

## 2014 - THE YEAR OF THE BULLS

There was an air of confidence around the club from early in the season as numbers were strong, training was excellent, and the after-match function organised by the canteen crew ensured that there was a growing club spirit and everything was in place for a successful season.

When this was combined with the acquisition of some quality players, plus the return to the club of other stars throughout the year, things were looking very promising. However, not even the most dyed in the wool supporters would have envisaged just how dominant the Mallee Bulls would be in 2014.

It was indeed to be **THE YEAR OF THE BULL!**

### Committee

As at many clubs the Mallee Bulls were finding it more and more difficult to get people to be on the committee. As a means of overcoming this problem the Senior and Junior Bodies completed the process of amalgamation so that the workload could be delegated to more volunteers. Bob Wheway took on the president's role and he was supported by the hard-working board members in Canio Fierravanti, Sproggy McGuinness, John Pemberton, Lee Tanks, Larry Daniella, Robbie Mardus, Geoff Devitt, Andrew Newhouse and David Shalala.

As with any amalgamation there were issues that raised their head during the season, but all of these were dealt with in a professional manner and although things were tough financially, we survived to fight another day.

### Sponsors

We were again thankful to have a great number of sponsors who gave the rugby club substantial amounts of cash and in-kind services that allowed us to meet all of our commitments. Once again it is interesting to note that one of our major creditors was URAC when in times gone by, they were actually one of the major sources of income.

The Tennis Club continued to be our meeting place and they were more than happy when the boys returned to the club after winning three grades and behaved themselves quite well.

Other long-term sponsors included Soilco, Ryan's Dry Cleaners, Crown West Cellars, The Physical Therapy Group, The Engineering Faculty and Crown Medical. There were also minor sponsors who were wonderful supporters of the club.

### MAJOR

The City of Wollongong Tennis Club – Gary Leighton

### PREMIUM SPONSORS

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Physical Therapy Group – Dave Beconsell

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## Social Highlights

Piki, Candace and Anita and their families deserve a great deal of praise for the manner that they went about organising the canteen. ensuring a profit for the club as well as keeping everyone feed and happy, which is no mean feat.

Not content with this the ladies enlisted other wives and partners to provide food for the after-match function which was free to visiting players. This created so much good will and enhanced the club spirit to such a degree that it was one of the real contributors to our success on the field.

Players were also active in providing social extravaganzas with James Read, Will Wood, Donny Nepia, Shaun Dutailis and Paul Tuala and others displaying their flair in organising bus trips, Ladies Days and Presentation Balls.

## The Competition.

The makeup of the competition this year was similar to previous seasons with Avondale, Camden, Bowral, Shamrocks, Vikings, Tech Waratahs, Kiama, Shoalhaven and University contesting the first and second grade competitions.

In thirds Kiama, Bowral and Shoalhaven couldn’t field teams and their spots were taken by Wollondilly, Engadine (who initially had two teams but ended up pulling one team out of the equation) and Vincentia.

This situation with so many one team clubs made it a tough road to travel for the thirds as there were some very high-quality players running around.

The Colts competition was again run but with only four teams, Bowral, Vikings, Shamrocks and University, contesting it there were several byes, but the standard of the games was quite impressive.

## Club Championship 2014

Club	Firsts	Seconds	Colts	Thirds	Total
<b>Avondale</b>	365	234	0	70	669
<b>University</b>	335	162	90	6	593
<b>Vikings</b>	245	183	90	59	577
<b>Shamrocks</b>	195	150	123	38	506
<b>Camden</b>	255	165	0	25	445
<b>Kiama</b>	235	75	0	0	310
<b>Tech-Waratahs</b>	125	18	0	67	210
<b>Shoalhaven</b>	50	63	0	0	113
<b>Bowral</b>	20	39	30	0	89
<b>Vincentia</b>	0	0	0	58	58
<b>Engadine Black</b>	0	0	0	36	36
<b>Wollondilly</b>	0	0	0	18	18
<b>Engadine Simba</b>	0	0	0	11	11

## **Coaching Staff**

On the coaching front Uni were again fortunate to have Shaun McCreedy, who was the IDRUCOACH of the year in 2013, back on deck in his role as club and first grade coach. This season he was able to call on the expertise of Richard Thompson, Dion Miller, Dave Reed who all migrated for the Shamrocks for personal reasons. Richard was on hand to assist Shaun with Firsts; Dave was in control of Seconds and Dion was the 'on field' coach.

