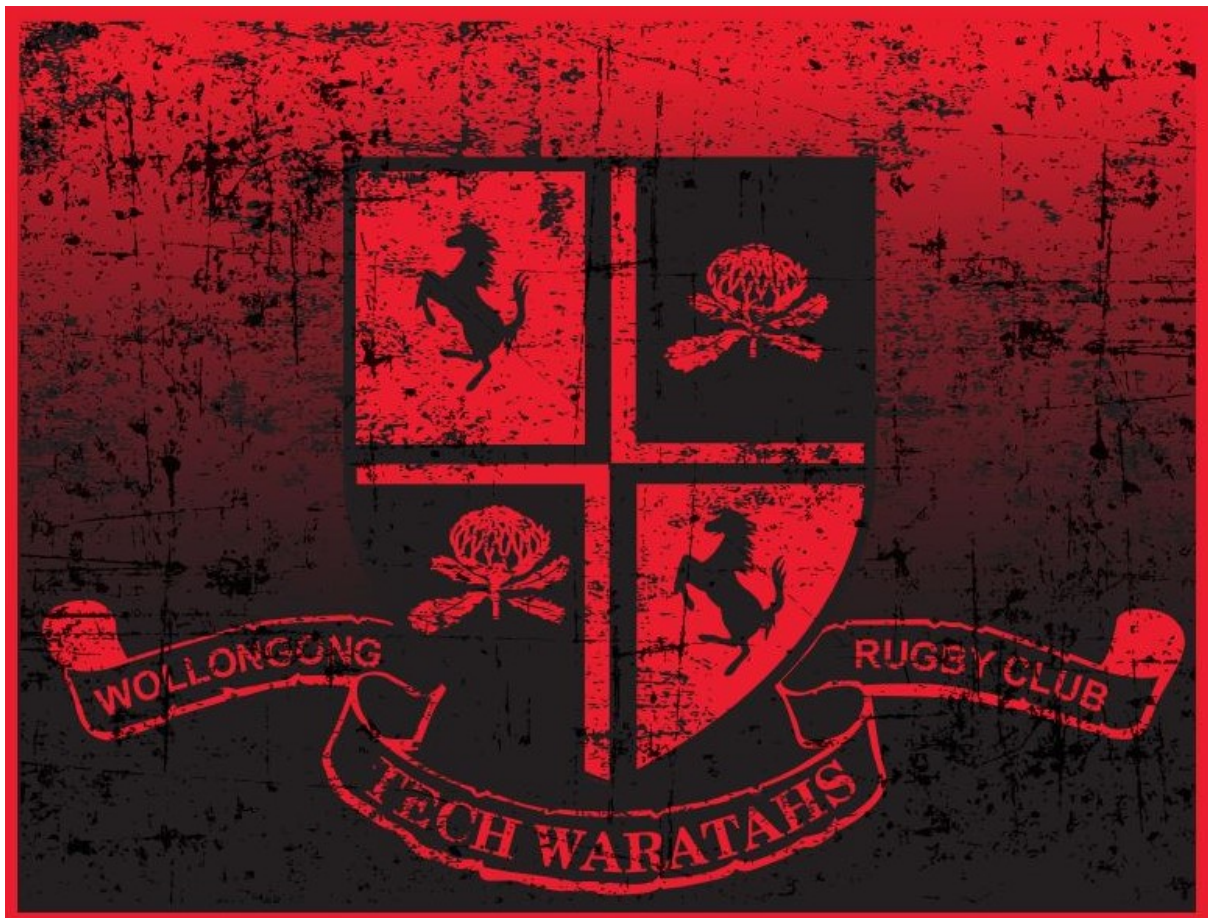


Wollongong Tech Waratahs Rugby Club



YEARBOOK 2019

Life Members

Brian Baird

Wayne Boardman

Richard Boyle

Bruce Carr

Tony Cheetham

Graeme Collinson-Smith

Paul Darby

Craig Franklin

Gary Graham

Mark Hotchis

Frank Isaac

Wayne Ireland

Graeme Kohler

Brian Leo

Barry McVicar

Shane McVicar

Don Muir

Timothy Olsen

Jim Pettit

Lew Pogson (Dec.)

