

WOLLONGONG

TECH WARATAHS

R.U.F.C

1999

YEARBOOK

Tech Waratahs Rugby Club would like to thank the following sponsors for their commitment to the club in 1999. Without your assistance, Tech Waratahs Rugby Club could not have improved on and off the field like we did, so with your continued support, we will go on to bigger and better things in season 2000 and beyond.

Gilmores Coniston Hotel

Jeffrey M Jones Solicitor

Ian Hogg Pharmacies

Karas Smash Repairs

Bourbon St Nightclub

Corrimal Refrigeration

President's Report

Looking back on season 1999, we can only be happy. It was our best season since amalgamation. Not only our on field performances, but off field as well. All sides improved their standing in each of the respective competitions and we had record playing numbers. 1999 saw Tech Warpaths field a Ladies' side and the Gangrenes had a very successful year. Thanks to the organisation and effort of Barry Pike and Ronnie Wessel, a Walla Rugby (6 – 10 yrs) side was introduced to the club.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention all those people who made this season possible. Firstly, to the club committee for their efforts through the season. To our sponsors Gilmores Hotel Coniston, Jeffrey M Jones Solicitor, Bourbon Street Nightclub, Keiraville/Gwynneville Pharmacies, Karas Smash Repairs and Great Western Carpets without whose support the club would cease to operate.

To the coaching staff, Roger Rumbel, Rob Steward, Steve Tresidder, John Maughan, Ben Troy and Ron Wessel. Congratulations and thank you on a job well done. Special thanks to Fran Lee and Leia Cosgrave for organising and getting our Ladies' side up and running. To Bronwyn, for all her help throughout this season getting players onto the paddock. To Christine, Lee and Julie for their countless hours organising and running the canteen. To Barry Pike and the Junior Committee, well done on another successful season. It's comforting to know that the future of our club is in such capable hands.

To those players who reached representative honours this season I offer congratulations. Special mention to Rod Petty on his selection in the Country Cockatoo's side to tour Canada, Robbie Allan and Mat Crimmins on making the NSW Country U18's and Wayne Bruton's selection to tour the UK on The Antipodeans Tour. To top off a number of consistently great seasons, congratulations to Khaled Matar on being named Illawarra Rugby Player of the Year. You really deserved it and Tech Waratahs is very proud to have you as a part of our club.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank Ricky Boyle for his support and tireless efforts throughout the season. The club would not be where it is today without Rick's input. I say this because Rick's intentions are to stand down from the committee after this season and his loss will be a big blow to the committee. Also to Tony Weckwerth for holding down the position of Treasurer after indicating last season he wished to stand down.

That brings me onto the club's Annual General Meeting, which has been set down for Monday October 10th 1999, upstairs at The Coniston Hotel, commencing at 7pm. I urge all members seriously wishing to become involved on the committee to come along that evening. From the committee's

perspective, the hard work for season 2000 starts now to ensure we increase on the improvements we attained this year.

I would like to offer my sincere best wishes to Phil and Alison, Zlatko and Lydija, Brett and Penny on their upcoming weddings.

In closing, it is with sadness that we say goodbye this year to two of our members, Simon Marland and Wylie Pearson, along with Jodie and Sonya. They are headed overseas for extended stays. I would like to thank Simon for all his help and support over the last 9 years and wish Simon and Jodie, Wylie and Sonya all the best for the future.

Yours in rugby,

Wayne Ireland
President
Tech Waratahs Rugby Club

TREASURERS REPORT

Once again we are at the end of the season. I feel this year there has been a great improvement by all teams in their efforts on the field with the clubs overall position having been improved. Other reports will deal with this and the people involved. Congratulations to all players, coaches, managers and supporters.

Financially there has been an increase in funds available to the club across the board. Very well done to those who were involved.

JUNIOR CLUB

The Junior Club is basically self-sufficient regarding finances. Congratulations to the Junior Committee for their efforts and we should always remember that the Junior Club is one of the major factors in our future development.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Unfortunately this year was not as good as '98 in the area of fees received. However, due to the concerted effort towards the end of the season things did improve and, to those involved, the club is grateful for your efforts.

To those who still have outstanding fees, you know who you are, you are letting the club down, so please make an effort to finalise your '99 fee payments.

SPONSORSHIP

A special thanks to our Major Sponsor, Gilmore's Hotel Coniston. We greatly appreciate *ALL* our sponsors funds received be they large or small amounts, or services received / provided. Please note our list of sponsors in the yearbook and please support them. It should be remembered that in today's business climate, it is getting harder for companies to be able to justify spending money and it *MUST* be a two-way relationship!

CANTEEN

Once again due to the efforts of a select few ladies and under the coordination of Christine Bruton, the canteen has once again shown a return. Thank you to the girls and others who have helped over the season. It is a fine line you tread with food, and bad weather on the day can turn profit into loss. We appeal to the Mums, Wives and Girlfriends to become involved in this area, as it is very important to the functioning of the club. Please girls, get involved.

GENERAL FUND RAISING

There have been the usual raffles run weekly and meat raffles at the Conno. Perhaps one of the most successful nights was the KAREOKE night, which not only raised money for the club but also gave back to our Major Sponsor, the Conno. This area is a hard slog and really it's a numbers game. If you have the numbers to run raffles and social efforts, they will be successful and achieve good returns. Like all

things in a club, its numbers, people, dollars and points on the score board. We don't always need ideas, we need people to carry out the ideas!

Once again I would like to thank the committee for their support in enabling me to carry out my role this season. I must stress the importance in getting more people, and new people with different and new ideas involved in the running of the club to build on and carry out the tasks of providing a solid club for existing and future players of Rugby.

As was the case last year, I will not be nominating for Treasurer on the next committee. (We couldn't find a replacement this year). However I believe we have someone who is interested and I wish them every success in carrying out the role of Treasurer.

Once again I would like to thank everyone for the help and support over the years of my involvement with both the Junior and Senior clubs.

Tony Weckwerth

Club Manager Report

It is with some pride that I write this summary report as your club manager for the 1999 season. This year has seen the club take another step up from where we started some five years ago when Tech Waratahs was formed following the amalgamation of the two previous clubs.

The success of the club this season has been due to many factors of which a few I see as pivotal to ongoing and continued success. The membership of the club has changed in that we have a greater spread of age groups both in the player ranks and general membership. This adds a genuine maturing of not only our player's rugby knowledge and skills but also to the way the club sees itself and its operations.

We are slowly becoming much more aware of our need to act and do things in a way that will build a club that can cater for the needs of junior players while demanding a far greater dedication from the senior ranks. This ongoing progress will allow us to achieve the club goal, which is to be the best rugby club in Illawarra and one of the best in country New South Wales.

It has been very gratifying to be able to field four senior teams each week either at home or away, some of our competitors clubs would love to be in the same position.

This of course is strongly supported by the junior part of our club.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of a very dedicated group that is the junior's committee. For all intensive purposes this group controls and organises all the junior teams and their functions with little input from the senior management group.

Of course this can only happen if we are fortunate enough to have the right people looking after this very important aspect of our club, so to Junior Chairperson Barry and his team another mighty effort that is much appreciated by all club members and supporters.

In addition the establishment of a ladies team has added a new dimension to the makeup of the club and the added benefits the ladies bring to any club structure.

It hasn't been an easy year for them as players but their enthusiasm has carried them through the season and hopefully a recruitment drive in the off season will provide them with more numbers for next year. Ladies it's great to have you in the club.

On the same note, due to this greater spread of maturing male players they have finally seen the light and somehow attracted the ladies, women, girls. (whatever term you like) They have become involved in the club as spectators, or in fact players and in appropriate circumstances bring their kids along to games.

All this adds to the strengthening of club friendships being formed and enjoyment not only in rugby but also in a broader social sense because the friendship continues waiting for the next rugby season to start. This is a sign of a strong club.

