

THE WARATAHS RUGBY UNION CLUB

YEAR IN REVIEW – 2019

The season started with the Rugby Committee deciding to enter the same number of teams in 2019 as it did in 2018 – a Men's Divisional team, a team in the NHRU Women's competition and a Social 4ths squad.

Coaches were Jonno Reynolds for the Men's Divisional team, Loni Vikilani for the Women's squad and Adam Lowe who returned as Co-ordinator for the Social 4ths.

The club started training in late 2018 but ramped up sessions in early 2019 as The Tahs entered teams in both the Men's and Women's divisions of the Crescent Head 7s tournament on the weekend on February 2 & 3. The Women also played in the Hamilton Mick 'Whale' Curry Memorial 7s tournament the following weekend.

The Women's team were defending championship at Crescent Head and retained their crown after defeating Kempsey in the final match while our men were knocked out in the quarterfinals by eventual winner, Manly.

In the Hamilton 7s, our Women's team won one and narrowly lost two of their pool matches to miss playing in the semi-finals.

The first weekend of February also saw two of our backline players in action for the NSW Women's squad. Maya Stewart and Katrina Barker were on the winning side in a trial match against ACT Brumbies played at Bowral. Maya, playing on the wing scored the match's opening try while Katrina came off the bench as NSW won emphatically 74-7.

MEN'S DIVISIONAL

The senior Men's team played extremely well in the first half of the season and recorded eight wins, one loss and a draw.

They started where they left the 2018 season and quickly strung together a series of wins. Their draw came against Easts (19-all) while the loss was a narrow 15-14 defeat at the hands of Muswellbrook at Waratah Oval.

The team sat in first place on the points table at the end of the first round, the NHRU then dividing the competition into President's Cup (top five teams) and Patrons Shield (following six teams).

The top five teams were:

	Team	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	The Waratahs	10	8	1	1	1	345	91	254	41
2	Easts	10	8	1	1	1	268	128	140	39
3	Muswellbrook	10	7	1	2	1	257	156	101	35
4	Merewether Carlton	10	6	1	3	1	187	117	70	30
5	Pokolbin	10	5	1	4	1	221	167	54	26

The remaining six teams to play Patron's Shield were Southern Lakes 26, Singleton Army 25, Cessnock 20, Cooks Hill 14, Griffins 6, University 0.

President's Cup

In the four games of the President's Cup before the final series, The Waratahs won three of its matches but suffered a loss at the hands of Muswellbrook on their home ground. The scheduling was not in The Tahs favour and the club had a 'double bye' scenario before their last competition game against Pokolbin.

Muswellbrook were leading the competition but had a bye in the last round which meant The Waratahs had to win against Pokolbin to claim the Minor Premiership. In a tough match, The Tahs prevailed 27-12 and won the minor title by one point from Muswellbrook. The points table was:

	Team	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	The Waratahs	14	11	1	2	2	442	153	289	54
2	Muswellbrook	14	11	1	2	2	358	201	157	53
3	Easts	14	9	1	4	2	314	225	89	43
4	Merewether Carlton	14	7	1	6	2	239	184	55	36
5	Pokolbin	14	6	1	7	2	274	245	29	31

Major Semi-final: The Tahs travelled to Muswellbrook to play the home side in the Major Semi-final after Muswellbrook had beaten Easts 38-0 the previous week in the Qualification Semi.

The men played well throughout the match and scored three tries in the first half to go into the half time break with a 22-7 lead. Muswellbrook and The Tahs traded tries in the second half for a 29-12 scoreline before the Healers scored on the full-time whistle to make the final score 29-17.

Mitch Coppock, Joseph Peterson and Alex Robson were amongst our four try scorers while Jono Twomey kicked three conversions and a penalty.

Grand Final: Our Men's team played strongly but went down 14-12 to Muswellbrook in the Grand Final of the President's Cup.

The defence-oriented match was a tight tussle throughout and it was the second consecutive win for Muswellbrook in the Grand Final against The Tahs after the defeated us 11-7 in 2018.

The match started at a fast pace and The Waratahs had the initial upper hand but the solid defence of Muswellbrook was a hallmark of their game. The Healers opened the score in the 18th minute when James Hawkins went over for a converted try.

The Tahs pressured the Muswellbrook defence in the final five minutes of the first half and were held up on the line for a 7-0 half-time score.

Boyd Chatillon who came on as replacement prop at half-time brought The Waratahs back into the match seven minutes into the second half when he barged

over from close to the try line. Jono Twomey's conversion attempt went to the left of the posts for a 7-5 scoreline.

Muswellbrook drove play deep in The Waratahs territory midway through the second half and swung the ball to the right for their winger, Jason Knox, to cross in the corner. A good conversion took the score to 14-5 with Muswellbrook being in the ascendancy.

The Tahs started to match Muswellbrook late in the half and five minutes from full-time Foa Masoe crossed for The Waratahs which brought the large group of Red supporters to their feet. Jono Twomey kicked a good conversion to narrow the gap to 14-12.

Unfortunately, one of The Waratahs players, Jeremy Inness, suffered a back injury with about three minutes of the match remaining and play was suspended for about 30 minutes until paramedic assistance arrived.

Play resumed with the three minutes on the clock and The Tahs took play into the Muswellbrook quarter but a clearing kick over the sideline from the Heelers ended The Waratahs chances.

NOTE: Fifteen former Junior Players and Colts played in the Grand Final:

Alex Ashworth, Rhys Barrett, Matt Dumbrill, Hayden Edwards, Joel Ford, Chris Grieve, Nathan Hipwell, Pat Ingall, Steve Parkinson, Joe Peterson, Troy Power, Jono Reynolds (coach), Frank Roberts, Alex Robson and Jono Twomey

Highlights of the season included Matt Dumbrill and Chris Grieve playing their 300th games for The Waratahs and Joel Ford notching 200 games.

