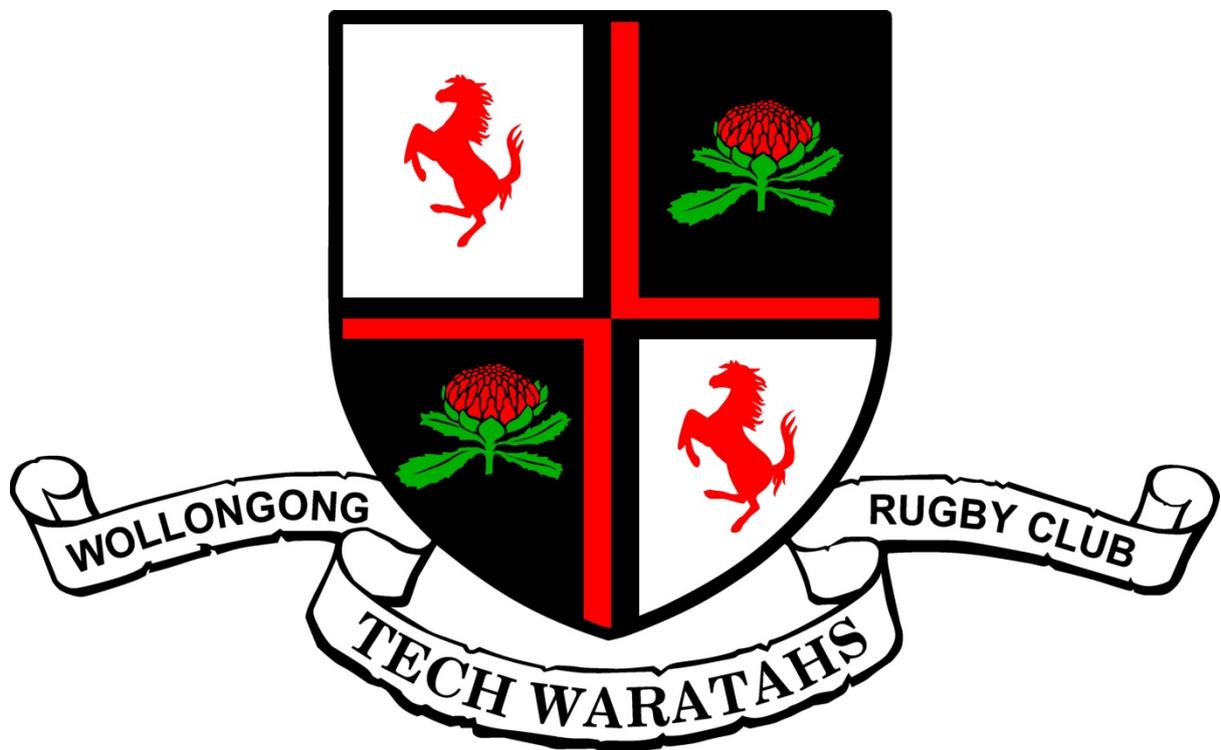


Wollongong Tech Waratahs Rugby Club



2021

Life Members

Brian Baird

Wayne Boardman

Richard Boyle

Bruce Carr

Tony Cheetham

Graeme Collinson-Smith

Paul Darby

Craig Franklin

Gary Graham

Mark Hotchis

Frank Isaac

Wayne Ireland

Graeme Kohler

Brian Leo

Barry McVicar

Shane McVicar

Don Muir

Timothy Olsen

Jim Pettit

Lew Pogson (dec)

Cyril Saunders (dec)

Don Shaw

Ean Torpy

Geoff Wells

Ron Wessel

Mick Wilkins

President's Report

Well, another season is done and dusted. 2021 promised so much, but sadly finished much the same as the previous year with no actual competition winners in seniors or juniors.

It seems more than a year ago that we held our presentation night and AGM. I was looking forward to my new position within the club and first of all I wanted to get to know the senior players.

