



# 50 Years of Rugby The Woonona Way



**1970 to 2019**




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Congratulations Woonona Shamrocks Rugby Club on your 50th year Anniversary

David Brown Santasalo



**1920**  
Australian business incorporated

**1947 / 1972**  
Aston Martin & Lagonda automobile company acquired / divested

**1970s**  
Launched innovative multi-segment girth gear design

**1984**  
Australian headquarters opened at Bulli

**1873**  
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**2013**  
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**2007**  
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**1887**  
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**2015**  
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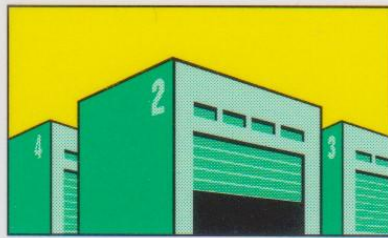
**2015**  
AMF heavy duty mixer gear series launched into the global market place

**2013**  
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Proud to Support the Woonona Shamrocks  
in their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year



This book is dedicated to the those who have played, coached, trained, worked, supported, shouted, and sung as a “pack of shamrocks” since the Woonona Shamrocks Rugby Union Club was founded in October 1969

And

to those who will take the club beyond 2019 with the same effort and in the same spirit that has underpinned the Club in its first 50 years.



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## Forewords

This year we celebrate a half century of Shamrock rugby. Few could have foreseen that we would achieve this wonderful milestone after our first season in 1970. Two single team clubs that both drank at Hooper's Hotel had amalgamated to form the Woonona Shamrocks. But when the season started, half of the players from the previous season had left either to join other clubs or to travel overseas. This meant we were committed to field three teams when there were barely enough players for two.

Before the competition began a player meeting held on Nicholson Park resolved that we would never forfeit a game. This meant that each week some players had to play two games and on occasion all three grades. At the end of the season our only competition points resulted from two wins and two draws in Third Grade. But this lack of success did not cause the Club to fall apart - it became the great motivator for subsequent success. Out of the "Wooden Spoon Year" was forged the unique Shamrock spirit. All of us united against the world in a club which in the early years had just one rule, "No Shamrock fights with another Shamrock."

So much has been achieved in subsequent decades; premierships and representative honours; a magnificent home ground and club rooms; a thriving junior program; and now the icing on the cake, our women's program. All of this has been due to an army of volunteers over the years freely giving up their time to build a great community organisation.

On behalf of the dwindling band of original Shamrocks I would like to express our appreciation for the fact that you have kept the dream alive and built a thriving club which will no doubt go forward for another half century. In closing, I would like to recall a saying from the foundation years, "Once a Shamrock, always a Shamrock; but if you go to another Illawarra club, you never were a Shamrock".



**Bruce Ross**  
Shamrocks First President 1970-73



The Woonona Shamrocks Rugby Club has entered its 50th year in the IDRU competition in a much stronger position than when it first did in 1970. We have an excellent Rugby facility at Ocean Park, we have a strong playing squad of grade players, we have a solid juniors base, and we have great support from our army of volunteers – collectively, the Shamrock Family. These are the foundations that have helped make us a respected force in the Illawarra District Rugby Union competition.

I and my Committee are proud to lead this great Club in its golden anniversary year. We are reflective on our glorious past, mindful of the present and excited about our club's future. Yours in Shamrocks Rugby.

**Garry Weston**

President 2019 Club President

## Preface

A full and accurate history of any football club can be difficult to compile, unless of course the club was fortunate enough to have had members mindful of recording that history as it has occurred. If that does not occur the club history can get lost in time, and what eventually gets written will be based on a combination of a lot of things. These can include old leftover documents and newspaper clippings as well as many recollections (sometimes foggy) of whatever particular persons can remember of particular events at particular times. This book is that type of historical record.

There have been several Illawarra football clubs that have had "Shamrock" in their title. A photo has been found online of the Scarborough Shamrocks who were 1908 Illawarra Premiers and the IDRU history book has a photo of the 1910 Woonona Shamrock Rugby Football Club but there is no connection between these and the current Woonona Shamrocks Rugby Union Football Club that was founded in October 1969, and played its first season under that name in 1970.

The first attempt at recording the history of the Club was compiled by club stalwart Rod Mercer in 1994 for the Shamrocks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and some sections from that booklet has been reproduced in this book, which has been compiled to mark the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in 2019. Regrettably, there is not a lot of evidence in existence from the formative years of the Club – for example documents such as game sheets, match results, Committee minutes, have not been found. They may be lying around in someone's garage or wardrobe, or more likely they have been lost in time. Perhaps the early Shamrocks were just not inclined to keep detailed records. Many of the recollections and second hand accounts that appear within these pages may be exaggerated even to the point of being myths, but they nevertheless form part of the Shamrock story.

A significant amount of the official records of the Illawarra District Rugby Union which covered the early years of the Shamrocks was damaged when the garage where they were being stored was flooded. Attempts were made to dry the damaged documents in the sun but incredibly while being dried they were devoured by a pet goat and lost forever. The remnants of those IDRU records are now stored at the University of Wollongong Archives section, and these were accessed when researching this compilation. In addition the microfiche records of the Illawarra Mercury held at Wollongong City Library have been searched to glean results and related stories and to dispel some myths that have perpetuated over time about the Shamrocks story. Much of the information contained in this book comes from the Annual Reports, match day programmes, personal photos and newspaper clippings that several long term club members have kept as keepsakes in their personal memorabilia.

This compilation is an attempt to tell the story of a rugby club which has established itself at grassroots level to become a proud, respected and integral part of the Illawarra District Rugby Union scene. Although it has always been based in Woonona, the club is identified usually as just the "Shamrocks" and as the only rugby club in the northern suburbs of Wollongong it draws its support from and supports the community of that wider suburban area. It is a club which prides itself on its amateur status, with a solid volunteer base and strong generational family ties. Shamrocks traditionally offers no reward to players, coaching staff, committee members or supporters other than the satisfaction and pride of being given the opportunity to participate in the sport of Rugby as a "Shamrock".

**Part 1:**  
**The Shamrocks through the Decades**





# Chapter 1

## The First Decade: 1969-79

### Forming a Club

Woonona Shamrocks began with the amalgamation of two local 'B' grade teams - the Shamrocks RUFC and Woonona Surf RUFC. The Shamrocks rugby team that was formed in the mid sixties had its origins in the youth group of Bulli Catholic parish. Due to the "reputation" that the team had earned for its "robust" and "undisciplined" style of play in the church competition, it appears that the priest at the time suggested they move to Corrimal Parish where a branch of YCW (Young Christian Workers) had been formed. The team strip consisted of a white Guernsey with a huge red shamrock on the back with black shorts and red and white striped socks.

The IDRU extended an invitation to the Shamrocks to enter a team in its annual pre-season Knock-Out Competition. Shamrocks won this and as a result were then invited to play in the 'C' Grade competition that year. Shamrocks went on to be 1966 'C' Grade Minor Premiers only to lose the Grand Final 3-0. They continued this success into 1967 - winning the Knock-out, minor premiership and the Grand Final to become premiers in only their second year. They retained the minor premiers' tag in 1968, to make it three in a row, and though they missed out on a Grand Final that year they were raised to 'B' grade status for the 1969 competition.

The Woonona Surf team was formed in 1968, by surf club members who wanted to extend the camaraderie that they had developed as lifesavers at the Woonona Surf Club. Their aim was to keep the summer team together during winter, not only for social reasons but to maintain their fitness levels for the rigours of the summer surf club competition. Their home ground was the adjacent Nicholson Park, and the club strip was a maroon-saddled Guernsey with two yellow "Vees" (similar to the NSW Country Rugby League jumper), white shorts and maroon socks with yellow tops. They enjoyed early success, being Knock-out winners, and C Grade Premiers in 1968 beating Waratahs 16-6 in the Grand Final. Consequently, the District Union decided that they also should be promoted to B Grade for the 1969 season.

Both teams had established a drinking base at Hoopers Royal Hotel Woonona with the publican Boyd Germyn becoming a strong supporter. A fierce rivalry developed between the two clubs with many members competing in either surf club competitions during summer or the football clubs during winter - with Hoopers a common denominator. Matches between them were often quite brutal, but the making up afterwards over a cold beer helped develop a bond that would grow in importance in the years to come.

Given the success of both of the fledgling northern clubs, the IDRU had attempted in early 1969 to convince both groups to combine to play in 'A' Grade and 'C' grade of that year's competition. The two clubs rejected the merger idea and then went on to both have strong seasons: - Shamrocks finished second on the table with Woonona Surf third to set up the scenario of a clash in the finals. Shamrocks drew their major semi Final with minor premiers Teachers College meaning they had to play in the preliminary final to survive in the competition. Woonona Surf defeated Waratahs in the minor semi-final, meaning that they therefore had to play Shamrocks in the preliminary Final. During the competition rounds Shamrocks had defeated Woonona Surf both times and so were entitled to start favourites in the do or die clash. Shamrocks scored five tries to four but lost 24-19, with Rod Gilmour kicking the Surf Club to victory. The IDRU Management Committee minutes of October 1969 recorded this match as being "undoubtedly the most entertaining match of the season". Regrettably Woonona Surf lost the Grand Final to Teachers College.

The 1969 IDRU records show that Shamrocks had 29 registered players and Woonona Surf had 32. (See Appendix Two). Following the success that both clubs enjoyed that year the IDRU formed the view that with their combined playing strength a merged club could potentially field three full grades for the 1970 season. The District was also indicating that they wanted a club called "Northern Suburbs" in their competition and that this would be an appropriate name for a merged club.

Eventually, under continued pressure from the IDRU, including the threat of expulsion of both of the clubs if they remained as single grade entities, a meeting of members from both clubs was held at Woonona-Bulli Soccer and Sports Club on 5th October 1969. It is probable that the Shamrocks outnumbered the Surf members at this meeting and after much heated and animated discussion, enough of the rivals agreed to the amalgamation. However, in a sign of things to come, the newcomers ignored the IDRU's suggestions to call themselves Northern Suburbs (or Districts), and decided that they would call themselves Woonona Shamrocks instead.

At its subsequent Executive Meeting the IDRU minuted: *"The new club will almost certainly field three grades next season, and if so, the other A grade sides can expect to meet formidable opposition."*

<b>1970</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	16	0	0	16	73	351	9/9
B Grade	18	0	0	18	41	332	10/10
C Grade	18	2	2	14	78	194	10/10

Unfortunately, the amalgamation did not initially result in the creation of the strong new club envisaged by the IDRU. Many of the players from both teams who were against the unification decided not to play for the fledgling club and the Club found itself desperately short of players for its inaugural season. To counter this shortage, more young Christians in the form of a group of ex-players from the 1968 St Paul's College Bellambi open weight rugby league team were persuaded to sign up for the rugby code. (Harry Kersten, an original Shamrock had been their captain at school!).

The first Club President, Bruce Ross got a commitment from his small band of players that they "would not forfeit - no matter what!" This was especially tested on the trip to Shoalhaven when only 16 players travelled south, and played two grades. All year the commitment was met by players doubling up, or playing on when injured or even doing both. The efforts required to fill three grades each week were testament to the development of an ethos within the Club to "fight" hard and survive against the odds - a feature of Shamrocks that continues to this day.

To make up the numbers the Club did two things: - they invented the names of some players and entered them on the Match sheets and/or they played whoever they could muster to run on under those names. (Refer to Appendix 1). The Club drew the ire of officialdom over the playing of unregistered players with the IDRU October Executive Meeting passing the following motion at one of their meetings:

*"that the Delegates of Woonona Shamrocks be requested to appear at the next meeting to explain irregularities in registration forms and results sheets, and failing their appearance, that the club be called upon to show cause why it should not be disaffiliated by the Union".*

The Club was fined \$2.00 each time the IDRU got evidence that an unregistered player had been used. The Shamrocks philosophy was to test the system and to try and get away with "approximate accuracy if not strict accuracy" (Bruce Ross). This was to be the start of a "love-hate relationship" with the officialdom of the district's governing body! Bruce Ross acquired the reputation for being the "Golden Tongued Orator", appearing regularly before the judiciary and other District Committees to espouse the qualities of the new Shamrocks.

The new club set a precedent with "shift work" training sessions – normal training was Monday and Wednesday evenings, but because of the number of shift workers Keith "Sluggo" Walker also ran training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for those who couldn't make it at night - an innovative working class solution.



The Woonona Shamrocks first set of playing jerseys were apparently donated to the club by Mr. Jack Ryan consisting of a white jumper with a green saddle which was "supposed" to be matched with green shorts. The Ladies Auxiliary washed and repaired all the football jumpers after each game – "Sluggo" Walker recollects: *"The girls did a great job of removing a lot of blood from the jumpers usually sewing them back together after the rucks, mauls and fights that the boys loved so much. Shamrocks were not the best Rugby players in the Illawarra but they may have been the best presented!"*

Brown Muscat became known as "Shamrock Champagne" and it became a traditional drink of the players at half time of each game, to provide the boys with the spirit required to sustain them through the second half until full time.

*Woonona Shamrocks First Competition Game in IDRU April 11 1970 at University. Shamrocks are Peter Craig, Phil Chilby & Gary Hawkins*

"Sluggo" again: *"Originally, the players changed and showered at Woonona Surf Club. At the time there were 2 football fields at Nicho Park and on occasions there were 2 games of football being played at the same time with Shamrocks on one field and the Woonona Colts Rugby League team on the other. After the games we showered and went to Hooper's for the presentation and Choir Practice. We didn't win many games (only the fights) but NEVER lost a singing contest. And we built an enviable record in post match "boat-racing" (and this great rugby tradition continues to this day at Ocean Park during the presentation ceremonies that follow every seniors match.)*



*The Royal Hotel Woonona affectionately known as Hoopers was the watering hole and social hub for Shamrocks 1968-1983. Situated on the hill on the Prince's Highway players and supporters gathered there after games, after training and after anything else. Woonona (the site is now occupied by an accountant's office, a Chinese restaurant and Maccas driveway).*



In late July 1970 the Mercury's rugby column printed this:

*Woonona Shamrocks Rugby Union Club President Bruce Ross has refuted rumours his club may disband at the end of the season. "The Woonona club is progressing into one of the strongest in the district and the rumours are rubbish." He said, "even though we are likely wooden spooners in all 3 grades, morale in the club could not be higher. Possibly some of the recent trouble about result sheets and registration forms may have led to the rumours. But it is difficult for a young club to become fully organized and perhaps a few minor allegations by district officials could be overlooked. In a few seasons we will be a force to be reckoned with".*

As Bruce Ross predicted the inaugural season was marked by the rare feat of running last in each of the three grades. Both 'A' & 'B' Grades went winless while 'C' Grade won 2 games and drew 2 others to amass a total of 6 competition points. Each foundation player had the distinction of being presented with an engraved wooden spoon as a memento of their first season as a Shammie.



The trials and tribulations of Season ONE drew the Club members together as a group, and resulted in a growing reputation for good times and camaraderie. At the conclusion of the season the IDRU recorded in its minutes:

*"Although this club finished the season with 3 wooden spoons it is to be congratulated for fulfilling all of its playing commitments and for providing an extra opponent for the other 'A' grade teams."*

<b>1971</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	16	1	14	1	118	259	9/9
B Grade	16	11	4	1	152	93	3/9
C Grade	18	5	12	1	80	205	9/10
Inaugural Club Championship							5th

Fortunately, many of the pre-amalgamation players who had deserted the Club in its inaugural year saw the error of their ways and returned to bolster the ranks for Season 2. Playing in a new all-white jersey there was much improvement in the on-field performances with the club celebrating 16 famous victories. The first ever win for 'A' Grade was one of them – against Port Kembla Surf. The Firsts team accumulated the grand total of 3 points with the other point coming from a draw against Vikings. This tally was just enough to retain the treasured wooden spoon.

The 'B' Grade side recorded 11 wins, a draw and 4 losses to finish third on the table only to fall to Kiama 13-6 in the minor semi final. The 'C' Graders won five matches and thereby successfully lifted themselves from the bottom of the table.

This season was notable in that it was the year that the IDRU introduced the Club Championship trophy which they named the George Tipper Trophy (George was a Waratah stalwart and IDRU Life Member). Shamrocks finished a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> on the table behind the winners Teachers College, a pretty good result for the young club. (Note: Shamrocks has never finished at the bottom of the Club Championship since its inception.)

<b>1972</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	14	4	9	1	129	272	5/8
<b>B Grade</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2/9</b>
C Grade	16	7	8	1	133	125	6/9
Club Championship							5/10

There were two milestones in this year: Firstly, the 'Rocks celebrated their first win in all three grades. To quote the Illawarra Mercury: *"Irish eyes are smiling at last, with the Cinderella club Woonona Shamrocks winning all three grades against the Waratahs club"*. (May 1972)

Secondly, Woonona Shamrocks magnificent 'B' Grade side coached by the already veteran Billy Blanch improved on last year's efforts by winning the Club's first premiership after finishing second on the ladder. Although the Rocks went down to Vikings in the minor semi, they bounced back to thrash Teachers in the preliminary final and then turned the tables on the Blues in the one that matters, defeating them in a hard fought battle to the tune of 7-6.

## 2nd Grade Premiers 1972



*Back: K Crick, R Gilmour, C Campbell, H Kersten, P McAndrew, M O'Brien, D Owen, C Whittaker, P Humphries Centre: W. Blanch, D Ronald, C Downie, B Cooney, P Crick, C Filan, S Clarke, T Nutt. Front: B Kelsey, S Saunders, W George, G Tresidder, A Fitzgerald, A Nutt, E Ambler. Ball Boy: B Nutt*

<b>1973</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	16	5	11	0	211	271	6/9
B Grade	20	8	11	1	233	197	7/11
C Grade	18	6	12	0	136	188	6/10
Club Championship							6/13

The highlight of the Shamrocks year was probably the planning put in to their first overseas tour scheduled for early 1974 to the west coast of the USA (see Chapter 15)

<b>1974</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	16	4	12	0	108	257	8/9
B Grade	16*	6	9	1	112	215	7/10
C Grade	16*	4	11	1	81	172	10/10
*Results for last 2 rounds B & C Grades unknown							
Club Championship							8/12

The Mercury described the Shamrocks year as being a disappointing one – so maybe that’s enough said. But the US tour was pretty good for those that went!!!

<b>1975</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	20	5	15	0			9/11
B Grade	20	9	10	1			6/11
C Grade	16	12	4	0			4/9
Club Championship							

The Club appointed renowned “club-builder” coach Dexter Porter to inspire the teams but the top graders struggled. `C Grade had the better of the season qualifying for the finals, only to fall to Weerona in the minor semi-final. Bruce Fergusson became the Club’s first Centurion.

<b>1976</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	22	6	15	1	208	360	8/11
B Grade	22	13	8	1	223	126	4/11
C Grade	22	12	10	0	182	96	4/11
Club Championship							6/11

Dexter Porter’s emphasis on improved standards and supporting the youngsters worked successfully for the lower grades with both ‘B’ and ‘C’ Grades making the finals play-offs.

<b>1977</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	18	4	14	0			9/10
B Grade	18	9	9	0			6/10
C Grade	18	8	10	0			7/10
Club Championship							9/11

1977 was described by Club President Mick Smith as being “*a quiet year with results not up to expectations*”. Geoff Murrell took over the reins as Club Coach and continued the emphasis on the development of young players to give the Rocks the potential for imminent success. Three of the club’s rising stars were selected for Illawarra Under 21s:- Brian Nutt, Chris Reid and Gerard Magee. A further sign that the club was maturing, was the decision to enter an under 18 side - organized by seasoned players Ken Rutgerson, Barry Cavanough and Pat Ryan. Two of these players, Alex Zelenski and Mick Fazzolare, were selected for Illawarra Under 18’s.



<b>1978</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
A Grade	20	15	4	1			2/11
B Grade	22	21	1	0	449	63	1/12
<b>C Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>1/10</b>
Club Championship							2/14

1978 proved to be the biggest year yet for the club. New coach Barry Stumbles brought professionalism and motivational skills to the club, turning the culture around by generating an enthusiasm amongst the players for training and raising their fitness levels. This, combined with a strong will to win, saw the Shamrocks come a close second in the 'A' Grade competition and minor premiers in both 'B' and 'C' grades with a net result being a very close second in the Club Championship - the highest position the Club had ever reached. All grades therefore played in the major semi-finals, with all three winning their way to the Grand Finals. These semi-finals included victories over Vikings in 'A' & 'B' Grades – the first time Shamrocks had ever beaten the Blue team in 'A' Grade. Grand Final day proved to be one of mixed emotions, with a massive pro-green crowd in attendance cheering early as coach Dick Hasler lifted the 'C' Grade premiership trophy after a tough 9-3 win over Teachers College.

### 3rd Grade Minor Premiers, Premiers 1978



*Back row: B Marshall, D Meehan, P Craig, S Baulch, M Smith, G Pymont, C Whittaker, H Kersten, B Aylett, H Allen, B Everitt, P McAndrew, B Hall, S Organ  
Front Row: G Bott, P Harkin, A Mills, R Sheppard, D Hasler (C-C), R Sharwood, R Bottom, B Fergusson, Ball Boy: A Smith*

Unfortunately, Vikings turned the tables on the 'Rocks in the other two deciders, with Geoff Murrell's 'B' graders falling 8-6, and the 'A' Graders succumbing 15-8 in what was described as one of the most entertaining Grand Finals for 15 years.

Another milestone for the Club was the selection of Peter Lucas as the first Shamrock to represent NSW Country – playing against Sydney and the touring Welsh team. Grahame Tresidder became the first Shamrock to etch his name on an IDRU award by being the Districts Highest Point scorer.

The successful season concluded with preparations being made for another tour to the USA, this time under the name of the Shamrocks. In early January 1979, twenty seven or so Shamrocks played nine games in California and Tucson Arizona including the San Diego Rugby Tournament. Winning more games than they lost, the Shamrocks introduced their hosts, the LA Unicorns to the pleasure of Aussie style partying and the joys of playing with a hangover. Opponents included Irvine Coast, University of Arizona and Old Pueblo, Santa Monica RC as well as the LA Unicorns.

1979	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	Comp Place
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>3/13</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	19	17	2	0	434	59	2/14
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	19	12	5	2	237	96	5/14
Club Championship							2/14

### A FIRST GRADE PREMIERSHIP - Shamrocks First

## 1st Grade Premiers 1979



Back:

*K Roney, B Nutt, C Gamble, R Mercer, G Ryan, R Meijer, R Gilmour, J Semkin, P Lucas, B Stumbles  
Front: L Duffy, P Howard, R Mitchell, P Pilcher, K Mungoven, B Marshall, G Magee  
(Ball Boy: M Roney).*

The success and enthusiasm generated during 1978 carried on into this season, with the Club again finishing second in the Club Championship. Barry Stumbles in his second year at the helm introduced even more unique motivational strategies as the green machine powered in to the second half of the season. These included carrying personalized house bricks on runs around the district, (including up hospital hill) and pushing heavy trucks around just for fun. His techniques helped build an intense spirit in the team and after finishing third on the ladder, the Rocks stormed through the minor finals to qualify against minor premiers Vikings for the decider. In cold and blustery conditions at Wollongong Showground, Shamrocks overcame their rivals in blue 4-0 thanks to a second half try to Rod Gilmour off a Kerry Mungovan kick into the western corner in front of a grandstand filled with an extremely vocal crowd of green supporters. Unfortunately for Billy Blanch's 'B'

Graders, Shamrocks were again to be bridesmaids for the second year in a row falling 4-16 to the nemesis Vikings in the Grand Final.

It was with regret that the club farewelled Barry Stumbles at the conclusion of this season, when he returned to the St George District. For his efforts he was awarded the 1979 Clubman of the Year, and undoubtedly his experience and influential motivational style helped shape the club to become a force in the Illawarra District. On a more positive note, Bruce Fergusson became the first player to reach the 200 grade game milestone.

At the conclusion of its first decade Woonona Shamrocks had established itself as solid, reliable and successful club, albeit a bit rebellious, with Nicholson Park as it's fortress. Club spirit was well developed, and Shamrocks had a reputation for playing tough, uncompromising, and no frills rugby on the field and for fearless and tireless joviality and camaraderie off it.



The club had a special badge struck with the unofficial motto "Insertavii Shamrocken" which is roughly translated from the Latin as: "Get a Shamrock up Ya."

*Some of the pioneering members of the club:  
(L to R) Mick Smith, Frank Peterson, Rod Gilmour,  
Harry Kersten, Bruce Ross, Laurie Duffy.*



## Chapter 2

### The 1980's

1980	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	Comp Place
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2/12</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	16	9	6	1	434	59	5/12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	9	7	2	237	96	6/13
Club Championship							2/14

Despite losing eight of last year's premiership winning players, Coach Billy Blanch got the team to the Finals. Four players in the Grand Final squad had played under 18's in the previous year. After finishing second on the table, Shamrocks drew the major semi with Kiama meaning they had to then play Vikings in the preliminary final. They did this with a 7-0 win. In a tight Grand Final the Rockies, after being down 12-3 at half time, survived a second half all-in brawl to defeat Kiama 15-12, with a penalty kick in injury time. They had retained their premiership title against the odds and more importantly, won an 18 gallon keg.



### 1st Grade Premiers 1980



Back: M Ziebell, B Lowe, L Duffy, G Ryan, C Gamble, J Pink, R Gilmour, S Bower, S Baulch, R Mercer, G Magee  
 Centre: R McCauley, K Roney, B Cooney, B Chin, R Meijer, C Reid, G Tresidder, M Cutifani, M Roney, B Cavanough  
 Front: R Leape, K Mungovan, P Pilcher, D Ronald, W Blanch, Bob Nutt, T Chin, P Reid

Terry Lawton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade just failed to make the semis and with 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade finishing a creditable sixth, the Club managed to finish second in the Club Championship. The Under 18 side made it to the minor semi-final. Player milestones: Rod Mercer scooped the pool at the IDRU Presentation night taking out 3 awards - the inaugural Mercury Player of the Year,



the Most Consistent Player and the IDRU Highest Point scorer. Brian "Sam" Cooney became the second player to record 200 grade games.

<b>1981</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	22	8	13	1	228	320	7/12
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	22	4	16	2	157	376	10/12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	22	12	10	-	177	205	6/12
Club Championship							10/14

The season started badly when Billy Blanch quit as Coach and according to the Mercury his resignation was blamed on "lack of Committee support". Bruce Ross took over the coaching position and having lost over half of last year's top grade premiership players, the club had to blood a lot of young players and so struggled on the field. None of the senior teams made the finals, however the Under 18's won the minor premiership and went on to become major premiers defeating Vikings in the Grand Final. Clearly this was a disappointing year, with Firsts falling from Premiers to 7<sup>th</sup> place. Dale Owen became the third player to record 200 games.

<b>1982</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	22	8	14	0	249	318	9/12
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	22	13	7	2	233	157	4/12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	22	12	6	4	154	99	4/12
Club Championship							7/13

Following the previous year's disappointments the club continued to rebuild and consolidate. Bruce Ross led the First Grade again, moulding a pack of forwards that could match the majority of the teams, and developing a promising young team that unfortunately suffered from lack of depth. Geoff Murrell's Seconds made it to the play-offs as did the Thirds. The efforts of Bude import, Martin Fry, were recognized with selection for NSW Country against Sydney and the touring Scottish team. He also toured with Country on their southern States trip. The Committee announced good news: - after prolonged negotiations with Wollongong Council, there was agreement that Council would finally provide some amenities for Nicholson (Nicho) Park.

<b>1983</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	22	11	11	0	292	244	8/12
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	22	16	5	1	234	94	2/12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	20	7	12	1	94	175	8/11
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2/7</b>
Club Championship							6/13

The worst news of the year came on the 24 January 1983. The Hoopers Hotel had closed its doors on the night before for the last time, in readiness for demolition. There was no warning, no chance for goodbye drinks - the owners were afraid that the place would be trashed by souvenir hunters or even worse, that disgruntled patrons might riot. The Royal disappeared into Shamrock folklore with a whimper rather than a bang, and quickly. The spiritual "home" was gone.

In a morale booster for the club, President Frank Peterson was able to coax dual International John Brass to take over the coaching of the senior side. After a slow start the team progressed throughout the season to become a contender for the play-offs until the untimely transfer of Brass to Queensland, when the momentum stalled and the semi finals

eluded them. A highlight of the season for First Grade was their first ever defeat of Vikings in a competition round (and at their home ground).

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade under Len Pullen’s coaching qualified second on the ladder and was to fall to Vikings in the Grand Final. The Frank Peterson coached Thirds finished towards the bottom of the table, but the side blooded a good many promising juniors who had shown increasing maturity as the season concluded.

Success for the year came with a joint premiership in the inaugural 4<sup>th</sup> Grade competition for the Shamrocks who drew with Shoalhaven in the Grand Final. Captain-coach was the “well seasoned” Bruce Ferguson. The under-16's exacted revenge from last season’s Grand Final loss, when after being undefeated minor premiers went on to win the major premiership. This meant the Club had now won a premiership title in every division it had ever entered.

### 4th Grade Joint Premiers 1983



*Back: J Nash, I Jones, W Parker, B Kelly, H Egbers, A Gwynne, Brendan Fergusson, S Stoneham, B Cavanough*

*Middle: H Allen, G Pymont, B Cooney, D Fitzgerald, J Sutherland, J Pink*

*Front: T Chin, F Peterson, C Whittaker, B Quinn, W Swerlowez, Bruce Fergusson, B Aylett, N Gilmore*

Undoubted player milestone for the year was the selection of Rod Mercer for NSW Country match against the touring Pumas. Rod also won the IDRU “Most Consistent Player” of the year award. Shamrocks played host to two groups of visiting American teams – defeating the Huntington Beach Unicorns and the Tucson ‘Old Cats’, while the Uni of Arizona defeated a combined Shamrocks lower grades team in the prelim to the Tucson match.

<b>1984</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Competition Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	17	10	6	1	264	149	5/12
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	9	8	1	181	178	6/13
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	8	8	2	165	142	6/13
Club Championship							6/13

Following the installation of floodlights and the completion of the amenities block at Nicho Park the Club finally had an improved home base with an ability to train properly under lights. The appointment of Rory Ryan as 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Coach gave the team a new direction with an attacking brand of Rugby that got them within an ace of making the finals. A highlight was the club's second ever defeat of Vikings in a competition round – and the first time at Nicho (in 15 years). Brad Wiedersehn's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade finished mid table, while Chris Gleghorn's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade just missed a semi berth after being in contention for most of the season. The Club instigated a memorial trophy known as the John Higgins Award in honour of the man who had given much support to the club in its establishment years. The inaugural winner was Henry Allen.

<b>1985</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	20	7	12	1	201	253	8/13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	20	11	8	1	181	139	7/13
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	20	16	4	0	253	62	4/13
Club Championship							7/13

Rory Ryan again had control of the team as player/coach, and they finished mid-table, with a lot of close losses making the season a 'what could have been' year. Pleasingly, many juniors from the 1983 under 16s graduated to 1st Grade. The Kevin Grice coached 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade peaked midseason and missed out on the semis, while the success team of the year was Laurie Duffy's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade which went down to Camden in the Grand Final despite scoring more tries than them. A highlight of the season was playing host to the touring Belfast club Instonians who produced outstanding rugby to beat Shamrocks President's XV and then completely dominating the after match function at the Bulli Heritage Hotel.

<b>1986</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	19	14	2	3	406	163	1/13
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3/13</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	19	11	6	2	156	134	6/13
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/13</b>

### **Shamrocks – Club Champions for the First Time.**

Under Warwick Melrose (ex Randwick) First Grade had a very successful season with an aggressive pack and a fast backline playing an entertaining style of Rugby. Firsts clinched the minor premiership in the final round, but the euphoria dissipated when they were eliminated after successive losses in the finals. Kevin Grice coached 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade to a Grand Final victory over Shoalhaven. The Thirds started the year with Craig Fear (ex St George Rugby 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade coach) as coach, but mid-season Robbie Meijer took over the reins and almost got the team to the play-offs. After several years struggling to get juniors on to the paddock, Paddy Ryan's driving influence saw the Under 16s and Under 18's (coached by Ian Harriman and Rick Nicholls respectively) make the Grand Finals only to go down narrowly in both games.

Glen Hutton returned from Port Hacking and was awarded the IDRU Player of the Year while Ray Wylie won IDRU Leading Try Scorer. Rob Steward (U18) and Mladin Pavric (U16) became Shamrocks first junior Country representatives with Rob going on to become the club's first NSW selection in the Under 18's, which impressed coach Melrose enough to promote him to First Grade.

## 2nd Grade Premiers 1986



*Back: T Archer, V Thicknesse, B Robey, R Beattie, M Gill, B Chin, P Manley, G Osadczuk, J Dokter, G Bailey, T Crewe, C Dandridge, R Ayliffe, C Reid, G Atkinson, S Juhasz, M Dowell, K Grice (coach)  
Front: C Woolmer, K Love, G Tresidder, S Baulch, R Nicholls, L Duffy, B Horrell*

A large contingent under the directorship of G.W.Tresidder ventured to the land of the long white cloud for a couple of games of rugby and the usual end of season exchanges. All players safely returned but the only break that Glenn Hutton managed to make on tour was to his leg.

<b>1987</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	13	2	3	338	168	1/10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	12	5	1	322	140	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	10	6	2	252	119	
Club Championship							

After the success of last season, this year proved a bit of a downer, with the loss of 17 players and a lack of depth in the ranks affecting the results. Robby Meijer took over as First Grade coach following the departure of Warwick Melrose, and due to a lack of lower Grade coaches started the season with the enormous task of coaching all grades. Eventually Tony Crewe (Seconds) and Brad Wiedersehn (Thirds) stepped in to coach the lower graders with the season already underway and their main job was finding players to make up the numbers so that no forfeitures occurred. Each week many players doubled up, and some even played 3 grades and fortunately the club was able to use juniors to fill the sides when required. It was a hard year, full of determination and spirit, rewarded by 1<sup>st</sup> Grade making it to the semis.

The Under 17's under Ian Harriman, Bryson Chin and Eon Chapman and the Under 19s under Dick Salm both won the Minor Premierships with great support from Paddy Ryan. The U19's went on to Grand Final victory but alas the U17s went down in a narrow loss. Shamrocks dominated the IDRU awards with Rod Mercer winning Player of Year for the second time, Rob Steward the U21 Player of the year and Ray Wylie again the Leading Try Scorer. Clubman Bob Hutton was awarded the trophy for Referee of the Year, and Jeff Charlesworth was adjudged the U19 Player of the Year and the IDRU highest pointscorer.



<b>1988</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	11	5	1	316	156	2nd
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	12	5	1	180	130	3rd
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	13	4	1	198	73	1st
Club Championship							2/10

A big improvement with the Club finishing second in the Club Championship, with all 3 grades making the Finals play-offs. The Firsts under Robbie Meijer finished second on the table but hopes were crushed when they went down to Vikings and Waratahs in successive games in the Finals. Bryson Chin's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade suffered a similar fate, after finishing third on the table going down in successive games in the Finals series. Graham Tresidder's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade took out the minor premiership but they too lost their semi-final and preliminary Final to bring up an unwanted trifecta. Paul McCormack had a great season being named IDRU U21 Player of the Year. He teamed with Rob Steward in the Country U21's and both players toured with that team to New Zealand. David Aylett won selection in the NSW Country U19's. Jeff Horne became the player with highest number of games, his 270 games eclipsing Brian Cooney's 269.

<b>1989</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	10	8	0	213	213	6/12
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	6	12	0	90	264	10/12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	12	5	1	168	129	3/12
U19s	14	7	7	0	48	78	5/7
Club Championship							7/12

1989 was the year of the big wet, with many games deferred and catch up games having to be played at Gibson Park. The IDRU elevated U19's into the Seniors Division with points counting towards Club Championships. Under Rick Nicholls the young team made it all the way to the Preliminary Final. Robbie Meijer again had control of the Firsts and after being well in contention for most of the season they fell just short of qualifying for the finals. Bob Frank's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade had a disappointing season finishing near the bottom. The Thirsty Thirds with Graham Tresidder as coach qualified in style for the semis, with many young players blooded for the future. They made it to the Grand Final, but no silverware made it into the trophy cabinet this year. Jeff Charlesworth won IDRU Highest Points scorer in his maiden year of First Grade, with Shayne Luck being awarded the IDRU U17 Player of the Year. Graeme Tresidder became the Club's highest game player overtaking Jeff Horne's 270.

The 80s decade ended for Shamrocks as a decade of highs and lows, consolidation and growth – a bit disappointing with only one 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Premiership (1980), one 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Premiership (1986), one 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Premiership (1983) and a Club Championship (1986).

The club was hungry for more success.....and it was building for more of it.

## Chapter 3

### 1990's - The Glory Years

<b>1990</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	19	14	4	1	254	139	2/11
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	17	9	6	2	206	137	4/11
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	17	7	10	0	109	154	
Under 19's	17	11	5	1	173	104	3/11
Club Championship							3/11

With sponsorship from Thirroul Leagues Club, a percentage of home games were played at Gibson Park Thirroul, including a Semi Final. John Mealy took over as coach of the Firsts and they played consistently well all season with close games being the norm. Fortunately, the Rocks won most of them including the qualifying semi final when Jeff Charlesworth kicked a penalty goal after the bell to defeat Weerona. Regrettably, they drew with Vikings 13-all in the major semi, relegating themselves for a rematch with Weerona in the preliminary final which they lost 9-15 to end a promising season on a disappointing note. Grahame Tresidder stepped up a grade to lead the Seconds, and while they qualified for the finals, they were unfortunately eliminated on percentages after a draw in the semi. Keiran Love had charge of the Thirds, but after losing many close games did not qualify for the season finales. David Aylett and Scott Lunney coached the U19's to the semis but they lost consecutive semis to go out after showing such promise. Glenn "Ox" Hutton won the IDRU Player of the year for the second time.