Matt achieved the feat against Merewether Carlton at Waratah Oval in July. He was following in the footsteps of his father, Lindsay, who played about 330 senior games.

Chris reached his 300th game in the Grand Final which followed more than 100 games in the Juniors for which he started playing for in the Under 8s in 1991. Chris's father, Ken, is a Life Member of The Waratahs, as is his grandfather, Dave Bowtell, who played for NSW in 1953. Chris's daughter, Alexis, plays for the Under 8s.

Joel Ford reached a personal milestone in playing his 200th game for The Waratahs when the team played Muswellbrook on Sponsors Day at Waratah Oval. Before the match, members of the 1979 First and Third Grade Grand Final teams which were celebrating their 40-year reunions handed out the jumpers to current players.

The Men's 2019 squad consisted of: Alex Ashworth, Rhys Barrett, Liam Buck, Boyd Chatillon, Mitch Coppock, Broderick Dawson, Matthew Dumbrill, Haydo Edwards, Joel Ford, Chris Grieve, Jye Ghys, Dai Harris, Nathan Hipwell, Pat Ingall, Jeremy Innes, Taulogo Lalaga, Dyllan Kama, David Knoke, Dayne McKenzie, Junior Masima, Foa Masoe, Frank Ngungutau, Steve Parkinson, Joseph Peterson, Troy Power, Frank Roberts, Alex Robson, Kitione Senikau, Jono Twomey, Sioape Vaitohi, Kavelloni Vikilanl.

WOMEN'S

Representative Honours

In a great start to the season, Anika Butler was selected in the Papua New Guinea Women's squad to contest the HSBC Sydney 7s while Maya Stewart and Katrina Barker were selected in the NSW Super W team to play ACT Brumbies in the opening round of the 2019 Super W competition.

Anika experienced the best of women's world 7s rugby in playing for Papua New Guinea in the HSBC Sydney 7s.

She came off the bench in all of Papua New Guinea's five matches played on the first weekend of February and took home a wealth of new rugby experience.

The PNG *Palais* lost their three pool matches on Friday and lined up against England in a Trophy Cup semi-final on Saturday. England's pace and play from the set ruck proved far too strong for the PNG side and won 54-0.

In the Trophy play-off match against China for 11th place, Anika found it was all defence as China - quickly developing as an emerging nation in women's rugby - powered to a 31-0 victory.

Maya, aged 18, was one of 10 debutants in the NSW squad in February while Katrina, 26, was playing her fourth game for NSW.

Maya and Katrina didn't see much of the ball in the game until Katrina was shifted to half-back midway through the second half. Katrina became much more involved and provided good service to the backline from the No.9 position.

NSW led 19-0 at half-time and scored four tries to beat the Brumbies 26-0. NSW also scored a tight 15-12 win over Queensland Reds in which Maya scored her first Super W try. They then travelled to Perth and defeated WA Women 31-0 before a strong 66-12 defeat of Melbourne Rebels in Bathurst.

Maya and Katrina were both named in the NSW Super W team to play the Queensland Reds in the final of the Buildcorp Super W 2019 competition, Maya on the left wing and Katrina in the centres.

In a tight struggle, NSW trailed 5-3 at half-time but overcame the Reds 8-5 in the final at Leichhardt Oval in Sydney in early April. Katrina played superbly and provided the final pass that led to NSW's only try in the second half of the match.

The two Tahs players were later named by selectors in a Wallaroos extended squad to play two Tests against Japan Women. The first of these was in Newcastle on 13 July and the second at North Sydney Oval on 19 July. Tests against New Zealand at Optus Stadium in Perth and then Eden Park in Auckland followed the Japan series.

Wallaroos coach, Dwayne Nestor, said the 47-player squad gave the national group a chance to give rising stars an opportunity to be exposed to those demands where they might not have in the past.

“It’s a big squad and that provides some opportunities for a few girls who in normal circumstances might not have a chance to be exposed to that kind of environment,” said Nestor.

“Waratahs winger Maya Stewart is one girl who is pretty raw and fresh to it all but we saw enough to say let’s put her in that environment and give her a chance to learn a lot more and develop.”

Stewart, one of 15 uncapped players in the squad, is one of a handful of exciting Australian backs rising up the ranks in a department where the Wallaroos have arguably been light on in recent years.

Unfortunately, Katrina nor Maya were named when the final squad to play Japan in Newcastle was announced in late June.

In June, Anika Butler continued her fine representative career by being selected in the Newcastle Hunter squad to contest the 2019 NSW Country Women’s Rugby Championships being held in Tamworth during the June long weekend.

Anika was joined by Brittany Hunt and Tia Tauafao from The Waratahs in the 20-player squad. The Tahs NSW Women’s representatives, Katrina Barker and Maya Stewart, were not considered for selection to allow them to focus on training in the Australian Wallaroos extended squad which played two Tests this year against Japan and two against New Zealand.

Newcastle Hunter took 5th place in the championship by defeating Central North 15-5 in Tamworth. Newcastle Hunter lost their two pool matches on Saturday against Central Coast (10-0) and Mid North Coast (22-5) and played Central North in the play-off for 5th and 6th places on Sunday.

In July, Anika and Tia were members of the Hunter team that played against Southern Inland in a preliminary match before the Wallaroos v Japan Women’s Test at No.2 Sportsground. Tia, playing in the centres, scored a breakthrough try in the second half for the Hunter to win 24-5 while the Wallaroos beat the Cherry Blossoms 34-5.