At the beginning of the year, we had lost the following players David Beecher, Chad Butterworth, Tom Ciot, Liam Faughlin, Ben Grief, Apolosi Kuitakeivuravura, Sione Mafi, Harry Pitt, Brendan Phillips and Seb Wilson. I also took a phone call from Luke Mayberry, to inform me he wasn't going to be able to fill his role as second grade coach.

We picked up some new players this season. They included James Benn, James Eldred, Ian Leota, Michael Malone, Asaeli Nateba, Michael Saofia, Nathaniel Saofia, Stephen Schwenke and Eti Tavui.

Patrick Logan returned to the club and became club captain. During the season Lachlan Hurry, Vincent "Dougie" Wise and Jacob Scard didn't play many games. Ethan Maker was still injured and didn't return this year. We also lost our first-grade skipper Bryn Edwards, Salvador Ribeiro and Paula Vakaruru to injury.

We had a number of players make representative teams this season. Ian Leota, Stephen Schwenke, Misieli Sinoti, Aisake and Mawutu Wuatai all making the IDRU team. Misieli and Aisake both made the NSW Country Squad. So, a huge congratulations to them all for their recognition within the region and state.

Training started in January. I came along to the club on Thursdays to see the boys train, but due to family commitments couldn't stay long. I attended most of the pre-season matches and also attended my first Kiama 7s. The 7s was a great opportunity for me to meet some of the club's old players. I also began to frequent the Gwynneville Bakery on Saturday morning to meet with the old boys, otherwise known as the table of knowledge (TOK) and no these guys aren't part of the tik tok generation. I'm sure this annoyed my wife as I have pretty much avoided going to cafés with her. It is great though to pick the brains of such knowledgeable people as Thomas Bevan, Rick Boyle, Tony Cheetham, Rowland Hoyer, Rob Kelly and Graham Letham.

I firmly believed that my new role was going to be so much easier than being Junior President. For one you didn't have to deal with children's parents who thought their child was a future superstar and that they knew more than the coach, yet wouldn't actually help out themselves. At least dealing with adults I'd be able to tell individuals exactly what I was thinking.

Then on the last weekend of March it was time for our first competition match. Well before the first match was completed an incident had occurred. I found myself fronting the IDRU judiciary

for 3 of the next 4 weeks. Before too long I was back again and starting to think this isn't at all what I'd signed up for. Thankfully I never had to attend again throughout the season.

What did actually happen early in the year was that we had very low numbers of registered players. This meant that in the first handful of games, we were running around with only 12 players on the field in second grade. We were also fielding a not fully fresh first grade side. Thankfully largely due to Fred Purcell our second-grade coach, we got some new players. This resulted in our second-grade team winning games and had a flow on effect to our first-grade team. They also began to win.

On Saturday 26th June we held our old boy's day. During the game against Shoalhaven, we began to hear that the region was going to be going into lock down at 5.30pm. Little did we know as a few of us cleaned up and sat down to a few quite drinks, that this would be the last event for the season.

First grade played 11 games for 2 wins a draw and 8 loses. We finished the season with 18 points and had 3 teams below us on the ladder.

Second grade played 11 games for 4 wins and 7 loses. We finished the season with 23 points and had 3 teams below us on the ladder.

I'd really like to thank our clubs' sponsors and others who have made generous donations to the club. Especially as we once again didn't get a full season in. I'd also like to thank all the committee members and especially the Letham family who this club would not function without due to their tireless dedication. Very few would have any idea of all the work that they do behind the scenes. They fill the roles of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and man the canteen plus video home games. Tony Gorgijovski and John Harman our co Junior Presidents and all the junior coaches and managers. Rob Kelly our match day controller. Rick Boyle the club manager. Patrick Logan the club captain. Wayne Ireland the Registrar and Licensee, who was also first grade manager. Jake Davey the second-grade manager. The strappers and physio team that did a great job keeping our guys on the field. Justin Jones who managed the old boy's day. Finally, our two coaches Tim Olsen in first grade and Fred Purcell in second grade.

