



# THE HISTORY

## THE BEGINNING & CHURCH PARK

The Park Avenue Hockey Club was founded in 1936 with junior boys from the Park Avenue State School; they called themselves "Park A".

After the war, the Club reformed with men and women players from the Park Avenue suburb.

In 1967 only 1 mens and an U/15 yrs boys team remained.

In 1968 a new committee was formed from parents of that U/15 boys team. Two minor boys teams from the Park Avenue State School was fielded; as well as the junior grade team from the old group.

The boys trained at Church Park where a 25 year lease of Church Park grounds was secured from the Rockhampton Council in 1971. Parents brought their own mowers to keep the grass short.

In 1979/80, a Club house was built with volunteers. Bevan Walters, a father and builder oversaw the project. The project was only achieved by members fundraising efforts such as a "Miss P.A.Hockey" competition, spreading soil under pensioners houses for payment, lamington drives and a \$10,000 loan from the bank for which ten parents became guarantors. The loan was repaid in two years.

In 1980 a ladies committee formed and started Bingo in the hall; Bingo and generous Sponsors are the main financial supporters of the Club.

As finances grew, field lighting and a watering system was installed. A second hand ride on mower was purchased. The players received new uniforms and goal keepers received new protective gear. The club house was extended to cater for the increase in Bingo patrons. The hall is always made available for charity work at no cost and the fields open to schools.

In 1982, numerous improvements followed. The fields were upgraded. Water was essential. A unique idea for those times was to pipe water from Spitters Creek, 750 m away – up roads, through properties; it proved successful. A rain train was purchased and the fields watered. Total costs were covered by the Club.

In 1982, underground sprinklers and field lighting was installed for night training at the Clubs expense.

In 1987, 10 members from the founding "Park A" team were re-united at a Club function, when an "Old Boys Team Trophy" was introduced for "Courage and Determination" It is keenly sought after each season.

In 1989, concrete poles replaced wooden ones and new lights were installed. Fully paid for by the Club.



In 1997, the water level in Spitters creek was falling and getting salty so water was obtained from council mains supply. The Clubs portion of costs was \$4602.

At this time, with new council policy, they declined to renew our lease of the playing fields. Council took over the control of all playing fields in the city and now maintain our training field.

In 2000 with a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit fund of \$10,000, extra field lights were fitted and protective fencing installed

In 2003, (fully paid for by the Club) another extension to the Club house in Church Park was made at a cost of \$22,500 to cater for the bingo patrons who smoked.

## **KALKA SHADES CLUB HOUSE**

1996, with the demise of the Hornets Hockey Club, their Club House at Hockey Association fields at Kalka Shades was entrusted to us. It is invaluable to the Club members who congregate before and after games.

The Kalka Shades club house was renovated in 2010, by way of a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. A new ladies shower installed and a dressing room for the men. Unfortunately, the floods of 2011, inundated the building and major repairs had to be carried out again.

With frequent flooding and storm damage, expensive repairs and replacement of equipment are always required.

## **PARK AVENUE BROTHERS**

From a small beginning in 1968 with 1 junior and 3 school boys teams, the Club grew to 12 junior teams in 1970. It was not until 1972 that the club fielded teams in the A1 mens and womens grades for the first time.

Premierships did not come in the A1 division until 1979 for the men and 1983 for the women. We enjoy several rewarding seasons with our juniors.

The Club has a tradition of expansion and growth and has consistently the highest number of juniors of any hockey club in Rockhampton. The Club fields men and women's teams in all senior grades. The Club boasts to being a family club where Mum Dad and kids can all play.

In 1999, the Club affiliated with the Brothers Club Capricornia. This move was made to present a less parochial profile to the public and easier access the Catholic school system.

In 2009, we adopted a Child protection & risk management policy ; We also have a Level 3 "Good Sports" Certificate.

As did the 1968 committee the Club and still follow the ideals to provide an opportunity for children, young people and adults to play organised hockey in a safe and friendly environment.



## **CLUB'S VISION:**

**"To be the pre-eminent hockey club in Rockhampton enabling members to reach optimum playing and officiating potential"**

The success of the Park Avenue Brothers Hockey Club is due to the focus on keeping our junior base constant and the devotion of the long- time officials who have made a life time commitment to the Club.

