

Tech Waratah

Rugby Club



Premiership Edition



2000

Year Book

Tech Waratahs Rugby Club would like to thank the following sponsors for their commitment to the club in 2000. Without your assistance Tech Waratahs Rugby Club could not have improved on and off the field as we did. So, with your continued support, we will go on to bigger and better things in season 2001 and beyond.

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Special thanks to the Illawarra Dance Theatre

“ GO YOU GOOD THINGS”

In 1823 on a school field God and Bill Ellis hatched a plan
To create a game forever heaven and earth to span
The purpose of Rugby soon became plain
- Generations of players, regardless of size
Could test themselves for life and strive to gain
The right to hold that Holy Grail, a grand final prize
And now in Ruby's vast hall of fame
Tech Tahs of Wollongong has placed its name
Honour is due the men of Red White and Black
Who know how to mount and repel an attack
So in your mind let the days reel back
To that thunderous, wondrous 9th September
When they gave this young club a night to remember

Lunchtime – at the Clubhouse, it was nice and steady
The team confident, relaxed – they were ready
Dean the hard man took off with his paper to lie in the sun
Gus, Craig, Fatty and others watched video and chewed on a bun
Robbie and Chris Allen swapped secret brotherly back talk
Only now and then did someone take that short “nervous” walk
HK sits and, how unusual, seems lost in space
His bookends worry not – he'll be right on the pace
Reece Bratton shows how he's feeling so cool
And calmly sets up a card playing school
Uncle Ron mothered about – “with the pasta drink water!
- let the carbohydrates do what they oughta “
On the concrete Frogger laid, a football the pillow for his head
And Roger smiled as he looked at the men he had led
Wandering about is Captain Harry with his melon grin
He knows the outcome – Tech Tahs will win

History contains truths – one stands tall and grand
The power of words to elevate and ennoble man
Let us recognise that in Tech Tahs history
Two speeches which unlock that mystery
Of how in two short years – wooden spooners to Premiers
Leaving the rest sitting on their derrieres

In the first Roger called upon the ghosts of ANZAC past
A young Lieutenants' orders to hold to the last
And with these stirring words in each player grew
A determination to play up to Aussie spirit true
It didn't take long, Roger's ANZAC talk
All they had to do now was to walk the walk

The second from Rick, the grizzled campaigner – straight from the heart
And as he spoke, from his eyes some tears did start
“You fellows should realise the work that’s been done for an age
by many whose reward would be for you to win – centre stage”
He told them of how the word had travelled fast
The messages of support received from players past
From NZ, Queensland, Ireland, Wales, Scotland they came
Urging them onto victory and Shoalies to tame
“History supports and destiny beckons – a lot of people are supporting
us”

The players grew quiet and determined there sitting in the bus
In their eyes there gleamed the battle light
They would win it for their mates, the club – this fight
On and on it mounted till it shone bright
The will to win – they would hold against Shoalies might

The hours crawled by – times relative they say
Until they were stripped, stretched and ready to play
On that slow purposeful walk from the slope of grass
The team silently vowed that the try line Shoalies should not pass
And onto the side lines appeared painted spectres brave
Leading the throng into song, flags a-wave
Under the grandstand thunderous with applause
Streamed the Tech Tahs all a-fire, then a pause
Before the announcer called each on by number, one by one
The way they ran out all knew they would climb the highest rung

The anthem was sung, teams in position, let battle start
Each man ready to play and do his part
Rugby fast and open was the plan
And didn’t they show it man by man
It was a wonder to behold
And every player oh so bold

The supporters painted and clothed in Red White and Black
Stomped and screamed themselves hoarse, loving each wave of attack
Dapto’s caretaker was seen to shake his head
It wasn’t meant to stand this – no way – his shed
The first scrum – “locks in” and the front rows stare
“Crouch – engage” – a wild bull, those forwards would scare
Eyes ablaze, faces grim
The Tech Tahs pack never gave in
From red zone to red zone the grand final went
And many watchers thought “lord love us, they’ll all be spent”
Its not half time yet
On Tech Tahs everyone wanted to bet

The pack is on fire – pick and drive - grind
Over the precious advantage line – paying the defence no mind
There's Benny O and Fatty with their ears pinned back
Streaming across field terminating the backs track
The back line of Ross Reece Moana Chris and Adam well aligned is
rock solid
Look out Shoalies – there's only one greeting and that's torrid
In the stand fingernails are chewed away
Though this wasn't a church, you could hear Wayne pray
And each Red White and Black breast feels fit to burst
They know it has to be now – forget the wooden spoon curse
On the sideline Roger he waits
A Coach is lonely though surrounded by mates
His men are out there doing their stuff
Proving what he knows, they're mighty tough

Twice from twenty-two restarts Mick Hayes opted for cunning
A tap and run, but Kris defence was stinging and stunning
And instead of Shoalies being down field running full tilt
Tech Tahs defence pressed hard – right to the hilt
And so it continued the first forty thrill followed by spill
And at half time the score was nil nil

In the stands the supporters were tense
Already on the edge of their seats victory they could sense
In front of the Shoalies grandstand section Simon T stirring, dashed
For his effort blood is spilt as about his head cans crashed
On the field Roger laid his orders down
"Maintain the pressure, we own this town
Take any points on offer, we're on track
Keep hammering them, not long and they'll crack"
As one the Tech Tahs heeded his words
And resolved to taste sweet victory not bitter curds

The forwards shake and move every ruck and maul
To gain and retain that treasure of prizes – the ball
The front row of Harry, HK and Gilroy, Dean
Are tigers – not for them any thoughts tomorrow of what might have
been
The tight five are engaged in trench warfare, real blood and guts
Gus, Benny O and Fatty are rampaging madly driving Shoalies nuts
Kris makes them shudder when he hits them – they're on the rack
And at the lineouts they put Craig or Gus well above the pack
And driving these forwards on like a man demented is Rod
He delivers the ball to Ross, slick and fast, like shelling peas from a pod

The backs defence is so tight, Ross Reece and Moana – didn't care
what magic Shoalies bring
They kept rocking them back on the heels with tackles full of sting
Robby the custodian covered everything in sight
And always brought the ball with him, and the team back at full flight

Then for some imaginary indiscretion the Referee his whistle blew
And Shoalies' Tim Eddy kicked the penalty high and true
And back in the stand "that'll stir them up" opined one old player
"Just watch our lads, they'll raise a cog – this team it's a stayer"
And from kick off never truer a word was spoke
Because what next happened, Shoalies back was broke
Kris Leha said to his Tongan mate "just run straight"
And to that call the centre responded – he was like a front runner in the
Cox's Plate
It was a glorious sight, Moana in full flight on the fly
And when at last his straight, bumping run had ended – the first try

Panda – bloody – monium in the stands with Slacko, Paul D and Bat
orchestrating the noise
On that field of glory Rod and Harry called for more effort plus discipline
and poise
Wayne O near broke the old player's back with a bear hug
And shouted "we can do it – it's ours – that Prime mug"

A penalty to Shoalies directly in front – the Captain declines – brave
decision?
Came the green and gold waves of attack – repelled with ferocity and
precision
When at last the pressure eased and Tech Tahs through power and
skill got room
You could hear loud and clear – the knell of Shoalies doom
For that chance of points gone abegging foreshadowed the end
Now the Tech Tahs swept downfield, unmistakable the trend

Relentless pressure on the Shoalies was telling
And on the sidelines the supporters chests were swelling
There was the smell of blood in the air
In the tank Tech Tahs would leave nothing to spare
Harry skirts out wide, runs, bumps and in the defence – a dent
Quick recycling, the passes blaze and once more Shoalies line is bent
The try line looms close – of powerful play Shoalies receive a full dose
Ross tries a field goal but it's too wide
No matter – nothing can stop this Tech Tah tide
Once more the forwards battering ram applies the heat
Moana wants the ball, in his quest for his second try he won't be beat
Again quick passes – it looked like sleight of hand
Moana was in again – strike up the band!

Panda-bloody-monium once more – the grandstand rocked with joy
There wasn't a dry eye to be seen, Tech Tahs were on song – every
man and boy
Dapto's caretaker into the night he had fled
He couldn't face what might happen to his beloved shed
And again the old player felt fright
As once more Wayne hugged tight
Reliable, ever – steady Reece calmly potted the goal
Everyone knew Shoalhaven had hit a big hole

Manager Rick was toey and Trainer Brony too
Assisted by Julie they knew what to do
Magic water, liniment, vaseline they dispatch
All bumps, cuts, lumps, sprains they patch
With first aide, strapping they would help
Though the hits were vicious no Tech Tah would whelp
For this was the testing of the Tech Tah name
Raw courage, great skill, open rugby the game
None thought of the pain, only the gain
None his duty did shirk – every man just looked for more work

Craig and Gus could teach eagles how to soar
Each time one went up – hear the crowd roar
Rod weaved his magic – a short kick
Chase and tackle the catcher, neat trick!
Hard, fast, open rugby – joy that money can't buy
The team and the crowd could smell a try
The pressure was on for young and old
And the old player looked for a way to beat Wayne's next hold

Supporters eyes strain in the dark
The whole team lifts – its like a great shark
Intent on its prey, it will have its way
Shoalies try hard – using every trick in the book
Tech Tahs stood firm, victory was to be theirs by hook or by crook
A highball goes up, Adam backs himself and with aplomb
Takes it at pace in goal, defusing the bomb
Drifts across field – everyone's eyes are wide
Cool as a cucumber he threads the defence with his magic stride

The pressure mounted the defence was wilting, the attack kept it up
And after torrid exchanges Fatty went over, a reward most fitting – on
victory they'd sup

This time everyone knew the race had been run
Shoalies were down and although not out – Tech Tahs had won
In the grandstand every eye glazed and to the sky the cheers of triumph
raised