Although I was a cheesemaker, finding a cheese of the week each week was proving difficult. So next year my TTT news articles will end with a classic album each week. Hopefully some will enjoy my old music tastes.

Hopefully everyone is coping during this lock down and fingers crossed restriction will ease soon and that next season we can finally have a full uninterrupted season.

Tony Bourke

Treasurer's Report

My conclusion to the 2020 Treasurer's Report now seems somewhat naively optimistic and 2021 turned into another chaotic year of rugby (and life) thanks to the Covid19 corona virus.

Despite my hopes at the end of last year, 2021, has certainly been another disrupted and difficult year for Club Treasurers.

The rugby year started normally and everyone was full of optimism after the disappointment and chaos of 2020. Then came July and the Delta strain of Covid19 and suddenly the rugby season came, once again, to a disappointing conclusion and we've had all the financial chaos associated with this.

It seemed that, just as the Friday night Northgong meat raffle was getting going again successfully, it was all over. However I should just mention a couple of changes to the raffle that were made this year...we switched our meat supplier to Cleaver & Co Quality Meats in Gwynneville and introduced a vegetarian option with Fruit and Vege trays from Passion in Fruit at Coniston. Thank you to these excellent establishments.

Once again, it's a big thank you to Toby from the Northgong and all our other long suffering Sponsors. Austrain, Alexander Michaels Menswear, Al Gregory (Vals4Al), Ian Blewitt from Greendragon, Ben Weckworth, Tony Bourke from Data Processors, Johnston Legal, IMB Dapto, CrownWest Bottle-O, TLE and Dan Tully, Moderne Dry Cleaners, Print Media and former Club Coach, Eliot O'Donnell and Construction Sciences for their fantastic support of Tech Waratah Rugby Club this year.

And thanks also once again to Friends Pizza for their support in, for them, a very very difficult year and to Club Coach, Tim Olsen, for organising another Pie Drive.

I conclude once again by hoping that 2022 is a little more financially 'normal'!

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Letham

Club Managers Report

What a season it has been, if we can call it a rugby season, which has been disrupted, changed and eventually abandoned after eleven games, due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Even the games we did get to play were different with a strict set of health orders that had to be observed for players, club officials and very little opportunity for our supporters and spectators to attend games.

The pandemic had further influence on the club's ability to raise the much-needed funds that allow us to function and provide all the necessary equipment and items required to support the day-to-day operational needs of a rugby club. Sponsorship was also limited which added further pressure on the club's financial position.

This season we were looking to build on the 2020 season by increasing the player group with the number of new players joining our club. This was also assisted by the Club Committee making a difficult decision not to nominate a third grade-team in the 2021 competition. This decision greatly removed a lot of pressure on game days due to limited player numbers actually being available. The Coaching staff had put a significant effort in recruiting a number of new players to the club in the off-season which assisted in building competitive 1st and 2nd grade squads.

It is not my intention to specify or cover the teams and game information in this report as it will be covered, I'm sure in other Team Coaches and Managers reports. However, it would be remiss of me if I did not mention the vibe and enthusiasm the players, officials and the ongoing dedication of coaches Tim Olsen and Fred Purcell brought to each game and training session could not be questioned, I sincerely hope this aspect of our club continues for next season.

Another pleasing element from a club managers point-of-view this year, was the game day structure with specified committee members responsible for and organizing the required elements ensuring all the required issues were covered before and during each game. It is recommended that such a system be implemented as the way to go.

A major element of our club's future is our clubs' juniors, which really deserve recognition from us all, this part of our club is working hard to become self-sufficient both financially and through its administration via the junior Co-Chairmen, who are members of the club committee.

Those dedicated parents who make up the junior committee and other parents who assist the players in any way, thank you, for a successful year with our junior teams doing very well. We were also pleased to have a number of the club's juniors rewarded by being selected in various representative teams. I believe our club were very strong in all teams, which showed each time they played.