Possibly the people with the hardest task were Shaun Dutailis and Geoff Devitt who took on the often-thankless role of looking after the fortunes of the third graders and did a creditable job, especially with wins few and far between.

Lee Tanks and Paul Kipp had the responsibility of developing our Colts players and did a great job getting the lads to gel into a well-oiled machine.

The club was also happy that Sean Murray-Smith and Llew Scott were also available to get the players fit and were instrumental in the club having such a phenomenal year on the field. Another key component on the staff was Jeff Bridges who worked tirelessly at treating the players with injuries and getting them on the park in as short a period of time as possible.

All of these guys gave the club a huge lift as they were the most experienced coaching staff at the university for many a year.

The other key members of the coaching team were the managers, Mark Elson and Robbie Mardus, who along with Match Day Guru, Pembo, ensured that Game Day stuff ran smoothly and all the myriad of tasks were completed with a minimum of fuss.

## **Players.**

There was a real mix of new and old players wearing the Mallee Bulls jumper in 2014 to start the year and there was also an influx of players making their return to the club during the season. The big plus was the comeback of Leon Mason who also took on the role of first grade captain and did a momentous job in leading the team.

To be included in the following squad lists players needed to have made five or more appearances for the team, including as a replacement.

### **First Grade**

**New to Club:** Tyler Aitken, Jason Hughes, James Hurley, Chris Miller, Wayne Ngatai, Alyd Owen, Andrew Papworth, Andrew Rae, Casey Rameka, Justin Stanbrook, Cameron Thompson, Rueben Thompson, Hemi Wickliffe.

**Current Player:** Charlie Curry, Steve Elson, Jade Gardiner, Travis Hardaker, Matt Lee, Hori Leef, Andrew Lindsay, Ash Rapine Mason, Leon Mason, Donny Nepia, Will Norrie, Nik Rangiuira, James Read, Alex Sims, Karl Smith, Paul Tuala, Will Wood.

## First Grade Premiers 2014



<b>Back Row:</b>	Hemi Wickliffe	Jade Gardiner	Karl Smith	Tyler Atkin
	Andy Rae	Andy Papworth	Mitch Bell	Mark Elson (manager)
<b>Middle Row:</b>	Shaun McCreedy (coach)	Hori Leef	Andrew Lindsay	Matt Lee
	Wayne Ngatai	Alex Sims	Will Norrie	Charlie Curry
	Richard Thompson (coach)			Charlie Freeman
<b>Front Row:</b>	Jason Hughes	Chris Miller	Rapine Mason	Leon Mason ©
	Donny Nepia	Will Wood	Nick Rangiura	

## First Grade Points Table 2014

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Avondale	16	15	0	1	820	158	662	60	13	73
2	University	16	13	1	2	685	209	476	54	13	67
3	Camden	16	10	0	6	528	294	234	40	11	51
4	Vikings	16	9	1	6	366	416	-50	38	11	49
5	Kiama	16	9	1	6	442	363	79	38	9	47
6	Shamrocks	16	7	1	8	379	354	25	30	9	39
7	Tech-Waratahs	16	5	0	11	259	475	-216	20	5	25
8	Shoalhaven	16	2	0	14	203	735	-532	8	2	10
9	Bowral	16	0	0	16	133	811	-678	0	4	4

### Second Grade

**New to Club:** Gordon Akauma, Tom Baker, Ben Cheetham, Ben Crowley, Harry Cummins, Dave Grimson, Rhys Hancock, Ed Owens, Casey Rameka, Brad Reed, Justin Stanbrook, Rueben Thompson, Cruz Wakefield, Lachlan Wells, Kyper Yap.

**Current Player:** Mitch Bell, Kieran Bonin, Charlie Curry, Steve Elson, Charlie Freeman, Killian Grennell, Travis Hardaker, Hori Leef, Michael Mamatta, Kieran McEvoy, Donny Nepia, Chris Parker, William Parnell, Nik Rangiura, James Read, Dave Shepherd, Alex Van Dartel, Adam Wright.