Chris has worked hard, time is short – on goes Valdo
Though slight he's strong and with fresh legs watch him go
Gus also has done more than his share so on goes TimeO
He's keen to get out there and strike a blow
Frogger gets the nod to replace HK
And he scoots headfirst into the fray
With Roger like guard dogs straining on the lead
Are the other reserves hoping for the call, into the action to speed
There's Bruton, Federicci, Williams and Marto
Shane, Stokes, Readie and the Rock wanting to go

They breed them tough down Nowra way
While Tech Tah confidence soared the Shoalies still had a say
Piggyback penalties brought Shoalies close to the line
But it was a lost cause – its nearly full time
They had courage and pride and wouldn't down lie
And to their credit, Shoalies managed a last gasp try

It was then at last Jim full time blew
The effort and courage to climb the mountain, Tech Tahs knew
At last for the Coach full time rings
Relief and joy to him it brings
Amid the celebrations, supporters sing, flags wave
All in salute to the Tech Tahs brave
Shoalies just stood there dismayed and shocked most profound
While Tech Tahs celebrated in a cyclone of sound
The old player looked round to give WayneO the slip
He feared for his back and what the President might rip

The Coach's wife Marlene and Rick did a jig
Grand finals provide their own intoxicant – it was that big
Ron bustled and bustled about – the moustache a-twitch
On came the painted faces and wigs, even god help me, I think a witch
Round and round they danced – flags on high
To those wooden spoon days Tech Tahs yelled goodbye
That night Tech Tahs brought a smile to Bill Ellis' ghost
They stood Premiers by a country mile and played well when it
mattered most

But spare a thought for the vanquished foe
Shoalies who fought strong, toe to toe
In the Red White and Black confetti strewn round
Lie shattered their hopes forlorn, ground down
Yet in rugby's company Mick Hayes can stand tall
He and his men valiantly give their all
But nothing could stem that Red White and Black tide
You had to hang on tight, it was a glorious ride

Back in the dressing room the players' private enclave
Tech Tahs like winning – they're grinning – soon they'll rave
But first with champagne fizzing Ross performs in the shower
Proudly proclaiming victory to the stallion and blood red flower
He recites in a bellow the Coaches words of power
Which contributed to the triumph grand
"No one leaves – hold the ground – here we stand"

At last from the field the players and supporters trekked
To the Conno, Tech Tahs triumphant – to the south, Shoalies wrecked
Back in the darkness at the ground
Listen carefully, only the ghosts of rugby make the sound
Echoing faintly, hear the cheers as they sing
With feeling **"TECH TAHS – GO YOU GOOD THINGS"**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

They said we'd never make it!

We showed them.

I think as a club in general, this is the most pleasing aspect of season 2000. I, of course, am referring to first Grade winning the Prime Cup for the first time in the club's short history. But more of that later.

For a rugby club to be successful in this day and age, you need to have more than just a good rugby side. All the elements of the club's structure need to be working together to achieve it's set goals. In this report I'll endeavour to pay tribute to all of those elements.

Firstly, I would like to start with the club's committee. A band of dedicated workers who have been working since October last year. These people form the backbone of the club and are there to set policies and to steer the club in it's chosen direction. Personally, I believe we have the best committee structure in the district. Although, in saying -this, I believe there are still some areas that we could improve on.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of them. They are: Justin Jones, John Dummett, Stephen Truman, Craig Franklin, Rick Boyle, Mark Bye, Rob Sindevski, Steve Beardsley, Leia Cosgrove, Barry Pike, Christine Bruton and Barry McVicar. Special mention must also be made of Peter O'Neill, for his input as director on the College Union board and Paul Darby, through his work on the I.D.R.U committee.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the hard working members of our Junior committee. Under Barry Pike's leadership, our juniors had another successful season. To the coaches and managers, Julie Hill and the ladies in the canteen, players and parents and - of course - supporters, you all deserve a pat on the back for your efforts.

Congratulations to Lee Martin, Ben Olsen and the under 12's for being undefeated Premiers. Also, to Andrew Todd and the under 14's for taking out their premiership.

To the players and officials who gained selection in representative sides, I say well done!

Basically, without club sponsors, it would be near impossible to run a rugby club. We are blessed at Tech Waratahs to have on board some fantastic sponsors and I thank them dearly for their continued support. They are:- The Gilmore family of Hotel Coniston, Keiraville and Gwynneville Pharmacies, Jeffrey M. Jones Solicitors, Bourbon Street Niteclub, Cyberelectric Cafe and Internet, Stoddart Metal Building Products, Kara's Smash Repairs and R.W Todd Boring and Drilling. We also thank Wollongong College Union Inc., in particular Amanda Hall and Ron Bade, for their continued support throughout the year.

To Christine Bruton, Paul and Lee Darby and Julie Hill for their efforts in organising and running of the canteen. With crowd numbers increasing this season it is a pleasure to say our canteen is by far the best in the district.

On to the coaching and training staff. To Club and first grade coach Roger Rumbel, I offer my congratulations on winning the Prime Cup in only his second season with the club. Much has been written about what Roger has brought to our club, but I believe the variation he has introduced went a long way towards our success [commando course training, guest trainers etc.]. To his manager, Rick Boyle, I also congratulate. After thirty four years with the club, I can assure you there was no prouder person standing on Dapto Showground. To Steve Tresider and John Mariand for all your efforts in second grade this season. As I have said before, 2nds is the hardest team to coach in any club but, with some of the results you achieved this season, I think 2nds will be looking at semifinals next year. To John Maughan and Melissa Petty for looking after third grade: With abundant numbers and a couple of good wins early on in the year things looked promising. To Melissa and Tony - special thanks for taking care of the jumpers after game day. To Paul and Tony - thank you for your efforts with the nineteen's this season. You can be proud of the results you achieved through the season, given many of your players were away in rep sides or playing first grade. To Wolf and Ziggy for guiding our Ladie's side into the semi-final of their competition: This season we were able to field a side for every game. For this and your dedication at training, you are to be congratulated. To Bronwyn, Ronny and Julie for your efforts on game day and training nights: It goes without saying your contributions were much appreciated by all within the club.

To all the players, in the way they represented the club both on and off the paddock, you should be congratulated. To all the players who stayed on and trained after the regular season finished, your efforts were much appreciated. To those players who gained selection in representative sides throughout the year, and to Larissa Pickalla, Letitia Harris, Moana Kinikini, Ben and Tim Olsen on their individual awards at the district presentation dinner, you are to be congratulated. To our first grade squad: We all congratulate you on your achievements this year. As I stated earlier, everybody wrote you off as serious contenders, but your dedication and self-belief showed through and you did yourselves and your club proud.

Season 2000 saw the introduction to our club of the Illawarra Dance Theatre. The ladies performed dance routines at all of our home games and quickly became crowd favourites. For this, I would like to thank Ms. Sonya Middelbosch and all the ladies. We are hoping to continue our association next season.

I, on behalf of Tech Waratahs, would like to thank N.S.W Country Rugby Union and in particular their CEO, Bryan Herd for their kind invitation to play the touring Argentine under 21's squad. It was both a great opportunity and thrill for our players to compete against an international side. I would also like to thank Neil Parsons, Gordon Hurry and Tony Cheetham for the employment opportunities they provided the club. Neil, along with Brian Baird, must also be thanked for their efforts at the judiciary. To Dave Stretton and I98fm for providing the club with publicity, we are the envy of the district. Thanks Dave.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank those people close to me for their efforts and support throughout the year. To Rick Boyle, our club manager, who is only ever a phone call away and makes my job so much easier. To Barry McVicar for his help throughout the year,

especially the week leading up to grand final. To Roger and the gang at UNSWR for keeping my playing career alive. To the Gangrenes for your involvement with the club. To Justin, my Vice President for his help and support. For Brett [Rammo] for always being there when I needed an extra pair of hands. To my family and close friends, [Peter, Sharon, Lisa, Sharyn] for their understanding in how much time rugby takes up.

In closing, I am very much looking forward to season 2001 where not only we will be aiming to retain the Prime Cup , but adding the lower grade trophies as well, therefore building the strong club we have now into the dominant force of Illawarra Rugby.

Yours in rugby

Wayne Ireland
President
Tech Waratahs Rugby Club.

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT

Rugby Review

Year two thousand has become a very special time for all those long suffering souls that never lost the faith in Tech Waratahs Rugby Club, playing or working for this day when our club is the premier club in Illawarra District Rugby Union.

Sure we have a long way to go to claim that we are the strongest club in the district but 1st grade premiers is the start that, hopefully, will now bring the rewards that the club and it's membership so rightly deserve.

As your club manager I have tried to continue the direction approved by your executive and committee members four years ago. We decided to change the structure of the club committee and also lift our efforts in attracting quality players.

This in no way was to restrict or hold back those talented players already in the club, but to assist them to gain some time and experience in playing at a higher level than they had experienced previously.

Many of you will recall the internal conflicts of changing the policy of younger players being picked in grade. Unfortunately we lost a number of very talented young players because they were influenced by so called experts.

I would like to say publicly that those players (they know who they are) that made a difficult decision at the time to stay with the club and take some very real hidings deserve a great deal of thanks.

Needless to say, the same players have all achieved a goal that was set in motion during those turbulent days and they now have a 1st grade premiership medal to show for their decision and loyalty.

Those long time playing members that carried the burden of doing the best they possibly could in very difficult circumstances in previous 1st grade teams once again deserve our recognition because we needed your dedication to allow us time to build the team we have today. Your efforts cannot be underestimated.

To all the new players in our club this season, we sincerely hope you have found a place you consider worthy of your efforts on the field, not forgetting the social aspects of what makes a good rugby club - the fun and friendship of its members.

