

## **2013 - We get close but no cigar!**

Overall the season was a promising one on many fronts with the first-grade side doing extremely well as they were a major contender for the title but unfortunately fell one game short of playing in the Grand Final. Regrettably, the lower grades struggled once again but the numbers were better than the previous season. Seconds had some good wins in the middle part of the season but thirds really found the going tough.

Looking closely at the club's performance the time and effort put in by many contributors was again a credit to them and many clubs would love to be in our position, both on and off the field.

### **The Committee.**

At the Annual General Meeting there was a handing over of the president's role from 'Sproggy' McGuinness to Bob Wheway. This was a bloodless coup as Sproggy realised the need for fresh ideas and enthusiasm in the role and Bob was the man that would bring these to the club.

Bob had never graced the rugby field as a player but was a keen student of the game having connections to Vikings - through a son on law, Techtahs - through a work associate and with Uni - through being a lecturer at since the late 60's till now. Who Bob didn't know in the University wasn't worth knowing and his connections were a key element in the club taking on the Uni administration to try and secure much needed funding. Bob also was able to arrange a generous sponsorship through his connections in the University.

Bob was always a keen sporting person who had strong ties to the hockey association over many years and he brought these skills to the position and with his ability to mix well with the youngsters in the club he did a great job in his initial foray into the world of rugby.

The other committee members were basically the same as in 2012 which was a bonus. The thing that stands out is that many of these worthy souls also took on another role either as a coach or a player. Justin Placek, Lee Tanks, Geoff Devitt, Cristo Crous and Steve Elson all did their bit on and off the field to keep the club progressing.

Sproggy stayed on the committee and continued the pursuit of sponsors and was successful in ensuring that the club's finances were kept in the black. This pleased Mark Placek who was again the treasurer. Mark also played a couple of games until a serious knee injury ended his season.

Mark Elson yet again did a sterling job looking after players and keeping them in the fold. This requires the patience of Job and he maintained his sanity and dignity, sometimes under trying circumstances. Mark was also instrumental in organising the club ball, which was a social experience not to be missed.

A problem that faced the committee was that a couple of members, Cristo Crous and Andrew Stuckey, who were great contributors over the years, were unable to continue in their roles or were very limited in the amount of time they were able to put into doing their bit either due to work commitments or personal issues. Their roles were absorbed by a few other members but their loss was felt by the club.

The work done by Canio Fierravanti in liaising between the senior and junior clubs is important as the juniors are now one of the largest clubs in the district and the future development of the club rests with how well we can assimilate the juniors into the senior camp.

The glue that held this all together was undoubtedly Pembo. He was match day coordinator, secretary, registrar and newsletter editor and as usual did all of these jobs to the very highest standards. To demonstrate what a true believer in the club he is he took on all of these roles as a volunteer and donated his payments to the club. No wonder he was made a life member at the presentation night, a richly deserved acknowledgement of his commitment to not only Uni Rugby but University sport, in general.

#### **The Sponsors.**

The contributions made by sponsors are vital in keeping our heads above water financially. We are in the enviable situation of having individuals and companies consistently over many years donating money and services to the club. Without their help we would not be able to offer the players the great opportunities that exist at Uni Rugby and we would definitely be languishing down the bottom of the pile if we continued to exist at all.

The assistance of Physical Therapy (Dave Beconsell), Ryan's Dry Cleaners (Hugh Wingate), Ledacon (Paul Martin), Wideform, Soilco (Charlie Emery), The Engineering Faculty of Uni, Dave Petty Conveyancing, Michael Moate at Raine & Horne Real Estate, Crown West Cellars (Mark Hampton), Rapid Cool Air Conditioning (Mark O'Keefe), Kara's Smash Repairs, Graham,, Bell and Bowman Architects, Bahlmann and Burke Solicitors and Travelscene Wollongong@ internet-travel is most welcome.

Of course the club requires a meeting place and none could be more amenable than the Beaton Park Tennis Club. The fact that we are able to hold functions for free, they have cheap beer and food and we can bring family members into the club without fears of unruly conduct is a real plus. The fact that players enjoy the ambience of the club means that they do attend the club without too much arm twisting.

#### **MAJOR**

The City of Wollongong Tennis Club – Gary Leighton

#### **PREMIUM SPONSORS**

Ledacon Pty Ltd – Paul Martin

Physical Therapy Group – Dave Beconsell

Soilco – Charlie Emery

Wideform Framework – Justin Placek

UOW Faculty of Engineering – Bob Wheway

#### **SILVER SPONSORS**

Bahlmann & Burke - Nick Burke

Crown West Cellars - Mark Hampton

Dave Petty Conveyancing – Dave Petty

Diskray – John and Mags Pemberton

Graham, Bell & Bowman – Terry Graham

Kara's Smash Repairs - Greg Karakousis

Michael Moate at Raine & Horne Real Estate Wollongong – Michael Moate

Rapid Cool Air Conditioning and Refrigeration – Mark O'Keefe

Ryan's Dry Cleaning – Hugh Wingate

Travelscene Wollongong@internet-travel -

Site Plus -

### **The Coaching Staff.**

University Rugby is able to lay claim to having the best coach in the district after Shaun McCreedy's efforts this year saw him awarded the 'Coach of the Year' at the District Presentation. The funny thing is that we consider that Shaun should win this title every year.

Of course he is not a one-man band and he was able to call on the expertise of a number of individuals whose skills were vital in getting our players on the field ready to perform to the highest standards each week.

Shaun's assistant this season was Lee Tanks who was able to gain a real insight into what makes a successful coach by being associated with all aspects of preparing a first-grade team. Lee's quiet persona ensures that he appears unflappable under pressure and he proved to be an excellent sounding board for Shaun.

One of the things we had in our favor was that we were fitter than a lot of other clubs. Much of the credit for these goes to the dynamic duo of Sean Murray-Smith and Llew Scott. These guys planned sessions that were interesting and encouraged players to always do their best on the training paddock. Llew also spent a considerable amount of time in keeping up the fitness levels of injured players which helped greatly in their recuperation.

Cristo Crous was in charge of the second-grade squad but this time he was flying solo with Kippy unable to be at games and training on a regular basis. Cristo faced the daunting task of trying to get players to regularly make training and even games. This proved to be no easy task and this was reflected in the results. I would have hated to see Cristo's phone bills as he was always a busy man on Fridays trying to get a team on the field on Saturday. This lack of support for the coaches needs to be closely looked at in the future if we are to move forward.

Evergreen club stalwart 'Beaver' Tarlinton took the reins in thirds and as well as coaching played a significant part on the field and tried to get the guys to commit but he also found this a very difficult thing to achieve. We struggled with numbers at times and our lack of depth meant that it was a long hard season for the thirsty thirds.

Another contributor to the coaching scene was Paul Kipp who was able to impart his considerable knowledge when available. His love of other clubs also made for some interesting comments at training that players looked forward to hearing.

### **Game Day Staff.**

Game days, especially when we play at home, need a great deal of organisation to get the myriad of tasks completed and our team of volunteers would definitely be the best one in the district in this area. Much of the credit for this goes to a few hard-working individuals who go about their jobs with a minimum of fuss.

Match Day Coordinator extraordinaire, Pembo, was the first to arrive and last to leave. He ensured the ground was set up, balls pumped, jumpers collected, referees looked after, team sheets completed and numerous other tasks that no one would know about, except if they weren't done. Pombo's professional outlook means that he often gets frustrated with others who don't have his high standards, especially when others bend the rules to suit themselves.

Just as efficient as Pembo was Mark Elson who as first grade manager made the coaches' job so much easier. He is a tireless worker who brings so much to the club in the way he helps the team both before and after games and the players are indeed fortunate to have him around.

Mark played a bit of a lone hand on the managerial side of things this season as Glenn Critcher was not able to assist as he was dealing with the illness of his dad who unfortunately passed away during the season. Critch did make it to some games and will be back on deck next year, I'm sure.

Into the breach stepped Kenny Wright who was always on hand to help pick up the pieces when someone was missing. Again he did the job efficiently and with good humor and he was a key cog in the match day machine.

The feeding of the masses this season was looked after by our new canteen team of in Piki Hamahona, Anita Nepia and Candice Mason. These ladies took a real load off the committee by doing a magnificent job in making the canteen not only a smoothly run establishment but also a profitable one for the club.

Keeping players on the field was the responsibility of the physios (Alicia, Liz & Anthony) who came each week and ensured that the players' welfare was always our number one priority. We had a few different people looking after us this year but they all did a commendable job.

Another unsung contributor was Jin Bin Liang who took on the task of video recording all the first-grade games and his efforts allowed the coaches to work on many aspects of improving our overall team performance as well as helping players work on developing their skill levels.

### **The Competition**

In 2013 the Illawarra District Rugby Union (IDRU) was faced with the difficult situation of falling numbers in the playing ranks and so made the decision to build on the Colts (u/20) Competition started in 2012 to encourage juniors to come into the senior ranks.

Shamrocks, Vikings, Shoalhaven, Engadine, Bowral and University fielded teams but unfortunately, we had to drop out as we were short of numbers throughout the club and so decided to concentrate on the three senior grades. This was not an easy position to adopt and gained no friends on the Illawarra Executive but it was the best thing for the Mallee Bulls.

There were nine clubs entered in the first-grade comp – Avondale, Bowral, Camden, Shamrocks, Shoalhaven, Tech Waratahs, University and Vikings. This meant that a bye was needed but when Bowral withdrew after a couple of rounds each club then had three byes, which was not ideal.

In Second grade things were better as ten clubs had teams with the addition of Engadine and the fact that Bowral were able to field a side.

The real problem came about in third grade where there were only seven teams, one of which was Wollondilly. Bowral, Shoalhaven and Kiama couldn't get enough players for a team which was ominous as these were big towns with only one rugby club in their areas but they were struggling for numbers. Unfortunately, Vincentia also dropped out which meant that the comp was a bit of a shambles with each team getting six byes. This resulted in quite a few players losing interest during the season as they were not getting enough rugby.

## Club Championship 2013

Club	Firsts	Seconds	Colts	Thirds	Total
<b>Shamrocks</b>	230	189	159	18	596
<b>Avondale</b>	265	261	0	52	578
<b>Camden</b>	240	228	0	34	502
<b>Vikings</b>	185	156	90	32	463
<b>Shoalhaven</b>	180	204	15	0	399
<b>University</b>	225	78	0	7	310
<b>Tech-Waratahs</b>	100	72	0	52	224
<b>Kiama</b>	55	57	0	0	112
<b>Engadine</b>	0	63	48	0	111
<b>Bowral</b>	0	51	45	0	96
<b>Wollondilly</b>	0	0	0	17	17

### FIRST GRADE.

#### The Squad.

With Shaun McCreedy back at the helm we were quietly confident of being in the race for the premiership, especially with the majority of players being back from last season. The one big loss was Leon Mason who was attracted to the Avondale club and he was missed both on and off the field.

The first-grade squad was in the enviable position of being able to call on the services of five players who played for the Country team after representing Illawarra at the Country Championships. In the senior team we were represented by Paul Tuala, Donny Nepia, Jade Gardiner and Hori Leef, while Matt Lee played for the under 20 Country team.

The big carrot for these guys was that there was an opportunity to play against the Irish and British Lions and they were all keen to do so. Paul Tuala was in outstanding form and was named Country Player of the year and was selected to play in this match but in a heart-breaking twist injured his knee in the final rep game. This was devastating for him and also meant that he was only able to play 3 games for the club and one of these was in the Final. His loss was a big blow to our chances but Paul was always on hand at training and games and worked really hard on getting back on the field.

In the backs we were well served by a very gifted halves combination in Alex Sims and Donny Nepia. Donny used all of his experience to guide our backline around the field and his accurate boot meant that we were always in matches. Donny ended up being the leading point scorer for the club with 109 points. Simsy was no slouch with the boot as well and kicked when Donny was injured and notched 59 points.

In the centres Jade Gardiner and a young newcomer in Nic Ranguira caused all sorts of problems for opposition teams with their hard, direct running and bruising defense. This allowed winger Matt Lee, the Illawarra under 20 Player of the Year, the chance to show off his electrifying speed that resulted in him scoring ten tries.

We were also fortunate to have the services of Justin Placek again after recovering from an injury the previous year. His experience in close games was a bonus and although out injured for some games he was a steadying influence for his young teammates.

Charlie Curry played in every position except half back in his 16 games. He was a genuine first grader who never complained even when shuffled around all over the place.

Jack Shaw showed up late in the year and after a couple of lower grade games found himself on the wing where he proved to be a reliable defender and good finisher. We were also fortunate to have Ash Mason on board when he was not playing league for Collies and he certainly added thrust to our outside backs when on the field.

Injuries cut the season short for Mark Placek and Mark Freeman while Rob Mardus left to go overseas and they were difficult to replace. Guys who stepped up when needed were Peter McGuirk, Adam Wright, Pat Perillo and Carson Crosse and they never let anyone down with their efforts when called upon to play in the top grade.

The big turnaround in the team was in the forwards where we were able to more than hold our own up front, especially at scrum time. It was a bonus to have Hori Leef back playing rugby and his tough, no-nonsense approach to the game was vital in gaining respect from other teams. He was joined in the front row by Travis Hardaker who would be the most improved prop in the competition. He was a rock as he played in all the game and even crossed for two tries. The key acquisition to the front row, however, was Karl Smith whose size and experience were instrumental in our ability to match it with other packs. Although unable to train due to the fact he lived in Sydney Karl certainly made his presence felt and scored 6 tries, many of these when we were under pressure.

