

# My Bledisloe Cup

with Robby Nimmo



## Hamish Tyrwhitt

What I like about the Bledisloe is the whole atmosphere. In Hong Kong, whether it's the sevens or the Bledisloe, it's more than a rugby game, it's a rugby carnival. Hong Kong hosts these events incredibly well. Locals, expats and tourists respond to the unique environment created here.

Apart from hosting a sevens box, the Bledisloe is our major corporate sponsorship marketing event of the year. It coincides with board meetings and various executive meetings we've set this week so that our colleagues can attend. The Bledisloe has provided another reason to come to Hong Kong and we've been planning this for a year. We have colleagues coming up from Australia, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines and Thailand. All up we have nearly 100 people joining us for this event.

All of them will wear our gold Leighton's rugby shirts. Even the Kiwis and the Poms. You can't miss us in the stands for the sevens or the Bledisloe.

The sevens is different as you can build your corporate event over three days. With the Bledisloe there's one game and then it's all over. So we decided that we needed another event to create the atmosphere and mood. This week we will be taking a whole day of activities to warm up and maximise our enjoyment of the Bledisloe. We're bringing former Wallaby forward Dan Crowley up from Australia. Leighton is a bit of a forward pack, so he was the fitting choice.

When it comes to the competition on the pitch at the Bledisloe, you'd be a fool not to acknowledge the skills, passion and determination of the All Blacks. They are playing in exceptional form and you can see that they are getting ready to host the Rugby World Cup



next year. I'm a die-hard Aussie, and I hope that we have a good game. The series might already be decided but it doesn't mean the Wallabies won't be giving it their all at every level of the team.



New Zealand is the benchmark at the moment. But the Wallabies will bring a solid team and keep the supporters happy and entertained. I've been to a lot of stadiums in the world and the Hong Kong Stadium rates the highest for atmosphere. It is the place to watch rugby. Its location in the heart of the city among the high-rises is unparalleled. In the stadium, you can get close to the action from a number of vantage points. A lot of stadiums are oval not rectangular. The Hong Kong Stadium is a rectangular stadium designed for rectangular sports.

Hong Kong's purpose is as a gateway to mainland China. It's a trading and services hub and has to continuously be a liveable, efficient city. The Bledisloe just makes it more liveable and adds to it as a destination choice.

At Leighton Asia, we work hard and we play hard. Our business is 20 times larger than it was three years ago. We've gone from having a staff of 2,000 to 8,000. The Bledisloe gives us the perfect platform to celebrate success. Watching the number one and two teams in the world play is inspiring. The key to our success is team effort. The construction industry is undoubtedly a team sport. Our business is about people being at the top of their game, playing to a common strategy and common goals, and that's exactly what we are looking forward to on Saturday.

.....  
**Hamish Tyrwhitt is managing director of Leighton Asia**