
1976



*WARATAH
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB*

Year Book

OFFICE BEARERS – 1976

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DR. R. PARRISH

AUDITOR:

C. TYRRELL

President's Report . . .

This has been a successful year for the Club in many ways but as our Club's main purpose is to play football, I shall comment on our teams first of all.

It was a year in which our first grade team was unlucky to lose the final of the pre-season competition against Teachers College while the second grade team made the semi-final of the pre-season competition.

Our teams good efforts so early in the year as well as being a tribute to good coaching is also a reflection of the effort made by the individual members in pre-season training under the stern eye of Dave Lanach whom we were unfortunate to lose half-way through the year. Thanks for your effort, Dave.

The first grade team performed capably throughout the season and gave the Club supporters many a heart stopping moment (who can forget the try on the bell game against Port Surf in the first round). Congratulations to the team and their coach, Paul McCann, for the effort and good showing produced all season.

Congratulations also to Ron Gordon, Mark Hotchkiss, Graeme Collinson-Smith and Brian Silver for representing Illawarra and to Mark Hotchkiss who played for Country Seconds.

The 2nd and 3rd grade teams played many fine games, with 2nd grade being only just beaten on many occasions. Thanks to Brian McGrath and Gavin Steele, the coaches of those teams.

The Club's thanks go to all those people associated with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teams. In particular to the respective coaches, but also to the players and others too numerous to name who all contributed to the team effort such as the managers, selectors, trainers, linemen, first aid and sandmen, those responsible for washing and mending of jerseys and to the dedicated band of men who prepare Keira Oval on Saturday morning.

The Club in particular appreciates on-the-spot medical treatment given by Dr. Roger Parrish on many occasions during the year.

Our Social Committee organised many functions this year, the highlight of which was the annual ball, but we can't overlook the many barbecues and other venues at which refreshments were provided by the Social Committee, including the providing of refreshments at Keira Oval. Well done to Brian Warnock and the rest of the Social Committee (elected, co-opted or otherwise) who assisted him.

The Club had a turnover last financial year of over \$15,000 and this year has been no exception. The Club is always in need of funds to meet many commitments. For example the use of the Police Boys Club Oval this year for training cost \$350.

Fortunately, we had an energetic band of fund raisers who kept the Club afloat financially. The Club's thanks go to those who organised and helped sell raffle tickets each Friday night at the Illawarra Hotel, and to the organiser of the 200 Club, Joe Brown and to Tony Barnes whose Wine Venture was an outstanding success and to the Social Committee which operated well within its budget and made a profit on many of its functions.

There are many other people within the Club to whom I owe my thanks for their aid and support this year and to whom the Club members owe their thanks for the assistance they have given in making the Club function.

They include the secretary Mick Fraser, treasurer Mick Greenhalgh, assistant secretary/treasurer Tony Barnes, vice-president Roger Parrish, publicity officer Martin Ryan, and the rest of the Executive Committee.

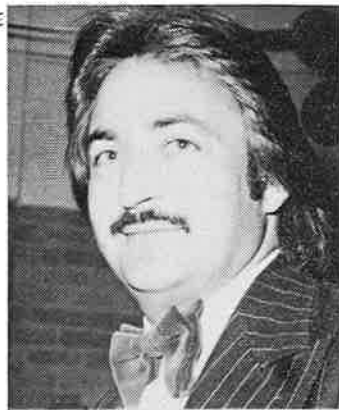
Thanks also to those who have represented our Club at other meetings. Mick Fraser, Steve Crowley and Joe Brown (our delegates to the Illawarra District Rugby Union), and Peter Boyd and Errol Milner (our delegates to the Illawarra Master Builders Club).

We also congratulate Chris Parry and his committee for the effort they put each year into making the Year Book the worthwhile publication it is. Thanks Chris.

Thanks also to Joe Brown who made the trip away possible this year through his chairmanship of the Touring Committee and let's hope his plans of a trip to America are successful.

To the Illawarra Master Builder's Club and the Illawarra Hotel, thank you for your continued support and patronage and I hope we can continue our long association.

Finally, may I say thank you for the honour of being president of Waratah R.F.C. in 1976 and take this opportunity to wish the Club well in 1977.



BRIAN LEO



HOW MANY MAKE AN OVERLAP



ROUND ONE TO SMITHY



HANDS ON HEADS MOOSH



"IT'S MINE, ALICE! IT'S MINE!"



A CAPTAIN'S VIEW

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1976



MICK FRASER

Fortunately this report is for an extremely worthy cause in that of the preparation of our year book and not as the result of one of our enterprising committeeman requiring yet another letter to be sent to some unimportant organisation for an even less important reason. Not that your Secretary doesn't believe in writing letters for a worthy cause but I do believe some people must have shares in "Office Supplies" — ah, Paul.

This year we tried holding our meetings monthly instead of fortnightly and they went very well and we usually managed to sift through all matters required. So wives next year perhaps you will allow a few more of your husbands out to help run our Club and offer their expert advice just once a month.

Attendances were very good generally and officers elected to various positions ran their committees extremely well, presenting their reports very well and in far too much detail. Cut it short next year fellows and give us more drinking time.

Generally, we have had another most successful year both football wise, socially, financially and generally as a result of the work done by your committee which overall made the job of secretary considerably less and basically much easier.

As usual there are a great number of people who deserve a special note of thanks, some more than others but rather than risk forgetting a particular person I would like to thank them all and I am sure they know who I mean.

Tony Barnes as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer has done a tremendous amount to assist the Secretary. His very capable secretary has utilised her so-called "spare time" to type out all our outgoing mail and we would like to record our sincere thanks for the work she has carried out.

Remember your support in any committee for the 1977 season will be of great value and some of our younger members will benefit both themselves and of course the Club with their support off the field.

Thank you fellow members, and all the best for the 1977 year.

