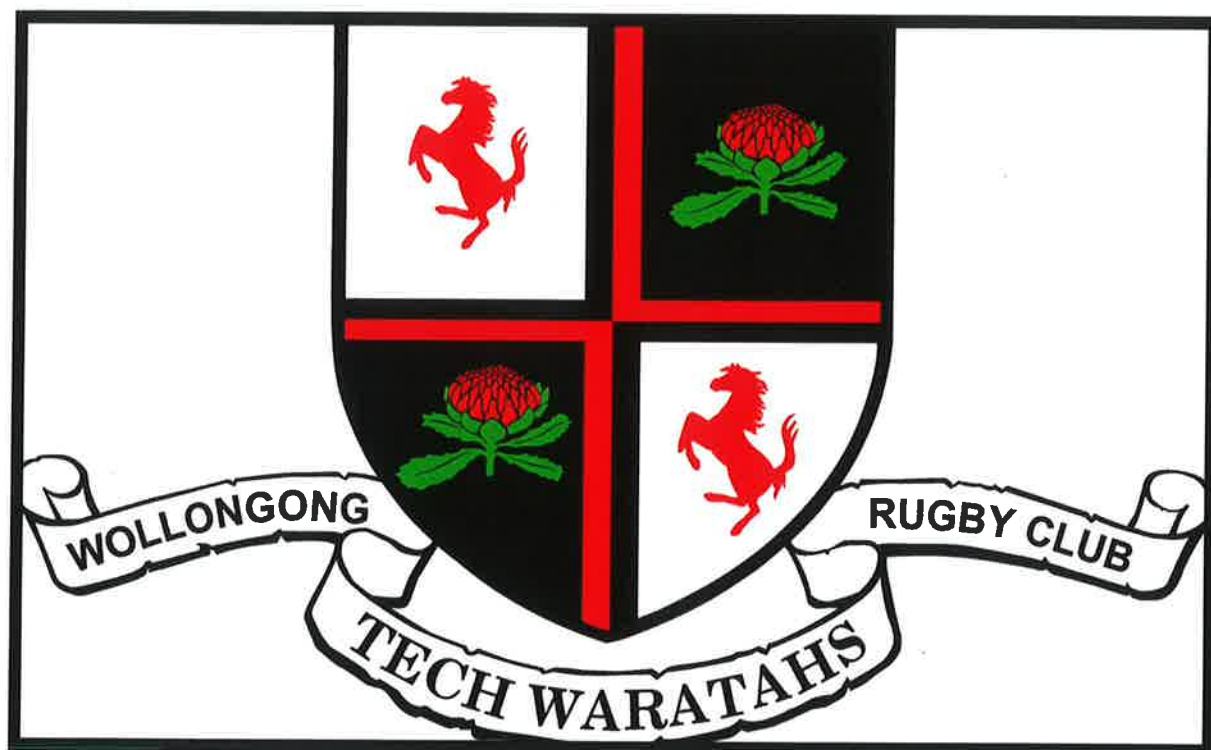


Wollongong Tech Waratahs Rugby Club



Yearbook 2018

Life Members

BRIAN BAIRD

WAYNE BOARDMAN

RICHARD BOYLE

BRUCE CARR

TONY CHEETHAM

GRAEME COLLINSON-SMITH

PAUL DARBY

CRAIG FRANKLIN

GARY GRAHAM

MARK HOTCHIS

FRANK ISSACS

WAYNE IRELAND

GRAEME KOHLER

BRIAN LEO

BARRY McVICAR

SHANE McVICAR

DON MUIR

TIM OLSEN

LEW POGSON [dec]

CYRIL SAUNDERS [dec]

DON SHAW

EAN TORPY

GEOFF WELLS

RON WESSEL

MICK WILKINS

Sponsors

Northgong Hotel

Multi Civil and Rail Service

TLE

IMB Bank

Vals 4 AI

Zeidler Automotive

Friends Pizza

Bottle-O Crown West Cellars

Alexandar Michaels Menswear

Print Media

First National Real Estate

Karas Smash Repairs

Austrain Academy

Modern Dry Cleaning

Presidents Report

Players, sponsors and guests,

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

And what a season it was a three grades club with all the problems it presented, but we all pulled together and only forfeited two games and one of those was away to Vincentia.

Highlights of the season as your President were many and varied but getting to know all you fine young men over pizza and beer at training was very special.

Low points of the season was participating in all those near wins in all grades, but it is a very hard competition.

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 2019.

Yours in grass roots Rugby

Alan Gregory

2018 Treasurer's Report

What a successful season we have had! So much to celebrate and be positive about. 2018 saw the successful return of our Third Grade side and our MCR First Grade team were undoubtedly the most improved in the competition.

We are grateful for our generous sponsors who are the lifeblood of our club. A special thank you to our Major Sponsors:

- **Northgong Hotel**
- **Multi Civil and Rail Service**
- **TLE**
- **IMB Bank**

Our Partner Sponsors **K&D Tully Electrical, Institute of Lean Systems** and **Johnston Legal** also continued their loyal support of our club – thank you very much.

We also have a large number of Affiliate sponsors, who we appreciate greatly for their valued support:

- **Vals 4 AI**
- **Zeidler Automotive**
- **Friends Pizza**
- **Bottle-O Crown West Cellars**
- **Alexandar Michaels Menswear**
- **Print Media**
- **First National Real Estate**
- **Karas Smash Repairs**
- **Austrain Academy**
- **Modern Dry Cleaning**

Every Friday night at the Northgong Hotel, we hold our **weekly meat raffle**, where we raffle 15 meat trays and 4 Venue vouchers worth \$25 each. There are five teams that take turns to run the raffle and a number of club members who regularly turn up to support it. This is the main source of funds for our club, and we need to keep working on elevating its success. Thanks to all the team members, and everyone who regularly supports the raffle. This is a great way to support your club and keep in touch in the off season.