The club agreed to become the home of the Gangrene Old Boys, this has added to the ongoing establishment of a rugby club that can claim to cater for all age groups. This has proven to be a positive move as it has attracted a few older players to the club.

The actual rugby input this year has also lifted, whether you agree or not, any club's showpiece is its first grade team, this is the team that carries the burden of establishing the reputation of the club based on its performance. This is not to say that the other teams don't have a significant input to the overall strength and reputation required to be regarded in the rugby fraternity and the media as a good strong rugby club.

This season we have been fortunate in that our first grade team (and all those that were in the squad from time to time) can be justifiably proud of their achievements in raising the reputation of the club as a rugby playing force. Sure we could have done better in all grades (to be discussed elsewhere in the team reports) but the bottom line is we are seen to be a club that is on track to becoming a real contender and strong competitor in Illawarra District Rugby.

Of course it couldn't go without stating that we have been lucky to acquire the services of team coaches. They were dedicated to their teams efforts and even more importantly their combined drive to lift the level of skills and knowledge of all those that came under their influence and control.

Another major factor in the club is the building on previous years of experience in the actual administration of your club. As with the rugby we could have achieved more as a committee but this aspect of our development is also ongoing.

These individuals give of their time and efforts to ensure our club and its business is conducted in a manner that is seen to be organised and for the betterment of **all** members of the club.

As your club manager I would be lying if I stated that this job was a breeze because human nature being what it is everyone has an opinion on most decisions that have to be made and actioned. Believe it or not, we have not made such decisions in isolation but can assure you the members that all have been taken in the best interest of Tech Waratahs Rugby Club.

Since taking office I have tried to develop a club structure that can deal with the day to day issues through the establishment of specific sub-committee's, leaving the executive group free to deal with the overall strategic requirements of running our club.

I have to report that we still have a way to go, both in achieving the approved structure to utilise the benefits to be gained, while continuing to reflect on our strategic plan, which was approved and accepted when I wrote it two years ago.

In today's world of sport administration, especially from an amateur game point of view (generally at our level it shouldn't be anything else) **Sponsorship** takes on significant meaning. Not to pay players but just to put teams on the field, ensure that insurance is in place, affiliations are required with local, state, and Australian bodies, playing gear, training items, club apparel, and all the other requirements that it takes to function at a reasonable and competitive level.

We have been very fortunate in the last two years (hopefully this will be extended into a longer time frame) to have as our major sponsor the **Coniston Hotel** through the Gilmore family. This sponsorship has allowed us to continue to develop as a club and I thank them sincerely for their very strong support.

There are other sponsors that have contributed to the club this year, which are mentioned elsewhere and they do deserve our thanks. It should be our aim not only to retain all of them but also to add to the list, as financial increases will be ongoing year after year.

As a summary report I have tried to cover the items without writing a book that I think have greatly assisted the club this season. I will have forgotten items that are significant and for this indiscretion I apologise up front.

Generally speaking the club executive and committee worked together to achieve our best results ever in all sort of ways and for the most part were very supportive of me in the position of club manager.

Overall "Tech Waratahs Rugby Club" has never been in a better position than it is today, all it will take to achieve our goal of being the best rugby club is a focus on taking small steps forward through planning and having the right people in place.

I believe the direction and plan is in place, so the real task is to seek out those people that want a strong club and are prepared to work in a unified way to build on this years achievements. This is a major input element required to lift the club to even greater levels both in rugby and club administration.

Plans are underway already to prepare for next season. I have stated previously, that the off season is the time to work not the time to forget what has to be done to get us in a position in front of the pack, but it does take time and effort both from the players and the administrators.

Finally, when the club has players selected in representative teams it brings recognition to the whole club. This season we have had our share of talented

players represent our club in many teams, to all those players keep up the good work and continue to build your individual skills because you bring us credibility as a rugby club.

Your Club Manager for 1999

Rick Boyle
Tech Waratahs Rugby Club

Club Captain's Report

My fellow Tech Tahs, I suppose in the future we may well look back on season 1999 as the club's turning point, with ongoing improvement in all grades, particularly in 1sts and 3rds. But more of that later.

Firstly a big thank you from all the players to the coaching staff. Roger, Rob, Wayne, John, Steve, Benn and Ronnie, we really appreciate the time and commitment you all put into the club and us. To the managers, Rick and John, thank you for all your hard work in ensuring things run smoothly before, during and after games. A big thank you to the strappers, Bronwyn, Ronnie and Rick in ensuring we made it onto the paddock and keeping the water up to the guys. To the canteen ladies; Christine, Lee and Julie, thank you so much for giving up your Saturday's to work behind the bar. Our canteen is widely known as one of, if not the best, canteen in the comp, and that is only because of your work. All the players really appreciate what you do. To Jeff Jones (Dad), on behalf of all the players, thank you for the photos you have taken of us at your own expense. These photos are treasured by us all. Special thanks to Tim Nicholls for collating all the game tallies. Not a fun job but Tim was quick to offer his time and for that we thank you Tim. Mark Bye a.k.a. Bicus or Nathan Grey, you did a fantastic job collecting fees. Your scare tactics worked wonders. Bic, thank you very much. Also, appreciation goes to Rob Sindevski, who along with Greg Evans from Cyberelectric Café (Lower Mall, Crown St), set up the mighty Tech Tah web site, thanks guys.

On the social front, some great nights were had this year. A big thank you to all involved; Zlat and Robbo for the meat raffles, Simon and Darbs for the 60's Karaoke Night – a huge success, and the Annual Trivia Night. This year's trip away to the Melbourne Cup is shaping up to be one of the best and thanks must go to Zlat for doing a great job once again organising the numbers, booking us in and collecting all monies. It's just a shame the same commitment wasn't shown by all those going on the trip to raise money through the raffles organised by Zlat. Nevertheless I'm sure a good time will be had by all, particularly Zlat, who's made a stupid decision to coincide the trip with his Bucks. Zlat, you're either very brave or very stupid, I think the latter. But seriously, it's a lot of hard work and has caused Zlat countless headaches. The guys really appreciate your effort mate, well done.

Onto the rugby field now and like I said at the start, a year we may well look back on as the club's turning point, with 1st and 3rd grades just missing out on the semi's. For 2nd grade I think we just need to look at who made the grand final and realise if we are prepared to do the hard work, we can compete for the grand prize. We welcomed aboard the Women's team and Gangrenes in 1999, with the women making the semi's in their first year, excellent effort girls. Crowd favourite Mark O'Shea a.k.a. The Rock, proved you're never too old to play 1st grade and Paul Darby proved you're never too old to take your first shot at goal,

however I don't think Darbs will be relieving any of the regular kickers in the future. I think it was only 3 or 4 years ago we did not submit a 3rd grade into the competition due to lack of numbers. We now field 1st, 2nd, 3rd, u19, Women's and Gangrenes. There is even talk of a 4th grade side for season 2000. The Tech Tah machine is moving along nicely, but to keep moving forward and up the ladder there is still a lot of hard work to be done and it all starts in a couple of weeks. Enlist now, your club needs you! Preseason training and boot camp with Roger 'Yes drill sergeant' Rumbel. Book your spot now!

Congratulations to Matt Crimmins for making NSW Country u19, Robbie Allan NSW Country u18, Wayne Bruton and Luke Darby Antipodean's Tour of the UK and Rod Petty for his continued success with NSW Country Cockatoos and a great tour of Canada. We expect big things from you Rod over the next few years! Congratulations to all the players who made the Illawarra and President's Cup squads in 1999. These included Rob Steward, Phil Gould, Khaled Matar, Ross Dummett, Reece Bratton, Ben Olsen and Lee Martin. Special mention of course must be made of 'The Jackal' – Khaled Matar, who took out the Prime Cup Retravision Medal for the Illawarra Best and Fairest. An outstanding effort for two consistently outstanding seasons. Tech Waratahs is very proud of your achievement Khaled, even if Dexter Porter can't spell your name correctly.