## Second Grade Premiers 2014



<b>Back Row:</b>	Casey Rameka	Hori Leef	Dave Shepherd	Steve Elson
Adam Wright	Charlie Freeman	Charlie Curry	Tom Baker	Brad Reed
Justin Stanbrook				
<b>Front Row:</b>	Ben Crowley	Ed Owens	Rhys Handcock	Mitch Bell
Bob Wheway (Pres)	James Read ©	Dave Reed (coach)	Donny Nepia	Lachlan Wells
Nick Ranguira	Kyper Yap			

## Second Grade Points Table 2014

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Avondale	16	16	0	0	587	141	446	64	14	78
2	Vikings	16	12	0	4	468	262	206	48	13	61
3	Camden	16	11	0	5	477	233	244	44	11	55
4	University	16	11	0	5	542	251	291	44	10	54
5	Shamrocks	16	10	0	6	356	288	68	40	10	50
6	Kiama	16	5	0	11	307	435	-128	20	5	25
7	Shoalhaven	16	4	0	12	245	585	-340	16	5	21
8	Bowral	16	2	0	14	146	693	-547	8	5	13
9	Tech-Waratahs	16	1	0	15	240	480	-240	4	2	6

### Third Grade

**New to Club:** Rob Leane, Tyson McEvoy, Michael McKenzie, Phil Morrison, Julian Payne, Robert Pomona, James Porteous, Harley Purnell, Raki Sakaeia-Cecil, Dean Ward, Brandon Woods,

**Current Player:** Mitch Bell, James Bull, Christo Crus, Corey Daniela, Geoff Devitt, Shaun Dutailis, Tim Godman, Zac Gorman, Jack Hartigan, Will Lamb, Jinbin Liang, Michael Mamatta, Haydn McDuff, Kieran McEvoy, Brad Milner, Pat Perillo, Brenton Ritchie, Dave Shepherd, Luke Symons, Lee Tanks, Michael Tremain, Howard Zhang.



## Third Grade 2014



<b>Back Row:</b>	Evan Tankard	Michael Tremain	James Bull	Keiron McEvoy
	Julian Payne	Dean Ward		
<b>Middle Row:</b>	Luke Symons	Brad Milner	Gordon Akauma	Michel Mamatta
	Dustin Barnett	Jack Hartican	Phil Morrison	Brandan Woods
	Christo Crous			
<b>Front Row:</b>	Rob Pomana	Dean Rossit	Geoff Devitt	Tyson McEvoy
	Pat Perillo	Zac Gorman	Raki Sakkara-Cecil	Shaun Dutailis
	Jinbin Liang			

## Third Grade Points Table 2014

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Avondale	17	14	1	2	493	179	314	58	12	70
2	Tech-Waratahs	17	13	1	3	623	217	406	54	13	67
3	Vikings	17	11	1	5	471	225	246	46	13	59
4	Vincentia	17	11	2	4	449	224	225	48	10	58
5	Shamrocks	17	8	1	8	273	319	-46	34	4	38
6	Engadine Black	17	9	0	8	362	378	-16	36	0	36
7	Camden	17	5	0	12	241	460	-219	20	5	25
8	Wollondilly	17	3	1	13	193	599	-406	14	4	18
9	Engadine Simba	9	2	0	7	88	191	-103	8	3	11
10	University	17	1	1	15	206	607	-401	6	0	6

### Colts (Under 20's)

**New to Club:** Gordon Akauma, Iain Atkinson, Dustin Barnett, David Bartholot, Ben Cheetham, Harry Cummins, Bill Hurley, Rob Leane, Nick Longhurst, Keto Neheja, Harry Ottley, Brad Reed, Rueben Thompson, Lachlan Williams, Brandon Woods.

**Current Player:** Kieran Bonin, Jonathon Cudaj, Corey Daniela, Colin Hammond-Tighe, Will Lamb, Kieran McEvoy, Tom Moore, Mustafa Mulhem, Chris Parker, Harry Pitt, Michael Tremain.