MICK FRASER,
Hon. Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT — 1976

Financially, 1976 has been another highly successful year for the Club, a lot of the credit for which must go to the few chaps who turn up regularly on Friday nights at the Illawarra pub. Having the opportunity to hold our raffles every week this year has been a great boost to our income and, until Friday, 17th September, gross income from this source was \$2,477.13.

We have collected \$280 in membership fees this year and I feel that at this stage I must make special mention of the fact that Rodney Coleshill was among the first few to pay. I mean who could refuse to cough up when confronted with the words "Coleslaw's paid".

Tony Barnes did a great job with his wine sales which netted the Club approximately \$950. One must concede, however, that selling grog to the Waratahs is not as hard as catching Graham Dunn stuck for a word.

The social and touring committees operated their separate bank accounts this year and their net credit positions as at 20th September were \$778 and \$1,528 respectively. Of course the social committee is holding certain other assets in the form of readily selling refreshments.

Anyway, after a fairly quiet start we have had a rewarding year and I would like to thank all the Club members and followers for their support in having their wallets so readily available for cleaning.

In conclusion I will sum up the Club's financial position as at 20th September, 1976. (The annual report is not due until the end of the year and will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.)

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

1. Main Account	\$1,782
2. Social Committee	\$ 778
3. Touring Fund	\$1,528
4. Interest Bearing Deposits	\$3,500
	<hr/>
	\$7,588

These figures represent the readily available cash held by the Club after allowing for outstanding cheques. All funds are deposited at the Commonwealth Bank, Town Hall Branch, Wollongong.

MICK GREENHALGH.

P.S. If anyone wishes to buy one of the new Club ties, at the very nominal fee of \$5 please contact me.

LAUGH!

"Just think, after 10 years of married life, he's still in love!"

"Great scott! Does his wife know who she is?"

LAUGH!

Waratahs coach said to Uni. captain "I hope you blokes are god losers."

"Good losers, we're bloody experts," said Noony.

FIRST GRADE REPORT — 1976

As I write this report I can't help trying to analyse why we didn't make the finals for we were undoubtedly one of the top teams in the competition, which is borne out by the fact that we defeated grand finalists Vikings two out of the three occasions we met them. Injuries cost us dearly and representative games seemed to fall when we most needed our top players. Jim Pettit's injury was a costly one not only because of his outstanding goal kicking but also his general play. Brian Moore, Ise Canduro, Mal Davis, Brian Silver, Tony Barnes, Mal Pearson and Chris Mead were also sadly missed when sidelined.

Much of our early season success must be attributed to Dave Larnoch's vigorous fitness programme. Thanks Dave for a job well done and also to Roger Parrish (Doc) who took over on Dave's transfer.

To Rod Colehill, Kev Callaghan, "Spike" Cario, Garry Towner, "Scales" Greenhalgh, "Blood" Fleming and others I say thanks for their efforts when filling gaps throughout the season.

Congratulations to those who represented, particularly Mark Hotchkis (Country) who must have a great future ahead of him, also to Ron Gordon, Brian Silver and Len Barker, all Illawarra reps.

Our seasoned 1st graders Mike Fraser, Col Gamble, Mick Wilkins, "Smithy", Brian Warnock and Dave Johnstone gave us many pleasurable moments with their skills and ability. It was very pleasing to see Tony Plekan and Joe Brown acquit themselves well in this grade of football and from them and newcomers Paul Murray and Brendon Sykes we expect great things in the seasons ahead.

Rugby has nowadays become a very technical and skilful game. We must work at and practice our skills both individual and unit skills as well as team moves. We must more than anything else be switched on for the full eighty minutes and prepare ourselves mentally for each game.

Our new scrummage machine will allow us to perfect this vital part of the game next year while our lineouts must be approached with more concentration and vigour. Our rucks and mauls must be tightened up and approached with more drive for that ball has to be sought as a rare treasure to be won and kept.

We must support each other more, move that ball at lightning speed, cut our indiscriminate kicking to a minimum and use our tap moves much more. Our opponents must be clamped by continuous pressure like a block in a vice. With these thoughts in mind and an endeavour to commence serious work early we can look forward to a very successful 1977. Our planned tour of the U.S.A. in 1978 should prove a great motivation towards this objective.

Besides the games the memories of friendship built up throughout the season will linger for years to come.

I thank all the players for their support and dedication that have moulded this mateship. Thanks also to the committee for their loyalty in supporting my endeavours, also to the selectors, managers, other coaches, trainers and last but far from least the supporters for their staunch and enthusiastic following for what I consider a good team.

I look forward to a triumphant 1977 season.

Many thanks.

PAUL



BACK ROW — left to right: P. McCann (coach), M. Fraser, M. Wilkins, A. Plekan, M. Hotchkis, C. Gamble, J. Brown, A. Barnes, B. Warnock, M. Davis, J. Pettit.

FRONT ROW: G. Towner, R. Fleming, B. Silver, G. Collinson-Smith, R. Swanson, D. Johnson, K. Callaghan, R. Gordon.

SECOND GRADE REPORT — 1976

The 1976 season was much more successful for Waratah's than one would think from perusing the competition table. Personally, I am most satisfied with the performance of players, especially during the latter competition games, and I feel that the performances of the players individually, and more importantly, as a team was more than creditable.

Second grade began extremely well, by reaching the finals of the Pacific Real Estate Pre-Season competition, being beaten by Weerona for the right to meet Teachers College in the final. Teachers subsequently defeated the Weerona side, with Waratahs third.

As we moved into the season proper, the Club was in the enviable position of having approximately 55 players in training, and it was a battle for selectors to pick the teams in the early matches. Unfortunately, this was short lived and we soon found ourselves with just sufficient players for the three teams.

Half way through the first round, second grade began to take shape and play good football, with the forwards benefiting from the skills practiced so often. For 60 minutes per game, we played like premiers, but unfortunately were defeated so often in the final 10 minutes by the odd point or two. This did not exactly boost the enthusiasm of the players!