The unluckiest man injury wise was undoubtedly hooker Steve Elson. Steve had previously played a 100 consecutive games but this year saw him suffer two broken bones that forced him to miss a number of games. These setbacks only made him more determined when he did get back on the field and he always gave his heart and soul to the cause.

In the tight five we were able to call on the services of Mitch Bell, Alex Van Dartel and Will Wood for most of the season. Mitch and Alex earned their spots last season while Will joined the club and soon forced his way into the first-grade team. None of these guys were big physically but were fit, mobile and very determined. The big bopper in the team was Will Aisake who returned to the group after a year away from the game and he gave us the advantage of size when he was on the paddock.

Another player who returned this season was Jack Borg and he played a big part in the late season games as a replacement for Mitch Bell who suffered a season ending injury with 5 games to go.

The loss of Paul Tuala meant that Andrew Lindsay could play Number 8 and he did so with great effect. His size and speed meant that he was a constant danger and he was able to score 10 tries, many from the back of scrums. He was also very dominate in the lineouts.

The other loose forwards were Charlie Freeman and Will Norrie. These players were the ball scavengers at the breakdown so needed in the modern game. Charlie was so adept at his art many refs penalised his good work because he was so quick at securing the ball.

We were also lucky to have Simon McVeigh back on deck after a few seasons overseas and he was a very dominant player until forced to move again due to work commitments. On the opposite end of the scale as far as experience goes was Chris Parker who played a number of games after serving his apprenticeship in seconds and he gained a lot of valuable experience in the top grade.

## First Grade Points Table 2013

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Avondale	14	10	0	4	617	235	382	40	13	53
2	Camden	14	9	1	4	423	243	180	38	10	48
3	Shamrocks	14	9	1	4	390	285	105	38	8	46
4	University	14	9	0	5	359	357	2	36	9	45
5	Vikings	14	6	2	6	327	415	-88	28	9	37
6	Shoalhaven	14	5	2	7	362	348	14	24	12	36
7	Tech-Waratahs	14	4	0	10	216	402	-186	16	4	20
8	Kiama	14	1	0	13	228	637	-409	4	7	11
9	Bowral *										



**First Grade 2013**

<b>Back Row:</b>	Lee Tanks (Coach)	Christo Crous (coach)	Andrew Lindsay	Justin Placek
Will Aisake	Karl Smith	Jack Borg	Donny Nepia	Jack Shaw
Charlie Freeman	Jade Gardiner	Paul Tuala	Travis Hardaker	Steve Elson
Peter McGuirk	Mark Elson (manager)	Nick Rangiura	Jack Menzies	Tom Honeysett
Shaun McCreedy (coach)		Oliver Farrugia	Anthony (physio)	
<b>Front Row:</b>	Hori Leef	Alex Simms	Adam Wright	Will Norrie
Simon McVeigh	Alex Van Dartel	Chris Parker	Charlie Curry	Will Wood
Matt Lee				

### 2nd grade

#### The Players

The second-grade side was a real mix of old and new. The 'old', or should I say experienced, group comprised guys who have been at the club for a long time and it must be said that many of them went beyond the call of duty in not only playing in seconds they often had played third grade on the same day as well.

The new component to the squad basically consisted of a group of players who were having their first season in senior rugby and all will be better for the lessons learnt this year. Yes, rugby can be a hard task master at times.

One major factor in the teams progress was the number of long-term injuries suffered by key players which resulted in a huge turnover of players and young guys being put into the higher grade without much needed experience.

The lack of size and experience was really evident in the forward pack where we had to rely on the evergreen duo of Brad Milner and Dave Shepherd to hold up the scrums. Both of these guys were rewarded for their efforts by notching a try each, which was a cause for major celebrations. Other players to play up front were newcomers Tom Moore, Harry Pitt and Zac Gorman who always strived to do the best against stiff opposition, while Cristo would sometimes have to don the boots to fill in the gaps. Beaver Tarlinton also found himself packing down as hooker at various stages and was a shining light in a tough position.

One of the major problems for Coach Cristo was the fact that there was a constant changeover of personnel in the forwards with no real cohesion, especially in the second row. We had Will Aisake, Chris Parker, Max Cowperthwaite and Tom Maloney mainly share the role but injuries etc. meant that a large number of guys filled in over the season.

We were in much better position in the loose forwards where Tom Honeysett lead by example when he was not on the injured list and he was well supported by Brad Ashe. Youngsters in Jonathon Cudaj and Jonathon Lindsay gained valuable experience in the higher grade. However, Jack Menzies was the star performer in the pack as he showed real potential with his speed and work at the breakdown.

In the backs we were fortunate to have some old heads in Geoff Devitt and Adam Wright to steer the ship. Geoff had a solid year with the boot being the leading point scorer with 63 points. Into this mix we had newcomers Pete McGuirk, when not in first grade, and Colin Hammond-Tighe who both showed glimpses of flair with the ball in hand.

Early on in the centres we had Mark Freeman dominating games until a serious arm injury ended his season and then we had two rookies in Haydn McDuff and Jack Hartigan play the majority of the games. Both of these players benefited from having old heads in Killer Grennell and Pat Perillo play beside them when they were available.

The back three were again a very disjointed lot with injuries and promotions to first grade meaning a high turnover of players. Ollie Farrugia had a stellar season and he was joined by Carson Crosse who showed real class. The other guys who played in these positions mainly filled in when needed with no one laying claim to a full-time place in the team.

As usual in a university club a large number of guys made fleeting appearances to fill in gaps help out in times of need and all of the contributed in their own way.

The top five teams were well and truly above the rest and we played them all in the last five rounds and we struggled. The scores Shamrocks (17-53), Shoalhaven (7-32), Camden (7-62), Avondale (29-83) and Vikings (5-53) demonstrated just how big a gap there was between the top sides and the others.

At the end of the season we ended up in sixth spot but were never really in the race for the semis as Vikings who came fifth achieved double our points tally which was a fair indication of our efforts during the season.



## Second Grade



### Second Grade 2013

<b>Back Row:</b>	Tim Godman	Mark Elson (manager)	Corey Daniella	Kieran McEvoy
	James Slade	Carson Crosse	Chris Parker	Brad Milner
	Haydn McDuff		Brad Ashe	Christo Crous (coach)
<b>Front Row:</b>	Jack Menzies	Geoff Devitt	Dave Shepherd	Jack Hartigan
	James Tarlinton	Tom Honeysett	Shaun Dutailis	Zac Gorman
	Ken Wright (manager)			Nick Smith

### Second Grade Points Table 2013

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Avondale	18	18	0	0	907	211	696	72	15	87
2	Camden	18	15	0	3	593	185	408	60	16	76
3	Shoalhaven	18	14	0	4	531	271	260	56	12	68
4	Shamrocks	18	13	0	5	585	208	377	52	11	63
5	Vikings	18	10	0	8	519	338	181	40	12	52
6	University	18	5	0	13	310	665	-355	20	6	26
7	Tech-Waratahs	18	4	0	14	348	586	-238	16	8	24
8	Engadine	18	3	1	14	234	575	-341	14	7	21
9	Kiama	18	4	1	13	208	655	-447	18	1	19
10	Bowral	18	3	0	15	167	708	-541	12	5	17

### Third Grade

Third grade is always one of the most interesting groups of people that come together in the pursuit of sporting excellence and this year proved no different. The season can only be described for third grade as a year of challenges.

The year began with a really positive outlook for the club with us potentially fielding teams in all 4 grades with the reintroduction of an U20s competitions. However it was quite obvious for us after the first few rounds with the small number of teams in the U20s that it would be impossible for us to consistently field 4 grades and cover our commitments during the holidays when most of the U20s would be away and so the decision was made to withdraw the U20s and focus on the senior grades.

What was expected to provide great numbers throughout the grades was quickly removed due to what was a huge injury toll across the club. At one stage during the season two entire forward packs were out with injuries. This resulted in a large number of players playing across many grades and positions. This can be seen in the official statistics with 72 players used in third grade over the 12-game season. Needless to say but this proved to be the main challenge for the season, with combinations always proving to be an issue and a lot of uncertainty each Saturday to know exactly which players would be available.

As the season wore on player numbers dropped off for all kinds of reasons, however, we never forfeited a match and always had a full contingent for each game (even though a few times this was very doubtful as we returned from warmups). These challenges resulted in a team that tried hard all year but against most teams with a lot more experience and combination we really struggled to score enough points to remain competitive for long enough in matches.

The team ended the season with a core group of new players to the club who never stopped trying and all have a lot of ability to continue through the grades in the years to come. These players include Luke Symons, Corey Daniela, Michael Tremain, Harry Pitt, Haydn MacDuff, Zac Gorman, Stuart Holcroft, James Bull and Kieran McEvoy. The guys never stopped trying and with the assistance of some of the old hands around the club such as Sean Murray-Smith, Brad Milner, Shep, Lee Tanks and Killer to name a few always resulted in a good scrap for our opponents despite the fact we often ended up on the wrong end of the scoreboard.

Hopefully, these guys and a few of the more special players involved throughout the year such as Marzo, Howard and Jin Bin continue to turn up and take the experience of a tough year with them into the future so they can enjoy the success that will come with a bit of luck and a lot less injury to their teammates in the coming years.

### Third Grade



<b>Back Row:</b>	Marius Barnsley	Evan McWhirter	Luke Symons	Howard Zhang
James Slade	Michael Mamatta	James Tarlinton (coach)	Stuart Holcroft	Zac Gorman
Kieron McEvoy	Michael Tremain			
<b>Front Row:</b>	Jinbin Liang	Scott Mileto	Sean Murray-Smith	Rob Davey
Nathan Dunstan	Lee Tanks	James Bull	Nick Smith	Haydn McDuff
Paura Waaka				
<b>Lying:</b>	Corey Daniella			

### Third Grade Points Table 2013

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Avondale	12	11	0	1	390	166	224	44	8	52
2	Tech-Waratahs	12	10	0	2	445	145	300	40	12	52
3	Camden	12	7	0	5	253	184	69	28	6	34
4	Vikings	12	7	0	5	285	250	35	28	4	32
5	Shamrocks	12	3	0	9	277	334	-57	12	6	18
6	Wollondilly	12	3	0	9	201	367	-166	12	5	17
7	University	12	1	0	11	127	532	-405	4	3	7

#### Season in Review

##### Rd 1 - Kiama at University Oval

The start of a new season always sees players and spectators wondering just what will unfold as the year progresses. This was to be no different when we took on Kiama at Uni in round 1.

It was to be a slightly unusual beginning as Kiama only had first and second grades so in order to give all our players a run, we decided to play a trail game against Engadine Colts. This turned out to be a lively affair with some of our youngsters showing glimpses of form.

##### **Seconds**

The second-grade team was a mix of old and new and it was obvious that combinations were not a strong point at this early stage of the season.

The game started with Kiama putting us under pressure and it must be said that we leaked some easy points with poor tackling. We also found it difficult to maintain the ball and let Kiama off the hook by a breakdown in skills. The final score was 10-25 was not a true indication of our potential but emphasised that we did need to spend a lot of time fitting so many new bodies into the team. The guys who stood out in the forwards were leader Tom Honeysett who was well supported by Brad Ashe while new boy Jono Lindsay played his heart out and was rewarded by scoring the first try of the season.

In the backs Wrighty and Geoff Devitt tried to get the backs on the front foot but found the going tough. Geoff did kick a conversion and a penalty to complete our scoring but it wasn't enough to get us the points. A pretty disappointing start to the season.

Rd 1 10/4/13	University Oval	University 10	Kiama 25
<b>Tries:</b>	Jonathon Lindsay		
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Tom Honeysett		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Tom Honeysett	Adam Wright	Pat Perillo

##### **Firsts**

With the majority of last year's team back in the fold we expected to do well against Kiama 1sts who had a change of coach early in the new year. They had also secured the services of a couple of Kiwi lads who turned out to be quite handy.

We had all our rep players on deck and we looked stronger up front with the addition of Hori Leef and Steve Elson in the front row. These two led the way in our pack dominating set pieces with Steve even touching down for a five pointer and laying the foundation for our backs to score some excellent tries. It was also great to see big Will Aisake back and adding some real punch to our pack. Another major factor in our performance was the outstanding work of Charlie Freeman at the breakdown where he was a constant menace to the Kiama guys.

With some much quality possession our outside backs were able to display all of the bag of tricks with tries being scored by Rob Mardus, who was in excellent form, Matt Lee and Jade Gardiner.

Donny struggled with the boot a tad and only landed two conversions but we were never really under pressure in winning 29-17.

Rd 1 10/4/13	University Oval		University 29	Kiama 17
<b>Tries:</b>	Steve Elson	Rob Mardus	Matt Lee	Jade Gardiner
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Steve Elson			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Rob Mardus	Steve Elson	Hori Leef Nick Rangiura Charlie Freeman	

### Rd 2 –Avondale - Washed Out – Game played on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

#### Rd. 3 - Bowral/Wollondilly at Eridge Park

A trip to the Southern Highlands in any season can be fraught with danger so it was a very pleasant surprise that we were able to dress in shorts and T-shirts and not freeze to death. It was also quite a surprise that common sense had prevailed and Wollondilly played third grade at the same venue as Bowral and we were not forced to do a quick 50 km trip to get between games. Being the holidays we were a tad short of players so it was a game of just putting 15 bodies on the field in the lower grades.

We were forced into withdrawing from the Colts Competition due to uncertain numbers so we trooped out in only thirds, seconds and firsts. The fact that we didn't play last week and there was ANZAC Day on Thursday added to our difficulties.