The 2021 season had a few changes and additions within the Club Committee with a new President, Tony Bourke moving into the senior committee from his role in the Juniors

committee, Al Gregory Snr. Vice President, Graham Letham Vice-President, Club Treasurer Robyn Letham, Club Secretary James Letham, Co-Junior Chairmen Tony Gorgijovski and John Harman, Club Manager Rick Boyle, Snr. Registrar and Public-Officer Wayne Ireland, Club and First Grade Coach Tim Olsen, additional Committee Members were Tony Cheetham, Barry McVicar, Shane McVicar, Rob Kelly, Rowland Hoyer, Tom Bevan, Fred Purcell 2nd grade Coach, Gordon Hurry, JJ Edwards, Lach Hurry, Jacob Scard.

The club committee were active in the many issues and difficulties presented throughout this difficult season, hopefully the members of our club appreciate their time and efforts with an endeavour to improve and secure our club's future.

A major decision was taken by this committee following the 2020 season to improve the playing fields lighting after receiving the approval from the Tafe, providing (of course) the rugby club fund the project. Indicating what we as a club committee thought is indicated below.

A week after approval with the aid of Jake Davey (Blocker) who took the lead on the project, by removing the old cricket pitch as an urgent matter to restrict it being used by others.

As it was the off-season, working-bees were arranged and a trench dug across number-one ground, the electrical cables laid to get power to the middle of Saunders Ovals. This would allow the trench to settle, in addition the foundations to accommodate the two large steel light poles were also dug and fitted out with the bolting and electrical requirements.

The 2021 pre-season started so nothing else has progressed due to a number of issues one of which was and is the Covid restrictions on people gathering together. It is intended to continue this major project as soon as possible when hopefully the club committee can meet in the near future, when Covid restrictions are lifted.

By the time this is year book is presented it is likely our Executive group have interviewed and selected the Coach's for the 2022 season. Possibly our new 2022 season Club Committee has been formed and the necessary requirements to ensure our club is forging forward with the same commitment vibe and enthusiasm as last year, to this end I encourage all our current members to return and looking forward to next year. If at all possible, bring your friends or other players to join the best Rugby Club in Illawarra.

Rick Boyle

Club Manager

“Next Gen” Tech Waratahs Junior Rugby

Tech Waratahs Juniors season started after a long off season and preseason due to the later start to the season to avoid the stop start of school holidays and to complete the season in line with the senior competition. The numbers were down, then up, after an unknown due to the way the previous covid affected season went, numbers were low in some age groups early and built to a point where we had too many. This is a great headache to have for the club and coaches.

Coaches

A big shout out to our coaching staff this year for the work put in with many changes throughout the season.

Daniel Tully Is well known to all of the club from playing in winning senior teams to coaching seniors.

His stellar performance in the way he has shaped the U16's team to be a team that was going to be knocking on the door of the finals again this year if not a genuine contender to take the title this year.

Aaron Carney Having played seniors with the club, went on to play against us also. Has come back and worked with Tim Filan in the past with the talented core of this squad.

Aaron had the U14's firing and had the headache of having too many players. An early season loss then some good wins, the team that have previously been joint premiers were on target for more glory in season 2021.

Elliot O'Donnell In recent years Elliot has coached Tech Waratahs first grade, he's brought those coaching skills to the juniors.

The U11's were undefeated the previous year, however a drop in numbers early looked like a struggle to field a team. As numbers increased the season started with a full team and with great coaching success continued for this team.

U11's

The season came on and began with a win in a competitive game, the next few games were blowouts with some great rugby being played.

As the season progressed, coach Elliot looked at improving the skills, increasing the complexity of play and the technical aspects of play. This all showed dividends as the players responding. The scrum was impressive from the beginning led by the front row, taking in all the instructions.

U11's were looking at another undefeated season with their results and improving each game. This from a team that was struggling for numbers in pre season to filling a team with reserves.

All the players were enjoying their rugby, looking forward to seeing them all return for a full season next year.