We had 20 **Tech Tah Tribe members** this season. This is our social / supporters club. There are many great benefits of being a member, but the primary reason most participate, is to make a financial contribution and a difference in the club. Thank you legends and we hope to see you all return next season.

It was astounding to see the family effort and commitment from the whole Letham family in the canteen this year. The canteen is such an integral part of our game days and training

nights, both financially and socially. The club is very grateful and appreciative of the whole gang who rallied behind Graham and did such a great job in the canteen this season. Well done all of you!

Regards

Craig Franklin

A special thank you from Talk2MeBro

An amazing show of true brotherhood!

The boys all turned up and brought their game, but more importantly their hearts. This is what we mean by brothers don't let brothers fight alone. Thanks to our big-hearted bros, we managed to raise over \$15,000 for #talk2mebro at the auction. A big thank you to everyone for their amazing support, contribution and generosity. With your continued support we will make sure that #talk2mebro gets out into the community and helps save our boys.



Club Captain Report

I really enjoyed being club captain again this year we had some big goals and we definitely achieved them 2018.

We achieved so much as a club this year on and off the footy field. We had third grade back again this year and it was great to see all the old blokes pulling back on the red, white and black thanks to the efforts of legendary manager Red, the efforts of Jenko and our new super recruit Adam Bignell. Second grade coach Elia and Manager Rob must of been pulling there hair out at times with second grade supporting first grades ever growing casualty ward but the boys took it in there stride. In firsts we loved every minute of this year we finally got back into the winners column and it was better then LEGO. The impact Eliot has had on our club in the last two years can't be understated he has taken us from the bottom of the comp to just missing out out on the semis. Socially this year we had a great time. We had bus trips, plenty spirits to lift our spirits down at Northgong, couple of quiet ones at the harp, a great mad Monday and another site seeing expedition to Newcastle for the trip away. Over all it was a great year to be a Tech Tah and I hope to see everyone and some new faces again next year.

Yours in grass roots rugby

Blocker

1st Grade Coaches Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the committee members and club volunteers that give up their time for no other reason than to allow a group of men to play rugby every Saturday afternoon during winter. As I have learnt over the last two years the majority of these people do not have an "off season". It takes a 12 month commitment, not just Tuesday and Thursday night training and a few hours a Saturday to get us on the field, so on behalf of the playing and coaching group. Thank you.

Next, I would like to thank my wife Sarah and my two kids Georgie and Bede for giving me the "leave pass" so I could still service my rugby addiction.

Also, to my 1st Grade managers Rick Boyle and Wayne Ireland, these two guys bleed Tech Tahs rugby and seem to suffer a greater case of rugby than anybody else I know. Once again thank you for helping me out over these last two years.

Now the playing group, our training and game day performances and results reflected our overall season. Some days we were 100% committed to the cause and the score board reflected this effort. Other times we thought things were going to be a tough, so we just didn't turn up. Tuesday nights and Bowral at Bowral comes to mind. Take this as you will and you guys have heard me say this many times, you can't win rugby games in this competition by training once a week and putting a different team on the field every Saturday. Rugby is the same as life, you will only get out of it what you are willing to put in to it. Commitment along with a club first attitude is what gets you a ticket to the big dance at WIN Stadium.

Now that is out of the way, we did have some great highlights and results throughout the season. My personal ones are as follows

- Singing the Club song to the old boys after beating Campbelltown at old boy's day.
- Seeing the lightbulb switch on at Camden, this was our fourth game of the year and the guys were still getting use to the new game plan and pattern of play. We were down 10 to 5 after 20 minutes. We stuck to our guns, played to the pattern and had faith in each other and took the chocolates 36 to 10. During this game the light bulb switched on which set up our season.
- The last play of the game against Campbelltown at Campbelltown. The whole game had been a real struggle and we just could not click in to gear. Campbelltown lead all game but we managed to stay within striking distance. Down 27 to 22 we won a penalty in last minute of play and kicked for touch leaving us 20 metres out from Campbelltown's try line. We had been in the same position only two minute earlier only to panic and lose the ball. This time everybody played their part, we win the line out, red ball over to the far left side of the field, bring the ball back to mid field to suck in the defence, spread the ball back to the right and Logan crosses in the corner. 27 all. Woodsy steps up and converts from the side. 29 to 27.

- Pat Logan & Bryn Edwards 100th game for the club against Avondale at home. These two guys are from the old school. Always give 100% and do not take a backwards step.
- Mick Burton 300th game for the club. Mick was my mister fix it along with Mitch Crotty during the year. Most days playing 20 minutes in firsts after a playing a full second grade game. Mick ending starting the last 6 games of the season for me and Crotty was always keen to help out also starting 3 games.
- 1st Grade debuts for Logan Brailey, Joshua Head, Chris Hawksworth, Mick Neil and Ethan Maker. Congratulations, a lot of skill and heart amongst these guys. It up to them to see how far they are willing to take it.
- The playing group coming together and helping out a couple of injured players doing it financially tough. This is what rugby clubs are about.

As you may or may not know I am hanging up the clip board and will not be coaching in 2019. I would like to thank the committee for giving the opportunity to coach a 1st grade team. I first joined the club in 2013 after moving into the area. Even though I already knew a few of the tech boys, the idea was to play a few games of thirds and get to know a few people so I didn't have to stand by myself when I walked over to watch a few games in the future. I think I have achieved this.