Our major task, however, as is the task of all lower grades, is to provide suitable and competent replacements for first grade, and this we did most admirably. With players the calibre of Tony Plekan, Ian Kent, Russ Lawrence, Garry Towner, Bob Fleming, Mick Greenhalgh, Kev Callaghan, Rod Coleshill, Dennis Burke, Graham Davidson, Bob Terry and John Hayward playing in second grade, the depth of talent need not be spelled out. These were the players who filled in the many gaps which unfortunately came in 1st grade through injury to the regulars. In fact, practically all the 2nd grade did, at some stage of the season play 1st grade. The future certainly looks rosy with these players in the Club next year.

I must thank the 3rd grade side for the support given to me in putting a team on the paddock for the full season. On one occasion, nine 3rd graders backed up in 2nds. This trend kept going all year, and although at times the body was reluctant, these players carried on and gave their best. I feel that if football was played over 120 minutes instead of 80, some of these 3rd graders would be internationals. One of these would no doubt be the noble thirsty leader, Gavin.

I appreciate the co-operation of all players that I received during the season, and the support of Gavin and Paul. I realise the hard work performed by the Committee and supporters in making the season a social and football success and I commend all concerned.

In looking ahead to 1977 I can only see hard, early toil, similar to the work prepared for us by Dave Larnach. Any success the Club had in 1976 is due to the groundwork of Dave. To field sides we must first have players, and I hope the present players will begin to recruit from now on. With a few competition points on the board at the season half way mark, we must confidently go into the 2nd round, and must utilise our depth in ranks to carry on. It was indeed bad luck that we experienced this season, but if this is reversed next year, we can take advantage of it in all grades.

It would be welcomed if our "old" players thought of taking on a coaching position next season, so that the younger players can develop the skills with the experience passed on by the coach.

I will conclude by congratulating the trophy winners and wishing everyone a happy summer, leading up to a successful winter.

BRIAN McGRATH,
Coach,



BACK ROW (left to right): B. Boulding, G. Davidson, R. Lawrence, G. Towner, R. Terry, B. Sykes, D. Burke, I. Kent, R. Coleshill.
FRONT ROW: M. Cassar, J. Caudoro, P. Jones, B. McGrath (coach), M. Greenhalgh, R. Swanson.

THIRD GRADE REPORT — 1976

Looking back on 1976 it has been a year of success for third grade in the sense that we acquired new players and reactivated some old ones.

Whilst we only won four games and drew two this year the team has played the game in the right spirit and I'm sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

The "Thirsty Thirds" would have been in trouble without the regular attendances of players like Bryan Leo, Wilf Headley, John Palmer, Martin Ryan, Graeme Dunn and Co.

New players like Mick Peckman, Jeff Dunn and Tony Johnstone brought some new ideas to the team and tried and true veterans Roger Parrish and Paul McCann gave us experience and flair.

The following team members have been selected for unofficial awards and these are as follows:

1. Best at foul play — Bryan Leo.
2. Worst actor — Wilf Hedley.
3. Most constant talker — Graeme Dunn.
4. Best bone crusher — Roger Parrish.

5. Best bleeder — Mick Peckman.
6. Worst attender — Rod Thompson.
7. Worst physical condition — Paul (Timber-cutter) Jones.
8. Fattest half-back — John Wheelahan.
9. Best unsupported player — Paul McCann.
10. Heavyweight of the year — John Palmer.
11. Best guest player — Ron Gordon.
12. Oldest line kicker — Julian Sullivan.
13. Angriest Ant — Joint winners (Steve Crowley and Tony Johnstone).

Many thanks to fellow coaches Paul McCann and Brian McGrath, selectors Peter Boyd, Roger Parrish and Erol Milner and all the boys in the third grade for making my job so much easier.

Special thanks to Mike Fraser and Mick Wilkins. Best wishes for the mighty thirds for 1977 and for the Club generally.

GAVIN STEELE



BACK ROW (left to right): R. Parrish, P. McCann, J. Sullivan, P. Jones, G. Steele, M. Peckman, B. McGrath, M. Ryan, R. Thompson, J. McGoldrick, W. Hedley, J. Wheelahan.

FRONT ROW: G. Dunn, A. Johnson, B. Leo, S. Crowley, G. Dunn, J. Palmer.

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CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT - 1976

The question I ask myself as I sit here writing this report is what do people want to read in a Club Captain's report? And the answer I give myself is — how the hell would I know? So as you can see, I'm not getting much co-operation.

But it hasn't always been that way. In the job that I've tried to do as Club Captain this year, I've received all the co-operation that I've needed from fellow members, Club executive, and even that despised faction of the Club — the selectors. I'd like to thank all of you for that co-operation.

The main function of a Club Captain is to liaise between the Club members and the committee in order to promote harmony in the Club. But when the Club operates as harmoniously as it has in 1976, that doesn't leave much for the Club Captain to do. I'm not complaining, of course, because it is this harmony that is the strength of a Club like the Waratahs, and makes it a Club to be proud of.

Other clubs can boast premiership victories, club championships, etc., and one day Waratahs will be able to, as well. But meanwhile, how many other clubs can match these feats.

—Waratahs have never forfeited a match in any grade for any reason.

—Waratahs have never fielded a team of less than 15 men in any grade, even when sometimes it has meant players going around three times in one day.

—No Waratah side has ever thrown in the towel regardless of the score (on occasions) that may be on the board against them.

These are things that we can all be proud of, because we all contributed to them, and most of us probably will again next year.

This report should, I suppose, review some of the things that 1976 has produced. I think a significant factor in our early success was the early start to training under whip-wielding trainer Dave (Loosehead) Larnach. We all enjoyed the swim and refreshments after the run, but the best part was the expression on the face of the bloke sunbathing in the altogether when thirty of us hustled over a sand hill and sprung him. I would have traded ten schooners for a camera.

The beach runs definitely played their part in our reaching the final of the pre-season competition. Next year we'll take it one step further and win the thing.