## Colts Premiers 2014



<b>Back Row:</b>	Lee Tanks (coach)	Kieran Bonin	Gordon Akauma	Ben Cheetham
	Iain Atkinson	Jonathon Cudaj	Tom Moore	Harry Cummins
	David Bartholot	Harry Pitt	Lachlan Williams	Keto Neheja
<b>Front Row:</b>	Chris Parker	Brandon Woods	Brad Reed	Dustin Barnett
	Rob Leane	Harry Ottley	Colin Hammond-Tighe	Nick Longhurst
				Mustafa Mulhem

## Colts Points Table 2014

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Shamrocks	11	8	0	3	285	120	165	32	9	41
2	University	11	6	0	5	260	184	76	24	6	30
3	Vikings	11	6	0	5	208	212	-4	24	6	30
4	Bowral	11	2	0	9	140	377	-237	8	2	10

## Rep Players

In great news for the club Donny Nepia, Paul Tuala and Matt Lee all earned selection in the Country squad, which is a great honor for them and the club. Paul and Matt were also included in the Country Squad that toured the US at the end of the season.

Other players to make rep teams included two of our colt's players in Rueben Thompson and Kieran Bonin who were chosen in the Country u18 squad to tour Spain.

The highlight on the rep scene, however, would have to be the selection of Paul in the Country Eagles squad that played in the National Rugby Championship and did well to reach the semis. Unfortunately, as the games were on at the same time, Paul couldn't play for the Mallee Bulls in the Grand Final which was a huge sacrifice he had to make.

## **What an Effort - Steve Elson**

This season we, as a club, had the opportunity to celebrate something special with one of our genuinely great clubmen when Steve Elson trooped out in Seconds for his 200th game for the club. In fact, he also played his 201st game when he went on a replacement in the first-grade game.

It was good to see a lot of his family there to share this milestone with Steve. I know he doesn't want to be made a centre of attention, but this accomplishment is something to be savoured and be truly proud about.

Steve gives his heart and soul to the team every time he steps on the field. He has played with serious injuries and has sacrificed a lot for the club, being willing to play any position for the benefit of his teammates. I have never heard a whine from him when he has played lower grades and indeed, he has always been very vocal in his encouragement for all grades.

Steve's commitment to the club is now even more obvious as he travels down from Sydney every night after a long day's work. He trains with dedication and enthusiasm and lifts all those around with his efforts and he is a pleasure to have around the place.

Off the field we have been fortunate to have not only Steve, but his family heavily involved with the club ever since Steve joined the u19's as a fresh faced first year student. There are some great stories Mark can share with us of Steve's love of a good time but what happens on tour stays on tour. Steve's long-suffering wife, Hayley, will soon be adding to the Elson clan and we all hope that the newborn takes after Hayley in looks but I'm sure that baby Elson will have no better role model than Steve.

## **Pre - season**

### **Kiama Sevens**

The first outing of the season for The Mallee Bulls was the Kiama 7's and we entered a team after a couple of years absence. The squad trained for a few of weeks under the watchful eye of experienced 7's exponent Donny Nepia. We won a couple of games and looked good at times but in the end ran out of puff when losing to the host club.

### **Laffam Cup**

The squad that we had assembled was a mix of First grade and colts from last season with a crew of new guys to the club. A vast majority of the players were Uni students keen to impress the selectors and hopefully gain a place in the Australian Uni squad that would be selected.

The first game against Uni of Canberra /North saw us finish down by 4 tries and in our second foray we took on the hosts in UWS where we looked a lot more settled but still ended on the wrong side of the ledger. With injuries mounting we reluctantly pulled the pin and came home early.

### **Uni of NSW trials**

After a bit of doubt due to the weather we did manage to get onto to Oval 3 for the eagerly awaited clash with UNSW.

The trials in Colts and seniors saw us up against good teams that had obviously played a few games together but it was a good hit out for the club.

## **The Season**

### **Rd 1 - Engadine Simbas at Engadine**

#### ***Thirds***

Much to the credit of the coaches in Shaun Dutailis and Geoff Devitt, who with Manager Robbie Mardus, managed to assemble a squad of about twenty players ready to kick the first ball in anger. The squad was a real mix of old and new with veterans in Shep, Brad Milner a Killer Grennell



combining with new lads James Hurley, Will Parnell, Ed Owens and others all eager to get the season off to a flying start.

The opposition was quite solid with a distinct size advantage in the forwards, but we started confidently and more than matched the Simbas in all aspects of the game. The ground was in great condition, while the same couldn't be said for the referee who found keeping up with play a real chore. It needs to be mentioned that there were some interesting calls made by the officials but in the final analysis most of the questionable calls were evened up during the game.