Cheers Eliot



1st Grade Managers Report 2018

Overview:

The intention this season was to build the club and our teams to be substantially more competitive than the last few seasons. With some trepidation the decision to nominate 3rd, 2nd and 1st grade teams in the 2018 season was taken by our club committee.

This decision proved to be very positive overall, although the coaches and team managers found it a little disorganized due to lack of player numbers on occasions. It should be said however that those players who did turn up for training and playing commitments on a regular basis did the club and themselves proud in all the games that were played.

The results that all three teams achieved did go some way to impact on the club objective of each team being very competitive, but unfortunately on a number of occasions it could be considered that our teams were a little unlucky not to get the desired game results.

The recruitment program to entice new players into our playing ranks also proved beneficial with a few new players with natural skills and abilities lifting the teams to be a more competitive playing group.

We were also very fortunate to have a number of younger players come to our club.

Although lacking rugby knowledge and corresponding skills, they proved they will be much better players if they dedicate the necessary time and motivation to the game, hopefully with our club. If we can retain these players and built on our efforts this season there is no reason why our teams and club could not be the competition leaders in the rugby seasons to come.

As Manager of 1st grade, I can honestly say we did our club proud and proved we were not the competition easy beats. Yes, we did let ourselves down in certain games but that happens in team games for any number of reasons, some of which I mention in this report. I say this not as a criticism but as a prompt for those who wish to think of themselves as 1st grade players, for them to consider what they achieved personally and what they contributed to the team overall. Ask yourself, can I improve, do I want to do better? All it takes is your time and effort.

I'm very grateful for the assistance received through the season from a number of club members. I can't cover all individually but hopefully you know who you are. Please know, I am grateful for your help and you do make our club a better place. Some I would like to mention.

Collectively, the Club Committee, who do a great deal behind the seen, keeping our club as a viable and successful rugby club. We always require individuals to put their hand up for committee, take on an active role, and make it all work. Rugby doesn't happen if there is no overriding structure to make it happen. "So, we can play and enjoy our rugby".

Wayne Ireland, who is by far the guru of Club Registrar's in Illawarra, if not all NSW country. This is in addition to a number of other responsibilities he undertakes like being our club's authorized "Licensee", being the Club Statistician, keeping all the game information or acting as team manager when required.

Robyn Letham, who rightly deserves special mention for her dedication to the many jobs she does week in, week out. One of which was to take over the running, stocking and control of the canteen, when Vice-President Graham Letham was unable to carry-on, due to an accident.

Robyn, also made time to clean the dressing rooms and club, before each home game, which is a major undertaking in itself. Yes, she did have help but it would not have happened without her, she also took to the B-B-Q on occasions. Many thanks Robyn, you're a champion.

The 2nd grade Team Manager, Rob Kelly helped greatly in asking his players to stand-by for 1st grade. I would also like to thank those 2nd and 3rd grade players who sat on the 1st grade bench following their game or when selected as replacements in 1st grade.

The 1st grade team requires an off-field leader to provide an atmosphere where individuals can bring and hone their skills. The 1st grade squad has a number of experienced players mixed in with younger players that have proven their raw talent and will continue to improve as they learn and gain experience. However, we can claim such players have already improved as rugby players this season and look forward to next season, when hopefully they return.

We have been fortunate to have such an off-field leader in Eliot O'Donnell as Club and 1st grade coach. He has promoted a team dynamic in which the whole team has one goal, to do their best and help the team will win. Eliot has held this position for two seasons and we are a better club for his input in rebuilding the club's playing roster while providing the necessary knowledge, experience and "what it takes" to be a 1st grade rugby player. Thank you, Eliot, I sincerely hope you and your family stay involved in our club, as you have a lot to offer.

General team and game overview.

Our 1st grade team were very unlucky in a number of hard-fought encounters with some of the stronger teams in the competition. The old saying "if only" comes to mind if but we have to be realistic. As your team manager and looking to the future, I am now being critical of some aspects of our game that may go a long way, hopefully, to pointing out what you already know. Playing rugby is a team game, but with each player bringing their individual skills and knowing what their part is in bringing those skills into a collective team base, doing what is required in gaining the ball then using and protecting it to give the team the advantage in scoring. Sounds easy, but much harder to implement.

This could be for any number of reasons such as, lack of experience in tight situations or

being too eager when a better opportunity would present itself with a little more composure and patience, or taking a poor option or decision when under pressure and losing forward momentum.

Other influences that turn a game are understanding the basic laws of rugby and reducing our mistakes which we control. Not providing opportunities for the referee to make very poor decisions which doesn't help at crucial times. (dare I say, even awarding the opposition tries when it was quite clearly, not a try. In our Uni. & Avondale games)

I have to say though, if we had been able to keep our full team on the paddock week in and week out all training together and committed to each week's game, we most certainly would at the very least, be in the semi-finals.

I think we all would agree this team had opportunities to do better as a team, showing great promise early in the season with good attendance at training and displaying the determination and knowledge it takes to win games.

The disappointing aspect was that we didn't continue to be as committed, with a drop off in training attendance and not being fully committed to your team and club by ensuring your Saturdays were dedicated to playing 1st grade rugby.

Personal fitness dropped off, which was evident late in the more intense games allowing other teams to run over the top of us late in the game, to get the win.

Injury is of course a concern, especially when it may take weeks or longer to allow injured players to train and play. Unfortunately, we had a few such injuries. However, this provided the opportunity for the Coach to look at other players who, under normal circumstances would be placed in lower grades to gain the experience and required rugby skills and knowledge for first grade.