Other things not to be forgotten include the 1st grades slashing win over Shoalhaven at Nowra. Never has a Waratah pack hunted with such dogged efficiency. Then, in the Port Kembla game — the Tony Barnes/Brian Moore try in the final seconds to grab an 18-17 win. Did anybody notice the idiot screaming abuse at Bernsey for kicking it? I forget his name, but he soon shut his mouth when Brian plucked it out of the air and planted it over the line.

Unfortunately, in the same game, Jim (Golden Boots) Pettit (sorry Mal, but you're history) ended his season with a couple of broken bones in his leg. This was a bitter blow to our premiership hopes in 1st grade, but, more importantly, was a great disappointment to Jim, who was as keen as mustard and looking forward to a big season.

The 2nd grade side proved to be a remarkable team. I think it's fair to use the word unlucky, because what other side has lost so many games by so few points? Traditionally, lower grade sides in any club suffer as a result of injury to players in their own grade as

well as senior grades. This year, because of a significant number of injuries all grades were affected, but the 2nd grade suffered the most. Many players were forced to double up, when tends to strengthen the 3rds and weaken the 2nds. I'd like to express my admiration for the guts and loyalty shown by these players, some of them doubling up week after week. I won't mention any names here, for fear of leaving someone out accidentally, but everyone knows who I am talking about. While we have fellows like these in the Club we will never be ashamed to carry the Red and Black.

What happened in 1976? Remember Mark (Heaver) Hotchkis laughing at the grass nearly every training night? Mal (Arch) Davies also spotted some humorous pieces of clover especially near the posts at Uni. oval, with Joe (Carlton) Browne having to cover his fullback position. Brian (Ruffhead) Warnock finished the season with a tennis ball strapped to his head and Julie on his back. A painful combination — especially for his good ear Dave (Up-and-Under) Johnston finally gave up kipping and learned how to score tries (4 in one match!). Now that he knows about tries, he might have a big year in '77. His moustache might be visible by then, too.

Congratulations go to Tony Plekan on gaining and holding a 1st grade spot. With virtually no experience under his belt, he held his own against the best props in the district, and looks like having a big future in the Waratah front row. Of course he'll have to give away his other favourite sport of diving into empty swimming pools.

Congratulations also to durable half-back Graeme (54-22-76) Collinson-Smith, who, despite some hectic times at the base of the lineup, and hectic Friday nights running away from women (does anyone hear bells ringing?), still managed to play every 1st grade game in 1976.

Mark Hotchkis especially deserves congratulations for his consistent form through the year, resulting in his winning a permanent place in the Illawarra side culminating in his selection for Country Seconds. This is a really big achievement for any player, and I'm sure that 1977 holds bigger and bigger things for Mark.

Our other district representatives for 1976 were Ron Gorden, Graeme Collinson-Smith and Brian Silver and congratulations go to them.

A milestone for the Club was passed during the year which also was a milestone in the football career of two of Waratahs longest serving players. Mal Pearson and Dave Johnston both played their 100th 1st grade game during 1976, Mal completing 107 games and Dave 109.

These fellows started with Waratahs as youngsters in 1976 (Mal) and 1968 (Dave). In 1968, they played in the 3rd grade side that made the grand final. Unfortunately, Waratahs were beaten 21-6 in extra time after the scores had been level at 6-6 at full time.

The following year, they moved up to 2nd grade and the side reached the semi-finals that year. In 1970 both fellows moved in 1st grade and they have now completed six full seasons of 1st grade football.

This is really a remarkable achievement and it reflects both the outstanding football ability and exceptional club loyalty that both these players have had through the year and of course still have. Young

● Club Captain's Report, 1976 (continued)

players could certainly do worse than to model their football careers on the example that has been provided by Dave and Mal.



DAVE JOHNSON



MAL PEARSON

The Club records are slightly less reliable for the lower grades, but it is obvious that quite a few players have more than 100 club games under their belts. Ken Callaghan started in 1966, Paul (Timber-

cutter) Jones in 1902 (or thereabouts) and both have over 100 games to their credit. These players are the longest serving players still going round in the Red and Black and must be commended for their Club loyalty over the years.

Other players estimated to have reached the 100 mark for club games (considering how many times players have to double up) are Gavin Steele, Mick Greenhalgh, John Wheelahan, Steve Crowley, Rod Coleshill, Spike Cario and Rusty Swanson. If I have omitted any names I humbly apologise and assure you it was unintentional.

To conclude this report (and about time, too!) I'd like to thank the coaches for their time and effort — especially Paul McCann for his enthusiasm; Dave Larnach for his early season efforts as trainer which certainly paid dividends; the committee for another financially successful year; the social committee for another drunken year; and last but not least to Secretary Mike Fraser for the vast amount of work he does behind the scenes that everybody takes for granted.

I've enjoyed my association with Waratahs (and will continue to, of course) and I've enjoyed being Club Captain. Thank you, Waratahs, for the opportunity to hold this position and let's all look forward to a happy and successful 1977 season.

MICK WILKINS



ALRIGHT . . . BUT DON'T GIVE IT TO THE BACKS



ANOTHER WARATAHS ONSLAUGHT



JUST BECAUSE I DO IT . . .

WARATAH NETBALL NEWS

This year many girls, associated in one way or another with Waratahs, formed 2 strong teams in netball. One team made it to the finals and the other to the grand finals, but alas — all Waratahs are destined not to win.

The Haighs nearly have a monopoly on the play supplying 3 girls and more to come in later years. Julie David was the best dressed player wearing a glamorous multi-coloured uniform. Linda Thompson is

our Bionic Woman and must learn to control her strength.

Many a winning game has been discussed at length over a few drinks. One has only to ask us how we went in our match and we will be only too pleased to tell them all details of play.

Our 2 teams are now playing in the night competition so that we keep in practice for next season.

Women's International Basketball

The 'Tahs' ladies international rules basketball team have not had a particularly successful year so far but hope to rectify that with the current Spring-Summer competition.