We ran with the wind but up the slope in the first half and this was a distinct disadvantage, but we maintained possession reasonably well and tackled tenaciously when under pressure.

The game was evenly poised at the halftime break with The Simbas in front 10-8 after scoring two tries while the Mallee Bulls were able to cross the try line when Ed Owen dived over and also kicked a penalty to James Bull.

There were changes made at the break with Geoff Devitt and Howard Zhang and a few others injecting themselves into the fray. Again, there was conjecture about the Simbas final try but the result was upheld and so we found ourselves down 8-15 with time against us.

It was at this stage that Killer took a leading role and set the backline on fire and with time just about up Hayden McDuff scooted across out wide to make the difference just two points. Geoff Devitt lined up the conversion as the ref signalled that this would be the last play. There was to be no fairy tale ending as the attempt went wide and the Simbas had withstood our challenge. All was not lost as the group had performed creditably considering that we had not trained as a team at all and there were a lot of players who were introducing themselves to their teammates as they ran onto the field. Indeed, the coaches were quite pleased with the effort.

Rd 1 – 12/4/14	Engadine	University 13	Engadine 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Ed Owens	Haydn McDuff	
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b> James Bull
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Crowley		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	James Read	Will Parnell	Lachlan Wells

## Rd 2 - Avondale - University Oval

### Thirds

Coach Dutailis needed shares in Telstra as he made so many calls to get bodies to the game and it was good to see blokes make a real effort to help out on the day. Combinations were a bit lacking but what else could you expect when training as a team was virtually non-existent. Many introductions were made in the warm-up, but such is Uni rugby in the holidays.

The game started very positively as we tackled well and put them under pressure when we had the ball. We even hit the front early with a penalty to Geoff Devitt, who was a leading figure in the game, but then things started to turn ugly as the big Avondale side got on a roll. This was not through a lack of effort on the boys' part, but we were always under the pump. It needs to be pointed out that the Avondale side would probably beat most second grade teams in the comp, and they have a few very talented players in their group. I noticed that when things were tight in Seconds a few of these guys trotted out and had a big impact in that game as well.

A number of debutants for the club showed glimpses of form, especially Rob Leane in the forwards who had a willing partner in Jon Cudaj in the tight stuff. In the backs Haydn McDuff and Geoff were standouts but as fatigue set in, we found ourselves beaten 3-49. Defeated but not disgraced.

Rd 2 – 26/4/14	University Oval	University 3	Avondale 49
<b>Goals:</b>	n/a		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Geoff Devitt
<b>Players Player:</b>	Geoff Devitt		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Rob Leane	Haydn McDuff	Jon Cudaj

## **Seconds**

Second Grade were in a similar position to the Thirsties as a number of guys were thrown together and we even had some guys back up from the previous game. This could well and truly have been a recipe for disaster as the Avondale team had only lost 1 game in about 3 years or more. To say that our guys played above themselves would be an understatement as they were magnificent in defeat. Youngsters Rueben Thompson and Brad Reed scored all the 16 points between them with Rueben outstripping the opposition for a great try and Brad showing coolness beyond his years to put over 3 penalties and a conversion.

In the forwards our scrum was rock solid with new prop Keto Neheja and his partner in crime Travis Hardaker in excellent form. Another major factor in the team's performance was the huge effort of our loose forwards James Read, Ed Owens and Will Norrie. These warriors were everywhere and constantly thwarted the oppositions attack with grim defence.

It was a mix of the old and the new in the centres where veteran Killer Grennell and newcomer Gordon Akauma were a formidable duo who were always looking to run the ball.

As crazy as it seemed we were actually in front 16-12 with time running out and if there really was a rugby God, we should have held on to win. But there was no fairy tale ending and a couple of tries to the opposition saw them get away with a 24-16 victory. Although disappointed to lose the players had put in a mammoth effort in what was our best performance against the title favourites in a long time.

<b>Rd 2 – 26/4/14</b>	<b>University Oval</b>	<b>University 16</b>	<b>Avondale 24</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	Rueben Thompson		
<b>Goals:</b>	Brad Reed (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Brad Reed (3)
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Read		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Keto Neheja	James Read	Gillian Grennell

## **Firsts**

There was a quiet air of confidence in the camp as First grade took the field mainly due to the fact that the boys had actually trained together as a team and we always worry Avondale with our attack, especially early in the season as they often run out of puff.