We were very fortunate to gain the services of a few new younger players who have proved that they will be much better rugby players in the years to come based on their individual abilities and the experience and knowledge they gained this season.

I would like to finish my report by saying, even with all my honest analysis of our season, I was pleased to act as your manager watching and receiving great personal satisfaction in having some input and where possible assisting the 1st grade team and all who put the jumper on to play 1st grade.

I sincerely hope you all return next year to build on what was achieved this season, continuing to take our club back to where we would all like to be, at the top of Illawarra Rugby.

1st Grade Manager

Rick Boyle

Season Summary

For those interested – I also kept summary notes of most games. These are my notes which by their nature can be seen as negative, which is not the intent. I have deliberately not mentioned individual players in these notes as it's not intended to praise or criticise individual players, our game is a team endeavour with input from all who take to the field, each player is only one part of the whole team. Rick

Reflection on our season

1st game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 19, Bowral 37.

Played well, showed glimpses of real ability-but also need to be more consistent in controlling the ball, too many dropped passes in the ruck area with certain forwards consistently losing the ball when tackled or trying to get the ball away every time, instead of controlling the placement and protection of the ball. A couple of our new backs showed real promise with hard running for the try line. The whole backline needs to know, what to do and when, we squandered a number of opportunities through lack of experience. Overall if we can build on what was on show today the team will do well. I hope.

2nd game. WON - Tech-Waratahs 35, Kiama 6.

The team played in very windy conditions and played pretty-well considering, but the coach has a number of issues, hopefully he can improve our attack and control in the ruck. It may look ok if just going by the result we had enough ball to score a few more tries but didn't execute very well due to bad decision making and poor overall team discipline. If we want to win upcoming games we need to do the little things better and be more consistent in controlling the ball.

3rd game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 20, Shoalhaven 31.

Overall this was a very disappointing game, we worked down into to their territory numerous times, getting into their danger zone and then push unnecessary passes instead of keeping control and mounting controlled pressure. We seemed to drop a lot of ball every time we had opportunities to mount an attack, in both forwards and in the backs. The disappointment came not from the team effort but from the lack of judgement and individual skill levels.

4th game. WON - Tech-Waratahs 36, Camden 10.

Our team started very slowly allowing Camden to score two tries in the first twenty minutes. However, we slowly got into our own stride scoring two tries and converting them, we should have scored another two but the referee allowed Camden to continually infringe stopping play and giving us penalties, which should have been tries.

He should have also given a yellow card to stop this tactic as it continued for most of the game. Half-time score was 18-10 to us, after half-time the boys lifted and started moving the ball around scoring three more tries and a penalty (finally a yellow card) Camden had no

answer to our backs running attack with the forwards providing quick ball allowing the backs to infiltrate their defence, final score 36-10. We were showing improvement from the previous weeks.

5th game. LOST – Tech-Waratahs 27, Avondale 29.

Once again, a very windy day at Avondale. Our team were up for this one and played with sprit and the will to win, it was very evident early on in the game. Our players were playing with commitment getting up in their face quickly and stopping their attack early.

This approach proved we were able to match the opposition and in fact outplay them, scoring three tries and playing over the top of them. As is Avondale's usual game strategy, when they are being outplayed they resort to their very aggressive and over exuberant smash tackling, late tackling and less than sportsman like conduct.

A number of yellow cards at the very least should have been used but dare I say, the referee was very slow to act in stopping their style of play, which did slow our momentum down, heading into half-time leading 22-12.

The second half started badly with our players seemingly having gone to sleep after the break allowing Avondale to control the ball and penetrate our defence with ease. It appeared to be a totally different group of players that played so well both in defence and attack in the first part of the game.

Standing on the sideline, we could feel the momentum of the game changing as Avondale pressed forward we were on the back foot waiting for them to run rather than moving up and stopping their attacks early with good defence and pressure.

They ran in three tries, we managed to score one in response, we were still leading on the scoreboard with four tries, two conversions, one penalty, they required another try to win. We felt time was almost up and we could hold on but the referee allowed play to continue they went wide with their winger pressing to score in the corner, he was tackled as he went for the corner but appeared to drop the ball before grounding. The try was awarded score was 27-29. Our boys took the play into Avondale's danger zone, once again the late tackles and off-side play, finally the referee penalized them. A penalty approximately twenty-three metres out almost centre field. The kick was taken heading for the goal but just went to the left of the left-hand upright, no-goal, they win 27-29.

One that we should have won, overall the boys played their hearts out but a few lapses in defence with some very questionable game management decisions from the referee proved our downfall.

6th game. WON - Tech-Waratahs 36, Campbelltown 12.

Following last week's disappointing loss our boys were going into this game very confident. Our forwards played the set plays really well and were able to control the ball feeding the backs, who were able to attack deep into the opposition's territory.

Both forwards and backs were able to get into scoring positions keeping pressure on Campbelltown for periods of time until opportunities opened up providing results. Three

tries, two conversions and a penalty at half-time was the result, with Campbelltown scoring a try and conversion.

Second half, continued much the same with our boys lifting a gear, to out muscle the opposing forwards and running good lines in general play to out run their defence, scoring three more tries and a conversion. Overall the forwards scored four tries and the backs two tries providing some insight into the way the game unfolded, with our forwards having some dominance in the set plays as well as in general play.

7th game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 34, University 41 No summary, except to say the team played well under the circumstances on the day, and we could have won. We had a number of opportunities but just made bad individual decisions, which could have resulted in a positive game result.