We started the year making the semi-finals but lost that so did not make the "Top Three". We lost many of our players after this competition, but with the never ending supply of Waratahs wives, girlfriends, etc., were soon able to swell our numbers to the full complement of 10 players.

Once again it was like starting from scratch with a few of the ladies not having played international rules before and we all had to learn to play as a team. Our next competition was not very successful in that we did not win many games but we used these to our advantage in learning to read each other and teamwork was soon becoming apparent.

The current Spring-Summer competition sees us with 3 games played, 2 wins and a forfeit, but with most of our hard games to come, even though we are on 9 points it will still be a long hard road.

The 'Tahs' girls I must say are very keen and willing with full turn ups for training, even though it is Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., so no sleeping in, and under the no nonsense watchful eye of our new coach Tony "Slave Driver" Barnes, are 'shaping up' beautifully.

We would like to thank those fellows who gave us a few games on Sunday mornings so that we could have opposition to play for training.

" '77 IS THE WARATAH AND THE TAHs YEAR "

NOREEN PARRISH

TEAM TRAINERS' REPORT

This year's training got off to a magnificent start with many Waratahs taking to the beaches and putting in some enthusiastic and heavy work under the direction of Dave Larnach. For the first time even the Waratahs started training in January, and this was very apparent at the start of the season when the 'Tahs made other teams aware of their presence in both the 7 a side at Kiama and in the early competition games.

It looked as if the lessons of last season when the 'Tahs stormed home with resounding victories, had been taken to heart. It looked as if the Waratahs had finally realised that early season fitness was of paramount importance and that any club that can lose its first six games could wage ta-ta to any aspirations for a semi-final berth. And then the big shock with every hope of making the semi's the attendance at training dropped off to a disgusting extent and important games were lost with the result that the Waratahs are once again bridesmaids and the semis have been missed.

It is distressing to see the number of fellows who continually let the Club down by their pathetic attitude to training, but if this year's lesson is taken to heart and players realise that to succeed we must start

training early, train hard and maintain this throughout the season without let up then all will not be in vain for next season.

The above comments concern mainly 1st grade players and any criticism of them pales into insignificance when one starts talking about the other grades. With injuries a constant problem most 2nd graders had to be called on to play in the 1st grade at some time during the season and yet their (and 3rd's) attendance at training went down faster than the price of booze went up. This is a totally and utterly hopeless situation for a winning formula and unless this attitude changes we have as much hope of making the semis as granny has of winning bowls with a coconut.

To the stalwarts, who regularly turned up to training and who were man enough to put their guts into orders and directions from Dave Larnach and later myself, I say a big thank you on behalf of Dave, myself and most importantly, the Club and sincerely hope that next year your ranks will swell so that we can get through the season on a crest of success from which we will not be dislodged.

ROGER J. W. PARRISH

History of the Waratahs

The club was originally formed in 1959.

One evening following a discussion amongst several bank officers in the Illawarra Leagues Club, "Combined Banks", the infant child of Waratahs, was formed.

At the first formal meeting Max Cohen was elected as the club's first President — Dick Dwyer, treasurer.

To obtain finance to purchase jumpers, etc., it was decided to write to all local bank managers making them vice presidents, and managers of larger banks patrons.

Jack Richardson and other district executives were then approached and we played our first season in 1960.

Roger Stretch, a district referee at the time, then undertook to show 15 bank clerks, solicitors clerks, insurance salesmen and the like the fundamentals of how to play rugby.

Our first official game was on 2nd May, 1960. 15 learned gentlemen decked out in pillar box red guernseys with a white pound sign walked onto McCabe Park to face Port Surf. The result, a debacle 69 to 0.

Later than year Harry Jardine, a local detective, took over as coach and we gained the use of the Police Boys Club oval. With Harry came a few other members of the force and the size of the pack increased. First scorers for the club were Max Moore with a try and Max Cohen with a penalty goal.

Our first win was on 18th June, 1960, when we defeated Metal Manufactures 18 to 9.

To cap our entry into the competition on 25th June, 1960, Alex Schubert had the dubious honour of being the 1st player sent off that season and drew a week for allegedly throwing a right cross.

Ian Sinclair was our first representative player gaining selection against Barbarians on 5th June, 1960.

Our initial season we won the wooden spoon, our best effort being against Port Surf in the second round 12 to 0 loss.

1961 . . .

1961 saw a new president, Frank Issacs, treasurer Neville Cross, and Dick Dwyer as secretary.

Our players to gain representative honours were Ian Sinclair, Allan Head, Reg Reeves, Brian Heaney, John Atkinson, Terry Kelly and Paul Jones. Our worst defeat was at the hands of Kiama 61 to 0 at Reid Park, Dapto. We finished 6th out of 9 teams with 6 points.

On 22nd July, 1961, we had our first trip away when we went to Katoomba and defeated the Blue Mountains club 15 to 6.

1962 . . .

1962 saw the same hard working executives at the helm. We met with mixed success.

On the field John Steel gained representative honours and our best win being against Corrimal Surf 14 to 6. Our worst loss was at the hands of Kiama 23 to 3. We finished with 3 wins and a draw.

1963 . . .

1963 saw us enter two teams — the spirit of the club was very high as after the 1st round John Steel and John Robson were selected to represent the district at country week. We played well without a lot of success, being defeated 13 to 11 by the top Port

Surf side. We were defeated by Port Surf 5 to 0, University 13 to 8 and our worst defeat was by Vikings 35 to 3 (a young player named Les Hanigan scored 7 tries).

We had two under 21 representatives, C. Blakmore and J. Brown (not our Joe). We finished the season with a 6-all draw with Kiama forcing that team to play off for 4th place. Our reserve grade side finished 6th. John Steel prepared the ground work for the districts injured players fund.

1964 . . .