Cyril Saunders (Dec.)

Don Shaw

Ean Torpy

Geoff Wells

Ron Wessel

Mick Wilkins

Sponsors

North Wollongong Hotel

Multi Civil and Rail Service

TLE

IMB Bank – Dapto

Austrain Academy

Alexandar Michaels Menswear

Crown West Cellars Bottle-O

Friends Pizza Figtree

Gwynneville Bakery

ILS

Johnston Legal

K & D Tully Electrical Contractors Pty Ltd

Keiraville Butchery

Modern Dry Cleaners

Vals4AI

President's Report

Players, sponsors and guests,

It has been my pleasure and great honour to be President of our club this season.

We as a Club competed in three grades every round, with all the logistics that brought to players, officials and supporters.

Highlights of the season was the back to back-to-back wins to Firsts and Thirds. Seconds never gave up and were great support to the other grades. We are a three grade Club in every aspect.

Third Grade represented the Club in the finals coming a very commendable third in a tight competition. They had their chances in the semi against a full bench Camden outfit but did not succeed on the day. They went out scoring in the second half but Camden always were ahead on the day.

I want to thank everyone who made my position as President so enjoyable and I would encourage any players to join the executive committee for season 2020.

Yours in Tech Tah Rugby

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Gregory', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Gregory

Treasurer's Report

It is stating the obvious but it still needs to be said, Tech Waratahs Life Member, Craig Franklin wears BIG shoes...whether on the footy field as the Big Unit, as an IMB Manager or as a long time Club Treasurer, so stepping into his Treasurer shoes was no easy task! All I can say is that, just like all our players, coaches and team managers, I did my best!!

One much needed financial innovation that I was able to introduce this year (and thank you to Jessica Knight for helping me get it up and running) was the "Square." Finally, now one doesn't need cash, just tap...it's that easy. And it's portable, so can be taken anywhere. I can report that it's been a hit at the Canteen, Training nights and the Meat Raffle! In fact it's so handy the Club now has two!!

I was ably assisted in my Treasurer duties by the Club Committee but especially by the Club Secretary, James Letham and also by the legendary Life Member, Wayne Ireland. Both these Tech Waratah stalwarts bleed red, white and black blood! And both these gentlemen will do almost anything to help the club.

I can report that this year the Club was able to remain solvent throughout the year and even achieved this without having to resort to tapping into the Club's term deposit funds. It was a near thing though! Central to this financial stability was the weekly North Gong Meat Raffle. So, a big thank you, to Toby and the gang at the North Gong but a **HUGE** thank you and well done to the teams who keep the Raffle going week after week after week...team members know who you are and there may not be a lot of you, but you've kept the Raffle going and saved the Club's finances. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that without your dedication the Club would be really struggling to be financially viable!

Then there was Multi Civil and Rail Service, TLE and IMB Bank. Each a Major Sponsor for many years. Thank you.

Of course, this in no way downplays the importance of our other Sponsors. I think it is fair to say that every sponsorship dollar is important to our club, so thank you all...

- The gang at Keiraville Butchery, always cheerful and helpful.
- Jimmy and his family at the Gwynneville Bakery, still the best pies and sausage rolls in town.
- Moderne Drycleaners, great service and so reliable.
- Alex at Alexandar Michaels Menswear, the only place for a gentleman to dress without stress.
- Al of Vals4Al, for anyone needing a friendly property valuation.

- Friends Pizza Figtree continues to supply Thursday night pizzas to help make Joker Poker more fun.
- Mark at Crown West Cellars Bottle-O, friendly service and with a very good looking Cellarman!
- Mark of Johnston Legal, always a smiling face at the canteen.
- Daniel Tully of K & D Tully Electrical Contractors Pty Ltd, keeping the Juniors looking good.
- Sasha at ILS, for business solutions.

Thank you to all those who helped with the Club's three 'Special' days, Old Boys (Wayno and Justin Jones), Ladies (LaVon Davey) and Sponsors (Nevan Bergan, Barry Mac and Wayno). This year we were able to break even or even make a profit on each of these events.