Special mention has to be made of those players that, in a very short period of time, established themselves as 1st grade players who assisted the team in building on last season's great efforts.

New and established members that played in the 2nds, 3rds U/19,s and ladies team all helped our club to contest in all levels of Illawarra rugby, you can very proudly state you are a member of the premier club.

Apart from our ladies all other players in these grades should be striving for a I" grade position as a personal goal, because internal competition is a positive requirement for the club overall to continually improve the standard of its rugby.

We have been very fortunate with numerous club players being selected for various levels of representative duties. We, as a club, get great exposure and a reputation of having talented players in our ranks, which hopefully attracts others that may wish to play or be a member of our club. So to all those representative players - great work.

As a matter of interest, this years 1st grade team won 13 games, drew 4 and lost 2. Our other grades all had the potential to achieve greater recognition and positions in their respective tables. Admittedly we have to be disappointed with their results but, alas, there's always next year.

The ladies team deserves special mention with their dedicated coaches and players struggling to establish a strong club team and assist the district to make ladies rugby a real and competitive competition.

I can report that all coaches, managers, and strappers/trainers, fulfilled their personal commitment to the club. While supporting the principle that we are continually looking for better ways to ensure that our players get the best possible opportunity to achieve as an individual but keeping in mind the objective of the team.

We, as a club, have to expand our goal next season to ensure we keep our first grade in their winning form for back to back premierships while building on our other grades to ensure a strong flow on through the club. We aim to be club champions in 2001.

Club Review

The club has been very fortunate this season with a few hard working officials carrying the workload to administer the club.

I should say, its very easy for those few that want to criticise their efforts more often than not don't know what their talking about. Sure they have the right to raise issues, but unless they themselves are prepared to put in the same time and effort it's easy to throw stones.

Without these dedicated members that put in the time and effort consistently over a full season, week in and week out to get all the jobs completed in addition to the actual administration of your club, we in reality wouldn't have a club.

As your club manager its part of the role to deal with the not so pleasant events that arise from time to time.(which happens in any club). All I can say, is I hope I didn't lose any friends and the club didn't lose any members. Maybe you will think of me as just doing my job.

Your committee is vitally important for the long-term prospects of our club. Please consider this when all of you have an opportunity to vote for people at the annual general meeting. We need members on the committee who will be there to do the work - not just talk about it, then expect someone else to make it happen.

To counteract these negatives there has been many positives throughout the season. The gaining of a number of quality players was very pleasing, and we owe a lot to life member Barry McVicar, working behind the scene for his efforts in this regard.

The canteen was managed and controlled by Christine Bruton with the able assistance of Paul Darby and others throughout the season. The smooth running of the canteen is essential for the viability of the club, and all those that assisted - thank you.

Our club lifted the standard with a few additional items which reflected very positively on the club. The regular appearance of a home ground program, the web page and the e-mail address, thanks to efforts of Rob Sindevski.

What about our dance group, the mighty cheer squad, wearing the red, black and white of the club! They were an instant hit with their dance routines, not to mention an attraction to the eyes. I think it was a great move when I arranged for them to do their practice sessions on Tuesday nights - it assisted our training numbers greatly.

The purchase of the PA system just adds to the professional approach for the on-ground announcements. The gaining of the storage container to allow us to store all the equipment and gear elsewhere leaving the clubhouse looking neat and tidy is an improvement.

The club has been fortunate in being able to do all those things that make a difference in the way the players and teams are presented on the field each week. This year we changed the arrangements for the cleaning of the five sets of playing jumpers. This proved to be a worthwhile arrangement, we had minimum problems.

Team managers taking responsibility for the administration of their respective teams and allowing the coaches to concentrate on their role, has been a great boost in the smooth running of the teams and the necessary paperwork.

Little things do make a difference: like Shane McVicar chasing up a sponsor for the supply of electrical tape, enough for the season. Well done Shane.

Talking about tape, we are very fortunate having a supporter and sponsor in Ian Hogg, that provides the club with all the necessary strapping tape. This is provided at no cost to the players, and runs into hundreds of rolls of tape at significant cost to Ian.

Of course there are a number of sponsors that assist the club to function by their various levels of support and deserve our thanks: Jeffrey M. Jones Solicitor, Bourbon Street Nightclub, R.W. Todd Drilling & Boring, Cyberelectric Cafe, Stoddart Metal Products, and Kara Smash Repairs. Not to mention those times when we needed assistance and people like Neil Parsons and Steve Tresidder put their hand up.

Needless to say our club could not function if we didn't have a sponsor that provided the necessary money to assist the club cover the ever increasing costs in conducting the business of the club. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Gilmore Family Hotel.

At last years presentation Colin Gilmore announced the continued sponsorship of the club for five years. This was a major announcement for the club as it gave an undertaking of a level of stability for a significant percentage of the club's much needed financial requirements each year.

As a club have supported the Coniston hotel with some excellent functions and general support throughout the season but don't forget we must all continue that support and patronage in the off-season as much as we can.

What about those members and supporters that showed Illawarra rugby what a supporters group should be like at a grand final. You set a new standard of commitment to the task with organising and leadership being orchestrated by the Bat and Zlaty - fantastic job, well done.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to one member that not only does his job but more often than not takes on many other things just to get it done. I can honestly say that after many years on the club's committee we are very lucky to have such a member that works very hard in support of our club.

You just have to look at the Clubman Of The Year shield to see how this dedication has been ongoing for a number of years. Sure he and I don't necessarily always agree with either my brain explosions or his, but overall he sure does deserve our thanks. So, to President Wayne Ireland, thank you Wayne.

The club is in a great position to continue building. With the junior section of the club being run and controlled by the junior committee, they were very successful in attracting young rugby players into the game and winning both the under 12's and 14's competitions. We know its not easy - to Barry and his committee, a job well done.

To finish off this year's report I more than likely have forgotten others that deserve recognition for assisting the club with this years achievements but one that has lifted us out of the rugby backwaters is club and 1st grade coach Roger Rumbel.

I'm sure the players and supporters of Tech Waratahs will hopefully all agree with my sentiments that Roger has made a difference in taking the rugby to a new level, which the club can build on into the future. On behalf of all concerned thank you.

Rick Boyle
Club Manager

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year, I have taken over the reigns of the Treasury role from Tony Weckwerth. I would firstly like to thank Tony for his support and confidence throughout the year. Secondly I would like to say that I have enjoyed the responsibility of the position, and it is the feeling of doing something that benefits our club that makes it worthwhile for me.

Now, down to business. The club had a few outgoing this year that will benefit the club for years to come, such as equipment, PA system etc. Fortunately, through our sponsorship, fundraising and canteen, the club is still in as strong a financial position as that at the start of the season.

Junior Club

The junior club was again run separately to the senior club. It has been able to support itself through its own revenue raising. Congratulations to all involved for another successful year.

Membership Fees

The financial position of the club is strongly influenced by players paying their membership fees. This year we received almost 100% (as we should). This can be primarily attributed to the efforts of Mark Bye, who was club registrar this year. Our thanks go to Mark: we recognise all the hard work he put in this year.

Sponsorship

Thanks to all our sponsors that have supported the club this year. Our success this year should be shared by all of you. A special thanks to our major sponsor **Gilmores Hotel Coniston**.

Canteen

The canteen produced a good return again this year. Congratulations to Christine and the others that helped in the running of the canteen. There has been quite commitment made by many people on game day to operate the canteen, BBQ etc, and all involved should be acknowledged for their efforts.

General Fund Raising

A special thanks goes to those involved in organising special events such as Trivia and Karaoke nights, and the Club Ball that were fairly well supported. However, we missed opportunities to capitalise in some areas of fund raising such as game day raffles, weekly meat raffles etc. As a result, funds were down on previous years. We need more people outside the committee to put their hands up and share in the running of these things.

Finally, I would like to thank Rick Boyle and Wayne Ireland for their efforts throughout the year, The responsibilities these two take on make my task a little easier than it probably should be. Thanks to all the committee for their support this year.

Craig Franklin
Treasurer

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

What a year! Under 19s, 3rd Grade and 2nd Grade just missing out on the semi-finals, the women's team making the semis and 1st Grade going on to become the Prime Cup 2000 Premiers. We were also up there in the race for the Club Championship, so it really was a great year.

For a lot of the members of the club, the season started way back in October last year. Once a week sessions involving sprints, touch football, jogging and the pinnacle of pre-season training, the Army Obstacle Course at Holsworthy Army Barracks, which was enjoyed by all. All this effort the players and coaches put in during this period no doubt helped us during the season.

As I said at the start, on the rugby field was where we really flourished. Now that we have succeeded in winning a premiership as a club, we have to build on this for the future. We can't be one season wonders. In years gone by we have wanted to knock the top clubs off. Now, we are that top club and we just can't rest on what we did this year. We have to continue the hard work we put in as a club to continue our success. Also, we have a great number of juniors making the grade, such as Wayne Bruton and Tim Olsen and a number of players coming up from the junior club. We have to do our best to keep these players because they are the future.

Another first for our club and also the Prime Cup, was everyone's favourite half-time entertainment, the Tech Waratah Cheergirls. Every half-time at home ground games the girls were out there dancing up a storm. The crowd enjoyed it and I'm sure a few of the players had looks during half-time.

On the representative side of rugby, both Rod Petty and Ross Dummett made the Country Cockatoos squad. Kris Leha made an impact in the Illawarra squad. Ben Olsen, Chris Foye, Lee Martin, Steve Federici and Michael Vlandys were part of the Illawarra Under 21 squad that went to Coffs Harbour. Tim Olsen, Rob Allen, Matt Crimins and Wayne Bruton made the Illawarra Under 19 squad, with Tim and Matt going on to make the NSW Country Under 19 squad. Luke Darby and Mark Tarasenko were part of the NSW Country Under 18 squad.