#### **Thirds**

Wollondilly are a good third grade team with quick, young backs and a very solid forward pack. It took us the first half to get into the game and at the break we were behind 0-26. A couple of guys really stood out with Jack Menzies shinning against his old club while another newcomer in Hayden McDuff was really trying hard. Not to be outdone captain/coach Beaver Tarlinton was also a leading light in the tight stuff as was old stager "I've retired" Andrew Stuckey.

In the second half we got more ball and managed to get across for two tries, one each to young gun Pauro Kemp and Will Aisrke. The final score was 12-48 and this does give us an indication of how much effort needs to be done at training and on the field to see us become more competitive.

Rd 3 24/4/13	Eridge Park		University 12	Wollondilly 48
<b>Tries:</b>	Paora Kemp	Will Aisake		
<b>Goals:</b>	Paora Kemp		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Jack Menzies			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Jack Menzies	James Tarlinton	Haydn McDuff	

#### **Seconds**

The Seconds were forced to have a number of blokes backup after Thirds and it is a credit to Pauro Kemp, Will Aisrke, Haydn McDuff, Jack Menzies, Sean Murray-Smith and the two props in Shep and Brad Milner that they were willing to put themselves out there for their mates. Even Coach Cristo donned his gear and showed how the tackling drills being done at training are quite effective. It was a strange game with Bowral seemingly on top for most of the game but they couldn't translate this into points. Youngster, Pauro Kemp crossed for a great touchdown to level the scores but then Bowral got out to a lead, 5-15. This is when things changed as Bowral scored a try but some quick addition by the ref saw the try disallowed due to the fact that Bowral had a player too many on the field.

This piece of luck saw us get our act together and Rob Davey scored a good try as did Will Aisrke and with Adam Wright leading the way we were back in the game. We had our chances to snatch an improbable victory but the rugby gods didn't smile on us and we couldn't get the points for a win but we did manage a well-deserved bonus point. I wonder what would have been the situation if we had a fresh team to start the match? A real standout in the game was Jack Menzies who won the players player in both thirds and seconds, a rare feat.

Rd 3 24/4/13	Eridge Park	University 12	Bowral 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Paora Kemp	Rob Davey	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Jack Menzies	Adam Wright	
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Jack Menzies	Adam Wright	Will Aisake

### Firsts

First grade was a bit of a trip down memory lane as members from our first-grade premiership winning team were back together. Simon McVeigh, Mark and Justin Placek showed the ANZAC spirit of "they shall not grow old" certainly held true. At the other end of the spectrum we had Nick Ranguira and Will Norrie make their run-on debuts for the Mallee Bulls.

Bowral seemed to be stronger this season on the field but their organisation off the field left a lot to be desired as they managed to make so many interchanges that the crowd soon lost count. It was also interesting to note the confusion regarding the concussion rule soon occurred. It was not a good look as it placed the referee in a very difficult situation.

As far as the score went, we were never going to be beaten and after getting to a half time lead of 38-0 we went on with the job to run out winners 68-7. Nine players ran in tries and Charley Curry and Simsy managed seven conversions and a penalty between them. Charlie Curry orchestrated the backline with great skill and he was aided by wonderful distribution by Alex Sims and determined running by debutant, Nick. This resulted in the backline resembling a well-oiled machine in attack. In the forward battle Steve Elson took on the role of enforcer with zeal and he was backed by Simon McVeigh and Mitch Bell in the tough exchanges. Our tries were scored by Alex Van Dartel, Charlie Curry, Nic Ranguira, Rob Mardus, Travis Hardaker, Will Norrie, Charlie Freeman and JP.

Rd 3 24/4/13	Eridge Park	University 62	Bowral 7
<b>Tries:</b>	Travis Hardaker Charlie Freeman Justin Placek	Andrew Lindsay Will Norrie	Alex Van Dartel Charlie Curry Rob Mardus Nic Ranguira
<b>Goals:</b>	Alex Sims (5)	Charlie Curry (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b> Charlie Curry (1) Alex Sims (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Alex Sims		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Alex Sims	Charlie Curry	Nic Ranguira Mitch bell

### Rd. 4 -Techtahs – University Oval

'The Battle of the Bridges' always brings out the best in both clubs and this week's game was no exception. Our playing strength was stretched without our Country reps but our numbers were quite pleasing as we had 3 full teams and a number of fresh reserves.

### Thirds

Our third graders were in for a tough day at the office as they faced Techtahs who would probably be the most experienced team in Illawarra Rugby. I would hesitate to guess at their average age, but it would be quite high, even with Harry Hawksworth being injured. The game saw a contrast as our

young, inexperienced guys learnt a very hard lesson in rugby and even though the score blew out to 12-50 and we were outclassed but not disgraced.

The effort by our forwards was encouraging and many of the young backs showed patches of real class with Beau Shipley and Colin Hammond-Tighe standing out. Our tries were scored by Colin and Carl Schulz while Scott Thornton, who never stopped trying, converted one of the tries.

Rd 4 5/5/13	University Oval		University 12	Tech Waratahs 50
<b>Tries:</b>	Colin Hammond-Tighe	Carl Schulz		
<b>Goals:</b>	Scott Thornton		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Colin Hammond-Tighe			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	John Clark	Scott Thornton	Colin Hammond-Tighe	

### Seconds

It was a relief for our second-grade coaches to have a fresh team run out to start the match. It was quite apparent that combinations were lacking but we certainly got better as the game went on. Our start left a lot to be desired, as we let in two tries, but from then on, we were well and truly in the game. Our loose forwards were outstanding in getting us possession with Brad Ashe, Jack Menzies and Tom Moore leading the way. A try, scored by our prop Dave Shepherd, and a penalty saw us trailing 8-10 at the break but it was disappointing to let the Techatahs get another try on the board to lead by 15 -8. It was at this time that we came to life and with a sensational try to Chris Parker and another by one of the forwards saw us hit the front. It was then a matter of consolidating our position which we did we with determined defense and with another penalty to Geoff Devitt we trooped off the ground as winners for the first time this season and very pleased with our performance.

Rd 4 5/5/13	University Oval		University 23	Tech Waratahs 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Dave Shepherd	Brad Milner	Chris Parker	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (2)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Chris Parker			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Brad Ashe	Tom Moore	Jack Menzies	

### Firsts

The first-grade fixture was showed a real difference in styles with our forwards put under the pump by a very determined Techatahs forward pack who held the ball for long periods of time. This resulted in frustration on our part and then penalties being conceded.

On the other hand we were keen to get the ball wide at every opportunity but we struggled to keep possession with lots of dropped ball and mistakes. Our cause was not helped by the loss of Mark and Justin Placek to serious leg injuries and their experience was sorely missed.

The half time break saw us down by 12 nil and things only got worse when the Techatahs scored a third try to lead 0-19. Simon McVeigh, Charlie Freeman, Mitch Bell and new boy Karl Smith got us back in the game. Alex Van Dartel scored a converted try after a great run by Matt Lee and our confidence was soaring. Time was against us and even though we made some promising breaks we couldn't finish them off and so the final whistle blew and we came off the field disappointed with our performance but determined to do better in the coming rounds.

Rd 4 5/5/13	University Oval	University 7	Tech Waratahs 19
<b>Tries:</b>	Alex Van Dartel		
<b>Goals:</b>	Alex Sims (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Simon McVeigh		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Charlie Freeman	Karl Smith	Mitch Bell Alex Sims

### Rd. 5 - Engadine at Engadine

Engadine only have 2 teams in this year's competition, second grade and Colts, so it was a good chance to give guys with injuries a chance to recover. With this in mind we can never take the Lions for granted, especially when they play at home.

#### Colts Trial

In order to play as many of our guys as possible we arranged a match between the Lions colts and our third graders. Our numbers were a bit down and we started the game with the bare 15 and then added a couple of players as they arrived.

The Engadine Colts did have a few older guys in their side and it must be said that they held a significant weight advantage on our team across the park. Not to be outdone our players stuck to the task manfully and provided some stern opposition. Leading the way in the forward battle were newcomer Will Wood and try scorer Tom Moloney. In the backs we were always under pressure and a lack of experience in grade rugby sometimes showed out. Beau Shipley was strong in attack and defense while Colin Hammond-Tighe was a constant threat with ball in hand. The final score of 7-19 was a fair indication of the difference in the two teams.

On a less than happy note the game was spoiled to some degree by the attitude of a few players who earned the ire of the referee by what some might consider to be poor sportsmanship. A few yellow cards were handed out but a lot of the nonsense was totally unwarranted and spoiled what otherwise was a good game of rugby.

#### Seconds

On to the second-grade fixture and after a good win last week we were confident of a good showing against the Lions. The first half was a good one for the Mallee Bulls and we were able to score two excellent tries to Hori and Pat Perillo, both being converted by Geoff Devitt. Adam Wright and Jack Menzies were also playing well at this stage of the game.

What was in the water at half time needs to be analysed as we were a different side in the second stanza of play. The fact that the Engadine side was running with the wind at their back was a factor but we certainly didn't come out with the same enthusiasm as displayed in the first half. The Engadine full back was unstoppable and caused all sorts of problems in attack for our backs and he was ably supported by the Number 8 who was also dangerous with the ball. As a result we found ourselves down by 14-25 when we once again clicked into action and were able to get across the line with Hori Leef notching a double to see the final score of 21-25.

In summary it seemed as though this was a game that we could have won but failed to commit for the whole game and suffered as a result.

Rd 5 11/05 /13	Engadine	University 21	Engadine 25
<b>Tries:</b>	Hori Leef (2)	Pat Perillo	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Hori Leef		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Jack Menzies	Hori Leef	Adam Wright

### Rd. 6 - Shamrocks at University

The games against Shamrocks are always interesting affairs as they provide quality opposition and some very biased supporters. We were not to be disappointed this week.

#### Thirds

The day started in a very positive fashion as we were blessed with an abundance of players for the third-grade fixture. We had close to thirty players ready to take on the Green machine while the opposition looked quite light on numbers. Our only problem was that we had no front row. This meant that we had to play with only 14 players on the field as we chose to pay non contested scrums.

Normally this would be a big problem but not so for the fighting thirds as they more than matched the oppositions forward pack and then dominated in the backs. It was a pleasure to observe the boys show real flair with Colin Hammond-Tighe and Pauro Kemp both notching excellent tries. The battle up front got easier as the game went on and the Rocks forwards tended to get a tad fatigued. Scot Thornton showed the way and was rewarded with a try as was Dave Gardiner who came on in the second half. Another forward who stood out was Max Cowperthwaite who is improving every week.

A highlight of the game as the goal kicking of Pauro who converted the 4 tries, some of them from quite hard angles. All in all a great game to start the day for the Mallee Bulls.

Rd 6 18/05 /13	University Oval	University 28	Shamrocks 7
<b>Tries:</b>	Dave Gardiner	Pauro Kemp	Ben Nichols Colin Hammond-Tighe
<b>Goals:</b>	Paora Kemp (4)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Paora Kemp		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Scott Thornton	Paora Kemp	Max Cowperthaite

#### Seconds

However things soon turned ugly with the second graders being absolutely smashed by a relentless opponent. The boys had been performing reasonably so far this season with a good win and 3 close losses but their effort in this game was extremely disappointing. Guys who could hold their head high after the debacle were Ollie Farrugia who was under immense pressure at the back, youngster Harry Pitt in the front row and Brad Ashe who never stopped trying. No more needs to be said.

Rd 6 18/05 /13	University Oval	University 0	Shamrocks 90
<b>Tries:</b>	n/a		
<b>Goals:</b>	n/a	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Oli Farrugia		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Oli Farrugia	Brad Ashe	Will Wood

#### Firsts

The first graders were under the pump without coach McCreedy and manager Elson but Tanksy and Kippy did a commendable job in their absence.

The game started on an even footing but the Rocks gained a degree of control as the first half progressed. We made a number of breaks through Charlie Curry's excellent passing and Nick Ranguira's straight running but lacked support at key times while the Rocks were able to finish off their breaks with the backs showing real speed.

We were down 3 -17 when Charlie Freeman swooped on a pass and raced over under the posts to get us back in the game. Not long after Mitch Bell scored out wide and with the conversion by Simmsy we were all tied up with not long to go in the match. We were also getting on top in the scrums with Travis Hardaker standing out and looked good to score when a penalty went against us



when we were close to the line and from there on we couldn't apply the winning touch. Shamrocks scored a try to get back in the lead and into injury time scored another try out wide to deny us a much-deserved bonus point.

A real highlight of the match was the form of winger Rhys Bridges who took an incredible ball from a kickoff which would not gone astray at the Swans game at the SCG.

It was disappointing to lose the match but the effort was there and with everyone back on deck we will be very competitive in the upcoming games.

Rd 6 18/05 /13	University Oval	University 17	Shamrocks
<b>Tries:</b>	Mitch Bell	Charlie Freeman	
<b>Goals:</b>	Alex Sims (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Alex Sims (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Rhys Bridges		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Nic Rangiura	Travis Hardaker	Charlie Curry

### Rd 7. – Shoalhaven at Shoalhaven

Over the past three seasons the University and Shoalhaven clubs have played for the Foster Emery Cup when they clashed at the Shoalhaven Rugby Park. To put you in the picture Foster Emery was a sporting legend in cricket and rugby circles in the Nowra area and was very influential in getting the Shoalhaven club up and running. Foster also started the Soilco company and this is where the contest between the two clubs originated as Soilco is a major sponsor of both clubs. The Uni connection with Soilco goes back to our former player Charlie Emery, Foster's grandson, who looks after the Wollongong side of the Soilco Business empire.