8th game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 16, Vikings 21

Unfortunately, we had two of our more dominant players out with injuries making changes necessary both in the forwards and backs. The team played really well in phases of play scoring the first try and converting. Our defence was challenged on numerous occasions by their number 9 and 15 who found space but we were able to repel them each time. The first half was ours, leading 13-7.

The second half was a torrid effort with both teams doing well with the ball in hand, however we seemed to get penalized much more than Vikings for the same offence of not rolling away, they always took the longer approach to slow the ball down, which was very frustrating in that it allowed Vikings to disrupt our ability to get quick ball. We were still leading with six minutes of injury time already played 16-14.

Our time-keeping for stoppages was lucky to be three minutes, we couldn't believe we were still playing that length of time, anyway Vikings ran the ball wide and our defence got caught out missing one tackle allowing their winger to score in the corner which was converted, game over they win 21-16.

Very disappointing, this is the third time we should have won the games against the top three teams. They all won the game in the last couple of minutes of these games, we don't seem to get any of those 50/50 referee calls to go our way, late in the game.

9th game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 15, Bowral 41

On a very cold and windy day, we had the worst game of our season to date. It became very apparent not long after the start of the game the majority of our players didn't want to be there, they just weren't switched on with a lot of missed one-on-one tackles.

It appeared from the sideline that we had already decided not to be committed or defend our position. Bowral players seemed to be running and scoring at will without any real opposition, it was hard to watch, they scored four tries and a conversion, we finally got into their danger zone and received a penalty which was converted, half-time score TW-3, Bowral 22.

It was very noticeable which of our players were trying to stem the ease with which Bowral were playing, one back in particular was making

tackle after tackle with little help from his fellow backs who were missing in action. He even continued with a strapped badly fractured finger for the majority of the game. The second half was a little more competitive although in all honesty, I think Bowral took their foot of the pedal knowing they were well and truly in control of the game. We finally scored a couple of tries and a conversion. The overall effort and display today was certainly not of 1st grade standard, we know our players are better than this, overall a very disappointing day, with the final score TW 15, Bowral 41.

10th game. LOST – Tech-Waratahs 10, Shamrocks 39.

We had lost three in a row, it was felt that in this game we could turn it around. It started very slowly from our side with missed tackles once again causing us to chase their players, rather than stopping them from mounting their attacking backline, we allowed their speedy players to much ground to run around our outside backs.

We were trying but the missed tackles and dropped ball was presenting Shamrocks far too much ball, allowing them to mount pressure for long periods of time to eventually find the defence wanting, they score two tries, two conversions and a penalty.

We showed glimpses of our own attack by scoring two tries by our young guns on the wings we had a couple of times where the referee indicated, held up over the try line, although our players said one of these should have been a try. Half-time score TW 10, Shamrocks 17.

We were still in the game on the score board, but second-half Shamrocks lifted their pace and speed in the ruck and maul to take advantage of us not protecting what should have been our ball. We couldn't match them in the set plays especially our lineouts which we lost far too many times, when we could have mounted serious attacks on their try line.

Given the amount of ball and the speed of their game we just couldn't hold them which allowed both their backs and forwards to score four additional tries, converting three of them to take the final score to TW- 10, Shamrocks 39.

11th game. LOST -Tech-Waratahs 12, Kiama 14.

Kiama had not been travelling very well and we thought for sure this one was in the bag. The game started well-enough with our team being a little down on experience, due to injuries and representative commitments allowing Kiama's forwards to outclass us in the forwards both in the rucks and mauls. They were quicker to engage and control the outcome due to their forwards taking the initiative away from us on too many occasions, by allowing them to push us off our ball, with a second push.

However, we did get enough ball to make some inroads through our backs allowing our wingers to score two tries one of which was converted. Kiama also scored a try and conversion just prior to half-time with the score TW 12 – Kiama 7.

Following the break Kiama took full advantage of the wind and played in our half of the field for long periods and eventually scored a try out wide which was converted score 12-14.

We had a number of scoring opportunities to get over the line but lack of discipline and patience squandered these, which would have made the difference. Kiama pressed our

defence but our boys defended really well on our try line for long periods and they were denied any further points.

Just minutes left in the game for the win, we mounted a strong attack to get within ten metres of their try line with all the momentum going forward we had the advantage but the referee decides to give us a penalty, two minutes to go the kick had to be taken.

Approximately twenty-five metres out and to the right about fifteen meters, the kick was heading for the black dot but at the last moment went to the left, game over they win 12-14.

12th game. WON - Tech-Waratahs 27, Shoalhaven 14.

This turned out to be one of our better games so far this season although we had three of our more notable players out injured. This was a home game and the winds were very strong and blustery with Shoalhaven using the wind to their advantage gaining easy ground with down field kicks.

Our team were much more tuned into the game this week with good defence and better control of the ball. Our forwards were playing with commitment and matching their opposition in the tight play. The half-time score was in our favour 15-14, we scored three tries to Shoalhaven with two tries and a conversion.

Second half was similar to the first, but we had the wind advantage which we could have utilised a little smarter than we did. We were running the ball with a more determined attitude allowing us to score a further three tries, converting one, adding to the score now 27-14. The boys were required to defend their try line with great defence which was a highlight of our game. Our tries were divided between the forwards and the backs, with the after-match atmosphere really good to see after the previous four weeks without a win. I hope we can keep this going forward for next few weeks, they were good to watch today.

13th game. WON - Tech-Waratahs 29, Campbelltown 27. We still had a number of players out this week for various reasons. The game started with Campbelltown's big forwards playing close to the mauls holding the ball and controlling play going forward.