Tech Waratahs fared pretty well in the Illawarra rugby awards. The Olsen brothers, Ben and Tim, won the Illawarra Under 21 and Under 19 Player of the Year awards respectively, while Moana Kinikini was the Prime Cup's highest try scorer. In the women's competition, Tech Waratahs had the Illawarra Women's Player of the Year, Larissa Pickalla and leading try scorer, Letitia Harris. Congratulations to all of you.

On the social side of things some entertaining nights were had. Tech Waratahs had their first annual ball, which was organised by Mel Petty. There was the annual trivia night, which was well chaired by Justin 'Eddie Maguire' Jones. The Karaoke Night saw people come as their favourite characters. Freddie Krueger, Rambo, Braveheart, The Devil and Crocodile Dundee all made an appearance. The costumes were great, but some of the singing was average. This year's trip away was to Newcastle and by all the stories told, fun was had by all.

From the players' point of view there are many people to thank, mainly the coaching and management staff. Wayne, Roger, Rick, Steve, John, Mel, Ronnie and Darbs, thanks for putting the time and effort in making this year a successful one. To our strappers, Bronwyn and Ronnie, without you guys some of us wouldn't have made it onto the ground. To the people who worked in the canteen every home game, thank you. To all the people who supported us

throughout the year, both home and away, without it we wouldn't have got where we did. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies.

One last thing, it's great that 1st Grade won a premiership, but it can't stop there. We just don't want 1st Grade being successful, we want 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade Under 19s and the women's teams to be successful as well. If we continue to put in the hard work, on and off the field, success will come to the whole club.

Have a great off-season, it starts all again in a few weeks.

Yours in rugby

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reece Bratton', written in a cursive style.

Reece Bratton
Club Captain
Tech Waratah Rugby Club

FIRST GRADE COACH REPORT

When I sat to commence this report, I thought - "what can I write?". I hate writing reports. My 1999 report was the shortest in the book, so I have to make sure that doesn't happen again. If I procrastinate, please allow me that indulgence.

In season 2000, my second year as club and first grade coach I saw the maturing of players I had identified as having the goods and they justified my faith in them. Players like **Harry Hawksworth** who went from wild man prop to composed Captain and led the team with distinction and composure. He carried out my instructions to the letter while at the same time scattering defenders like ninepins. **Adam Edmonds**, who switched from centre to hooker forward and held the middle like a rock. Newcomer and ex-Viking **Dean Gilmore**, who plays every game like it is his last, running the ball up in the tight and cutting down runaway wingers in defence. Second row **Craig Franklin**, the best second rower in Illawarra (yet to represent Illawarra). The very experienced **Kris Leha** who hits like a runaway steam train (just ask Mike Hayes-Shoalhaven). The three best loose forwards in Illawarra in **Gus Gould**, **Ben Olsen** and **Chris Foye**. Gus and Ben have both played a lot of Rep football, and deservedly so, but watch out for Chris Foye if the Rep selectors ever manage to get their heads out of their backsides. He has ball and running skills to bum and hits like a jackhammer in defence. Scrum half **Rod Petty** - what can I say. A Cockatoos rep player sure, but he played his best football in the final series and has matured in leaps and bounds as a club player. Fly half **Ross Dummett**, the General of the backline. Vice Captain, his outstanding defence often left the opposition in disarray. Inside Centre **Reece Bratton**: this boy has the fastest transfer pass in the club but still runs a mean crash ball and knows how to recycle. Outside Centre **Moana Kinikini**: we were a lucky club to get this bloke - the Tongan torpedo. His crashing runs and sheer presence on the field lifted the team and frightened opposition sides. Top try scorer in Illawarra, "what a beauty" (eh **Kris Leha**). Winger **Chris Allen**: big, strong - had the ability to stand in tackles until support arrived. Winger **Adam Sharman** - utility player who would have played prop just to be in first grade - saved his best for the grand final and wasn't he good. Fullback **Rob Allen**: fast confident and safe under the high ball, an inspiration to the team. Fullback, Scrum half, Fly half and wing, **Brad Sharman** who was overseas for the grand final. A tough, confident, skilful player who has genuine speed. I thank the Wombats for folding this grade and the two Sharman brothers for joining our club.

I had eleven reserves on the bench for the Grand Final, every one of them capable of delivering the goods at First grade standard if needed.

Lee Martin, an inside back utility of exceptional skills. Michael Vlandys, a winger with speed and skill. Wayne Bruton, utility back - skilful and confident. Tim Olsen a classical No 8 - big, tough and skilful. Mark O'Shea (The Rock) a prop, tough experienced (almost as old as the coach). Steve Federicci, a young prop still learning the trade - tough and easy to coach. Adrian Williams second row - big, experienced and a great clubman. Nigel Stokes, a loose forward, plagued by injury but an excellent loose forward. His best is yet to come. Daniel Reid, a hooker who dabbled with the centres in thirds from time to time but refused to carry a comb in his sock. Tough and dedicated, with a great line out throw. Shane McVicar, utility forward - tough and experienced (almost as old as the Rock).

My three-year plan when joining the club in 1999 was to make the grand final in 2001. Due to the outstanding efforts of all the players who have played first grade in 1999 and 2000 this has been achieved one season earlier. While winning the grand final is a great achievement, defending it back to back is even harder.

I take the opportunity now to thank some people.

Firstly, Wayne Ireland, Rick Boyle, Ron Wessells and others who were great sounding boards for some of my unconventional decisions in play and selections. While they - at times - disagreed with me, when I made a decision they supported me to the hilt. My coaching staff: Steve Tressider, John Maughan and Paul Darby, your support of me was without question and I appreciated that. Junior coaches like Ben Olsen, Lee Martin and Andrew Todd to mention only some, the outstanding work you do with juniors now will be measured in the future. Without very good junior coaches, as you all are, the grade sides would be nothing.

The supporters through the final series was nothing short of fantastic. BAT and ZLAT take a bow. Ben Olsen could not make himself heard for lineout calls in the grand final and had to tell all individually. Lastly my family who **all** attended the finals series and shouted themselves hoarse, eagerly led by my enthusiastic wife Marlene.

This is a great club and made me very proud and humble to be a member.

Congratulations to all players selected for representative duties during the season and in the summer train on squad.

Highlights of the season were :

- 1 . Beating Bowral at their home in the second round (They tell me for the first time in over three years).
2. Playing the touring Argentine under 21 side (Junior Pumas) on our home ground. (Two tries to pocket size LOMU, winger Nathan Williams).
3. Winning the Prime Cup in the grand final above all.

A great many people have asked me what I said to the team on grand final day. Among other things, I read to them a set of Military orders from World War One and I attach a copy of those orders for all to read.

Roger RUMBEL

WRITTEN ORDERS TO NO.1 SECTION 3RD MACHINE GUN COMPANY
BY LIEUTENANT F.P.BETHUNE
WHEN FACED WITH THE DEFENCE OF A DIFFICULT POSITION
AT MESSINES, BELGIUM MARCH, 1918.

1. THE SECTION WILL BE HELD AND THE SECTION WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL RELIEVED.
2. THE ENEMY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THIS PROGRAMME.
3. IF THE SECTION CANNOT REMAIN HERE ALIVE, IT WILL REMAIN HERE DEAD, BUT IN ANY CASE IT WILL REMAIN HERE.
4. SHOULD ANY MAN, THROUGH SHELL SHOCK OR OTHER CAUSE, ATTEMPT TO SURRENDER, HE WILL REMAIN HERE DEAD.
5. SHOULD ALL THE GUNS BE BLOWN OUT, THE SECTION WILL USE MILLS GRENADES AND OTHER NOVELTIES.
6. FINALLY, THE POSITION, AS STATED, WILL BE HELD.

1st GRADE MANAGERS REPORT

"What a Beauty"

In last years report I stated the 1st grade team and the bench players deserved a pat on the back and a shake of their hand for their continued efforts in 1999.

This statement confirms the dedication required not only for this years season but all those previous building years when it wasn't that much fun playing 1st grade for our club.

We have just completed the most successful 1st grade competition in Illawarra District Rugby Union according to those in the know because of the style and the way our team performed throughout the season.

This 1st grade squad slowly but surely gelled into a team of rugby players, with the additional appreciation of each others individuality which during the season has improved the ability to overcome set backs both on and off the field.

I have to say that coach Roger and I discussed individual talents of players on many occasions throughout the season: their dedication or efforts were never in question.

From our point of view, the concern and skill was bringing these individuals together to appreciate each other's abilities and to form a cohesive and successful team.

The winning of the grand-final proved that our players had the talent, with the coach and manager having the insight and, on occasion, the reality of selection to bring them together for the team to progress.

We were fortunate to gain a few players this year that added to our already talented squad but over the distance proved a significant difference in our ability to win the harder games.

As the manager of the team I see the good, the bad and the ugly of most players as, of course, they see in me. This year was - for the most part - a great way to spend a Saturday, enjoying the highs and lows of a team that wanted to play and win.

Each player that played in first grade this season added to the overall building of the team. We tried to make everyone involved feel part of a squad, because we all know it takes a lot more than fifteen players to get through the competition in a position that would eventually allow us to win the 1st grade premiership.

As a matter of interest we had thirty-two players run on or as replacement players during the competition. The grand final squad of twenty-seven players all trained and worked together to achieve Tech Waratahs first 1st grade premiership.

The influence of our strappers/trainers looking after the players cannot be stressed enough with Bronwyn then Ron and Julie providing the much needed strapping or massage which was much appreciated and proved to be an essential part of the overall preparation of the team.

Personally I take great pride in being associated with this year's team because I know how much the club administrators and all those players over many years have played or worked to achieve this recognition as the premier club.