#### **Seconds**

The second-grade fixture was closer than the score of 3 -47 indicated with the Uni team putting in a much more determined effort than the previous week. The fact that 10 player withdrew for various reasons between Thursday night and match day was a huge blow to the sides chances but they never gave up and were well in the match in the first half with Pete McGuirk and Jonathon Cudaj inspirational.

In the second half fatigue and lack of pace saw the Shoals seconds get on top but it was a real plus for the boys when Colin Hammond- Tighe showed a neat step to score under the posts to get us on the score board. While disappointing to lose the boys held their heads high and look forward to better things when all are back on deck.

Rd 7 25/05 /13	Shoalhaven Rugby Park	University 7	Shoalhaven 43
<b>Tries:</b>	Colin Hammond-Tighe		
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Peter McGuirk		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Peter McGuirk	Colin Hammond-Tighe	Jon Cudaj

#### **Firsts**

The two teams have had a mixed start to the season with some good wins but also some close defeats. It must be said that representative commitments and injuries have played a big part in some of these losses but Uni were fortunate to have three of their Country reps, Paul Tuala, Donny Nepia and Matt Lee back on the park for this vital clash.

The game was played in fine, sunny weather but the ground was wet in patches after a few days of heavy rain. The first half was only a couple of minutes old when a Shoalhaven player was issued a yellow card after a disagreement with a University forward. This set the tone for a real battle with play moving from one end of the field to the other but neither team was able to break the dead lock due to a mixture of poor finishing and desperate defense. Uni did have the best of the field position but the only try came about when Shoals were on the attack and evergreen Donny Nepia swooped

on a loose pass and sprinted away to score. It must be said that Donny was slightly tentative in his 'sprint' due to concerns he has over hamstring injuries. Donny's conversion sent the teams to the break with Uni holding a seven-point advantage.

The second half started with Shoals on the attack and only resolute tackling by Uni held them out. Eventually Uni regained control and a try to second rower Andrew Lindsay saw the lead go to 14 -0 but it was hard going for the Mallee Bulls.

Some straight running by centre Nick Rangiura and great support play by the forwards, led by Will Norrie and Mitch Bell, saw Uni begin to get on top which resulted in a try by hard working Prop Karl Smith. This meant that Uni were never going to get beaten but they were desperate to secure the vital bonus point. With the match winding down and time running out speedy winger Matt Lee held onto a pass and raced over to finish the scoring at 22- nil. Uni had won the match, secured a precious bonus point and also won the Foster Emery Cup for the first time. A great way to finish the day.

Rd 7 25/05 /13	Shoalhaven Rugby Park		University 22	Shoalhaven 0
<b>Tries:</b>	Andrew Lindsay	Donny Nepia	<b>Matt Lee</b>	<b>Karl Smith</b>
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Mitch Bell			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Mitch Bell	Will Norrie	Andrew Lindsay	

### **Rd. 8 - Camden at University**

It was a great day for Uni rugby when we took on the Camden Rams at Uni for a number of reasons. Firstly it was, I would have to say, the first time for a while that I had the feeling that we were coming together as a club. We had ample numbers for all grades, everyone played their part in helping with the off-field duties that needed to be done and did them well. Even the raffle was a success!

There was also no doubting the commitment shown on the field by all concerned. Camden is a strong club throughout the grades but we more than held our own in the earlier games and showed our grit and determination in First grade Players supported each other and it was great to see everyone lining up to clap the Uni teams on in all grades.

It was also great to welcome back our rep players. This allowed our lower grades to be strengthened as guys filtered back through the grades and certainly improved our performance overall. It was shattering however to see Paulie on crutches as this meant that he would miss the opportunity to play against the touring Lions but he will be back on the field in the near future.

It was also great to have Shaun and Piki back with us after the heartache they have endured over the last few weeks and I can imagine they were pleased to get back to some normalcy in their lives as well.

Lastly the ground was a picture and we are fortunate to be able to play at such a great venue. When you compare our change rooms to some clubs you appreciate the difference in standards. It also became so dark in first grade we turned on the lights and once again this demonstrated just how lucky we are as the lights enhanced the spectacle even more.

### **Thirds**

Thirds were up against last year's premiers and were not intimidated at all. In a great game of running rugby the action moved from one end of the field to the other. Camden got out to an early lead but the boys hung in and towards the end we were doing well enough to win the game. The forwards were always in the thick of the action, led by Scott Thornton who was everywhere, tackling, making breaks and securing the ball for his backs. Brad Milner had a mighty tussle with his opposite prop and did a great job in keeping his cool. In the end it got too much for one opposition player who showed a lack of discipline and earned the ire of the ref and ended up in the showers a tad early.

A try to Tom Garnett got us back in the game to be down 5 -17 and we proceeded to dominate for long periods with our centres Shipley and Schulz creating a few breaks with straight running. The game became quite exciting as Rob Davey got across the line after going close on a couple of occasions and with Wrighty' s conversion we were able to get to 12-17. Unfortunately, time was our enemy and we couldn't bridge the gap but a bonus point was a good reward for a satisfying effort.

Rd 8 01/06 /13	University Oval	University 12	Camden 17
<b>Tries:</b>	Tom Garrett	Rob Davey	
<b>Goals:</b>	Adam Wright		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Scott Thornton		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Scott Thornton	Adam Wright	Beau Shipley

### Seconds

The seconds match was a carbon copy of Thirds with a good Camden side getting in front and the good guys playing some attractive rugby but not getting there in the end. Once again it was a much better effort and we are steadily improving in all areas and a win is not far off.

One of the bright lights in the game was Jack Menzies who continues to impress and showed he was no Samson as the new haircut failed to take away his strength. It was also great to see Shep really step up and play one of his best games for a while as he showed real fight in all the tight stuff. In the backs Colin Hammond-Tighe showed skill in getting the backline functioning which resulted in good tries to Olly Farrugia and Rhys Bridges. The first-grade experience of Pat Perillo and Rhys really helped in making our side more competitive and they were always probing for a break. Late in the match at 10-17 were looking good for a draw when The Rams scored another try for a 24-10 victory but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Rd 8 01/06 /13	University Oval	University 10	Camden 24
<b>Tries:</b>	Oliver Farrugia	Rhys Bridges	
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Colin Hammond Tighe		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Jack Menzies	Colin Hammond-Tighe	Dave Shepherd

### Firsts

First grade ran out with Carson Crosse and Pete McGuirk making their debut in the run-on side, which is a huge achievement. We were back to nearly full strength and we needed to be as Camden are a very good side who have improved their squad from last year with a number of new players and a new Coach. The game was a battle of wills with neither side willing to give an inch. Play moved up and down the field but the defense on both sides was tight. Mitch Bell and Andrew Lindsay were prominent in the forwards while our scrum, anchored by Karl Smith and Hori Leef, was very solid. The rain which had started just before the game made the grass quite slippery and our backs were doing well under difficult conditions. Donny was instrumental in keeping Camden on the back foot with an excellent kicking game and Nic Rangiuiira appreciated having Jade Gardiner back on the field with him.

Camden were the first try scorers after a prolonged bit of pressure on our line but a couple of Donny's penalties kept us in the frame and the game was evenly poised.

In the second half we were getting field position and a great run by Matt Lee saw us go out to a lead of 13 - 7. It was then Camden's turn to apply pressure and from a maul close to the line their second rower barged across to reduce the lead to a single point. Luckily, the conversion was waved away and we had to withstand the pressure of knowing that even a penalty would cost us the game.

With time running out The Rams were on the attack when they kicked downfield and Justin Placek secured the ball and booted it into touch 5 meters from the line thinking that time had run out. To

his dismay the ref signaled the lineout and we were really under the screws. This is when good sides dig deep and this is exactly what we did. We held them out and repulsed everything they threw at us and as the whistle sounded JP was a very happy man.

Rd 8 01/06 /13	University Oval	University 13	Camden 12
<b>Tries:</b>	Matt Lee		
<b>Goals:</b>	Matt Lee (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (2)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Donny Nepia		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Mitch Bell	Nic Ranguira	Donny Nepia

### Rd. 2 – Rescheduled - 8 June at Avondale

Not many people know that there is a shield named in honor of Illawarra Rugby stalwart, John Hayne, that is played for on a weekly basis. The trophy starts the year with the premiers from the previous year and is only contested when they play at home. The shield is in its fourth year and the previous winners have all played in the grand final for that year - perhaps an omen?

The holders of the shield were Avondale until last week's game. It is somewhat appropriate that in the week that John Hayne passed away Uni secured the shield for the first time. It is now up to us to hold it in our three remaining home games.

Avondale at their home ground is never an easy or enjoyable assignment and to field three sides and play so competitively in all grades is a credit to all concerned. I know of a few clubs where the dreaded 'Avondale Flu' sweeps through the teams and numbers get low, but not at Uni.

The lower grade fixtures were nearly a mirror image of each other. Both the Avondale sides were undefeated and as always featured some very big, fast and experienced players, although it needs to be said that there was a smattering of young guys in the thirds.

#### **Thirds**

In the Thirties game we more than held our own for long periods of the game in defense but never really threatened their line. The forwards lead by Luke Symons, Scott Thornton and captain coach Beaver Tarlinton were magnificent in keeping their opposition forward pack honest. There were no easy tries presented and all can be proud of their efforts in the tight stuff. In the backs we were up against some very good players, some with first grade and rep experience and we did well to contain them. Beau Shipley was again a standout in the hard conditions and he was well supported by all his mates.

The 0-46 score was a fair indication of the match but we never stopped trying and did ourselves and the club proud.

Rd 2 – 08/06/13	Gerry Cappetta Oval	University 0	Avondale 46
<b>Tries:</b>	n/a		
<b>Goals:</b>		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Luke Symons		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Luke Symons	Scott Thornton	Beau Shipley

#### **Seconds**

Seconds lined up for their match but Avondale refused to shake hands - a sign of their lack of respect for the traditions of the game and their opponents. As usual they were huge, and intimidating and keen to smash people.

The first ten minutes of each half we were intimidated and smashed and conceded some soft tries and we could've been in for a mother of a hiding. It was at these points that a few blokes like Mark Freeman, Shep and Wrighty stood up and rallied the troops and we became a much more

determined group. Youngster Jack Menzies was again in good form as were Matt Horne and Colin H-T as we stayed in the contest for long periods and not conceding points.

It was fitting that we scored the last try of the match when Wrighty sprinted 90 **centimeters** to notch our five pointer as reward for the efforts of all concerned in the 5-55 defeat.

Rd 2 – 08/06/13	Gerry Cappetta Oval		University 5	Avondale 53
<b>Tries:</b>	Adam Wright			
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Adam Wright	Colin Hammond- Tighe		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Mark Freeman	Adam Wright	Dave Shepherd Jack Menzies Jon Cudaj	

### **Firsts**

When talking to the first graders before the game there was a n air of confidence among the group that for the first time for a while, we expected to beat the Avondale boys at their home ground. Things started poorly in the first half when we let them in for three tries and it seemed that our confidence was not matched by our defense. Our set piece work was great but it was only through the excellent kicking by Donny that we stayed in the game and at 15-23 at the break we were in a bit of strife.

The lollies at half time must have been very special this week because in the last 40 minutes we dominated the proceedings. Andrew Lindsay was outstanding in the lineouts and our scrum led by Hori Leef and Karl Smith was well on top. Our backs appreciated the good ball they received as the result of the tireless efforts of Charlie Freeman and his pack of 'brothers' with Jade Gardiner and Nic strong in attack and defense.

The fact that we only let them kick a penalty in this period showed our resolve to win the game and a try to 'Beef' which was converted and a couple of penalties by Donny saw us behind by a single point 25-26 with full time very close.

We were pressing their line when the ref looked at his watch and awarded us a penalty. In previous years we may have panicked a little and tried to pull off a miracle play but this season we are much more settled. We took the tap and big prop Karl Smith crashed over near the post for a great win. Congratulations to Will Wood and Jack Menzies who made their first-grade debuts in the match a daunting task against last year's premier team.

The beers tasted very sweet when we mingled with a number of familiar faces at the Dandaloo Pub and there was a big shout when we were presented with The John Hayne Shield for the first time. Hopefully, John had a smile on his face as well!

Rd 2 – 08/06/13	Gerry Cappetta Oval		University 29	Avondale 26
<b>Tries:</b>	Hori Leef	Karl Smith		
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Donny Nepia (5)	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Andrew Lindsay			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Karl Smith	Hori Leef	Charlie Freeman	

### **Rd 9 - Vikings at University**

Rugby is a funny game and often reflects the twists and turns of our everyday lives. The last couple of weeks we walked away from the games against Camden and Avondale with smiles on our faces after two last minute victories and thinking that rugby is the greatest game of all. Unfortunately, the game then turns around and bites you on the bum as was the case as the Vikings kicker, who hadn't kicked well all game, landed a goal from out on the sideline and into the wind to snatch a win from the jaws of defeat. I think this is one of the reasons people love sport in general.

### **Thirds**

The Thirsty Thirds started the day off with mixture of old and new players available to take on the old foe. It was good to see Killer and Niko don the boots and provide guidance to our less experienced players. The debutant, Andrew O'Neill, notched the only try for the side but he was certainly not on his own when it came to effort. Another two old stagers in Beaver Tarlinton and Sean Murray-Smith were always in the thick of the action and kept the pressure on the well drilled Vikings side. Scott Thornton was again one of the better players on the field and he certainly never takes a backward step in the battle for the ball. The final score of 5-29 was no real indication of the closeness of the teams and the Thirsties are certainly no push over.