They are big people although our lads tried to contain them it was near impossible their size and weight took its toll and eventually our defence broke down allowing them to get clean ball to their backs two of which were very quick and were able to get deep into our red zone, although, I have to say we defended really well on our line for numerous phases before they scored next to the sideline.

We were under pressure for most of the first-half but to their credit our players were able to score two good tries to Campbelltown's three tries a penalty and a conversion, half-time score 10-20 to them.

Second half with a little wind at our backs we were able to turn the tables a little, so much so two of their players should have received at least "yellow cards" for head-high tackles but the young referee gave them warnings instead, we received two penalties one of which we converted the other got us into their red zone but we were unable to capitalise.

Campbelltown lifted and through everything they could muster to finally break our defence scoring wide out and converting the kick.

Approximately twenty minutes to go, an individual run broke through their line and straight passed their defence, we scored under the posts score 22-27. We had other opportunities presented to us but these were missed. With only minutes to go we finally got another opportunity the backs capitalized and scored a try. Score 27-27 we had the conversion wide out near the sideline to win the game, the kick was taken we held our breath as it sailed over the black dot, whistle blew game over, good guys win 29-27. Good gutsy win.

14th game. WON - Tech-Waratahs 44, Camden 10. This was "Sponsors day" at Saunders Oval and I was very pleased for all the players and the team as they performed with great determination and showed what they could do to opposing sides when they played to their abilities. The game was great to watch and the boys achieved the win by scoring seven tries, three conversions and one penalty, Camden scored two tries. This game really highlighted what could have been for the team this season, with a little luck and a lot more of what's required to play first grade and get a winning result.

15th game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 8, Avondale 31. Once again, the team was changed due to injuries or other reasons. Avondale started with very strong forward play with their big forwards taking control of the scrums and utilizing their abilities to control the rucks by very often holding our players off the ground to get the advantage, they were doing this continuously as our players couldn't get to the ground quick enough they just held them up until the referee blew the whistle.

We had very little opportunities or control of the game, Avondale were just too strong for our players to handle and compete, with our defence falling away and a lot of missed tackles due to going high rather than around their ankles, easier said than done I know, but that is the only way to stop them, as they just keep running or walking.

This was a hard day at the office for the boys of course they tried at various times during the game but the opposition were just too strong and committed not to let us get into the game. Maybe it was, they used our previous game against them to realize we had the ability to make it hard for them. This game proved to be a completely different Avondale than the first encounter with them where we outplayed them, when they just scrapped home with a questionable try being given very, very late in the game.

16th game. LOST -Tech-Waratahs 32, University 33. I know, I said I wasn't going to mention players but I do think Mick Bruton should get a rap for playing his "300 games" in this match against University. Well done Mick, Congratulations.

This game was a tense, hard fought game with the running phases being expansive and both teams being relatively equal to the challenge. However, I have to say the referee made a number of crucial judgements which effectively halted our ability to mount consistent pressure at crucial times in University red zone. The first-half finished 10-12 to University, they scored two tries and one conversion. We scored two tries.

The second half reflected the first-half with the penalty count against us at 3 to 1, it seemed every time we mounted an attack the referee found something to penalize for, even the University supporters did say they couldn't understand some of his decisions, but were grateful he did.

On occasions we did let ourselves down, we were able to win the ball on the ground but then allowed Uni's forwards to put on a second push, we didn't have the sufficient forwards to counter act protecting the ball, so we lost it far too many times.

The score board indicated that each team lead at various times with a number of changes throughout. They would score a try we would respond with our own on three separate occasions with each team scoring three tries, we also converted two and kicked a penalty, they converted their three tries.

Unfortunately, we had three players injured within minutes of each other, which did affect our ability to consolidate when we had opportunities to score tries. We could have won this game as with others we just couldn't control the pressure due to inexperience and taking unnecessary options when control and pressure on their line would have been the better option.

The biggest mistake this referee made on the day was to award the last try to University after their player received a clearly forward pass, the linesman who was a University person to his credit, immediately raised his flag were the pass happened five-metres out from the try line, this referee chooses to ignore his linesman's flag and awarded the try.

The linesman continued to hold his flag out went onto the field, spoke to the referee and tell him it was clearly a forward-pass; the referee ignored this law of the game allowing University to win 33 to Tech-Waratahs 32. Game over.

17th game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 17, Vikings 32. I was away supporting the Wallabies v All Blacks, much to my regret I think watching our game would have been more enjoyable. So, no summary.

18th game. LOST - Tech-Waratahs 14, Shamrocks 24. Last game of our season at home against the old foe. Shamrocks have been playing some good rugby throughout the session from all accounts. They are trying to finish in the top four, but I don't think they can get the points even winning this game. Our job was to take out all their may-bees be winning this game. The supporters from both clubs turned out making the atmosphere around the ground great.

It didn't take long to see their intention was to run us around, it was also obvious that they were much more intent in their willingness to get to the breakdowns to win the ball. This is not to say we let them just dominate, as we had occasions when we had them on the ropes but just couldn't finish it off. They scored a try and converted it took some time for us to start to get clean ball allowing the forwards to take it forward. About 20minutes in we had a scrum in their danger zone which we won picked up at the back and drove within five metres of their line, recycled the ball and with good support scored a try which was converted. Shamrocks came back very strongly running the ball wide on numerous

occasions trying our defence which was holding up reasonably well, but eventually a tackle was missed and it was a two on one run to the try line which he ran around to place down five metres near the posts. This was the half-time score 7-12 to them.

