisbane, vehicle provider to the QR Reds. Welcome to the Queensland Rugby family and thank you for your valuable support.

Finally, congratulations to Tim Horan and long serving referee administrator Ian Scotney for their much deserved recognition in the 2009 Australia Day Honours List.

Enough for now, GO THE QR REDS!

Warm regards

Peter Lewis
Chairman

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