The working relationship with coach Roger (the boss) has been enjoyable and we seem to be able to complement each other's style with me being a critic/optimist and Roger being the silent /self controlled type. As I rant and rave he tells me to slow down.

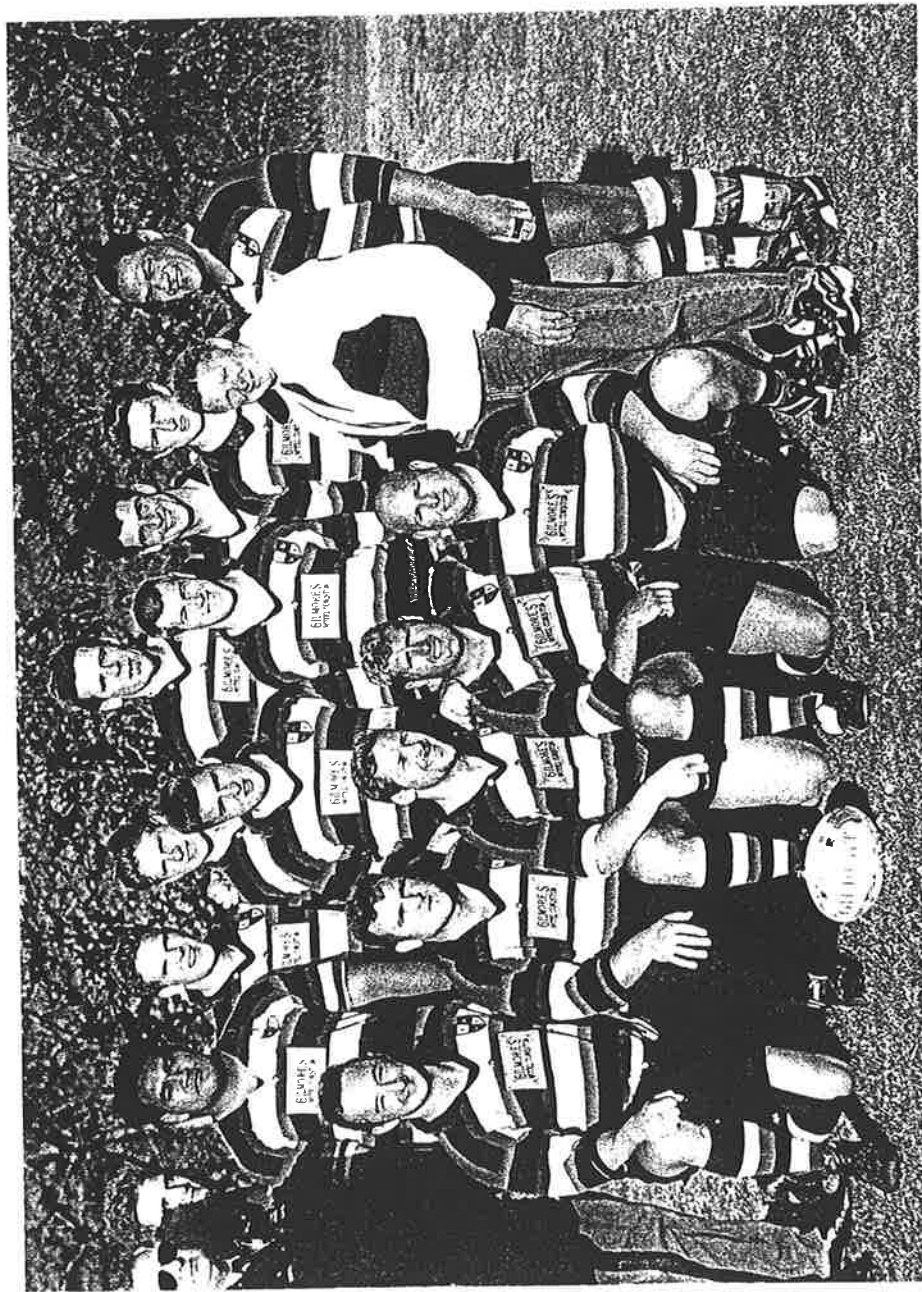
I have stated previously that if this team stays together they will be a force in Illawarra Rugby for years to come. We hope that the players consider this years achievement the start of a long and powerful rugby force that will take the team to an unprecedented level.

Thanks must also go to the other grades, coaches and players that fulfilled the clubs commitment of players to contest the other teams. It is vitally important that the playing numbers are sufficient to allow 1st grade to have a player base that concentrates on one game each Saturday - not like previous seasons when players were asked to play two possibly three games just to have teams on the paddock.

Lastly, it would be remiss of me if I didn't thank all those players that decided to go for a quiet celebration on our winning Saturday, Sunday and no undies Monday. This bonding session sure did bring us all closer to what it means in having a common purpose. I for one sincerely hope it is only one of many celebrations to come.

Rick Boyle
1st Grade Manager
Premiers 2000

First Grade, 2000 - Premiers



Back Row: Roger Rumbel (Coach), Chris Allen, Moana Kinikini, Robbie Allen, Chris Foye, Ross Dummett, Craig Franklin, Rod Petty, Phil Gould, Ben Olsen, Rick Boyle (Manager), Kris Leha.

Front Row: Adam Sharman, Reece Bratton, Adam Edmonds, Dean Gilroy, Harry Hawksworth ©

Absent: Brad Sharman

SECOND GRADE REPORT

First of all I would like to thank John Marland and wife Bridget for keeping all the statistics and also for looking after the jerseys.

Thanks to Bronwyn and Ronnie for keeping the team on the paddock.

The coaching staff:

Roger "super-coach" Rumble

John "if-only-I-had-a-back-line" Maughan

Mr Paul Darby - the most respected man in rugby. (even his sons call him MR Darby!)

Wayne and his executive committee for making it easier for us to coach by taking care of all the administrative work off the field.

To anyone who pulled on a red, black and white jersey this year, for without the players we would not have had such a successful year.

We started the season off with 3 goals

1. To win more games than last year
2. To win more games in the second round than in the first
3. To play in the finals

We achieved 2 out of 3 goals which was a great achievement, and a milestone for next year.

It would be very hard to pick out one or two high achievers in second grade, as all of the players reached a higher standard of football throughout the year, which was a spin-off to players playing first grade and being reserves for the first grade - the year 2000 premiers.

Second grade is hard to play because everyone wants to be in first grade, but only 15 can. To have a successful first grade team you need to have good quality players in the lower grades with the ability and the will to win -and push for first 15 spot - which we have shown we have.

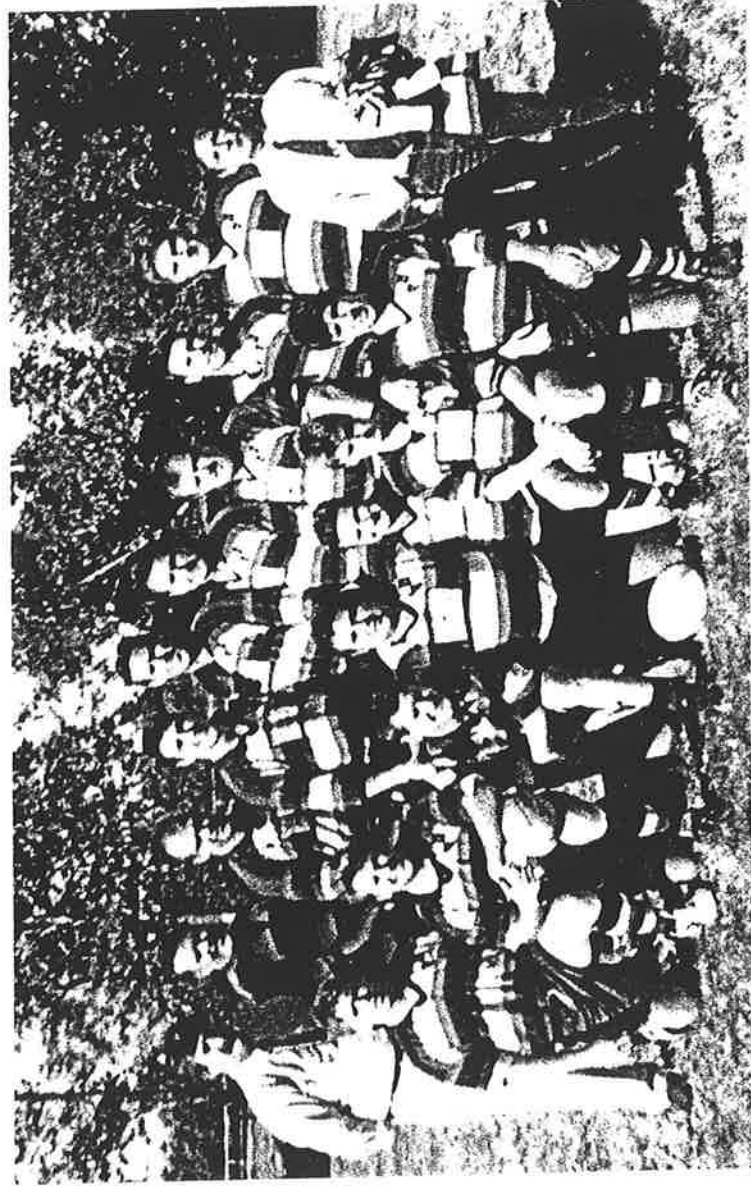
Well done everyone!

In conclusion, I would like to thank Nigel Darby and Mark Bye for captaining the side throughout the year and each week going out and leading by example.

Hoping for an even more successful season in 2001.

Steve Tresider
2nd GRADE COACH

Second Grade, 2000



Back Row: Steve Tresidder (Coach), Mick Merrick, Mark Bye, Nigel Stokes, Adrian Williams, Shane McVicar, Mark O'Shea,
Adam Anderson, Chris Allen, John Marland (Manager).