One of our problems we seemed to lose a lot of our lineouts giving them our ball which was hearting us greatly especially when we had opportunities near their try line.

Second-half Shamrocks were able to retrieve the ball by pushing us back off the ball, which we have had a problem with all season.

My opinion is our forwards were thinking about running the ball before we actually had ensured control of it from the contest on the ground or in the maul. We often relied on one or two of our forwards to control four or five of the oppositions to win the ball, of course we lost more than we should have.

Shamrocks were able to score two more tries with one being converted lifting the score to 7-24, however our boys were lifting, trying to capitalise on a number of forays into their twenty-two, we were able to eventually get through their defence to score the try which was converted making to score 14-24, this is how it finished. Season over.

Please don't be too harsh on me, it's just an old player's observations and when all said and done we have taken the club a further step to the ultimate goal of winning the 1st grade competition as we develop and learn further from all of these experiences.

Rick

2nd Grade Report

Firstly I would like to say A Big thank you on behalf of Elia and myself.

To all the players who played 2nd grade this season, a great effort gentlemen and very appreciated by your Coach Elia and myself

To the third grade players who stood by every Saturday to help 2nds THANK YOU

To Rod Red Horan, thank you mate for your generosity in allowing Elia to have players we required for 2nd grade. Thank you

Tony Cheeto Cheetham, from Elia and I thank you for stepping into the coaching position

To take pre-season training and to coach the team for the first three games

Mate you have not lost it

Three games, Three Wins 🖐️ thank you Although you did Con me into it

To Coach Elia

Thank you Elia for taking on 2nd grade. It is very appreciated by the club and more importantly by all the players who played 2nd grade this year. Elia, you improved the ability and to carry out your game plan by all players . Thank you

Mitch Crotty, 2nd grade captain.

Mitch on behalf of Elia and myself. Thank you.

You are a very good captain of a Team. You lead from the front and take No prisoners and always encouraging players and pushing players to their limit. It has been a pleasure Mitch for Elia and I to have worked with you during this season. Thank you

Wayne-O

What can I say Wayne-o on the huge effort you put in not only Saturday but the preparation you go to leading up to Saturday's game day. Wayne on Behalf of Elia and myself, thank you

In closing

I would like to say Thank you to all the club people who put a HUGE EFFORT in preparing the club house and the Grounds for Saturday's game it just wouldn't happen without you Especially Robyn Letham Wonder Woman. Friday's with the Doc and the Prez cleans the whole club house and all garbage is put out.

To all players thank you

Your great effort in playing for Tech Waratahs makes this great club the success it is and will

continue to be.

Have a great Christmas and look forward to seeing all of you for a successful season 2019

From

Coach Elia 2nd grade coach

Manager Rob Kelly

Thank you



3rd Grade Report

What an interesting year it was for the Mighty Tech Waratahs 3rd grade side.

Following a short hiatus from the IDR competition we came back into 3rd grade full of promise and confidence, this was quickly knocked out of us we struggled through the first third of the competition not winning too many games....I think it was none.....and doing it tough just to get a team on the park.

The middle third of the competition saw us win our fair share of games with the introduction of the evergreen Paul Jeremijenko into the side whose enthusiasm knows no bounds.

The final third of the season saw us fall away a little although we remained competitive till the final whistle blew and once we got away from that dreaded wooden spoon position, we never looked like finding our way back down there.

Our aim when embarking on this mission to reinvigorate third grade was always to provide support to the higher two grades and in the main I feel we did this. Third grade provided a platform to bring a number of new and former players into our wonderful club and you will find that a lot of these players may not have answered the call if they had to go straight into second grade. Most at some stage during the year did find their way into the higher grades and that was extremely encouraging. We had achieved what we set out to do by providing a pathway into the higher grades.

I really have to thank Elia Anuma and Eliot O'Donnell for their support and encouragement as the year rolled on, you made my task much easier and more enjoyable with your willingness to 'bend the rules' just that little bit to ensure we fielded a side pretty much all year.

From Al Gregory and his hard working committee, to Julie and the first and second graders that ran the water for us (and occasionally played for us), a huge thank you, it really does make a manager's job so much easier when you know that all of the little tasks have been sorted.

As far as the players are concerned it probably wasn't the easiest year and probably not the most smoothly run team that you have been involved in but hopefully you had a bit of fun and that you are interested in lacing up the boots again next year. I can only assume that it was pretty difficult turning up on a Saturday not knowing who you would be playing with or if in fact you would be playing at all. The whole club appreciates your efforts and it was a real privilege to be involved with a group of men that showed such good grace and humour in often difficult circumstances while never compromising their competitive spirit.

One of the truly wonderful experiences that we all got to share in third grade this year was being part of club stalwart, Harry Hawksworth's, celebration of 300 grade games for the club. It is people like you H that make this wonderful game that we are involved in and your achievement, given that so many of those years were first grade years, is all the more incredible, congratulations.

A couple of special mentions as far as the players are concerned as follows:

Paul Jeremijenko – your enthusiasm knows no bounds

Vasco Stojanoski – just gets on with his business

Sean and Tim Filan – so happy we pinched you from Shammies all those years ago

John Neden – wish you had stuck with rugby for all those years that you didn't

Brad Sharman – somehow you can turn the clock back 10 years, amazing

Freddy Purcell Jnr – I love that you love us mate

Justin Lenane – will have a go at anything.....as long as it's in the backs

Nathan Astill – had a crack even though the old bones didn't want to

There were so many others that contributed on and off the playing field that I cannot mention them all but, rest assured, your efforts did not go unnoticed and were always appreciated. Also all of the lads that played and were new to the club, I hope you enjoyed the experience and that you will be back for another crack in 2019.

