

VALE

Mark Mulcahy

I first knew of Mark when we were growing up in Tully. He was several years older than me so when he commenced playing Rugby League for Tully I was a ballboy. He also participated in Surf Lifesaving at the local South Mission Beach and people have fond memories of his involvement in local activities.

He moved to Townsville to work in the office of Queensland Railways and played Rugby League for WEAs and Brothers in the early 1960s. During this time he won a EH Holden Sedan in a raffle and drove it for many years.

He loved his sport and nothing more than cricket. When I commenced playing for Norths in the 1968/69 season, Mark was captain of the Reserve grade team. I was in National Service based with 6RAR at Lavarack Barracks and he was obliging in allowing me to play for his team whenever I had availability between army commitments.

Every club needs an engine room off the field to allow it to function on the field. Mark became President of the club at that time and saw Norths achieve two premierships under his watch in 1969/70 and 1972/73. His able support during this time included John Griffith as Secretary and Bruce Flood as Treasurer and they built up the financial strength of the club. I became involved on the committee along with such people as Dennis Cook, Frank Riley, Arthur Smith and John Fuller.

Fund raising was the lifeblood of the club by way of “chook raffles” every Friday night in season at Bluey Raleigh's Criterion Hotel. The committee and other players such as Lew Jones and Jim Miller would turn up each week to run the raffles. To supplement this, there were from time to time events such as a “Games Night” to boost the club's funds.

Expenses in those days were mainly Association Affiliation fees, cricket equipment for player use, new balls and maintenance on the nets in Queens Park, North Ward. Players had to pay an affiliation fee and match fees to play.

The engine room of the club allowed the players to concentrate their efforts on game day success and to provide a stability that ensured the recruitment of new players who were transferred into Townsville by their employment.

Mark Mulchay was the driving force behind the Norths committee for several years in the 1960s and 1970s that ensured the survival of the club and two premierships, leaving the club in good stead for the next generation of committee and players to carry on the good work ensuring the survival of the club.

Ray Kohn, May 2024