Finally, a special thank you to Tony Burke and his juniors' helpers. This year Tony was able to help in financially 'reconnecting' the junior club with the seniors. Much appreciated by this Treasurer I can assure you.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Letham

Club Treasurer

1st Grade Coaches Report

Firstly, before I give my account of the year that was 2019 I want to start with expressing my appreciation to some key people who deserve recognition even though they do not ask for it. The heart of the club, the volunteers of Tech-Waratahs rugby club- Al Gregory, Rob Kelly, Barry McVicar, Rick Boyle, Shane McVicar, members of the committee and extra special note to the Letham family. From VP, 2nd grade coach, camera man, the bbq and running the canteen just to name a few roles that the Letham's volunteer for. If you take the time to read this take the time to thank these guys tonight they thoroughly deserve it.

My fellow coaching staff Lee, Vigsy, James, Blocker, Jenko, Adam and Freddy thank you for volunteering your time on Tuesday's, Thursday's, Saturday's and all the conversations in between. I feel like we missed the start but came home strong because not only did we grow as a new coaching unit but the players responded to what we were delivering.

Uncle Wayne, on behalf of all the coaching staff and players from the club thank you for getting us on the field each week registered and looking like an organized rugby club. We couldn't do it without you. John, Cat and the team from Phyxit thank you for looking after our medical needs and keeping us on the pitch.

Most importantly my partner, Casey, thank you for supporting me in life and not only as 1st grade coach. I can't be the person I am without your love and support even though I can be frustratingly unbearable at times.

2019 provided an opportunity for myself to step back into the head-coaching role and take the driver's seat with the team I have been actively involved in recruiting over the last 3 years. I made the decision to step back from playing unless required to focus on coaching and player development for the years to come. I invited my two best mates who I shared success with on the field to assist and we rolled up our sleeves and got our hands dirty. After the last 2 positive progressive years the challenge was to keep the momentum rolling in 2019 with the goal of finishing in the top 4.

Our preseason started in January down the beach sweating it out in the sand, then at Saunders oval with Josh Miller and the crew from dragon-fit gym. We played a mix of trial games and shorter form tournaments to get ourselves right for season 2019 bringing back the first silverware in recent years taking out the MacArthur 10's plate. We were quite close in more success at the Kiama 7's and Orange 10's. Our standout performers in the preseason were Aisake, Dougie, Paula, Bindi and Tommy.

After the completion of 2018 and before 2019 kicked off Pat Logan moved to Wagga Wagga, Nevan Bergen retired, Josh Head moved to WA, Self-took up the coaching role, Dapto, Blocker and Taniela were lost to long term injuries and our front stocks were very slim. Sauce, Lach Hurry, Chris Hawksworth & Freddy Purcell all stepped up, Josh Davey came out of retirement and Harry Pitt emerged from behind the smile and Afro to pack down in the front rowers club. Losing Patty meant we need a new 10 and since Guus requires a new hip and resides in Victoria, David "Bindi" Irwin took the Jersey in round 1 and even though he played out of position all year always turned up and gave his best.

The season jumped liked Chautauqua and we were slow out of the gates but like the grey flash we picked up stride and finished strongly. The highlight of our season was our first win vs the old foe Vikings at Saunders oval. We sang the song twice and the beers definitely tasted like chocolate after that win. We were competitive in all games except 2 lacking composure at key times to go on in close games from that Vikings success letting frustration creep in and beating ourselves most games. As the season went on, winter set in, injuries started to mount and it was a challenge to fill 3 teams at times. We have a largely casual player base that doesn't turn up weekly making it tough at times to fill 3 teams weekly but the full time players pulled together and backed up where needed to play the 3 grades resulting in 3rd grade storming into the finals. Unfortunately, it was over in week 1 beaten by last year's premiers and left to contemplate what could have been if we all turned up.

The future of the club is in great hands with season 2019's emerging stars Seb Wilson, Tom Ciot, Jacob Scard and Ben Grief. All very talented players very coach able but also respectful great young men.