With increasing costs and following representations to the Illawarra Master Builders Club by Reg Reeves and Frank Isaccs (now a life member) we sought sponsorship and so the existing club Waratahs came into being.

To celebrate the formation of the new club we had a shock win (as the papers put it) over the 1963 minor premiers Wollongong Central with a score of 21 to 15.

We continued on our winning way with a 32 to 12 win over Corrimal. John Steel and Peter Head gained representative honours. To celebrate the new club's success a trip away to Goulburn was arranged during September.

1965 . . .

1965 was a mixed affair when we started poorly, then hit form for wins against Teachers 21 to 16 and Vikings 12 to 9. It also contained a black spot when to the best of our knowledge we forfeited an "A" grade game to Kiama on the 19th June — the only occasion the club has had to do this.

Geoff Brown and Allan Elliot gained representative honours. Kiama trounced us 44 to 0 and we were unlucky to be beaten 16 to 14 by Teachers and 14 to 11 by University.

1966 . . .

This was the first year we fielded a "C" grade side which won 6 games in all. Our first grade side started like a bomb defeating Tech. 24 to 10 after which they showed mixed form, winning 5 games and losing several by narrow margins. Peter Head and Brian Hill represented.

1967 . . .

1967 was in a way a golden year, for it was in that year that Dick Cox, our one and only Wallaby, played with us. He inspired the team to some good performances and taught some of the players a great deal about the game.

The club has enjoyed a reputation for fair play — good social life. We have had our share of ups and downs, our major problem seems to be in getting younger players to join. We have for years fielded 3 teams, but all too often this has only been because old stagers have played just that one more game and a host of players have had more than one game.

We regret that we are unable to thank all the hard working executives of the club who over the years have kept the ship afloat while our players did their thing on the field.

Some of these are Kerry Medway, Greg Harrison, Brian Baird, Chris Parry, Brian Carr, Brian Lee, Gavin Steele, Dave Johnson, Peter Tibetts, Grahame Dunn,

ah Rugby Union Club

Neil Tew (er ah ah get your hot doggies), Mike Fraser, Geoff Thomas ("Skulker"), Geoff Wells ("the whale") and a host of others.

To those who we have missed we apologise.

1968 . . .

1968 saw our young 3rd grade side reach the grand final. This remains as Waratah's first and only grand final. Members of that side still playing this year are Kev Callaghan, Mal Pearson and Dave Johnstone. Waratahs and Woonona Surf were locked at 6-6 at full time. In those days a try was worth only 3 points, and the 'Tahs had scored the only try. Under the present rules of 4 points for a try, they would have been 1968 premiers. However, this was not to be, and during extra time, Woonona Surf ran out winners 17-6.

1969 . . .

In 1969 most of the young 3rd graders moved up to 2nd grade. For the second year in a row Waratahs

were in the semi-finals, this time in 2nd grade. In the minor semi they met virtually the same side as their opponents in the 1968 grand final, now playing as Woonona Shamrocks. The 'Tahs were eliminated 16-6.

This year was Waratahs first organised end of season trip. Places visited were Brisbane, Surfers Paradise, Casino, Lismore and Newcastle. The boys played under floodlights against Brisbane Easts Club, and on the way home played at Lismore for a 6-6 draw.

1970 . . .

Waratahs finished 6th in 1st grade, winning 6 games from 16. The 2nd grade boys were extremely unlucky in finishing only one point behind fourth placed Shoalhaven. They scored 194 points and conceded only 104. 3rd grade also won 6 games.

1971 . . .

The boys battled through this year without a great degree of success. Mick Twenslow (1st grade) show-

1968 3rd GRADE GRAND FINAL TEAM



BACK ROW — left to right: George Tipper (coach), Phil MacAlpine, Chris Tyrell, Mick Hyam, Doug Webb, Mal Pearson, Barry Harris, Peter Stefanovic, Barry Bullivant.

FRONT ROW: Rob McKinnon, Warren Pearson, Kev Callaghan, Dave Johnstone, Brian Leo, Euan Poulton, Ron Whittaker.

● History of the Waratah Rugby Union Club (continued)

ed a lot of ability in the last game against Kiama, winning nearly all the ball from tight play, but unfortunately to no avail, as the score favoured Kiama. Brian Baird, Spike Cario and John McGoldrick were regular first graders, with Ron Brady capturing the best and fairest prize.

1972 . . .

A successful year in 1st grade under coach Mel Pearson (whose photo appeared in the local press), including a resounding 33-0 win over Weerona, and a narrow 13-14 loss to eventual premiers Kiama. The lower grade coaches trained under a lack of players and poor training attendance, but finished the season creditably.

1973 . . .

Under President Brian Baird and coach Peter Tibbits we again saw Waratahs 1st XV miss a semi-final berth by a few points. Graham Cowen represented in the district side. Mark Hotchkis was starting to show the form he has displayed in later seasons. Mal Pearson had a fine season as captain in 1st grade. The lower grades battled on, but were short of players, and injuries to the 1st grade further depleted their numbers.

1974 . . .

1974, and new coach Paul McCann took over the 1st grade reins. Waratahs defeated Uni, Weerona and

semi-finalists Tech during the year, but lost form against lower clubs and finished in the middle of the competition table. Gavin Steele was 2nd grade coach, and Dave Walters' 3rd grade side were extremely unlucky to miss the semis. They defeated three of the four semi-finalists and were beaten only 8-3 by minor premiers Port Surf. A great conclusion to the season for those who took part was the October long weekend at Grafton.

1975 . . .

All grades acquitted themselves very well in '75, with 1st grade leaving their run a little late to make the final four. After losing the first six games they won 9 out of the next 10 games to finish on 2 competition points — further up the ladder than any previous 1st XV. 2nds and 3rds finished 8th and 9th respectively, but were not disgraced.

Let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and ensure that the 1977 season is bigger, better and more enjoyable both on and off the field. The introduction of the year book in 1973 was another first (see if you can still find your copy). This book will tell you at the close of each season what has transpired throughout the year and should afford you many fond memories. In closing, we would be remiss if we did not express our thanks to the Police Boys Club and our benefactors The Illawarra Master Builders Club.