U14's

In season 2021 the U14's started with a team made up of half U13's and U14's, this then grew with the start of the season. A close loss in the opening round, the team continued to build and teamwork developed, with some impressive results building towards success in the pointy end of the season .

A number of players from this team were named in the Illawarra U13's and U14's rep teams.

Success is certain with the teamwork that had developed over the shortened season, returning next year for more success.

U16's

This competition was new for us as the team started with our grand final U14's team and have stepped up an age group, with some U16's returning or arriving at the club for season 2021.

The team was working on its teamwork early then came up with a good win against one of the real contenders in the competition. The season came to an abrupt end with the team having only played 3 games.

Coach Daniel Tully and the team are looking forward to season 2022.

Tech Waratahs Junior Rugby Club Sponsors

We could not be on the field without our generous sponsors, we would like to thank the following businesses for their support.

TLE Electrical Wholesalers our major sponsors for a number of seasons and further contributed this year through their generous sponsorship with drink bottles and carriers.

K&D Tully Electrical a long time sponsor of Tech Waratahs Rugby on board and supporting all our rugby endeavours.

Austrian Academy U16's sponsor, not new to the club as they have sponsored and continue to sponsor Old Boys day, have helped out by kitting out the U16's team this year, and also with their support helping the whole junior club looking great with new hoodie's.

In conclusion, with a difficult season and an early end, we now look forward to season 2022.

A plan for end of season fundays is underway with more information to be forwarded when we have a direction.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Saunders Oval soon. Finally thanks to the club committee for their support. All the parents for transport duties, jersey washing and enthusiastic support of all the players.

As I have previously stated looking forward to see you all at Saunders in 2022 if not sooner.

Yours in Rugby

Tony Gorgijovski John Harman

Co-Presidents

Tech Waratahs Junior Rugby Club



1st Grade Coaches Report

2021 was the year Covid cancelled rugby.

Another year in the history books that was heavily influenced by the Pandemic I hope that next year will be allowed to run in full after two disengaged years from community sport.

Tech-Waratahs is and has always been a club that accepts everyone regardless of colour, background or religious beliefs. The foundation is a family culture that understands there is more to life than the player, the person behind that player and his family support group are part of the package also. This year my dad passed away and he supported not only me but sport in a variety of roles and I hope I honour his memory with the impact I have within our rugby club. Casey, is my partner, my support group and my person behind the person I call 'self' the 2021 coach of Tech-Waratahs rugby club Wollongong. Without her support I cannot perform the roles I hold within our club so I thank her for her contribution.

It's not always easy listening to my rants and I thank her for listening and offering advice even if I don't always take it. The other coaches and support staff of 2021 thank you for your effort and support through another challenging year. Lee Martin, Fred Purcell, Jake Davey and Wise.

Special mention to the great man Uncle Wayne on his tireless effort organising the team to be ready each sat. You're a great clubman Wayne and life would be very difficult without you as you do all of the heavy lifting behind the scenes, Thank you very much.

We started the year with the normal short form competitions in the Camden 10's and Kiama 7's but failed to win one of our pool games and unfortunately we never made it into the finals. Two good hit outs with some great running rugby tries scored. If we had more weekends playing the short forms I think we would vastly improve in these tournaments but where they sit on the calendar clashes with preseason training and trial games.

Our preseason kicked off in early Jan and we built momentum towards the start of the season. We had two trials v Camden and C'town and performed reasonably well. From the end of season 2020 we had a lot of player movement with Losi, Sione and Tom heading to play in the Sydney premier rugby competition but we picked up new members Michael, Nate, Sal, James B, James E and Ian from across the freeway. Forgive me if I have missed anyone.

We started the season slowly and played the 4 top teams Shoalhaven, Shamrocks, Avondale and C'town in the first 4 games going down in all 4 games. We matched it with all teams for 60 mins and were able to score against them but a 20 min period in each game of less than perfect defence cost us against these sides and it resulted in defeat. If we played for 80+ mins we would sit inside the top 4 in my opinion but that's the challenge for 2022. Injury to key players showed we lacked depth and experience especially in the front row this season but the players who put their hands up never took a backward step.