In August, Anika Butler, Maya Stewart and Tahlia Goldsmith were named in the University of New England training squad for the Aon University 7s Championship to be played over four rounds in September and October.

In September, Katrina Barker and Maya Stewart were named in the NSW Country squad to contest the Chikarovski Cup on the October long weekend. The two were among seven Hunter women rugby players named in the 35-member squad, the others being in Emma Bradford, Britney Duff, Lakesha Nathan, Leilani Nathan and Nicole Nathan.

The Chikarovski Cup is an important pillar in NSW Rugby’s pathway to elite women’s rugby and also provides an opportunity for talent identification for the 2020 Buildcorp Super W season. The cup is named after Kerry Chikarovski who was guest speaker at the club’s Sports Luncheon in August. Kerry is a Board member of the NSW Waratahs and also Chair of NSW Rugby.

Maya scored a try in the opening game against Sydney Blue but Country went down 20-2 before bouncing back and winning 27-24 against Sydney Gold. Sydney Blue were undefeated to win the competition.

NHRU Women's 7s

The Women's team entered the NHRU Summer 7s tournament and recorded a win (Easts 25-5) and a loss (Hamilton 201-10) in the first round. The result was a fair effort considering the squad contained mostly forwards for the fast-paced 7s game.

The Tahs played strongly in the competition and made it to the semi-finals and faced an energetic Nelson Bay side. The scores were locked 5-all at full-time but The Waratahs superior place on the points table saw them make the Grand Final.

In a tough decider against a spirited Hamilton side, The Tahs fell behind 10-nil in the first half. Our PNG representative, Anika Butler, sprinted about 60 metres to score under the posts to make the score 10-5 at the break.

Hamilton extended their lead after two minutes in the second half with a good team try but The Tahs, to their credit, never gave up against a well-structured Hawks outfit and scored out wide in the fourth minute after some good team play took the ball downfield.

Rain fell throughout the game which caused a number of handling errors but it was Hamilton who took the honours with a 15-10 victory.

NHRU Competition

The Waratahs Women's team started the 2019 season where they left 2018 and remained undefeated after the opening rounds.

The first six rounds resulted in wins against Hamilton (33-5), Easts/Uni (66-5), Medowie (64-5), Maitland (48-5), Merewether Carlton (48-0) and Medowie (20-0).

They continued that form into the second round and were the team to beat, although Hamilton stayed in close contact by only losing to The Tahs until they met in the second round.

In July, our Women's team received a request from the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) Women's Rugby team for a helping hand as they prepared to take on New Zealand Defence Forces Women before the Wallaroos v Japan Test game.

The ADF has requested a training run against The Waratahs in the week of the Test match in preparation for their match against New Zealand which was played prior to the Test at No.2 Sportsground.

Our girls were happy to accept the invitation from ADF and provided a session for the Aussie team in the lead up to the game (which they unfortunately lost to a well-structured Kiwi outfit).

As the season progressed, the women's team continued its undefeated run although Hamilton continued to press its claims and gave The Tahs a run for their money in August and were leading 12-7 before losing 26-12 in one of our closest matches of the season.

The run into the semi-finals was not kind to The Tahs with a bye and two forfeits resulting in no games for the girls for a month before they again met Hamilton in the Major Semi-final.

However, the points table showed the dominance of the girls. They won the Minor Premiership for the second consecutive year – this time by a whopping 20 points – and scored 663 points for only 47 against.

Major Semi-Final: The Major Semi-final against Hamilton was set down for 31 August but was delayed a week because of heavy rain which made the grounds unplayable.

When play got underway in the semi-final at No.2 Sportsground it was obvious that our Women's team had not played for five weeks because of a combination of byes, forfeits and the weather cancellation.

They looked rusty throughout the match but a 24-all draw meant our team advanced to the Grand Final on superior position on the points table.

Play was fairly even in the opening stanza and our hard-running prop, Theresa Wilhelmus, provided the impetus after about 15 minutes when she barged over for a try. Tahlia Goldsmith's conversion was charged down for and initial 5-0 scoreline.

Three minute later a great 60-metre passing interchange up the sideline saw Tahlia go over close to the posts only to see her conversion attempt hit the upright but take the score to 10-0 in The Tahs favour.

Hamilton were playing a more structured game and they penetrated The Tahs territory in the latter stages of the first half to score after 20 minutes after a fumble by the Tahs defence in the in-goal area. Another Hamilton try a few minutes later took Hamilton into the lead 12-10 when they converted their second try.

Wilhelmus, playing strongly at prop, got The Tahs on the front foot when she scored her second try just before half time to see the Reds go into the break with a 17-12 lead.

In the second half, a glut of possession by Hamilton and some poor handling by The Tahs saw the Hawks starting to take command of the match. They tied the scores with their third try eight minutes into the half and then took the lead 24-17 six minutes later with another converted try.

With five minutes remaining The Tahs drove play deep into Hamilton territory. About 20 metres out from the tryline they spun the ball across the backs for centre, Maya Stewart, to burst past a number of Hamilton defenders in a determined run to the line. Tahlia kicked a good conversion to tie the semi-final 24-all.

The dying minutes saw Hamilton try to win the match but desperate defence by the Reds saw them advance to the Grand Final.

Grand Final: In somewhat of a surprise, The Waratahs faced Maitland in the Grand Final after the Blacks had beaten Hamilton 14-12 in the Preliminary Final.

The Waratahs, already Minor Premiers, became Major Premiers after a 45-12 victory over Maitland Grand Final at No.2 Sportsground in September.