<b>1991</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	20	12	6	2	441	200	4/11
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	20	11	8	1	246	112	6/11
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	20	8	9	3	119	158	7/11
U/19's	10	1	9	0	31	158	withdrew mid season
Club Championship							6/11

Changing the playing strip to include the white hoop didn't bring any luck. John Mealy and Neville Austin co-coached the Firsts. They lost Brendan Schoupp, Marc Joy and Richie Aylett to rep duties with Southern Province, but when the team was at full strength it was described as having the most brutal and finest pack in the district (Ox Hutton, Rob Steward, Scott Lunney, John Dokter, Ian Westwood and John Mealy). It was therefore disappointing that they made it to the semi-finals only to end the season at the Minor Semi stage when defeated by Shoalhaven. Robby Meijer's Seconds fell just short of qualifying with many games lost narrowly, with a similar story for the Thirds (Keiran Love coach), losing 8 games by less than 7 points. The U19's were the disappointment of the season, struggling to get enough players, they lost 7 straight games, registered only one win and then had to withdraw for the rest of the season – a low point in the Club's history and a contrast to those early years when Shamrocks swore never to forfeit. Overall, the season was marred by personality clashes, poor attendance at training, and a lack of commitment to support fund-raising efforts. The Committee exhorted the Club to do better.

1992	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	Comp Place
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>2/12</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	22	18	4	0	526	176	2/12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	22	9	11	2	217	203	6/12
Under 19s	22	14	7	1	232	152	4/11
Club Championship							2/12

And better it was. The apathy disappeared - club spirit returned. Grahame ("Slobbers") Tresidder moved from the second row of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to take over the 1<sup>sts</sup> after the appointed coach Eddie James resigned early in the season for family and business reasons. Slobbers gave opportunities to up and coming young players such as Adam Rostirolla and Chris Doyle which they accepted gladly, winning many games by big scores and losing only one match during the season. However, Vikings also had a strong year and finished equal on the table with a better average to deny the Rocks the Minor Premiership. This was revenged when Shammies went on to beat the arch-rivals in the major semi-final and repeated the dose in the Grand Final when an Adam Potter try and a Chris Doyle field goal were enough to win 8-3 in a tight game. Twelve of the team were ex-Juniors, including half-back hero Adam Potter who was called up to replace Richie Aylett who was acting as best man at his brother's wedding.

## 1st Grade Premiers 1992



*Back: P Murphy, G Hutton, R Gilmour, G Tresidder, R Lunney, E Chapman, B Hutton, A Cracknell  
Centre: C Doyle, R Wylie, S Luck, R Aylett, A Potter, S McKellar, M Joy, A Rostirolla  
Front: S Lunney, J Dokter, B Schoupp, W de Jong, D Wylie*

Rick Nicholls took the Seconds to a Grand Final showdown, also with Vikings, but the Blues outfit proved too good winning 22-0. Stuart Stoneham's Thirds didn't make the play-offs. Richie Aylett and Brendan Schoupp headed a coaching team for a rejuvenated U19's which also made the semis, bowing out early. Kieran Love's U17s won their premiership; Koro Ngarimu was the IDRU U17 Player of the Year with Josh Woodford the IDRU U17 Highest Points scorer. Eight players made Illawarra rep teams, three players were picked for NSW Country and Chris Doyle became the second Shamrock player to represent NSW when selected in the U/19's. Wayne de Jong played for NSW Country against the travelling Springboks and Tonga. Richard Aylett was the IDRU Player of the Year.

1993	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	Comp Place
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1/11</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	15	3	0	366	73	1/11
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	8	8	2	123	134	6/11
U/19's	18	15	2	1	303	79	2/10
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/11</b>

After a successful 1992, hopes were high when the 1993 season got under way – but then they were exceeded: **Shamrocks 1993 Club Champions** for the second time. In defence of their title “Slobbers” 1<sup>st</sup> Grade lost only 2 games during the competition proper – both to Vikings! Revenge for these was sweet when the tables were turned in the major semi, and again with a repeat dose in the 20-12 Grand Final win after being down 3-12 at half time. Norm Coles canded the Vikings 14-1 in the second half and sent off one of their props for stomping on Adam Rostirolla. After Chris Doyle missed several goal attempts Scott Lunney took over the kicking duties to become the toast of the town, kicking 4 out of 5.

## 1st Grade Minor Premiers, Premiers 1993



*Back: G Joy, G Tresidder, G Hutton, A Cracknell (c), I Westwood, W de Jong, R Lunney  
Middle: S Lunney, S McKellar, C Doyle, M Joy, J Dokter, R Wylie  
Front: D Aylett, B Schoupp, R Aylett, J Woodhill (Absent: A Rostirolla)*

Jim Walker had charge of 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and they also dominated their competition to win the Minor Premiership with only 3 losses. However in their second successive Grand Final they were pipped 8-7 by University in a thriller. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade had a succession of coaches – Tony Armstrong was originally selected but after missing many games, Jim Duncan and Rod Mercer took over as caretaker coaches. Bill Blanch finished off the season, but the disruption proved problematic with the team missing out on the finals after being in the top three at the half way mark.

Richie Aylett and Marc Joy coached the U19's to the semis in second place with only 2 losses, but a couple of narrow losses in the finals saw them drop out of the title race. IDRU Honors went to Glenn Hutton (Most Consistent Player for the second time) and Chris Doyle the Highest Pointscorer.



## **1994 - The Peak of Shamrock success:**

<b>1994</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>1/10</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3/10</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>2/10</b>
Under 19s	18	12	5	1	267	158	4/9
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/10</b>

## 1st Grade Minor Premiers, Premiers 1994



*Back: G Osadczuk, A Rostirolla, G Myers, C Doyle, G Hutton (c), M Joy, A Cracknell, P Gardner, I Westwood, S Lunney, B Schoupp, S McKellar, G Tresidder (Absent J Woodhill)  
Front: S Golightly, R Aylett, S Filan, P Murphy, K Smith, R Wylie, R Cheadle,*

The Club began its 25<sup>th</sup> season with wins in both of the Vikings and Batemans Bay pre-season knock-outs...a taste of things to come. Chris Doyle celebrated early winning selection in the NSW Waratahs training squad. The second round match against Vikings at Nicho Park sealed the minor premiership for the greens, inspired by a monster 44 metre



field goal by Ox Hutton. Shamrocks did not lose a game at home this year and finished the season by retaining the Club Championship title and winning the First Grade Minor Premiership. With all four senior grades qualifying for the Finals series the 'Rocks went on to become the first club in the history of the Illawarra to achieve the clean sweep of First, Second and Third Grades major premierships. It also joined Vikings and Kiama as the only club to win 3 consecutive First Grade GRAND FINALS. Little wonder that the President's award for this year went to all the senior coaches Graeme Tresidder, Jim Walker, Graeme "Molly" Holloway, and Bill Blanch.

### 94 Grand Final Results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Shamrocks 22 def Shoalhaven 12
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Shamrocks 24 def Campbelltown 6
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Shamrocks 12 def Vikings 9

This was clearly the best of Shamrock times: - Three 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Premierships in a row; three premierships in one year. The Juniors added to the Club's overall success with Under 13, 15 and 17 teams all making the finals, with Under 17's going down in the Grand Final. The depth was apparent in a truly great year.

Team Captain and Number 8 Glenn "Ox" Hutton won the IDRU Player of the Year for a third time, and Ray Wylie was the Districts leading try scorer for the third time.

Ex Shamrock Barry Aylett was selected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Grand Final referee and was honoured with being referee in the NSW Country Champions v Queensland Country Champions (Illawarra v Darling Downs) match.

## 2nd Grade Premiers 1994



*Back: J Walker, P Murphy, D Wylie, P Hutton, J Charlesworth, B Hutton, R Davis, R Mercer, J Dokter, P Geary, S Golightly, J Thomas, R Cheadle, B Chin, V Thicknesse*  
*Front: B Endicott, M Van Anen, T Coombes, M Pymont, S Stone, A Potter, B Woodger*

## 3rd Grade Premiers 1994



*Back: G Holloway (C-C), P Geary, R Davis, J Kampen, A Coltman, R Melrose, M Biondich, A Crewe, R Little, B Chin, H Rasch, N Calder, M McConnell, K Love*  
*Middle: J Charlesworth, A Kennedy, J Thomas, B Melrose, S Stone, P Chaseling*  
*Front: M Van Anen, B Horrell, T Dodds, T Ngarimu, M Pearson, M Patterson (Absent S Nicholls)*



1995	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	Comp Place
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	16	2	0	705	163	1/10
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1/10</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1/10</b>
Under 19's	13*	8* (5 Forfeits)	5	0	189	89	4/9
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/10</b>

The season started with 11 players out on representative duties – but the depth in the club was such that all 4 grades got a win against Weerona in Round 1 without a player needing to double up. 1995 was again a season of great success, highlighted by resounding wins against Vikings (73-15 at Nicho Park and 80-5 at Vikings Oval). With Minor Premierships in all three top senior grades, and U19's making the finals play-offs, the Club Championship was Shamrocks again.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade qualified for its fourth consecutive Grand Final with this year's opponent being the only team that the Rocks could not defeat in the rounds – Camden. Unfortunately the Rams repeated the dose in the Grand Final with Shammies losing by a penalty goal (9-6). Coach Grahame Tresidder announced he would step down as coach after four great seasons in which his team won 77 times and lost only 7 times (with 1 draw!). He had guided his squads to 3 minor premierships, 3 major premierships and 3 Club Championships.

Jim Walker's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade side lost only one game on the way to winning the minor premiership. They defeated University by 50 points in the major semi before facing them again in the Grand Final winning 16 points to 3. Adam Potter won the IDRU Pointscorer of the year, remarkably playing mostly in this 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade side.

## 2nd Grade Minor Premiers, Premiers 1995



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*Back: V Thicknesse, M Pymont, S Southwood, D Hudson, S House, B Endicott, J Walker  
Middle: M Van Anen, T Filan, D Aylett, R Little, A Potter, S Filan, P Gardner  
Front: J Charlesworth, P Geary, S Nicholls, P Hutton, J Woodford, J Pickthall, K Smith*

Graham Holloway coached the Thirds to their second successive minor premierships and then going all the way by beating University in the Grand Final 28-12. The Under 19's season

### 3rd Grade Minor Premiers, Premiers 1995



was punctuated by forfeited games from 3 other Clubs plus the inability to field the same side twice in a row through the frequent loss of players and despite this Keiran Love was able to successfully keep the squad focused getting them to the finals only to just miss out on the big one.

*Back: M Roodenrys, D Ayre, S Stone, K Turner, D Wylie  
Centre: R Lunney, D Hudson, R Mercer, M McConnell, G Beaumont, M Patterson, J Pink  
Front: T Hartman, B Chin, G Holloway, M Smith, J Switzer.  
Absent: P McCormack, M Biondich, P Chaseling, H Rasch, C Bailey, C Carruthers*

Other IDRU awards also went to Richard Aylett (Most Consistent Player) and Chris Doyle (Under 21 Player of the Year). The Club's first two Life members were elected – Grahame Tresidder and Bruce Robey.

1996	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	Comp Place
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1/10</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	15	3	0	442	102	2/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	17*	8*	8	1	191	205	5/10
U/19's	14*	5*	9	0	236	420	6/8
Club Championship				3/10			

The year began with a new club strip (with 3 white hoops), a new sponsor, and science teacher Jim Pettit taking over the club coaching role. Despite being low in experience of senior grade rugby, Pettit had had many years of coaching junior representative sides, and threw himself wholeheartedly into the job. The golden era continued in 1996 with First Grade winning its fourth consecutive minor premierships and going on to win its fourth Major Premier title in five years defeating last year's nemesis Camden 14-6 in the Grand Final.

While the Club Championship did not come back to Woonona, the lower grades acquitted themselves with distinction, with both the seconds and thirds falling to Camden in the preliminary final by only 2 points in each game. The juniors also did the club proud, making the finals play-offs in U13s, U15s and U17s. Shamrocks Rugby – still top of the IDRU tree in 1996.



## 1st Grade Premiers 1996



Back: J Pettit, M Roodenrys, G Schneider, R Gilmour, B Schoupp, A Rostirolla, C Doyle, R Wylie, M Joy, D Delaney, V Thicknesse  
 Front: S Luck, M Van Anen, K Smith, P Murphy, A Potter, J Pickthall, G Hutton (c), P Hutton, J Woodford, S Lunney  
 (Absent: S McKellar, P Gardner)

The 1996 season saw a changing of the guard committee wise with both the President Rod Gilmour and Treasurer Bruce Robey stepping down after lengthy hard working stints during the most successful years that the club had experienced. Glenn Hutton won the IDRU Best and Fairest Player award for the fourth time while Scott Lunney won the Districts Most Consistent player. Ox accidentally destroyed the trophy during his acceptance speech and announced his retirement from grade football.

Nine Shamrock juniors were picked in Illawarra representative teams with Travis Tresidder and Steven Carlon winning Country representation and Steve Carlon going on to play for NSW. Grahame Tresidder plodded through 8 games in lower grades to bring up his 300<sup>th</sup> game – the first player to do so. A season highlight occurred on May 25 when the Shamrocks organised a commemorative drink under a marquee on the vacant site of the Hooper's Hotel on the highway prior to the construction of a McDonald's restaurant. The return to Hoopers was a significant and successful community event raising sufficient funds to buy a new bed for Bulli Hospital. For the Shamrocks – it was a fond remembrance of days of yore.

<b>1997</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	15	2	1	615	226	2/10
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>2/10</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	8	10	0	161	208	7/10
U/19	14	4	10	0	203	362	7/10
Club Championship							2/10

By "normal standards 1997 would have been considered a successful year, but in comparison to the halcyon days of the previous seasons the results were a little different. After losing 8 of last year's first graders Jim Pettit's First Grade side still made it to the

preliminary Final only to fall to Campbelltown 13-6. It was the first time Shammies Firsts was absent from the Grand Final day since 1992.

## 2nd Grade Premiers 1997



Second Grade stormed home to be undefeated in the second round of games and went on to win the Major Premiership under Graham "Molly" Holloway's control. Thirds and U19's strived valiantly during the year but didn't qualify for the end of year games.

*Back: R James, J Woodford, K Gardner, M McConnell, J Pickthall,  
N Saywell, A Cracknell, A Hyndes, T Davis  
Middle: B Chin, V Thicknesse, J Bottom, P Corbett, M Stone, K Smith,  
A Potter, G Holloway  
Front: D Lee, S Carlon, M Van Anen, C Larkin, R Davis, S Stone, S Filan,  
C Humphries*

Ray Wylie became the next player to reach the 300 game milestone and overtook Slobbers as the leading game player.

<b>1998</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	11	7	0	518	188	5/10
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1/10</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	12	6	0	301	148	3/10
U19s	18	6	12	0	129	245	8/9
Club Championship							3/10

After a season on the sidelines, Grahame Tresidder decided to re-apply for the Club/First Grade Coaching position – shows you can't keep Rugby tragic down for too long. After winning the Batemans Bay knockout, the First Grade team entered the premiership battle with high hopes. Three losses in the early rounds by one point stalled the momentum, but they regrouped and made it to the Finals series in 5<sup>th</sup> place. After thrashing Vikings 38-8 in the first semi they then defeated Camden to make the preliminary final stage where they narrowly went down to Campbelltown in a very tight game.

Success this year came for Phil Hutton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, finishing Minor Premiers and then going on to win the Grand Final 23-22 in a cliffhanger with man of the match Jeff Pickthall scoring a late try.

**1998 Second Grade Grand Final Squad:** (No Photo available)

1. Keiran Smith      2. Dean Hopkinson      3. Bryson Chin      4. Anthony Hyndes  
 5. Paul Mounter      6. Kaine Turner      7. Steven Stone (c)      8. Jeff Pickthall  
 9. Mathew Roodenrys      10. Mark McConnell      11. Peter Corbett      12. Michael Carruthers  
 13. Sean Filan      14. Jason Bottin      15. Ross Beattie.

**Reserves:** Michael Van-Annen, Lindsay Burton, Phil Geary, Marc Joy, Scott McKellar, Andrew Cracknell, Nathan Saywell, Mick Smith, Ron Davis Steve Pickthall, Jeremy Barbett.

**Coach:** Phillip Hutton,

**Manager:** Vic Thicknesse.

Ron Davis' Thirds made it into the semi-finals but were eliminated in the second week. Illawarra selections for Country Week were Nathan Saywell, Tim Filan, Falelima Nati and Jeff Pickthall, with the latter three making the Country Cockatoos squad. Rod Gilmour and Paddy Ryan joined the ranks of Life Members.

<b>1999</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	10	5	3	375	235	5/10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	14	4	0	315	146	3/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	8	8	2	173	201	5/10
U 19's	10	4	6	0	84	144	9/9
Club Championship							4/10

Season 1999 started under new coach Paul Murray (former Country NSW coach) who concentrated his pre-season efforts on achieving high levels of fitness training combined with ball skills development. Unfortunately, he was awarded a work contract in Canada and left before the season opened. Tony Crewe stepped into the spot, assisted by Mark Dandridge and got immediate success with victory at the Batemans Bay Knockout. The season was marked by a drop in player numbers, and in particular Sean Filan's under 19's particularly struggled to get enough players. Because the 90's had belonged to the Shamrocks, feeling in the district was that the club was in decline, particularly in the latter part of the competition when the Firsts could only win 50% of their games.

However, the Firsts made the Finals in fifth spot and brutally disposed of Vikings 35-13 in the first semi. They then defeated the more fancied Shoalhaven and Campbelltown teams to make the Grand Final, only to fall to Bowral in the Grand Final at Dapto Showground (the first ever night time grand final). The Seconds (coached by Keiran Love) and Thirds (Paul McCormack) also qualified for the Finals play-offs, with the Seconds making it through to the preliminary Final where they fell to Campbelltown and the Thirsties bowing out in the first semi-final. Not a bad effort for a club that was supposedly "at the end of its era" - obviously the critics underestimated the Shamrock spirit.

Again, the club provided multiple Illawarra representatives - Marc Joy, Peter Murphy, Josh Woodford, Tim Filan, Brendan Schoupp, Nathan Saywell, John Doktor and Jeff Pickthall, with Jeff going on to play for Country including a short tour to Canada. Peter Murphy also had the honour of playing Presidents Cup for Illawarra. Bryson Chinn and Dave Wylie passed the 300 Games milestone this season.

The 90's decade closed with Shamrocks having won four 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Premierships, four 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Premierships, two 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Premierships and three Club Championships. The crowning glory on the field was the 1994 win in all 3 grades. The 90s was undoubtedly the peak of Shamrocks footballing success and the future looked bright with planning well underway to relocate the Club to Ocean Park.

## Chapter 4

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Shamrocks 4<sup>th</sup> Decade

The Sydney 2000 Olympic year was one of rebuilding at top grade level, with coaches "Molly" Holloway and Jim Walker forced by the lack of bulk and size to adopt a policy of experience, youth, speed and commitment. The Firsts toiled to finish mid pack and out of the finals.

2000	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	Comp Place
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	6	9	1	285	317	6/9
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>3/9</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	16	9	6	1	273	188	4/9
<b>U 19's</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1/9</b>
Club Championship							4/9

However, the club enjoyed major premiership success with both the Second Grade (coach Tony Crewe) and Under 19's (coach Grahame Tresidder) victorious on Grand Final day. With the Thirds qualifying for the semi finals under stalwart Ray Wylie's guidance, the Club displayed that overall it had great potential to carry its success of the 90's through into the next decade. The fact that the U19's were functional again after some difficult times was testament to the development work that had been done at junior level in the preceding years.

## 2000 Under 19's Premiers Squad



*Back Row: Coaches: B. Schoupp, G. Tresidder; J Whitehead, M Hammersly, R. Griffiths, L. Marin, D Brown, S. Roodenrys, P. Graham A Hampson, P. Nichol, T. Nolan, J. Millington, L. Simpson - Manager.  
Front Row: L. Dodd, J. Grinley, B. Bruseker, S. Sumner, J. Jarvis, T Tresidder, B. Morgan, D. Foley, S. Monaghan, K. Morris, D Perkiss. Absent: T Leadbitter, B Johnston*

### 2000 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Premiers Squad: (No photo available)

- |                |                 |               |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. D Hopkinson | 2. S Filan      | 3. K. Smith   | 4. A Cracknell    |
| 5. B Moran     | 6. K Turner     | 7. A Davis    | 8. R McQuiggan    |
| 9. A Potter.   | 10. B Tresidder | 11. J Barnett | 12. M. Carruthers |
| 13. D Lynch    | 14. C Peterson  | 15. M Joy     |                   |

**Reserves:** M Thomas, D McQuiggan, R Davis, M Smith, L Beautex, J Bottin, R Wylie, S. McKellar. **Coaches:** T Crewe/M McConnell **Manager:** V. Thicknesse



Development consent for the new clubhouse was finally granted on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2000, and the perimeter fence was erected. The massive amount of work done by Bert Roodenrys and his Relocation Committee was finally bearing fruit.

<b>2001</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	12	4	0	441	261	3/9
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1/9</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	16	15	1	0	311	56	2/9
<b>Under 19s</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>2/9</b>
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/9</b>

The Shamrocks resurgence continued - Club Champions again for the first time since 1995, four grades in the Finals, three in the grand finals and two premierships meant that this was a very good year to be green. First Grade fell to Campbelltown in the Grand Final after all other clubs had written them off during the season, while Second Grade and Under 19's retained the crowns as major premiers which they had won last year. Grahame Tresidder had a busy year acting as Club, Firsts and U19's coach, with "Crackers" leading the victorious Seconds as Captain-coach. Veteran Ray Wylie again coached the Thirds to the preliminary Final after losing only one game during the competition rounds (to Vikings). While doing this he advanced his playing career by another 24 games to tally 370.

## 2001 U19's Premiers Squad



*Back Row : D McAndrew, J Grinley, J Jarvis, S Roodenrys, M Hammersley, R Tonkin, L Hives,  
L Smithers, B Gologoly, T Cavanough, T Tresidder  
Middle Row: K Morris, C Langlands, M Dorian, M Tarasenko, L Stephens, L Dodd  
Front Row: S Monaghan, K McCrea, R Griffith, T Nolan, R Morris  
Coach: G Tresidder, Managers: D Langlands/ B Schoupp*

Eight Shamrocks were selected for Illawarra and Chris Doyle and Josh Woodford were then selected for the Country Cockatoos. To top off the year three of the junior teams made it to grand finals and 19 junior players were selected to represent the district! The claims from other clubs last year that Shamrocks was at the end of an era proved to be just wishful thinking on their part.

The icing on the club's cake was the laying of the slab foundations and the installation of the associated connecting services for the Ocean Park Clubhouse. After 6 years of negotiation, discussion, argument and cajoling the project finally commenced on 10 October 2001.

Esteemed senior family member Chris "Fingers" Filan passed away in August. His many years of dedicated service from 1972 to 1999 to Shammies both as a player (172 games from) and committee member was posthumously rewarded with life membership. Vale Fingers Filan. Phil Geary became the next player to reach the 300 Centurion mark.

**2001 - 2nd Grade Premiers Squad:** (No photo available)

Simon Golightly	Sean Filan	D Hopkinson	P. McQuiggan
A Cracknell	R. McQuiggan	M Kiely	J Woodford
R Aylett	D Brown	P Nicholls	S Taylor
B Morgan	J McPherson	R McNaughton	

**Reserves:** P McCormack, J Whitehead, P Harvey, P Mounter, M Thomas

**Coach:** A Cracknell

**Managers:** G McGee/V Thicknesse

<b>2002</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	10	6	0	457	319	3/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	16	6	9	1	242	257	6/9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	16	10	5	1	224	167	3/9
Under 19s	5*	1WOF	5* 6LOF	0	62	268	7/7
Club Championship							4/9

The Clubs 33<sup>rd</sup> season was a mixed one, both on and off the field. The promotion of many of the players from the previous year's successful Second Grade and Under 19's teams to top grade left those two lower grade squads severely weakened. With Tony Crewe again coaching Firsts, the team made it to the finals in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. After losing their semi to Kiama, they defeated Tech-Tahs to make the preliminary final only to fall to Bowral by ONE solitary point. What could have been?

Constant shuffling of players through the grades to cover representative duties and the inevitable injuries meant that the Seconds could not gain traction during the season. Despite this they only missed out on the qualifiers by one point but as coach Crackers is reported to have said "at least we finished higher than Vikings!!" While coaching Third Grade to the Grand Final, Ray Wylie played on and finished the season 7 short of the 400 mark. Regrettably, the Thirsties went down to the Camden Rams 19-10 in the GRAND FINAL – but they ensured a Shamrock presence on the final day of the season.

All four junior teams made the finals, with 2 teams making it to the Grand Final and the U17s bringing home the major premiership. The great news for the Club off the field was the advancing construction work at Ocean Park. By year's end the building was close to lock up, and the field preparation work was almost completed.

<b>2003</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	6	9	1	345	367	6/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	10	8	0	341	342	5/10
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>1/10</b>
U/19s	12	8	4	0	235	133	3/7
Club Championship							6/11

A sweet and sour year for the club but Coach Kevin Crick remained positive about the future after his first year in senior grade coaching. Player strength was severely tested by an abnormally high injury rate, forcing many of the U19's to double up for the higher grades on frequent occasions. Crackers' Seconds were continually "pilfered" to make up the First Grade team or to bolster the Thirds. The sweetness was provided by the Thirds as they flew the Shamrock flag again in the Finals, finishing Minor Premiers and then defeating Bowral in the Grand Final. This proved fourth time lucky for Craig Duncan's squad as they had qualified for the previous three season's finals without success.

## Shamrocks Third Grade 2003 Minor Premiers & Premiers



*Back: M McConnell, D McAndrew, P Harvey, A Hyndes, T McCloughlin, R Sasagi,  
P McCormack, P Murphy, J Woodford, D Stalker  
Middle: C Duncan, J Barnett, A Potter, B Schoupp, S Stone, J Grindley, S Woollett,  
M Cassar, M Stone, P Corbett.  
Front: C Langlands, A Harper, M Joy, R Wylie, S McKellar, R Lucas, R Aylett*

On the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2003, the Rocks played their last game of football at Nicho Park. The fortress for 34 years with all its memories, myths, legends, blood, sweat and tears entered into Shamrock folklore as the club moved 500 metres up the road to Ocean Park. Here the members could now stand back and look at a brand new complex – its own permanent home - not quite finished, nor handed over by Council, but fit for purpose and ready for the 2004 season. The new clubhouse was unofficially opened when used by Shamrocks to welcome the Canadian World Cup Rugby squad to Australia.

<b>2004</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	14	13	1	0	469	180	1/8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	14	10	3	1	350	181	1/8
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	15	11	3	1	356	115	4/15
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/12</b>

Ocean Park – the start of a new era and Club harmony, missing over previous years, returned. Grahame Tresidder plodded back to take over as Club and First Grade coach with Kevin Crick and they lead the Rocks to the 2004 Club Championship, with First and Second Grade finishing minor premiers and the Thirds winning 10 games in a row to qualify for the finals as well.

In the preliminary finals Seconds went down to Vikings and the Thirds were knocked out by Shoalhaven. Firsts got to the Grand Final where they were defeated by Tech-Tahs 17-13 in a memorable match in which they were leading with 8 and a half minutes to go. As the head coach summed up the season – *"it has left us more hungry for next year"*. Lower grade coaches were Scott McKellar and Mark Biondich, and with their reliable and experienced team managers and assistant coaches they all helped create the opportunity to win the coveted Club Championship again.

IDRU awards were won by Chris Doyle (Highest point Scorer) and Manu Pate (Highest Try Scorer). Andrew Cracknell and Sean Filan both passed the 300 games mark.

<b>2005</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	14	7	6	1	444	215	4/8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	16	8	8	0	346	266	5/9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	17	4	12	1	135	275	9/13
<b>U/19s</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1/6</b>
Club Championship							3/12

With exception of the U19's, 2005 was a "middle of the road" year. Firsts, under Grahame Tresidder, had an inconsistent year, but still managed to make the play-offs, defeating Kiama in the minor semi-final before falling to University in the Preliminary final. Scott McKellar's Seconds only just missed out on a semi-final berth and Mark Biondich's Thirsty Thirds bore the brunt of an injury plagued season. The U19's though were minor and major premiers, losing only one game on the way to rewarding coaches Barry Jones and Tony Davis by defeating Camden in the Grand Final.

Chris Doyle and Manu Pate won IDRU honours for their point scoring and try scoring prowess and Richard Aylett became a 300 grade game centurion with the club. The Juniors had a successful season again with teams in all age group, with the U10 team being undefeated and the U17 team reaching the Finals.



## 2005 U19's Premiers



*Back Row: A Scribe, P Campbell, A Smith, J Tolhurst, G Potter, B Jones (Coach) B Terry, B Lowe P Rowlands, A Wood, S Long, B Peard (Trainer), A Davis (Asst Coach) J Delaney (Strapper).  
Front: L Bate, S Tarasenko, M Moby, M Seaman, J Horne, M Bowen, M Therry, B Liddell, B Jones, B Curtin, M Johnson, B Arber*

One of the bright spots in 2005, literally – the Club’s field lights were installed and commissioned – no doubt the neighbours were “thrilled” to see the light. Wollongong Council finally handed the ground over to the Club under Licence, meaning that after 10 long and hard years Bert Roodenrys was able to complete his last report from the Ocean Park Relocation Committee and the Building Committee.

<b>2006</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	8	8	0	298	254	5/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	10	7	1	287	210	5/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	15	6	9	0	187	285	7/9
Club Championship							510

Two years after the initial games at Ocean Park, the club was officially opened on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006 by local MLA Dave Campbell and Lord Mayor Alex Darling. The season was a solid one for the Rockies, with both First Grade and Second Grade sneaking into the Finals series in fifth place. Unfortunately both sides didn’t progress past the first week of semi-finals, but coaches Brendan Schoupp (Firsts) and Barry Jones (Seconds) gave many younger players some good grade experience that would leave them in good stead for the future. Third Grade, under Dave Stalker toiled hard through the season, and one highlight of their season – they were the only team to beat the eventual premiers Tech-Tahs.

The IDRU entered an Illawarriors team in the Sydney Shute Shield competition and 2 Shamrocks were in the squad – Manu Pate, and Chris Bradshaw. Another highlight of the

season was the Juniors Grand Final day held at our Ocean Park. Shamrocks had 4 teams in the 5 games played – and won 4 premierships: U11s, U12s, U16s and U18s.

<b>2007</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>1/9</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1/10</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	13	9	4	0	275	162	3/11
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/11</b>

In 2007 the Shamrocks climbed back to the top of the pile again – winning Minor and Major Premierships in First and Second Grade and a third place for Thirsty Thirds. Of course that meant that the engraver could put the Shamrocks name on the coveted George Tipper Trophy again for the Club's 7<sup>th</sup> Club Championship. All credit to Club Coach Richard Thompson and the coaching team Brendan Schoupp (Firsts), Barry Jones (Seconds) and Adam Potter (Thirds), and their assistants for their faith in the youth of the club.

## Shamrocks First Grade 2007 Undeclared Minor & Major Premiers



*Back: M Joy, R Chapman-Politis, D Searle, M Pate, D DeVries, T Nolan, S McKellar  
Middle: C Thompson, P Rowling, B Lowe, C Bradshaw, J Tolhurst, M Bowen, C McFarland, M Jeffrey  
Front: M Tyrpenou, D Porra, R Thompson, J Woodford, M Stone (c) B Schoupp,  
M Tarasenko, S Tarasenko,  
(Ball Boy R Schoupp) (Absent: K Crick)*

The juniors fielded the most teams ever – 8. From Under 8's to Under18's, all teams were coached by ex Shamrock senior players and Rockies won 2 premierships – U14s and U18s. After just 3 years at the new beachside home, Shamrocks could still showcase to the Illawarra rugby community that it was again a strong club, with dedicated workers, parents, players and significant community support.



## Shamrocks Second Grade 2007 Premiers



*Back: B Moran, N Cassar, S Denning, G Porra, A Hyndes, P McGuigan, R Tonkin,  
M Terry, S Frost, P Clarke, C Thompson, R Chapman-Politis, M Talbot.  
Front: S Geloven, B Liddle, B Tresidder, J Whitehead, T Storm, D Hopkinson,  
B Jones, T Nolan, M Pate, A Owen, T Sartan.*

<b>2008</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	11	4	1	454	340	4/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	19	13	6	0	515	243	4/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	14	4	0	406	167	5/11
Club Championship							5/12

Season 2008 with Richard Thompson again at the helm started strongly with Firsts (Brendan Schoupp) going through the first round undefeated and Seconds (Adam Potter) and Thirds (Brian Hutton) losing only one game each. The club was looking on track to defend last year's titles but the opposition worked hard to knock Shamrocks off being the benchmark of the competition.

All three senior grades made the finals, but alas no premierships. Firsts and Thirds made it to the preliminary Finals losing to Shoalhaven and to Avondale respectively. Seconds were eliminated in the second semi-final by Shoalhaven. It is always disappointing to not defend your titles, but 2008 still proved to be a good year. For the third year in a row the Juniors fielded eight teams and four got through to the Grand Final Day, with 3 Premierships being won: U11s, U14s and U18s again. If there was a club championship for Juniors Shamrocks would have won it!! The U18s major premiers for the past 3 years – what a nursery for senior grades!

A highlight of the year was the hosting of two representative games at Ocean Park. The club hosted Illawarriors v Newcastle on 8 March and then on 24 May the NSW Country Cockatoos played the Darwin Mosquitoes in the Australian Rugby Shield. Ocean Park was now becoming a regional asset for rugby union.

<b>2009</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	9	5	2	358	302	5/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	8	10	0	306	351	6/10
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1/9</b>
Club Championship							3/12

2009 was Woonona Shamrocks 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year - what an excuse for celebrating how far the club had come, on and off the field! The Club had expectations of a great year of celebrations under the leadership of head coach Richard Thompson. Unfortunately, these expectations were dashed in the first half of the competition with Barry Jones' Firsts winning only one of their first six games and the Seconds faring only a little better. Third Grade's mix of youth and experience kept the Club's hopes alive with only one loss in round 6 which was to be their only one for the season. However the club regrouped in the second half of the season, with Firsts storming home and sneaking into the finals series. They defeated Engadine in the semi-final (the first time that season they had beaten them), and were confident of progressing further against Shoalhaven in the preliminary final. But their season finished in a heart stopping tussle in which Shoalies got up by ONE point.

Seconds, coached by Tony Hyndes and Mark McConnell, toiled courageously throughout the season, and finished the season with 5 wins out of their last seven games to just miss out on qualifying. The Thirds won the minor premiership and went to the Grand Final flying the Shamrocks colours where they held out the University side to win 12-10. WIN Stadium always looks better on the last day of the season when there are green and white streamers flying and the Shamrocks song being sung. Well done coaches Marc Joy and Adam Large. The Juniors again did the club proud, 5 of the 7 teams making the semi-finals and 4 going on to the Grand Finals. Again U14s and U18s were victorious. Eight of these juniors were selected to represent NSW Country while Ben Robinson went one better when chosen for NSW U15s.



*Third Grade Premiers preparing for victory.*



*Adam Potter after match words*

In summary, the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century saw Shamrocks win:

- one First Grade premiership (2007),
- three Second grade premierships(2000, 01, 07),
- one Third Grade premiership (2009), and
- three Under 19's titles (2000, 01, 05).

They won the Club Championship 3 times (2001, 04, 07). Not too shabby at all.



## Chapter 5

### The 2010's

<b>2010</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	12	4	0	370	316	2/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	21	14	6	1	545	290	4/12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	16	5	10	1	219	302	6/11
Club Championship							2/13

The Grade teams of 2010 had a youthful look about them with a lot of juniors stepping up into the big time - and a lot of them being "second generation" Shamrocks. The Firsts under Barry Jones and Dean Hopkinson's tutelage had a strong season despite copping a couple of bigger losses against resurgent teams Tech-Tahs and Vikings. They qualified for the finals only to be beaten 40-25 by Tech-Tahs in the major semi-final. Most teams would be set back by such a defeat, but the Rocks bounced back in the elimination semi to pip University 36-35 and qualify for a re-match with Tech-Tahs in the preliminary final. In a tight affair, Shammies turned the tables on the T-Ts beating them 31-29 and earning a Grand Final battle with the old foe - a "re-built" Vikings. The less said the better about the result going down 0-37 to the Blues in the premierships decider.

Marc Joy and Brian Hutton got the Seconds storming in to the finals only to fall at the first hurdle against Vincentia. Bryce Dorian's Thirds had a harder struggle and only missed out on qualifying because they had a lesser number of wins than the other fifth place team. The Juniors repeated the success of previous years with 8 teams fielded and 6 out of 6 made it to the semis (U8s & U10s did not have qualifiers). Three premierships were won: - U11s, U12s and U16s. Mark Stone became a 300 game centurion.