Front Row: Lee Martin, Nigel Darby, Paul Davis, Steve Federici, Corey Stamp, Michael Vlandys, Cameron Peace.

3rd GRADE COACH'S REPORT

The mighty 3rd's ... what can I say?

We started the season like we finished last year. A few early wins and the season looked like it might come to something. But alas, injuries in our own team and injuries and form in the higher grades forced replacements, and the early cohesion fell apart and the scoreboard suffered.

Again, as with last year, we had great numbers and I'm sure they will continue for the upcoming 2001 season. Commitment throughout was great. This showed with the numbers every week at training and when we travelled.

The forward pack we had this year was awesome and it gave great confidence to the rest of the team (and staff), in the knowledge that on the sideline, we still had another front row, second row and back row to call on! Special thanks all the guys who put their head into the scrums this year; even that hamstring pulling nancy in the No. 20!

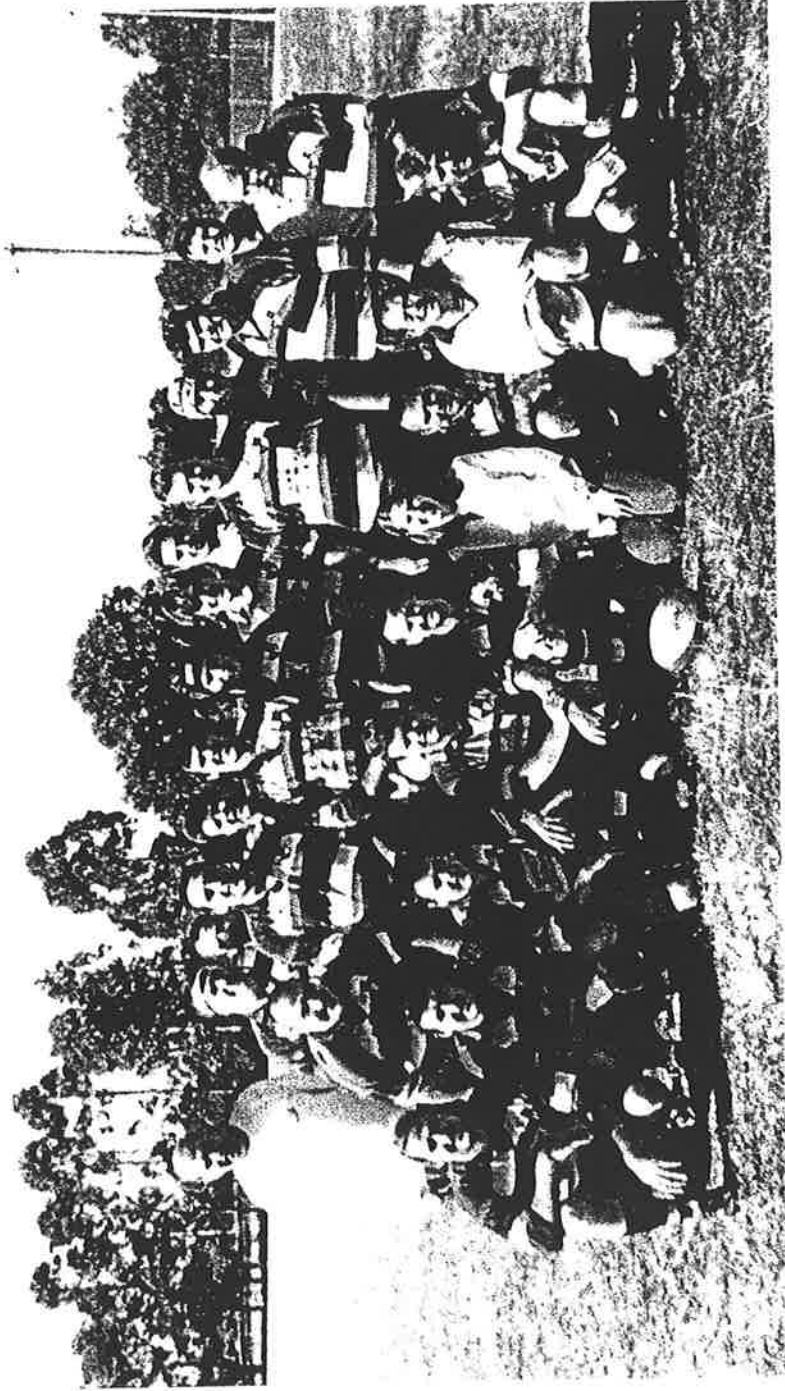
The main areas where we suffered each week, and especially at the end of the season, were having a regular back line. Many thanks go to the guys who were there week in and week out and played in almost every position out there. Special thanks to Bernie, Poops and Truey, though your positions could be under threat by Bat and Slatty. It's a pity we didn't get to hang on to Corey and Simon for the whole season. Both these guys were first timers and have showed great potential (and speed).

One final note, that comes from the heart. Thanks Mel! Your effort shown, and your ability to co-ordinate both the team, and myself is very much appreciated. Best wishes for you (and Tony) and we hope to see you next year.

Thanks and see you all in 2001.

John Maughan and Melissa Petty

Third Grade, 2000



Back Row: Neil Parsons, Zlatko Manovski, Stuart Pearson, Will Madden, Vasco Stojanovski, Richie McLean, Nick Ryder, Ben Weckwerth,
Dave Behr, Tim Long, Glen Robertson, Wayne Cooney, Tony Gorgijovski, Les Porter, Ron Wessel.

Front Row: Bernie Wett, Justin Jones, Simon Anderson, Daniel Read, John Maughan ©, Melissa Petty (Manager), Scott Brennan, Adam Mayberry,
Andrew Gordon.

UNDER 19's REPORT. 2000

Ah yes...the under nineteens. Well season 2000 was the year that could have been. We started with good numbers and a lot of enthusiasm that soon grew into great numbers and a lot more enthusiasm. The wins began to appear and the team began to gel. Even training was fairly well attended BUT...as usual with either under seventeens or under nineteens the numbers at training began to dwindle and the games became harder to win. There was of course those in the squad who attended almost every session and I will make more mention of those later.

Throughout the whole season we were always in the race for the semis. But for a few 'very ordinary' games....well who knows. The positives that must be taken from our season, (and we should always find positives in every result), is the enormous amount of young talent progressing through our ranks. Indeed there were those who were plucked from our ranks and placed in the first grade squad (Robbie and Tim). This of course had a major effect on our team, but we as a squad were always very proud to see those individuals make the top team, even if we did comment among ourselves that they had been 'dropped' to firsts. After all, that's what it's all about.

To the guys....what a bloody fantastic group of young blokes. Every year as I take on the challenge of coaching a young team, I always end up having such a great time. This year was exceptional. A mix of very talented and not so talented but very committed players was always going to be fun. Anyway, I could go on and on as I usually do but not this time. There are a few special thanks and a bit of praise I have to get on with.

Firstly to two people who did so much work behind the scenes. Bronwyn, you're a bloody legend. I know that sounds really blokey but your efforts this season with our team were second to none. Everyone knows that nineteens take more strapping than all the other teams put together and Bron just kept them together week in week out. Usually about 3 minutes before kick off. And as for holding me together for those Gangrene games, well that was a work of art! Then there's Wecky my Manager, mate and stats man extraordinaire, I wonder how many under nineteen coaches this season had lineout, scrum and possession stats available going into the half time break. Wecky worked tirelessly this season both for the team and in the consumption of the amber fluid, we make a great team Wecky, one I hope carries on, thanks mate.

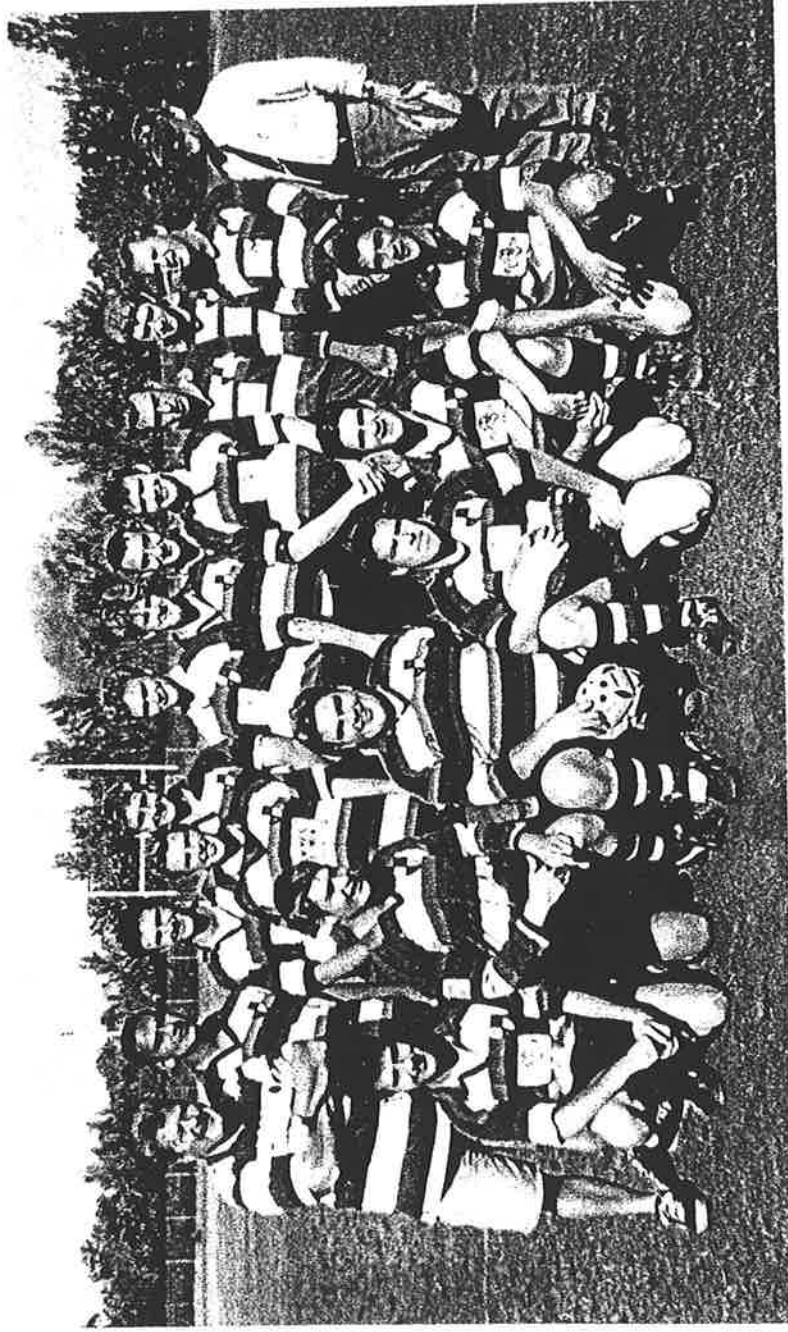
Now to the players. Presentation night will reward those exceptional players with well deserved trophies. Some will be disappointed, some will be surprised. I would like to list every player by name and describe each ones special abilities, however, time and space restricts me. So, to a few I feel I must make mention. Matt Crimmins, Thanks mate for being an excellent captain, a consistent and dedicated player (one of those who was always at training) and a great guy, you made my job a lot easier and some of those heart felt half time speeches were legendary. To the whole front row, including Turtle and Derrick. And to the rest of the engine room, the second rowers, everyone in this group gave everything they had all the time. They set the platform and very, very rarely were pushed back. Always remember guys, even through life's challenges that "first scrum". The loosies, well, the best in the comp. We'll see more of them as the years go on, I hope, James, give the Charles away, it's bad for your health.