In 12 months' time at presentation night do you want to be reflecting about how close we got and how that was a good effort? What could have been? Or how hard you worked to make a difference toasting the success you've earned.

Be hungry, be hungry for success and be hungrier than the opposition. Eat them up, eat up every small victory, start training earlier, train harder and train longer.

Be the person/ player people gain confidence from knowing you are in the trenches next to them.

Bring on 2020, Tim Olsen

2nd Grade Coaches Report

2019 was possibly the least enjoyable and most frustrating year I've had at the club.

Having not missed more than 3 games in a row since joining the Senior club in 2007, missing an entire season of playing didn't seem like an enjoyable prospect. When the Committee still didn't have a 2nd Grade Coach and the pre-season fast approaching, I thought it would give me a chance to stay involved on Game Day and hopefully contribute a bit to the year and learn something new.

To me, 2nd Grade has always been the most difficult Grade to play. It's the mixing pot of any club. You have new players to the club with the potential to play 1st Grade. You have established players who may have just missed selection in 1st Grade with a point to prove or coming back from injury. You have players coming up from 3rd Grade into 2nd Grade on the merits of their efforts there. You usually have a dependable core of solid clubmen who know what the club is all about and how we play the game who turn up every week and go about their business. We didn't have much of any of this for long periods this season. Each week the selections depended on 1st Grade, with decisions sometimes not being made until Saturday, but that is the way of it, but that makes continuity hard to come by and hard to build any momentum through the season.

Obviously 2nd Grade is probably not the easiest place to start coaching and having never coached before, having someone like Tim Olsen as 1st Grade Coach was massively beneficial. Having been coached by Tim and also Tony Cheetham for most of my time at the club, some of the coaching eventually sinks in, even to my thickest of skulls. I'm not sure how much actual "coaching" I did this year however.

We had plenty of new faces at the club this season, many of who ended up being regular members of 2nd Grade, whether by merit or circumstance, whilst we also lost a few regulars. Players learning to play Rugby in 2nd Grade is in no way ideal, but guys like Richard McGuinness, Aus Anderson, Jake Cooper, Ewan Butterworth never took a step back and really came on as the season went. Chad Butterworth and Ben Grief returned for their first full season and they look destined for great things. Iese Lupena made his long awaited debut for the club, and JJ, Logan and Campbell were ever-present barring injury.

Tim and I had planned out an extensive pre-season with the 7's, 10's and 15's games a plenty. Winning the Plate at the Camden 10's was a great day out for the squad. Heading out to Orange for the 10's where we also made the Plate Final was a good bonding trip for those that went.

The first 2 rounds were a struggle for numbers in both 3rd and 2nd Grade, with numerous guys backing up for both games. Defence was good, but running out of puff led to blowouts in the score. Warming up with 10 and 12 players set the tone for the finish.

Round 3 was different. It was the most experienced line-up we fielded all season, and it showed. Obviously getting my first victory as coach down at Shoalhaven was a high point for the season, but it was the manner in which we won that was most pleasing - dominating possession and territory, our physicality and playing to our strengths, in what was the first win for the Club for the season as well. It also helped that we had 15 fresh guys for warmup and to start the game. Experience wins matches, and that's especially true in a team sport.

Vikings were a well drilled outfit, bigger, faster and fitter than we were, playing the same expansive game plan they have for years, which we were unable to adapt to, or match. Knowing what the opposition is doing and not learning is something that 2nd Grade hasn't really done well the past few years. We tackled too high and ran too high and that led to turnovers and loss of possession and momentum. Too much walking is never a good sign.

The loss at Kiama showed that you have to treasure the ball and play to the conditions, something I know as a player and that we talked about both pre-game and during the game, but it also taught me that making changes just for the sake of giving guys a reward for showing up can come at a cost to the team and probably ended up costing us another win. Good intentions aren't always the best intentions.

Campbelltown at home was marred by an ugly Red Card, but our conduct was exemplary, and was another mix of experienced and calm heads aided by new player enthusiasm that led to another victory.