<b>2011</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	11	7	0	560	276	5/10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	20	14	6	0	565	357	2/11
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	20	8	12	0	301	386	8/11
Club Championship							6/13

2011 was a solid year for the Rockies. Paul Ridgway and Brendan Schoupp introduced new training ideas and equipment to help build a positive culture. Highlights of the year in a strong competition were some big wins over Kiama, Engadine and Bowral, and a late season home victory over Vikings (the eventual premiers). Although they made the finals, Firsts bowed out to University in the first semi final.

Second Grade were the stand out squad, again under the control of the successful duo Brian Hutton and Marc Joy. They evened a few scores against the previous season's bogey teams Camden and Vincentia, by beating them in the finals. However Avondale were to prove the nemesis team. By the time Shamrocks and the Wombats lined up for the Grand Final the Dapto team had had three dominant wins over Shamrocks with the points tally being 128-38 overall. Avondale won the title 41-15 but the Rockies gave it all to the "bigger budget" team until the game got away in the latter stages.

When Jayson Joerdens took over the Thirds, the team had high hopes of making the finals with a good blend of old toilers (Adam Large, Ben Turner, Andrew Johnston, Mal Thomas)

and youth (Daniel Wearne, Jake Edmonds, Chris Norris, and Michael Cooper). Unfortunately, in an up and down year the Thirsties lost to teams they shouldn't have, but won some that no one thought that they could. They missed the finals. The Junior sides again stood out, with 5 of the 7 sides making semi-finals, 4 progressing to the Grand Finals and 2 winning premierships – the U11s and U13s. Scott McKellar became the Club's 7<sup>th</sup> Life Member.

<b>2012</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	10	5	1	428	288	4/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	14	4	0	563	225	2/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	6	12	0	276	392	
<b>Club Championship</b>							

Richard Thompson returned to lead the coaching team with Dion Miller taking charge of the First Grade squad. They started the season strongly with 5 wins and a draw before being trounced by Tech-Tahs and then Uni. They finished the season winning 5 out of their last seven including a one point thriller over Vikings. But the competition was the strongest it had been for years and the Rocks just made it into the finals only to be eliminated in extra time in the minor qualifying semi by Shoalhaven.

The Seconds fared a little better. Skip McKellar was assisted by Mark "Pebbles" Stone and by the half way mark of the competition they had settled into second position on the table and maintained this to the Finals. They stumbled to Tech-Tahs in the first semi but bounced back against Shoalhaven to meet the minor premiers Avondale in the preliminary Final. Unfortunately, the big Wombats bounced on that day and Rockies played their last game of the season.

The Thirds had a solid start to their season and coach Jason Joerdens was optimistic as the competition approached the business end. However as often happens a run of injuries combined with players work commitments saw momentum stall and a string of losses cut short the season. On the Junior front, the Grand Final day saw no Shamrock teams participating. The U13s and U17s progressed the furthest making it into the finals series.

<b>2013</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	14	9	4	1	390	285	3/8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	13	5	0	585	208	4/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	12	3	9	0	277	334	5/7
<b>Colts-U20s</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1/5</b>
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/13</b>

2013 saw the re-introduction of a Colts (U20's) competition into Illawarra Grade Rugby. For a club with an ethos based on development of juniors this proved a boon, because the Shamrocks Colts coached by Ray Wylie and Craig Duncan were undefeated Premiers. The points allocated to the Colts competition for the Club Championship was equivalent to Second Grade and although none of the other senior Shamrock teams finished top of their ladders, the accumulated efforts of the club resulted in Woonona being winners of the Club Championship for the eighth time.

## Colts U20s 2013 Premiers



<b>2014</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	16	7	8	1	379	354	6/9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	16	10	6	0	356	288	5/9
First Div	17	8	8	1	273	319	5/10
Colts/U20s	12	8	4	0	285	148	1/4
Club Championship							4/13

Richard Thompson and Dion Miller actively recruited many new players for this season and the results showed immediately with the team undefeated in the first half of the competition. Momentum was slightly lost in the second round, but this was a tough competition, and Shamrocks survived to finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> position. The first semi saw a tough encounter with eventual Premiers Camden with the Rams prevailing and sending the Rocks to a "Do or Die" elimination final against University which they did not survive.

Second Grade (Hutton & Joyo again) had some massive wins during their season (beating Uni 90-0, Bowral 40-0 and 53-0, Tech-Tahs 48-0 and Kiama 57-3) but still only managed to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place on the ladder, only to be eliminated in the preliminary semi final when pipped by Vikings. The Third Grade competition only had 7 teams in it, so despite only winning 3 games in the preliminary rounds, Shammies qualified for the minor semi-final and also fell to the outfit in blue. Josh Woodfoot and Adam Potter became the next triple centurions. The Juniors fielded 9 teams with 5 making it into the playoffs, and the U15s and U17s making the Grand Finals. U15s won their premiership with the U17s going down valiantly in theirs.

The continuation of the Colts competition proved challenging in finding player numbers and new First Grade coaches Marc Joy and Brian Hutton did well with the squad that they had. Unfortunately, the squad lacked size but this was overcome with great team spirit. The Seconds were coached by newly qualified Jason Joerdans assisted by Simon Pritchard and although they defeated the eventual Premiers twice during the season were not able to qualify for a rematch in the games that really matter. Third Grade was renamed First

Division this year, but despite its fancy name still proved to be a Thirsty Thirds outfit. It was coached by Nathan Calder.

All three grades finished in the middle of the pack, while the Colts, coached by Stuart Roodenrys and Paul Ridgway topped their table but were unable to get the trophy at the season finale against University. Club Captain Jordie Whitehead played his 300 game, and informed everybody that he was aiming for 400. Shamrocks juniors fielded teams in U10s, U12s, U14s, U15s and U17s with the U14s and U17s making it to the playoffs, but no premierships this year.

<b>2015</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	6	12	0	322	572	8/10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	2	16	0	203	703	9/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	14	5	9	0	222	299	7/8
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>8/11</b>

A disappointing year on the field but like all Clubs there are the good years and ordinary years, and this was the worst year that the Rocks had experienced for a long time. Senior coaches Marc Joy and Brian Hutton found it hard to overcome the loss of many players either to other clubs, overseas travel or retirement. However some exciting young Rocks made their debut in First Grade including several from the Colts team of 2014. Again the lack of size was compensated by great team spirit. It's never too bad a year when Shammies can beat Vikings at least once and that was achieved at home in the round 1 clash. The lower grades, coached by Jayson Joerdens and Ray Wylie (Seconds) and Andrew Webb (Thirds) were as usual forced to share players and doubling up in grades makes it difficult to match it with quality opposition teams at full strength.



*The Blood Cup  
Shamrocks Blood  
Worth Bottling*

On a positive note the Under 15s brought the Grand Final Trophy back to Ocean Park.

Off the field Shamrocks won the Dexter Porter "Blood Cup" in dominant style, which was achieved through the constant encouragement and cajoling by club stalwart Kieran Smith.



<b>2016</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	14	4	0	637	299	1/10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	15	2	1	510	212	1/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	12	10	2	0	204	115	1/7
<b>Club Championship</b>							<b>1/11</b>

New coach Ron Davis and his coaching team introduced a fresh regime as soon as he was appointed in November 2015. Fitness training, team bonding and season planning started straight away. The new organization detail and focus was clear from day one with emphasis on identifying strength and weaknesses, designing a strategy for attack /defence patterns, retention and recruiting of players, and raising fitness levels well before a whistle was blown in 2016. On field success was to be the result.



## Club Champions 2016



Shamrocks were Minor Premiers in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, IDRU Club Champions to make it a season to remember. While Thirds stumbled and fell in the finals hopes were high on Grand Final day with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade qualifying.

However the season ended in controversy. Firstly the Seconds were beaten in extra time by a late Campbelltown penalty. With Shammies hanging on by the barest margin, players claimed that the referee said next stoppage-it's over, and so they booted the ball into touch and started celebrating. Unfortunately, the referee ruled a lineout to be taken, only for a penalty to be then given for a Shamrock infringement. The Harlequin kicker potted the shot from near the sideline and the game was lost. Club Coach Davis was reported for his comments to the referee post-match, and was subsequently suspended for 6 months.

Then in the First Grade Grand Final against University, after finishing 7 all at full time the game went into extra time. In the dying minutes with the students leading 10-7 they were found to have had an extra player on the field. When the error was discovered a penalty was awarded but controversially given wide out. The kick could not be landed in the gusty conditions, and so the Rocks were denied the chance of a premiership victory. Little consolation, but Rory Davis won the Geoff Shaw Medal for man-of-the-match.

<b>2017</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	9	9	0	430	424	5/10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	9	7	2	467	335	5/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	18	9	7	2	293	235	5/10
Club Championship							4/13

2017 was a disappointing year, with the club not being able to capitalize on the previous year's success, finishing just outside the final four in all grades. Club stalwart Grahame Tresidder stepped in to lead the coaching team in Ron Davis's "forced absence", but with the loss of 6 of last year's first grade, it was always going to be a challenging ask. Of course it meant that opportunities were created for juniors to strut the big stage and as always they did it well. Three of them were rewarded with selection in the Illawarrior Colts team - Nicholas Cracknell, Corey Aylett and Harry Devine. Three Shamrocks also played representative Rugby. Jesse Roche, Rhys Peters and Tyler Aitken all were selected for the Illawarriors with Jesse going on to play for NSW Country Cockatoos.

<b>2018</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drew</b>	<b>Points For</b>	<b>Points Against</b>	<b>Comp Place</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	18	12	6	0	577	372	5/10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	18	12	6	0	412	327	4/10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	16	10	5	1	339	229	6/10
Club Championship							3/13

First Grade had a slow start to the season, losing 5 of their first 9 games. They turned this around in the second half of the competition winning 8 of their last 9 including victories over both eventual Grand Finalists, but regrettably just missed out on qualifying for the finals. Second Grade had a slightly better season and qualified for the minor semi-final where they fell to Avondale in a close game. Thirds also made it to the first semi-final against Wollondilly but were also eliminated at the first hurdle.

Battle-scarred Jordan Whitehead played his 400<sup>th</sup> grade game and declared that his aging body was still capable of catching Ray Wyllie's tally of 434 games. Second Generation Shamrock Nicholas Cracknell represented the Illawarriors at Country Week and was then selected in the NSW Country Colts squad.

*Shamrocks Rugby - Happy as a PIG in Mud!*



*Shamrocks Rugby- keeping cool under pressure!*



*Shamrocks Rugby  
Girls just want to have fun!*



*Shamrocks Rugby – it's Generational*



## SHAMROCKS CONSOLIDATED RESULTS 1970 to 2018s\*

	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points For	Points Against	% W/L/D
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	865	494	336	35	17682	11738	57/35/8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	903	557	299	47	16089	9377	62/34/4
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	861	460	348	53	10164	8299	53/41/6
4 <sup>th</sup> /Colts/U/19	261	155	99	7	4289	3009	59/38/3

### Premierships:

1st Grade: **7**, 2nd Grade: **9**, 3rd Grade: **4**, 4th Grade: **1**, Colts/U20s: **1** U19's: **3**

### Club Championships: **9**

The Club has never finished last in the Club Championship

Averaged out Shamrocks For/Against scores are

1<sup>st</sup> Grade 20-14      2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 18-10      3<sup>rd</sup> Grade 12-10

\* Figures not entirely accurate due to inconsistency of results recorded in Annual Reports, Illawarra Mercury and IDRU records. But as the first President of WSRUFC might say - they are approximately accurate.



## Part 2: The Pack of Shamrocks



*A selection - "Old and Young"*



## The Shamrock Family

Over the 50 years that the Club has been running there has arisen a strong sense of "family" within its ranks – they have referred to this important feature of the Club's culture as "the Shamrock Family" and it is an indicator of the intense loyalty that many Rockies families have shown to the Club and to each other.

Many factors can be attributed to the development of this underpinning camaraderie amongst club members. The bonds built amongst the players as they struggled to field teams in the early years is one, and their relative lack of success in those years is probably another. The conviviality they shared in those days also probably helped build this club spirit - having a good time was important to them. These factors are still there in 2019.

While the first bunch of Shamrocks "matured" and became fathers it was inevitable that their offspring became Shamrock juniors, and some of these went on to become a "second generation" of grade players. The Club is now witnessing a "third generation" emerging. As the growth of the club's juniors took root fathers were keen to ensure that their kids became Shamrocks - so they stepped up to help with coaching, and training and supporting them and the strong bonds were maintained. Through the success of the 90s the Club grew strong and the spirit stayed alive – the "family members" served on the committees or just helped with the myriad of jobs that a club needs done to survive and grow. In many cases the wives, partners, parents, grandparents, relatives, or friends also became involved, and the associated socialization strengthened this sense of "family" within the club culture.

There is certain repetitiveness about some of the names and photos that keep appearing in the Club records and throughout this book. The lists in the Appendices will reveal those who have provided outstanding service to the Club., but there are many names that don't appear there who have still played a major role in this Shamrock Family and can proudly claim to be part of the Pack of Shamrocks.



*Three generations of **Aylett's** exemplifies the Shamrock Family:*

*From L – R Stephen, Barry and David, Corey and Richard.*

*The strength of the club is based on the ongoing long term commitment and dedication of its families reinforcing the camaraderie and enthusiasm that the 'Rocks espouse. Together the Ayletts have tallied over 650 games for the Rockies.*

*The Filan family of Chris, Sean and Tim are just behind this tally with over 630 games, while the Wylie brothers have amassed over 740 games, but these families are two generational.*



## Chapter 6

# The Players - Seniors

At the end of the 2018 season, Shamrocks records contained the names of 1106 players who are credited with having played in seniors' grade games for the club since 1970 and all of them are listed in Appendix 7. Of this number, approximately one third of them played less than 10 games and about a half of them only played 20 games or less. Such statistics indicate that less than a half of the listed players have played a lot of games over a long time -an indicator of the pride and the loyalty that a core number of members have had for the Woonona Shamrocks Club during the course of time.

Players who have played 100 games or more have the honour of being called Centurions, and their loyalty is rewarded at the first home game of every season with a special celebration. Of the first Premiership winning team (B Grade 1972) fourteen went on to become centurions (i.e., Kevin Crick, Rod Gilmour, Harry Kersten, Peter McAndrew, Dale Owen, Cliff Whittaker, Billy Blanch, Brian Cooney, Dave Ronald, Chris Filan, Terry Nutt, Billy George, Grahame Tresidder, Tony Nutt, and even the Ball Boy Brian Nutt. They clearly intended to be around for the long haul and three of them eventually became Life Members and are still active in the Club in this 50<sup>th</sup> year. Foundation member Bruce Fergusson was the first player to play 100 games and then 200 games, and second year starter Grahame Tresidder was the first to get to 300 games.

Going into its 50<sup>th</sup> year, Shamrocks has 141 centurions: 39 of these have played 200 or more games and eleven of them 300 games or more. Ray Wylie and Jordan Whitehead top the list with 400 plus games, and Jordan is playing on in 2019.

Every football club has its champion players, it's very good players, its average players and its plodders. As Rod Mercer wrote in 1994 "*many fine players have come through the Shamrocks ranks and gone on to higher representative honors. The majority however have been players of normal ability who merely wanted a game of rugby with mates, beat Vikings, and have a drink after the game.*"

### Shamrocks Selected for Higher Representative Honours:

1971-73: Bobby Brown, Dave Mayor, Harry Kersten (Illawarra)

1974-76: Max Aitken, Alan Bloomfield (Illawarra)

1977: Brian Nutt, Chris Reid and Gerard Magee (Illawarra)

1978-79: **Peter Lucas** (NSW Country) & Illawarra

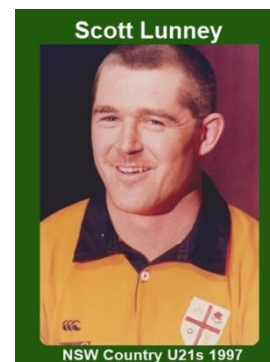


1981: **Martin "Mini" Fry** (Illawarra & NSW Country)

1983: **Rod Mercer** (NSW Country v Argentina) Illawarra 1980-85  
 1984: Ian Jones, Bryson Chin, Glen Hutton, Ian Harriman, Rod Mercer and Ray Wylie. (Illawarra)  
 1986: **Warwick Melrose** (NSW Country v Argentina and Italy), Brian Nutt, Robert Pinn, John Dokter, Paul McCormack (Illawarra). **Rob Steward** (U18s) and **Mladin Pavric** (U16s) were Shamrocks first junior Country representatives with Rob going on to become the clubs first NSW selection in the U18s.  
 1987: Rob Steward, (NSW Country U21 & NSW U19 & U21); Scott Lunney, Paul McCormack, John Dokter (Illawarra), Fred Smeaton & Ken Murphy (Illawarra U19's), Mal Pavric & Brian Hutton (Illawarra U17s).  
 1988: **Paul McCormack** & Rob Steward (Country U21's), **David Aylett** (Country U19's) Dermott O'Gorman, Ray Wylie, and Ian Westwood, David Aylett, Paul McCormack, Rob Steward, Matt Dubos, Richie Aylett, Dean Salm (Illawarra U19's), Tom Ellicott, Rob Little, Dennis Gamble and Aaron Pletcher (Illawarra juniors).  
 1989: **Ray Wylie** (NSW Country), **Shane Luck and Lloyd Duroux** (NSW Country U17s), Ray Wylie, John Mealy, David Aylett, Richard Aylett (Southern Province), Ray Wylie, Ian Westwood, Glen Hutton, John Mealy (Illawarra). David Aylett & Jeff Charlesworth (Illawarra U21's), Richard Aylett & Brendan Schoupp (Illawarra U19's), Shane Luck and Lloyd Duroux (Illawarra U17s)  
 1991: Brendan Schoupp, Marc Joy and Richie Aylett (Southern Province).



1992: **Wayne de Jong** (NSW Country v Springboks, v Tonga), Shane Luck & **John Woodhill** (NSW Country U21's),  
 1993 **Chris Doyle** & **Adam Rostirolla** (NSW Country U19's), Chris Doyle NSW U19's, Scott McKellar, Ray Wylie, Shane Luck, Ritchie Aylett, Brendan Schoupp, Wayne de Jong, John Dokter, Andrew Cracknell and Glenn Hutton (Illawarra).  
 1994: Chris Doyle (NSW Country & NSW Country U21), Brendan Schoupp, John Dokter, Andrew Cracknell, Scott Lunney, Chris Doyle, Ian Westwood, Ray Wylie, & Scott McKellar (Illawarra), John Woodhill, Scott Nicholls and Adam Rostirolla (Illawarra U21's), Josh Woodford and Kane Luck (Illawarra U19's)  
 1995: Chris Doyle (NSW Country), Scott Lunney, Gary Snyder (Illawarra)  
 1996: Chris Doyle, NSW Country & Tour of New Zealand  
 1997: Chris Doyle (NSW Country & Emerging Waratahs NSW A), Wayne de Jong (Emerging Waratahs tour of UK) **Scott Lunney, Chris Doyle, Tim Filan** (NSW Country U21's), **Steven Carlon** (NSW Country U19's), John Dokter, Paul Gardner, Nathan Saywell, Jeff Pickthall, Chris Doyle, Tim Filan, Dave Delaney (Illawarra) with Scott Lunney chosen as the Illawarra Captain.





1999: Marc Joy, Peter Murphy, Josh Woodford, Tim Filan, Brendan Schoupp, Nathan Saywell, John Doktor and Jeff Pickthall, (Illawarra - with **Jeff Pickthall** going on to play for Country including a short tour to Canada).

2000: **Josh Woodford** (NSW Country Cockatoos), **Daniel Foley**, **Travis Tresidder**, and **Peter Graham** (NSW Country U19's), Nathan Saywell, Paul Nichols, Peter Graham, Josh Millington, Ben Morgan, Damon Brown, Daniel Foley and Travis Tresidder (Illawarra). Kevin Morris was selected for NSW Schools.

2001: Josh Woodford, Chris Doyle (NSW Country Cockatoos), **Ben Morgan** (Country U21's) Daniel Foley (Country U19's), Josh Woodford, Chris Doyle, Scott Lunney (Illawarra), Paul Nichols, Ben Morgan, Bryce Dorian (Illawarra U21's), Daniel Foley and Travis Tresidder (Illawarra U19's).



2002 Country Reps: L to R  
Ryan Griffiths, Travis Tresidder,  
Grahame Tresidder, Myles Dorrian,  
Daniel Foley

2002: Daniel Foley, **Miles Dorian**, **Ryan Griffiths**, **Travis Tresidder** and Coach **Grahame Tresidder** (Country U20's).

2003: **Rob Morris**, Grahame Tresidder (coach NSW Country U20's), Josh Woodford (NSW Country).

2004: **Chris Bradshaw** (NSW Country U20's), Michael Trypenou, Robert Morris, Chris Bradshaw, Dean Hopkinson, Manu Pate and Chris Bradshaw (Illawarra).

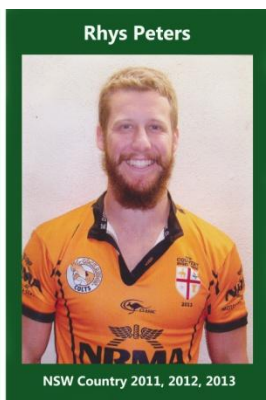


2007: **Daniel Porra** (NSW Country U19's)

2011: **Rhys Peters** (Cockatoo Colts).

2012: **Ben Greentree** (Country Cockatoos), Rhys Peters (Cockatoo Colts), Anthony Allport, Tristram Storm, and Ben Greentree (Illawarra).

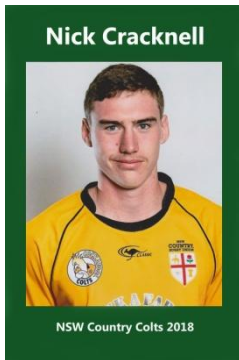
2013: Rhys Peters (NSW Country Cockatoos).





2017: **Jesse Roche** (NSW Country Cockatoos), **Corey Aylett** (NSW Country Colts), Jesse Roche, Rhys Peters, Tyler Aitken (Illawarriors), Nicholas Cracknell, Corey Aylett and Harry Devine (Illawarrior Colts).

2018: **Jesse Roche** (NSW Country Cockatoos), **Nick Cracknell** (NSW Country Colts), Jesse Roche, Matt Gauna, Nicholas Cracknell (Illawarriors).



The following players have represented at Country level but the Club does not have their photo for inclusion in this section:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Gary Snyder</b>     | <b>Shane Luck,</b>      |
| <b>John Woodhill,</b>  | <b>Adam Rostirolla,</b> |
| <b>Tim Filan,</b>      | <b>Steve Carlon,</b>    |
| <b>Jeff Pickthall,</b> | <b>Peter Graham,</b>    |
| <b>Ben Morgan,</b>     | <b>Rob Morris</b>       |
| <b>Chris Bradshaw</b>  |                         |

### The Point Scorers:

Successful teams need prolific pointscorers and the Shamrocks have been blessed with many. The following players have won the club's highest pointscorer awards:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Brian Cooney (1970's)                  | Grahame Tresidder (1978, 79)             |
| Brian Nutt (1982)                      | Rod Mercer (1980, 81, 83, 84, 87, 88)    |
| Barry Horrell (1985, 86)               | Jeff Charlesworth (1989, 90, 91, 92, 94) |
| Chris Doyle (1993, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05) | Adam Potter (1995, 96, 97)               |
| Scott McKellar (1998, 99)              | Marc Joy (2000, 01)                      |
| Scott Tarasenko (2006, 07, 09, 10, 16) | Alyd Owen (2008)                         |
| Rhys Peters (2011)                     | Jamie Pigram (2012, 13)                  |
| Ryan Sorrell (2014)                    |  |
| Ryan Schoupp (2015, 17, 18).           |  |



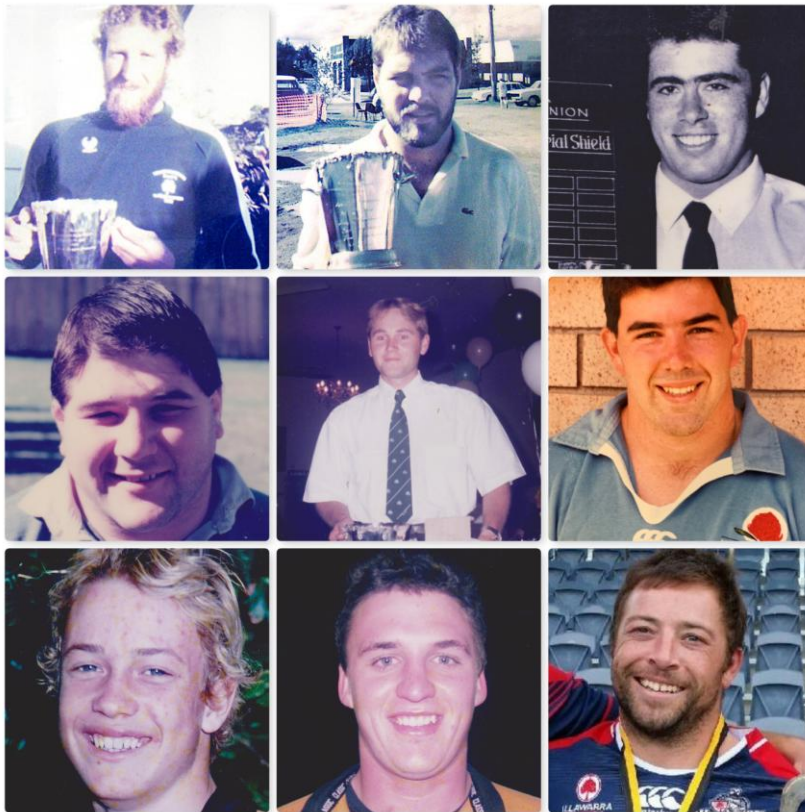
The leading Try Scorers over the years have been:

- |                  |                    |                   |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ray Wylie,       | Jeff Charlesworth, | Shane Luck,       |
| Marc Joy,        | Adam Rostirolla,   | David Delaney,    |
| Ron Davis,       | Tim Filan,         | Paul Nicholls,    |
| Scott Ryan,      | Chris Bradshaw,    | Manu Pate,        |
| Peter Rowling,   | Nathan Cassar,     | Cameron Thompson, |
| Scott Tarasenko, | Aaron Warren,      | John Millen,      |
| Chris Hamill,    | Andrew Parker,     | Matt Gauna,       |
| Rhys Peters,     | Rory Davis.        |                   |

**Illawarra District Rugby Union Award Winners:**

The following Shamrocks were rewarded by the District for their outstanding performances in the IDRU competition:

Grahame Tresidder	Highest Point Scorer (1978, 79)
Rod Mercer	Player of the Year (1980, 1987) Most Consistent Player (1980, 1983) Highest Point Scorer (1980)
Glenn Hutton	Player of the Year (1986, 90, 94, 96), Most Consistent Player (91, 93)
Ray Wylie	Leading Tryscorer (1986, 87)
Rob Steward	U21 Player of Year (1987)
Bob Hutton	Referee of Year (1987)
Matt Dubois	Junior Player of the Year (1988)
Paul McCormack	U21 Player of Year (1988)
Jeff Charlesworth	Highest Point Scorer (1989), Junior Player of the Year (1987)
Shayne Luck	U17 Player of Year (1989)
Richard Aylett	Player of the Year (1992) Most Consistent Player 1995
Chris Doyle	U21 Player of Year (1995) Highest Points scorer (1993, 2004, 05)
Adam Potter	Highest Point Scorer (1995)
Scott Lunney	Most Consistent Player 1996
Miles Dorrian	Rep Player of the Year (2002)
Manu Pate	Highest Try Scorer (2004, 2005)
Jake Walker	Junior Player of Year (2007), Under 20s Player of Year (2010)
Scott Tarasenko	Highest Point Scorer (2009)
Anthony Allport	Junior Player of Year 2010; Player of Year (2010)
Rhys Peters	Highest Try Scorer (2011)



*Shamrock winners of IDRU Player of the Year awards*

## A Selection of Shamrocks

When Clubs reach milestones such this 50th anniversary, some "experts" are tempted to nominate "a best-ever team". While it has been discussed, this has not been attempted here. If it needs to be done it probably should be only be done over the course of a few ales, or a bottle of Shamrock red, around a table, amongst mates. Everyone has an opinion – and some are wise enough to keep them to themselves. It is an exercise fraught with dangers such as upsetting some egos, or forgetting some players altogether. Anyway, how can you compare players from different teams, and different eras?

However, it is fair enough to recognize some of those players whose skills, abilities, attitudes and even notoriety have featured in the success of the club. The following players have been nominated by some of the current "wise" old men of the club as possibly being players who were very good in their positions - perhaps players that could form the Shamrocks "Team of the Half-Century" if someone was bold enough to select one.

### Hookers:

Dave Ronald (70's), Kevin Helt (80's), Brendan Schoupp (90's+), Anthony Allport (2000-10's), Gareth Thomas (2010's)

### Props:

Bob Brown, Chilla Downie (70's), Rob Meijer (70s-80's), Bryce Chin (80s-90's), Paul McCormack (80's), Rob Steward (80's), Tony Crewe (80's-90's), Wayne de Jong (90's), Paul Gardiner (90's), Gary Snyder (90's), John Doktor (90's+), Josh Woodford (2000's), Lachlan King (2010's), Jesse Roche (2010's).



### Second Rowers:

Chris Mercer (70's), John Semkin (79), Warwick Melrose (86), John Pink,, Ian Westwood (80s-90's), Andrew Cracknell (90's+), Nathan Saywell (2000's), Ben Lowe (2005+), Heath Mercer (2010's)

### Flankers:

Dale Owen (70's), Laurie Duffy (70's-80's), Jeff Horne (70s-80s) Martin Fry (80's), Greg (Rory) Ryan (80's), Dave Wylie (80's-90's), Scott Lunney (80,90's), John Mealy (90's), John Woodhill (90's), Daniel Porra (2000's), Iszak Lunney (2010's).



### Number 8's:

Peter Lucas: (78-79) - Brought to Shamrocks by Barry Stumbles. Primarily a classy and pacy No 8 but who played centre in the Club's first premierships in 1979. Country Rep in 78 & 79 he played 35 games (78 & 79) before returning with Stumbles to St George. Following his winning of the 1981 Sydney Best & Fairest, was a surprise selection in the 81-82 Wallabies tour of British Isles. Three caps for Australia against the All Blacks in 1982.

Rod Mercer: (late 70's-90's) Plucked from 'C' Grade as a winger and converted to a back rower by Stumbles. So good, that he played No 8 in the 79 GRAND FINAL pushing Lucas into the centre. Easy winner of the inaugural Illawarra Mercury's IDR U Player of the Year and Most Consistent Player of Year (They then changed the rules so this could not be achieved again). He won IDR U awards again in 1987 and 1983 respectively. A



regular Illawarra rep from 1980-85 and part of the Illawarra 1981 & 83 Ardath Cup Winning rep teams. Selected for NSW Country in 1983. Played 264 games for the Rocks over 18 seasons (1979-97), winning 2 First Grade (79 & 80), a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (94) and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (95) premiership. Good reliable goalkicker he was the Districts leading pointscorer in 1980 and the club's highest pointscorer seven times. Club Captain 1984, 85 & 88 and Club's B & F in First Grade twice & Third Grade once. He was also a champion surfboat rower for Bulli and an 11 time participant in the George Bass Marathon.

Glenn "Ox" Hutton: (80's-2000's) The Ox played 259 games over 15 seasons, from 1982 to 1996 and was such a dominant force in the competition that he won the Illawarra Player of the Year award 4 times and was Most Consistent Player on 2 occasions. A punishing and hard working No 8, he made scoring pushover tries a specialty and seemed to have an eternity to work with the ball every time he got it. Glenn was Club Captain in 1986, 1987 and 1989 and won First Grade B & F in 1987 and 1990.



### Scrum Halves:

Ray McCauley (early 70's); Kerry Mungovan: (late 70's), Mark Dandridge (80s); Rod Petty (Played with Shamrocks only as a Junior in 90's); Adam Potter (90's-2000's); Mark Tarasenko (2000's); Ben Ridgway (2010's); Rory Davis (2010's)

Richard Aylett: (90's-2000's). A second generation Shamrock, who burst into grade in 1987 while being the U17 Best and Fairest. Over a career of 304 games won the Clubs Most promising player in 1989, the Best First Grade back in 1992, 93 and 97, and the Club's Best and Fairest in 1994, 95, 99 and 2002. He was the IDRU Player of the Year in 1992 and the IDRU Most Consistent Player in 1995. He represented Illawarra in 1988, 89 and 92 and Southern Province in 1989 and 91. He played in two First Grade Premiership teams (1993, 94) and would have played in the 1992 winning Grand Final team except that he was best man at his brother's wedding.



*Peter Howard*

### Fly Halves:

Peter Howard (late 70's) Scott Tarasenko (2000's) Miles Dorrian (2000's) Ben Greentree (2010s)



Chris Doyle: His 175 game tally stretches over 2 periods (1992-97 and 2001-2007) and in that time he won a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Premiership (1993), Clubs Most Consistent player (1992), Best Back (2003 & 05). He won IDRU Highest Pointscorer in 1993, 2004 & 2005, and was the IDRU U/21 Player of the Year in 1995. He represented Illawarra regularly, was an U19 and U21 Country & NSW Rep, and selected for NSW A in 1997. He played with NSW Country Firsts 1994,95,96,97 and 2001 including international games against Italy & Ireland (94) Wales (96), Japan (97) and the British Lions (01).



### Centres:

Harry Kersten (70's), Merv Boatswain (late 70's), Brian Nutt (70's-80's), Shane Luck (90's-2000's), Marc Joy (90's-2010's), Tim Nolan (2000's), Scott Ryan (2000's) and Ben Morgan (2000's).

### Wingers:

Rod Gilmour (70's-80's), Rod was a member of Woonona Surf prior to the merger, but he did not play with the Shamrocks until 1972. His playing career then stretched through to 1991



which included 5 Grand Final appearances and 3 premierships. A prolific scorer he won the IDRU Points scorer of the year while playing with Woonona Surf. The Club's longest serving President.

Shane McKellar (90's-2000's) Chris Bradshaw (2000's)

Ray Wylie: His football career spans from 1982 until 2006 and he is the leading game player leading in to the 50<sup>th</sup> Shamrock year. He was the IDRU Leading Try Scorer in 1986, 87 and 94 and represented Illawarra in 1984, 88, 89, 92 & 94, Southern Province in 1989 and for NSW Country in 1988 and 89. Ray was Club Captain in 93 & 94, and wound up his playing career as a successful captain-coach. He has continued in his coaching roles with the Club.

### **Fullbacks:**

Peter Pilcher (70's-80's), Adam Rostirolla (90's-2000's), Dwayne De Vries (2000's) Rhys Peters (2010's).

### **Blow Ins from Other Lands:**

#### Iain McLean:

An English mining engineer took up a job at South Bulli pit and was coaxed to the Rocks. He was a Surrey schoolboy representative and played in South Africa for SE Transvaal before returning to England to play 3 seasons with London University. He was selected in the Illawarra and Country squads before he even played his first game as Hooker. He played 14 games in 1981.

#### Mike 'Chico' Gill:

Chico was an American who met the Colonial Shamrocks on their 1973 tour and was so attracted by their levels of sobriety and camaraderie that he moved to Woonona. He played 134 games over 11 seasons and he introduced the deep "gridiron" throw and the "Statue of Liberty" pose to the lineouts. He usually played either No. 6 or No. 7 but was the only Shamrock to wear both at the same time. He once famously claimed First prize in a special meat raffle, but you will have to ask him what that is about.



#### Gary Snyder:

A giant prop from Zimbabwe joined Shamrocks after meeting staunch supporter Peter Smith in a chance meeting when Pete was holidaying in Africa. He had represented his country before coming down under playing against the emerging Wallabies and NSW. Came for one season, stayed a few.

#### Martin 'Mini' Fry:



A curly haired breakaway from Bude, Mini was described by his coach Bruce Ross as being an able replacement for Peter Lucas. A hard and mobile forward, he was perpetual motion, always talking, though few could understand his accent. He came to Woonona looking for surf life saving experience, the promise of a job and a desire to play rugby. His speed and vigorous foraging soon attracted the eye of the Illawarra selectors and he was picked for the Southern Provincial team. His form earned him NSW Country selection for a tour of southern states and then against the touring Scots. He only played 17 games for Shammies – but they were good ones.

### Kiwis:

The club has had many who have hailed from the land of the long white cloud. Dave Ramanui was captain coach in 1973 and others from across the ditch include Lester Mills, Heini Rasch, Barry McGibbon, Harry Rota, Manu Pate, Arthur Watts, Rick Haerwai, Peter Reid, Craig Duncan, Richard Thompson and Frank Roberts. Rowan Rangi Allnutt seems to have been around forever and his two sons, Curtis and Toby, have sound Shamrocks records. Vaughan Judd rolled into the Rocks in 1990 and has also been here ever since as a player and a committee member. Of course this kiwi mob have always tended to be very vocal around Bledisloe Cup time.

### **The Bude Boys:**

Bude is a small seaside town in northern Cornwall. During the 1960s former Shamrock Club President Mick Smith was working as a Lifeguard in that area and when the Bude Rugby Club was formed in 1965 Mick became a foundation member of it and even captained the side. He mixed summer lifesaving duties with winter rugby before returning to Wollongong and joining Shamrocks in the late 60s, just in time to become involved in the foundation years of the merged Woonona sides. His friendship with Cornish mates resulted in a number of them being coaxed to the Australian coastal lifestyle, with at first Peter Vickery and then ex-RN sailor Dave Mayor visiting, playing and staying at Woonona.