<b>Rd 9 – 15/06 /13</b>	<b>University Oval</b>	<b>University 5</b>	<b>Vikings 29</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	Andrew O'Neill		
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Tarlinton	Sean Murray-Smith	
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	James Tarlinton	Sean Murray-Smith	Scott Thornton

### **Seconds**

Second grade showed a lot of determination but again couldn't get the points on the board. The ever-present Jack Menzies excelled and he was ably supported by Matt Horne and Steve Elson in the forward battle. Indeed Steve notched the only try for the Mallee Bulls as he streaked away and even his strained hamstring couldn't slow him down. The backs were able to play some good attacking rugby and with Adam Wright enjoying being back in the half-back role the Vikings couldn't relax as he probed for opportunities to score. The turning point in the game was when Mark Freeman had to leave the field with a dislocated elbow. He was having a magnificent game and we looked very capable of coming away with a victory when he was playing. Unfortunately, we couldn't maintain the pressure and we suffered as a result. The final score line was 5-31 but no easy points were given away. We trooped off once again on the losing end but the effort is there and we were not disgraced.

<b>Rd 9 – 15/06 /13</b>	<b>University Oval</b>	<b>University 5</b>	<b>Vikings 31</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	Steve Elson		
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Steve Elson		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Matt James	Brad Ashe	Adam Wright

### **Firsts**

The first-grade side was a confident one as they took on the Vikings side that were just behind us on the points table. From the opening whistle Vikings took the game to us and we found ourselves 10 points down after conceding a converted try and a penalty. This seemed to kick us into life and we scored two tries to hit the front by two points. The play was see-sawing from one end of the field to the other as both sides scored another try to see the Mallee Bulls in front 19-15 at the break. Jade Gardiner and Hori Leef were outstanding and were ably supported by Andrew Lindsay but it was hard to find a poor player on either side. Vikings started the second half full of enterprise and were the first to get across the line to again grab the lead. We found the going tough and the opposition again found a weak link in our defense and we were behind by ten points. This seemed to kick the boys into action once again and two tries in three minutes saw us hit the lead 31-25 and time was running out. We were unlucky when Andrew Lindsay just put a foot into touch as he crossed the try line which would've sealed the win but it was not to be.

Vikings have become a bit of a Houdini team as they have made a habit of scoring match winning tries in the last minutes of games. They were not going to die wondering and the boys didn't show enough respect for possession and unfortunately our tacking was a bit like touch. As the full-time whistle was about to blow the Vikings boys scored a try out on the Western sideline. It was a tough conversion into the wind and a long way from the posts. The crowd held their breath as the kick looked close but never seemed to be going over until the very last moment as it scrapped over the back dot.

All was not lost as managed to get 2 bonus points and our attack was first class as we scored some great tries by Matt Lee, The two Charlies, Freeman and Curry, Andrew Lindsay and Pat Perillo. Donny also managed to convert 3 of the tries.

It was disappointing to have to hand over the John Hayne Trophy after a very short stay at Uni but we hopefully will get the opportunity to get it back when we take on the 'Bluey's' at their home ground.

Rd 9 – 15/06 /13	University Oval		University 31	Vikings 32
<b>Tries:</b>	Charlie Freeman Andrew Lindsay	Matt Lee	Charlie Curry	Pat Perillo
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Andrew Lindsay			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Andrew Lindsay	Hori Leef	Jade Gardiner	

#### **Rd 10 - Kiama at Kiama Showground.**

Kiama has only two teams in the comp and are doing it tough but still are no pushovers as they have made all the top sides work hard for any wins. This was certainly the case as The Mallee Bulls encountered the Kiama Cows at their home paddock.

#### **Seconds**

The second-grade game was a turning point in the season for our guys. Wins have been few and far between but the guys have stuck at things and I could sense a win being not too far away as the troops gathered in threatening and inclement conditions. Our numbers were good and the Kiama guys looked as though they were not spending a lot of time on the training field. The game started at a frantic pace and it must be said Kiama were looking the more threatening as they ran with the advantage of a strong Southerly wind behind them. It was only some desperate defense that kept them at bay and things looked grim.

It was mid-way through the half that Jonathon Cudaj made a great break and sliced through to set up the opening try. This seemed to inspire the guys and we soon had three tries on the board with Oli Farrugia notching a double and Chris Parker also getting his name on the score sheet.

Running with the advantage of the wind in the second period of play we looked to put the Kiama team away but they came out firing and were back in the game after scoring two good tries. We were also missing the guiding hands of Steve Elson and Tom Honeysett in this period. A steadying penalty by Geoff Devitt saw us with an eight-point lead but the pressure was having an effect as we were making hard going of scoring points and defending our line. Alex Sims came on after being out with injury for a couple of weeks and his class in passing and kicking played a big part in our performance in the second half. Harry Pitt and Brad Ashe were working tirelessly in the forward tussle while Adam Wright defended stoutly and provided some good running from the full back position. A sin bin to Jonathon Lindsay and a misunderstanding when making replacements meant even higher blood pressure on the sideline as everyone was wishing our guys were home and hosed. It was a mix of joy and relief when the final whistle blew and the boys got to sing the club song for the first time in a while and they did sing with great gusto and joy.

Rd 10 – 15/6 /13	Kiama Showground		University 18	Kiama 10
<b>Tries:</b>	Oli Farrugia (2)	Chris Parker		
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt
<b>Players Player:</b>	Adam Wright			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Harry Pitt	Adam Wright	Brad Ashe	

### Firsts

Firsts took to the field and running with the wind went out to a handy 17-point lead after two entertaining tries and a Donny penalty. Jade Gardiner was running amok and proving nearly impossible to tackle and he was ably supported by his centre partner, Nic Ranguiera. With half time approaching we fell off the pace and all of a sudden Kiama were back in the game after scoring two converted tries.

The second half was certainly close for the first 20 minutes with the teams swapping penalty goals but then fitness and maturity came to the fore as our pack led by Beef, Karl Smith, Mitch Bell and Charlie Freeman took control. The fact that we scored another three tries saw the score line blow out to 40 -17, which really didn't reflect how hard we had to play to get over a very determined Kiama outfit.

Our try scorers included four forwards in Travis Hardaker, Hori Leef, Andrew Lindsay and Will Norrie with Jade being rewarded with a try for his outstanding display. Donny was also in fine form with the boot kicking 3 conversions and 3 penalties.

Rd 10 – 15/6 /13	Kiama Showground		University 40	Kiama 17
<b>Tries:</b>	Travis Hardaker	Will Norrie	Andrew Lindsay	Jade Gardiner
	Hori Leef			
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (3)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Charlie Freeman			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Hori Leef	Mitch Bell	Karl Smith Nik Ranguiera	

### Rd 11 – Avondale - Washed out

### Rd. 12 - Bowral / Wollondilly at University

One never knows what is going to happen to Uni Rugby during the holidays as far as numbers go and coming into the games the situation was even more unsure as we had not played the previous week due to wet weather.

### Thirds

Fortunately, we were able to scrape together two reasonably strong teams so all was well. The Third graders were up against a Wollondilly side that looked very strong in the first round. Their forward were big but not very fit but their backs were quite classy. It's funny that the only games they have won were against the Mallee Bulls. I can only surmise that the other clubs use higher grade players as the Wollondilly side is better than their form suggests. Captain Courageous Beaver Tarlinton, who has progressed from first grade winger to third grade hooker, led the team superbly and he was rewarded with a much deserved five pointer.

His efforts were matched by Sean Murray-Smith in the backline while Adam Wright also sparked our attack from the back. We were outplayed mainly by their NO 10 who was very quick and elusive as were some of his outside backs. They were able to score 38 points with some entertaining tries but our blokes kept coming back and were able to notch two other tries to James Bull and Rob Davey. The final score of 17-38 showed that the pride was there but we lacked the individual brilliance to get us across the line.



Rd 12 – 6/7 /13	University Oval	University 17	Wollondilly 38
<b>Tries:</b>	James Tarlinton	James Bull	Rob Davey
<b>Goals:</b>	Adam Wright (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Tarlinton		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	James Tarlinton	Adam Wright	Sean Murray-Smith

### Seconds

The Second graders took on the Bowral Blacks and we were able to muster a few new faces to don the Mallee Bulls jumper as well as a couple of first graders who needed a run. Of the new faces Lincoln Bendall-Moon was devastating crossing for 4 tries and kicking a conversion while it was good to welcome back Ryan Cush for a guest appearance and he also scored a try. Other players to get their name on the score sheet were Hori Leef, Ash Mason, Nik Rangiura and Pauro Kemp. Young Pauro is a guy with a big future and he more than holds his own playing with the senior teams The score line of 45 nil was a good one for the second graders as they are slowly marching up the competition table after a difficult start to the year.

Rd 12 – 6/7 /13	University Oval	University 45	Bowral 0
<b>Tries:</b>	Lincoln Bendall-Moon (4)	Hori Leef	Ryan Cush Nic Rangiura
<b>Goals:</b>	Lincoln Bendall-Moon (1) Paora Kemp (3)	Ash Mason (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Paora Kemp		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Paora Kemp	Hori Leef	Ash Mason

### Rd 13 – Tech Waratahs at Saunders Oval.

#### Thirds

Oh to be a third-grade coach at Uni during the holidays. The big discussion on Thursday night was not about tactics but whether we would forfeit or not. In the end it was great to see thirds arrive in numbers and even have a couple of extra guys on the bench.

It would have been difficult to match the numbers from Techatahs who ran out of space on the bench and even the team sheet as they had a cast of thousands on deck eager for a game. It must be noted that their numbers included a host of former stars who have completely dominated the grade throughout the season so we knew it was going to be a tough ask to match them but we certainly did our best.

Captain Beaver again was the standout player and he is developing a swerve and extra pace as he was again on the score sheet as our solo try scorer. Two in two weeks and there is certainly life left in those old legs. It was a battle to get the ball and then maintain it and we struggled but never gave an inch. Sean Murray-Smith was always in the action and even old stager Stucks relished the opportunity to get another game under his belt. A youngster who also showed some good form was Corey Daniela but the standout forward on the day was prop Luke Symons. In the end we were on the wrong side of a big score, 5-62, but we got a side on the field and continued the tradition of always fulfilling our obligation to other clubs and playing the game.

Rd 13 – 13/7 /13	Saunders Oval	University 5	Tech Waratahs 62
<b>Tries:</b>	Andrew Stuckey		
<b>Goals:</b>	<b>Pen Goals:</b>		
<b>Players Player:</b>	Luke Symons		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	James Tarlinton	Sean Murray-Smith	Corey Daniella

### Seconds

Second grade was in a stronger position in that we only had to double up a couple of players. Killer Grennell even took on the role of second rower and did a commendable job. We started the game

full of running and streaked away to an impressive lead. The work of the loose forwards in Scott Thornton, Will Norrie and Brad Ashe was instrumental in getting us the ball and we were able to apply pressure. We scored five tries to lead 35-7 and all looked good in the world. It was at this stage of the game that the wheels fell off and the Techtahs guys came back. They have not won many games this year and are basically a young side made up of guys who seemingly can't get a run in thirds but they certainly came alive in the second half. There were worried looks on the Uni bench as the game became close and finally it was 35-35. We looked done and dusted until a cool head in Geoff Devitt took control. A couple of long-range penalties saw us hit the front and we finished the scoring by scoring our sixth try on the bell for a great win 49-35.

Our try scorers were Scott Thornton, Tom Honeysett, Adam Wright, Andy Bray, Carson Crosse and the Beaver (again), while Geoff converted 5 of the tries and kicked 3 penalties.

Rd 13 – 13/7 /13	Saunders Oval		University 49	Tech Waratahs 35
<b>Tries:</b>	Scott Thornton Tom Honeysett	Adam Wright James Tarlinton	Andrew Bray	Carson Crosse
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (5)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (3)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Geoff Devitt			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Scott Thornton	Geoff Devitt	Will Norrie Lincoln Bendall-Moon	

### Firsts

It has been a long time between victories against Techtahs in first grade. Indeed our last success was in May 2009 (17-16). Some of our players have never tasted victory so we were keen to get over this big hurdle. It must be said that Techtahs have lost some of their strength this year especially in the backs but they are still a proud outfit so wins have to be earned.

We started positively, especially in defense, and then scored a couple of tries and a penalty to go in front by 17 points. But back came Techtahs and we let them back in the game and at halftime the score was only 17-12. The message from the coach was to respect the ball more and we did this in the second half and ran out winners 41-19.

Charlie Freeman showed his commitment to the cause by driving back from Wagga for the game and he was his usual busy self consistently getting the ball and putting much bigger players on the deck. It was also good to see Simon McVeigh back and he was a big influence in our performance. The one area that we have improved in is the scrum and we not only held our own but we actually got on top and this was a huge turnaround from previous seasons. Well done to Karl Smith, Travis Hardaker and Steve Elson for their performances which went a long way to securing the victory. With so much ball Donny Nepia was at his best setting up tries with great passes and excellent kicking, while Jade Gardiner in the centers was also very strong in attack and defense. Our tries were scored by Karl Smith, Will Wood, Matt Lee, Ash Mason and Justin Placek while Donny kicked 4 conversions and a penalty. The only sour points in the game was Steve Elson coming off with a broken bone in his hand and James Bartlett not being there so we could discuss the highlights of the game with him over a beer.