R. C. DWYER

P. F. S. JONES

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WHO HAS THE BALL? AH! WILF



GO YOURSELF, ROD

LAUGH!

"Now look here, Mal," bellowed Paul from the sideline. "If you miss another tackle like that I'll get another fullback."

"Oh good," said Mal. "There's far too much work back here for me."

LAUGH!

This conversation was overheard by a Club member:
1st man: "Briget Bardot isn't so wonderful. If you take away her lips, her hair, her figure and her teeth, what have you got?"

2nd man: "My wife."

ANNUAL TRIP AWAY — 1975

The long weekend in October, and some lucky New South Wales town is bestowed with the honour of playing host for the mighty Waratah Rugby Club on their annual trip away.

After the clamour of the bus companies (fighting for the right to carry us) dies down, he headed for beautiful downtown Newcastle.

We must have arrived some time during Friday night because we woke up there on Saturday morning. We were lucky enough to have an early-opener right next door, so Mark and Julian were right for breakfast.

In preparation for the big clash against the cream of Newcastle's rugby, we limited each player to six schooners an hour from 10 a.m. onwards. On arrival at the ground we found the other team drinking in the Club overlooking the ground. We were aghast at this behaviour and decided to join them. Because we were so well dressed, we decided we would feel out of place with those scruffy hooligans, so we went back to the pub. Everyone was very upset, but really took it like men.

Mark was very tired by now, he had a shower, put on his suit and tie, and went to bed.

I forget the name of the Club we went to, but I think we went to one on Saturday night.

We must have got to bed sometime that night, because again we woke up there the next morning.

Our Saturday morning entertainment was extracted at the expense of Souths Leagues Club. Bob Thompson walked off with all the prizes from the various competitions, and initiated a few competitions of his own. The large local crowd were well entertained.

It's funny how I can't recall much after about 6 p.m. each day, but the Monday morning came the same as Sunday did, and the boys moved down to the early-opener for breakfast.

The bus driver finally persuaded us that we really should go home before Christmas so we boarded the bus and bade farewell to sunny Newcastle.

A small country pub on the Central Coast was nice enough to provide our lunch at a nominal fee, so we rewarded them with a hearty sing-song of blues and ballads for a couple of hours. The pub seemed strangely empty when we hopped back on the bus.

We all decided the trip had been a big success and surprisingly decided to have another one in '76. Come on October!



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USE YOUR WEIGHT, SCALES

C. W. A. REPORT

JOHN WHEELAHAM, alias Wheels alias Dr. Jeckel alias Mr. Hyde.

The C.W.A. trophy is a trophy that no one really sets out to win. It is bestowed on a person because his conduct is such that he stands out like the twinkle in a sailor's eye. The recipient is usually a person who displays boisterous exuberance and generally makes a spectacle (for want of a better word) of himself. This year, the recipient is WHEELS (or The Barrow), who won the award for his cunning and devilish trickery, instead of the more general animalistic displays of the other contenders.

As a resident 3rd grader, WHEELS skilfully played both ends against the middle to ensure a position in the 3rd grade team. He managed to play every position on the paddock (except referee) and acquitted

himself quite well. Obviously, a better player than his 3rd grade position indicates, poor Wheels has had to stand down from playing in higher grades because he lives in Sydney and cannot attend training. This is what he leads us to believe. How many times has this boy been seen travelling towards Wollongong on a Thursday night to attend training at another ground, for another club of another code? How many times has the WHEELS had to refuse to stand by as a reserve for 2nd Grade because he had to go back to Sydney? How many times was the WHEELS seen at the Wollongong night spots when he was supposed to be in Sydney? Yes my dear Waratahs the WHEELS has fooled us all. Surely Dr. Jeckel and Mr. Hyde would take off their hats to such a worthy recipient of such an illustrious trophy.



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★ ★ THE SOCIAL SCENE ★ ★

Unaccustomed as I am to social raving I have an obligation and here goes. Waratahs haven't earned themselves a name for having a hot social life for nothing and the 1975-76 year was no exception.

As always there are many people who both run and assist in the organisation of all these social functions that we have enjoyed during the last year. I will try and remember individuals who have been of invaluable assistance during this time but the many others not mentioned have not been forgotten and I offer them my sincere thanks but alas space forbids me thanking everyone.

Our trip away to Newcastle was very successful and most I guess is thankfully forgotten. However, we didn't have any losses, paid for the damages at the pub, and returned home more or less in one piece.

We held our Christmas drinks night at Northcliffe drive and once again tried unsuccessfully to get rid of Smithy, but thanks for the venue Smith. Mush won't forget it for a while and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Santa Claus Chewey will be remembered by all the kids again and eventually after a good lunch the kids wrecked their presents while the old managed to get drunk and occasionally play cricket at the same time.

Mickey Mouse movies night along with the beer and prawns was held out at Corrimal and although financially forgotten, some will possibly remember this occasion, especially the back-hoe Ian Kent tried to move out of the way on the homeward journey.

The Builders staff cricket day versus the Waratahs was again most successful until the grog ran out but there are always a few spare kegs down at the Club. Thank you very much to Bill Gallagher and the people from the Club for a most enjoyable day. Pity you couldn't provide us with some more opposition at the stumps.

Many thanks to Graham Dunn, Bruce Boulding and their assistants for the cooking and selling of hot dogs, grog and soft drinks at the ground. Next year remember to buy your hot dogs from Dunny. He sold his at his end of the bar all season for five cents less than Bruce.

Pretsel, commonly known as John Palmer, always managed to rob the opposition for the bottle of grog raffle and gamely fronted the referee at half time for the draw.

We tried a new venture at the Workers Club this year after a few games but although they have never had it so good from their visitors they wanted everything for nothing so we reverted to the Illawarra.