There were a few new faces in the line-up, and it was great to see Skipper Leech Mason back in the red, white and blue strip. He led an experienced backline that consisted of many of the boys from last season with Sims, Rapine (Ash) Mason, Rangiura, Lee and Nepia back on deck. Newcomer Tyler Atkins was a welcomed addition to the backs as was replacement winger Cam Thompson.

Up front we were excited to see a fully fit Paul Tuala back in action and he was surrounded by a sea of new faces with Casey Rameka, Jesse Hurley, Andrew Rae, Hemi Wickliffe and Wayne Ngatai all making their first appearances for the club. Add in Karl Smith and Will Wood from last season and we were confident of a strong showing.

The first half was a see sawing event with play going from one end to another until Avondale displayed great flair to cross for two tries late in the half. We missed a couple of penalties and so were down 14 - 0 at the break.

We improved in the second half and with Donny's kicking boot on we were soon back in the game until a try to Avondale saw the lead out to 21-9. We were able to continue to apply pressure and Paulie was able to force his way through the pack to race under the posts for a converted try and we were well in the game.

Unfortunately, a simple penalty saw the guys fall behind by eight points and we lost a bit of momentum and couldn't bridge the gap. The final score of 16-24 was I think a reasonable reflection of the game, but we obviously have a great deal of development in our side so look forward to the next game against the boys from Avondale.

Rd 2 – 26/4/14	University Oval	University 16	Avondale 24
<b>Tries:</b>	Paul Tuala		
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Donny Nepia (3)
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Hurley		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>

### Rd 3 - Shamrocks -Ocean Park

I think everyone in the club was expecting a warm reception as we ventured to Ocean Park, but the weather God certainly had other ideas. It would have to be the coldest day I have spent at the rugby for a long time, even at Bowral, with rain and a bitterly cold Westerly wind. It was also exciting as it was the first opportunity for all grades to be at the one venue, but it was a tough day at the office for all the teams.

#### Colts

The Lads started proceedings with a game that meant a lot to all players but in particular to Brad Reed, Vince Robinson and Kieran Bonin who were up against some close mates. It was good to welcome Kieran back to the field after recovering from his serious neck injury.

The Shamrocks guys were well drilled as they have played together for a few years, but we suffered because we lacked a prop at the start of the game and so had to play with 14 players. This was a big advantage as it allowed the opposition to score a couple of early tries.

We were much better placed after Keto took the field and Ben Cheetham managed to score a try and get back in the game. As it was the first run for the season under match conditions the coaches made the changes to give all a run, but it was disruptive to the team's patterns.

Our points were scored by perhaps the most dominate player on the field in Ben 'Mudgee' Cheetham who showed real flair in attack and defence.

It was disappointing to go down 5-22 but things will only improve as we train and play together over the coming weeks.

Rd 3 – 3/5/14	Ocean Park	University 5	Shamrocks 22
<b>Tries:</b>	Ben Cheetham		
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Cheetham		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Ben Cheetham	Vince Robinson	Brad Reed

#### Thirds

Coach Dutailis was a much happier man this week as he had a far bigger squad to choose from than last week. There were some familiar faces in the side with Deano Rossit and Pat Perillo donning the boots for the year, and it was good to have their experience to show the younger members of the team some of the subtleties of the game.

The other comeback player was Mitch Bell who showed why he was a first grader last year before his injury as he displayed all the grit and skill we expect from a player of his ability. He was backed up in the forwards by Michael Mamatta, while Geoff Devitt continued his good form in the backs, directing play and trying to spark the backline in attack.

Shamrocks were lucky to have a very experienced(old) team, but the halfback controlled the game expertly. In the end the Rocks scored 29 points and we failed to trouble the scorer, but we will get better.

Rd 3 – 3/5/14	Ocean Park	University 0	Shamrocks 29
<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	Michael Mamatta	Geoff Devitt

### Seconds

A much stronger team ran out to represent the Entertainers and Coach Reed was confident of a good showing, especially after the effort against Avondale last week. The new boys included Charlie Curry and Andrew Papworth who both were to be key players in the game.