We had two new additions to the Tech Tah family this year with Harry and Carly Hawksworth having a baby boy, Christopher, and Mark and Cyndee Bye also having a little fella, Michael. Congratulations to both families and for producing players of the future. I just hope they look more like their mothers!

Thanks to Jason Reed who bolstered our 1st grade ranks and provided experience in a relatively young forward pack. Jason, from Welsh club Pontypool, and his girlfriend Jo are touring Australia before heading home.

Finally we say farewell to two club stalwarts in Simon Marland and Wylie 'Chopper' Pearson, along with their girlfriends Jo and Sonya. They fly out to the UK and Europe at the end of the month along with Rick and Olga Boyle and the Gangrenes crew. We wish you all the best and hope that Sime and Wylz might one day don the mighty Tech Waratahs jumper again. Things just won't be the same without you around here. It was a pleasure to play with you both. All the best.

Yours in rugby,

The Bat a.k.a. Justin Jones.

PS. Thanks Sime for typing this report at the last minute. Sorry about the red wine stains on it. Cheers!

1st Grade Manager Report

The 1st grade team and all those that were part of the squad as reserves or in the support network deserve a pat on the back and a shake of the hand. This was our best performance since the club became Tech Waratahs with seven wins, one draw, and ten losses of which four games were under seven points.

These close games proved to be our downfall over the total season or we could very easily have been in the semi-finals. Generally the players overall lifted as individuals and have in a rugby sense matured in their rugby skills.

However we still have a way to go to see the best of them, mainly with the simple understanding of rugby is a team game and everyone has their part to play both on and off the field. Admittedly these elements do take time to accomplish and gel, forming a cohesive team with all players having the same dedication to the teams standards and goals.

This year has seen a broader spread of experience in both age and rugby experience which is something we have been working towards for the last few seasons. I must recognise those players (they know who they are) that have stuck with the club and are now the core of this team, continue to hang in there and I believe you will benefit.

If you look at the team's statistics over the season, there are some great pointers to the future. Only two other teams received more bonus points than we did, we were able to score significant victories over teams that thought we were easy beats and our points were scored via a spread of players not just one or two.

It was really pleasing to see quite a number of younger talented players being blooded in first grade on appropriate occasions allowing them a taste of what they should be striving for in their rugby, representing their club in the top grade.

As with all team sports it's not just the players on the field that deserve recognition when they achieve, its their support network that makes it work just that much easier. The reserves, our hard working strappers, coach, manager, water runners, the other grades and the administrators of the club all combine to strive for that achievement so they all deserve to feel a little pride on what their team has done this season.

First grade, I believe received the best the club had to offer. (as did the other grades) Sure we had hiccups from time to time but overall as your manager I consider it an excellent season and one we can build on for the ultimate goal in our competition, the prime cup.

With these comments in mind, if we can build on the positives and reduce the mistakes of this season. (both players and network support) I and many others in Illawarra rugby feel we have a first grade team that is not only

competitive but can shake the whole competition in the next two seasons.

I will take this opportunity to thank all players that played in the first team this year, collectively you gave me a lot of pride on occasions, not to mention quite a few raised points in my blood pressure reading at other times.

It is also opportune for me to publicly thank the team coach Roger Rumbel for his sincere efforts and dedication to the preparation of the clubs first grade. For those of us that have coached we know its one of those jobs that always has problems to consider and resolve for the overall benefit of the team.

These decisions are not always pleasant to make whether it is player appointments, positional selections, player dedication to training and playing or just getting the team to believe in themselves and challenge to win. "Well done Boss"

This is a summary report for the annual presentation booklet if any of you that have the good fortune to obtain a copy and would like a more comprehensive verbal report I would be happy to supply same at any time providing you supply the refreshments.

Looking toward next season we have had a very positive response from all current players, indicating their willingness to be with Tech Waratahs next year. Of course we are always on the lookout for other players (that want to be in the greatest rugby club in Illawarra) to bolster the player list so we can collectively climb and conquer that rugby peak.

I sincerely hope to see you all next season, when we as a club take a giant step forward.

Rick Boyle
1st Grade Manager
Tech Waratahs Rugby Club

1st Grade Report

I reflect on season 1999 and the close matches which were there to be won, but which we failed to win, and I think what might have been had we just had, what I see as 'KILLER INSTINCT'. The absolute desire to WIN no matter what the cost. Vince Lombardi said, 'Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing'.

Playing rugby with your mates on a Saturday afternoon is great. Rugby with your mates on Saturday afternoon and WINNING is the greatest. The burning desire to win the next game starts every SUNDAY MORNING and increases during the week.

In this my first year with Tech Waratahs Rugby Club (maybe not my last), I have seen young players in the club with varying degrees of talent from fair to very good. In some cases that talent is wasted on players not dedicated to winning and the necessary preparation and training required to win. If we can put the desire to do anything it takes to win, together with the individuals' talent, we can go well in season 2000.

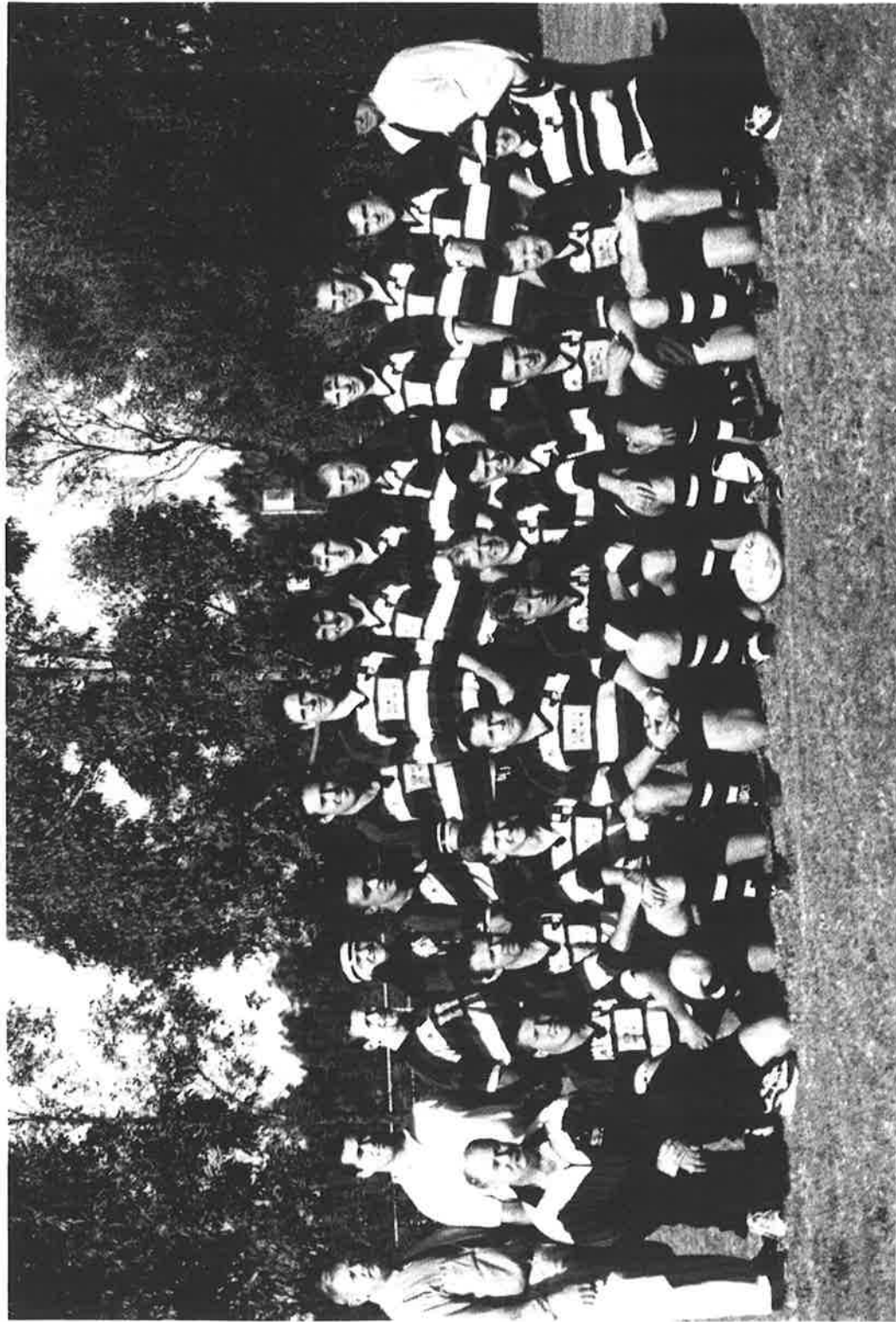
Many thanks to my forwards' skills coach Rob Steward, whose knowledge of scrums and lineout play is exceptional. Thanks also to all the club support staff, committee and especially club manager Rick Boyle. Thank you to 'Bat' and the canteen ladies for bracing my coffee during a tense second half against Bowral (please don't do it again). To the players, thank you for the season you put in and your achievements. Congratulations to all representative players in 1999, the club was well represented in senior ranks and you did us proud. Thanks for an inspirational season by 1st grade captain and Prime Cup Player of the Year, Khaled Matar.