It was the second successive Grand Final win for The Tahs but Maitland deserve credit in reaching the decider and giving The Tahs one of their toughest matches of the season.

The Tahs second rower, Maryann Utai, was named Player of the Match in a solid display where she scored two tries.

The Waratahs started the match well and a strong display by the forwards in the opening minutes led to centre, Maya Stewart, beating the defence and cross the line in the fifth minute.

The Tahs were in again in the 10th minute when Maya's centre partner, Tia Tauafao, finished a solid passing rush across the backline.

Maitland however came back into the match with good backline defence and their half back, Brittany Duff, crossed after 22 minutes to make the score 10-5. The Tahs knew they had a tough game on their hands and Maitland started to play the better rugby.

The Maitland centres played well in defence while the Blacks forwards were scrummaging well, a sign of their improvement during the season.

Just before half time The Tahs drove play deep into Maitland territory and Utai gave her team-mates some breathing space when she barged over for Tahlia Goldsmith to land her first conversion.

The half-time score of 17-5 did not reflect Maitland's good play in the final 15 minutes leading to the break but The Tahs were always solid with Goldsmith at half-back and Katrina Barker at fly half setting up plays and providing good service to the outside backs.

The Waratahs forward played strongly in the first few minutes of the second half and Utai finished off a good surge after four minutes to run around under the posts.

Maya Stewart was in for her second try two minutes later with Goldsmith converting both tries for a 31-5 lead.

Maitland kept plugging away and were rewarded in the 14th minute of the second half when their centre, Meagan Casserly, broke The Tahs defensive line after some good lead up work to score a converted try and narrow the scoreline 31-12.

The Waratahs lock, Toyah Nicholas, capped great all-round game in the 22nd minute when she sliced through the defence for Tahlia to again convert. Toyah was solid in defence and attack and must have been close behind Maryann in taking out the Player of the Match award.

The closing stages of the match saw Tahlia take a quick tap from a penalty to catch a tired Maitland defence on the back foot. Tahlia raced 60 metres to score under the posts and converted her own try for the final 45-12 scoreline.

The Waratahs 45 (Maya Stewart 2, Maryann Utai 2, Tia Tauafao, Toyah Nicholas, Tahlia Goldsmith tries, Tahlia Goldsmith 5 conversions) beat Maitland 12 (Brittany Duff, Meagan Casserly tries; conversion).

	Team	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	The Waratahs	15	15	0	0	0	663	47	616	76
2	Hamilton	15	11	0	4	0	470	152	318	56
3	Maitland	15	7	0	8	0	338	256	82	33
4	Merewether Carlton	15	7	0	8	0	360	295	65	32
5	East/University	15	5	0	10	0	356	354	2	27
6	Medowie & Districts	15	0	0	15	0	31	1114	-1083	0

In the end of season NHRU Women's awards, Tahlia Goldsmith was Top Point Scorer with 150 points and Maryann Utai was the Grand Final's Player of the Match.

The Women's 2019 squad consisted of: Katrina Barker, Anika Butler, Jessica Church, Natasha Deane, Kristy Gilbert-Watson, Tahlia Goldsmith, Brittany Hunt, Steph Klimovitch, Jennifer Mauli, Minah Mauli, Juanita Naoia, Marina Neil, Theresa Ngungutau, Toyah Nicholas, Steph Osasa, Brooke Orton, Katerina Peterson, Faith Saunders, Dana Shields, Maya Stewart, Tia Tauafao, Ally Traverso, Maryann Utai, Theresa Wilhelmus, Jade Wilson.

SOCIAL 4THS

The Social 4ths started their 2019 campaign in May and won two of their opening three rounds to stay in touch with the top of the competition table.

The competition was played on an irregular basis because of school holidays and other commitments. At the end of the season the teams had played nine games after the last round was washed out. The Tahs finished in 2nd position behind Merewether Carlton.

In the semis, Merewether Carlton (1) played Hamilton (4) and The Tahs (2) met Maitland (3) at Townson Oval. Maitland came out with all guns blazing and ran in four tries to one to win 26-7 while Merewether was too good for Hamilton in a 29-0 win.

In a highlight of the season, Tsyon Tenari was elected at 'Best & Fairest Player' of the 2019 season.

Points table was:

	Team	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	Merewether Carlton	9	7	1	1	0	206	43	163	37
2	The Waratahs	9	6	1	2	0	202	83	119	32
3	Maitland	9	5	2	2	0	171	101	70	28
4	Hamilton Hawks	9	4	1	4	0	162	176	-14	21
5	Easts	9	1	1	7	0	50	233	-183	7
6	University of Newcastle	9	1	0	8	0	74	229	-155	5

JUNIORS

The Junior Committee worked tirelessly through the off-season and all the hard work was worth the effort with an increased number of junior teams taking to the field in 2019.

The Waratahs were able to field Under 7s, Under 8s, and Under 9s while the Under 11s was a combined team with Lake Macquarie and the Under 14s a combined team with Wanderers.

A young player from The Waratahs/Lake Macquarie Under 11s played a special part in the Wallaroos v Japan Women's Test match at No.2 Sportsground on Saturday.

Ruby Wilhelmus was announced as the winner of ABC Newcastle's 'Money Can't Buy Experience' competition to run out the match ball for the Test.

ABC Breakfast announcer, Dan Cox, announced Ruby as winner of the competition on his program on Monday morning. Needless to say, Ruby was speechless when told of her win!

And keeping it in the family, Ruby's mother, Theresa, plays in the undefeated Waratahs women's team while her sisters and brother also play junior rugby.