Rd 13 – 13/7 /13	Saunders Oval		University 41	Tech Waratahs 19
<b>Tries:</b>	Karl Smith Will Woods	Matt Lee Justin Placek	Nik Rangiuira	Ash Mason
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (4)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Charlie Freeman			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Charlie Freeman	Hori Leef	Jade Gardiner	

## Rd 14 - Engadine at Uni.

### **Seconds**

It is hard to get too excited about playing Engadine as they only have one grade but the boys certainly put the opposition to the sword in a very clinical display of attacking rugby. It must be said that the team we put on the field was a true second grade team with no first graders in the fold so the win really was impressive.

The fact that we had been beaten in the first round by Engadine indicates just how much the side had developed over the last few weeks. Four wins in a row also shows our progress since some of our disastrous efforts earlier in the season.

The game started positively with the forwards really 'owning' the scrum with Beaver Tarlinton, Brad Milner and Zac Gorman well on top in the forward battle. Brad Ashe and Will Norrie also contributed to the effort and the backs were given some excellent ball to work with. Adam Wright was in devastating form and was a constant menace to the Engadine backs and his two tries were a pleasure to watch. Another player to benefit from the work of the forwards was Olly Farrugia who also notched a double. His efforts were matched by the other winger, Jack Hartigan, who got on the score sheet with a well-deserved try. The only forward who crossed for a try was Chris Parker but he was a part of a very good forward pack and the 40-7 score line showed just how dominant we were. The Engadine guys never stopped trying and had some good running backs but our defense more than contained them, especially the Fijian Flyer who did so much damage in the previous encounter. All in all a good result.

Rd 14 – 20/7 /13	University Oval		University 40	Engadine 14
<b>Tries:</b>	Adam Wright (2)	Oli Farrugia (2)	Jack Hartigan	Chris Parker
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (5)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Adam Wright			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Adam Wright	James Tarlinton	Zac Gorman	

Looking back over the holiday and exam period which ends this week we have performed quite well, which is not always the case. A quick summary looks like this:

Firsts: Played 4 -won 3 Seconds: Played 6 Won 4 Thirds: Played 4 Won 0.

We have also played all our matches and didn't have to have too many people back up for extra games. A very pleasing club effort.

## Rd. 15 - Shamrocks at Ocean Park.

Holidays are something that everyone looks forward to with great anticipation and are usually thoroughly enjoyable but this is certainly not the case for the coaches and officials running Uni Rugby. As Saturday marked the finish of the Uni break we all thought that we had survived another horror period without a lot of distress and things would be back to normal operation. It seems, however, that someone forgot to tell the players that they could come back to Wollongong a day or so earlier and help out their mates and so the lower grades really had to rely on a few people putting in an effort above and beyond the call of duty.

This being said those guys who did play on Saturday did a great job in ensuring we carried on our tradition of not forfeiting and fulfilling our commitments and the club really respects their efforts.

### **Thirds**

The third graders were looking forward to matching up against Shamrocks as they were the team that we had beaten quite convincingly in the first round. Player numbers were down and it was all hands-on deck as Coach Beaver tried to organise something of a team to go on the park and it was no easy task. It was great to see Shaun Dutailis back on deck and he did an excellent job in his first match back from his knee operation in a Man of the Match display

Things started badly and then got worse as injuries to our three front rowers early in the game made the job so much more difficult. Adding to our woes was the fact that the Shamrocks first grade

winger thought that he would have a game and caused us all sorts of problems. To the guys credit we stuck at the task and even scored a good try to Kieran McEvoy to get on the board but it was a long day at the office for all concerned with the Shamrocks pack dominating possession and their backs running at will despite the gallant efforts of Hayden McDuff and others. It amazes me to see Beaver stay so calm and positive each week in dealing with all the drama involved in coaching Thirds and then leading from the front and always giving 100% and never giving in. A true inspiration to those around him. The fact that we lost 5-72 reflects the difference having fresh players make in games and it is something we need to ensure we take on board.

Rd 15- 27/7/13	Ocean Park	University 5	Shamrocks 72
<b>Tries:</b>	Kieran McEvoy		
<b>Goals:</b>	<b>Pen Goals:</b>		
<b>Players Player:</b>	Shaun Dutailis		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	James Tarlinton	Shaun Dutailis	Heydn McDuff

### Seconds

There was discussion among the officials about whether we should forfeit second grade as we only had five fresh faces ready to take on the Shamrocks side that had beaten us 90-0 in the first round. After a lot of soul searching, we did take the field and even some of the injured warriors from Thirds put their boots back on to help out.

Things started well and we hit the front thanks to a runaway try from Kieran McEvoy that was converted by Pat Perillo, who has not been wasting his time watching the Cringila soccer boys kick the ball. It was from then on that we more than matched the opposition and really took the game to them. It was a fantastic effort as we scored another try and a conversion by Pat who also put over a penalty to get us even at 17 points apiece. It was then that fatigue set in and the score did blow out to 17-53 but we applauded the efforts of everyone on the field for a truly courageous effort against the odds. President Bob was so impressed he bought all the guys a well-deserved beer.

Rd 15- 27/7/13	Ocean Park	University 17	Shamrocks 53
<b>Tries:</b>	Kieran McEvoy	Pat Perillo	
<b>Goals:</b>	Pat Perillo (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Pat Perillo
<b>Players Player:</b>	Brad Ashe	Killian Grennell	
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Brad Ashe	Chris Parker	Killian Grennell Pat Perillo

### Firsts

First grade had some new faces in the backs with Charlie Curry back from injury and debutant Jack Shaw playing on the wing. We were quietly confident going into the game and this confidence was warranted when we ran into the wind and led at half time by 5 to nil after a Matt Lee try.

Rugby is a funny game and after the break we were under intense pressure for long periods where we found it nearly impossible to get out of our 22. We had to defend and defend but we never relented and the forwards were superb with the tight five really showing grit and determination not to let the Rocks cross our line. The unsung heroes in Karl Smith, Hori Leef, Travis Hardaker, Will Wood and Mitch Bell surprised the Shamrocks coaches who really believed they would dominate us in this area. In the backs Nik Ranguira was a standout tackler and Will Norrie also put the opposite backs under the pump.

On one occasion when we did get the chance to attack, we were able to get Donny Nepia in some space and he scored wide out to give us a ten-point buffer. But from this point the Rocks applied the screws and once again it was all hands-on deck to repel their attacks. The penalty count was mounting against us and it would have been easy to lose our discipline but we hung tough and

continued to soak up the pressure. Ultimately the Rocks did force their way over and the conversion made the score 10-7 and with time left things looked dodgy.

It was then that the pressure was released when we scored perhaps the try of the year from deep in our territory. The move was finished off by Ash Mason but there were plenty of others who had a hand in the try which set up the ten-point lead that we maintained to the end. A truly gutsy performance by all. Coach McCreedy described the defense the best he has seen in his three years in charge but I would rate it as the best tackling performance I've witnessed in ten years or more. High praise indeed.

Rd 15- 27/7/13	Ocean Park	University 17	Shamrocks 7
<b>Tries:</b>	Donny Nepia	Matt Lee	Ash Mason
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Hori Leef	Will Woods	Mitch Bell
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Nic Ranguira	Hori Leef	Charlie Freeman

### Rd 16 - Shoalhaven at Uni.

#### Seconds

Seconds started the day with a full team which was a great relief to all concerned after the holiday break. We were even able to call on the skill and experience of Alex Sims and Jack Borg who both played extremely well against quality opposition. The fact that we were always under the pump meant that the Shoals team were in control but it needs to be said that we never stopped trying and kept them honest. We were able to get across the line when Jack Borg dived over and with Geoff Devitt's conversion, we were able to put a smile on Coach Kipp's face at the end. With Tom Honeysett as always leading from the front and Geoff Devitt showing the backs the way to play, we came away with our heads up despite losing 7-32.

Rd 16- 3/8 /13	University Oval	University 7	Shoalhaven 32
<b>Tries:</b>	Jack Borg		
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Alex Sims		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Alex Sims	Jack Borg	Tom Honeysett

#### Firsts

Watching Uni Firsts take on Shoals was like viewing a Jekyll and Hyde movie. The Defense that was so impressive the week before at Ocean Park was like a sieve with points coming at a ridiculous rate. I'm not sure whether the attractions on the sideline at Ladies Day were too distracting or the players' minds weren't on the job but we were in the end fortunate to come away with a win. It must also be noted that the Shoalhaven side is in good form at the present time and were playing for a place in the semis and they really kept the pressure on us for the whole game. We were also missing some key players in Beef and JP, who came off injured, but we need to get back into defending like we know we can.

We started poorly with their elusive centre tying us in knots for the first try. We then settled and were able to get back into our patterns and apply our own pressure. We did this through some good tries to Andrew Lindsay, JP and new boy Jack Shaw, who is rapidly coming to grips with rugby. We were in front 17 -12 at the halftime break and things looked under control. We then came out and a penalty to Donny Nepia and another great try to Andrew Lindsay from the back of the scrum got us into a winning position. It was here that the wheels fell off and the Shoals backs ran riot. We soon found ourselves behind 25-36 and the coaches were scratching their heads looking for answers.

Luckily, we were able to regain our composure and two converted tries to dashing Karl Smith and Matty Lee saw us hit the front 39-36 with time running out. Shoals were playing for their season and attacked from everywhere and this style of play got them to within 5m of our line.

A serious injury to one of their players saw a long break until the ambulance arrived. Six minutes were left and the lights were on when the game restarted. It was hearts in mouths stuff as the Shoalhaven players kept the game near our try line. They turned down some opportunities to kick a penalty and in the end the clock was our friend and we finished the game three-point winners. Our forwards were the cornerstone of our win with Lindsay, Charlie Freeman, Karl Smith and Simon McVeigh totally committed to dealing with the giant Shoalhaven pack. Our backs were great with the ball in hand but boy do we need to look at the tackling part of the game.

Rd 16- 3/8 /13	University Oval		University 39	Shoalhaven 36
<b>Tries:</b>	Andrew Lindsay (2) Justin Placek	Karl Smith	Matt Lee	Jack Shaw
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Andrew Lindsay			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Andrew Lindsay	Karl Smith	Charlie Freeman	

### Rd. 11 - Washed Out Game - Avondale at University

What can one say as we were well and truly beaten in last week's matches against the three teams that will probably finish as Minor premiers in all grades. It is always difficult to handle defeat but it was obvious that the reaction was different in the lower grades compared to firsts. This was mainly due to the fact that realistically only the staunchest Uni supporter gave us a hope in hell of winning the third and second grade games due to the mismatch between the two opponents in size etc. but first grade needed to win their game to secure a high semifinal spot and were truly shattered to be so comprehensively beaten.

#### **Thirds**

In the Third-grade game we started poorly and leaked points at a rapid rate which saw us go to the break trailing 0-41. Missed tackles, poor handling and lots of mistakes were the order of the day and things looked bleak. What was said by the coaches saw a dramatic turnaround round as the second half display was inspiring to watch as David took on Goliath and actually matched them. Lead by Michael Mamatta and Sean Murray-Smith our guys tackled strongly and showed real determination to take it to the opposition. A good try to Evan McWhirter was a fitting reward for another gutsy display on his part and we led the scoring for a long time. Eventually we were worn down by the Wombats but they struggled to score and the final score of 5-51 indicates just how good the second half performance was by all the players. Avondale's frustration was exposed by a pushing and shoving match at the conclusion of the game and our players showed great restraint and common sense in the situation.

Rd 11- 17/8 /13	University Oval		University 5	Avondale 53
<b>Tries:</b>	Evan McWhirter			
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Michael Mamatta			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Michael Mamatta	Sean Murray-Smith	Evan McWhirter	

#### **Seconds**

Seconds unfortunately had to have some guys back up as they took on the team that has only lost one game in three seasons so it was not an ideal way the start the match. Coach Cristo took his spot in the second row and with Luke Symons and Beaver provided the nucleus of a very good

performance by the forwards in the battle upfront, In saying this we can't hide the fact that we were outclassed by the Wombats in most parts of the game. That being said we were able to notch 5 tries against them and so secure a bonus point, something that lots of teams struggle to do. Olly Farrugia and Pat Perillo were always keen to run the ball and both crossed for doubles while Adam Wright was awarded a penalty try right on fulltime and with Geoff Devitt's two conversions, we managed 29 points, something to be quite proud about. This total would have been even higher when you consider that Pat's long ranch field goal attempt just missed. In reality it was a shocker and shows just how little Pat has picked up as far as kicking goes after spending time as a sports injury specialist with a local soccer team. We were beaten 29-85 but still were able to find positives in our performance and the guys need to be recognized for their efforts.

Rd 11- 17/8 /13	University Oval		University 29	Avondale 85
<b>Tries:</b>	Oliver Farrugia (2)	Pat Perillo (2)	Pen Try	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Oliver Farrugia			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Luke Symons		James Tarlinton Kieran McEvoy Oliver Farrugia	

### **Firsts**

It was a different scenario in the first-grade game where held our own for the first half but then fell away in the second forty minutes to see us leave the field losing 65-12, our worst performance in a long time. I think most of the players were very disappointed and somewhat embarrassed in their games and it showed on their faces as they looked at the score board at the end of the game. We were missing players but they would not have affected the score by that much. We did score two tries, one each to Jack Shaw and Nic Rangiuiira, but we let in too many easy tries to what is a very slick opposition backline. One of the few positives to come out of the game was the work of the forwards, especially in the scrum, where we started to gain a dominance as the game went on, but it was not enough.

Halfback, Alex Sims, stood tall in the tackling department and Jade Gardiner and Nic were able to show patches of good play but overall it was a very disappointing day at the office.