Alas, then followed a very long stretch of games where getting 13 (or even 10) players on the field felt like an achievement. My duties as Secretary and now TTT editor, our Facebook pages, every Tuesday, every Thursday, every Saturday, first to arrive (except Brendan at training and Vasco with George for away games) and last to leave, throw in the IDRUs and ref meetings on twice a month, it starts to drag on and makes you wonder why you bother sometimes.

The last round away to Avondale, we had to forfeit after half time due to lack of players, so whilst 3rd Grade qualifying for the Semi's is a success, it merely papers over the cracks.

It's an interesting change in dynamic, moving from player to coach. Almost immediately I noticed a shift in player perception (from some at least), most of it good, but it's also learning what to say to who, as well as the best time to say it, and what the best approach is for the team in any given situation. Suddenly everyone has an opinion and isn't afraid to voice it - that was something I learnt to either ignore or use as the season went. Halftime talks were different each game as the circumstances dictated, but I noticed a lot of glazed

eyes, which was probably me in the past as well, so it's hard to know if anything I said made a difference.

At times this year, it seemed that the tail was wagging the dog. Repeatedly ignoring or overruling the sensible and practical decision for the sake of pride. Players coming back from serious injuries playing whilst not back to anywhere near 100% fitness just to make up the numbers. The low point for me has to be Bowral. Having 4 fresh players to start a game for 2nd Grade, but closely followed by Camden, with 6 fresh players. That can't be what we want moving forward. Several times we were forced to play uncontested scrums and played the matches with 14 players, including Round 1, but in every game, we showed flashes of what we **COULD** do, that we could compete, if only for a phase or 3. Even away at Bowral, we got off the 0 at the end, much to the disgust of the locals, and our cheer was louder than any of their fans issued all day.

The **EFFORT** of those that played for the club this year cannot be faulted. The **COMMITMENT** of the majority of the 115 players we had registered to the club is quite frankly disappointing, but not something common to 2019 alone. It is something the committee has been trying to address for a few years, but is an ongoing issue in both Seniors and Juniors.

I'd like to thank my Managers Dave McConnell and Josh Davey - even though Josh morphed from manager to player upon arrival, and of course Wayne Ireland, who was pretty much a manager for all 3 Grades each week. Nothing gets done without Wayne.

James Letham

3rd Grade Coaches Report

I would like to start by thanking the committee for all their work this season keeping three teams on the field. All their work is greatly appreciated.

Its been a tough year on the injury front and the inability to find a manger for thirds lead to Wayno doing more than he should (volunteer of the year). Thanks, Wayno a truly great club man. I would also like to thank the injured players who stepped in to assist especially Woodsy.

The year started off with the usual old faces and plenty of new ones that did not stay in thirds long. Thirds has been a breeding ground for players to advance to higher honours ie Chad, Ando, Ben Grief, Brendan, Adam just to name a few. It has been truly amazing that we managed to keep a third-grade side on the field and make the finals. This was no small feat and a special thank you to Freddy Purcell for helping with the boys and the club for providing a bus for transport.

As coach, I must say it has been a team effort to play the TechTahs way. Uncompromising, controlled aggressive, expansive, exciting and scintillating rugby. I have been lucky enough to have the assistance of Adam co coach and player recruitment, Freddy player recruitment and retention and club coach Tim to ensure a side focused and ready to play. The best trainer of the season definitely goes to Vasco one of the old brigade. I was not sure what to expect this season however always had finals as a goal for this team.

I never knew who would show up to play and spent time on the phone right to kick off to ensure 15 took the field. Wayno also checked regos right to kick off. The side was always thrown together on the day, which lead to slow starts and strong finishes. There were many special guest appearances, Lee, Vigsy, Jimmy, Ben amongst others that helped keep the team moving forward. The draw had many quirks and a restart mid-season really opened the way for a tilt at the title. I think Shaun play anywhere in the backs was the only original player left in thirds from the start of the year such was the injury toll this season.

The future looks bright for the club and I hope all players return and continue to bring their friends. Unfortunately, we were knocked out in the first week of finals by Camden at Bowral however I have enjoyed being a part of this excellent club and I'm proud to have been given the title coach when in essence it was a collective approach by all involved. Enjoy next season boys.