Our Under 14s were pipped by one point in winning the Minor Premiership and lost 26-10 to Merewether Carlton in the major semi-final at Tomaree Sports Complex. However, they showed their true colours in the Preliminary Final with a comprehensive 35-7 win over Lake Macquarie, again at Tomaree, to set up a Grand Final against Merewether Carlton.

The Grand Final was played in cool and wet conditions and our team did The Waratahs proud in a close match before finally losing 24-17.

The merged team, representing players from The Waratahs and Wanderers, had registered tough encounters against Merewether Carlton throughout the 2019 season - and the Grand Final was no exception.

The scoreline did not reflect the closeness of the game and it was a credit to the Under 14s in reaching the Grand Final. Well done to the Under 14s - we hope you have enjoyed your rugby and made new friendships in 2019.

A big thank you to parents, supporters and Junior players who attended the 2019 Presentation Ceremony at Hamilton North Bowling Club on Sunday, 22 September.

All teams were well presented with major awards presented as follows:

- Scott McDonald Memorial Award for Junior Cub Person of the Year - Mitch Coppock
- Joel Bunt Memorial Award for Making Difference - Alexis Grieve and Angel Ngungutau (shared)
- Sam Maui Memorial Award for Dedication to Rugby - Dylan Gibbs
- Bryan Tolhurst Memorial Award for dedication to the Club - Connor Martel

Congratulations also went to the club 's representative players in Jed Kruger, William Lynne, Max McGavern, Tobias Maddison, Connor Martel, Fergus Taylor, Oliver Wensrich, Zac Wilkes and Hunter Young.

SOCIAL EVENTS

A large number of social events were organised through the year, among them being a successful **Trivia Night** in June.

The Old Boys held a **40th Year Reunion** of the 1979 First Grade and Third Grade Final teams which coincided with the annual **Sponsors Day** at Waratah Oval in late June.

For the record, the two squads comprised:

First Grade:

Ron Algie, Paul Barratt, Robert Bell, Paul Burke, David Callcott, Lindsay Dumbrill, John Dines, Stewart Elliott, John Gibson, Mike Fitzgerald, Hugh Jarvis, Ian Johnson, Mark Johnson, Peter McPherson, Brad March, Tony Munro, Keith Powell, Michael Snape, John Stevenson, Simon Thompson, Brent Tilse, Greg Twomey, Dominic Vaughan, Martin Vaughan and Phil Wells.

The squad was coached by Ray Piefke and managed by Ray Holdstock.

The squad had a rich vein of representative players. These included Wallaby Mike Fitzgerald and future Wallaby, Dom Vaughan (also Australia Under 21s and Australian Schoolboys), Paul Burke (Australian Under 17s), Peter McPherson (Australian Schoolboys) and Brent Tilse (Australian Under 21s and Australian Under 17s).

There were also two sets of brothers in the squad, these being Dom and Martin Vaughan, and Ian and Mark Johnson.

THE WARATAHS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

FIRST GRADE PREMIERS — CLUB CHAMPIONS, 1979



Back row: M. JOHNSON, B. MARCI, A. MUNRO, P. WELLS, J. STEVENSON, M. SNAPE, R. ALGIE, K. POWELL.
Third row: E. BRYAN (Asst. Manager), E. HOLDSTOCK (Manager), A. VAUGHAN (Selector), W. FITZGERALD (President), B. QUIRK (Sec./Manager),
E. FEYN'S (Selector), R. PIEPKE (Coach).
Second row: H. JARVIS, P. BURKE, M. VAUGHAN, F. McPHERSON, B. TILSE, L. DUMBRILL, S. THOMPSON, R. BELL.
Front row: G. TWOMEY, D. VAUGHAN (Captain), E. HOLDSTOCK (Ball Boys), D. CALLCOTT, J. GIBSON.
Abseut: P. BARRATT, S. ELLIOTT, J. DINES, M. FITZGERALD, I. JOHNSON.

—Photo by Kennedy's Mayfield Studio

Third Grade

The club's Third Grade team were also Minor and Major Premiers in 1979 and mark their 40th anniversary in 2019.

It was a golden period for Third Grade as the team won premierships in 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Members of the squad in 1979 were Neil Austin, Bob Bear, Ken Beveridge, Grahame Charge, Robert Dick, Trevor Dunncliffe, Craig Fitzgerald, Doug Foley, Stephen James, Mark Lawrence, Mark Mowbray, Dave Newman, Dan Noonan, Tony Parsons, Geoff Power, Dave Puddicombe, Tim Ryan, Bruce Smith, Terry Stevenson, Ian Whitehead and Glen Yates.

The Coach was Greg Mowbray with Tony Saunders as Manager and Martin Vaughan as Assistant Manager.

Photo 26

THE WARATAHS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB
THIRD GRADE MINOR AND MAJOR PREMIERS — CLUB CHAMPIONS, 1979



Back row: A. SAUNDERS (Manager), K. BEVERIDGE, C. FITZGERALD, G. MOWBRAY (Coach), G. CHARGE, S. JAMES, M. VAUGHAN (Asst. Manager).
Middle row: T. DUNNOCLIFF, I. WHITEHEAD, D. FUDDSOMBE, M. MOWBRAY, D. NEWMAN, A. PARKSONS.
Front row: G. YATES, G. POWER, E. BEAR.
Absent: E. SMITH, T. RYAN, M. LAWRENCE, N. AUSTIN, D. FOLEY, R. DICK, T. STEVENSON, D. NOONAN. —Photo by Kennedy's Mayfield Studio

And 40 years on, pictured below are many of those who gathered at Hamilton North Bowling Club for the 40 year reunion luncheon.