Finally, Adam Bignell, hopefully you have found a new home with the Mighty Tech Waratahs and you live in that new home for a long time. Without you Adam, our season would have ended at the half way mark and words cannot express our appreciation for what you, and your cohort of friends, did for our club. Thank you.

Well that is it folks, 2018 done and dusted for 3rds. Interesting, testing, trying, difficult, fun, enlightening but most of all, a pleasure to be involved in. Thank you men for your efforts and support, it was a blast.

Rod Horan



Award Recipients 2018

Games Played 2018

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 3RDS 2018	TOTAL 2NDS 2018	TOTAL 1STS 2018	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
Elia	Anuma	0		3		3
Angus	Ashbook	17		4		21
Nathan	Astill	109	8	3		120
Robert	Barnett	0	1			1
David	Beecher	35		6	5	46
Nevan	Bergan	14		1	9	24
Mitchell	Bevan	136	2			138
Adam	Bignall	0	8	2		10
Eddie	Bola	0	4	3		7
Matthew	Bonsor	0	1	1		2
Owen	Brace	135		10	15	160
Logan	Brailey	17		5	14	36
Michael	Bruton	280	2	11	9	302
Chad	Butterworth	0	3			3
Mark	Bye	239	4			243
Jonathan	Chapman	6			2	8
Kai	Chishiro-Dennelly	88	2	2		92
Tom	Ciot	0	5	10		15
Cory	Condon	173	1			174
Callum	Corey	0	1	1		2
Liam	Corey	0	1			1
Mitchell	Crotty	53		15	8	76
Chrishian	Cullimore	0	1			1
Luke	Darby	160	2	2		164
Nigel	Darby	146	3			149
Jake	Davey	147			17	164
Joshua	Davey	172			5	177
Nathan	Davey	100	4	2		106
David	Dugan	0	1	5		6
Bryn	Edwards	85			18	103
Jaden	Edwards	17		12	2	31
Liam	Filan	0	1			1
Sean	Filan	138	11	4		153
Tim	Filan	69	7			76
Lance	Fletcher	0	1			1
Nathan	Gallastegui	0	1			1
Hayden	Gee	0	1			1
Opeteia	George	0		2		2

Kieran	Gibson	0	1	1		2
Tony	Gorgijovski	225	1			226
Benjamin	Grief	0	3	1		4
Christopher	Hawksworth	16	4	13	4	37
Harry	Hawksworth	284	11	4	1	300
Joshua	Head	0		9	8	17
Christopher	Hendry	175	2	16		193
Zac	Hill	39		1		40
Bronson	Hoani	0	1			1
Campbell	Hurry	0	5	6		11
Lachlan	Hurry	16	1	6	8	31
Alexander	John	0	1	3		4
Paul	Jeremijenko	102	11	14		127
Christopher	Joseph	0		1	13	14
Mathew	Kearns	0	1			1
Justin	Lenane	77	9	7		93
Ulaica	Lepou	7	1			8
James	Letham	233	1	17		251
Patrick	Logan	85			17	102
Bailey	Lotherington	0	2	3		5
Mitchell	Lowrie	15	6	1	1	23
Dylan	Madin	37		1		38
Kelepi	Mafi	0	1	1		2
Ethan	Maker	0		2	17	19
Lee	Martin	309	1	1		311
Khaled	Matar	238	1			239
David	McConnell	218			15	233
Joshua	McConnell	0	1	1		2
Andrew	Murphy	186	2	3		191
Trent	Naphthali	111	1			112
Emmanuel	Nayagodamu	167	7	7	1	182
John	Neden	0	8	1		9
Michael	Neil	0			16	16
David	Nicholson	0	2			2
Eliot	O'Donnell	31	6			37
Benjamin	Olsen	208		1		209
Joshua	Olsen	8		1		9
Tim	Olsen	323		1	14	338
Edan	Osborne	0	2			2
Darren	O'Shea	18	1			19
Blake	Owen	25	3	9		37
Stuart	Pearson	267	1			268
Harry	Pitt	18	1	12		31
Fred	Purcell	69	7	5		81

Eza	Qava	0		1		1
Daniel	Read	238	5	2		245
Blythe	Ririnui	0		2		2
Ravuama	Seavula	0		7		7
Brad	Sharman	117	7	2		126
Beau	Shipley	0	1			1
Benjamin	Shortus	162	8	4		174
Mininder	Singh	16			15	31
Andrew	Stark	19	2			21
Vasco	Stojanovski	29	13	4		46
Jamie	Taingahue	146	2			148
Harrison	Thorpe	56	4	5		65
Matamoana	Tongotongo	0	2			2
Tonga	Tongotongo	0	3	1		4
Daniel	Tough	0	1			1
Rhyce	Tubaro	109	1	1		111
Aisake	Tuevu	0			11	11
Taniela	Tuipuloto	14		2	12	28
Wellington	Tuliloa	0		1		1
Semesa	Vadiga	0		3	1	4
Paula	Vakaruru	16		2	16	34
Lemeki	Vono	0	3	5		8
Samuel	Wasil	0	4	13		17
Willis	Weller	0	1			1
Joel	Willis	0	3	1		4
Shaun	Willis	0	4	1		5
Sebastion	Wilson	11		1	2	14
Robert	Wilton	0	1	5		6
Peter	Winston	116		1		117
Vincent	Wise	16			17	33
Dave	Wood	32		7	10	49
Lincoln	Young	39	2	2		43

AGM

Sunday 14th of October

North Wollongong Hotel - upstairs

2pm