Among the players to watch in 2000 are Craig Franklin, Chris Foye and Robbie Allan. Also look out for many other young players to push for 1st grade spots, keeping pressure on established players, and in some cases, TAKIING OVER. Overall, I think we had a fair season but unless we build on our efforts next year this improved season will have been wasted. We should work hard to improve in 2000.

Weight training begins NOW, off-season training starts early October. Enjoy your rest.

Roger Rumbel
Club / 1st Grade Coach
Tech Waratahs Rugby Club

1st Grade 1999



Back Row (left to right): Roger Rumble (Coach), Rob Steward, Adam Edmunds, Stu Pearson, Kahled Matar, Adrian Williams, Craig Franklin, Phil Gould, Ben Olsen, Mark O'Shea, Chris Foye, Robbie Allen, Reece Braton, Rick Boyle (Manager)

Front Row (left to right): Ron Wessl (Trainer), Matt Crimmins, Will Madden, Duane Robinson, Harry Hawksworth, Nigel Darby, Lee Martin, Dave Vincent, Ross Durnmet, Paul Davis, Bronwyn Taylor (Strapper)

Absent: Rod Petty

2nd Grade Report

1999, a season which promised so much but delivered very little. As any coach will tell you, 2nd grade is the hardest team in any club to coach. That aside, the talent we had in the side week to week, I think we all expected better results from this season.

I would sincerely like to thank John Marland for his superb job as 2nd Grade Manager in season 1999. He did not miss one game and not one jumper went missing. Thank you to Justin and Brett for giving much needed guidance as Captain. Thanks to Greg McAndrew and Wayne Bruton for coming into the side, sometimes with very little notice after playing U19's. To 'Stretto', who was a calming influence on the sideline (it's amazing what a joke will do in a tense situation), thank you for keeping me sane. To Bronwyn and Ronnie, many thanks for getting and keeping the side on the paddock. To all the 3rd grade players that stood by each week, the side appreciates your efforts and to Roger, Steve, Johnny, Ben and Ronnie, I appreciate all your help on training nights.

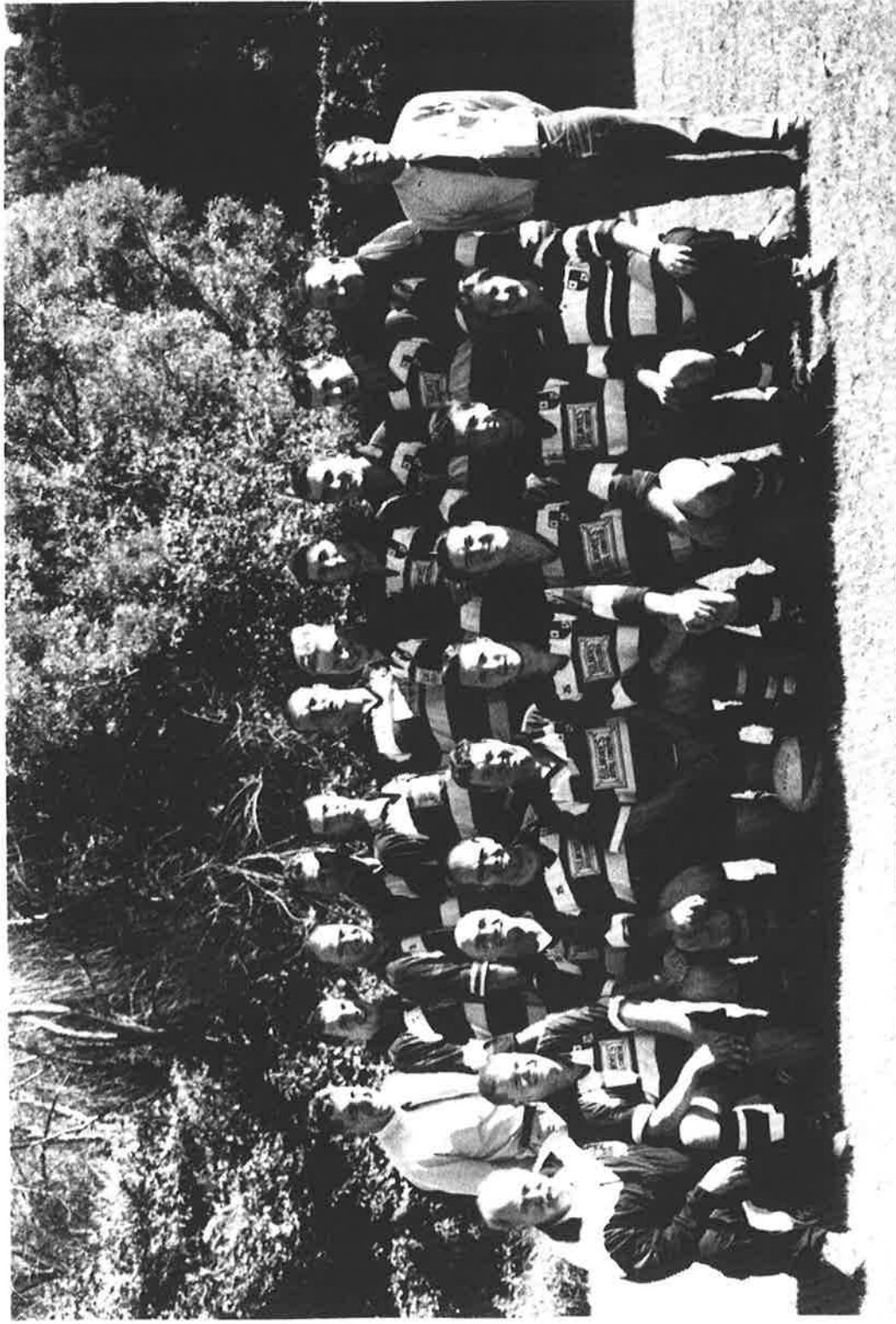
I will not be nominating for the 2000 season, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming coach my best wishes for next season.

To the players, I say 'stick with it'. The games against Vikings, Uni, Shoalies and Kiama prove that you have the ability to be a better side than the results suggest.

Yours in rugby,

Wayne Ireland
2nd Grade Coach
Tech Waratahs Rugby Club

2nd Grade 1999



Back Row (left to right): Wayne Ireland (Coach), Simon Marland, Tim Nicholls, Shane McVicar, Greg McAndrew, Chris Bryant, Ben Weckworth, Cameron Peace, Luke Thompson, Justin Jones, Paul Carrigan, John Marland (Manager)

Front Row (left to right): Ron Wessel (Trainer), Daniel Reid, Zlatko Manovski, Mark Bye, Brett Ramsay, Adam Crandell, Cameron Ogden, Wayne Bruton, Bronwyn Taylor (Strapper)

Absent: Wylie Pearson

3rd Grade Report

At the start of the 1999 season, all I had in mind was to get fit and play 3rds. Well ... a dose of atypical pneumonia and a quiet chat with Darbs later ... and I've landed the plum job of Tech Waratahs 3rd Grade!