Quickly running out of room so here we go. To all the backs, especially the hit men Simon (oh no my shoulders out again) Twedie, and Jerry (where's my teeth) Miller, thanks for the ups, downs, laughs and grey hairs that backs always seem to provide. There is a wealth of talent out there, don't waste it. A last couple of specials. To Daniel Glenn, thanks for the enormous effort you put in all season, one of the players who very rarely came off the paddock and always, always gave 100%. Keep going Dan, your not far away. To Wayne (who am I taking out tonight) Bruton , put into Fly Half early in the season which really meant playing out of position for the year, thanks for giving it everything, especially for doing the things I suggested even though you didn't necessarily agree with it. You've had a taste of the big time, get there. Last but by no means least, to the Bonecrusher, Bones, Mouse or whatever else you want to call him. If your body was as big as your heart you'd be the biggest player on the paddock. Quite often picking off the big fellas who had come crushing through the pack and more often arguing with the Refs. I've heard rumours of you having a season off....don't do it, in a couple of seasons there won't be a scrum half in the district that will come near you.

Well that's it for another season. If I have left anyone out (and I probably have) I sincerely apologise, but as usually happens when writing these reports, emotions tend to take over and cloud the brain. To my old mates in the club, Wayne, Rammo and especially the Old Fart, I thank you for your support once again. To the Tech Waratah Rugby Club....**GO YOU GOOD THINGS !!**

Paul Darby. Coach Under Nineteens, 2000.

Under 19, 2000



Back Row: Paul Darby (Coach), James Lutui, Rob Andonovski, Luke Darby, Daniel Glen, Simon Tweedie, Stuart Wilkins, Tom The Pom,
Daniel Houweling, Frank Dietrich, Tim Olsen, Jeremy Miller, Tony Weckwerth (Manager)
Front Row: Ben Caldwell, Luke Vlandys, Paul Devitt, Matt Crimmins Tim Ryder, Wayne Bruton.

WOMEN'S RUGBY REPORT

A mixed season was had by our girls. We started off with an exciting loss (if there is such a thing) to Uni, which showed that the girls could really play rugby and that Zyg and I had some real good cattle to work with. Early season form was very good, with Heidi and Mel showing the girls how to get stuck in and that the heavy defeats of last year were a thing of the past.

Every game, except one that need not be mentioned, the girls showed tremendous heart and improvement. The next statement might cause some discussion, but I honestly believe that the Women's side would beat both the 2nd and 3rd grade sides if ability was the sole determining factor and also give the 19s a run for their money.

The team had a decidedly multi national appearance, with girls from Canada, America and New Zealand playing. Unfortunately we lost our American girls half way through the season, as their studies were finished. We also lost Jenny to a serious knee injury and we hope she will be back next year. Thankfully, this was our only serious injury throughout the year.

I would like to thank Leia for her efforts during the year, along with Becky, Rebecca, Larissa, Alyssa and Donna, who made training a pleasure by their willingness to learn from two old hardheads. It really was a pity that more girls did not attend training on a regular basis, because I'm sure that we would also have held the Premiership trophy aloft with a better attitude towards training.

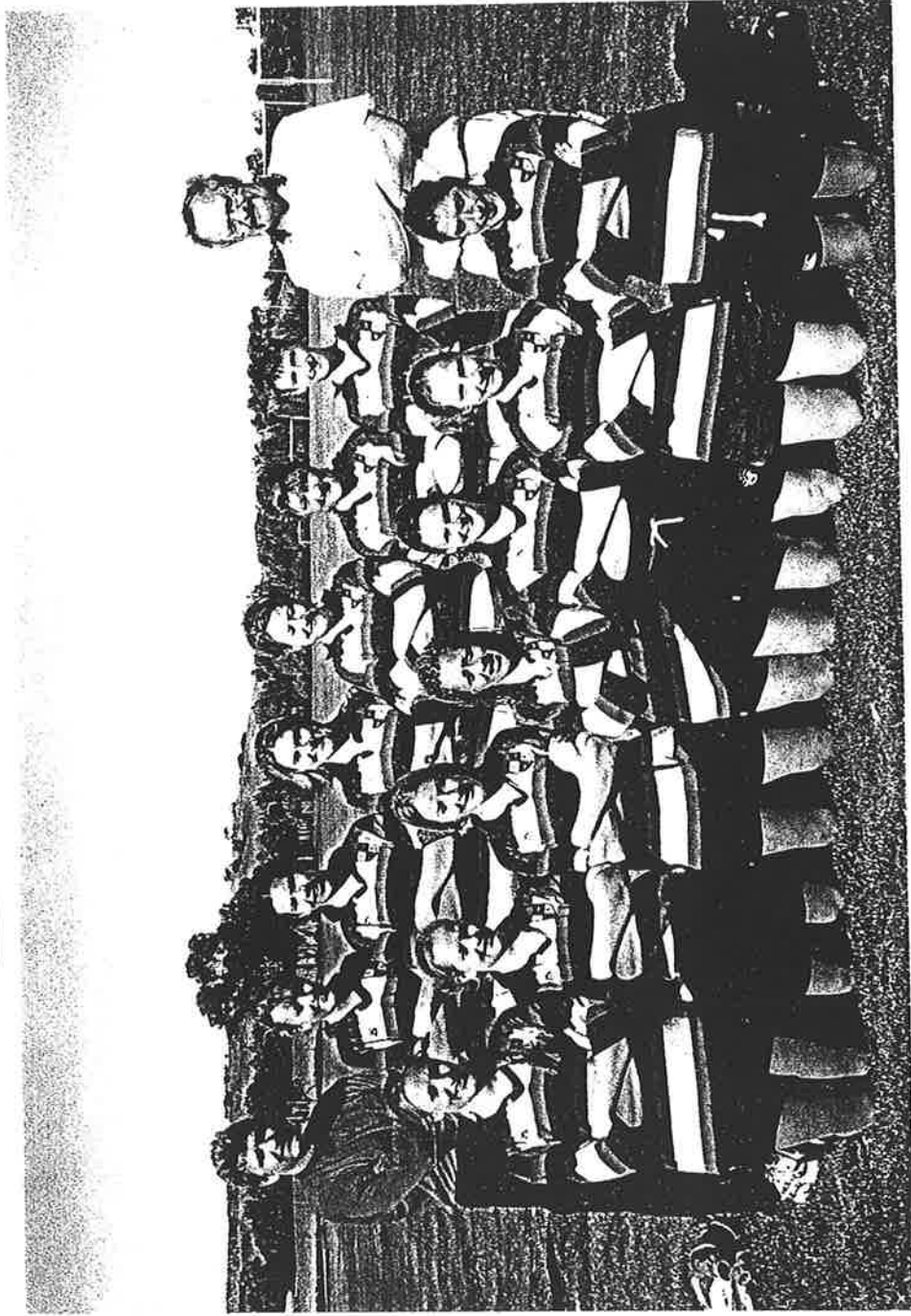
Coaching a women's team raised a few strange problems. Firstly, a groin injury took on a whole new meaning, while in one game a bruised breast caused a lot of mirth to all, except to the unfortunate player. We were also challenged to a "boat race" after one particular game and, after having to explain the complexity of the race, we easily won the race. I would suggest that Leia be drafted into any "boat race" the men have, as there would not be many who could beat her. Well done.

Congratulations to Larissa on being voted Illawarra player of the year and Letitia on being the leading try scorer. These two players played extremely well all year and along with Rebecca, Alyssa, Heidi, Jenny, Becky, Leia and Donna, should all represent Illawarra next year, with at least four of them having a good chance of being chosen in the NSW Country side. I wish all the girls well for whatever they choose to do in the future and hopefully the Women's competition will develop next year with possibly five or six teams competing. Also thanks to Rod and Steve for refereeing during the year.

Most of all I would like to thank Zyg for his contribution during the season. A season which started with neither of us knowing what to expect, but turned out to be a season full of surprises and enjoyment in coaching a group of rugby players who wanted to learn how to play rugby.