On the plus side the club produced two grand final teams in the 12s and 13s. The 12s finishing premiers and the 13s runners up. The future looks bright.

Thank you to all our supporters, partners and extended family. Know that there is always someone to listen to any issues you may have and support you in life and in rugby. Talk to me bro.

Cheers

Paul Jeremijenko and Adam Bignell.

Club Captains Report

This year's club captain duties were split between Lach and Block. We both really enjoyed sharing the gig this year many hands do make light work.

We had some mixed results on the field but one real highlight was beating those jerks from Vikings at Saunders in the first round. True to form, the boys always put their best foot forward.

At the pub, nothing soothes the aches and pains of a rugby game better than 10 Sailor Jerry Dry & Limes from Northgong or even better a good bus trip with a stop off at Appin pub to hear some chisel thanks to new recruit Ewan.

A few of the boys are also looking forward to a mystery destination trip away later in November.

There were some really positive signs around the club this year. All the new faces like Chad Butterworth and Ben Grief who even got to show off their skills in 1st grade. Now we just need them to get on a bus and show us their drinking skills.

Thanks to the committee for all their work behind the scenes and a special thanks to the whole Letham clan working the canteen. You guys kill it every week.

Yours in grassroots rugby,
Blachie

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 3RDS 2019	TOTAL 2NDS 2019	TOTAL 1STS 2019	TOTAL GAMES PLAYED 2019	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
Cleland	Aii	0	1			1	1
Jessey	Alaelua	0	1			1	1
Jesse	Aldridge	0		7		7	7
Aus	Anderson	0	6	9		15	15
Angus	Ashbrook	21	1			1	22
Connor	Basham	0		1		1	1
Etimoni	Batimala	0		2	3	5	5
David	Beecher	46		9	5	14	60
Jake	Bell-Williams	0	1			1	1
Adam	Bignall	10	12	13		25	35
Owen	Brace	160		5	10	15	175
Logan	Brailey	36		10	10	20	56
Oscar	Broederlow	0	1			1	1
Michael	Bruton	302		10	8	18	320
Chad	Butterworth	3	2	18	6	26	29
Ewan	Butterworth	0		6		6	6
Ratu	Camaisala	0	1	6	7	14	14
Ratu Semi Ro	Camaisala	0		1	3	4	4
Tom	Ciot	15	1		18	19	34
Mike	Clark	0	10	1		11	11
Jake	Cooper	0	2	5		7	7
Mitchell	Crotty	76		2	16	18	94
Mahn	Darley	0	1			1	1
Jake	Davey	164	3	2	3	8	172
Joshua	Davey	177	1	2	2	5	182
Leon	Davis	0	2			2	2
David	Dugan	6	1	1		2	8
Robert	Edmonds	0	6	1		7	7
Bryn	Edwards	103	1		17	18	121
Jaden	Edwards	31	3	16		19	50
Tim	Frater	34	2			2	36
Cole	Fortuin	0		1		1	1
Benjamin	Grief	4	1	8	9	18	22
Daniel	Harney	0	1	1		2	2
Christopher	Hawksworth	37	1		18	19	56
Joshua	Head	17		1	2	3	20
Caleb	Hewitt	0		3	1	4	4
Ray	Hunt	0	8	1		9	9
Campbell	Hurry	11	1	11	1	13	24
Lachlan	Hurry	31		1	11	12	43
Jordan	Iosefa	0	4	1		5	5
Alexander	John	4	1			1	5
Paul	Jeremijenko	127	16	15		31	158
Christopher	Joseph	14		4	11	15	29
Jake	Katieli	28	6	3	1	10	38
Keanu	Katieli	3	3	1		4	7