Even though the skill level of the 28 players I had to start Round 1 was high, it was with great pleasure that Steve Tresidder came on board to assist. I am certain by the end of the season, all the players that made their way through the 3rd grade ranks learnt something from Steve's skills training.

The list of players who stepped onto the field for 3rds on some game days could have filled two team sheets. And I know of more players who developed injuries and disease I have never heard of before on Tuesday nights, just so Wayne wouldn't pick them for 2nds. Nice try lads, but it never worked!

The whole season was pleasing to me and I hope that all that played enjoyed their rugby and got something out of each game, even if it was a size 10 ruck mark, or a lump on the forehead. Special thanks to those players, who even though they only have to play Golden Oldies, still pull on their boots and play grade every week. Thanks Les 'Who me on the wrong side of the ruck' Porter, Mark 'The Rock' O'Shea, Gordon 'Quasimodo' Hurry and Neil '30 Seconds' Parsons. Thanks also to the cameo appearances put in by Ron 'Man of Leisure' Wessel and Paul 'Darbs' Darby.

It was also a great pleasure to see heaps of new faces come along and play rugby, many of them for the first time. Some showed some natural ability, but all showed heart and commitment. Thanks to John 'Private' Miller for putting his hand up for the hooking role. Also thanks to the big units, Michael 'Georgie' McGeorge and Tony 'Big Tone' Gorgijovski; flanker, come 2nd rower, come centre, come prop Vasco Stojanoski; Nick 'Can I have my glasses now' Ryder; Adam 'Hardhead' Anderson; and a myriad of others.

A club, let alone a team could not survive with out its regulars. I hope that all, especially the first year guys, can emulate the commitment showed by Mick 'Big Hit' Merrick, Steve 'I won't be at training Tuesday' Matteson, Steve 'Come out the Backs' Power, Shane 'I got a try for my 21st' Jackson, Adam 'Broken Hand' Mayberry, Behry, Wylz, Bullfrog, Paul 'Flower Power' Carrigan, Willy, The Knife, Tim, Rob S, Crimmo and Toddy. Thanks also to the 19's who backed up every week without asking. No doubt I have forgotten somebody and I apologise for that. Your efforts didn't go unnoticed, especially by your teammates.

I don't speak for Steve but I am certain he would agree; it's been a pleasure coaching and being associated with all of you this year. No only that, it was made easy by your commitment to training, the game and your teammates.

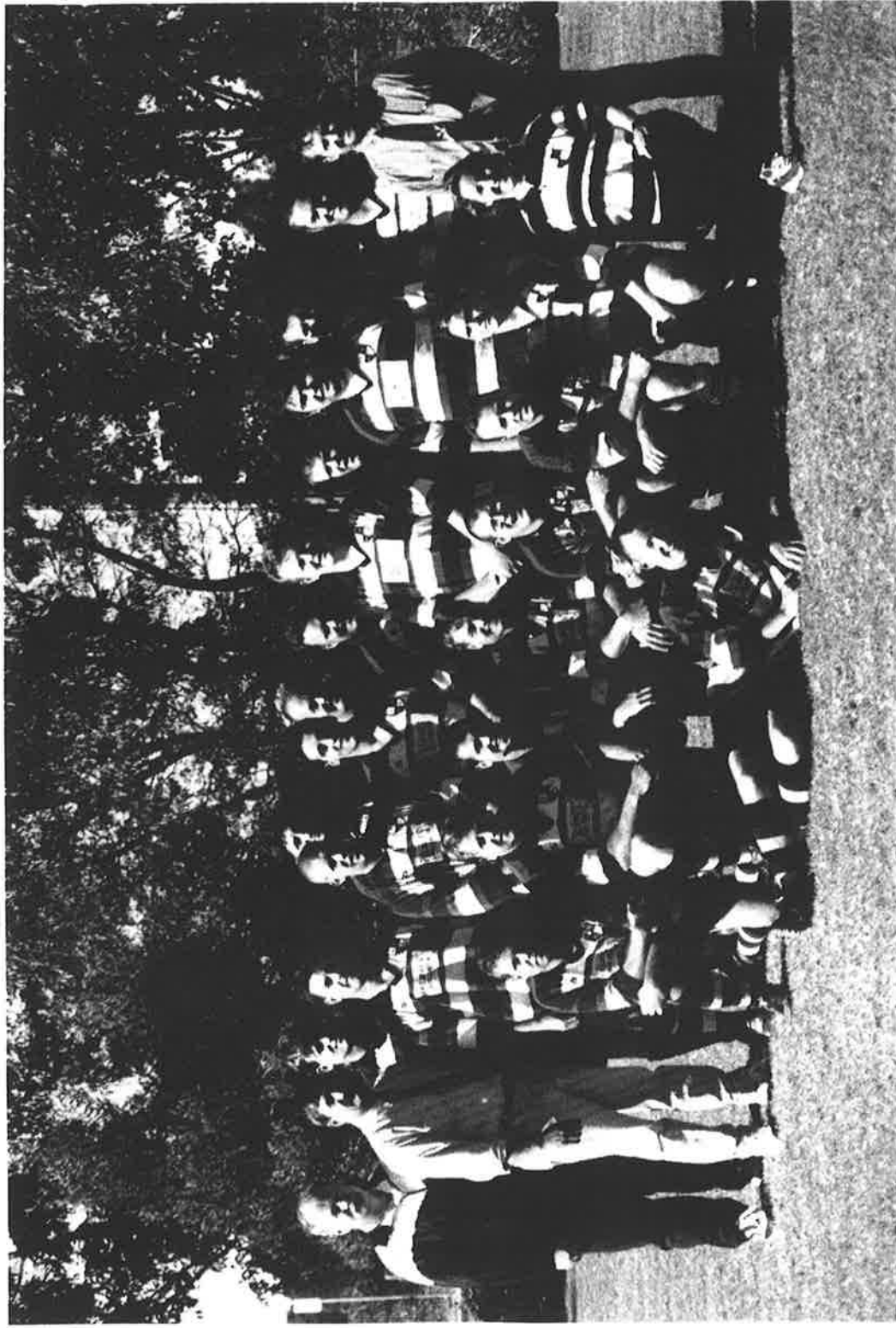
As a footnote, I have decided next year to pull the boots on again, but under a couple of conditions. I get to wear the famed No. 20 jersey, and if Richard 'Bullfrog' McLean looks like scoring another one of those blistering 57 metres tries ... someone tackle him please!!

By the way, a team who won 7 games took 5th place in the 3rd grade competition.
We won 6 !!!

Thanks and see you all in 2000.

John Maughan & Steve Tressider

3rd Grade 1999



Back Row (left to right): Ron Wessel (Trainer), Steve Tressider (Co-Coach), Mathew Rhoden, Adam Anderson, John Miller, Rob Sindevski, Vasco Stjanovski, Michale McGeorge, Mick Merrick, Glen Robinson, Richard McLane, Tony Georgovski, Dave Behr, Steve Power, John Maughan (Co-Coach)
Front Row (left to right): Steve Federici, Steve Maddison, Nick Ryder, Les Porter, Adam Mayberry, Darryl Parrish, Jason Crimmins, Bronwyn Taylor (Strapper)
Front: Shane Jackson

Under 19s Report

Oh, what might have been! The potential of this team far exceeds their results and should not be underestimated by anyone. After an ordinary first game against Vikings, we started to get our act together and tried to rescue the season. If only we could have trained more as a team..... Unfortunately this takes us into the area of the dreaded two word world, "If only", "We could've", "We would've". Sadly we didn't and I hope that a lesson is learned from this experience and we reach our full potential in the future.