Rd 11- 17/8 /13	University Oval		University 12	Avondale 65
<b>Tries:</b>	Nik Rangiuiira	Jack Shaw		
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Donny Nepia			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Jade Gardiner	Nik Rangiuiira	Andrew Lindsay	

### **Rd 17 - Camden at Camden.**

#### **Thirds**

Third grade was a revelation this week with the entire team showing 'True Grit' and determination for the whole game. We even hit the front early on and gave the Camden Guys a real shock but their experience, size and teamwork got them the points with a 28-45 win. A four try bonus point was a just reward for all the effort we put in and we came away really proud of what we had achieved in the game. Our tries were scored by Pauro Waaka, Carl Schulz, Jayden McDuff and Harry Pitt and all of them were converted by Hayden McDuff and Kieran McEvoy. The hardest job for the coaching staff was picking the best and fairest points as everyone had really put in. Luke Symons, Hayden, Harry Pitt, Corey Daniela and Kieran McEvoy plus so many others really earned the respect of all who witnessed the performance.

Rd 17-10/8 /13	Camden Rugby Park		University	Camden
<b>Tries:</b>	Harry Pitt	Paora Waaka	Carl Schulz	Haydn McDuff
<b>Goals:</b>	Haydn McDuff (2)	Kieran McEvoy (2)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Harry Pitt			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Kieran McEvoy	Harry Pitt	Luke Symons	

### Seconds

The Seconds were again up against a team chasing the premiership and we were always going to struggle. We only had a couple of guys play a second game for the day with one of them, Hayden McDuff, even scoring the team's only try. Pat Perillo, Killer Grennell and Shep were always giving a 100% and Zac Gorman deserves recognition for his tireless work in the tight stuff but the 7-62 score showed the difference between the two sides.

Rd 17-10/8 /13	Camden Rugby Park		University 7	Camden 62
<b>Tries:</b>	Haydn McDuff			
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Pat Perillo			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Pat Perillo	Killian Grennell	Dave Shepherd Zac Gorman Geoff Devitt	

### Firsts

If last week was like watching a Jekyll and Hyde movie this week was even worse as it was more of a disaster movie with a roller coaster going out of control. Sometimes we were on the crest of the ride but then just as quickly we were speeding down heading for a crash. The coaches must be very perplexed as we can be so good with the ball in hand but then go off the boil and let the opposition team back into games. Perhaps we need to be more desperate and ruthless.

The start of the show was disappointing with the Camden guys totally dominating from the kickoff and after ten minutes we were 14 points down and things looked grim. We then got our heads back on the job and we able to get back into the game to hit the lead 17-14 with tries to Alex Sims and Jack Shaw plus a penalty to Donny Nepia but then Mr. Hyde turned up again and we switched off mentally. This resulted in a try that saw the Rams hit the front but even worse was to follow when with time up in the first half the Camden backs scored what was a simple try to go in at half time leading 17-28.

We came out and once again showed that we can match any side to get back in the game with a try and a couple of Donny penalties. It was here that the roller coaster ride turned into a disaster for the Mallee Bulls as we let in some very easy tries that saw us well and truly out of the game. The score was 57-28 but to our credit we again clicked into gear and were desperate to score a fourth try and get a bonus point. As time ran out Jack Shaw crossed for the try we needed and at least we came away with a point for our efforts. On the plus side Charlie Freeman and Alex Sims were outstanding in defense while our scrum was more than competitive. It was a hard baptism in first grade for Chris Parker but he never stopped trying and we look forward to getting some players back on deck in the next few weeks.

Rd 17-10/8 /13	Camden Rugby Park		University 33	Camden 57
<b>Tries:</b>	Jack Shaw (2)	Andrew Lindsay	Alex Sims	
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (2)	<b>Pen Goals:</b> Donny Nepia (3)		
<b>Players Player:</b>	Chris Parker			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Charlie Freeman	Alex Sims	Jack Shaw	



### Rd. 18 – Vikings at Vikings Oval

It is always a challenge to venture to Vikings as they defend their home ground with pride and passion. This was even more so in first grade this week as they were playing for the semifinal position.

#### **Thirds**

We took the field with a put together team after there was some discussion of forfeiting. It was again a matter of everyone trying hard but we couldn't match the opposition who are in the semis and have obviously been training more that we have for a long period of time. Guys who stood out for the Mallee Bulls were Haydn McDuff, Beau Shipley and Luke Symons, who continues to impress good judges with his skill and determination.

Rd 18- 24/8 /13	Vikings Oval	University 0	Vikings 65
<b>Tries:</b>	n/a		
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Luke Symons		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Luke Symons	Jinbin Liang	Haydn McDuff

#### **Seconds**

Second grade were again very brave in defeat but the score of 5 -55 reflected the difference between the two teams. We just could not keep possession for long periods and suffered when under pressure. Killer did get his name on the sheet with a try but we were always doing it tough. This being said a lot of guys put their hand up, especially guys like Zac Gorman, Brad Milner and Tom Moloney who backed up from thirds. Others to show out included Jonathon Lindsay who is following in brother Andrew's footsteps as he packed down as Number 8.

It has been a tough year for the lower Grades but we only have ourselves to blame in some ways as we fell away from our attendance at Training and even turning up to games. We do have enough players to get into a higher position on the ladders but we really do need to be more dedicated and committed next season.

Rd 18- 24/8 /13	Vikings Oval	University 5	Vikings 55
<b>Tries:</b>	Killian Grennell		
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Killian Grennell		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Jack Menzies		Zac Gorman Brad Milner Tom Maloney Jon Lindsay

#### **Firsts**

We started as warm favorites mainly due to the fact that the Vikings side had been ravaged by injuries but we found ourselves behind 0-13 after 20 minutes and we did indeed look as though we were following the script from our last two weeks' efforts.

A little bit of experience and guile saw us gradually get into the game with a penalty to Donny Nepia. This was followed by a well-deserved try to the tireless Charlie Freeman as the half time mark approached. This got us back in the game and certainly made the break a more positive one. We built upon this in the second stanza where we scored some excellent tries to Hori Leef, Nic Rangiuiira and Matt Lee. The three tries were converted by Alex Sims (2) and Ash Mason (1) and we were in front 29- 16.

With time running out the Vikings players made one last effort and scored on fulltime and the successful conversion saw them gain a bonus point that put them into the semis where they will play us again this Sunday. Our improved performance might be attributed to the fact that we had a number of players back on deck in Alex Van Dartel, JP, Beef, Steve Elson and Ash. All of these guys made significant contributions to our performance and with the game under their belt they will be even more dangerous in the coming weeks.

Rd 18- 24/8 /13	Vikings Oval	University 29	Vikings 23
<b>Tries:</b>	Hori Leef	Charlie freeman	Matt Lee Nik Ranguira
<b>Goals:</b>	Alex Sims (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Donny Nepia (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Hori Leef		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Hori Leef	Alex Van Dartel	Nik Ranguira

### Semi Final v Vikings at Shoalhaven.

Here we go again. We had finished in fourth spot again and had to travel away to play a tough semifinal on a Sunday. This was a bit of déjà vu as we had done this numerous times over the last four or five seasons.

Our opponent this time was Vikings and we were not lacking in confidence after beating them quite easily the previous week.

However Rugby is a funny game and over confidence can come back and bite you on the bum quite easily. We knew that a number of Vikings star players were under injury clouds but realising that it was do or die they were going to play if at all possible.

Coach McCreedy was determined to leave no stone unturned so the boys all travelled down on a bus but the feeling in the team was that this was not a road trip but just a means of getting the job done.

### Squad List

#### First Grade Squad

(1) <b>Travis Hardaker</b>	(2) <b>Hori Leef</b>	(3) <b>Karl Smith</b>
(4) <b>Will Woods</b>	(5) <b>Alex Van Dartel</b>	
(6) <b>Will Norrie</b>	(8) <b>Andrew Lindsay</b>	(7) <b>Charlie Freeman</b>
(9) <b>Alex Sims</b>	(10) <b>Donny Nepia</b>	
(12) <b>Jade Gardiner</b>	(13) <b>Nik Ranguira</b>	
(11) <b>Matt Lee</b>	(15) <b>Justin Placek</b>	(14) <b>Jack Shaw</b>
(16) <b>Charlie Curry</b>	(17) <b>Chris Parker</b>	(18) <b>Simon McVeigh</b>
(19) <b>Jack Borg</b>	(20) <b>Will Aisake</b>	
(21) <b>Pete McGuirk</b>	(22) <b>Adam Wright</b>	(23) <b>Steve Elson</b>

The game started at a frenetic pace and the major turnaround obvious was that our backline defense lead by Jade and Nick was not going to allow Vikings any latitude. This was one area that showed a marked improvement, especially in attitude.

Our forwards gained the upper hand in the set pieces and at breakdowns and then the backs passed with precision and ran great lines to put the Blues backline under pressure. This resulted in five excellent tries being scored by the backs. Nepia, Sims, Ranguira, Shaw and Placek were the names on the score sheet and all of them were backs. The only interloper was Andrew Lindsay who showed enough pace to suggest that he should perhaps be in the backline as he sprinted across for the only try scored by a forward.

All of the other points were scored by Simsy who took over the kicking duties from Donny and he booted four conversions and a penalty to show that he handles pressure well for such a young player.

The only low point of the game came when Alex Van Dartel was tackled in a dubious manner and ended with a severe concussion. There was a great deal of concern by his mates but the incident only made the guys so much more determined to finish Viking's season early.

In a game we dominated Vikings did trot out players who were not fully fit as they were desperate to win. This was not to be as, in a very complete performance, we really showed our class and made the remaining teams in the comp sit up and take notice. The way we played suggested that we had returned to somewhere near our best form and with more players such as Paul Tuala coming back from injury we were in a good place.

The bus trip home was not one where people were celebrating outrageously as everyone realised that this was just one step towards our final goal - the premiership.

#### **Semifinal v Shamrocks 8th September.**

Uni first grade had to dig deep to overcome a very determined opponent in Shamrocks when they contested the semifinal at Vikings. Shamrocks had been depleted by a number of injuries over the last two weeks but we know they show a lot of pride in their jumper and never give in without a fight.

Our squad was disrupted by some last-minute withdrawals but we looked confident in the warm-up. One of the pluses for the club is that we have an excellent bench who are all more than capable of doing the job required when called on.

#### *First Grade Squad*

(1) <b>Travis Hardaker</b>	(2) <b>Hori Leef</b>	(3) <b>Karl Smith</b>
(4) <b>Will Woods</b>		(5) <b>Jack Borg</b>
(6) <b>Will Norrie</b>	(8) <b>Andrew Lindsay</b>	(7) <b>Charlie Freeman</b>
(9) <b>Alex Sims</b>		(10) <b>Donny Nepia</b>
(12) <b>Jade Gardiner</b>		(13) <b>Nik Ranguira</b>
(11) <b>Matt Lee</b>	(15) <b>Justin Placek</b>	(14) <b>Jack Shaw</b>
(16) <b>Charlie Curry</b>	(17) <b>Chris Parker</b>	(18) <b>Simon McVeigh</b>
(19) <b>Ash Mason</b>		(20) <b>Will Aisake</b>
(21) <b>Pete McGuirk</b>	(22) <b>Adam Wright</b>	(23) <b>Steve Elson</b>

The game started with Uni running with a slight breeze and we looked in total control for the first 20 minutes of the match. We maintained possession for long periods, we played the game in their territory and we defended strongly when we had to do any tackling.

Things were going to plan as we took the early lead with a penalty to Alex Sims and a good team try to Jack Shaw on the wing but then we seemed to relax and we suddenly found ourselves under the pump.

It must be said that in the last section of the first half we could have been blown away as the Rocks started to gain some momentum. The Shamrock's kicker narrowly missed a number of relatively easy penalties before the Rocks attack saw them score a try to get on the board. The real problem for us, however, was that we couldn't maintain the ball with any structure.

Things could have also been a lot worse as the Rocks really blew a great try scoring opportunity on half time when a front rower had a brain explosion and tried to pass the ball when in sight of the line. Thank heavens his skill level was found wanting.

The half time address by Coach McCreedy was positive and with some words from the experienced players in the room we all thought that we could get back on track in the second half. This all came to nothing as Shamrocks kicked off and immediately stole the ball and got across the line for a try that saw them hit the lead 12-8. It was at this point that the Uni boys finally realised that actions not word were required and we got back into the mix. Leading the way were Charlie Freeman and Jade Gardiner who were instrumental in getting on top o a determined opponent.

A rampaging charge by prop Karl Smith from close range saw us hit the front again and combined with a couple of penalties by Simsy we looked back in control. Things improved even more following a great try to Justin Placek on the right wing which saw him bust a few tackles and still stay in the field of play. This strengthened our hold on the game and all was well. A final penalty goal to Ash Mason completed the scoring and we trooped off Vikings Oval 26-12 winners and keen to take on Avondale in the final.

#### **Final v Avondale 14th September.**

There was an air of anticipation as the Uni boys boarded the bus for the long trip to Woonona to take on Avondale for the right to play Camden in the Grand Final. Last week we had beaten the hoodoo of not making it passed the first 2 weeks of the semis and we were quietly confident of a good showing.