Special mention to James Letham who is always there for the team where needed. Ian Leota, Stephen Schwenke, 'Aka' Mawutu Akaruru, Eli Sinoti and 'Zack' Aisake Tuevu all represented Illawarra at the NSW Country championships in Tamworth over the June long weekend.

Special mention to Eli and Zack as they were selected for the NSW Country Cockatoos team from this tournament. Congratulations to all these players.

Our goal of going deep into September wasn't achieved this year but no other team was given the chance either. I assure you we have and will be busy recruiting new players and coaches for season 2022 to continue our push to return to the top 4 and challenge for the premiership. It was and is an honour to lead this club and I will continue to do what I can to drive club success.

Watch this space for club developments and be ready to make a contribution towards what will be not only mine but your club's success in 2022 and beyond.

Yours in Rugby

Tim Olsen





2nd Grade Coaches Report

Well, it wasn't what we hoped for, but we got to play some footy, nonetheless.

Once we found some consistency in our line-up and whenever we had 15 on the field, play some footy we did indeed. Being affected by injuries early in the year is never ideal and both grades were hit hard with several of the lads injured early. We found a way to put a team on the paddock every week and everyone who put on the jersey this year, did every past player, themselves, and the club proud.

Apart from three 40+ blowouts where we had 12 against Shoalies in Shoalhaven, 12 against Avondale and another where we absolutely outplayed by Shamrocks, we were in every other game. Of those games we won 4 and lost 4 (lost by 2, lost by 20, lost by 5 and lost by 7). The most pleasing thing for me as a coach was to see the way the boys responded after the flogging we copped from Avondale. The next 5 weeks was a pleasure to watch. We played some great rugby and gave ourselves a chance to be there when it mattered. Our last few games were disappointing but overall, I was so proud of the effort and heart the lads put into representing themselves and our great club.

Along the way we unearthed some new talent and welcomed back some old boys back. Guys like Cooper Davey (HK), Mick Malone (BS/FL), James Eldred(S/H), Helaman (L) and Mikey Pita (Utility Back), Ayrton (BS/FL) and Wyatt Hampstead(L) and Mason Porter (W) were tremendous for us. It was also great to see Blocker, Timmy O, Rhyce Tubaro and Blakey Owens back on the field with us. One of the best things for me as a coach was to see the debut season of Froggers Son, Isaac Davis (Tadpole) who played on the wing for us. As a 17-year-old to have the confidence in himself and his ability and IDGAFrick attitude to who he was up against was refreshing. Even if he did try and fight everyone. Let see if you can break your old man's record of games played lil Bro. It was also a blessing to see the maturity and leadership of guys like Justin Lenane come to the fore. He still had his annual dummy spit (At me. LOL) but the bounce back was quick, and he got the opportunity to lead us onto the field this year as captain for a game. Well done Biebs.

All in all, not a bad year. Hopefully we can build on the numbers we had this year and have trainings as a team leading into the 2022 season. If we can get this happening, I have no doubt we will be there come finals time in 2022. I must also say a HUGE Thank You to Blocker and Uncle Wayno who both played manager at some stage this year. It's a challenging gig no one wants when you have to try and get players registered. You both were a blessing. Thank You! Huge Shoutout to Timmy O and Lee Martin. Will go to war with and for both of you Legends.

Also thank you to our Sponsors, Committee, and our Volunteers. You are the lifeblood of this club. Lastly thank you to all our wives and partners who allow us to do what we love every week. Get your visas early for next year lads.