There were some very pleasing aspects to this season. The attitude of some players, the arrival of some new talent at the club and the performances of many players. In the attitude stakes I would like to mention Robbo and his whole approach to this season. Yeah, I know he is carrying a bit too much weight, but how many other guys did the work to lose 10 kilos in the season. That in itself is no mean feat and he did it by training every week and putting in, even when it hurt and he was copping a few jibes. Well done mate! He also approached the season on a positive note and tried to get everyone else going. Several other players, Crimmo, Valdo, Wayne and Greg to mention a few, also got the positive vibe and always put a lot into the team and not just their own game.

It was good to see the arrival of new talent in Greg, Paul, Daniel, Simon and some of the guys who were there at the start of the season but wandered off as the season progressed. I hope that you guys enjoyed your year and that you have a long career with the club. In these four guys there is a great store of talent and it will serve the club and the game well over the coming years. I would like to give special thanks to Greg and Paul who have to travel a fair way to play with us. It is very much appreciated guys. They are both loose forwards with a big future in front of them. In Daniel we have a young guy with the potential to be a regular first grader in the future. He has the one thing that you can't teach players - height, and he matches this with strength and aggression in tight. With Simon in the playing ranks we now have another good hard running back who can tackle, not bad attributes for a centre. He brings a lot of experience to the club, having played in several high grade league (sorry I said that word) sides and will be a tremendous asset to the club over the years.

It was rewarding to see so many of the guys playing in the higher grades. The most prominent among these is Robbie Allen who cemented a starting first grade spot in the second round. Pete Delaney also got into the firsts early in the year but was forced out through work and injury. Bad luck Bubbles, but I'm sure you'll be back bigger and better next year. It was good to see Wayne also get a run in firsts, not bad for an under 17. He handled himself with aplomb and certainly didn't let the side down. The experience will definitely do him good. Robbo, Wecky, Bones and others also had a run in seconds or thirds and this can only help their confidence and ease the transition into grade in the next year or two. I was pleasantly surprised at the start of the season when Tim Ryder turned up, about twice the size of last year. He also started to play to his new size and will only get better and better as he realises the damage he can do with a body that size. Another bloke to really improve on last year's ability was Chicka. The way he gets around the field now and what he does when he gets there points to a long and rewarding career in higher

grades. It was difficult for some guys to make training, Gardey and Daniel Hodge with uni and Wecky with work, but all three gave their best when they were available. It was a shame that Tim Olsen missed so much of the season with injuries and rep commitments, he could've had a big year. One thing I ask of Frank, "please don't be so bloody laid back", you're driving me crazy. I don't know how he does it, but he always manages to get his kick in or the cover tackle made, but I do know it's not good for the coach's ulcers.

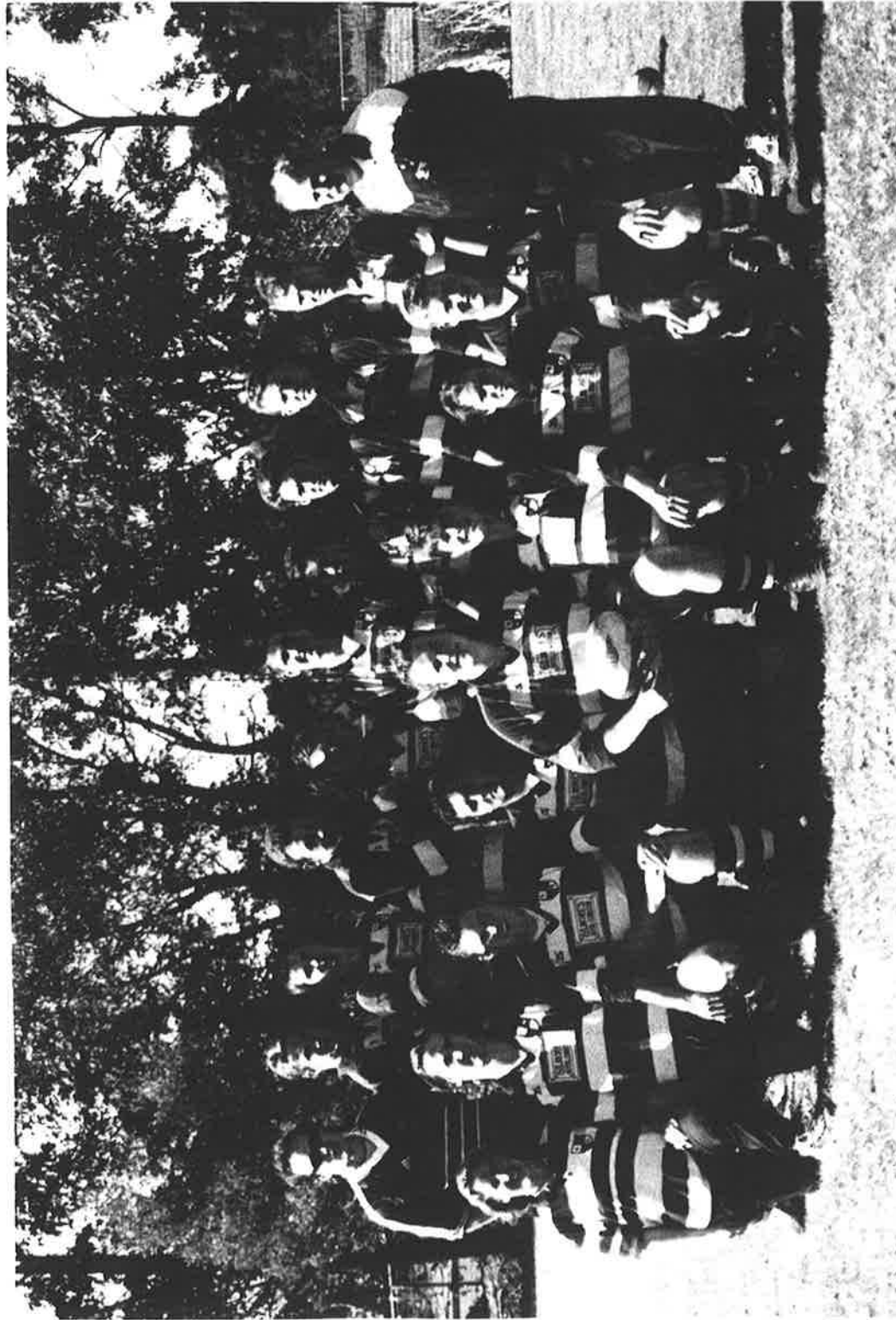
Thanks very much to the Under 17s who helped out during the year, Bones, Wayne, Paul Devitt and Luke Vlandys. Your contribution to the team was greatly appreciated and the experience will do you good. It is this type of spirit that makes great players and great clubs. We should encourage it whenever we can.

Congratulations to the guys who made rep teams this year. Three guys made Country level, Robbie Allen in the 18s, Crimmo in the 19s and Tim Olsen in Country Schools. Well done guys, fair reward for talent and hard work.

Finally let us say thank you to all the players, Wally who did the paperwork and to all the people who helped over the year with advice and help. Also, thanks to Roger and Robbie who took time out to talk to many of the players and to help them with their game. Those couple of moments are worth gold in building club spirit and unity.

Ron Wessel & Benn Troy.