*The Bude Division of the Shamrocks: Ron Camm, Martin 'Mini' Fry, Dave Troke, Dave Mayor, Peter Vickery, Rolo McGrath, Alan Bloomfield, (RingIn), Rick Sheppard, Jan Hicks.*

Subsequently, many more Bude players made the pilgrimage to Woonona, and many of the Shamrocks returned the visits. Some of the Bude boys were handy players. Dave Mayor, Max Aitken, and Alan Bloomfield were all selected for Illawarra, and Dave Troke and Jan Hicks were also first graders. They came with an accent that made conversation almost impossible especially after sessions at the pub and their fine repertoire of bawdy Rugby songs certainly introduced the club to the fine Rugby tradition of ribald song. This resulted in the publication of the Shamrocks Hymn book that was to be a source of either shock or pleasure to those fortunate enough to experience the choral delights of the Shammies choir in full voice. (see Chapter 12).

In 1985 the Bude Club played a 'test match' against the touring Gangrenes at Bude after their participation in the London Golden Oldies tournament. Rugby and the Falcon Inn were the winners.

*Bude Welcomes  
Gangrenes 1985*



*Peter Vickery 'failing' to win Shamrock ball in 1971*

## Golden Oldies.

The Golden Oldies Rugby concept originated in New Zealand in 1979 and soon spread throughout the rugby playing world. When word reached Woonona Bruce Fergusson got the idea rolling and the Shamrocks Old Boys was formed for those of a more mature age (30 years or more with either 4 seasons or 100 games of union experience and who still wanted to play some sort of rugby).

The Old Boys first played against Dundas Old Boys in 1980 and in 1983 they played in the second international Golden Oldies tournament held in Sydney. By this time it was planned to run Golden Oldie tournaments every two years alternating between the northern and southern hemispheres and the oldies were keen to attend these.



*Old Boys Founder Bruce Fergusson with Ken Phillis (in original Old Boys strip)*



However due to falling numbers of ex-Shamrocks the teams were formed as the Gangrenes and were composite sides, taking in other older players from other clubs. They travelled to London for the 1985 Golden Oldies. The Gangrenes also entered teams in the tournaments at Auckland 1987, Toronto 1989, Perth 1991, and Dublin 1993.

*Gangrenes at London 1985 Golden Oldies*

In February 1990, Shamrocks old boys decided they needed to get away from the composite side concept that the Grangrenes had become, and so they re-formed the team known as the Shamrocks. This team is usually cobbled together for special events (such as the Anniversaries).



*Shamrocks: Vaughan Judd, Doug McKinnon, Andrew Johnson, Ian Warren*

Fortunately, to date no old Shamrock has ever failed to survive in a golden oldies event. However in anticipation, the club purchased a defibrillator in 2018.





## Chapter 7

# The Players - Juniors

### The beginnings

For a football club to have sustained success it has to attract and keep players. It can do this with incentives of money, but the Shamrocks club was born with an ethos of not paying players. So therefore it can only offer opportunities to play for those old fashioned values such as a love for the game and the social connections that comes with it. By the mid 70s, the Club recognized that it was going to have to develop its own supply of young new players if it was going to grow and thrive.

The credit for forming the first junior team goes to players Barry Cavanough, Ken Rutgerson and Kevin Crick in the late 70s. In a catchment area where most kids were mainly interested in the surf and had played either rugby league or soccer, this trio, with the help of local barber Steve Burton recruited enough young men to form an under rugby 18 team, which by 1978 had qualified for the junior semi-finals. Within a short time players such as Steve Baulch, Bryson Chinn and Steve Bower had made their way into the senior grades. Mark Ziebell and Richard Leape were two teachers from St Paul's College who played with the Rocks and they too helped recruit players while other clubmen such as Mickey Rooney and Laurie Duffy helped the original coaches nurture this young squad over these years thereby re-inforcing the custom within the Club of seniors helping juniors to progress into grade.

In 1981 the hard work came to fruition with the U18s losing only one game on the way to the minor premiership, and then going on to defeat Vikings in the Grand Final to win the Club's first Juniors Premiership. Furthermore, three of these players, Rob Cheadle, Steve Burton and Michael Roney won representative positions in the Illawarra teams. This squad was to form the nucleus of the Shamrocks grade teams of the early 80s. In 1982, with most of the original juniors having moved to Grade, the Club switched focus to an Under 16 squad. They qualified for the semi-finals in their initial year and just missed out on a Grand Final berth, with seven of the players being selected for Illawarra. In 1983 they exacted revenge for this near-miss when as undefeated minor premiers they won the Grand Final, meaning the Club had now won a premiership in every grade it had ever participated in. Then the wheels fell off - no junior teams could be formed in 1984 and 85.

In 1986 Paddy Ryan was able to reinvigorate the juniors with strong recruitment drives in local schools, with the help of Ken Murphy and Jeff Charlesworth. An U16s team and an U18s team were formed and impressively both teams were minor premiers and Grand Finalists in their first year. Six of the U16s were picked for Illawarra (Paul Manley, Troy Daly, Mal Pavric, Richard Aylett, Evan Stray and Rohan James) while 3 of the U18s (Owen Smith, Shane Gollop and Robert Steward) won selection. Mal Pavric and Rob Steward then became the first Woonona Shamrock Country Juniors with Steward going on to be selected for NSW Country U18s. Shamrocks Junior's coaches that year were Rick Nicholls (18's) and Ian Harriman (16s) assisted by Baz Cavanough, Tommy Chin, Ian Jones and Alan James.

The nursery was producing the dividends envisaged a decade ago and no better example of this was the selection of the brothers Richard and David Aylett as the Rocks first grade scrum combination - the youngest such combination that the District had seen. This was also the first signs of the "generational" Shamrocks - a feature that this Club prides itself on. The evolving growth and success of the Juniors demanded better representation on the Club's Management Committee and so the position of Chairman of Juniors was created. The subsequent success of the Juniors is best mapped by the periods of stewardship under each of the Juniors Committee leaders that followed.



## **Eon Chapman**

Chappo led the Juniors from 1987 until 1991. In 1987 Paddy Ryan's squads from the previous year were kept together as U17s and U19's sides, with both of them again making the GRAND FINALS with U17s losing but the U19's winning their premiership. In 1988 Chappo had to oversee a new batch of U17s from scratch and with Bob Frank's assistance they plundered the local league teams to put players on to Nicho Park on a Sunday morning in green. In 1989 the Under 19's were moved into the senior's ranks, so the ranks went back to one junior team. In 1990 this side struggled to find players and the team picked up the wooden spoon, but regrouped in 1991 with three squads: - U17s, U15s and U13s. There was now a real need for more management resources for running the Juniors and so the club Junior Committee structure was formulated in 1992. Coaches during this period were Dick Salm's (9), Ian Harriman, Bryson Chinn, Tony Crewe, Kevin Crick, Mike McClean and Eon himself.

Products of note during this period were David and Richard Aylett, Jeff Charlesworth, Owen Smith, Rohan James. In the 1992 First Grade Grand Final thirteen out of the 15 players selected were ex-Shamrock juniors.

Representative Players produced: Fred Smeaton, Ken Murphy, Mal Pavric, Brian Hutton, Rob Steward, Dean Salm, Matt Dubois, Tom Ellicott, Rob Little, Dennis Gamble, Aaron Fletcher, Sean Filan, Adam Potter, Ben Warth, Tim Filan and Kane Luck.

## **Les Simpson**



Les Simpson became Juniors President in 1992 and filled the role for 5 years until the end of 1996. The Juniors Sub Committee was now formed with their own secretary, vice-president, registrar, treasurer, canteen co-Ordinator and delegates. In 1992 and 1993 the U17s made it to the GRAND FINAL while in 1974 all three teams made the semi finals, meaning that every team in the club senior and junior qualified that year. Juniors coaches in this period included Kieran Love, Graham Carlon, Peter Murphy, Peter McAndrew, Rob Meijer, Jeff Whalley, Graham Simpson, Barry Cavenough, Neil Gilmore, Peter Bell and Chris Filan.

**Chris Filan** was an enormous presence around the Juniors during the 90s, helping out in managerial, coaching and committee roles. After joining the Club in 1972 from Gordon in Sydney, and reaching centurion status he contributed significantly to the growth of juniors rugby, both at a District level and with Shamrocks. His 2 sons Sean and Tim were very good players with Tim being a junior Country rep from 1990-98 and a NSW junior rep in U17 and U19. Sean Filan also commenced a successful run of coaching in the juniors during this period. Chris always wanted the junior teams to look good and he would buy new sets of jumpers to ensure this. His wife Cath was also much involved in support and committee roles (and of course washing those jumpers). The Filan's were a strong part of the Shamrock family of this period.



Mark Dandridge had his first stint in coaching with the U17s. Les got strong support from his wife Margaret, Julie Clark, John and Carolyn McQuiggan, Des McMullen and Mary Ryan. Players that came out of this era featured Benn and Travis Tresidder, Guy Woodford, Kris Gardner, Matt Warth, David Delaney, Tim Filan, Kane Chambers, Paul Schmidt, Steve

Carlton, Dustin McAndrew, Joel Ryan, Stuart Roodenrys, Tim and Jason Cavanough, Tyrone Burns.

In 1997 the growing success and strength of the Juniors saw the position of Juniors President moved to the Club's Executive Committee as Vice-President Juniors. Financially the Juniors were now virtually self-sufficient, raising the money required to put the teams on the field by sponsorship deals and fund-raising activities. There was a succession of one term Presidents in Chris Filan (1997) **Tony Crewe** (98) and **Kieran Smith** (99) all carrying on the good work that had been established within the Club.

In 1997 the U15s were undefeated and the U13s made the semis. In 1998 an Under 11 team was formed but there was a struggle to fill the teams, with comments made in annual reports about the constant need to pull kids out of the surf to go on to the field. The committee worked hard and U15s and U17s qualified for the semis. The junior who was voted the Player with Most Potential that year was Jordan Whitehead (to go on to become the second 400 gamer). A very young Jed Holloway ran around in the young juniors team before his parents moved out of the district – he was to become a NSW Waratah and a prospective Wallaby in 2019.

1999 was a very good year for the Juniors with coaches Sean Filan (17's) Kieran Smith (15's) Steve Psaras (13's) getting their teams to the GRAND FINALS with U17s being minor an major premiers. Paul McCormack controlled the U11s).Walla Rugby (non-competitive U9s) was introduced.

### **Sue Smith**

Sue (wife of club stalwart Mick Smith (the captain and mum of players Jonathan and Ben) was president from 2000 until 2003. She was a junior president with vision and maintained a great positive Shamrock attitude. Her committee members included Irene Roodenrys, Jenny Arber, Tom Tyrpenou and Vice-president **Ron Davis**. In 2001 the Juniors had record registrations and 3 out of 4 teams made the Grand Finals. The juniors had 19 representative players this year, continuing the clubs ability to produce a constant stream of valuable players. 2002 was a repeat year with 118 registrations for the 4 teams which all qualified for the finals. Under 17's were premiers.



The coaches of this period included Sean Filan, Kieran Smith, Barry Lowe, Mick Jeffries, Mick Smith, Paul Ridgeway, Steve Psaras, Noel Kinred, Matt O'Brien and Ron Davis. Players under their tutelage included Daniel Porra, Alastair Wylie, Curtis Allnutt, Heath Mercer, Todd Gripton, Kurt Davis, Steve Curtin, Jono Smith and Scott Tarasenko.

In 2003 Sue Smith became seriously ill and Ron Davis took over her role. **Jim Walker** took over at the next AGM in 2004 and served as President for 2 seasons. In 2004 there were 18 Shamrocks juniors chosen for representative honours with Steve Curtin, Jake Walker and Scott Tarasenko playing for Country and Scott winning NSW selection. In 2005 the introduction of the ARU Pathways Program saw juniors re-organised into Walla Rugby (7's & 8's, Mini Rugby (9's & 10's), and Midi Rugby (11's & 12's). The U13s, U15s and U17s remained as competitive grades. Shamrocks re-organised accordingly.

The list of rep players continued to grow with twenty of the Juniors representing Illawarra while Luke Raduva, Matt Taufua, Cameron Thompson and Steve Curtin won Country selection with Steve Curtin being picked in NSW U16s. In addition to the reps emerging players were Ben Smith, Michael Reedy, Tyson Frizell, Luke Rosa, James Beaufils, Rex Johnson, Josh

Starling, and Nathan Cassar (the Illawarra Junior U17 Player of the Year). What a credit to the Club.

Coaches and Managers under Jim Walker's reign were Paul Ridgway, Andrew Cracknell, Eon Chapman, Mitch Smith, Scott McKellar, Ron Davis, Judy Smeaton, Dave Wylie, Mark Robinson, Doug McKinnon, Mark Parker, Justin Rowles, Rod Mercer, Graham Marning, Kieran Smith, Richard Thompson and Tony Pritchard as well as Jim Walker himself.

### **Kieran Smith**

Kieran took over the Juniors Presidency in 2006 and held it for 3 seasons. When he stepped down at the end of 2008 he had given 11 years of service to coaching and administration of the Juniors, a mammoth effort. But it was not to be the end of his involvement with his beloved Shamrocks – it continues till this day (2019). Kieran coached 4 premierships winning teams – 2006 U18s, 2007 U18s, 2015 U15s, and 2016 U16s.

2006 was another landmark year with 7 juniors teams fielded. It was also a sad year when Sue Smith lost her battle with cancer after 4 years, which had included additional service on the juniors committee. The Club hosted the San Francisco Golden Gate High School Rugby Club for several trial games, and in September the District Juniors Grand Finals were held at Ocean Park with 4 victorious premierships being won by the wee-rocks – U11s, 12's, 16's and U18s. Standout representative players were Ben Robinson (NSW Primary Schools), Luke Raduva (NSW Country U16s Tour Cook Islands and New Zealand), Riley Chapman-Politis, Alyd Owen, Jonathan Smith, Cameron Thompson, and Mathew Taufu represented NSW Country U18s tour of England & Ireland, and James Beaufile who represented Australia in U16s. In 2007 150 Juniors lined up in 8 teams and the club won premierships in U14s and U18s while in 2008 this was repeated plus the U11s won their premiership. If there were Club Championships for Junior Rugby, Shamrocks would be such winners. Coaching staff included Scott Lunney, Eon Chapman, David Wylie, David Stalker, Ron Davis and Kieran Smith. Paddy Ryan as ever, helped with strapping and advice.



### **Andrew "Crackers" Cracknell**

Crackers took over as Junior's President in 2009 and is still in the role in this 50<sup>th</sup> year (2019). During this time his committee has included: Ron Davis, Nick Logan and Mitch Smith as vice-presidents: Dianne Piggott, Scott McKellar, Megan Cracknell and Scott Morgan as secretary; Verlie Bridger, Sandra Fenukitau and Jerry Thomas as Treasurer; Judy Raduva, Cath Daly and Cate Woods as Canteen Co-ordinator; Diane Robertson, Peter Scott and Rick Benson as Registrar.



The List of coaches and managers of the kids over this period includes a virtual who's who of the Club: Grahame Tresidder, Ron Davis, Dave Stalker, Scott Lunney, Brendan Schoupp, Paul Ridgeway, Dave Wylie, Richie Aylett, Nick Logan, David Faust, Craig Gruber, Stuart Grimshaw, Jason Joerdans, Steve Arthurs, Apollo Fenukitau, Adam Rostirolla, Insimo Sosefo, Dean Anese, Hynie Rasch, Kieran Smith, Steve Jenkins, Jerry Thomas, Mick Roberts, Adam Large, Mark Woods, Craig Duncan, John Villiami, Brad Foster, Braden West, Stewart Birt, Dylan Young, Phil Hennessy, Jordan Whitehead, Tristram Storm, Andrew Murray, Scot Wearne, Chris Doyle, Richard Lawson, Chris Smith, Tod Sarten, Geoff Connor, Clair Smith, Scott Dickson, Barry Aylett, Tom Ellicott, Greg McConnell, Nadine Egan-Scott, Bernadette Anese, Mat Trevillion, Rick Benson, Colleen Pickthall, Huw Thomas and of course Crackers himself, who loves to instill in his "young charges" the fun of rugby.



During this period the Juniors have had much success. In 2009 five teams made it to the finals and premierships were won by the U14s and U18s. In 2010 four teams made it to the grand finals with three being premiers – U11s, U12s and U16s. In the next season, five teams made it to the semis, four going on to the grand finals and 2 finishing premiers – U11s and U13s. Unfortunately season 2012 was a leaner year with no sides in the GRAND FINALS but they bounced back in 2013 with five teams in the finals series and the U15s winning a premiership. Season 2014 was also a year in which no teams qualified for the GRAND FINAL but U14s and U17s made it to the finals series. In 2015 three of the squads made it to the semis and U15s again winning the title. 2016 was a good season with 143 registrations; the U11s losing in the Grand Final and the First XV (16's & 17's) winning their premiership. In 2017 the U10s and U12s team reached the semi-finals with the U11s and 2<sup>nd</sup>XV just missing out.

During this period, there have been many players who have been selected to play for Illawarra – too many to list here. The following players achieved the next level of representative honor – NSW Country or NSW State.

2010: U14s - Lachlan King, Ben Ridgeway, Gareth Thomas; U15s - Rory Davis, Cory Tulloch, Tim Lewis; U16s - Blake Holmes, Ben Robinson; U18s - Rory Waterfall. Both Rory Davis and Cory Tulloch went on to represent NSW.



*Lachlan, Gareth and Kieran.*

2011: U15s – Ben Ridgeway, Lachlan King, Gareth Thomas; U/16s – Iszak Lunney, Jarrad Newey, Corey Tulloch; Ben Robinson - NSW Country and NSW Junior U17s

2012: U14s - Ryan Anderson, Sean Anese, Corey Aylett, Blake Schoupp; U16s - Kieran Bonin; U17s - Ryan Schoupp

2013: U15s - Liam Rash, Blake Schoupp, Brendon Neville; U17s- Lachlan King, Gareth Thomas and Kieran Bonin.

2014: U14s - Cian Duffy, Bailey Antrobus, Joseph Dickson; U16s - Brendan Neville, Rhys Robinson, Blake Schoupp. Blake subsequently withdrew from this team to concentrate on NSW Schools team; U17s - William Latu. Will was then selected in the NSW rep side.

2015: U15s – Bailey Antrobus, Thomas Robinson; U16s – Nicholas Cracknell



“Crackers” has been instrumental in introducing Girls Rugby to the Shamrocks. Even though Women's Rugby has been around for many years, it has grown exponentially worldwide in the last decade. The District has struggled to get it established competitively, and although the “Rockettes” are still in the fledgling stage, the seeds have been sowed for growth of this part of the game to grow in the Woonona district. Crackers has also overseen the introduction of Sense Rugby which is a rugby based Occupational Therapy program designed

to help kids who usually find it difficult to be part of a sports team because of

developmental delays and conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder , ADHD, Down Syndrome, Behavioural difficulties, Gross motor delays or other learning difficulties.



*Succession planning: Look at any photos of Shamrocks Junior's teams – and you see kids who have grown up to become Grade players*

As Shamrocks enters its 50<sup>th</sup> year the Club can be proud of the achievements it has made in the development of its Junior's. It is due largely through the involvement of ex-players (and their wives) in encouraging and coaching their sons (and now daughters) to play in "green" and it has meant that the Shamrocks have been able to produce a pool of players that has kept the club as a force in the Illawarra District Rugby Union.



*Parents on cold and windy Sunday morning sidelines supporting their kids – an essential part of the future of Shamrocks rugby.*

And what of the future?

It is in the hands of the present Shamrocks - the players, the parents and those prepared to coach and guide them the Shamrock way!

The grassroots need nurturing.



*Sometimes all a Shamrock needs is a cuddle.*



## NSW Country Junior Representatives 1986-2010

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mladen Pauric</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Robert Steward</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lloyd Duroux</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1989 N.S.W Country U17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kane Luck</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1990 N.S.W Country U14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ben Warth</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1991 N.S.W Country U17</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kane Chambers</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1991 N.S.W Country U14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rodney Petty</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1993 N.S.W Country U14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Steve Carlon</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1993 N.S.W Country U14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tim Filan</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1994 N.S.W Country U17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Travis Tresidder</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1994 U14's NSW Country 1997 U15's NSW Country 1998 U16's NSW Country 2000 U18's NSW Country</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mark Tarasenko</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">U14's NSW Country 1997 U15's NSW Country 1998 U18's NSW Country 2000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Myles Dorrian</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">1997 U15's NSW Country 1998 U16's NSW Country</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scott Tarasenko</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">U15's NSW Country 2002 U16's NSW Country 2003 U17's NSW Country 2004 U18's NSW Country 2005</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jake Walker</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">U14's NSW Country 2004 U15's NSW Country 2005 U17's NSW Country 2007</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cameron Thompson</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">N.S.W Country U16's 2005 N.S.W Country U18's 2007</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Matthew Taufu</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">N.S.W Country U16's 2005 N.S.W Country U18's 2006/2007</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Steve Curtin</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">NSW Country U17's 2005</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ben Robinson</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">2008 N.S.W Country U15's 2008 N.S.W Country U15's 2009 N.S.W Country U15's, 2009 N.S.W U15's 2010 N.S.W Country U16's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>James Beauflis</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Australia U16's Merit Team 2006 N.S.W Country U17's 2007</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Luke Raduva</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">N.S.W Country U15's 2006</p>





The following players also were selected for Country, but their photos were not available at the time of printing:

- Iszak Lunney, Jarrad Newey** : 2011 - U15s
- Ryan Anderson, Sean Anese, Corey Aylett**: 2012 - U14s
- Blake Schoupp**: - 2012 - U14s; 2013 - U15s; 2014 - U16s (subsequently withdrew from this team to concentrate on NSW Schools team)
- Kieran Bonin**: 2012 - U16s; 2013 - U17s
- Ryan Schoupp**: 2012 - U17s
- Liam Rash, Brendon Neville**: 2013 - U15s
- Lachlan King, Gareth Thomas**: 2013 - U17s
- Cian Duffy, Joseph Dickson**: 2014 - U14s
- Bailey Antrobus** 2014 - U14s; 2015 - U15s
- Brendan Neville, Rhys Robinson**: 2014 - U16s
- William Latu**: 2014 - U17s (He was then selected in the NSW rep side.)
- Thomas Robinson**: 2015 - U15s
- Nicholas Cracknell**: 2015 - U16s



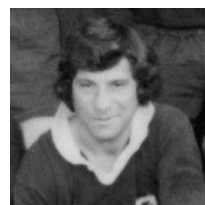
## Chapter 8

### Club Coaches and Managers

The Club's first coaches played as Captain-Coach. The first was **Bobby Brown** who coached for the first 2 years and then played on for a further 2 years tallying 54 games. A succession of one season coaches came and went in those formative years – **Max Aitken** from Bude (aka "The Duke of Cornwall") who helped the Club get its first premiership in 1972; **Dave Ramanui**, a kiwi; and **Terry Lawton**.

**Dexter Porter** came to Shamrocks in 1975 as a non-playing coach with the reputation of being "a club-builder" and coached until the end of 1976. He had played with Vikings in their formative years, before switching to Weerona when they formed in 1962. Dexter was rugby tragic, acting as an IDRU selector, Rep Team Manager, Vice-President, Secretary and occasional coach. Between 1984 and 1991 he was secretary of NSW Country Rugby Union (CRU). He became a life member of the CRU and was awarded an AOM in 2000 for his services to Rugby. His name lives on the Dexter Porter Cup, a trophy awarded to the football Club that makes the greatest contribution to the Australian Red Cross Blood Bank in Wollongong and is a trophy Shamrocks aspire to annually - and have won it twice.

**Geoff Murrell** filled the role between Porter and Barry Stumbles and also had two stints as Second Grade captain-coach, including a minor premiership in 1978. He played 65 games for the Rocks over 3 seasons, and a few cameo roles later in his career when the club was short of players. **Dicky Hasler** (pictured right) coached the Club's second ever premiership winning team, the 1978 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade.



Ex-Wallaby and ex-Dragon **Barry Stumbles** moved to the Illawarra in 1977 and reportedly made enquiries with Kiama Wallaby Garry Gray on the quality of rugby clubs in the Illawarra. For some reason, he was advised that Shamrocks were probably not a worthwhile proposition, but when Committee members got word of his possible availability, he was invited to a "Shamrock BarBQ interview" at the home of Barry Aylett. He eventually finished up fully clothed in the pool and amazingly, liked what he saw and made an application to the Club for the 1978 coaching position. He commenced as player/coach after clearance from the IDRU but his playing career with the Rocks was cut short after only 2 games when his registration as a player was rejected by the Country Rugby Union on the basis of his professional Rugby League history. He brought with him some talented players in Peter Lucas, Peter Howard and John Semkin. In his first season he took all grades from lowly positions on the table to have them all in the Grand Finals. He did this by instilling enthusiasm, dedication, and a strong will to win along with being the fittest in the competition. His brief reign was the turning point for the club- he converted a pub side into a major force in Illawarra Rugby.

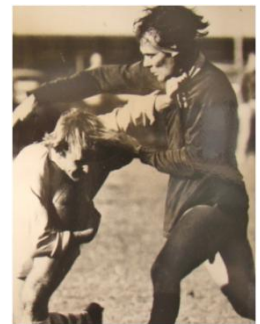
**Billy Blanch** had the unenviable task of taking the reins after Barry Stumbles returned to Sydney. Having coached the 1979 'B' Grade to the Grand Final, against all predictions he coached the 1980 First Grade team to win the premiership. He expected to continue on in 1981, but was challenged for the position and won the ballot for the position. However, Club politics resulted in him stepping down during pre-season and he was quoted as saying *"that he was severing all ties with the Club. They are not the same mob anymore. The old social side to the game is missing"*. But Billy was to return a few years later and played major support roles especially in the big year of 1994 when the Club won all 3 grades and Club Championship.

**Greg (Rory) Ryan:** Transferred from Weerona in 1979 and played 7 seasons including 1984-85 as Captain Coach. He was the Captain in 2 First Grade premierships winning teams (1979 & 80) and he represented NSW Country as a No 7.

**John Brass** was a dual international (Wallaby 1966-69 & Kangaroo 1970-75) and a Premiership winning player with Eastern Suburbs Roosters. His real job was in shopping centre management and when he was posted to Wollongong Crown Central, Club President Frank Peterson, (who had work links with Bob Dwyer the Australian Rugby coach), used the network to persuade Brass to coach the Shamrocks in 1983. He played a couple of games in a Shamrocks jersey making him probably the most credentialed player to pull on the green and white strip. He coached until he was transferred out of the district late in the '83 season, but can make the claim that he was the first coach to record a win against Vikings in a first grade competition - round game (18<sup>th</sup> June 1983). In the 14 years of the club's existence Shamrocks had only previously beaten the blues in finals games and for the record the score was 16-6. Also in 1983 **Bruce Fergusson** captain-coached the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade team to a joint premiership.

In 1986 **Warwick Melrose** was lured to the club by his Scots College workmate and Shamrock Brian Nutt to captain-coach the Rocks. A member of the famous 1977-78 Australian Schoolboys team that toured the UK, he had played many seasons with the strong Randwick Rugby Club. He was picked to play for Country before his first game with Shamrocks. As a back-rower he led the Rocks to the First Grade minor premiership and its first ever Club Championship (1986). During the season both he and Brian Nutt were suspended by the IDRU for failing to play for Illawarra against a touring American Western Union team. Melrose blasted the IDRU, claiming it was their poor communication which resulted in their absences and further said that "Shamrocks were better organized than the IDRU" - was that a compliment to the club's Committee? **Kevin Grice** coached Second Grade in 1986 to a premiership.

**Robbie Meijer:** Played 124 games (1972-89) winning premierships in 1979 (as prop) and in 1980 (as Second-row). He took over from Melrose and coached First Grade 1987, 88 & 89 and Second Grade 1991, and also helped out in other years. He was described as being one of the good guys of sport and an amazing coach and mentor. Always trying to give of his best, always the hard competitor and always happy to chat and pass along assistance to any that were interested. Robbie juggled his football with his love of sweeping surfboats competing for Bulli, and coaching to senior levels. He was a strong supporter of the George Bass marathon ocean race and enjoyed great success with his Bulli crews over the years.



**John Mealey** joined the Club in 1989 as a flanker and was the Clubs Best and Fairest Player in that year. He took over as Captain Coach the following year getting the Firsts to the Preliminary Final in 1990 where they went down to the Wombats. With assistance from Neville Austin he again led the team to the 1991 Finals series only to fall in the elimination semi-final to Shoalhaven.

**Graham "Molly" Holloway** coached 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to successive Premierships in 1994 (with Keiran Love and Ron Lunney) and in 1995 with Johnny Pink as his assistant. He tasted success again in 1997 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, aided this time by Vic Thicknesse. His son Jed played several years as a Shamrock junior on his way to becoming an Australian Wallaby. **Jim Pettit** was low in coaching experience in senior grade rugby, but he had had many years of coaching junior representative sides, and threw himself wholeheartedly into the job when he joined Shamrocks in 1996. With Gerard McGee and Vic Thicknesse by his side he led the



Rocks to the finals as Minor premiers and put the icing on the cake with a win in the Grand Final over Camden.

Undoubtedly the most successful coach that Woonona Shamrocks has had is **Grahame Tresidder**. A member of the first Premiership winning team, (the 1972 'B' Grade side), he also played with the 1980 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Premiers and the 1986 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Premiers. Under his control the Club won three First Grade Premierships, two U19's Premierships and five Club Championships. When he wrote his first Annual Report as a Coach he nicknamed himself as "Plodder" but to all club members he is affectionately known as "Slobbers". He played 300 games for the Club, and started coaching with the 1988 and 89 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade sides before coaching the seniors for a record 7 times. For a player who started on the wing he grew to be one of the best forwards coaches the club has had and he has dedicated a lot of his 49 seasons with the Shamrocks assisting and coaching younger players and junior teams. He was awarded Life Membership in 1995 and continues to play an active role in the Club, coaching juniors, mentoring players and assisting with the Thursday Crew maintaining Ocean Park. Slobbers is probably the most quoted Shamrock in the local media and a few of his quotes appear in Appendix 1.

**Jim Walker** was another "chalkie" who had success coaching at Shamrocks. He took over Seconds in 1993 and then coached them to two successive premierships in 1994 and 95 with Vic Thicknesse as his trusty aide. He teamed with "Molly" Holloway to coach Firsts in 2000. **Phillip Hutton** coached Seconds to a premiership trophy in 1998 after hanging up his playing boots.

In 1999 the Club appointed its highest ever credentialed coach – Paul Murray, one of a small group of level 3 coaches in Australia. He had captained Waratahs from 1977-81, Country for 5 years and 2 years of stints with Sydney University and Southern Districts. His plan was to revamp Shammies to take them into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and he requested a 4-5 year tenure. He left the club before the competition kicked off and moved to Canada.

Murray was replaced by **Tony Crewe**. Crewie had played over 200 games over 14 seasons for Shamrocks starting off as a back rower before finishing as a prop. He says this graduation occurred because "*I was an aggressive Englishman*". Tony's philosophy was to play the running game, and he promoted youthful back line players to run behind the experienced pack that the Rocks still enjoyed. He and Mark Dandridge got the Firsts to the 1999 Grand Final which fell to Bowral. However he savoured success with the 2000 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Premiers assisted by Vic Thicknesse.

**Andrew "Crackers" Cracknell** had a 3 year captain coaching stint with Seconds from 2001, winning the premiership that year, with Vic Thicknesse and Gerard McGee assisting

**Brendan Schoupp** with a playing career that stretched from 1987 through to 2003 it was inevitable that he tried his hand at coaching. His first stint was a co-coaching role with Richie Aylett in U19s in 1992. He then assisted Grahame Tresidder in 2001 in getting a double – a Club Championship and an U19s premiership. In 2004 he coached the minor premiers 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, before teaming with Richard Thompson from 2006 to 2008 including another Club Championship. In 2011 he was again on the coaching team.

**Richard Thompson** took over as Club Coach during 2006 and in 2007 won the Clubs 7<sup>th</sup> Club Championship with Brendan Schoupp, **Kevin Crick and Marc Joy** steering Firsts to minor and major premierships and **Barry Jones and Brett Moran** overseeing Seconds to do the same. Richard coached for the 2008 & 09 seasons with Dean Hopkinson and Apollo Fenikitau helping out and then



returned in 2012-13 to lead the Club to another Club Championship. Dion Miller and John Heath had the Firsts, Brian Hutton, Marc Joy and Mark Stone the Seconds and Andrew Johnston, Ben Turner, Vaughan Judd and Keiran Smith controlled the Thirds. The only premiership that year went to **Ray Wylie** and **Craig Duncan** who coached the Under 20s Colts to undefeated minor and major premierships with Scott Grover managing.

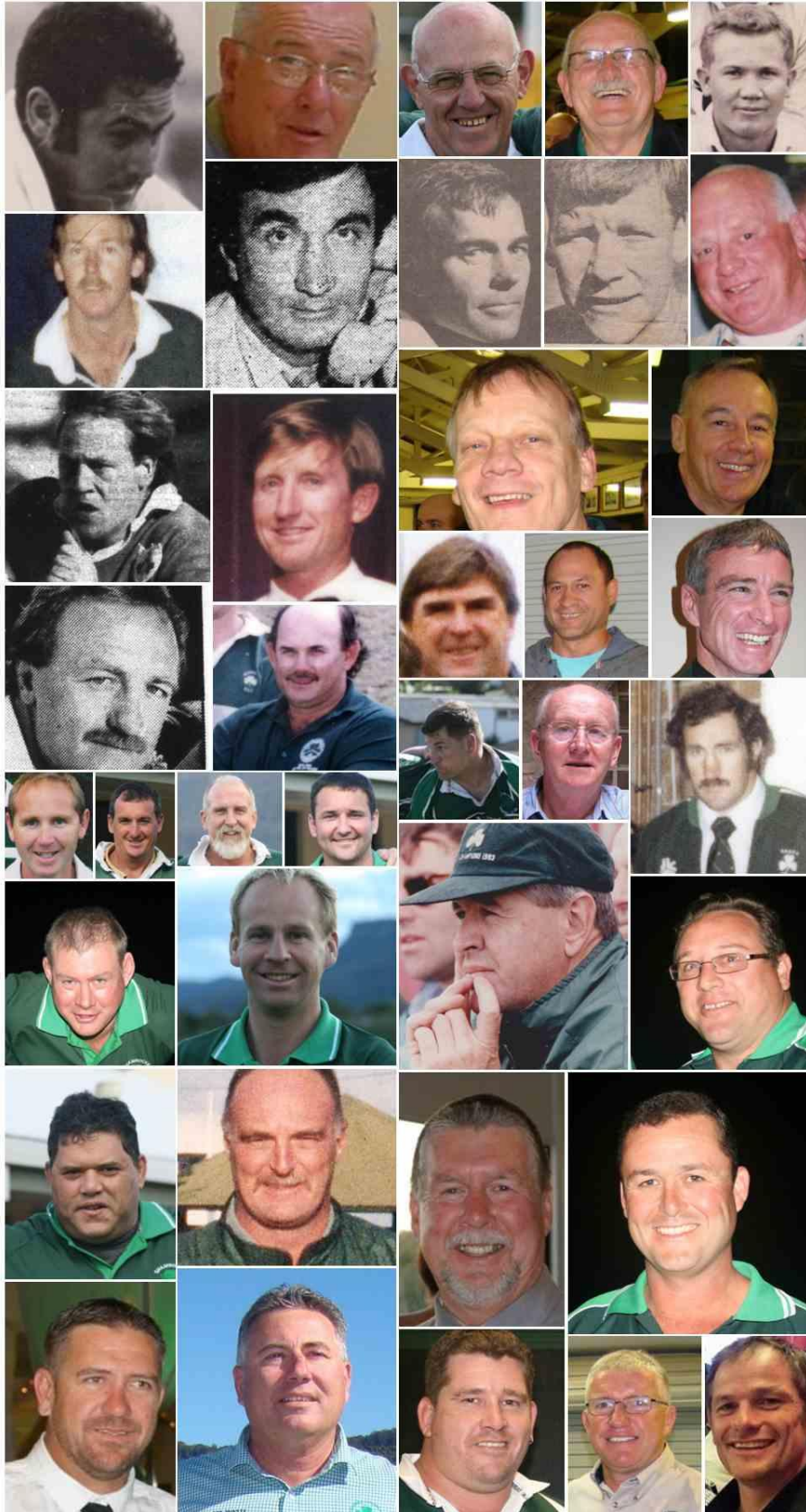
**Kevin Crick**, who had had a very successful coaching record with Juniors, coached Firsts in 2003 and then teamed with Slobbers in 2004-05, winning the Club Championship in 2004. He repeated this when he was teamed with Richard Thompson in 2007-08 and had another period in 2010 alongside Barry Jones, and Dean Hopkinson, and 2011 with Paul Ridgway and Schouppie. **Barry Jones** coached the 2005 U19s to a premiership with Tony Davis and James Tolhurst as his assistants and coached Seconds for 2 years (2006-07 including the 07 premiership) and for 2009-10 with Firsts alongside, Kevin Crick, Dean Hopkinson and Richard Thompson. In 2009 **Adam Large**, **Marc Joy**, Tom Ellicott and Phil Geary headed up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Premiership team.