Left side (bottom to top) Ian Whitehead, Symon Thompson, Ron Algie, Brent Tilse, Ian Johnson, Mark Johnson; (Top) John Stevenson and Reg Jarvis; Right side (bottom to top) Geoff Power, Dave Newman, Keith Powell, Brad March, Paul Barrett, Stewart Elliott and John Gibson.

The Waratahs Ball was a great social success in August while the **Ladies Day/Charity Day** on the last competition round in August was one of the best in many years.

The **2019 Sports Luncheon** was organised by the Old Boys with guest speaker being member of the Board of NSW Waratahs and Chair of NSW Women's Rugby, Kerry Chikarovski. Former Wallabies, Tony Melrose and Bill Calcraft, also attended after enjoying their speaking roles at the 2018 function.

Chikarovski was well known as a long-term supporter of rugby in Australia, and in particular the women's game. Her passion for developing female participation rates was evident when she sponsored the Chikarovski 2017 NSW Women's Rugby Cup.

In addition to her rugby commitments, Chikarovski held a number of Board positions and was seen and heard regularly as a media commentator across national television and radio channels including Sky News, ABC Weekend Breakfast, 2GB, ABC the Drum, Q&A, Channel 7 Sunrise and Seven News.

PEOPLE & PLACES

newcastleherald.com.au/multimedia/photos-video



LIFE MEMBERS: Keith Powell, John Brown, Denis Hurst, Mark Gwynne, Dave Bowdler, Ray Frost and Paul Murphy.



SOCIAL: Mitch Coppock and Waratahs club president Alex Nelson.

WARATAHS IN BLOOM

Member of the Board of NSW Waratahs and Chair of NSW Women's rugby Kerry Chikarowski was guest speaker at the Waratahs Rugby Union Club's Old Boys Association Sports Luncheon held at the Hamilton North Bowling Club.



MALE: Dave Bowdler, Ray Frost and Denis Hurst.



BUCKET UP: Tim Kerton and Peter Jamieson.



BOYS AND GIRLS: Denis and Lyn Hurst.



TEAM: Theresa Ngwenya, Aisha Butler and Aileen Nelson.



GUESTS OF HONOUR: Ed Cahill, Kerry Chikarowski and Tony Malvern.



ONERS: Mark Egan and John Gibson.



ON SIDE: Jan Jarvis, Colin Jarvis and Jo Jarvis.



DRINKS: Michael Fitzgerald and Rowan Burgess.

VALE TWO FORMER PLAYERS

In June, the club learnt of the passing earlier today of former club member and Fourth Grade Coach, Mick Waide. Mick, who was aged 62 and well respected in the club in his playing and coaching days, had been in ill health in recent times.

He played in the lower grades for The Tahs and was coach of the Fourth Grade team in 1998. The team was joint premiers after a 3-all draw with Merewether Carlton in the Grand Final.

Players in the team included Matt Chidgey, Steve Christie, Glenn Hartley, Keith Roddom, Jason Thoroughgood and Alan Waldie. The management team consisted of Ray Ferguson, Gary Foster and Doug Sault.

Another former player, Bill Gahan, passed away in July. Bill played for The Waratahs in 1956 and was selected to play for NSW in his one year playing for the club. Despite continuing his Newcastle with Wanderers, Bill was chosen in the front row of The Waratahs '**Team of the Decade – 1956-65**'.

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019 AGM was held in early December and saw Alex Robson returned unanimously for his second term as President. Alex will be responsible for taking the club into 2020 where it will celebrate its 80th consecutive year in the Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union competition (1940-2020).

Other office holders for 2020 are: Greg Taylor as Treasurer, Denis Hurst as Registrar, and Mitch Coppock and Chris Grieve as committee members.

SEASON MATCH RESULTS

MEN'S DIVISIONAL

Round 1: defeated Pokolbin 10-5

Round 2: defeated Cooks Hill 35-5

Round 3: defeated Singleton Lions 31-7

Round 4: drew with Easts 19-all

Round 5: defeated Cessnock 35-21

Round 6: Bye

Round 7: defeated University 93-7

Round 8: defeated Griffins 62-0

Round 9: defeated Merewether Carlton 34-0

Round 10: beaten by Muswellbrook 15-14

Round 11: defeated Southern Lakes 12-7

(after First Round, competition split into President's Cup and Patron's Plate competitions – The Waratahs were included in President's Cup by being top of the points table)

Round 12: defeated Merewether Carlton 13-7

Round 13: beaten by Muswellbrook 26-16

Round 14: defeated Easts 41-7

Round 15: bye

Round 16: defeated Pokolbin 27-12

Major Semi Final: defeated Muswellbrook 29-17

Grand Final: Muswellbrook defeated The Waratahs 14-12

WOMEN'S

Round 1: defeated Hamilton 33-5
Round 2: defeated Easts/University 66-6
Round 3: defeated Medowie 64-5
Round 4: defeated Maitland 48-5
Round 5: defeated Merewether Carlton 48-0
Round 6: defeated Medowie 20-0
Round 7: defeated Maitland 26-0
Round 8: defeated Easts/University 43-5
Round 9: defeated Merewether Carlton 53-5
Round 10: defeated Hamilton 28-5
Round 11: defeated Easts/University 44-0
Round 12: defeated Medowie 100-0
Round 13: defeated Hamilton 26-12
Round 14: received forfeit from Merewether Carlton
Round 15: received forfeit from Maitland
Major Semi Final: The Waratahs drew 24-all with Hamilton
Grand Final: The Waratahs defeated Maitland 45-12