In Rugby,

Fred Purcell



FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 2NDS 2021	TOTAL 1STS 2021	TOTAL GAMES PLAYED 2021	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
Iminoni	Batimala	10	0	1	1	11
James	Benn	0	1	6	7	7
Adam	Bignall	42	9	0	9	51
Owen	Brace	176	1	10	11	187
Logan	Brailey	63	7	7	14	77
Marcus	Broederlow	0	2	0	2	2
Oscar	Broederlow	1	6	0	6	7
Michael	Bruton	329	0	11	11	340
Ratu Marika	Camaisala	15	0	1	1	16
Thomas	Ciot	42	0	1	1	43
Semi	Camaisala	4	0	4	4	8
Beau	Crocker	0	4	0	4	4
Mitchell	Crotty	104	4	0	4	108
Cooper	Davey	0	9	3	12	12
Jake	Davey	174	3	1	4	178
Isaac	Davis	0	5	0	5	5
Bryn	Edwards	128	0	3	3	131
Jaden	Edwards	58	3	10	13	71
James	Eldred	0	6	5	11	11
Ayrton	Hampstead	0	4	0	4	4
Wyatt	Hampstead	0	5	0	5	5
Ngatokoa	Hewett	0	1	0	1	1
Lachlan	Hurry	49	1	3	4	53
Paul	Jeremijenko	163	10	0	10	173
Filikesa	Kamotu	0	2	1	3	3
Keanu	Katieli	7	1	0	1	8
Rouna	Katuke	0	1	0	1	1
Aaron	Kelly	145	2	1	3	148
Damien	King	8	2	0	2	10
Jake	Kinzett	2	0	1	1	3
Justin	Lenane	112	10	0	10	122
Ian	Leota	0	0	9	9	9
James	Letham	259	5	6	11	270
Patrick	Logan	102	0	10	10	112
Iese	Lupena	14	0	5	5	19
Sione	Mafi	4	0	1	1	5
Michael	Malone	0	9	3	12	12
George	Masiasomua	3	1	0	1	4
Ethan	Maker	19	3	0	3	22
Faati	Matafeo	17	1	0	1	18
Michael	Mccoll	0	1	0	1	1

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 2NDS 2021	TOTAL 1STS 2021	TOTAL GAMES PLAYED 2021	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
David	McConnell	237	0	1	1	238
Josh	McConnell	7	1	0	1	8
Keiron	McEvoy	0	1	0	1	1
Zack	Molisa	0	1	0	1	1
Inoke	Nakacia	8	0	9	9	17
Asaeli	Nateba	0	0	2	2	2
Emmanuel	Nayagodamu	200	0	2	2	202
Timothy	Olsen	360	3	0	3	363
Blake	Owen	47	1	1	2	49
Nephi	Paenga-Medland	0	1	0	1	1
Owen	Palelei	12	2	0	2	14
Seleni	Palelei	2	2	0	2	4
Tuli	Palelei	3	1	0	1	4
Giordan	Patea	10	6	0	6	16
Helaman	Pita	0	7	1	8	8
Michael	Pita	0	9	3	12	12
Mason	Porter	0	4	0	4	4
Fred	Purcell	102	6	4	10	112
Mika	Ratunideuba	0	1	1	2	2
Johnson	Reva	0	3	0	3	3
Salvador	Ribeiro	0	0	3	3	3
Michael	Saofia	0	0	5	5	5
Nathaniel	Saofia	0	0	7	7	7
Jacob	Scard	14	3	2	5	19
Stephan	Schwenke	0	0	2	2	2
Ravuama	Seavula	7	1	1	2	9
Mininder	Singh	52	3	0	3	55
Misieli	Sinoti	7	0	7	7	14
Pete	Tamata	0	5	1	6	6
Jason	Situlia	17	3	9	12	29
Eti	Tavui	0	0	1	1	1
Justin	Taylor	7	1	0	1	8
Tonga	Tongotongo	6	1	0	1	7
Rhyce	Tubaro	115	5	0	5	120
David	Tuliloa	0	1	0	1	1
Wellington	Tuliloa	1	1	0	1	2
Aisake	Tuevu	35	0	9	9	44
Taniela	Tuipuloto	42	0	8	8	50
Pete	Winston	137	1	0	1	138
David	Wood	39	6	4	10	49
Mawutu	Wuatai	10	0	10	10	20

