FOREWORD

As the current Code Chairman Army Softball, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to “Sunny Trentham” for the 60th Anniversary celebrations of Army Softball. In 1949 Sergeant Maurice Bull became the driving force behind Softball into the Army. 60 years on we are gathered to recognise and celebrate those achievements.

A special welcome to the wives, husbands and partners of the players and officials assembled. Trust me I do have an appreciation and understanding of the sacrifices you have made in order to enable your husband, wife or partner to pursue their career and at the same time follow their Army Softball dreams and aspirations.

A special thanks to WO2 Doon Groves, Capt (Rtd) Phil Packer, WO1 (Rtd) Winnie Shanley and Mr Trevor Gilbert for their time, effort and commitment they have put in to ensure the Anniversary would happen. All those who are participating appreciate your efforts.

I trust you will enjoy the facilities, activities and weather we have organised for you. I know the Anniversary will be a tremendous success, as there is something we all have in common and that is an Army career and the love and passion for a great sport. I look forward to the weekend’s festivities and meeting those of you I have heard so much about, but not had the opportunity to meet previously.

Yours in Softball,
Grant McCarroll
Captain and Code Chairman

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EDITORIAL

Written by Dean Groves
Softballer and part-time Editor

Well, as you can see the journal is finally a reality (oh ye of little faith)! The production of this journal was a follow on from the Army softball history preservation project, which gathered and permanently recorded Army softball’s history (detailed in the “Army Softball Hit’s Cyber Space” article) on the internet. It was also considered an ideal time to have the information available for the 60th Anniversary of Army Softball celebration.

The history preservation project identified that there were no records of Army softball filed prior to 1999 to refer to, due in part to Army’s surprising lack of attention to actively recording its sporting history. So, in 2005, softball stepped up to the plate and did something about it.

The Army Softball web page displays softball information and numerous photographs, but for some of you (and I must count myself), reading a computer screen can have its challenges. Also, a large number of our ex members do not have access to a computer.

For those reasons, it was a no brainer – Army softball needed a hard copy document (a journal).

Having put a great deal of time and effort into the web page, we had a starting point and a wealth of information and photographs available to make the job a little easier.

Tracking down a large number of ex-members for the Anniversary, also provided an opportunity to let people know about the journal, and to seek information and more photographs.

I must say that the flow of information was very slow throughout until, you guessed it, the last minute. Late August and September were manic as a series of emails containing stories and historical information basically swamped me. Yes, it was great to finally get this information, but the timing really put the acid on the submission deadline.

To those of you who took the time (had the inclination) and put up with me hounding you to contribute something, my sincere thanks. Without your efforts the end result could never have been achieved.

I am sure that there are many events, incidents, and results detailed within that you will be able to relate to your own experiences. Before I go, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all members of Army Softball, the very best and every success in your future endeavours.

Yours in Army Softball

“Now let’s Play ball!”