**Ron Davis** with a 192 game career in Shamrocks colours, his first coaching stints were with U19's (1997) and captain-coach 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (1998) when he got them to the semis. He then dedicated himself to junior teams from 2000 and was influential in the development of many good juniors and their transition to grade. In 2016 he was appointed Head Coach of seniors, and showed an innovative approach which included "Play-Books", and the use of technology featuring the use of video combined with electronic trackers on players to record on-field stats for analysis of their performances. He led the Club to its ninth Club Championship in 2016 with minor premierships in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades and steered Firsts and Thirds to the Grand Finals. He was supported by his team of experienced personnel:- Mark Stone, Richie Aylett, Craig Duncan, Ray Wylie, Brian Hutton, Andrew Webb, Chris Doyle, Paul Ridgway, and Keiran Smith, with Bruce Wright-Smith



All of the names mentioned above make up the litany of club regulars who have contributed time and again to coach/assist the teams – add to these the names of other good coaches such as Jayson Joerdans, Mark McConnell, Adam Potter, Scott McKellar, Keiran Love, Dean Hopkinson, and Mark Biondich. Another name that keeps cropping up on the lists and team photos is that of **Vic Thicknesse**. "Thicko" played a hundred games during the 80s over eight seasons. He then assisted coaches for eleven years in all grades from 1993 through to 2004 – a truly big effort.

While the 3 ex Internationals (Stumbles, Melrose, Brass) undoubtedly showed the Club how quality coaching could help turn things around, all of the coaches listed above and in the Clubs records are a testament to the vast amount of acquired footballing knowledge and hard earned experience that has shaped the home grown talent of this club as it has stamped its mark on the grounds at Woonona and around the other rugby grounds of the Illawarra in the past 50 years. They and their players have proudly put the "ROCK" into Shamrock.



*Some Coaches and Managers over the Years*



## Chapter 9

# The Club Committees

By definition a club committee is the group of people, elected according to the rules or constitution of the club, to run the club on behalf of the members to achieve the goals and objectives of the club. It is the role of the committee to ensure the club is run effectively to plan for the future and manage the present.

In 1970, the goals and objectives of the club were to play tough, uncompromising, no frills rugby on the field as well as having a great time off the field. The first committee's major objective was to survive, and once this was achieved the aim was to grow.

To begin with, the Club had a very basic constitution – a cut and paste with the Woonona Shamrocks name inserted. It had a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar and an IDRU Delegate – usually the eloquent Bruce Ross who fronted up to tell the IDRU about the “Shamrock” way and how it should work.

It had four sub-committees: - the Fund Raising, Social, Trip Away and Publicity/Promotions Committees with a chair for each. As far as the players were concerned the Social Committee and the Trip Away Committee were the most important in the fledgling club.

There was also a Ladies Auxiliary. At home games the girls ran a canteen of sorts from a 12' X 12' old canvas tent selling Hot Dogs, Soup, Sandwiches and lots of Beer and soft drink. The Hot Dogs and Soup were heated up on an old gas burner and the Beer / soft drinks were served from a couple of Esky's. The money raised bought Goal Post Pads, Duffel Bags for foot jumpers, oranges for players at half time, and Trophy's. The ladies also helped with the set up and decorations for the legendary Annual Balls.

As membership grew the positions of Vice President, Assistant Secretary and Junior Teams Representative were added.

When the Woonona-Bulli Soccer and Sports Club went into liquidation in 1982 Shamrocks were granted \$14,600 from the proceeds on the proviso that they had a Constitution similar to that of the Soccer Club. Obviously pragmatism won out and the basis of the current Constitution came in to being. The Shamrocks Constitution drafted set the structure as:

- 1) An Executive Committee: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Club Captain
- 2) A Management Committee: in addition to the above, Registrar, Assistant Secretary, Juniors Chairman, Publicity Officer, Social Organiser, and Fund Raising Chairman.



*Club Presidents (Missing: Chris Cleghorn)*

Over the years this structure has been modified slightly. As the Juniors subcommittee grew and became self sufficient the position of Juniors Rugby President became a Vice-President on the Executive and in recent years this was changed to Director of Junior Rugby. The positions of Match Day Co-Ordinator, Assistant Treasurer, Coaching and Development Chairman, Marketing and Promotions Chairman, Hall Hire Convener, Canteen Manager, Player Representative were added to the Management team. Recently, the Assistant Treasurer - Juniors, and Registrar- Juniors were also included.

In the late 70s the annual cost of running the Club was around \$5000 while in 2018 it costs around \$130,000. Shamrocks Rugby Club is therefore effectively a small business, - not for profit - but having to be run profitably to meet the needs and the regulatory standards of an incorporated organisation.

During the 90s and 2000s the Committee was able to attract significant sponsorships ranging from pubs or licensed Clubs, to local businesses promoting their various goods or services (e.g. Tiles and Slate, or Bedding, or Technology and even a Coal Mining company (although it never paid up!) Of late, major sponsorships have become harder to find, and club stalwarts have stepped up to provide sponsorship deals (e.g. Tom Ellicott's Access Law and Andrew Webb's Accounting. There is some irony in this - in the formation days, the Club's working class base were critics of the Vikings Club's legal connections - now Shamrocks is sponsored by a solicitor - times have changed.) On a smaller scale the club continues to get support from local business houses with signage around the ground and on its match day programmes.

The home base of Ocean Park is operated under the terms of a license from the Wollongong Council.



To meet the conditions of the licence, the Club needs to raise the funds itself. The primary source is through the Canteen - home game crowds are critical to the club's survival. Hopefully that includes a Finals match. In addition the club conducts several annual community events such as Dog shows and Fitness events at which the canteen operates. The voluntary toil of the canteen helpers is a significant contribution to the club's success. In the 15 years since Ocean Park was opened there have been only 2 Canteen Managers - the late Marilyn Saywell, and Ken (and Anne) Phillis. Prior to that at Nicho Park, either under the tent or in the brick building, many others contributed to the successful operation of this

vital fund raising activity for the club - to name a few: Jimmy Butcher, Michelle and Scott Lunney with Graham and Helen Johnson, Bruce and Jenny Robey, Molly and Debbie



Holloway, Ray and Christine Wylie, Mick and Sue Smith and of course the ladies of the Auxiliary (Helen Aylett, Anita Higgins, Mary Ryan, etc) plus many others whose names may have not been recorded in the Annual Reports but who nonetheless gave up much time for the good of the Club.

The canteen operation has always been synonymous with the BarBQ. The boys in the aprons toil away under the awning, behind the crowds, catching glimpses of the on-field action, to keep the food and the funds flowing. The Chicken Snitties have become a crowd favourite and the standards set by the boys in the "Retirement Village" are the envy of the District. It's thirsty work.



When Old Shamrocks need somewhere to congregate, they can do so at the Thursday crew gathering. Originally starting as the Monday crew under the now "finally" retired stalwart Barry Cavanough's "guidance", the crew (who sometimes refer to themselves as the Final 15) gather for about 50 weeks of the year to maintain the grounds and buildings, have smoko, and to talk a lot about Rugby, sex, politics, religion and the good old days. They also form the nucleus of the barbeque cooks, and help the canteen crew. The 2019 crew consists of Barry Aylett, Terry Nutt, Grahame Tresidder, Garth Doyle, Steve Saywell, Peter Towers, Peter McAndrews, Ken Phillis, Mick Traynor, Al Potter, Rowan Allnutt, Micky Walsh, Graeme Wheeldon, Graham MacDonald, Paul Griffiths, and Barry

(Half-a- Game) Johnston who turns up half the time. Previous members include Marilyn Saywell, Brian Bradley, Terry Chessor, Peter Smith, and occasionally Dave Mayor turns up (usually at the light load times of year!). Even Nugget Nipperess appeared in his latter days to support and supervise the crew boys. Ann Phillis is the group's chief gardener.



Over the years the Club has helped raise significant funds for various community causes with the most



successful probably being part of the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea run for many years by Marilyn Saywell and her loyal team women. The Red Shield appeal and the Blood Bank have also been charities that the Club has supported.



of



The list of members who have served on Woonona Shamrocks Committees is found in Appendix 5). While a list does not tell the real story of all the work that has been done, it is clear from any analysis of these lists that the club has enjoyed a fairly stable leadership. Many members will be seen to have taken on several different roles, and served in them for a good number of years.

Some members have done much more than their share and their names or photos feature more frequently throughout this book. The longest serving President of the Club has been Rod Gilmour (7 years), and he also took on the Publicity/Promotions role and Fund Raising Chair for a significant period. The longest serving Secretary has been Bruce Fergusson (7 years) and the longest serving Treasurer has been Bruce Robey (11 years) with Mark Dandridge close behind (10 years). The longest serving Vice-President has been Paddy Ryan (10 years). Harry Kersten gave 9 years service as Treasurer and President. Andrew Cracknell has served as match Day Co-Ordinator for 9 years before taking over the Juniors Vice-President/Director of Junior Rugby for a further 11 years. Terry Nutt has served for 21 continuous years as Assistant Treasurer and many others have contributed over 5 years or more in Committee roles. These lengthy periods of service have ensured a continuity of club management, and the result has been a club that has grown effectively from a bunch of also-rans (and a pariah?) to a force to be respected in the Illawarra District Rugby Union.

The Club is indebted to the loyal service these and all those listed in Appendix 5 have given – job well done. Some members sometimes feel that there is a separation between the playing group and the Committee group. This is a shame. Most committee members are usually ex-players, and generally have the player’s interests in their thinking in the administration of the club. Some players have no idea how the club is administered.

The work of the Woonona Shamrocks committees has been based on a strong volunteering ethos, with a determination to get the job done for the Club, both on and off the field. Despite the inevitable differences of opinion, personality clashes and “club politics” that have arisen over the years, this has meant that the workload has had to have been effectively shared across the diverse club membership to achieve the success that the club has enjoyed. The results of all the sweat, blood and tears of the players and committee members who have established and maintained the Woonona Shamrocks Rugby Club is both visible and invisible – it lives around and within the Ocean Park complex and within the memories of those that have been part of it between 1970 and 2019.



*2 Gringos Raising the Bar*



*Vaughan Judd – Centurion, Vice President, Match Day Controller, Registrar. i.e. another great Shammie worker– not bad for a Kiwi*

## Life Members:

To become a Life Member of the Shamrocks RUFC, the Club Constitution requires that a nominated member needs to have had active service in the club totaling at least 10 years, or for special service (i.e. a lot of hard work) rendered to the Club or to the sport of Rugby Union over a similar period. To be elected a Life Member is not an easy process and requires support by a Life Members Committee, 75% approval by the Management Committee and 90% approval by financial members at a special meeting. As of 2019 there are 15 members who have been awarded this honour:



*Grahame Tresidder*



*Bruce Robey*



*Rod Gilmour*



*Chris Filan*



*Paddy Ryan*



*Ray Wylie*



*Scott McKellar*



*Barry Cavanough*



*Mark Dandridge*



*Ken Phillis*



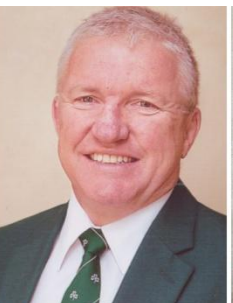
*Terry Nutt*



*Eon Chapman*



*Andrew Cracknell*



*Keiran Smith*



*Barry Aylett*

A lot of the credit for the success of Woonona Shamrocks Rugby Club can be accredited to these men (and their wives?), who have been players, coaches and committee members and most of them are still very active in the clubs activities in 2019. Grahame Tresidder is an ever-present force and supporter – he is in everything. Terry Nutt (Asst Treasurer) and Ken Phillis (Canteen Co-Ordinator) are still very active at the grounds. Scott McKellar and Keiran Smith are still contributing in coaching and team management and Barry Aylett heads up the current Grounds crew which Barry Cavanough organised for years. Crackers continues on as Director of Junior Rugby, and Dando is a long serving Treasurer and wise counsel on the Committee. Chappo re-surfaces every so often, and Ray Wylie has helped with training and is still in the background supporting the Club in various ways. Their service to Shamrocks remains outstanding and shows why they were deserving of their nomination in the first place.

## Chapter 10

# The Supporters



All footie clubs need supporters and the Rockies crowd are a dedicated and passionate mob. The north-eastern corners of both Nicho and Ocean Parks have been the area where the most vocal and most fervent of supporters have tended to congregate on match days. In full cry, and looking directly in to the setting sun, the Shammies crowd can be a hard bunch to please. Many of them are ex-players and are therefore so knowledgeable of the myriad and complex laws of the game that they often feel compelled to let the match officials know exactly how they are performing. The others - they, don't know a lot of the laws either - but they also like to offer their raucous "encouragement" to the refs and the opposition when play nears that corner of the park. Little wonder that occasionally some of these supporters have fallen foul of officialdom on match days.



Shamrocks supporters often feel that the refs are against them. This can be traced back to the first competition game in 1970. There have been incidents through the years when referees have had to deal with "crowd control" at Shammies games. At Nicho Park, only a small sisal rope strung along the eastern touchline "separated" supporters from the playing field. Of course, as play ebbed and flowed along the field the flexibility of the rope barrier resulted in the occasional encroachment over the sideline for a better view of play. At Ocean Park this problem has been eliminated by an "inflexible" sturdy steel

fence. But no barrier can prevent "words of support" from "knowledgeable" spectators emanating across the field, and so it can be a daunting job officiating in front of the Shammies mob.

Of course the Club never condones behavior that is in breach of the Codes of Conduct, but you can't stop fans from having their personal thoughts about the treatment handed out by all the opposing forces they happen to meet on the turf of their beloved home ground. They just like to shout out what they are "thinking". But in fairness the Rockies supporters appreciate that referees and touchies are basically human and can be scarred from their trips to Woonona by the sea, and once the game is over, the banter is usually over. It takes a little longer to forgive, and there are always the judiciary proceedings to sort out any problems, if required.





Unless it is a Final there are no admission fees charged for entry to Ocean Park on a Saturday afternoon. For free entry you get a great afternoon's entertainment - you get to see great teams, hear some enlightened barracking, get to share a drink with "friends", and have the opportunity to eat the best BBQ food in the Illawarra competition. You also get to see a champion "boat race" performance post match, have a crack at winning a badge draw if you are a financial member, partake in a happy hour, dissect the referees performance in the cold light of the evening, and hopefully go home contented after a great day out at the footie by the sea. This is tribal sport, at grassroots level. Go you Rockies.



Of course the second best place to cheer for the green and white is WIN Stadium (formerly Wollongong Showground) on Grand Final day, from the more comfortable seating in the 'Loud Mouthed Coal Miners' Section of the grandstand. Shamrocks supporters would prefer that the final games of the year are dominated by the mob from Woonona and they have got that wish with 19 Grand Final victories over the course of the 50 years.

The supporters who cheer or have cheered for the men, boys and girls in green are their mothers, wives, fathers, husbands, sisters, brothers, children, grandparents, or friends. They may have been ex-players or may be future players. Some give a lot of their time to perform the essential work required to keep a football club running. Some do very little work for the club except for turning up and cheering and spending their money in the canteen. Some are professional people such as lawyers, accountants and maybe even teachers. Others are business people or managers or tradies or nurses or wharfies or even coal miners. A lot of the older ones are retired, and a lot of the younger ones are mums and dads raising the next generations of Rockies. They are a diverse mob - collectively they make up the solid base of supporters and contributors that barrack for the team in green and who call themselves the "Pack of Shamrocks".



*They are trained young at Shamrocks  
Future fans of the club have to be  
dragged away from a home game.*

## Camaraderie and Celebration

From year one, the boys were known as the "pub boys" and the social events were of critical importance to the members. And it still is.... From the pictures below of the first balls (held in the middle of the day so that they could last longer!!) through all of the premiership celebrations, the 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries until the current days, these are the Shamrocks boys and girls enjoying themselves.





## Chapter 11

# Shamrocks at Home (From Nicholson Park to Ocean Park)

Nicholson Park, adjacent to the Woonona Surf Club, was the initial home ground of the Woonona Shamrocks (having been previously the obvious location for Woonona Surf Rugby Club). It was named after John Barnes Nicholson, an English born miner, who became a union activist after the Bulli mine disaster of 1897, and eventually became the Northern Illawarra's representative in the NSW Parliament where he served for almost a quarter of a century. Nicholson Park (sometimes cruelly referred to a Knuckleson Park) is a particularly apt place for the Shamrocks to call home as John Nicholson was renowned for not accepting discipline (of employers, officialdom and the Labor Party). He was one who stood up for working class rights and he frequented the Royal Hotel Woonona and gave his first policy speech there when he first stood for the parliamentary seat. He therefore had much in common with the team that was to make his ground their home for so many years.

Nicholson Park was established around 1904 as an area of public recreation. It was used in the late 1930s for military camps and during World War 2 horsing gymkhanas were held there to raise money for the war efforts. It had a concrete cricket pitch in the middle and was slightly shorter than the optimum size a rugby field should be. There was very little parking and barely enough room to hold a football crowd.

Once football was established there Wollongong City Council (WCC), in their wisdom decided to put an Amenities block in the middle of the 2 fields so that the Club did not have to use the Surf Club. The East Woonona Progress Association were not thrilled, either about the block or to have Shamrocks as one its "tenants". The group had been protesting to Council about the noise emanating from both the surf club and the football club for many years and in 1984 a petition from 112 residents was sent to WCC protesting about proposals to alter the amenities block. They thought a club house was being planned on top of the amenities block and they argued that it would "lower the standard and prestige of the area."

Although the Club liked the idea of having its own club house there, the Committee had only sought approval to spend \$10,000 on alterations to the block to improve the facilities, such as enlarging some windows and installing hot water systems. This approval was granted in 1985. It provided a kiosk, 2 separate change rooms, storage areas and separate showers for both teams. There was a large sliding door that separated the teams until the game was over and then opened up for presentations etc. The Club slowly worked with WCC to allow use of the block as a meeting room in addition to a training and match facility.



*The infamous Nicho Park sideline*

In 1987 the Association was at it again, complaining that children as young as 12 were being sold alcohol at Shamrock games. They claimed "*they used to sell sly grog off the back of a ute and now they are selling it from the kiosk*". (Of course they were - the canteen was a fund-raiser.) They also complained that the women's toilets were being used as change-rooms! (the opposition had to change somewhere!!) The Club survived these protests and established itself as an integral part of the East Woonona landscape.



The journey to Ocean Park actually commenced in the late 80s. The club identified that the operations of the club at Nicholson Park would not be sufficient to sustain the growth of rugby for the Shamrocks. After consultation with the then Alderman David Campbell, the club met with Wollongong City Council (WCC) in February 1990 to discuss a long term lease on Ocean Park. However it was evident that any relocation would have had to be funded entirely by the club if it was proposed as a single sport facility. Consequently a multi sport facility was proposed but no progress was made.

A grounds sub committee was formed in the early 90s to explore the alternatives including improving Nicholson Park or even re-locating to Bulli Showground. The issue dragged on and in 1998 the club engaged Prof Paul Patterson to facilitate the development of a business plan for the club to progress. During those sessions it was clear that the existing facilities were not conducive to attracting and maintaining players, supporters and sponsors. The relocation option was considered to be too costly and with the problems already encountered with previous attempts the club sought to develop Nicholson Park instead and a development application was lodged.

This application was met with much objection from the Progress Association which in hindsight proved instrumental in the re-location of the club. It was obvious to all that Shamrocks wanted to relocate, the community wanted Shamrocks to relocate, but WCC could not find a way for it to happen. It was then that the comment was made to Council "If Council put down the slab, Shamrocks will build the facility". And so the stalled relocation process was restarted.

A Building Committee was formed comprising of Bert Roodenrys, Tom Ellicott, Ian Chapman, and Mark Dandridge Bert and Mark did the original "heavy lifting" in respect of meetings with WCC and negotiations with them. Chappo was very active in the grants side of things and general admin assistance as required while Tom was there to provide good guidance and legal advice as and when needed. Dereg Breslin joined the team to provide the financial management. *(see picture on next page)*.

The first hurdle was the agreement of the overall plan of the building where Bert tried to get a 2 story clubhouse on the site however that was obviously never going to be accepted by WCC as they wanted to replicate the Woonona Soccer Club amenities building across the road as the architectural plans were ready to go. In 1999 new submissions were submitted to the WCC with the current layout and grant applications were made to the Department of Sport and Recreation. There were a number of significant hurdles in the construction of this building.

1. The building site was an old tip with gas drainage issues and there were limits to where the building could be located.
2. The club was not experienced in commercial building practices and was required to satisfy Council's stringent code of Best Practice and Occupational Health & Safety Standards for the construction.
3. The club had no proven financial record at fundraising to the level required to fund the building. WCC quantity surveyors costed the Shamrock component of the building at \$380,000.

WCC designed the building to incorporate special features to counter the issues of methane gas build up and identified the current site as being the only possible area in the site on which a building could be erected. The club obtained the services of Camarda & Cantrill Pty Ltd who in conjunction with Paul Griffiths Building Consultants were to advise, assist and review procedures so that the construction would be undertaken in accordance with relevant OH&S Standards. All members involved in the construction were required to undertake the appropriate inductions and obtain green card qualifications.

Fundraising became paramount as the club sought finances from wide and varied activities such as Sportsmen's Lunches, house demolitions, golf days, Buy-a-Brick and Golden Membership drives. Members were also asked to lend money to the club. Mark Dandridge was able to use his expertise in the building industry to source materials and fittings



sourced from various businesses at reduced costs. The project was registered under the work for the dole scheme with the first stage being the erection of the chain wire fence around the perimeter of the site. Eventually the club could demonstrate that it had sufficient financial backing to complete the project through cash reserves built up from fundraising activities, pledges for in kind support from tradespeople and suppliers and money's borrowed from members, particularly several long serving stalwart members who contributed a loan of \$50,000 to the project.

Accordingly, construction commenced on 10 October 2001 with WCC contractors starting on the slab construction. It was not until March 2002 that the club could commence with its component of the project. In the meantime behind the scenes work was continuing with a successful application for Grant funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation resulting in an additional \$30,000. At the end of the 2002 season all brickwork had been completed and bagging of the walls commenced. Most of the structural work for the roof had been completed with plumbing and electrical work to be started shortly after. During the 2003 season the major construction component was completed with only a few minor items requiring work before the building could be handed over. It was hoped that the playing surface would be ready for the 2003 season but unfortunately this was not to be the case.

The last matches played at Nicholson Park were on Saturday 6 September 2003 against Bowral.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2003 Shamrocks welcomed the Canadian Rugby Team to the Rugby World Cup for the first function in the new clubhouse. Shortly afterwards the venue was used again to celebrate 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades minor and major premierships of that year, which coming after three consecutive grand final losses was a big celebration.



2004 saw the club host its first official games on Ocean Park with the season opener played against the old foe – Vikings. It was a successful day with wins in First and Second Grade and a 7 all draw in Third Grade after a 10 all draw in the Old Boys curtain raiser game. In 2005 the club erected the four light poles on the field and secured further grant funding of



\$20,000 to assist in this. In 2006 season railings were installed outside the touchlines. The Club facility was officially opened on March 2006 by the Lord Mayor, Alex Darling. The ticket office (storage shed) was built in 2010 and in 2016 the electronic scoreboard was installed. The perimeter fencing and gates were replaced and upgraded in 2017. In 2018 the lights were significantly upgraded. All of these projects were funded by club fund raising efforts, contributions from club stalwarts and the winning of NSW Government grants, with local MLA Ryan Park (pictured left with President Tom Ellicott) and his predecessor Dave Campbell assisting greatly in the processes.







In 2018 a Commonwealth Government grant was awarded through the office of local member Sharon Bird to help restore the field surface.

The club is indebted to the Building/Relocation Project team for the massive work required to bring Ocean Park Rugby field to fruition and to the many members who have helped to get the complex to the standard that is seen in 2019.

However, Ocean Park is still an ongoing project. It is not complete – there are still many small projects that could be initiated to make it a much better sporting venue. Future Committees will need to maintain what has been achieved while continuing to plan and develop the facilities for the betterment of all associated with the club. What can be made of this facility is dependent on the Shamrocks of the future.

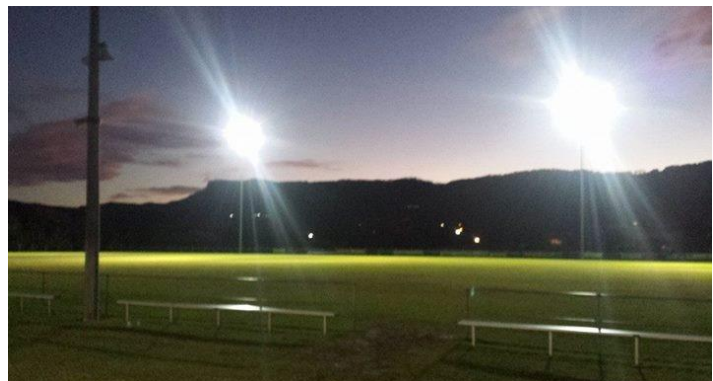


*The Ocean Park Rugby Complex  
Home of the Woonona Shamrocks.*

Located near Collins Rock, the site where Captain James Cook first attempted landing in Australia in 1770 (The breaking surf prevented his landfall....but maybe if he had had a Bulli Boat Crew on board he might have made it ashore! It has been alleged that as he surveyed the coastline from his pinnacle he said "the area would make a damn fine site for a rugby field".)

*Ocean Park ready for training.*

Situated on land previously roamed by the original inhabitants – the coastal **Tharawal** (or Dharawal) people, "Woonona", is an indigenous word meaning "place of young wallabies" and the original swampy land would have featured the native cabbage palm trees. It was used as a tip prior to its development by the Shamrocks.



## Chapter 12

# Shamrocks on Song

Folklore has been described as the "the traditions, customs, and superstitions of the uncultured classes". The Shamrocks of 50 years ago had none of this, except maybe the "uncultured" bit, but in 2019 it has it in spades. One very important part of Rockies folklore that has united them is the Shamrocks Song – or as it is described on page 1 of the original Shamrocks Hymn Book – The Shamrocks Anthem.

The dictionary definition of an anthem is "a rousing or uplifting song that has special importance for a particular group of people or country, often sung on special occasions". Team songs and group singing have long been a feature of UK Rugby and probably as a result of the Australian game's close ties with the old country, it was also a common feature of the game down under a few decades ago. The Shamrocks RUFC can be very thankful that three of its original members had the foresight and imagination to identify the need for a club song early in its emergence as a force in Illawarra rugby. Those three were Keith "Mickey" Roney, Keith "Sluggo" Walker and Jack "Tracker" Woods. Woods suggested a tune that was used by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Australian Regiment (entitled "We're a pack of Bastards"). Reputedly, on the stools of the Royal Hoopers, with the help of the amber fluid, the words of this military ditty were rearranged to become the first verse of the Shamrocks anthem. That tune which they used for the first verse comes from the second part (i.e. the "strain") of a popular American marching tune called "Our Director" penned by Frederick Ellsworth Bigelow (1873-1929). This same tune is also shared by many American high school teams and other military units and organizations, and is known as their "fight" song. How apt - the word "fight" appears so prominently in the Shamrocks version.

The second verse of the Shamrocks song was Mickey Roney's suggestion and is a different tune – that of the Toreador song from Georges Bizet's famous opera Carmen. The words are adapted from the song Stand Up and Fight from the 1954 movie Carmen Jones and the version became an intrinsic part of the Shamrock RUFC's fighting ethos.

2<sup>nd</sup> Bb FLUTE.

**OUR DIRECTOR.**  
MARCH.

F. E. BIGELOW.

*We're a Pack of Shamrocks, Shamrocks are We  
We Come from Woonona, the arsehole of  
Australia and the Universe,  
Cause We're a pack of Shamrocks, Shamrocks  
are We,  
We'd sooner ruck than fight, for Victory.*

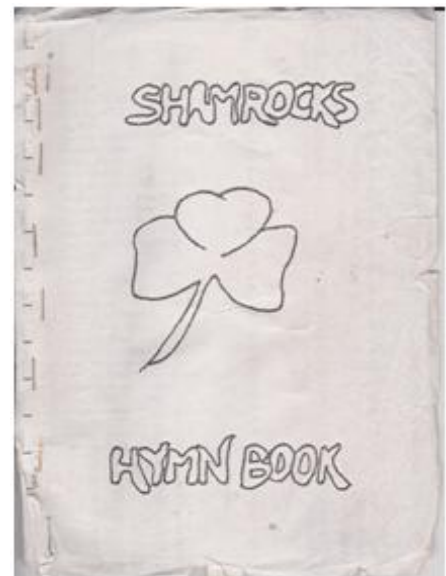
2 3 4

*Stand up and fight until you hear the bell  
Stand toe to toe, trade blow for blow  
Keep punching until you hear that final bell,  
Show that crowd what you know,  
Until you hear that bell, that final bell,  
Shamrocks will fight like hell.*

## **The Shamrock Hymn Book (now extinct)**

Bawdy (i.e. sexually explicit and suggestive) songs tend to be confined to groups of misogynistic young males noisily and outrageously celebrating life in an environment where alcohol is flowing freely – that adequately describes some of the early Shamrocks. Historically bawdy songs have been associated with convicts, sailors, soldiers and other working class and itinerant men. Some of the men who formed Shamrocks RUFC were products of all of these. Most of them were sons of miners, steelworkers, returned servicemen and tradesmen. How appropriate that as the Shamrock behavioral patterns developed in the 70s at Hoopers Pub, Nicholson Park and the various Rugby fields of the Illawarra, the 'Rockies acquired a reputation as being "loud, foul-mouthed coalminers" of the north.

The game of Rugby has had a tradition of players and supporters either celebrating or commiserating the game post match by getting thoroughly trashed. It was then inevitable that such lively events began to feature bawdy songs, the removal of clothing and the playing of games such as boat racing and whirlybirds. The infusion of "the old country" rugby culture into the blossoming Shamrocks culture was begun by Peter Vickery, who having recently arrived in Woonona from Bude in Cornwall, and brimming with the knowledge of Cornish rugby traditions helped form the Shamrock Choir. The Shamrocks Hymn Book was compiled to help support the choir at post match partying and associated coach trips and tours. Although the patrons of the Hooper's Royal Hotel in Woonona were initially a little reluctant to croon and chant, when 'Gravel Chords' Sluggo Walker became lead singer on Saturday nights everyone was soon made aware of the choral delights associated with Shamrocks club rugby .



Some of the notable songs included in this book were:

- The Alphabet Song
- The Virgin Sturgeon
- The Ringy Rang Doo
- The Good Ship Venus
- No Balls at All
- The Woodpeckers Hole

In the early years when the Woonona boys travelled by bus, or wherever they gathered in honour of rugby, there was usually a "Choirmaster", whose job it was to ensure that the throats were lubricated, and the songs were sung. Unfortunately, with time, aging and relocation of the founding Shamrocks, along with the increased presence of women and children in the post match events and the changing social standards, such ribald communal singing has disappeared into the Clubs history....such is life.



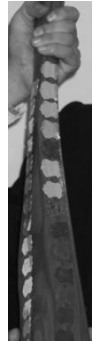
## Chapter 13

# Club Awards

For a club to be successful, it needs supporters who are workers and contributors – whether they be on the management committees, the fund-raising activities, the maintenance crews, the coaching and training staff, or on the playing field. Shamrocks prides itself on being a volunteer based organization, and the rewards those volunteers get is dependent on what they put in to make the club successful. Of course it is nice to be recognized for efforts over and above the normal, and Shamrocks uses the following awards to recognize those efforts.

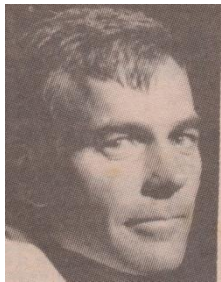
### Club Person of the Year Award

An award that originated in the Club's inaugural year this prestigious award is decided by the club members and is given to the person who has contributed most to the club during the year. In the form of a "club", this trophy is awarded to the person who has best displayed the loyalty and good work that keeps Shamrocks Rugby Club the strong club that it aspires to be. Three Shamrocks have won this award 4 times: Bruce Robey, Grahame Tresidder, and Kieran Smith.



### Presidents Award

Instigated in 1977, it is awarded by the Club President to the person who has shown great club spirit and dedication to the successful running of the Club during the year. This award has only ever been won twice by the same person and two members have done that: Robbie Meijer and Grahame Tresidder.



*Robbie Meijer*

### John Higgins Award

Instigated in 1984 in memory of Club supporter John Higgins and awarded to the person who has shown great club spirit and gone beyond the "normal" club involvement during the year. Two members have won this award three times:

Barry Cavanough and Vic Thicknesse (*pictured right*)



### Supporters Award



*Kisane de Jong*

The youngest of the awards, it was first awarded in 1986. It is awarded by the Committee to the person adjudged to have been a significant and loyal supporter of the Club for that year. There are two 3-time winners of this award: Ken Phillis and Kisane de Jong.

The full list of recipients of these various awards is in Appendix 9.

## Chapter 14

### Legends, Myths, and Yarns

Why are the Vikings our arch enemy? With apologies for any offence, a Shamrock original claims:

*"that when the Original 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bulli Shamrocks played and bashed Vikings for the first time they found them to be a bunch of whinging, whining, pompous, poofters and the crap that we had to put up with thereafter from the Viking aligned Mercury columnists ,and the Judiciary when we clobbered them, was unbelievable".*

As was stated in Chapter 1 the Shamrocks struggled for players in their first few years, and it is "rumoured" that the Club may have used some unregistered players on occasions. One such occasion appears to have been on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1971 in the 'C' Grade game against University. Shamrocks won this game 11-3 and according to the Team Sheet No. 12 Ron Bradley scored two tries. After the game University officials protested on the match sheet that No.12 was not Ron Bradley but was really Charles (Charlie) Bennett – a high profile local Surf Club Champion and a very good Rugby League player. The Judiciary found that Shamrocks had indeed played Charlie as an unregistered player, and fined them the princely sum of \$2.00 and stripped them of the two competition points. (Thankfully University was not awarded the points). Maybe in hindsight Shammies should have picked a slightly lower profile person as a ring-in.

In the foundation years of the Club there is no doubt that the "social" side of playing Rugby with Shamrocks was of prime significance. In the 1977 Annual Report, the Secretary, Dick Hasler, exhorted:

*"I would ask all players to endeavour to approach all club activities, and in particular the training and playing the game, with a greater degree of responsibility, and in doing so, try to rid the Club of the "Off-Season Frolic" attitude that seems to be restricting our Club's performances."*

He went on to describe the players' efforts as being the consequence of "a poor attitude to training, pre-match preparation and match attendance upon selection. On a brighter note, the other side of Club life, the SOCIAL SIDE, featured a number of highly successful and enjoyable occasions." While the Club did manage to change attitudes as it grew, the enjoyment of playing the game they play in heaven in the Shamrock way – hard but lawful - has continued through to this day.

In an early 70s match at Nicho Park after a customary "all in" melee, 2 Shamrocks Mick O'Brien and Billy George were sent from the field and charged with fighting. When they fronted the judiciary Chairman Tom Atherton (aka Tonga Tom) he exonerated them questioning why 2 players from the same team were sent off. "Who were they fighting? He queried: "each other?"

Alan Bloomfield (from Bude) was sent off at Keira Oval in a game against Waratahs for assaulting the referee. He had been on the ground after a ruck and thought he was grabbing hold of a player's shorts to help himself up off the ground. Unfortunately the shorts that were pulled down were being worn by the referee.

In the 70's Shamrocks players were known as the "*pub boys*". They would party pretty hard on a Friday night and then turn out and play a couple of grades on Saturday arvo and then return to Hoopers pub on Saturday night and party hard again. When they made their first grand final in 1978, rumours spread that the publican (Boyd Germyn) would give them a keg to stay away from the pub. It was not a rumour.

### Nicho Park

Popular referee Alan Gilroy remembers Nicholson Park:

*"It had sidelines about a metre from the fence and a metre away from the cricket pitch and of course it was pretty hard to keep crowd control there. On one occasion I was getting a real hard time – the hardest time I ever got -mostly from one particular bloke. I was copping every adjective ever thought up. It was bad. I had to go back to the pub with them or I wouldn't have gone back to refereeing the next week. I went back in to the pub and found out what this bloke who had been abusing me drank, and then I saw him across the bar and he saw me. He was saying 'there he is, get out of me way, I want that bastard!' And he pushed through and just as he got to me I pulled out a pint from behind my back and said: 'here, drink this and shut up.' He hadn't shut up all day but that stopped him in his tracks. They were pretty hard times for referees."*

### Bricks:

In 1979, three weeks out from the finals, Barry Stumbles led all three teams on a two kilometre run from Nicho Park to Hoopers Pub. Waiting at Hoopers were 45 schooners, one for each player. After downing the beers, he lined up the first graders and led them on a run up Hospital hill past the hospital to a vacant building site. Here, under a sheet of iron, he had 15 piles of bricks, in sets of two, one with a player's name on it and the other with the word "Premier" inscribed. From then until the final each player was expected to take both bricks with them at all times – at training, work, eating and even sleeping with the exhortation "learn to love the bricks". Three weeks later they won the club's initial first grade premiership. (See photo Page 13)



### For Medicinal Purposes Only:

Rugby, being a hard game, was noted in the "olden days" for the need to partake in a "Respiratory Reviver" at half time – a liquid, other than orange juice, such as a port, or sherry (dry or sweet) taken merely for medicinal purposes to ease the aches and pains. The Woonona version became known as "Shamrock Champagne" – being brown muscat, and used strictly for medicinal purposes only.