As usual at the pub Dunny seems at home with his sausages, ably assisted by our charming Miss Rugby Union — Robyn Beard. Barb Johnson can usually be found there as well buttering up the buns while John spends his time buttering up Barb. After we successfully beat Vikings only a few of their players turned up at the function, but undaunted we drank all their grog, while Wilf tried to catch their goldfish and Steele tried to run them off the road. John's big mistake this year was to complain to Vikings about their lack of attendance at the functions after the game. They even brought their bloody wives to ours.

Other functions we had after the games were held at the Builders Club, West Street, with 102 Church being utilised for a presentation barbecue for our District players. Thank you to those people who made their places available for these functions.

Last but not least, our Annual Ball was for a change held at Gwynneville to the tune of the Tornados. Support for decorating the hall was tremendous and the end result was a credit to all those concerned.

The supper was good with plenty of waiters running around. Thank you to the Illawarra Hotel for donating all the sparkling wines which were individually given to persons as prizes during the night. A special thank you to Dave and Barb Johnson for the planning and preparations they put into making this function the success that it was.

Thank you to Barb Johnson for doing up Ron Cab-sills fly and directing him to the connecting toilet block during the night.

To all the girls who spent hours cleaning up dishes at the hall, thank you very much.

Finally, thank you to everyone who made the Social year successful and I hope you enjoyed the year as much as I.

BRIAN WARNOCH, Hon. Social Secretary



THE FANS WENT WILD



??? A SCENE FROM THE ANNUAL BALL OR A BARBECUE AT WEST STREET?



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WHAT ABOUT THE GOAL POSTS STEELY?

. . LAUGHS . . LAUGHS . .

A meteorologist called Joe says he can look at a girl and tell whether.

+

A few Club members were in church listening to a fervent sermon on the evils of drink. The minister shouted loudly "What could be worse than drink?"

"Thirst" cried one of our men from the rear.

+

An Australian footballer bribed his way into a Turkish harem and was amazed to see a fat bored eunuch playing a garden hose on a line-up of beautiful girls.

"Is this a religious rit?" he asked.

"Not at all," replied the eunuch. "It's orders, when one of them sizzles I send her in to the Sultan.

+

Hey, your golf ball hit me in the nose! I'll sue you for \$5,000."

"I said 'fore'."

"I'll take it."

+

"John, our son says he caddied for you today."

"Funny. I knew I'd seen that kid before."

+

The young couple were finding out about the joys of a joint bank account.

"The bank has returned your last cheque," said the husband grimly.

"Goody," gurgled the bride. "What should I buy with it next."

+

Old Joe, the bush cockie from the Black Stump came into town. The bank manager asked his how decimal currency and the metric system had affected him.

"No bloody good," answered Joe. "They bought in decimal currency and my overdraft was immedialy doubled; they bought in these silly hectares and cut my property in halves. Now they bring in kilometres and I am twice as far from the nearest bloody pub."

AWARDS FOR — 1976

BEST AND FAIREST

A Grade	Mark Hotchkis (20)
B Grade	John Hayward (16)
C Grade	Martin Ryan (14)

MOST IMPROVED

A Grade	Mark Hotchkis
B Grade	Ian Kent
C Grade	John Palmer
Top Point Scorer	R. Gordon (57)
Best Club Man	Mick Fraser
C.W.A. Trophy	John Wheelhan

TOTAL No. OF PLAYERS

A Grade	35
B Grade	52
C Grade	52

No. OF PLAYERS RECEIVING BEST AND FAIREST POINTS

A Grade	18
B Grade	21
C Grade	28

No. OF GAMES PLAYED

Joe Browne	23
Gavin Steele	23
Bob Fleming	22
Dave Johnston	22
Mick Wilkins	22

POINTS FOR AND AGAINST

A GRADE

	For	Against	Comp. Points	Position in comp.
Total	268	227	20	5th

B GRADE

	For	Against	Comp. Points	Position in comp.
Total	100	374	8	10th

C GRADE

	For	Against	Comp. Points	Position in comp.
Total	87	226	9	9th

No. of Registered Players	74
Financial Nos.	58
A Grade	Played 20 Won 10 Drew 0 Lost 10
B Grade	Played 20 Won 3 Drew 2 Lost 15
C Grade	Played 18 Won 4 Drew 2 Lost 12

BEST AND FAIREST PLAYER — A GRADE

Previously presented to—

1963	John Steele
1964	Ted McMillan
1965	Reg Piper
1966	Allan Elliott
1967	Alan Bateman and Terry Churchin
1968	Kerry Medway
1969	Mick Twemlow
1970	Dave Johnston
1971	Ron Brady
1972	Tim Young
1973	Tim Young and Graeme Smith
1974	Mark Hotchkis
1975	Len Barker

★

B GRADE

1969	Rick Deem
1970	Stuart Baikie
1972	Pat O'Shea
1973	Phil Tindall
1974	Barry Doyle
1975	Joe Browne

★

C GRADE

1968	Kevin Callaghan
1969	Geoff Thomas
1970	Malcolm Graham
1971	Graham Cottom
1972	John Martin
1973	Barry Doyle
1974	Paul McCann
1975	Graham Smith

★

BEST CLUBMAN

Previously presented to—

1964	Peter Head
1965	Reg Reeves
1966	Geoff Wells
1967	John Millar
1968	Chris Tyrrell
1969	Doug Roser
1970	Adrian Russell
1971	Bruce Carr
1972	John McGoldrick
1973	Neil Tew
1974	Gavin Steele
1975	Mick Wilkins

★

LIFE MEMBERS

Frank Isaacs, Brian Baird, Geoff Wells, Bruce Carr

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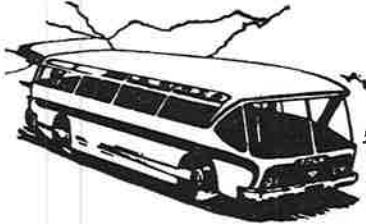


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