Thanks for the effort. Wolf & Zyg.

Women's Grade, 2000



Back Row: Zyg Skora (Coach), Becky Coen, Larissa Pickalla, Jenny Edler, Letitia Harris, Hayley Lashbrook, Belinda MacKay, Wolfgang Coen (Coach).

Front Row: Alyssa Wilson, Donna Liggins, Rebecca Furyk, Melanie Povey, Heidi Hanlon, Leia Cosgrave, Michelle Clapham.

The 3 Things I Remember to Hate....

Once upon a time I finished High School, then University and then some people made me work for a few years, but to this day the hardest thing I've ever had to do was to report on a Trip Away. How can one report on something when one of our Golden Rules (and there's not many) is "What goes on tour, stays on tour". It's like trying to remember the last 7 things that you hate about somebody at 4am on a Sunday morning in McDonalds.

When I first volunteered to write something about the Trip Away, I thought of all of the material that was available. Wouldn't it be great to tell the tales of 22 rugby players that had spent all their days since last November training for such a weekend? I thought it would be great to talk about drinking from 1pm on a Friday right through to 4am on the Saturday only to start again at 10am on the Saturday. But then I thought to myself, "how can I protect the identity of people who do things like knock the back window out the minibus while on the way to Newcastle". My whole week has been consumed about protecting the identity of people within stories like this or then one that saw a young gentleman unable to relieve himself due to a severe case of stage fright, only to redeem himself by part-taking in 4 consecutive beer bongs (not a feat to be laughed at by the uninitiated).

I thought to myself, should I do the report in a time line, so as not to miss events such as people leaving the crowd early so as to go to sleep and relieve themselves (in that order), and then so as not to miss the moment of them becoming ill once again on the mere taste of water. This may then missed the resulting ingenuity of people to get cushions from the hallway and design their own sleeping arrangements due to the undeniable stench that may or may not have existed. This type of reporting style would also not suffice to report on the antics of those who performed incredible one off feats of staying awake for a notable change.

Another option was to present the report like a player profile. Such a report would be good to describe those people who enjoyed the blackjack at the Worker's Club just a bit too much to be healthy or those people who 'apparently' liked to get around the motel rather nude on a rather regular basis. For others such a report might lead to the revelation of the new Rocky Balboa. It may even lead to classic quotes like "Do you know the ten things I hate about you?" only to get that frustrated to stop after number 3, and then take on Ronald's door.

By doing a player profile though, how would it be possible to attribute team efforts like eating 10 pizzas in one sitting, in one establishment? And how would pinching a petite female backside in front of her male companion be explained, if required. Would it be fair to reveal the individual identities of those who were the first into Fanny's (a nightclub for you dirty minded readers) and then the last to leave, or the names of those who enjoyed the Duck's Nuts before dawn? But why should those of us who frequented the Nuts be those with the accolades for seeing dawn, when most were able to give it a crack at some stage.

Some of the touring party should be commended for their search of culture. Most people tried varied diets. Never has Newcastle had such a variety of junk food consumed. Others

did their best to sample as many bands as possible in a single day, while the remainder searched the pubs of the area until free pool could be found. This is the beauty of a trip away, there is always something for everyone.

It should be mentioned that not one complaint from the management of the motel was furnished by a single member of the touring party. I'm not sure whether this was due to the staff being not used to the male form moving between rooms in minimal clothing, the distance from the front desk or the great range of uses that a bed sheet can be adapted to. Whatever the reason, every member of the tour party would be able to recommend the accommodation. One request though, please do not request rooms 8 to 14, the stories those rooms could tell would kill my report.

Despite the original rule of no names, two people do require mention in particular. Firstly, to H – "Thanks for Driving!!!!!" Sometimes a thankless task, however not the case ever from a Tech-a-Tah. Secondly, and maybe most importantly, to Zlatko. As always, a great effort in organizing such a trip. Not only do the boys from the trip thank you, but so do their partners and families. Incidentally, Wollongong police thank you for making them not responsible.

Lastly a message for those who were unfortunate not to be there. If you are a girlfriend, wife, partner or family member and have heard a rumour about your loved one, please remember that there were 22 of us on the trip and the laws of averages is that it wasn't *your* loved one that did it, it was someone else's.

The Reluctant Reporter.

PS. There is a little whisper circulating that next year, Tech-Tahs should set our sights to somewhere like Adelaide. And for a new twist, apparently it has been suggested that for a trip with a difference, it is arranged so that partners are a feature attraction.

2000 GAMES TALLY

Name	Previous Games	1st Grade 2000	2nd Grade 2000	3rd Grade 2000	U/19s 2000	Total for 2000	Total Games
Chris Allen	0	12	10	1		23	23
Robbie Allen	18	17			3	20	38
Adam Anderson	14	1	14			15	29
Simon Anderson	0		3	8		11	11
Rob Andonovski	0				10	10	10
Thomas Armstrong	0				2	2	2
David Behr	58			8		8	66
Phil Bernie	0				4	4	4
Reece Bratton	11	20	1			21	32
Scott Brennan	0			8		8	8
John Briguglio	0		1	2		3	3
Mark Brown	14					0	14
Wayne Bruton	34	1	10		15	26	60
Chris Bryant	2					0	2
Scott Burgess	0				4	4	4
Mark Bye	47	2	13			15	62
Ben Caldwell	0				15	15	15
Paul Carrigan	23					0	23
Daniel Cheetham	0			3		3	3
Wayne Cooney	0		4	10		14	14
Ben Coughlin	0			2		2	2
Adam Crandell	9					0	9
Jason Crimmins	89		4	3		7	96
Matthew Crimmins	37		1		15	16	53
Ben Darby	5					0	5
Luke Darby	27				13	13	40
Nigel Darby	59		15			15	74
Paul Darby	188					0	188
Paul Davis	180	11	8			19	199
Peter Delaney	54					0	54
Josh DenDulk	0				5	5	5
Paul Devitt	0			1	16	17	17
Frank Dietrich	30				14	14	44
Ross Dummett	17	16				16	33
Adam Edmonds	72	14	6			20	92
Peter Ernst	22					0	22
Kristian Evans	15					0	15
Steve Federici	17	7	14			21	38
Greg Fickers	0				2	2	2
Rob Fisher	0				2	2	2
Chris Foye	50	17	1			18	68
Craig Franklin	43	21				21	64
Brad Gallagher	0			1		1	1
Damon Garde	23				12	12	35
Damian George	41			2		2	43
Dean Gilroy	0	19	1			20	20
Daniel Glenn	0				15	15	15
Tony Gorgijovski	17		2	13		15	32
Phil Gould	88	13	11	2		26	114

2000 GAMES TALLY

Name	Previous Games	1st Grade 2000	2nd Grade 2000	3rd Grade 2000	U/19s 2000	Total for 2000	Total Games
Paul Graham	13				4	4	17
Harry Hawksworth	36	21				21	57
Daniel Hay	11					0	11
Stephen Head	0	8	4	2		14	14
Peter Henderson	0			1		1	1
Daniel Hodge	29					0	29
Luke Holloway	3					0	3
Rod Horan	3					0	3
Daniel Houweling	0				12	12	12
Gordon Hurry	11					0	11
Wayne Ireland	109					0	109
Shane Jackson	29					0	29
Mark Johnston	8					0	8
Justin Jones	165			6		6	171
Moana Kinikini	0	19				19	19
Jason Lammers	0			6		6	6
Colin Langlo	8			7		7	15
Kristian Leha	0	20				20	20
Tim Long	0		1	5		6	6
James Lutui	0		6	1	15	22	22
Will Madden	110		1	4		5	115
Zlatko Manovski	115		2	6		8	123
Simon Marland	176					0	176
Lee Martin	85	16	7			23	108
Khaled Matar	157	5	2	1		8	165
Steve Matteson	35			4		4	39
John Maughan	236			11		11	247
Adam Mayberry	56			4		4	60
Luke Mayberry	79					0	79
Greg McAndrew	21	1	9	1		11	32
Alec McCall	0		1	2		3	3
Andrew McCall	22					0	22
Michael McGeorge	14					0	14
Richard McLean	57			16		16	73
Shane McVicar	106	2	5	6		13	119
Mick Merrick	33			7		7	40
Jeremy Miller	0				14	14	14
John Miller	12					0	12
Damien Mitchell	2					0	2
Stuart Montgomerie	7					0	7
Sasha Nesor	0		3	5		8	8
Tim Nicholls	10			3		3	13
Mitch O'Dwyer	24					0	24
Mark O'Shea	50	2	9	3		14	64
Cameron Ogden	91					0	91
Ben Olsen	91	21				21	112
Tim Olsen	38	12			9	21	59
Darryl Parrish	56					0	56
Neil Parsons	7					0	7
Cameron Peace	44		8	6		14	58
Stuie Pearson	92		2	13		15	107

AWARD WINNERS, 2000

Women's Most Improved...

Women's Best & Fairest...

U19 Most Improved...

U 19 Best & Fairest... ✓

3rd Grade Most Improved...

3rd Grade Best & Fairest... ✓

2nd Grade Most Improved...

2nd Grade Best & Fairest... ✓

1st Grade Best Back...

1st Grade Best Forward...

1st Grade Best & Fairest...

Best Trainer... ✓

Most Improved Player...

Most Consistent Player...

Most Outstanding Prospect... ✓

Try Scorer of the Year...

Points Scorer of the Year...

Crooky of the Year... REISO.

Stirrer of the Year... JINNIE

Rick Boyle Trophy...

Clubperson of the Year... ✓

100 Game Awards 2000 - Phil Gould
Lee Martin
Ben Olsen
Stuart Pearson
Adrian Williams

100/200

