

Club vows to make the party last

WITH a pledge to party until at least February, Bankstown Sports marked its 50th anniversary in a big way last week. A formal function hosted by radio star Mikey Robins, complete with a cake-cutting ceremony, kicked off the party on Wednesday morning.

Throughout the day the stars of VEGA 95.3FM hosted shows from inside the club, while roving entertainers performed for punters.

And the Bulldogs were among the first to sing *Happy Birthday* to their Sporties sponsors.

Bulldogs chief executive officer Todd Greenberg said he was glad to be a part of the festivities.

"In this centenary year of rugby league, it's fitting to acknowledge Bankstown Sports' major supporting role since the club opened its doors at an old church hall in 1958," Mr Greenberg said.

"Bankstown Sports has been integral in nurturing and developing thousands of sports men and women from the Canterbury-Bankstown area. And whether those people have gone on to become elite sports players or not, their experiences have fostered a lifelong love of sport and a fair go."

The club has grown from 243 members to more than 40,000. Many of those are families whose membership has continued for at least two generations.

The club employs about 500 people and supports more than 40 sporting clubs, as well as giving funds to the community's hospitals, schools, disability and aged care services.

Bulldogs players joined in with the celebrations by signing autographs for their fans.

■ See more celebration pictures at www.theexpress.com.au



Paris Lepre, 6, gets an autograph from Bulldogs captain Andrew Ryan.



Some of the goodies on offer.



Sports Secretary/ Manager John Mackay, Bankstown LAC's Commander Stuart Wilkins and Crime Manager Ian Pryde.



Sporties staff partied with the guests.



Jason Staveley Radio Announcer Vega 95.3 FM with some cash and prize winners.



Bankstown Sports president John Murray, Bankstown Mayor Tania Mihailuk and Bulldogs legend Terry Lamb.