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 3RDS 2019	TOTAL 2NDS 2019	TOTAL 1STS 2019	TOTAL GAMES PLAYED 2019	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
Justin	Lenane	93	9	4	1	14	107
Tyrome	Leota	0	8	5	1	14	14
Piula junior	Lepou fiapito	6	8			8	14
Ulaia daniel	Lepou fiapito	8	7	1		8	16
Iese	Lupena	0		6	5	11	11
Sione	Mafi	0	1			1	1
Lee	Martin	311	1		1	2	313
George	Masiasomua	0	3			3	3
Faati	Matafeo	0	6	2		8	8
Eddie	Matautia	19	5	2	1	8	27
David	McConnell	233	1	1		2	235
Joshua	McConnell	2	1			1	3
Tyson	McEvoy	36	1	1		2	38
Richard	McGuinness	0	2	11		13	13
Liutai	Mose	0	5	2		7	7
Ratu Timoci	Namotokula	0		1	1	2	2
Emmanuel	Nayagodamu	182	1	4	7	12	194
Michael	Ngapaku	0	1			1	1
Rusiate Saukuru	Neikini	0		3	3	6	6
Michael	Neil	16	1	5	11	17	33
Brendon	Oloapu	0	3			3	3
Benjamin	Olsen	209	5	1		6	215
Joshua	Olsen	9	1	1		2	11
Tim	Olsen	338	15	5	2	22	360
Blake	Owen	37		3	2	5	42
Travis	Paenga	0	2			2	2
Owen	Palelei	0	9			9	9
Robert	Panipasa	0	1			1	1
Giordan	Patea	0	6	2		8	8
Sam	Patrinos	173		4		4	177
Isiah	Pesa	0	1	7		8	8
Michael	Pita	0	1	1		2	2
Harry	Pitt	31		9	3	12	43
Brendan	Phillips	0	12	7		19	19
Fred	Purcell	81	8	6	3	17	98
Madison	Purdie	0		1	3	4	4
Caleb	Roberts	0	11	3		14	14
Jordan	Roberts	0	6			6	6
Oloatele	Salanoa	0	4			4	4
Jade	Sawan	1	4	4	1	9	10
Muhamed	Sawan	39	3	3		6	45
Jacob	Scard	0	1		13	14	14
William	Seiuli	0	1			1	1
Benjamin	Shortus	174	1	3		4	178
Morgan	Simpson	0	2			2	2
Mininder	Singh	31			18	18	49

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 3RDS 2019	TOTAL 2NDS 2019	TOTAL 1STS 2019	TOTAL GAMES PLAYED 2019	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
Jason	Situla	0	4	3		7	7
Jason	Slade	24		1		1	25
Jacob	Smith	13		2		2	15
Andrew	Stark	21	1	1		2	23
Zach	Stewart	0		2		2	2
Vasco	Stojanovski	46	16	10		26	72
Paul	Taala	0	4	2		6	6
Michael	Tago	12	1			1	13
Jamie	Taingahue	148	2			3	151
Richard	Taito	11	1			1	12
Fred	Tapau	0	2	1	1	4	4
Justin	Taylor	0	5	2		7	7
Rhyce	Tubaro	111	3	1		4	115
Aisake	Tuevu	11			15	15	26
Taniela	Tuipuloto	28			8	8	36
Sairusi	Ugavule	0		2		2	2
Paula	Vakaruru	34			15	15	49
Brad	Veigel	115	1			1	116
Shaun	Willis	5	18	7		25	30
Sebastion	Wilson	11			18	18	29
Peter	Winston	117	11	2		13	130
Vincent	Wise	16		2	15	17	33
David	Wood	32		3	3	6	38

Statistical details subject to available information

Page 3 of 3

AWARD RECIPIENTS 2019

3RD GRADE PLAYERS PLAYER

3RD GRADE COACHES AWARD

3RD GRADE BEST & FAIREST

2ND GRADE PLAYERS PLAYER

2ND GRADE COACHES AWARD

2ND GRADE BEST & FAIREST

1ST GRADE PLAYERS PLAYER

1ST GRADE COACHES AWARD

1ST GRADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CROOKY OF THE YEAR

STRIRRER OF THE YEAR

POINTSCORER OF THE YEAR

TRYSORER OF THE YEAR

100 GAMES AWARD

BEST TRAINER

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

MOST OUTSTANDING PROSPECT

RICK BOYLE CLUBPERSON OF THE YEAR

AGM

Sunday 27th of October

North Wollongong Hotel - upstairs

2pm