Foundation player and ex-RN sailor Dave Mayor (from Bude) arrived in Woonona from the Cornwall winter the day before the first ever comp game against Uni in 1970 and met up with the boys at Hoopers for Friday night pre-game drinks. He got plastered and was very hungover for the game which was played in very warm autumn weather (the high 20s), and Dave just managed to make half time. He rushed to the garbage bin full of ice and grabbed what he thought was chilled water to put out his "raging internal fire". He had swallowed a considerable quantity before he realized he was drinking the "Shamrock Champagne", and after considerable gagging and coughing, a laughing Sluggo Walker sympathized with "Get it down ya you Pommie bastard – it's a heart starter". Welcome to Australia.

In the late 70s a Letter to the Editor in the Illawarra Mercury complained about the behavior of the Shamrocks crowd describing them as "just a bunch of loud foul-mouthed coalminers



from the north". At the 1979 Grand Final part of the Grandstand was renamed by Shammies as: "The Loud Foul Mouthed Coalminers Stand".

The 1979 Annual Report was unusual in that it listed the following awards:

- Most cans drunk on any one Saturday: 23.5 – Henry Allen drew with Rick Shepperd.
- Coldest fingers in the club: John Higgins.
- Most Diplomatic Cheer in 1979: "Cop that you Viking Poofers" (K Walker).
- Kindest deed of the Year: Bobby Nutt – For watching everybody's clothes in the toilet at the Goulburn Hotel and missing the "Baby Elephant Walk".

Ian Westwood achieved a dream ending to a 9 season career, when he scored a try in the final minute of his last game, the Grand Final win against the Harlequins to complete the magical 1994 Clean Sweep of 3 premierships in one day. "You couldn't ask for a better finish" he said.

Prop forward Bryson Chin has the inglorious honour of being the only Shamrock to have ever been forced to front a court of law for an on-field offence. Sent off for punching a Tech-Tahs player in the April 1997 match, Bryson was assaulted as he walked off by the ex-policeman father of the player. Both Bryson and the father (eventually) were charged by police and both found guilty of assault. Bryson also got 4 weeks suspension from the judiciary.

#### And the Winner is?

The July 1998 match between Bowral and Shammies at Nicho Park was the usually vocal affair. As usual, the ref, Peter Woods, copped it from the vociferous Nicho crowd. Lost in the uproar was the repeated calling of the meat tray raffle, which went uncollected. Bowral won the game in the last minutes, 17-15 and Woodsie copped even more flack from the encroaching spectators. He rightfully gave everyone a spray on the poor crowd behavior and as the heat was gradually doused by the quenching of throats, the despairing ground announcer made one more bid to call the winning number. It was claimed – Woodsie had the ticket – and the last smile.

#### The Plodding Hero:

In August 2001 the Illawarra Mercury wrote of Grahame "Slobbers" Tresidder "

*"He might not win too many popularity contests among rival clubs and his opinions don't always sit well with officialdom, but love him or hate him the Shamrocks coach is a hero to his players."*

#### Good Behaviour?

A quote from the Mercury's Short Rounds Column following the 1993 Grand Final win. *"After last weeks rah-rah grand final in which Shamrocks beat Vikings 20-12, the Rocks were looking for a place to celebrate but no-one would take them. Somebody rang Shaun Tobin who runs things at Bulli Bowling Club. Now the Tobins have close Viking links and Shaun was worried that these might create a problem. But he accepted the booking and after the event Tobin said, "I'll have them back here anytime after a Grand Final – 8 hours of celebration, \$4000 worth of booze, ...and not a broken glass."*

### Mistaken Identity:

In the first half of a game against Vikings in the early 1970s Dave "Hormone" Thomson gave the opposition a bit of rough treatment. At half time their coach told them to "take that number 7 out at the first opportunity". Minutes after the resumption, the opposition followed their coach's instruction and the No 7 was king hit. Unfortunately the Shamrocks coach had substituted Hormone with Micky "Doo-Doo" Walsh and due to the shortage of jerseys in those days, Micky had donned Hormone's sweaty jumper.

The photo shows the result.



*Micky "Doo Doo" having a breather!  
thanks to Hormone!*

## **Memorable Games**

### **The Magnificent 7**

In late February 1975 at Kiama Showground Shamrock Officials were organizing the three teams to play in the Annual 7's Tournament. One the eve of the tournament a Kiama Official had asked Shammies to field three teams instead of the two that had been nominated, as one of the Country teams had withdrawn. The first two teams were selected and looked good on paper, the third team picked itself as there were only 7 players left, all forwards:- Barry Johnston, Jan Hicks, Bruce Fergusson, Bill Tiller, Rick Sheppard, Henry Allen, Dave Thompson. Upon inspection of the draw it was discovered that Shammies First team had drawn Randwick Seconds, while the Seconds and Thirds had drawn Technical College and Waratahs respectively. Despair crept over Shamrocks as the Club Officials did not want the First's knocked out in the First Round. So they did what any self respecting Rugby officials would do, they swapped the First's and Third's around.

The ground was very soft after a week of rain, and about ten minutes prior to the Rocks/Randwick game the heavens opened and the rain fell in buckets. As the teams took the field the Grandstand filled as it was the only dry area in the Showground. "This will be a laugh" other spectators were saying as Randwick started in typical "Gallopings Greens" fashion. Shamrocks looked slow and ponderous against the well drilled machine from Randwick. Shamrocks plan was simple, tackle like hell and if you get the ball kick the S—T out of it. A gale force wind was blowing and Shamrocks had the advantage, however you would not have thought so as Randwick attacked incessantly.

Wave after wave of Randwick players assaulted Shamrocks try line only to be repelled in true Gallipoli spirit. Randwick bombed many opportunities by either knocking on selfishness of trying to score when having two or three players overlap. Nearing half time and with Shammies in possession of rare ball, a big foot was put to the ball and the wind carried it high and long. All the players stopped running except one. When the ball came down in the in goal area it was obviously going over the dead ball line.

Bruce Fergusson with his vast knowledge of Kiama Showground knew the dead ball line extended onto the bicycle track and the ball had stopped dead in a pool of water. Fergusson casually placed his hand on the ball and to Randwick's dismay the Referee awarded a try: - 4-0 Shamrocks. In the Second Half Randwick came out breathing fire, Shamrocks came out breathing Brown Muscat. The Magnificent 7 tackled, tackled and tackled, the large crowd started supporting Shamrocks as a boilover was imminent. Only 3

minutes to go, 2 minutes, 1 minute and Shamrocks through a combination of forward power, skill and luck found themselves 10 metres from the Randwick try line.

A full on 7 man maul ground their way to the try line, metre after metre and with 3 metres to go, Billy "The Postman" Tiller burst from the pack. Sprinting with players hanging off him he lunged for the try line. A try was awarded as a tumultuous roar erupted from the Grandstand. As the siren sounded the Shamrock song was echoing around the ground and the scoreboard showed Shamrocks 8 - Randwick 0. In the dressing room the Rockies players and supporters were celebrating to the sounds of ring pull cans popping; the singing and back slapping only subsided when the Coach of Randwick - Mr. Geoff Sayle entered the room. He said only three words "Well played Shamrocks".

Post note: In the next round the Magnificent 7 played Eastern Suburbs (Canberra) and lost 0 - 38

#### Memorable Viking Game 1:

In late 1983 Bruce Fergusson, Captain-Coach of the Rocks successful 4<sup>th</sup> Grade team had the top of one of his fingers bitten off at Vikings Oval. The ref stopped play while the players conducted an emu march across the field to try to find the missing part, but it couldn't be found. Ferg stated that it was his own fault for putting his hand in his opponent's mouth.

#### Memorable Viking Game 2:

The majority of teams leave Nicholson Park with a battering, a loss or both. On 4 July 1992 before one of the biggest crowds Nicho had seen, Shammies played a Vikings side that had not lost a game in 18 months. With a minute to go Richie Aylett got the ball wide to put Ray Wylie into the corner for a try. The pressure then fell on rookie Adam Rostirolla to take the conversion. From near the touchline he steered the ball over the crossbar for a famous win. Vikings had had 2 players sent off - Gary Edwards for punching and Max Lemme for a high tackle on John Dokter which smashed his nose and left him unconscious for 5 minutes. Dokter resumed and with Brendan Schoupp continuously wiping the blood from his props face, saw the match through.

#### Memorable Viking Game 3:

1993 started with the Vikings knock-out in March. Shamrocks and Vikings met in the semi-finals and made the headlines for all the wrong reasons. The game erupted in to an all-in brawl on the final bell, beginning with an incident between Richie Aylett and Viking prop, Michael Prior. The fight was stopped and restarted at least 3 times. Citing and counter-citing was done by both clubs and the row raged in the Mercury for over a month. Charges varied from head butting and spitting to eye gouging and striking and Slobbers Tresidder was cited for initiating a brawl and Uni Coach Neville Austin was charged for abusing a gatekeeper and refusing to pay the entry fee. Six weeks later the dust settled when the Viking prop was suspended for 4 weeks and all other citations were dismissed.

#### Memorable Viking Game 4:

After the 1993 Grand Final Vikings Capt-Coach Peter Palmer commented "*how appropriate that Shamrocks captain 'Crackers' Cracknell had presented the referee Norm Coles with his medal*". The sour grapes stemmed from the 14-1 penalty count against his team in the second half and the sending off of one of their players. This was a day that every Shamrock "loved" the referee!



### Early Finish 1:

The Shamrocks v University 1<sup>st</sup> Grade game at Nicho Park in 2003 was ended 15 minutes early by the referee. After a rather "spiteful" game, an all-in brawl erupted in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute and spilled over the sideline into the crowd. When order was restored, Rockies Canadian prop Jim Plouffe was sent from field and later charged with "manhandling the referee". The ref then called the game off. The charge was later changed to "verbally" assaulting the referee and Jim was subsequently suspended for 12 months. After a furore in the press the sentence was reduced to 6 weeks.

### Early Finish 2:

Ocean Park has also unfortunately seen an abandonment of a game in 2008. Playing Bowral, and with 25 minutes to go a fight broke out and a Bowral player dismissed. In an ensuing scrum an all-in brawl broke out and around 10 spectators joined the melee. The Ref had had enough and after he marched Shammies James Tolhurst along with another Bowral Black he blew full time. The Rocks were leading 31-10 when the game was abandoned and were awarded the win, but the Bowral mob were adamant they were getting on top of the Shamrocks and would have won the match because of the howling wind at their backs!

### Battle at Berkeley:

In the 2004 preliminary Final Shamrocks played Kiama at Berkeley. The match was a brutal affair which ended in an 11-all draw meaning Shamrocks qualified for the grand final because of its higher position on the table. Three Kiama players were sin-binned and one Shamrock and the headlines on Monday quoting the Kiama coach said:

*"Bray says Rocks a bunch of cowards.*

*One team went there to play football; the other team was there to king hit and blind side people and get as many cheap shots in as they could. It probably sounds like sour grapes but I don't really care because we didn't get beaten."*

Slobbers reply: *"It's a bit sad really. The Kiama coach is still feeling the result. I do not coach players to be thugs".*

### The Wombat Bash:



In 2016, the third game of the year against Avondale on April 16 is well remembered as a battle Shammies lost by one point 36-37. In a game when one team played footy and the other was seemed only interested in "The Biff", Avondale players were given extreme latitude by the ref. He issued 4 yellow cards - two for high shots, one for stomping and one for back chat to the Avondale players. Shamrock club was incensed by the number of high shots that were allowed to go unpunished. After viewing video of the game Shamrocks' charged Avondale players with 13 offences (high shots and foul play) that the referee chose to ignore. The result at the judiciary hearing was that two Avondale players were found guilty of striking and kneeling players and spent several weeks on the

sidelines. The Shamrock injury list after the game was massive with three players missing subsequent games through concussion and one badly broken nose. The positives that came from this game were that the video footage is now used by NSW Rugby as an educational tool for referees. The video highlights illegal tackling techniques and other over aggressive tactics. Additionally the refs realised that their performance on the day was inadequate and they resolved to lift their game. The rest of the comp was put on notice that Shamrocks

would not accept "Thugby". That game was a low point for the IDRU Referees but the game is hopefully now better from the lessons learned.

Big Kicks: Rugby being rugby some games are memorable because of magnificent kicks. The Mercury following the 1986 Second Grade Grand Final stated:



*Barry Horrell*

*Barry Boots Shammies Home*

*"Both sets of forwards had a difference of opinion in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute and with a strong northerly wind behind him Barry Horrell attempted a goal from a metre on his own side of the half way line and 10 metres from the grandstand touchline and with a Greg Norman swing his sensational long range goal gave the Rocks a 3-0 lead."* It was the stand-out of the three he kicked that day for a famous Shamrock win.

In 1990 Jeff Charlesworth won a minor semi-final with a penalty goal after the siren to defeat Weerona. In 1992 a Chris Doyle field goal helped clinch a narrow win over Vikings in the First Grade Grand Final. In 1994 "Ox" Hutton kicked a field goal from 44 metres out in a memorable Nicho Park victory again over Vikings that clinched the minor premiership for the greens.

*Jeff Charlesworth*



Walk-Off:

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1990 was an interesting day at Nicho Park. After 35 minutes of a tough and spiteful battle with Weerona, referee Norm Coles stopped play and walked off refusing to continue as ref and claiming that the players and the spectators had abused and heckled him continuously. After a 20 minute break, order was restored and things calmed down. The second grade referee agreed to take over and the match was concluded in a more gentlemanly manner. The incident hit the headlines of Mondays Mercury and prompted an editorial which concluded: *"The IDRU is to meet to discuss Saturday's incident. If it doesn't act in the strongest possible manner against Shamrocks - a club with a reputation for abusing referees- then it doesn't deserve to have any referees. And neither do the Clubs."* Shamrocks demanded a retraction for a biased, uninformed editorial - which never came.

Ref Barracker: Barbara Hutton (mother of Ox) was notorious for her commentary against referees, especially if they appeared to favour the Vikings. It must have been interesting around the dining table of the Hutton family post games, because husband Bob was a good referee and even won the IDRU Ref of the Year award - he was also Chairman of the Judiciary and no doubt got excellent advice from Barbara. Barb did a lot of good work for the boys, using her expertise as a travel agent to assist with trips away/tours.



Sin Binnars: Many a yellow card has been issued to Shammies players but one afternoon at Ocean Park in a match against Vikings three yellow cards were issued to Shamrocks supporters for "personal comments" made about the referee. Two of the offenders were stalwart Shammies Rod Mercer and Bazza Cavenough, (who was taking a wee break from BBQ duty). The third one went to a female supporter who refused to leave the ground and who told the ref that he was a big Sheila and to get on with the game. He did.



Barry Johnston claims to be the only Shamrock never to finish in a losing game. His playing record of 14 games during 1975 and 1977 does not support the claim but he is adamant that he was always replaced at half time and therefore the games were lost "without him". However with the nick-name Half-a- Game, he has cemented a place in Shamrock folklore, but he will admit that he has played ONE full game - in the historic win over Randwick in the Kiama 7s in 1975.

### Sideline Lottery

One particular match at Nicholson Park against Vikings Paddy Ryan was selling raffle tanks along the narrow western touchline, where there was barely sufficient room for spectators to stand while watching the proceedings. In the course of maneuvering around the patrons to make a sale Paddy inadvertently "came in contact" with a flying Blues winger who had a clear route to the try line at his beckoning. Paddy was of course "heartbroken" that his collision with the player had robbed them of a try.

### End of Year Trips

In the early years, as the plane taking the boys on their end of season trip to Surfers was taxiing at Sydney Airport, one of the players pulled the emergency release on an exit door bringing the plane to a sudden halt and sending the flight crew into pandemonium. When the flight attendants made enquiries as to had pulled the handle, Fog pointed to a little old lady sitting in that row of seats!! All players and officials were removed from the plane onto the tarmac for the ensuing enquiry where only after a lot of negotiations by strapper Bobby Nutt were they allowed to re-embark. The flight resumed without major incident. Would not happen that way in 2019.

On the return flight of the same EoY trip, the Shamrocks decided to be a team of "deaf and dumb" footballers with just Mickey Roney the "tour manager" doing all the talking for the "mutes", including ordering the drinks. They carried on the charade all the way home until prior to disembarkation they let the hostesses know their true identity when they broke into the Shamrocks Hymn.

Take Away: Graeme "Molly" Holloway and his wife Debbie once operated a take away food shop opposite Nicho Park. One Saturday afternoon, while Molly was playing in a lower grade game, business got very busy at the shop and Debbie raced over to the ground and told him he had to come over to the shop immediately to serve the backlog of customers, or else! Surely one of the most unusual reasons for a player to have left the field?

In the mid 70s Shammies were at home at Nicho Park and were short a few players (not an uncommon occurrence in those days.) Someone noticed a roof tiler at work across from the field, and so he was approached and asked if he wanted a game. He did, playing in his work boots. The records do not show what name he played under but it was certainly not A Tyler.

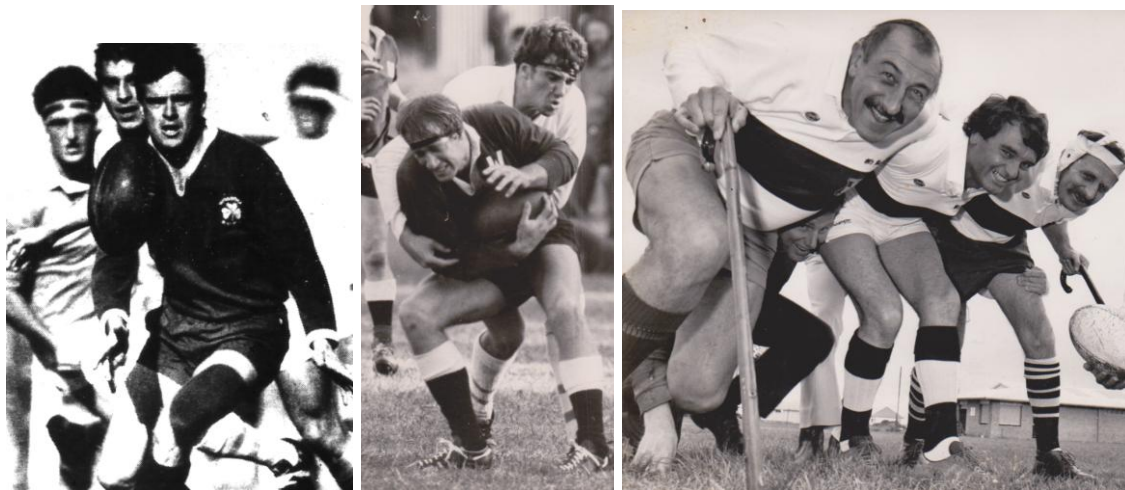
In 1973 after Vikings had returned to Wollongong Leagues Club to celebrate their win in the B Grade Grand Final and the Club Championship, some of the crowd that were helping them celebrate were a couple of Shamrocks. The Vikings noticed that the Shammies were eyeing off the premiership cup as it was being passed around with beery contents. And while they paid close attention on the progress of their cup around the room they failed to notice that Dave Mayor had gone missing. Ken Phillis had noticed that the Club Championship Shield was being left unattended, and so they missed the passing of the



Shield out the back window to the waiting boy from Bude. The Shammies finished up at Austinmer RSL Club with the George Tipper Club Championship proudly on display. It is not known when the Vikings noticed it was missing but it was eventually returned to the rightful keepers the next week.

After Shamrocks won the first grade trophy for the first couple of times, the small badges the IDRU used to record the winning team were detached and replaced by small engraved shamrocks just to mark that Woonona was different!! It is not known if the shamrocks are still there, because we haven't had our hands on that trophy for a few years.

On one particular trip to Canberra the Rocks travelled by small bus. Near the ACT border, a small bus full of ladies travelled alongside the Shammies bus. The boys decided to give the girls something to look at, and articles of clothing were removed or lowered so that certain parts of the body that are usually kept hidden were flashed to the girls as the two buses travelled in close proximity. The ladies bus overtook Shammies and disappeared down the highway. Unknown to the Rocks, the ladies reported the "disgusting" exhibitionism to the authorities of the ACT. Upon arrival, the Federal Police had tracked the boys down, and threatened prosecution, but due to the lack of evidence no charges were actually laid. However, the bus and the team was closely shadowed during the stay in the ACT and behavioural patterns were adjusted accordingly.



## Chapter 15

### Trips Away, Tours and Tourists

In the formation years, one of the most important Committee positions was that of Trip Away Chairman. The end of season 'trips away' became a ritual. and were possibly one of the major reasons for keeping some Shamrocks in the Club. Bruce Ross was said to have said that on these trips "*a great deal of character is built.*" In those early days the Gold Coast meter maids were an obvious attraction and this was a frequent destination for many football clubs at season's end (i.e. a sort of adult version of today's Schoolies Week). It gave many rival footballers from various codes the opportunity to swap training and playing notes as well as to demonstrate masculine prowess in pulling chicks, drinking ability and creativity in antics and stunts.

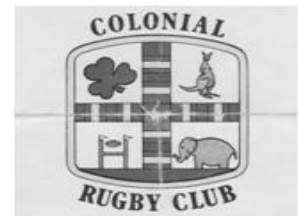
Over the years, in addition to Surfers Paradise, the Shamrock's socializing ethos was introduced to the unsuspecting citizens of such exotic Australian touring destinations as Armidale, Lismore, Orange, Cooma, Dubbo, the Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Port Macquarie -generally somewhere different each year, because it was inadvisable to return while the locals memories were still raw. To improve their image, the teams sometimes adopted impressive alter egos – for example the Port Macquarie motel took the booking as the Woonona Pipe Band, and the owner complimented the squad on being the best behaved pipe band he had ever had stay at his establishment.

The Trip Away reports were a feature of the Club's Annual Reports in the early years, but eventually they ceased to appear. This could have been due to a number of factors. Firstly it is possible that most of the following generations had been well advised by their mothers, wives or girlfriends to avoid boozy, boofy, cultural trips, which featured female appreciation contests or encounters with the local constabulary and therefore they didn't travel, so that there was therefore nothing to publish. Alternatively, it was considered wise not to tell the world what they had got up to – at least not in the Club's Annual Report. As the maxim goes: what happened on tour.....

#### 1974 Colonials tour of California

In late 1972 during the euphoria prevailing after the club's first ever – premiership, over a few beers at Hoopers the idea was hatched to venture further than Coolangatta and to have a team tour to the west coast of the USA at the conclusion of the 1973 season. From shaky but enthusiastic beginnings the tour was planned and prepared for throughout 1973. To make up the numbers, Shamrocks joined forces with the Sydney Second Division Club Dundas Valley Rugby Club with whom they had trialed against in previous years. Together with the organizational experience of Dundas and many Shamrocks ideas and suggestions (mainly Bruce Ferguson's), the trip became a reality in January 1974 under the name of the Colonials. The on field performances were said to be average – the off-field performances were said to be "top shelf".

There were about a dozen Shamrocks in the



group with Ferg being selected Captain because of his better fluency with the American language. Huntington Beach Unicorns hosted the tourists and games were played against them, and a few other local teams as well as participation in the San Diego Rugby tournaments. The games were not memorable which is why no results were recorded, but the partying was (and no results were kept for that either). Chico Gill and Mike Dart were two of the yanks who billeted the players and they were so impressed they came to Woonona for a visit in 1975, with Chico staying permanently.

### **1979 Tour of California and Arizona**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1979, a group of 27 Woonona Shamrocks departed Oz under the management of dependable Ken Phillis for Los Angeles for the start of its first overseas tour (as a stand-alone side). Despite the effects of jet lag and altitude induced dehydration coach Barry Stumbles was able to motivate his troops on to the home ground of Irvine R.F.C. for their first game just a day after arrival. After a slow start the boys lifted in the second half to notch an 11 – 7 victory.

After the game they were then taken to their old friends at Unicorns Rugby Club to meet their hosts who were billeting the Shammies out in private homes. The hospitality shown by the Unicorns was very impressive and this was replicated right throughout the tour. The Californians were very adept at partying but the Aussie boys matched them in all departments. After several days of acclimatization and getting used to the US beer, the squad coached south to San Diego to participate in its big Annual Rugby Tournament. After checking in to their hotel coach Stumbles organized a training run around the San Diego Bars and local night spots. This worked. Shammies won their first game against L.A. Wanderers 18 – 7, and continued their success in the next round with a tight 3- 0 win against Eagle Rock. Unfortunately, fatigue and dehydration then caught up them and Woonona fell to a strong Auckland Grammar team 4 – 12.



After two fantastic days in San Diego the tourists travelled by coach 700kms east to Tucson, Arizona where they were to be hosted by two Clubs, The University of Arizona "Wild Cats" and "Old Pueblo". Despite a number of escapades and shenanigans throughout the road trip, the weary crew arrived about 7pm at the West End Inn, home of the local Rugby Club. Despite the amount of liquid consumed en route the boys lifted in to party

mode going on to set a record for beer sales at that bar before retiring at 3.00am. Shamrocks played the Wild Cats at the huge 50,000 capacity University Gridiron ground. The 35 spectators present, witnessed a gripping game but unfortunately, the tourists lost 0 – 4. After a free day for touring around Tucson the Wild Cats hosted another pre-game party for the Rocks but in an unwise tactical move the next day's opponents, Old Pueblo did not attend. They were punished next day by Shamrocks 6 – 4.

Tucson really turned it on with radio, press and television coverage and the local mayor hosted a farewell dinner at one of the city's premier hotels stating that they were the first "International" Rugby team to visit their fair city. Shamrocks were "perfect" ambassadors repaying the hospitality to their usual standards and leaving Arizona with enough question marks to ponder both the value of "rugby" cultural exchanges between the US and Australia



and their broader effect on the ANZUS treaty between the two nations. After the long, arduous coach trip back through the desert to their billets in Huntington Beach, the Rockies had a few days recuperation that included Disneyland. They played the Unicorns Rugby Club on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> and in another close tussle Unicorns won 12-10. Fittingly, the try scorer for Shamrocks was Mike 'Chico' Gill who had originated from the Unicorns before coming to Australia with Mike Dart in 1975.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January the last game of the tour was scheduled against Santa Monica R.F.C. a very strong club in California which had a proud record of producing players for the national team. Regrettably the venue was changed at the last minute resulting in a hectic scramble to assemble the squad with players still arriving at kick off time. With the benefit of having three rest days, the Rocks, put in their best performance on tour winning 13 - 10 in an upset victory. Santa Monica was not happy but as Barry Stumbles used to say "The beer tastes much sweeter when you win" and it certainly did that night. After several days of wind down parties the Shamrocks boarded their plane and flew out of Los Angeles for the long flight home. Two of the touring party, namely Peter Crick and Brian Quinn were so impressed they returned to the US to live.

### **1986 Tour of parts of New Zealand**

In October 1986 after 12 months of planning and fund raising Grahame Tresidder lead a squad of 32 Shamrocks, fresh from celebrating a Club Championship, on a 9 day tour of New Zealand. The day after they arrived in Auckland they played East Coast Bays and got flogged. The Auckland team apparently used the All Black - Wallaby rivalry as a motivational ploy and according to the coach the only break the Shamrocks got was to Ox Hutton's leg (in 2 places)!



The excuse for the loss...they went to bed too early the night before! However in the after game celebrations the Aussies killed them with their renditions of songs from the Shamrocks hymn book. The team moved on to Lake Taupo for a spot of fishing but missed the boat and had to settle for a dip in the hot springs. This did not cure their hangovers but helped prepare for their second game against Palmeston North which they also lost in a close tussle. The remainder of the tour was spent in Bible Study, card games and shopping for presents for their wives and girlfriends. They exercised their throats in the Waitomo caves, the Auckland races and several of the boutique bars of the capital. It was a successful tour in all respects except on the field. Eon Chapman led the boys 'rites of passage' trips to Terrigal in 1987 and to Newcastle (it was supposed to be Jindabyne) in 1988.

### **1991 Fiji**

In early 1991 a group of 20 Shamrocks left for a tour of Fiji under the leadership of Rick Nicholls. Little is recorded except for that they found time to partake in a game of football with the locals and they staged the South Pacific Lager Ironman which was won by Scott Lunney.



### Visitors

Shamrocks have also hosted touring parties to the Illawarra. In 1983 teams from the Huntington Beach Unicorns, the University of Arizona and Tucson 'Old Cats' reciprocated the visits that Shamrocks had paid in the 70s. In 1985 the Instonians Club from Belfast produced some outstanding rugby to topple a Presidents XV and then completely dominate the after match function at Bulli Hotel.

The Yorkshire Terriers from England have visited Woonona several times, with the latest visit being 2017. This team features the most promising young under 20s rugby players handpicked from the strong Yorkshire area of the UK with the idea that they will play professional rugby in the UK and maybe go on to represent their country. The squad tours a major Rugby Country nation every 2 years and so on their



*Shammies entertain Yorkshire Terriers at Ocean Park. Slobbers Tresidder and Rangi Allnutt became friends with the Terriers original organiser Alan Warriner.*

Visits down under they link up at Woonona, because of the link between Slobbers, Rangi and the Terriers management.

On the first of their visits they played an Illawarra Colts team at Ocean Park.

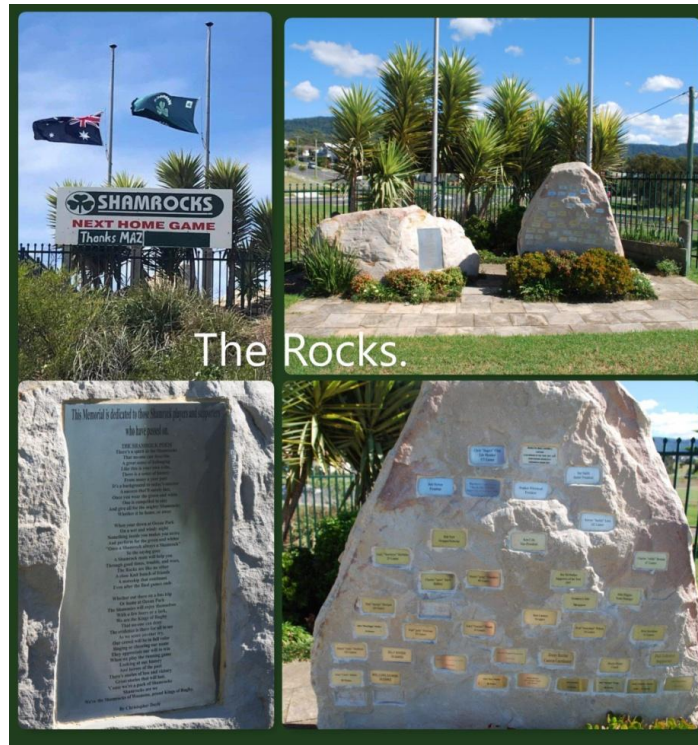
Not to forget, the very first function held at Ocean Park was a welcome to Australia BBQ for the touring Canadian World Cup team in October 2003.



*The Canadian World Cup Team playing Shamrocks Under 13s at Ocean Park 2003*

## Chapter 16 The (Memorial) Rocks

In the north western corner of Ocean Park are two large rocks. They were placed there when the ground was being developed to create a spot where the Shamrock Family could remember those Shamrocks who have died and gone to Rugby heaven. It is a unique memorial very few football clubs have such a space. Any deceased player, coach, manager, committee member or club official qualifies for the right to have their name recorded in perpetuity as a member of the Woonona Shamrocks Family.



***We remember the following members of the Shamrock Family whose names currently appear on the "Rocks":***

Billy Bonzer (Player), Jimmy Butcher (Canteen Manager), Tommy Chin (Strapper), Ken Cole (Vice-President), Charles 'Snow' Davis (Ball boy), John Dokter (Registrar), Charles 'Chilla' Downie (Player), Chris 'Fingers' Filan (Player), Neil 'Lips' Gilmore (Player), Gary 'Curly' Haines (Player), Richard 'Tricky Dicky' Hasler (Player/Coach), Gary 'Hawkeye' Hawkins (Player), Bob Hutton (President), Barbara Hutton (Goldfinch) (Supporter), John Higgins (Team Manager), Ian 'Tibby' Jones (Player), Peter Kershaw (Player), Ron Lunney (Strapper), Kieran 'Budda' Love (Player/Coach), Robbie Meijer (Coach/Player), Kevin McCorkack (Supporter of Year) Des McMullen (Supporter), Paul 'Morgo' Morgan (Player), Ronald 'Nugget' Nipperess (Player), Bob Nutt (Strapper/Selector), Keith 'Dabbler' Perkins (Player, Bude), Paul 'Peto' Peterson (Player), Dexter Porter (Coach), Rob 'Sausage' Sasagi (Player), Stuart 'Goog' Saunders (Player), Marilyn 'Maz' Saywell (Canteen Manager), John Semkin (Player), Sue Smith (Juniors President), Stuart 'Mule' Stoneham (Player), Phil Tolhurst (Supporter), Gary 'Gaz' Walker (Player), John 'Pearshape' Walker (Player), Stephen Whitehead (President), Fred 'Stonedust' Wilson (Player), Gary 'Tracker' Woods (Player).

***Shamrock Spirits Resting in Peace***



## Chapter 17

# Woonona Shamrock "Firsts"

The first coach was Bob Brown.

The first Committee was Bruce Ross (President) Bruce Ferguson (Secretary) and Harry Kersten (Treasurer)

The First competition games were on 11 April 1970 against University at University. The Mercury reported that Harry Kersten, the star Shamrock centre broke his leg and was out for the rest of the season. The article also said two other Shamrocks were carried from the field but would probably be available for next week. Two of the tries scored by Uni in their 16-0 win were apparently highly disputable, but they were to be the first of many rough calls the Rockies were to get in the next 50 years from whistleblowers and the hierarchy.

The First Shamrocks to appear in a match photograph in the Illawarra Mercury were coach Bobby Brown (prop) passing a ball to right winger Terry Nutt – it is not known if he dropped it, ran the length of the field or stepped into touch when he looked like getting tackled – it is known that he didn't score (on that occasion).

Although the Rocks recorded a win in a preseason trial against Windang in 1970, the very first Shamrock team to record a competition victory was the 1970 'C' Grade Team, when it defeated Shoalhaven with the score of 17-0 on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1970 in Round 5.

The First points scored by a Woonona Shamrock in a competition game were by goalkicker...name unknown.

The First Try scored by a Woonona Shamrock in any grade was by Terry Nutt in Round 3 of 1970.

The First Shamrock to have been sent from the field is not accurately known...but most people think it was probably Sluggo Walker, because he was the one who was most likely to have been. Sluggo finished up serving as a member of the IDRU Judiciary – a logical decision given the time he had spent there on charges.

The First Shamrocks chosen to represent Illawarra were Dave Mayor, Bobby Brown and Harry Kersten in the early 70s.

The First win by the Shamrocks Firsts was on 24 April 1971 when they defeated Port Kembla Surf 24-8. Tries were scored by Jeff Murrell, Dale Owen, Terry Nutt and Harry Kersten (2), with Jeff Murrell kicking 2 conversions and a penalty goal and Harry Kersten landing a conversion.

The First Woonona Shamrocks team to qualify for a Finals series was the 1971 "B" Grade team. In the words of the Illawarra Mercury:

*"The jostling for semi final positions is over. The success story of the season must go to Woonona Shamrocks B Grade team. Last season they could not win a game. This year it won 11 and finished third behind Teachers College and Vikings (co-minor premiers.). Coach Billy Blanch has moulded an enthusiastic group of players into possible premiership material. The stars of the Shamrocks comeback have been inside backs Neil Gilmour, Frank Peterson and Sam Cooney. Neil Gilmour who switched from the Thirroul Butchers earlier this year has led his backs well and is a capable goal kicker in his own right. The team will meet Kiama at Teachers College Oval in a sudden death semi final with the loser bowing out."*

(Shamrocks bowed out in an upset 13-6).

However they became the Clubs First Premiership Team in 1972 when under Coach Billy Blanch they thrashed Vikings 7-6 in the Grand Final. Billy Blanch also became the first Shamrock coach to win 2 premierships (1972 B Grade and 1980 First Grade).

The First time that the 'Rocks celebrated a win in all three grades was against the Waratahs in May 1972.

The First time that 3 brothers played in a Shamrocks finals match was in 1976 when Terry Nutt, Tony Nutt and Brian Nutt all played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Semi Final.

The First father and son combination to play together in a premiership winning team was Bruce and Brendan Fergusson in the 1983 Fourth Grade team.

The Club's First Centurion was Bruce Fergusson in 1975 and he also became the first double centurion in 1979. The first triple centurion was Grahame Tresidder and the first 400 gamer was Ray Wylie.



*Ferg "the Grub" celebrating '100' games before the game!*

The First time Shamrocks defeated Vikings in a First Grade game was the 1978 major semi-final. However it took longer to defeat them in a competition round. The first time that Shamrocks defeated Vikings in a competition round was in Round 11 of 1983 when they beat them 16-6 at Vikings Oval. The first time Shamrocks defeated Vikings at Nicholson Park was on 5 May 1984 (score 25-13).

Grahame Tresidder became the First Shamrock to etch his name on an IDRU award by being the Districts Highest Point scorer in 1978. (Rod Gilmour had done that for Woonona Surf prior to the merger.)

The First winner of the Illawarra Mercury Player of the Year was Rod Mercer in 1980. The first person to win it twice was also Rod Mercer (1987) and the first person to win it 3 times (then 4) was Glenn "Ox" Hutton (1986, 90, 94, 96).

The first Shamrocks team to score 100 points in a game was the 1996 First Grade team which defeated Tech-Waratahs 115-0. (They also scored 86-0 against them in their round one game, as well as two games against Wollongong in which they won 70-15 and 80-3). A prolific scoring season.