U19's 1999



Back Row (left to right): Benn Troy (Coach), Simon Tweedie, Greg McAndrew, Frank Dietich, Matt Crimmins, Tim Ryder, Wayne Bruton, Damon Garde, Daniel Hodge, Robbie Allen, Ron Wessel (Trainer)

Front Row (left to right): Bronwyn Taylor (Strapper), Andrew McCall, Paul Devitt, Peter Ernst, Glen Robertson, Luke Vlandys, Luke Darby, Ben Weckworth
Absent: Michael Vlandys

Women's Rugby Report

With the plans to start the inaugural Illawarra Women's Rugby Competition, five clubs in the Illawarra area took up the challenge to start women's rugby teams in their clubs. With a large junior playing base and plenty of enthusiasm and support for the new challenges ahead, Tech Waratahs were an exciting prospect for the new manager/player, Leia Cosgrave and first time coach Fran Lee. As with any developing sport, the first task was the recruitment of players to form the team. Fortunately there were some experienced players from the previous season who were already associated with the club and were keen to get things started.

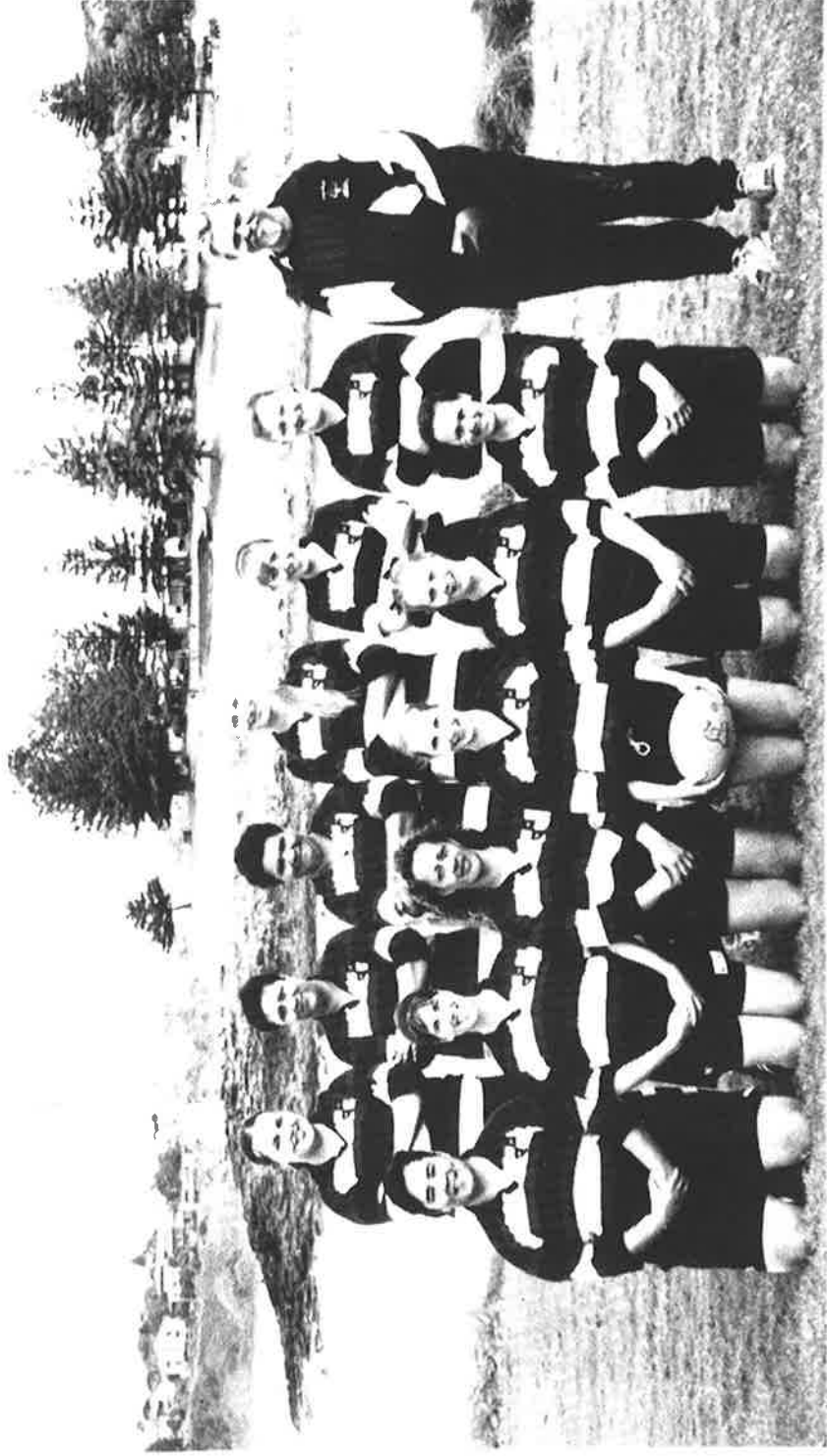
With plenty of initial interest, training sessions began in late February and March and were attended by new and existing players keen to try something new. The formation of the team also provided opportunities for women who had long been associated with rugby union and league through partners and sons, to have a go at the game they had become very familiar with over the years. Not surprisingly they were all quick to pick up the skills and strategies of the game and were soon off onto the paddock for their first match.

From the start, the Tech Waratahs Women's Rugby team showed themselves to be a very gutsy bunch. Although lacking speed and agility in general, Tech Waratahs was able to put in some strong performances in their games against more experienced players during the season. Particularly satisfying were the games against fellow rookie team, Dapto, who always provided a tough and challenging match as our two teams competed for the fourth spot in the semi finals. Through consistency of effort and strong defence, Tech Waratahs was able to take the fourth spot into the semi finals.

Overall, Tech Waratahs has proved its potential as a 15 a side team with all players putting in solid performances in all areas of forwards play. Unfortunately, injuries and work commitments prevented us from developing a great deal of depth in the number of players available for matches. However this looks set to change as all players are very keen to return next year for the full 15 a side competition. Our thanks must go to Wayne Ireland and the Tech Waratahs Rugby Union Club Committee and players for their support of the women's team at both training and matches throughout the season. I would also like to thank Leia Cosgrave for being able to juggle both managing and playing in the team, as well as her contribution to the continued development of women's rugby in the Illawarra. With Leia and the continued support of committed players such as Bec Coen and Donna Liggins, the Tech Waratahs Women's team is off to a sound start for its second season, cementing women's rugby as the fastest growing sport in the Illawarra and NSW. It has been a pleasure to work with both the Tech Waratahs Rugby Club and the Women's team and I wish the team all the best for the 2000 season.

Fran Lee
Women's Coach

Women's 1999



Back Row (left to right): Robyn Arnold, Emma Pereira, Vicky Slater, Alyssa Wilson, Becky Coen, Hayley Lashbrook, Andrew Todd (Assistant Coach)

Front Row (left to right): Fran Lee (Coach), Melisse Petty, Melanie Povey, Leia Cosgrave (Captain) Donna Liggins, Julie Hill
Absent: Lii

Junior Report

Mini Rugby

The mini rugby (Under 6's to Under 9's) commenced this year – a little late but quite successful when it did start. We have about 19 names listed and had up to 16 players in attendance at our training sessions.

The players had trips to Campbelltown, Shoalhaven, as well as the Bowral Gala Day.

Many thanks to coaches Ben Olsen and Lee Martin for their efforts with these kids, and to Luke Darby and Wayne Bruton in the later part of the season, assisting when Ben and Lee had work commitments.

There are some talented players in this group (including 2 who played some games with our Under 11's without looking out of place) and they will have a big impact when they graduate to Juniors.

Junior Rugby

The Under 11's had a mixed year results wise, but we picked quite a few keen new players who enjoyed the game. There are now some very experienced players in this group, some just finishing their third year of rugby. Unfortunately we have been down on total numbers, which meant that we never had reserves for our games. However some good skills have been developed, thanks to our coaches, and these will be taken into the higher age groups in future.

The Under 13's and Under 17's made it into the semis – the U13's being minor premiers, the U17's getting into 4th place by the skin of their teeth.

Both teams played through to the finals. The U13's fought a very close finals match and were ahead at full time, only to have a try scored against them after the bell and defeat snatched from the jaws of victory. This is a team that is entertaining to watch with their style of play, they obviously love this game. They have done it a little tough throughout the year, as most games they played without reserves. To get to where they did is commendable and a credit to the players and coaches. Although the finals result was disappointing for the players, it can also be described as "character building"!