#### *First Grade Squad*

(1) <b>Travis Hardaker</b>	(2) <b>Hori Leef</b>	(3) <b>Karl Smith</b>
(4) <b>Will Woods</b>		(5) <b>Alex Van Dartel</b>
(6) <b>Paul Tuala</b>	(8) <b>Andrew Lindsay</b>	(7) <b>Charlie Freeman</b>
(9) <b>Alex Sims</b>		(10) <b>Donny Nepia</b>
(12) <b>Jade Gardiner</b>		(13) <b>Nik Ranguira</b>
(11) <b>Matt Lee</b>	(15) <b>Justin Placek</b>	(14) <b>Jack Shaw</b>
(16) <b>Charlie Curry</b>	(17) <b>Jack Borg</b>	(18) <b>Simon McVeigh</b>
(19) <b>Jack Borg</b>		(20) <b>Will Aisake</b>
(21) <b>Ash Mason</b>	(22) <b>Adam Wright</b>	(23) <b>Steve Elson</b>

Most of the troops were back on deck with Paul Tuala and Simon McVeigh available and only some slight injury concerns in the squad and this was probably our strongest team of the season. The recent good weather disappeared but the rain stayed away and there was only the southerly wind to contend with. We won the toss and chose to run with this assistance and for the first 20 minutes it was even Stevens with not much given away from either team. As the game progressed it was like a game of chess but we couldn't apply the pressure we needed to get on top and with only a missed penalty to show for our efforts we were starting to wonder where our next break would come from. They were very adept at stealing our ball and turning defense into attack and we suffered as a result and this increased the pressure on the lads. Avondale were the first to post points with a try but then we hit back when Karl Smith drove over from close range. The conversion by Alex Sims gave us a 2-point lead which we held until near the break when Avondale caught us napping and crossed for another unconverted try. Down 7-10 at the break we knew we had to start well into the breeze but the opposite happened. Avondale latched onto any of our mistakes and made us pay big time. Our lack of possession wore us down and finally they scored again. Worse was to follow when the Avondale backs clicked into gear and we soon found ourselves behind the try line watching them convert another try. It could have even been a bigger disaster as from the kickoff they secured the ball and only a desperate tackle saw them pushed into touch meters from our line. Things looked grim but it was here that we all stood up and got back into the game. We were well and truly on top in the scrummaging department and we started to exert some real pressure through our very busy pack. Some fresh faces came on and we were camped in their 20-meter zone and finally we were rewarded for our determination through a try to Paul Tuala. Sims struck the ball perfectly but it was obvious that the wind was stronger than it looked as the ball fell well short. We were behind 29-12 but not out of the game as we continued to press for more points. We were denied a couple of times by Avondale's scrambling defense but even they couldn't withstand our tenacity and another try by Jack Borg gave us a whiff of victory. Alas not all stories have a happy ending and we ran out of time. Beaten but far from disgraced we sat in the dressing room looking a very dejected bunch. A few words from coaches and players recognized that we were beaten by a better side on the day but we had made our mark on the comp. Back at the TC the mood did improve a tad as the game was dissected ad infinitum and we realised that we needed to go to the next level to really get to the number one spot. After a few beers (in some cases quite a few beers) it was decided that the sun would still come up in the morning and we would live on to fight another day.

### **Individual Player Milestones:**

**200 Games:** Adam Wright

**150 Games:** Brad Milner, Dave Shepherd, Mark Placek

**50 Games:** Charlie Curry, Mark Freeman, Geoff Devitt, Matt Lee

**Eight Years' Service Award:** Dave Shepherd, Adam Wright

### **Rep Players**

**Illawarra:** Alex Sims, Jade Gardiner, Hori Leef, Donny Nepia, Paul Tuala, Ash Mason

**Country Seniors:** Paul Tuala, Hori Leef, Donny Nepia, Jade Gardiner.

**Country u/20's:** Matt Lee

**Illawarra U/20 Player of the Year:** Matt Lee

**Illawarra Senior Coach of the Year:** Shaun McCreedy

## AWARDS

Men's Awards:		Donated by:	Winner:
President's Award	Jack Huxley Shield	Glenn McGuinness	Marius Barnsley
Award for Leadership	Sam Davey Shield	Paul Webb Canio Fierravanti	Charlie Freeman
Trainer of the Year		Paul Dunai	Travis Hardaker
Coaches Award		Wayne Dobson	Andrew Lindsay
Third Grade Best and Fairest	Nick Theodore Shield	Peter Keeble	James Tarlinton
Second Grade Best and Fairest		Noel Yates	Jack Menzies
First Grade Best and Fairest		Dave Rae	Hori Leef
Third Grade 'Players Player'			Luke Symons
Second Grade 'Players Player'			Adam Wright
First Grade 'Players Player'			Andrew Lindsay
Players 'Player of the Year'	Phillip "Doris" McInerney Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Hori Leef
Rookie of the Year		Duarte Do Rego	Nic Ranguira
Player with the Most Potential	Dave Reading Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Will Woods
Leading Try Scorer			Matt Lee
Leading Points scorer		Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Donny Nepia
Club Person of the Year		Keith Hales	Jinbin Liang
'Iron Man Award Played in all rounds.			Travis Hardaker Charlie Freeman Donny Nepia Matt Lee

## Games Played 2013

Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	Total
William AIRKE	16	9	2	27	Matthew LEE	17			17
Bradley ASHE		11	1	12	Hori LEEF	11	2		13
Marius BARNESLEY			9	9	Matthew LEGGETT			1	1
Mitch BELL	10			10	Jinbin LIANG		2	12	14
Lincoln BENDALL-MOON		2		2	Andrew LINDSAY	15			15
Jack BORG	7	2		9	Jonathan LINDSAY		7	4	11
Andrew BRAY		1		1	Andrew LYNCH	1			1
Rhys BRIDGES	1	2		3	Michael MAMATTA		1	1	2
James BULL		4	9	13	Robert MARDUS	8			8
Michael CHAPMAN		1	1	2	Ashley MASON	6	1		7
John CLARK		2	3	5	Haydn MCDUFF		12	8	20
Sam COUGHLAN			1	1	Kieran MCEVOY		5	10	15
Max COWPERTHWAITTE		4	2	6	Peter MCGUIRK	10	9		19
Carson CROSSE	3	7	1	11	Simon MCVEIGH	6			6
Christo CROUS		5	2	7	Evan MCWHIRTER		1	1	2
Jonathan CUDAJ		6		6	Nick MEAD			3	3
Shaun CUNNINGHAM			1	1	Jack MENZIES	2	11	1	14
Charlie CURRY	16			16	Scott MILETO		1	3	4
Ryan CUSH		1	1	2	Brad MILNER		14	6	20
Corey DANIELA		6	8	14	Tom MOLONEY		6	3	9
Robert DAVEY		2	10	12	Tom MOORE		4		4
Jack DAWSON		1	1	2	Mustafa MULHEM			4	4
Geoff DEVITT		13		13	Sean MURRAY-SMITH		3	10	13
Cooper DUNN			1	1	Garth NAGLE			1	1
Nathan DUNSTAN			6	6	Donovan NEPIA	15			15
Shaun DUTAILLIS		1	1	2	Ben NICKELL			1	1
Steven ELSON	10	2		12	Peter NIKOLOVSKI			2	2
Oliver FARRUGIA		12	2	14	Will NORRIE	17	2		19
Charlie FREEMAN	18			18	Andrew O'NEILL		2	2	4
Mark FREEMAN	4	4		8	Chris PARKER	5	10	1	16
Jade GARDINER	13			13	Patrick PERILLO	5	7		12
David GARDNER			1	1	Harry PITT		8	4	12
Tom GARNETT		1	3	4	Justin PLACEK	12			12
Scott GILL			1	1	Mark PLACEK	2			2
Tim GODMAN		5	2	7	Harley PURNELL			1	1
Zac GORMAN		15	7	22	Tino RANGI		1	1	2
Killian GRENNELL		6	2	8	NIK RANGUIRA	17	1		18
Colin HAMMOND-TIGHE		7	2	9	Brenton RITCHIE			2	2
Travis HARDAKER	18			18	Dean ROSSIT			1	1
Jack HARTICAN		16	2	18	Carl SCHULZ		1	4	5
Stuart HOLCROFT		4	8	12	Jack SHAW	8	1	1	10
Thomas HONEYSETT	3	8		11	David SHEPHERD		17	4	21
Mathew HORNE		3		3	Beau SHIPLEY		3	5	8
Matt JOHNSON		1		1	Alex SIMS	14	3		17
John JONES		1	3	4	James SLADE		1	3	4
Paura KEMP		2	2	4	Karl SMITH	16			16
Patrick KILLIN			1	1	Nick SMITH		4	6	10

Colin SPICER			1	1		Paul TUALA	3			3
Andrew STUCKEY		1	2	3		Dan TURNER-DAVIDSON			1	1
Luke SYMONS		2	7	9		Alex VAN DARTEL	11			11
Lee TANKS		3	5	8		Paora WAAKA		3	8	11
James TARLINTON		9	9	18		Will WOOD	13	5	2	20
Scott THORNTON		5	8	13		Adam WRIGHT	11	13	2	26
Harrison TORY		1		1		Howard ZHANG			11	11
Michael TREMAIN		1	5	6						

### Points Scored 2013

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>First Grade</i>											
Donovan NEPIA	109	3	23	16	1	Ashley MASON	15	2	1	1	0
Alex SIMS	59	2	17	5	6	Jade GARDINER	10	2	0	0	5
Matthew LEE	40	8	0	0	0	Travis HARDAKER	10	2	0	0	2
Andrew LINDSAY	40	8	0	0	8	Will NORRIE	10	2	0	0	2
Jack SHAW	30	6	0	0	1	Alex VAN DARTEL	10	2	0	0	2
Karl Smith	30	6	0	0	8	Mitch BELL	5	1	0	0	10
Nik RANGUIRA	25	5	0	0	13	Jack BORG	5	1	0	0	0
Justin PLACEK	25	5	0	0	0	Steven ELSON	5	1	0	0	2
Charlie FREEMAN	20	4	0	0	11	Patrick PERILLO	5	1	0	0	0
Charlie CURRY	15	2	1	1	4	Will WOOD	5	1	0	0	0
Hori LEEF	15	3	0	0	15	Paul TUALA	5	1	0	0	0
Robert MARDUS	15	3	0	0	3						

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Second Grade</i>											
Geoff DEVITT	63	0	21	7	2	Colin HAMMOND-TIGHE	5	1	0	0	4
Oliver FARRUGIA	35	7	0	0	4	Jack HARTICAN	5	1	0	0	0
Patrick PERILLO	27	4	2	1	4	Thomas HONEYSETT	5	1	0	0	3
Lincoln BENDALL-MOON	22	4	1	0	1	Jonathan LINDSAY	5	1	0	0	2
Adam WRIGHT	20	4	0	0	13	Haydn MCDUFF	5	1	0	0	0
Hori LEEF	15	3	0	0	4	Kieran MCEVOY	5	1	0	0	1
Chris PARKER	15	3	0	0	4	Brad MILNER	5	1	0	0	1
Paura KEMP	6	0	3	0	3	Nik RANGUIR	5	1	0	0	0
Jack BORG	5	1	0	0	2	David SHEPHERD	5	1	0	0	3
Andrew BRAY	5	1	0	0	0	James TARLINTON	5	1	0	0	3
Rhys BRIDGES	5	1	0	0	0	Scott THORNTON	5	1	0	0	3
Carson CROSSE	5	1	0	0	0	Paora WAAKA	5	1	0	0	0
Ryan CUSH	5	1	0	0	0	Ashley MASON	2	0	1	0	1
Robert DAVEY	5	1	0	0	0	William AISRKE	0	0	0	0	1
Steven ELSON	5	1	0	0	0	Bradley ASHE	0	0	0	0	8
Zac GORMAN	5	1	0	0	2	Jonathan CUDAJ	0	0	0	0	1
Killian GRENNELL	5	1	0	0	3	Mark FREEMAN	0	0	0	0	3



Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
Mathew HORNE	0	0	0	0	4	Will NORRIE	0	0	0	0	1
Peter MCGUIRK	0	0	0	0	3	Harry PITT	0	0	0	0	3
Jack MENZIES	0	0	0	0	16	Alex SIMS	0	0	0	0	3
Tom MOLONEY	0	0	0	0	1	Luke SYMONS	0	0	0	0	3
Tom MOORE	0	0	0	0	2	Will WOOD	0	0	0	0	1

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<b>Third Grade</b>											
Haydn MCDUFF	14	2	2	0	4	Harry PITT	5	1	0	0	2
Paura KEMP	13	1	4	0	2	Andrew STUCKEY	5	1	0	0	0
Robert DAVEY	10	2	0	0	0	James TARLINTON	5	1	0	0	15
Colin HAMMOND-TIGHE	10	2	0	0	1	Adam WRIGHT	4	0	2	0	4
Carl SCHULZ	10	2	0	0	0	Scott THORNTON	2	0	1	0	11
Kieran MCEVOY	9	1	2	0	3	Max COWPERHWAITE	0	0	0	0	1
Paora WAAKA	7	1	1	0	0	Corey DANIELA	0	0	0	0	1
William AISRKE	5	1	0	0	0	Shaun DUTAILLIS	0	0	0	0	2
James BULL	5	1	0	0	0	Michael MAMATTA	0	0	0	0	3
David GARDNER	5	1	0	0	0	Jack MENZIES	0	0	0	0	3
Tom GARNETT	5	1	0	0	0	Sean MURRAY-SMITH	0	0	0	0	7
Evan MCWHIRTER	5	1	0	0	1	Beau SHIPLEY	0	0	0	0	6
Ben NICKELL	5	1	0	0	0	Luke SYMONS	0	0	0	0	7
Andrew O'NEILL	5	1	0	0	0						