The first Shamrock to play the Shamrocks Anthem on the bagpipes was Robert Pinn during celebrations in 1986 after the club won the First Grade minor premiership and its first Club Championship.



Country Selection:

The first father and son Shamrocks to be selected for NSW Country teams were Rod Mercer (1983) and Heath Mercer (2009). *Pictured).*

The first Shamrock to score a 5 point try after the Laws changed the value, was Stephen Pickett (Thirds) while Adam Potter (Seconds) and Marc Joy (Firsts) were the first to score them in the higher grades.

In 1984 Radio 2WL and Carlton United Breweries initiated an award system for the man of the match in their match of the day. The award was an engraved tankard, and the first person to be awarded one was Shamrock second rower Steve Baulch.

The First competition game at Ocean Park was Shamrocks Thirds v Vikings Thirds – it was a 7-7 draw. (Shamrocks then won Second & First Grades.)

The first and only Shamrock to become a TV media personality was Peter Corbett when he won the second series of Big Brother 2.

The First “Old Boys” or Golden Oldies team formed in the Illawarra was by the Shamrocks in 1980. Invented for those aged 30 or more with 4 seasons or 100 games of union experience and who still wanted to play some sort of rugby, the Golden Oldies have been known under various guises as the Gang-Greens, Gangrenes, the Shamcrocks and the Old Boys.



Adam Potter’s first full game of First Grade was in the 1992 Grand Final when he was plucked from Seconds to replace Richie Aylett who was acting as best man at his brother’s wedding. Adam scored the only try of a memorable premiership winning match, and went on to have a distinguished playing career with the Club.

The First Shamrock to play his first game at the age of 40 and then reach the centurion mark (at age 47) is Gary Weston, the Club President in 2019.



**Appendices:**



*Shammies: By the Sea*

## Appendix One:

### The Quotes of Coach Slobbers:

"I have no football career to talk of. I'm no star. I'm just a plodder."

"Shamrocks are always at full strength. If we have 15 players on the field, then we are at full strength."

"We are more concerned with defending Nicholson Park because we hate to lose there. (He lost one game there in 4 years as First Grade Coach)

"Nicholson Park is always good for a few points."

"We'll just stick to good, tough Rugby."

"Every game against Vikings is a good one"

"I don't care how you score....just score"

When asked who his strike players were: "I've got 15 of them"

"The Club Championship is the goal we strive for every year. Every bloke in this club knows it's all about the Club first before anything else. The players are playing for the guys in the canteen, the supporters and for themselves."

"I just hope that it is a clean game, and if it isn't, that the referee has the stomach to make the hard decisions. Our forwards have the mettle to do what is necessary – it is hard but we know what we want."

"It was a harsh decision – the young bloke went out there, got beaten up and was then sent off for his troubles".

"Last year was last year. It finished at midnight on New Year's eve, and we're a different proposition this year."

"One reason that Shamrocks is doing so well is that we look after our young blokes"

"The good thing about our club is that there's plenty of healthy competition for spots. Blokes know that all positions are up for grabs right through the club."

"it's like we are in a surf boat race and we've turned the can in first place. The whole race starts again. Now the boat's turned around and we're looking for a big wave to bring us home..."

"I'm sick of it. I don't care what the IDRU think anymore because the referees aren't listening to us."

(Part of the spray against a certain referee quoted in the Mercury which culminated in a suspended 12 month sentence for bringing the game into disrepute. He pleaded guilty and he apologized!!!!)

**"This is it for me. I've had enough."**

(Saying it was his last stint as coach – but it really wasn't).



**Appendix Two: The Original Squads – Pre Merger** (Source: IDRU Records in UoW Archives)

<b>1969 Shamrocks B Grade</b>		<b>1969 Woonona Surf B Grade</b>	
Graham Booth John Brown Daniel DeMartin Robert Duggan Stephen Gray Warren Kenny Paul Luchetti Ray Mather Frank McCauley (Maurice) Ray McCauley Joe McWilliams Pat Ryan Peter Reay Mick Smith	Bill Walker Graeme Wheeldon Stephen Szitor Thomas Bell Geoff Brown Frank Dalton Charlie Downie Kevin McCauley Terry Nutt Pat Reeves Ron Thornton Peter Vickery Geoffrey Mott Garry Woods	Barry Cavanough Terry Chessor Peter Craig Rod Gilmour Trevor Hewitt Barry Kelly Allan Lloyd Richard Lewis William Owen Michael Robinson Ken Rutgerson Stuart Saunders Greg Shepherd Ron Townsend Allan Thompson David Thompson	Murrell Walsh Peter Orvard Terry Parker William George Dale Owen Robert Henderson Greg Robinson Clive Bradbury Stephen Shaw Ross MacDonald Richard Campbell John LongGrand Finalord D Roach Robert Adams Ron Nipperess Noel Munro
These two teams met in the 1969 IDRU Preliminary Final. Woonona Surf won 24-19			

**The First Woonona Shamrocks Squad (1970) (Post Merger)**  
(according to the District) (Source: IDRU Registrar Records in UoW Archives)

<b>Ted Ambler</b>	<b>Dale Owen</b>	Neil Graham
<b>Brian Bradley</b>	Peter Reay	Steve Grey
<b>Jack Bransma</b>	G Riley	Len Kuip
John Brown	D Roach	Bruce Mathey
<b>Robert Brown</b>	<b>Bruce Ross</b>	John Meijer
Terry Chessor	<b>Keith Roney</b>	Ron Nipperess
<b>Brian Cooney</b>	Dennis Russell	Michael Sergent
<b>Peter Craig</b>	<b>Stuart Saunders</b>	J Simonds
Frank Dalton	Stephen Shaw	Les Simpson
<b>Charles Downie</b>	Larry Shipp	John Walker
Ken Duggan	<b>Michael Smith</b>	Michael Walsh
<b>Russell Edwards</b>	<b>Michael Tobin</b>	William White
<b>Bruce Ferguson</b>	R V Perandis	<b>Cliff Whittaker</b>
<b>William George</b>	Peter Vickery	K Wilkinson
Gary Hawkins	<b>Keith Walker</b>	Paul Humphries
Robert Henderson	Terence Waterman	David McCudden
Trevor Hewitt	Ray Ward	William Davis
<b>Jeff Horne</b>	Garry Woods	Samuel Griffey
<b>Harry Kersten</b>	Norman Wrigley	Neil Hives
Peter Kidd	<b>Billy Blanch</b>	Paul Luchetti
Philip Kidd	R Bradshaw	Geoff Sheppard
Allan Lloyd	<b>Philip Chilby</b>	Stephen Swan
<b>Keiran Love</b>	Da Deppo	David Thompson
Dave Mayor	Mervyn Dallas	Robert Barry
Dennis Mackay	G David	Warren Parker
Francis McLean	James Emery	
<b>Terry Nutt</b>	Tony Fisher	

First Teams 11<sup>th</sup> April 1970 (According to IDRU Match Result Sheets)

<b>A Grade</b>	<b>B Grade</b>	<b>C Grade</b>
<b>E Ambler</b> , J Brown, <b>R Brown</b> , <b>B Cooney</b> , <b>P Craig</b> , K Duggan, G Hawkins, T Hewitt, H <b>Kersten</b> , <b>S Saunders</b> , S Shaw, M Dallas, M Walsh, D McKay, F McLean, <b>T Nutt</b>	<b>B Bradley</b> , <b>J Bransma</b> , <b>B Fergusson</b> , P Reay, <b>B Ross</b> , D Russell, <b>M Smith</b> , T Waterman, R Ward, <b>W Blanch</b> , G David, B Ellis, M Sergent, <b>D Owen</b>	F Dalton, <b>R Edwards</b> , R Henderson, <b>J Horne</b> , P Kidd, A Lloyd, <b>K Love</b> , D Mayor, G Riley, D Roach, <b>M Tobin</b> , <b>K Walker</b> , G Woods, N Wrigley, G Sheppard

**Note:** Shamrocks game records list only 28 players having played in 1970 and only 24 of them appear on the IDRU lists above. These are highlighted in bold. The other 4 who are in the Shamrocks records but are not on the IDRU list are: Brian Kelsey, Peter McAndrew, Tony Nutt, and Mick O'Brien. These 28 are credited with 16 games in Shamrocks 1970 list.

**Appendix Three:  
The 2019 Shamrocks**



**2019 Seniors (Grade)**

Joshua Ah Tong	Brendan Ah-Tong	Curtis Allnutt	Ben Aramayo
Corey Aylett	Jarrold Baker	Hayden Barton	Thomas Blunden
Damien Clark	Geoff Connor	Phillip Connor	Robbie Coso
John Cox	Nicholas Cracknell	Richard Darlow	Kurt Davis
Rory Davis	Hagen Degarnham	Harry Devine	Jordan Green
Andrew Hamilton	Brodie Henderson	Seamus Hickey	Matthew Jolly
Lachlan King	Richard Lawson	Rick Lindsley	Andrew Linnenlucke
Tobias Lunney	Iszak Lunney	Lachy Mackinnon	Ryan May
Brad McCole	Todd McCole	Thomas Mcdevitt	Xavier Mcdevitt
Heath Mercer	Patrick Murray	Stanley Musson	Dylan Pearce-McGeary
Rhys Peters	Jaimie Pigram	Dan Porra	Jake Psaras
Elone Raisele	Amenatave Ranitu	Ben Ridgway	Sam Ridgway
Will Ridgway	Jacob Robinson	Thomas Robinson	Jesse Roche
Deejay Russell	Ryan Schoupp	Brodie Scott	Christopher Smith
David Smith	Kalem Smith	Tyler Stephen	Benjamin Stewart
Tristram Storm	Dale Sullivan	Lutoviko Taufa	Gareth Thomas
Luke Tonnegato	Manase Tufui	Liam Vuik	Andrew Webb
Garry Weston	Jordan Whitehead	Brent Yates	

**Coaching Squad:** Head Coach : Paul Ridgway,  
 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Asst Coach- Mark Stone; Manager – Scott McKellar; Runner – Richie Aylett.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Coach- Scott Lunney; Asst Coach- Jason Cavanough; Manager – Huw Thomas  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Coach- Keiran Smith; Manager- Doug Mackinnon



**2<sup>nd</sup> XV  
Juniors**



**Under 13s**



**Under 12s**



**Under 10s**



**Under 8s**



**Under 7s**



## 2019 Shamrock Juniors

Bashaar Abdul Latif	Thomas Ah Tong	Annabelle Allen	Kai Anderson
Charles Bear	Harrison Bell	Jeremy Bell	John Bell
Darcy Benson	Oliver Benson	William Bice	Kayne Booker
Travis Brain	Hunter Bright	Sienna Broers	Jordan Broers
Jack Cesare	Deklyn Chambers	Finlay Chambers	Lachlan Chambers
Aleia Chapman	Kahuitara_Te Ra Chase	Mataahu Chase	Lucas Chrystal-Foy
Jack Clancy	Archie Connor	Oliver Coonan	Matilda Cracknell
Oliver Cracknell	Samuel Culleton	Henry Cummins	Thom Davis
Evan Digby	Eamon Doyle	Ian du Toit	Jack Duffy
Jai Duncan	Harrison Edwards	Max Emerson	Oscar Emerson
Jaxon Everett	Elizabeth Fenukitau	Roy Fenukitau	Andrew Fethers
James Folaumoetui	Sonny Fraser	Xander Fraser	Alexander Gallagher
Jemma Gallagher	Jude Gass	Logan George	Phoenix Gilmour
Jacob Haines	Luke Harrison	Orlando Harvey	Harvey Hawke
Shikota Holmes	Tahj Hurworth	Kayden James	Olivia James
Hunter Johnston	Benjamin Kami	Brayden Kerr	Finn Kiefer
Charlie Knowles	Tully Knowles	Jackson Lawson	Michaela Lawson
Marcus Liackman	Jeddah Lilburn	Tim Mackenzie	Pania Mahe
Anthony Manning	Oliver McCrea	Xavier McMahon-Sosefo	
Ewan Meades	Noumea Mercer	Michael Milross-Rose	Tyla O'Brien
Zane Panozzo	Kambell Quinn	Toby Radford	Munro Ramses
Kianu Rawiri	Taye Rawiri	Sonny Scott	Harry Smith
Zachary Stevenson	Hayden Stone	Evan Thomas	Riley Vezgoff
Owain Watkins	Riley Weston	Josh Wilkinson	Traivon Willis
Wilfred Windsor	Aaron Ylias		

### Juniors Coaches:

2<sup>nd</sup> XV: Jordan Whitehead Asst Coach- Craig Duncan.  
 U13s: Jerry Thomas  
 U12s: Chris Lawson & Chris Smith  
 U10s: Andrew Cracknell  
 U8s : Luke Bear  
 U7s: Nathan Byce  
 Young Ladies: Andrew Cracknell

### Managers:

Jo Duncan  
 Troy Kieffer  
 Kieran Gallagher  
 Rick Benson  
 Ryan Hazlegrove  
 Parents

### Rock-ettes



## Appendix Four: Club Coaches & Managers 1970-2019

(Names in bold = won premierships, Years in bold\* = club championships # = Minor Premiers)

Year	Senior	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	U19 – Colts – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
1970	Bob Brown			
1971	Bob Brown			
1972	Max Aitken	<b>*Billy Blanch</b>		
1973	Dave Ramanui			
1974	Terry Laughton			
1975	Dexter Porter			
1976	Dexter Porter			
1977	Geoff Murrell			
1978	Barry Stumbles	Geoff Murrell#	<b>Dick Hasler#</b>	
1979	<b>Barry Stumbles</b>	Billy Blanch	Eddie James	
1980	<b>Billy Blanch</b>	Terry Lawton		
1981	Bruce Ross		Brian Cooney	
1982	Bruce Ross	Geoff Murrell		
1983	John Brass	Len Pullen	Frank Peterson	<b>Bruce Ferguson</b>
1984	Rory Ryan	Brad Wiedersehn	Chris Gleghorn	
1985	Rory Ryan	Kevin Grice	Laurie Duffy	
<b>1986*</b>	<b>Warwick Melrose#</b>	<b>Kevin Grice</b>	Craig Fear	
1987	Robby Meijer	Tony Crewe	Brad Wiedersehn	
1988	Robby Meijer	Bryson Chin	Grahame Tresidder	
1989	Robby Meijer	Bob Frank	Grahame Tresidder	
1990	John Mealy	Grahame Tresidder	Keiran Love	
1991	John Mealy Neville Austin	Robby Meijer	Keiran Love	Ian Harriman
1992	<b>Grahame Tresidder</b>	Rick Nicholls	Stewart Stoneham	Richie Aylett Brendan Schoupp
<b>1993*</b>	<b>Grahame Tresidder #</b>	Jim Walker Vic Thicknesse#	Tony Armstrong Jim Duncan Rod Mercer, Bill Blanch	Richie Aylett Marc Joy
<b>1994*</b>	<b>Grahame Tresidder#</b>	<b>Jim Walker</b> <b>Vic Thicknesse</b>	Graham Holloway Kieran Love Ron Lunney	Bill Blanch
<b>1995*</b>	Grahame Tresidder Paddy Ryan#	<b>Jim Walker</b> <b>Vic Thicknesse#</b>	<b>Graham Holloway</b> <b>John Pink#</b>	Keiran Love Gerard Magee
1996	<b>Jim Pettit</b> <b>Gerard Magee#</b>	<b>Mark McConnell</b> <b>Vic Thicknesse</b>	Mick Smith John Pink	Jim Walker
1997	Jim Pettit Gerard Magee	<b>Graham Holloway</b> <b>Vic Thicknesse</b>	Mick Smith; John Pink Bert Roodenrys	Ron Davis; John Delaney, Norm McEvoy
1998	Grahame Tresidder Tom Ellicott	<b>Phillip Hutton</b> <b>Vic Thicknesse#</b>	Ron Davis Richard Jones	Adam Potter; Mark Dandridge, Kieran Love, Rod Mercer
1999	Tony Crewe & Mark Dandridge; John Kampen, Paddy Ryan, Tom Ellicott	Keiran Love Vic Thicknesse	Paul McCormack Christian Warth	Sean Filan Les Simpson
2000	Graham Holloway Jim Walker Rick Jones	<b>Tony Crewe</b> <b>Vic Thicknesse</b>	Ray Wylie Marc Joy	<b>Grahame Tresidder</b> <b>Les Simpson</b>
<b>2001*</b>	Grahame Tresidder Brendan Schoupp Bert Roodenrys	<b>Andrew Cracknell</b> <b>Vic Thicknesse</b> <b>Gerard Magee#</b>	Ray Wylie; Marc Joy Marc Stone Wayne de Jong	<b>Grahame Tresidder</b> <b>Brendan Schoupp</b> <b>Dave Langlands</b>
2002	Tony Crewe; John Delaney, Bert Roodenrys	Andrew Cracknell Vic Thicknesse	Ray Wylie Mark Stone Marc Joy#	Tony Crewe
2003	Kevin Crick Bert Roodenrys	Andrew Cracknell Adam Large	<b>Craig Duncan</b> <b>Rob Lucas</b> <b>Mark Stone</b>	Sean Filan John Delany Tom Tyrpenou
<b>2004*</b>	Grahame Tresidder Kevin Crick#	Scott McKellar Brendan Schoupp; Vic Thicknesse #	Mark Biondich Kieran Love	No team

### Club Coaches & Managers 1970-2019 (Continued)

Year	Senior	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	U19 – Colts – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
2005	Grahame Tresidder Kevin Crick	Scott McKellar Marc Joy	Mark Biondich Steven Woollet	<b>Barry Jones</b> <b>Tony Davis</b> <b>James Tolhurst#</b>
2006	Scott McKellar (until July then) Richard Thompson Brendan Schoupp John Sergeant-Wilson Sean Taylor; Marc Joy	Barry Jones Craig Duncan	David Stalker Rick Lindsley	No Teams
<b>2007*</b>	<b>Richard Thompson</b> <b>Brendan Schoupp</b> <b>Kevin Crick</b> <b>Marc Joy.#</b>	<b>Barry Jones</b> <b>Brett Moran#</b>	Adam Potter Peter Murphy	
2008	Richard Thompson Brendan Schoupp Kevin Crick, Marc Joy.	Adam Potter Peter Murphy John Kampton	Brian Hutton Marc Joy Tom Ellicott	
2009	Richard Thompson Barry Jones Dean Hopkinson Apollo Fenikitau	Anthony Hynds Marc McConnell	<b>Adam Large</b> <b>Marc Joy</b> <b>Tom Ellicott</b> <b>Phil Geary#</b>	
2010	Barry Jones Dean Hopkinson Kevin Crick	Brian Hutton Marc Joy, Tom Ellicott, Phil Geary	Bryce Dorian Kieran Smith	
2011	Paul Ridgway Brendan Schoupp Kevin Crick, John Heath	Marc Joy Brian Hutton Ray Wylie	Jayson Joerdans Kaine Turner Kieran Smith	
2012	Richard Thompson Dion Miller; John Heath	Scott McKellar Mark Stone	Jayson Joerdans Kieran Smith	
<b>2013*</b>	Richard Thompson Dion Miller John Heath	Brian Hutton Marc Joy Mark Stone	Andrew Johnston Ben Turner, Vaughan Judd; Kieran Smith	<b>Ray Wylie</b> <b>Craig Duncan</b> <b>Scott Grover#</b>
2014	Brian Hutton Marc Joy Kevin Crick	Jayson Joerdans Simon Pritchard Mark Stone	Nathan Calder Kieran Smith	Stuart Roodenrhys Paul Ridgway#
2015	Brian Hutton Marc Joy Mark Stone	Jayson Joerdans Ray Wylie Andrew Johnston Ben Turner	Andrew Webb Kieran Smith	
<b>2016*</b>	Ron Davis#	#Mark Stone, Richie Aylett, Craig Duncan, Ray Wylie, Sue Joy, Rod Mercer, Bruce Wright-Smith, Chris Doyle		
2017	Grahame Tresidder Ron Davis	Mark Stone, Richie Aylett, Craig Duncan, Paul Ridgway, Hayden Barton, Keiran Smith, Marc Joy, Bruce Wright-Smith		
2018	Ron Davis	Mark Stone, Richie Aylett, Craig Duncan, Paul Ridgway, Hayden Barton, Keiran Smith, Marc Joy, Bruce Wright-Smith		
2019	Paul Ridgway (M) Scott McKellar (Coaching Assts Mark Stone, Richard Aylett) Fitness & Conditioning Rhys Peters	Scott Lunney (M) Huw Thomas	Keiran Smith (M) Doug McKinnon	



## Appendix Five: (a) Executive Committees 1970 – 2019

	<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Vice-Pres Juniors</b>	<b>Club Captain</b>
1970	Bruce Ross	Bruce Ferguson	Harry Kersten	No Records Found	Not an Executive Committee Position	No formal role in early years but functions were carried out by Sonny Love and Bobby Nutt.
1971	Bruce Ross	B Fergusson	Harry Kersten			
1972	Bruce Ross	B Fergusson	Harry Kersten			
1973	Bruce Ross	B Fergusson	Harry Kersten			
1974	Mick Smith	B Fergusson				
1975	Mick Smith	B Fergusson	Harry Kersten			
1976	Mick Smith	B Fergusson	Harry Kersten			
1977	Mick Smith	Dick Hasler	Harry Kersten			
1978	Mick Smith	Dick Hasler	Harry Kersten			
1979	Harry Kersten	Mick Hyam	Gerard Magee			
1980	Frank Peterson	Barry Ellis	Terry Nutt			Keith Walker
1981	Frank Peterson	Barry Ellis	Barry Ellis	Keith Walker		Bruce Ferguson
1982	Frank Peterson	Gerard Magee	Barry Ellis	Barry Aylett		Laurie Duffy
1983	Frank Peterson	Mark Dandridge	Mark Ziebell	Dennis Moore		Grahame Tresidder
1984	Bruce Ferguson /Chris Cleghorn	Chris Reid	Kevin Grice	Grahame Tresidder		Rod Mercer
1985	Gerard Magee	Chris Reid	Kevin Grice	Craig Mahoney		Rod Mercer
1986	Gerard Magee	Craig Lunney	Bruce Robey	Laurie Duffy		Glenn Hutton
1987	Gerard Magee	Barry Aylett	Bruce Robey	Laurie Duffy		Glenn Hutton
1988	Bob Hutton	Barry Aylett	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		Rod Mercer
1989	Bob Hutton	Barry Aylett	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		Glenn Hutton
1990	Rod Gilmour	Barry Aylett	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		Ian Westwood
1991	Rod Gilmour	Barry Aylett	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		John Dokter
1992	Rod Gilmour	Kieran Love	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		John Dokter
1993	Rod Gilmour	Kieran Love	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan /Laurie Duffy		Ray Wylie
1994	Rod Gilmour	Laurie Duffy	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		Ray Wylie
1995	Rod Gilmour	Geoff Smith	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		Andrew Cracknell
1996	Rod Gilmour	Geoff Smith	Bruce Robey	Paddy Ryan		Andrew Cracknell
1997	Pat Ryan	Scott McKellar	Eon Chapman	Bert Roodenrys	Chris Filan	Andrew Cracknell
1998	Pat Ryan	Scott McKellar	Eon Chapman	Bert Roodenrys	Tony Crewe	Brian Hutton/Andrew Cracknell
1999	B. Roodenrys	Tom Ellicott	Eon Chapman	Chris Filan	Keiran Smith	Andrew Cracknell
2000	Bert Roodenrys	Tom Ellicott	Eon Chapman	Mark Dandridge	Keiran Smith	Andrew Cracknell
2001	Mark Dandridge (Scott McKellar from March)	Tom Ellicott (Eon Chapman from March)	Derrig Breslin	Steve Whitehead	Sue Smith	Phillip McQuiggin
2002	Scott McKellar	Eon Chapman	Derrig Breslin	Steve Whitehead	Sue Smith	Phillip McQuiggin
Nov 02- March 03	Stephen Whitehead	Cath Filan / Stephen Jones	Robert Cheadle	Pat Ryan	Sue Smith	Rob Lucas
March 03- Nov 2003	Tony Crewe	Bert Roodenrys	Derrig Breslin	Barry Aylett	Sue Smith	Mark Stone
2004 *June 2004	Tony Crewe	Bert Roodenrys *Garth Doyle	Derrig Breslin	Jim Pilkington	Jim Walker	Mark Stone
2005	Garth Doyle	Tom Tyrpenou	Mark Patterson	Jim Pilkington	Jim Walker	Mark Stone
2006	Garth Doyle	Pauline Judd	Mark Patterson	Bert Roodenrys	Keiran Smith	Rowan Tonkin
2007	Garth Doyle	Pauline Judd	Mark Patterson	Graham Tresidder (from Sept 2006)	Keiran Smith	Shane Geloven

### Executive Committees 1970 – 2019 (Cont'd)

Year	Club President	Secretary	Treasurer	Vice President	V-P Juniors *	Club Captain
2008	Garth Doyle	Pauline Judd	Mark Patterson	Scott McKellar	Keiran Smith	Shane Geloven
2009	Kevin Crick	Larissa McKellar	Mark Patterson	Scott McKellar	Andrew Cracknell	James Tolhurst
2010	Kieran Smith	Larissa McKellar	Mark Dandridge		Andrew Cracknell	Adam Large
2011	Tom Ellicott	Larissa McKellar	Mark Dandridge		Andrew Cracknell	James Tolhurst
2012	Tom Ellicott	Larissa McKellar	Mark Dandridge		Andrew Cracknell	Matt Bowen
2013	Marc Stone	Steve Saywell	Mark Dandridge		Andrew Cracknell	Jordan Whitehead
2014	Marc Stone	Steve Saywell	Mark Dandridge	Ken Phillis	Andrew Cracknell	Jordan Whitehead
2015	Garry Weston	Chris Smith	Mark Dandridge	Ken Phillis	Andrew Cracknell	Jordan Whitehead
2016	Garry Weston	Steve Saywell	Mark Dandridge	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Chris Smith
2017	Garry Weston	Steve Saywell Mick Traynor	Mark Dandridge	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell*	Hayden Barton & Jesse Roche
2018	Garry Weston	vacant	Mark Dandridge	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Jesse Roche
2019	Garry Weston	Patrick Murray	Mark Dandridge	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Jesse Roche

\*From 2017 the Constitution was amended- the Position of Vice-President Juniors was renamed Director of Junior Rugby

<b>Appendix 5 (b) Management Committee Members</b>							
	<b>Asst Secretary</b>	<b>Juniors</b>	<b>Registrar</b>	<b>Fund Raising</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Publicity &amp; Promotions</b>
1970 to 1976 - No Records can be found							
1977	Ken Phillis	Not a Committee Position	Keith Walker	Barry Aylett	Brian Quinn	Not Recorded	Mick Hyam
1978	Ken Phillis		Bruce Ferguson	Barry Aylett	Mick Hyam		Brian Nutt
1979	B Ellis		Bruce Ferguson	Barry Aylett	Bill Blanch		Brian Nutt
1980	Gary Pymont	Laurie Duffy	Stuart Saunders	Mark Ziebell	Frank Kersten		Brian Nutt
1981	Gary Pymont	Brian Quinn	Stuart Saunders	Mark Ziebell	R Leape		Laurie Duffy
1982	Gary Pymont	Not Recorded	Stuart Saunders	P Hobden	Laurie Duffy		Brian Cooney
1983	Chris Reid		Stuart Saunders	H Costigan	Mick Gill		Keiran Love
1984	L Dandridge		Mick Gill	A Hopkins	Rita Reid	Keiran Love	
1985	Rita Reid			Peter Pilcher	Ray Wylie	F Peterson	
1986	No Records of Asst Secretary	Pat Ryan	Rod Mercer	Pat Ryan	R. Nicholls	F Peterson	Rod Gilmour
1987		Pat Ryan	Rod Mercer	Pat Ryan Rod Gilmour	Pat Ryan	F Peterson	Rod Gilmour
1988		E. Chapman Ron Frank	George Osadczuk	Pat Ryan Rod Gilmour	David Aylett	F Peterson	Rod Gilmour
1989		E Chapman	Dave Aylett	Pat Ryan Bruce Robey	Dave Aylett	F. Peterson	Rod. Gilmour
1990		E Chapman	Dave Aylett	Pat Ryan Bruce Robey	Glenn & Ann Hutton	Bruce Robey	Rod Gilmour
1991		E Chapman	Richard Aylett	Rod Gilmour	Richie Aylett & Marc Joy	Rod Gilmour	Rod Gilmour
1992		Les Simpson	Richard Aylett	Jeff Horne	Glen Hutton Glen English	Rod Gilmour	Eon Chapman
1993		Les Simpson	Richard Aylett	Jeff Horne	N/R	Les Simpson	Eon Chapman
1994		Les Simpson	Richard Aylett	Jeff Horne	Canteen Organisers Scott & Michelle Lunney	Les Simpson	Rod Gilmour
1995		Les Simpson	Peter Murphy	Jeff Horne		R Gilmour B Robey	Scott McKellar
1996	Les Simpson	John Pink	B Roodenrys		Adam Simpson	Scott McKellar	
	<b>Asst Secretary</b>	<b>Asst Treasurer</b>	<b>Registrar</b>	<b>Fund Raising</b>	<b>Canteen</b>	<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Publicity &amp; Promotions</b>
1997	Mary Ryan	Keiran Smith	John Pink R Finter	Bert Roodenrys	Paul Scott	Ron Davis	S McKellar
1998	Mary Ryan	Keiran Smith	Rick Finter	Bert Roodenrys	Norm McEvoy	Andrew Cracknell	Chris Filan John Pink
1999	vacant	Terry Nutt	John Dokter(snr)	Bert Roodenrys	Irene Roodenrys	Andrew Cracknell	John Pink
2000	John McQuiggan	Terry Nutt	Derrig Breslin	<b>MatchDay Chairman</b>	Irene Roodenrys	Andrew Cracknell	vacant
2001	John McQuiggan	Terry Nutt	Derrig Breslin	Andrew Cracknell	Jim Butcher	Vacant	Scott McKellar
2002	John McQuiggan	Terry Nutt	Derrig Breslin	Andrew Cracknell	Jim Butcher	Rob Lucas	vacant
2003 (1)	J McQuiggan Cath Filan	Vacant	Mary Ryan	Andrew Cracknell	Vacant	Vacant	
2003 (2)	J Robey Garth Doyle	Terry Nutt	Derrig Breslin	Andrew Cracknell	Jim Butcher	Rob Lucas	
2004	Vacant	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Vacant	Leisa Moroney	Barry Cavanough	Jim Plouffe
2005	Ray Wylie	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Marilyn Saywell	Andrew Cracknell	Jim Plouffe
From 2000 to until September 2005 Bert Roodenrys was chair of Building Committee for Ocean Park project							

<b>Management Committee Members (cont'd)</b>							
	<b>Asst Secretary</b>	<b>Asst Treasurer</b>	<b>Registrar</b>	<b>MatchDay Chairman</b>	<b>Canteen</b>	<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Publicity &amp; Promotions</b>
2006	Ray Wylie	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Marilyn Saywell	Andrew Cracknell	Bert Roodenrys
2007	Scott McKellar	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Marilyn Saywell	Andrew Cracknell	Grahame Tresidder S McKellar
2008	Vaughan Judd	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Marilyn Saywell	Andrew Cracknell	Grahame Tresidder S McKellar
2009	Vaughan Judd	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Andrew Cracknell	Marilyn Saywell	Barry Cavanough	Grahame Tresidder
2010	Vacant	Terry Nutt	John Sutherland	Keiran Smith	Ken Phillis	Barry Cavanough	Grahame Tresidder
2011	Kate Baz	Terry Nutt	John Sutherland	Keiran Smith	Ken Phillis	Barry Cavanough	Grahame Tresidder
2012	Kate Baz	Terry Nutt	John Sutherland	Vaughan Judd	Ken Phillis	Barry Cavanough	Vacant
2013	Vaughan Judd	Terry Nutt	A Johnston B Turner	Vaughan Judd	Marilyn Saywell	Barry Cavanough	Tom Ellicott
2014	Vaughan Judd	Terry Nutt	A Johnston B Turner	Vaughan Judd	Marilyn Saywell	Barry Cavanough	Vacant
2015	Nathan Calder	Terry Nutt	A Johnston B Turner	Vaughan Judd	Marilyn Saywell	Barry Cavanough	Vacant
2016	Julie Heycott	Terry Nutt	A Johnston B Turner	Vaughan Judd	Marilyn Saywell	Barry Cavanough	Vacant
2017	Graham MacDonald	Terry Nutt	Phil Geary	Vaughan Judd	Marilyn Saywell	Mick Traynor	Vacant
2018	Mick Traynor (acting)	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Vaughan Judd	M Saywell Ken Phillis	Mick Traynor	Vacant
2019	Mick Traynor	Terry Nutt	Vaughan Judd	Vaughan Judd	Ken Phillis	Barry Aylett	Vacant
<p>From 1997 the Position of Social Chairperson on the Management Committee has only been occasional filled. Members who have served in this role are: Grahame Tresidder, Ron Davis, Rick Jones, Dean Hopkinson, Vaughan Judd, Jim Plouffe, Gina Crick, Josh Woodford (3), Matt Bowen, Tristram Storm, Sian Weston</p>							
<p>From 2001 a Players Representative became a Management Committee Position. Members who served as Players Rep were: Mark Stone(5 years) Matthew Kiely, Barry Jones, Rowan Tonkin(2), Matthew Talbot, Todd Sarten, James Pigram, Ant Allport (3 years), Ben Greentree, Garry Weston, Aaron Warren,</p>							
<p>From 2001 Members who served as Coaching and Development Chairman on the Management Committee were: Mark Stone (3), Marc Joy, Chris Doyle, Scott McKellar, Richard Thompson, Brendan Schoupp, Kevin Crick, Dion Miller, Peter Murphy, Dylan Young</p>							
<p>From 2009 Hall Hire Convener became a Management Committee Position. Members who served as Convener were Marilyn Saywell (2 Years) Andrew Cracknell (2 years) Lorrell Dandridge (5 years)</p>							
<p>From 2017 the Positions of Juniors Treasurer and Juniors Registrar were added to the Management Committee. Members who have served in these positions are Jerry Thomas, Dylan Young and Rick Benson</p>							



*The 2019 Management Committee (minus a couple)*



## Appendix Six: Player Awards

	<b>Best &amp; Fairest</b>				<b>Most Promising Player</b>
	<b>Firsts</b>	<b>Seconds</b>	<b>Thirds</b>	<b>Junior</b>	
1970	No records have been found				
1971					Neil Gilmore
1972					Steven Clarke
1973					Jon Russell
1974					David Ronald
1975					Kevin Cooney
1976					Brian Nutt
1977	Brian Nutt	Brian Cooney	Mick Smith	Alex Zelenski	Brian Marshall
1978	Peter Lucas	Barry Cavanaugh	Bob Hall	Steven Baulch (u18)	Steven Baulch
1979	Robby Meijer	Ray McCauley	Gary Pyrmont	Steven Bower (U18)	Rod Mercer
1980	Kerry Mungovan	Ray McCauley	Frank Peterson	David Wylie (U18)	Bryson Chin
1981	Peter Pilcher	Mark Ziebell	Col Gamble	Steve Burton (U18)	Barry Lowe
1982	Martin Fry	Grahame Tresidder	Mark Ziebell	Jason Nash(U16)	Glenn Hutton
1983	Rod Mercer	Jeff Horne	Michael Gill	Andy McKenzie-Wood	John Beattie
1984	Rod Mercer	Craig Mahoney	Peter McAndrew		Robert Pinn
1985	John Beattie	Paul Peterson	Dave Wylie		John Dokter
1986	Warwick Melrose	Laurie Duffy	Jeff Horne	David Aylett (U19) Rowan James (U16)	Rob Steward
1987	Glenn Hutton	Kevin Johnston	Rod Gilmour	David Aylett (U19) Richard Aylett (U17)	David Aylett
1988	Rod Mercer	Dave Wylie	Rowan Allnutt	David Aylett(U19) Bob Little (U17)	Paul McCormack
1989	John Mealy	Rick Nicholls	Tuie Halatanu	Marc Joy(U19) Shayne Luck (U17)	Richard Aylett
1990	Glenn Hutton	Glen Holloway	Kevin Hamlyn	PeterMurphy (U19) George Elcharr (U19) Ben Warth (U16)	Shayne Luck
1991	Brendan Schoupp	Wayne deJonge	Mark Patterson	Adam Potter (U19) Matt Roodenrys (U17) Kane Luck (U15)	Brendan Schoupp