The U17's have won through to the Grand Final, defeating Campbelltown convincingly in the final – a team that we haven't beaten for the last 2 years. This team's skills have been improving steadily over the last few months; some intensive training has given them a mighty scrum and an excellent lineout. Their unity and their discipline have also improved recently, and we wish them all the best in the grand final.

Presentation Day.

Presentation Day (or evening) will be held on 26 September commencing at 5.30 p.m., in the large room adjacent the Club. All players (including the Minis) and parents are welcome and should attend, together with any seniors, particularly those who have come up through the junior ranks.

Year 2000

We are losing some of our coaching staff from this year, and all indications are that we will have 4 junior teams plus the minis in Year 2000. So we need coaching staff for next year – any interested parties from the senior, parents or anywhere please come forward.

Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 12 October 7.15 p.m. – all executive positions will be declared vacant.

Barry Pike

1999 GAMES

TALLY

NAME	GAMES AT START 99	1999 GAMES				99 TOTAL	CAREER TOTAL
		1st's	2nd's	3rd's	19's		
ALLEN, Robert	1	9			8	17	18
ANDERSON, Adam	0			14		14	14
BEHR, David	43	1	6	8		15	58
BRATTON, Reece	0	10	1			11	11
BROWN, Mark	12		1		1	2	14
BRUTON, Wayne	11	4	9		10	23	34
BRYANT, Chris	0		2			2	2
BYE, Mark	25	5	17			22	47
CARRIGAN, Paul	7		8	8		16	23
COULSTOCK, Scott	0					0	0
CRANDELL, Adam	0	2	5	2		9	9
CRIMMINS, Jason	73	1	8	7		16	89
CRIMMINS, Mathew	21		1	2	13	16	37
DARBY, Ben	0	1	2	2		5	5
DARBY, Luke	14				13	13	27
DARBY, Nigel	42	12	5			17	59
DARBY, Paul	186			2		2	188
DAVIS, Paul	160	16	4			20	180
DELANEY, Peter	42	4	2		6	12	54
DIETRICH, Frank	11		3	2	14	19	30
DUMMETT, Ross	0	17				17	17
EDMONDS, Adam	55	16	1			17	72
ERNST, Peter	10				12	12	22
EVANS, Kristian	13		2			2	15
FEDERICI, Steve	14			3		3	17
FOYE, Chris	25	7	14	2	2	25	50
FRANKLIN, Craig	25	18				18	43
GARDE, Damon	9				14	14	23
GEORGE, Damian	35			6		6	41
GORGIOVSKI, Tony	3		1	13		14	17
GOULD, Phillip	72	15	1			16	88
GRAHAM, Paul	0				13	13	13
HAWKSWORTH, Harry	17	18	1			19	36
HAY, Daniel	0			1	10	11	11
HODGE, Daniel	12			1	16	17	29
HOLLOWAY, Luke	0				3	3	3
HORAN, Rod	2		1			1	3
HURRY, Gordon	5			6		6	11
IRELAND, Wayne	108		1			1	109
JACKSON, Shane	7		5	17		22	29
JOHNSTON, Ian	0					0	0
JOHNSTON, Mark	7			1		1	8
JONES, Justin	146	3	15	1		19	165
LANGLO, Colin	0		7	1		8	8
MADDEN, Will	106	2	1	1		4	110

NAME	GAMES AT START 99	1999 GAMES				99 TOTAL	CAREER TOTAL
		1st's	2nd's	3rd's	19's		
MANOVSKI, Zlatko	96	3	16			19	115
MARLAND, Simon	157	4	14	1		19	176
MARTIN, Lee	66	17		1	1	19	85
MATAR, Khaled	139	18				18	157
MATTESON, Steve	18		1	16		17	35
MAUGHAN, John	227			9		9	236
MAYBERRY, Adam	47		1	8		9	56
MAYBERRY, Luke	77	1		1		2	79
MCANDREW, Greg	0	1	6		14	21	21
MCCALL, Andrew	6				16	16	22
MCGEORGE, Michael	0			14		14	14
MCLEAN, Richard	40		1	16		17	57
MCVICAR, Barry	0					0	0
MCVICAR, Shane	91		6	9		15	106
MERRICK, Mick	17			16		16	33
MILLER, John	0			12		12	12
MITCHELL, Damien	0				2	2	2
MONTGOMERIE, Stuart	0	6	1			7	7
NEWING, Greg	0					0	0
NICHOLLS, Tim	0		5	5		10	10
O'DWYER, Mitchell	17				7	7	24
O'SHEA, Mark	32	7	8	3		18	50
OGDEN, Cameron	69		18	4		22	91
OGDEN, Craig	0					0	0
OLSEN, Ben	74	17				17	91
OLSEN, Tim	23		1		14	15	38
PARRISH, Darryl	51			5		5	56
PARSONS, Neil	2			5		5	7
PEACE, Cameron	30	3	8	3		14	44
PEAR, Mick	0					0	0
PEARSON, Stu	72	8	12			20	92
PEARSON, Wylie	67		5	12		17	84
PETTY, Rod	47	10				10	57
PISTCHER, Charles	0					0	0
PORTER, Les	177			11		11	188
POWER, Marty	0					0	0
POWER, Steve	44			16		16	60
RAMSAY, Brett	231	3	14			17	248
READ, Daniel	41		13	7		20	61
REED, Jason	0	12		1		13	13
ROBERTSON, Glen	19		1	3	14	18	37
ROBINSON, Duane	0	12	1			13	13
RYDER, Nicholas	0		1	8	3	12	12
RYDER, Tim	2			2	13	15	17
SINDEVSKI, Rob	11		5	6		11	22
STEWART, Robert	0	9				9	9
STOJANOSKI, Vasco	0		2	14		16	16
THOMPSON, Luke	11		12	4		16	27
THORS, Anthony	0					0	0
TODD, Andrew	6			5		5	11
TOLERTON, Ashley	4					0	4

NAME	GAMES AT START 99	1999 GAMES				99 TOTAL	CAREER TOTAL
		1st's	2nd's	3rd's	19's		
TRESSIDER, Steve	0			1		1	1
TRUMAN, Steve	3		1	1		2	5
TULLY, Daniel	52	9		1		10	62
TWEEDIE, Simon	0				15	15	15
VINCENT, Dave	0	8	7	4		19	19
VLANDYS, Michael	21	4	2	2	13	21	42
WECKWERTH, Ben	10		4	2	4	10	20
WESSEL, Ronnie	419			2		2	421
WETT, Bernie	66	3	14			17	83
WILLIAMS, Adrian	67	7	10	4		21	88
WILSON, Reece	16	6	6	1		13	29

1999

WOMENS RUGBY

GAMES TALLY

NAME	1999 GAMES	CAREER TOTAL
Leia Cosgrove	11	11
Fran Lee	6	6
Robyn Arnold	9	9
Donna Liggins	10	10
Lil Magill	9	9
Bec Coen	11	11
Julie Hill	7	7
Hayley Lashbrook	9	9
Amy Finch	6	6
Emma Pereira	5	5
Melanie Povey	7	7
Alyssa Wilson	5	5
Vicky Slater	5	5
Melissa Petty	6	6
Alicia Hunt	1	1

TECH WARATAHS

R.U.F.C

SENIORS A.G.M.

MONDAY OCTOBER 18TH. 1999
CONISTON HOTEL – 7.00pm

Everyone is invited to attend this very important meeting. We need new ideas, new people and renewed enthusiasm to steer the club through the new millennium. A year that is shaping up to be our BEST EVER.

TRIP AWAY

PLEASE NOTE, For all players going on the trip away, this meeting is a **MUST ATTEND**

REMEMBER !

MONDAY OCTOBER 18TH. 1999
CONISTON HOTEL – 7.00pm