SOCIAL 4THS

Round 1: lost to Merewether Carlton 17-0
Round 2: defeated Easts 26-0
Round 3: defeated University 24-0
Round 4: defeated Hamilton 36-7
Round 5: drew with Maitland 17-all
Round 6: forfeit by Easts
Round 7: defeated University 38-7
Round 8: defeated Maitland 26-0
Round 9: lost to Merewether Carlton 24-7
Round 10: match against Hamilton cancelled because of weather conditions
Semi-Final: Maitland defeated The Waratahs 26-7

AWARDS SECTION

DIVISIONAL RUGBY 2018-19 Final Position of Men's, Women's and Social 4ths

Men's	Place	Won	Lost	Drew/Bye	Points
2019	1st	11	2	1	54
2018	1st	17	1	0	83
Women's	Place	Won	Lost	Drew/Bye	
2019	1st	15	0	0	76
2018	1st	13	0	2 (bye)	65
Social 4ths	Place	Won	Lost	Drew/Bye	
2019					
2018	4th	3	11	1 (Draw)	21

Note: The Waratahs were not eligible for the Club Championship as a result of playing Divisional Rugby from 2018.

PREMIER 1 – First Grade Position and Club Championship

YEAR	PLACE	WON	LOST	DREW/BYE	CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
2017	8th	6	11	1	8th
2016**	5th	12	6	0	6th
2015	3rd	11	6	1 (bye)	7th
2014	4th	13	5	0	6th
2013	2nd	13	5	0	6th
2012	7th	6	11	1	6th
2011	7th	7	10	1	8th
2010	6th	10	8	0	6th
2009	7th	6	12	0	7th
2008	7th	9	9	2	6th
2007	4th	12	3	1	5th
2006	1st	16	4	0	4th

* Note 1: 8 competition points deducted for breach of player points system – reduced to five points on appeal. * Note 2: The Waratahs would have finished in third position ahead of Southern Beaches on points differential if the five competition points had not been deducted.

PRESIDENTS (2006-19)

YEAR	PRESIDENT
2019	Alex Robson
2018	Greg Taylor
2017	Greg Taylor
2016	Darrell Date
2015	Darrell Date
2014	Adam Gallagher
2013	Adam Gallagher
2012	Chris Young
2011	Chris Young

2010	Chris Young
2009	Paul Murphy
2008	Paul Murphy
2007	Paul Murphy
2006	Paul Murphy

LIFE MEMBERS (2006-19 : not awarded every year)

Year	AWARDEE
2018	Keith Powell
2017	Ken Grieve
2014	Mark Queenan
2014	Matthew Chidgey
2013	Dave Bowtell
2011	Denis Hurst
2009	John Brown

MARG BURKE CLUBPERSON OF THE YEAR (2006-19)

Awarded to a player, coach or support staff who has made an outstanding contribution to the club in that year.

YEAR	WINNER
2019	Keith Powell
2018	Annika Jamieson
2017	Joel Ford
2016	John Kearney
2015	Holly Wilson
2014	Todd McDean
2013	Lynn and Denis Hurst
2012	Jim Heins
2011	Bill Ormandy
2010	Tim Date
2009	Claudia Tolhurst
2008	Michael Tolhurst
2007	Kaylene Chidgey
2006	Tim Chidgey

The Scott McDonald Memorial Trophy for Junior Club Person of the Year went to Under 7s Coach, Mitch Coppock

COACHES (2006-19)

YEAR	COACH
2019	Men's Divisional - Jonno Reynolds Women's - Loni Vikilani Social 4ths – Adam Lowe
2018	Men's Divisional - Jonno Reynolds Women's - Loni Vikilani Social 4ths – Adam Lowe
2017	Carl Manu (Capt/Coach)
2016	Matthew Chidgey
2015	Matthew Chidgey
2014	Hayden Pedersen (Capt/Coach)
2013	Hayden Pedersen (Capt/Coach)
2012	Greg Doolan
2011	Lolo Mohu and Aloisio Sefo
2010	Tim Chidgey/Aloisio Sefo
2009	Lolo Mohu and Aloisio Sefo
2008	Tim Chidgey
2007	Tim Chidgey
2006	Tim Chidgey

CLUB AWARDS

Player of the Year 2018 - 19

Year	Men's Divisional	Women's	Social 4ths
2019	Troy Power & Matt Dumbrill (shared)	Brooke Orton & Katrina Barker (shared)	Tyson Tenari
2018	Pat Ingall	Bobbi Law	Kieren Dickson & Jason Blackford

Best Forward (2006-17 : playing in Premier Division)

YEAR	IST GRADE	RESERVES	THIRDS	COLTS
2017	Dylan Heins	Derrick Dinh & Abel Vili	No Team	No Team
2016	Alain Miriallakis	Mitch Coppock	Darryl Manion	No Team
2015	Alain Miriallakis	Nathan Hipwell	Nicholas Graham & Cullen Manu	No Team
2014	Dylan Heins	Frank Roberts	Darrell Manion	Nathan Hipwell
2013	Pala Palupe	Frank Roberts	Ian Knoke	Nathan Hipwell
2012	Dylan Heins	Alex Ashworth	Aaron Piccinin	Kelepi Lea
2011	Lauina Lauina	Matt Dumbrill	David Knoke	Dylan Heins
2010	Lauina Lauina	Tim Date	Jason Leigh	Zac Bergholcs
2009	Ricky Ellers	Sam Houston	Lolo Mohu	Brendon Jackson
2008	Doug Sanderson	Paul Mounter	Puniani Ikatanne	Frank Roberts
2007	Doug Haslem	Matt Dumbrill	Greg Tolhurst	Aaron Powell
2006	Doug Haslem & Mark Taufua	Craig Hassett	Jarrold Holmes	Peter Dumbrill

Best Back (2006-17 : playing in Premier Division)