From 1991 awards system changed

	<b>Best</b>	<b>Firsts</b>	<b>Seconds</b>	<b>Thirds</b>	<b>Under 19's</b>	<b>Most Promising</b>
						<b>Most Consistent</b>
1992	B & F Fwd Back	Scott Lunney John Dokter Richard Aylett	Jim Walker Sean Filan Bruce Robey	Barry Horrell John Campen Jim Duncan	Ben Warth Kane Turner Steve Pickthall	Chris Doyle
1993	B & F Fwd Back	Marc Joy John Woodhill Richard Aylett	Adam Potter Brian Hutton Scott Southwood	Steve Stone Rod Mercer Mark Patterson	Josh Woodford Scott Nicholls Matt Nolan	Kane Turner
1994	B & F Fwd Back	Richie Aylett John Woodhill Adam Rostirolla	Adam Potter Brian Hutton Brad Woodger	Tim Dodds Hynnie Rasch Mark McConnell	Matt Nolan Adam Large Daniel Hogg	Matt Nolan
1995	B & F Fwd Back	Ritchie Aylett Bob Hutton Adam Rostirolla	John Pickthall Scott Nicholls Adam Potter	Cam Bailey Jason Switzer Mark McConnell	Tim Filan Tony Davis Dave Delaney	Jeff Pickthall
1996	B & F Fwd Back	Scott Lunney Glen Hutton Marc Joy	Dave Wylie Nathan Saywell Ross Beattie	Scott Kerr Jim Walker Nathan Calder	Tony Davis Phil McQuiggan Tim Filan	David Delaney
1997	B & F Fwd Back	John Dokter Jeff Pickthall Richie Aylett	Kaine Turner Tony Davis Adam Potter	Dave Wylie Mark Biondich Barry Horrell	Steven Frost Kris Gardner Peter Corbett	Nathan Saywell John Dokter
1998	B & F	Fatelima Nati John Dokter Brendan Schoupp	Steve Stone	Lyndsay Burton	Joel Ryan	Peter Corbett
	Fwd	Adam Rostirolla Craig Buchan	Anthony Hyndes	Dave Wylie	Carl Bughetti	Jeremy Barnett
	Back		Matt Roodenrys	Mark McConnell	Alex Creighton	

	<b>Best</b>	<b>Firsts</b>	<b>Seconds</b>	<b>Thirds</b>	<b>Under 19's</b>	<b>Most Promsng Most Consist</b>
1999	B & F Fwd Back	J Pickthall Josh Woodford Rich Aylett	Tony Davis Scott Lunney Pat Crandell	Phil McQuiggan Dave Wylie Adam Potter	Stu Roodenrys Bryce Dorian Myles Dorian	Brett Moran
						Richard Aylett
2000	B & F Fwd Back	Nathan Saywell Scott Lunney Barry Jones	Kane Turner Sean Filan Adam Potter	Troy Meades Ron Davis Andrew Harper	Luis Marin Ben Bruseker Damon Brown	Daniel Foley Barry Jones
2001	B & F Fwd Back	Mark Stone Daniel Foley Ben Morgan	Tony Davis Sean Filan Scott Ryan	Danny Lynch Adam Large Jason Bottin	Travis Tresidder Kevin Morris Tim Nolan	Ryan Griffiths
						Jordan Whitehead
2002	B & F Fwd Back	Ben Bruseker Bryce Dorian Richard Aylett	Damon Brown Craig Duncan Robert Morris	Steve Woollett A Hyndes Jason Grindley	Levi Hives Rowan Tonkin Michael Tyrpenou	Miles Dorian
						Damon Brown
2003	B & F Fwd Back	Barry Jones Dean Hopkinson Chris Doyle	Peter Corbett Rowan Tonkin Luke Woods	Tony Hyndes Tim McCloughan Duncan McAndrew	Craig Grant Jason Murtons Nick Badard	Chris Bradshaw
						Ben Johnston
2004	B & F Fwd Back	Dean Hopkinson Manu Pate Nathan Saywell Gavin Docherty	Apollo Fenukitau	Cliff Potter		Rowan Tonkin
			Daniel Lynch Jason Ryan	Shane Geloven Jason Bottin		Apollo Fenukitau
2005	B & F Fwd Back	Chris Bradshaw J Whitehead Chris Doyle	Matt Jeffrey Matt Kiely Ben Tresidder	Jason Grindley Keiran Smith Jason Bottin	Balun Jones James Spurr Brent Liddell	Scott Tarasenko
						Peter Rowling
2006	B & F Fwd Back	Craig McFarland Mark Stone Daniel Searle	Jason Ryan Phil McQuiggan Tristram Storm	Matt Carter Nat Desfosses Chris Demos		James Tolhurst
						Tim Nolan
2007	B & F Fwd Back	Daniel Porra Mathew Jeffrey Scott Tarasenko	Nathan Casser Dean Hopkinson Paul Clarke	Mark Patterson Steve Denning Rick Pigram		Nathan Casser
						Matt Bowen
2008	B & F Fwd Back	Daniel Porra James Tolhurst Cam Thompson	Rick Lindsley Raul Rajas Glen Porra	John Millen Craig White Simon Pritchard		Daniel Porra
						Cameron Thompson
2009	B & F Fwd Back	Scott Tarasenko	Jake Kindred	Kaine Turner Jayson Joerdens		Jake Walker
		Anthony Allport Stephen Jones	Michael Arnold Aaron Warren	Joe Horne Jason Cavanaugh		Jake Kindred
2010	B & F Fwd Back	Peter Rowlings Curtis Allnutt Cam Thompson	Steve Denning Todd Sarten Jamie Pigram	Austin Burns Andrew Johnston Shane Oxley		Heath Mercer
2011	B & F Fwd Back	Stuart Roodenrys Ben Lowe Ben Greentree	Damien Clarke Andrew Webb Aaron Warren	Austin Burns Andrew Johnston Shane Oxley		Rhys Peters
						Heath Mercer
2012	B & F Fwd Back	Daniel Porra Heath Mercer Luke Rosa	Todd Sarten Will Gutler Scott Russell	Kurt Davis Kyle Heycott Mark Patterson		Luke Tonegato
						Kyle Heycott
2013	B & F Fwd Back	Heath Mercer Frank Roberts Tristram Storm	Damien Clark Kurt Davis Joe Horne	Jordan Decilis David Smith Tim Parker	Josh Ah Tong Kyle Heycott Emrys Owen	Kyle Heycott
						Rick Lindsley
2014	B & F Fwd Back	Tristram Storm Chris Smith Andrew Parker	Stu Roodenrys Raul Rojas J Cavanaugh	Garry Weston Matt Talbot Taylor Robinson	Gareth Thomas Xavier McDevitt Ben Ridgway	Iszak Lunney
						Xavier McDevitt
2015	B & F Fwd Back	Rhys Peters Iszak Lunney Tristram Storm	Adam Banks Danny Wearne Lachlan Jones	Dave Smith Steve Stone Adam Potter		Robbie Coso
						Kurt Davis
2016	B & F Fwd Back	Luke Tonegato Chris Smith Rhys Peters	Jake Psaras Ryan Della Vedova Jason Cavanaugh	Kalem Smith Richard Darlow Deejay Russell		Iszak Lunney
						Jake Psaras
2017	B & F Fwd Back	Iszak Lunney Damo Clark Matt Guana	Dale Sullivan Kalem Smith Jake Psaras	Richard Darlow Tyler Stephen Tim Hawkins		Corey Aylett
						Jesse Roche
2018	B & F Fwd Back	Damien Clark Heath Mercer Dale Sullivan	Harry Devine Kalem Smith Cory Richard	Rick Lindsley Kane Baker Luke Tonegato	N/A	Harry Devine
						N/A

## Appendix Seven:

### WOONONA SHAMROCK Players 1970-2018



#### CENTURIANS:

**400 Grade Games:** Raymund Wylie 434                      Jordan Whitehead 406

**300 Grade Games:** Marc Joy 379                      Mark Stone 372                      Adam Potter 331  
Phil Geary 315                      Dave Wylie 315                      Josh Woodford 314                      Andrew Cracknell 312  
Sean Filan 311                      Richard Aylett 304                      Bryson Chin 302                      Grahame Tresidder 300

**200 Grade Games:** John Dokter 287                      Brendan Schoupp 275                      Jeff Horne 272  
Brian Cooney 269                      Rod Mercer 263                      Scott McKellar 261                      Glenn Hutton 259  
Rod Gilmour 257                      Daniel Lynch 250                      Scott Lunney 242                      Kieran Love 241  
Bruce Ferguson 240                      Laurie Duffy 238                      Kaine Turner 230                      Kieran Smith 232  
Anthony Hyndes 228                      Chris Reid 228                      Peter Pilcher 223                      Phillip McQuiggan 218  
Barry Horrell 216                      Dale Owens 214                      Ross Beattie 210                      Stephen Stone 210  
Ian Harriman 202                      David Smith 202                      Tony Crewe 201

#### 100 Grade Games:

Stuart Roodenrys 195                      Mark Paterson 193                      Ron Davis 192                      George Osadczuk 185  
Adam Large 182                      Chris Doyle 175                      Jason Bottin 173                      William Blanch 172  
Chris Filan 172                      Anthony Davis 170                      Brian Hutton 169                      Vaughan Judd 164  
Tristram Storm 162                      Jeremy Barnett 161                      Cliff Whittaker 161                      Ian Westwood 158  
Terry Nutt 156                      Timothy Filan 154                      Paul McCormack 153                      Sam Clissold 151  
Barry Aylett 150                      Phillip Hutton 150                      Adam Rostirolla 150                      Garry Pymont 149  
Col Gamble 149                      Nathan Saywell 148                      Ian Jones 143                      Brian Nutt 142  
Pigram 142                      Peter McAndrew 141                      Anthony Allport 139                      Jamie MarkZiebell 39  
Steven Baulch 138                      Kurt Davis 138                      Rick Lindsley 137                      David Aylett 136  
Bradshaw 134                      Frank Peterson 134                      Matthew Roodenrys 133                      Chris  
Anthony Nutt 132                      Andrew Webb 131                      Mark Cutafuni 129                      Mark Biondich 128  
McCauley 128                      Michael Gill 127                      Andrew Harper 127                      Ray  
Todd Sarten 127                      Mark Dandridge 126                      Mark Tarasenko 126                      Dean Hopkinson 127  
Tony Archer 124                      Peter Campbell 124                      Harry Kersten 124                      Gerard Magee 125  
Simon Pritchard 123                      Rick Nicholls 122                      Shayne Luck 121                      Robbie Meijer 124  
Jeffrey Charlesworth 120                      Andrew Johnston 120                      Mark McConnell 121  
Ben Lowe 118                      Mick Smith (Yamba) 116                      Jason Grindley 119  
Peter Rowling 115                      Jayson Joerdans 114                      Philip Harvey 114                      Scott Tarasenko 116  
Travis Tresidder 114                      Shane Geloven 114                      Stuart Stoneham 114                      Dave Mayor 114  
Kevin Crick 113                      Xavier McDevitt 112                      Ryan Schoupp 111                      Rhys Peters 113  
Peter Corbett 110                      Damien Clark 110                      Peter Craig 109                      James Tolhurst 111  
Robert Morris 108                      William George 108                      Chris Cleghorn 107                      Kalem Smith 108  
Rowan Melrose 106                      Dave Ronald 106                      Michael Arnold 106                      Steve Denning 107  
Mick "Capt" Smith 106                      Aaron Warren 105                      Frank Kersten 105                      Barry Lowe 105  
Jeff Pickthall 104                      Heath Mercer 104                      James Button 104  
Mitch Hammersley 104                      John McNally 102                      Vic Thickness 102                      Paul Mounter 101  
Maciu Gauna 100                      Ryan Griffiths 100                      Greg Ryan 100                      John Sargeson 100  
P.S. Garry Weston and Lachlan McKinnon reached 100 games in May 2019

## Played less than 100 games

S.Adams	L.Ah Tong	B.Ah Tong	J.Ah Tong	T.Aitken	B.Allen	H.Allen
R.Allnutt	C.Allnutt	T.Allnutt	E.Ambler	C.Antonious	B.Apps	C.Arber
T.Archer	K.Armstrong	C.Arnold	T.Arthur	W .Ashford	G.Atkinson	R.Austin
D.Avery	S.Avpouri	S.Aylett	C.Aylett	R.Ayliffe	D.Ayre	J.Baba
C.Bailey	G.Bailey	T.Baird	K.Baker	M.Ball	A.Balocca	A.Banks
S.Barlow	J.Barnes	T.Barry	P.Bartly	B.Barton	L.Bate	N.Battaerd
C.Baxter	S.Beattie	J.Beattie	D.Beaufils	G.Beaumont	R.Beer	D.Beer
R.Belavic	J.Bell	K.Bemi	W .Bennett	J.Bennett	P.Bennett	S.Beraki
R.Bertoggi	P.Biacardi	C.Bighetti	A.Birch	R.Bird	M.Birrell	G.Blackwood
J.Bland	G.Blom	A.Bloomfield	A.Boardman	M.Boatswain	B.Bonzer	A.Borgeous
L.Borgnese	A.Borgnese	H.Botlon	G.Bott	R.Bottom	D.Bowen	S.Bower
T.Boxall	P.Boyton	B.Bradley	J.Bradshaw	J.Bransma	J.Brass	L.Bray
K.Brown	S.Brown	T.Brown	D.Brown	R.Brown	D.Brown	P.Brown
B.Bruseker	I.Buaserau	R.Buaserau	C.Buchan	N.Buchanon	C.Bughetti	G.Bunton
A.Burazer	L.Burden	A.Burley	K.Burnell	N.Burrows	A.Burton	L.Burton
S.Burton	L.Buteux	J.Button	T.Byrnes	N.Calder	W.Callaghan	S.Campbell
L.Campbell	S.Carlon	D.Carrington	C.Carruthers	M.Carruthers	M.Carter	L.Carver
J.Case	M.Cassar	N.Cassar	G.Castle	T.Cavanough	J.Cavanough	
B.Cavanough	D.Caward	G.Chapman	A.Chapman	E.Chapman	A.Chapman-Politis	
R.Chapman-Politis		P.Chaseling	J.Cheadle	R.Cheadle	P.Chilby	? .Churton
J.Clarke	P.Clarke	P.Cleghorn	T.Clements	D.Clough	A.Clough	J.Clough
M.Cocca	D.Cole	C.Collard	B.Collard	C.Collins	G.Collins	R.Collins
C.Collord	G.Coltman	P.Conner	G.Conner	A.Connor	C.Cook	A.Cooke
C.Coombes	K.Cooney	N.Cooper	M.Copas	T.Corton	R.Coso	A.Costello
L.Costelllo	G.Cottom	M.Couper	S.Courtenay	A.Coutts	J.Cox	M.Cox
A.Cox	N.Cracknell	R.Craig	P.Crandell	A.Creighton	P.Crichton	P.Cric
B.Crooker	P.Cropper	B.Crossland	J.Crossland	N.Crowley	L.Cummins	S.Curtin
B.Curtin	K.Daley	M.Dallas	T.Daly	C.Dandridge	R.Darlow	M.Dart
J.Daskey	M.David	S.David	B.Davidi	M.Davies	S.Davis	Rikki Davis
Rory Davis	W.De Jonge	D.De Vries	J.Decelis	R.Deed	H.Degarnham	
D.Delaney	R.Della Vedova	C.Demos	C.Dent	N.Desfosses	J.Devine	H.Devine
B.Digby	R.Dinch	James Divertie	Jordan Divertie	G.Docherty	J.Dockrey	L.Dodd
T.Dodds	P.Doherty	J.Donelly	M.Donley	M.Dorrian	B.Dorrian	M.Dowell
C.Downie	G.Doyle	J.Dryden	M.Dubos	C.Duncan	J.Duncan	W.Duroux
L.Duroux	B.Eather	G.Eaton	J.Edmondson	J.Edmondson	J.Edmunds	S.Edwards
R.Edwards	H.Egbers	G.Elchar	T .Ellicott	W.Elliott	B.Elliott	O.Ellis
P.Evert	C.Fairbrother	P.Falevai	R.Farragher	P.Farragher	A.Fenukitau	B.Fergusson
R.Finter	J.Fish	D.Fitzgerald	B.Fleming	D.Foley	A.Forbes	C.Forster
C.Fotu	K.Fowler	M.Fox	R.Frank	S.Frankham	M.Franks	W.Fritz
A.Frizell	M.Fry	I.Fuloon	S.Fulton	W.Gallagher	D.Gamble	P.Gann
C.Gant	P.Gardine	W.Gardner	K.Gardner	S.Gent	G.George	R.Gibb
P.Gibson	A.Gillespie	N.Gilmour	S.Gilmour	B.Gilogley	C.Girrousis	J.Gjedsted
S.Golightly	S.Gollop	M.Goncharow	P.Goodman	C.Gow	P.Graham	K.Gray
A.Green	P.Green	W.Green	B.Greentree	K.Grice	R.Griffiths	P.Gripton
T.Grose	K.Groube	T.Grover	G.Guinness	K.Guinness	W.Guttler	D.Gwilliam
A.Gwynne	R.Gyles	J.Hagan	T.Hagan	T.Halanatanu	I.Hall	R.Hall
C.Hamill	A.Hamilton	K.Hamlin	D.Hammond	Z.Hammond	A.Hampson	M.Hancock
B.Harding	C.Hardy	P.Harkin	P.Harper	J.Harriman	D.Harrison	B.Hart
T.Hart	T.Hartman	R.Hasler	T.Hatchman	G.Hawker	T.Hawkins	G.Hayek
M.Haynes	J.Heard	P.Heath	J.Heiler	S.Helt	K.Helt	B.Henderson
P.Hennessey	K.Heycott	J.Hicks	W.Higgins	V.Higgins	M.Hives	L.Hives
P.Hobben	G.Hobden	M.Hodges	B.Hogan	G.Hogg	D.Hogg	G.Holloway
C.Holt	T.Holt	M.Hook	G.Horne	P.Horne	J.Horne	G.Horrell
N.Horrell	A.Hoswell	S.House	P.Howard	M.Hoyland	D.Hubscher	D.Hudson
P.Huff	C.Humphries	P.Humphries	N.Hunt	David Hurley	M.Hurley	B.Hutchins
M.Hyam	I.Iopu	C.Ison	J.Jagleman	B.James	T.James	A.James
E.James	R.James	J.Jarvis	J.Jazinski	L.Jeffs	J.Jennkins	S.Johausz
M.Johnston	Mitchell Johnston	Barry Johnston	G.Johnston	G.Johnston	Ben Johnston	
J.Johnston	K.Jones	Balunn Jones	H.Jones	R.Jones	S.Jones	D.Jones



L.Jones	Barry Jones	G.Joy	R.Joyce	J.Kampen	B.Kay	M.Kearns
M.Keeley	B.Kelley	J.Kelly	B.Kelsey	S.Kendell	B.Kennedy	A.Kennedy
P.Kerr	S.Kerr	P.Kershaw	G.Keys	M.Kiely	L.King	J.Kinred
M.Koperberg	A.Kopp	F.Kupenga	M.Lackersteen	T.Laing	A.Lambert	W.Land
C.Landem	R.Landy	Colin Langlands	M.Langlands		Craig Langlands	
C.Larkin	M.Latta	S.Latu	T.Law	T.Lawton	T.Leadbitter	R.Leape
D.Lee	P.Leffley	B.Liddell	J.Linden	A.Linnenlucke	Robert Little	
Richard Little	M.Logan	S.Long	G.Love	N.Lowe	C.Lucas	P.Lucas
R.Lucas	G.Luck	K.Luck	T.Lunney	B.Lunney	C.Lunney	I.Lunney
L.Lupena	C.Lyons	H.Ma'afu	R.Macfarlane	C.Machin	L.Mackinnon	
J.Macpherson	T.Maddox	M.Maguire	S.Maher	B.Mahoney	C.Mahoney	M.Main
N.Malmborg	P.Manley	G.Mannix	L.Marin	M.Marmison	A.Marr	B.Marshall
J.Martin	G.Martin	R.Martin	N.Martin	H.Marunga	D.Marwood	T.Mataitoga
D.Mathias	K.Mathiesen	D.Mayor	Duncan McAndrew		Dustin McAndrew	
M.Mcbride	T.McCarthy	F.McCauley	D.McClafferty	T.McClaren	T.McCloughan	
T.McCole	T.McDevitt	S.McEvoy	N.McEvoy	C.McFarland	J.McGovern	M.McGovern
R.McGrath	T.McGroder	N.McGuinness	H.McGuinness	H.McKay	P.McKenzie	B.McKibbin
I.McLean	C.McMullen	D.McMullen	G.McNamara	R.McNaughton	D.McQuiggin	
R.McQuiggin	K.McRae	J.Meades	C.Meades	T.Meades	J.Mealy	D.Meehan
W.Melrose	B.Mensforth	M.Mercer	K.Mercer	C.Mercer	D.Meredith	R.Metcalfe
K.Meusburger	G.Meyer	C.Millen	J.Miller	K.Miller	D.Miller	L.Miller
C.Miller	J.Millington	A.Mills	W.Mitchell	B.Mitchell	S.Mitchell	R.Mitchell
P.Molinia	S.Monaghan	M.Moon	Ben Moran	Brett Moran	D.Morgan	S.Morgan
B.Morgan	P.Morgan	R.Morgan	David Morris	Daniel Morris	S.Morris	J.Morris
K.Morris	C.Moss	L.Moss	P.Mulvena	K.Mungovan	K.Murphy	L.Murray
P.Murray	J.Murrell	J.Murton	J.Nash	F.Nati	E.Nava	G.Naveau
H.Naylor	S.Neesham	D.Nesevski	B.Neville	K.Newland-Martin		T.Newton
C.Newton	R.Ngaramui	D.Ngaramui	T.Ngaramui	K.Ngaramui	R.Nicholls	P.Nicholls
D.Nicholls	R.Nichols	P.Nichols	S.Nichols	G.Nisbet	S.Niubalava	G.Noble
M.Nolan	D.Nolan	T. Nolan	C.Norris	M.O'Brien	P.O'Dwyer	D.O'Gorman
P.O'Leary	W.O'Neill	K.O'Reilly	B.O'Reilly	S.Organ	S.Oriel	P.Ormsby
B.Orton	B.Orton	E.O'Toole	E.Owen	E.Owen	A.Owen	S.Oxley
T.Page	K.Pakewa	W.Parker	R.Parker	T.Parker	A.Parker	M.Parry
M.Pate	M.Pavric	S.Peace	G.Peace	M.Pearson	S.Peck	S.Peck
A.Pellicci	B.Percy	R.Percy	K.Perkins	D.Perkiss	M.Peters	C.Peterson
P.Peterson	G.Peterson	A.Pickett	S.Pickthall	R.Pigram	C.Pike	G.Pilkington
M.Pilkington	J.Pilkington	J.Pink	R.Pinn	R.Pitman	J.Plouffe	M.Poore
D.Porra	G.Porra	S.Potiki	R.Potter	C.Potter	D.Pratt	J.Psaras
L.Pullen	M.Purdie	S.Pymont	M.Pymont	C.Quinn	B.Quinn	M.Quoyle
N.Rae	K.Rafflen	E.Raisele	J.Ralph	A.Ranitu	H.Rasch	G.Reid
P.Reid	I.Renshaw	N.Reynolds	N.Reynolds	D.Richards	S.Richies	B.Ridgway
T.Riordan	K.Ripia	H.Rittson-Thomas		T.Roberts	M.Roberts	F.Roberts
G.Roberts	M.Roberts	D.Roberts	R.Robinson	G.Robinson	B.Robinson	Taylor
Robinson	Thomas Robinson		K.Robinson	J.Robinson	V.Robinson	D.Robinson
J.Roche	G.Rogers	R.Rojas	K.Roney	M.Roney	R.Roqica	L.Rosa
N.Rosenberg	B.Ross	C.Rostirolla	A.Rudd	S.Russell	D.Russell	J.Russell
K.Rutgerson	B.Ryan	P.Ryan	T.Ryan	S.Ryan	Joel Ryan	Jason Ryan
T.Rymer	G.Salera	A.Saliu	D.Salm	M.Salm	R.Salmon	J.Samual
D.Sandona	W.Sargeson	C.Sargeson	R.Sasagi	S.Saunders	J.Saxby	S.Saywell
J.Schafer	P.Schafer	P.Schmidt	A.Schofield	R.Scholes	P.Scibbers	R.Scott
B.Scott	D.Searle	J.Semkin	R.Sharwood	J.Shaw	G.Shepherd	R.Shepherd
T.Sheratt	D.Sheridan	L.Shields	N.Shilling	G.Shipton	R.Shipton	L.Shrubbs
D.Siave	I.Simonka	G.Simpson	A.Simpson	C.Simpson	R.Sinamon	M.Skeen
A.Skeet	R.Smabath	F.Smeaton	Joshua Smith	Mark Smith	Ben Smith	Jason Smith
A.Smith	Brett Smith	P.Smith	Jonathon Smith	Mitch Smith	P.Smith	G.Smith
C.Smith	L.Smithers	B.Smith-Wright	M.Snelson	G.Snyder	P.Solomon	R.Sorrell
I.Sosefu	S.Southall	S.Southwood	P.Speers	R.Spencer	R.Spier	J.Spur
I.Squires	J.Stalker	D.Stalker	D.Stattman	T.Stephen	L.Stephens	R.Steward
T.Stewart	C.Stewart	A.Stewart	B.Stewart	M.Stokes	D.Stone	G.Stratton
E.Stray	B.Strong	B.Stumbles	B.Suerlawyez	D.Sullivan	S.Sumner	J.Sutherland
T.Sutherland	P.Suttor	Vj.Swain	J.Switzer	D.Tahapeehi	T.Tai Tai	I.Taizo
P.Taranto	G.Tatton	M.Taufa	S.Taylor	S.Tenkate	B.Terry	M.Terry
J.Thew	J.Thickness	Gareth Thomas	N.Thomas	M.Thomas	Gerry Thomas	

J.Thomas	R.Thompson	C.Thompson	P.Thoms	D.Thomson	J.Thurston	J.Tikitau
W.Tiller	M.Tobin	J.Todd	R.Tomlinson	T.Tomoare	L.Tonegato	P.Towers
A.Towney	J.Townsend	T.Tresidder	B.Tresidder	D.Troke	M.Tufui	W.Tulloch
P.Turner	A.Turner	B.Turner	B.Tyler	M.Tyrpenou	G.Ullock	S.Valance
P.Van Eerden	C.Van Postal	J.Vanderglas	J.Vardy	J.Vasaros	R.Vinen	G.Vodicar
L.Vuik	T.Wakeling	Jordan Walker	Jake Walker	K.Walker	Jim Walker	G.Walker
D.Wallace	R.Walsh	M.Walsh	N.Walter	T.Wark	I.Warren	M.Warth
B.Warth	C.Warth	G.Waters	M.Waters	P.Watkinson	W.Watson	M.Watts
A.Watts	P.Weare	M.Wearing	D.Wearne	L.Webb	R.Weeks	C.Weeks
B.Weidersehn	P.Weir	B.Westblade	D.Westman	G.Weston	R.Whaanga	P.Wheatly
.White	C.White	K.Whiteley	H.Wickliffe	C.Wilkins	G.Williams	D.Williams
T.Williamson	K.Wilson	D.Wilson	T.Wilson	C.Wilson	B.Wilson	F.Wilson
S.Winika	S.Winley	P.Winston	K.Woetai	R.Wolfe	G.Wood	G.Woodford
B.Woodger	J.Woodhill	A.Woods	L.Woods	P.Woolett	C.Woolmer	
A.Worboys-Perrow		R.Worth	T.Wright	A.Wylie	P.Young	R.Young
D.Zagby	A.Zelenski	B.Zuzic				



## Appendix 8: Shamrock Achievements in IDRU Competitions



<b>Club Championships</b> 1986, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2016	
<b>Premiers</b>	<b>Minor Premiers#</b>
<p><b>1st Grade</b> 1979, 1980, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2007</p> <p><b>2nd Grade</b> 1972, 1986, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2007</p> <p><b>3rd Grade</b> 1978, 1994, 1995, 2009</p> <p><b>4th Grade</b> 1983</p> <p><b>Colts – U20's</b> 2013</p> <p><b>Under 19's</b> 2000, 2001, 2005</p> <p><b>Under 18's</b> 1981, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009</p> <p><b>Under 17's</b> 1992, 1999, 2002, 2016</p> <p><b>Under 16's</b> 2006, 2010</p> <p><b>Under 15's</b> 1997, 2013, 2015</p> <p><b>Under 14's</b> 2007, 2008, 2009</p> <p><b>Under 13's</b> 2011</p> <p><b>Under 12's</b> 2006 (2), 2010</p> <p><b>Under 11's</b> 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011</p> <p><b>Under 10's</b> 2004</p>	<p><b>1st Grade</b> 1986, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2004, 2007,</p> <p><b>2nd Grade</b> 1978, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2016</p> <p><b>3rd Grade</b> 1978, 1995, 2002, 2009, 2016</p> <p><b>Colts – Under 20's</b> 2013, 2014</p> <p><b>Under 19's</b> 2005</p> <p><b>Under 18's</b> 1981, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010</p> <p><b>Under 17's</b> 1992, 1999, 2016</p> <p><b>Under 16's</b> 1983, 1986, 2010</p> <p><b>Under 15's</b> 1997</p> <p><b>Under 14's</b> 2008, 2009</p> <p><b>Under 13's</b> 1999, 2010</p> <p><b>Under 12's</b> 2006, 2010</p> <p><b>Under 11's</b></p>

## Appendix Nine: Club Awards

Year	Club Person of Year	Presidents Award	John Higgins Award	Supporters Award
1970	Bruce Ferguson			
1971	Harry Kersten			
1972	Bruce Ferguson			
1973	Greg Peterson			
1974	Keith Walker			
1975	Frank Peterson			
1976	Dick Hasler	Ken Phillis		
1977	Mick Smith	Bob Hall		
1978	Barry Aylett	John Higgins		
1979	Barry Stumbles	Jane Sheppard		
1980	Mark Ziebell	Michael Rooney Jnr		
1981	Gerry Magee	Henry Allen		
1982	Barry Ellis	George Osadczuk		
1983	Grahame Tresidder	Steven Richies		
1984	Grahame Tresidder	Rita Reid	Henry Allen	
1985	Gerard Magee	Peter Pilcher	Paddy Ryan	
1986	Paddy Ryan	Laurie Duffy	Snow Davis	Barbra Hutton
1987	Bruce Robey	Robby Meijer	Paul Manley	Kevin McCormack
1988	Eon Chapman	Helen Aylett Jenny Robey	Bob Frank	Chris Mercer
1989	Bruce Robey	Robby Meijer	Paddy Ryan	Catharine Mahar
1990	Bruce Robey	John Mealy	Vic Thicknesse	Dr Allan James
1991	Bruce Robey	Eon Chapman	John Sargeson	John Pink
1992	Rod Gilmour	Grahame Tresidder	Vic Thicknesse	John Pink Kisane de Jong
1993	Grahame Tresidder	Scott Lunney	Ron Lunney	Kisane de Jong
1994	Scott Lunney	The Coaches – Tresidder, Holloway, Walker, Blanch		
1995	Sean Filan	John Pink	John Delaney	
1996	John Pink	John Delaney		Mary Ryan
1997	Bert Roodenrys	Cathy Filan, Paul Scott	John Pink	Des McMullan
1998	Andrew Cracknell	Keiran Smith	Christian Warth	Megan Cracknell
1999	Irene Roodenrys Kieran Smith	Mick Smith	Vic Thicknesse	Peter Robson
2000	John McQuiggin	Derrig Breslin	Kelly Lawrence	Sue Smith
2001	Grahame Tresidder Derrig Breslin	Jim Butcher	Rob Lucas	Jim Butcher
2002	Bert Roodenrys	Sue Smith	Vaughan Judd	Barry Cavanough
2003	Kieran Smith	Bill Tresidder	Terry Nutt	Bryce Peard
2004	Jim Plouffe	Leisa Moroney	Bill Tresidder	John Masters
2005	Andrew Cracknell	Marilyn Saywell	Hilly Corris	Steve Whitehead
2006	Kieran Smith	Terry Nutt	Terry Chessor	Wally & Robin Tarasenko
2007	Marilyn Saywell	Vaughan Judd	Kevin Crick	Phil Nickels
2008	Vaughan Judd	Gina Crick	Barry Cavanough	Megan Cracknell
2009	Marilyn Saywell	Mark Joy	Barry Cavanough	Ken Phillis
2010	Terry Nutt	Anne Phillis	Barry Cavanough	Rowan Allnutt Rod Mercer
2011	Ken Phillis	Paul Ridgway	Stephen Saywell	Ian Clissold
2012	Jason Joerdans	Josh Woodford	Michael Walsh	Kisane de Jong
2013	Vaughan Judd	Ray Wylie	Ben Turner	Julie Heycott
2014	Nathan Calder	Ben Turner Andy Johnston	Garry Weston	Dianne Joyce
2015	Ben Turner	Rhys Peters	Bruce Percy	Ken Phillis
2016	Stephen Saywell	Dave Smith	Marilyn Saywell	Kisane de Jong
2017	Hayden Barton	Richard Darlow	The Thursday Crew	Ken Phillis
2018	Kieran Smith	Jordan Whitehead	Sian Weston	The Garcia Family





For 50 years this club has been loyally served by many, both on and off the field. It is with pride that the club can say it has built its success on the achievements of players and coaches who have turned up to play in the famous green colours without a single one ever having been paid to play. Even the representative players have had to turn up and pay their club fees before they are allowed to run on as a Shamrock.

The Shamrocks Club believes that all that it has achieved has all been done in line with the key values of the Australian Rugby Union which are:

- Pride
- Teamwork and Camaraderie
- Love of the Game
- Tradition and Heritage

To have kept the Woonona Shamrocks alive it has taken great commitment from a lot of people. This will need to continue on in to the future.

To write the history of the next 50 years it will need a commitment to record it. In this modern digital/technological age this should be easier to do than it was in the past. Hopefully, there will be enough Shamrock members sufficiently interested to do this, so that this compilation can be added to. But it needs to start now.

## ***Go the Rockies***



*The Shamrock spirit, once instilled, stays forever!*

## Acknowledgements

Wollongong University Archives - Illawarra Regional Collection D66 -- Illawarra District Rugby Union 1953-80.

Wollongong City Council Library Local Studies/ Illawarra Mercury on micro film

Illawarra Rugby - The First 40 Years

The Game They Play... A History of Rugby in Illawarra -1953-2013 (by Gerry Doyle)

The Private Collections of Rod Mercer and Graham Tresidder with a bit of help from many others memorabilia kept in shoeboxes, cupboards and other dark places around the district.

Internet site: <https://lookingbackwithmickroberts.wordpress.com/2015/01/01/labors-first-illawarra-mp-john-nicholson/>

Wikipedia: For research into many items.

Various Photographs provided by Dragon Photography and Kisane deJonge and others.

### **Disclaimer:**

The information compiled in this book has been sourced from all the available Annual Reports, newspaper articles, personal memorabilia, photograph collections that the author could gather together. Additionally many oral recollections have been co-erced out of many old Shamrocks, generally under the influence of coffee or harder liquids. It is highly probable that some loyal, and hard working Shamrocks have failed to neither get a mention nor have their photo included in this book but please don't take that personally. Any omissions are the result of a lack of communication/ information and/or resources. It is intended that an updated version of this book be maintained on the Club's website as a PDF, so that any additional information and/or corrections can be added as they come to light.

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- Steve Saywell for his assistance in formatting the contents, inserting the photographs and improving my knowledge of word processing software.
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- All those older Shamrocks, (including Bruce Ross, Paddy Ryan, Sluggo Walker and Bruce Fergusson) who have offered comment and support along the way.

As a person who has never played a game of Rugby Union in my life, and who still doesn't quite understand its nuances and laws, I have watched and supported the Shamrocks since the 70's. This was all because my great mate Nutty once took me to Hoopers for a post match session and I liked what I saw – a great bunch of boozy, noisy blokes who were fun to share a drink and song with. Thanks for the memories. Go the Shamrocks.

Mick Traynor.

# 'Rocks solid for 1st title battle

Shamrocks aim to stay unbeaten

New look Rocks — ready to take tilt

Shamrocks Rugby Club is plotting a course which it hopes will result in securing them the elusive Illawarra District Rugby Union title.

The Rocks have retained their major players for this season and are gunning to improve on their creditable third place in the 1990 competition.

While all the loyal players remain, the beaten-up bottle green jerseys of past times have been replaced by a new look strip.

This year's Shamrocks will wear the club's traditional bottle green with the addition of a hoop of brilliant white.

Shamrocks president Rod Gilmore is excited at the team's prospects for this season and reports the northern suburbs club

SHAMROCKS handled the very windy conditions superbly to trounce Wollongong Weerona 65-7 in Illawarra rugby union at Nicholson Park on Saturday.

Shamrocks downed Wollongong Weerona in all four games played.

## SHAMROCKS BELT THEIR OPPONENTS

Shamrocks remain the only unbeaten side in the Prime Cup and on current form are favoured to continue on their winning way.



## Spirited Shamrocks seize their day

Shamrocks awesome

In years gone by, meetings between Shamrocks and Vikings had always promised (and usually delivered) to be fiercely fought battles in which a result was never assured until the pea in the referee's whistle was resting peacefully.

over the years," he said. "Everyone lifts for a match against Shamrocks. It's tough and hard, but still enjoyable."



## Shamrocks crush

IT was a day Shamrocks players and supporters will long remember when the club thumped old foes, Vikings, in Illawarra rugby union at Nicholson Park on Saturday afternoon.

Most rugby followers would be aware that Vikings have fallen away somewhat this year, however, the traditional rivalry between the two

## Vikings

## Shamrocks party on long and hard

By GLENN TOBIN  
Shamrocks will be determined to retain their impressive unbeaten record when they tackle Kiama in the Illawarra District Rugby Union. A new fitness trainer, Neville Austin, who is very experienced and will assure the coaching staff have fit players to choose from.



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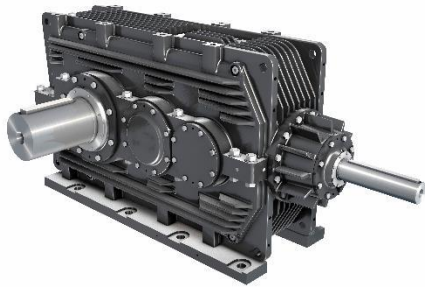




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