YEAR	PREMIER 1	PREMIER 2	PREMIER 3	COLTS
2017	Carl Manu	Fao Masoe	No Team	No Team
2016	Carl Manu	Aufaga Lalaga	Jun-Glen Grant	Not Awarded
2015	Dane Sherratt	Shannon Mavin	Pat Ingall	Not Awarded
2014	Adrian Curry	Reece McKeon	Leon Paczynski	Dom Stevensen
2013	Tim Riley	Patrick Ingall	Darrell Manion	Nick Kearney
2012	Lloyd Evans	Tala Sia	Tim Wilson	Nick Kearney
2011	Carl Manu	Franky Kolo	Steve Parkinson	Rhys Hayward
2010	Daniel Marshall	Nathan Turner	Simon Hatton	Ryan Hurry
2009	Allija Hromadzic	Joel Ford	Dan McGavern	Huw Ashurst-Smith
2008	Rowan Newton-Smith	Daniel Fraser	Robert Burns	Joel Ford
2007	Ben Petersen	Luke Williams	Ben Saxon	Rob Broadbeck
2006	Ben Petersen	Leon Paczynski	Adam McAllister	Philip Rolls

Players Player 2018 - 19 (playing Divisional Rugby)

Year	Men's Divisional	Women's	Social 4ths
2019	Joe Peterson	Theresa Ngungutau	Jason Blackford
2018	Mitch Coppock	Toyah Nicholas	Ryan Hurry

Players Player (2006-17 : playing in Premier Division)

YEAR	PREMIER 1	PREMIER 2	PREMIER 3	COLTS
2017	Dylan Heins	Derrick Dinh	No Team	No Team
2016	Carl Manu	Mitch Coppock	Jun-Glen Grant	No Team
2015	Dylan Heins	Nathan Hipwell	Pat Ingall	No team
2014	Dylan Heins	Frank Roberts	Matt Dumbrill	Dom Stevensen
2013	Dylan Heins	Frank Roberts	Ian Knoke & Aaron Piccinin	Nick Kearney
2012	Vili Kelementi	Tala Sia	Aaron Piccinin	Kelepi Leao
2011	Hayden Pedersen	Matt Drummond	Mark Lolohea	Letoi Lalaga
2010	Lauina Lauina	Nathan Turner	Jason Leigh	Brendon Jackson
2009	Ricky Ellers	Sam Houston	Dan McGavern	Brendon Jackson
2008	Doug Sanderson	Winston Wilson	Robert Burns	Frank Roberts
2007	Ben Petersen	Matt Dumbrill	Greg Tolhurst	Adam Powell
2006	Ben Petersen	Craig Hassett	Jarrold Holmes	Steve Parkinson

Club Awards (2006-19)

Year	Churchill's Award for Rookie of the Year	Kath Kerridge Award for Most Committed Player	Ron Shoesmith Award for Most Improved Player	Scott McDonald Trophy Overall Players Player
2019	Maryann Utai	Dai Harris (Divisional) Dave McKenzie (4ths) Kristy Smith (Women)	Brittany Hunt	Mitch Coppock
2018	Alexandra Rodgers	Joel Ford (Divisional) Matthew Johns (4ths) Jade Wilson (Women)	Anika Butler	Sione Usaia
2017	Abel Vili	Nathan Hipwell	Devante Manu	Derrick Dinh
2016	Taulogo Lalaga	Nathan Hipwell	Inoke Rokotolu	Mitch Coppock
2015	Chase Hicks	Alain Miriallakis & Carl Manu (shared)	Frank Roberts	Dylan Heins
2014	Dom Barbagello	Tim Date	Alex Robson	Matthew Dumbrill
2013	Reece McKeon	Alain Miriallakis	Ayouk Dong	Dylan Heins
2012	Vili Kelemete	Matthew Dumbrill	Mitchell Rixon	Vili Kelemete
2011	Rhys Hayward	Dan McGavern	Matt Dumbrill	Hayden Pedersen
2010	Kyle Curry	Bleddyn Gant	Doug Clarke	Lauina Lauina
2009	Jarred Little	Lolo Mohu	Matt Holstein	Dan McGavern
2008	Matt Drummond	Brad Hostler	Matt Drummond	Doug Sanderson
2007	Rob Broadbeck	Todd McDean	Doug Sanderson	Ben Petersen
2006	Carl Foster	Todd McDean	Chris Young	Ben Petersen

Club Awards (2006-19)

Year	Cyril Burke Medal Overall Best & Fairest	Ray Frost Medal Club Forward Award	John Hipwell Medal Club Back Award
2019	Frank Roberts	Jessica Church	Alex Robson
2018	Sione Usaia	Annika Jamieson	Maya Stewart
2017	Abel Vili	Andy Finau	Chase Hicks
2016	Mitch Coppock	Alain Miriallakis	Carl Manu
2015	Alain Miriallakis	Dylan Heins	Shannon Mavin
2014	Darrell Manion	Nathan Hipwell	Patrick Ingall
2013	Pala Palupe	Dylan Heins	Adrian Curry
2012	Tala Sia	(awarded from 2013)	(awarded from 2013)
2011	Rhys Hayward	-	-
2010	Lauina Lauina	-	-
2009	Lolo Mohu	-	-
2008	Winston Wilson	-	-
2007	Doug Haslem	-	-
2006	Ben Petersen	-	-

President's Award (inaugurated 2018)

2019	Loni Vikilani
2018	Mitch Coppock

The President's Award was inaugurated in 2018 and is awarded to a club member who has contributed off-field.

100 Grade Games: N/A

200 Grade Games: Joel Ford

330 Club Games: Matt Dumbrill and Chris Grieve