Again, we started poorly and soon we were behind the try line wondering what was going on. This was the wakeup call we needed and gradually we got into a rhythm and started to attack. The efforts of James Read and Rhys Hancock were the catalyst to our comeback, and we were able to hit the lead 15-14 after tries to Killer Grennell and Hayden McDuff.

Halfback Ben Crowley was in the thick of the action and was always striving to find a weakness in the Rock's defence and with time running out we were looking good. But once again we fell at the final hurdle and let Shamrocks in for the match winning try as the bell sounded to end the game. Close but no cigar.

Rd 3 – 3/5/14	Ocean Park	University 15	Shamrocks 19
<b>Tries:</b>	Killian Grennell	Haydn McDuff	
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Charlie Curry (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Crowley		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	James Read	Ben Crowley	Rhys Hancock

### Firsts

There was a great deal of tension in the air as the two sides took the field for the first-grade game as the crowd was expecting some fireworks. However, to the credit of both teams the game was played in a great spirit but with no prisoners being taken by either team.

The weather conditions made playing any form of running rugby difficult and I believe they suited the Rocks more than us, but they were a very determined outfit on the day.

Once again, we were slow out of the blocks but were in a position to score points but lacked patience in finishing things off and let them stay in the game. They managed a penalty and a converted try in the first half, and it was only the effort of new boy Jase Hughes who saw get back in the game as he crossed for a well-deserved try.

It was much the same story in the second stanza as we attacked but couldn't smash our way through no matter how we tried. Karl Smith led the way and was tackled just short of the line on numerous occasions while in the backs Cam Thompson was also dangerous.

The Rocks guys dug in and defended their line with pride and as it happened managed another 5 pointer to be out 15-5 late in the half.

To our credit we stuck to the task and eventually our persistence paid off with Nic Rangiura and Taylor Atkins notching tries to even the scores. It must be said that Ash Mason hit the uprights with two of the conversions so we might be considered a tad unlucky not to get full points.

On the other hand, the game ended in some controversy as the ref blew full time when in fact, he could have awarded a penalty to Shamrocks but in the end a draw was a fair result.

Rd 3 – 3/5/14	Ocean Park	University 15	Shamrocks 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Jason Hughes	Nik Rangiura	Tyler Aitken
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Jason Hughes		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Karl Smith	Cameron Thompson	Jason Hughes

### Rd 4 - Camden -Camden Rugby Park

The bus trip to Camden is always high on the must do things on the social calendar. 34 brave souls put their name down for the Mexicans and Pirates theme and there was much anticipation for the

good times ahead as the boys boarded the bus at the TC. In recent ventures to Camden the bus ride back wasn't always cheery to begin with because we have found wins, especially in the lower grades quite a rarity. This trip was to be an exception.

### Colts

The Friday fixture for the lads was a good one as the conditions were excellent for running rugby and a big crowd was on hand to watch proceedings. It must be said that a majority of fans there were family members of the visiting Vikings side which was a tad disappointing as it was our home ground.

There was a good number of players available for the match and the coaching staff were keen to get the first win of the season under the belt. We were missing a few rep under 18 players but we put a very competitive team on the field.

From the opening whistle we dominated set pieces with the scrum being particularly strong. It was not a matter of size as the Vikings pack were no midgets, but our front row of Harry Pitt, Tom Moore and Keto were outstanding. We also applied lots of pressure through the pack with Ben 'Mudgee' Cheetham and Dave Grimson always close to the action.

Unfortunately, we failed to really put enough consistent pressure on Vikings, and we were guilty of making some simple errors that stopped us from putting points on the board.

The game was in the balance late in the game after we had scored two pick and drive tries through the forwards, one to Harry Pitt and the other to 'Taco' Parker but again errors resulted in the opposition getting a couple of tries on the board and we beaten 15-29.

We are still getting combinations working and big things are not far off.

Rd 4 – 9/5/14	University Oval	University 15	Vikings 29
<b>Tries:</b>	Harry Pitt	Chris Parker	
<b>Goals:</b>	Colin Hammond-Tighe (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Colin H-T (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Cheetham		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Ben Cheetham	Dave Grimson	Tom Moore

### Thirds

The bus arrived and a very determined group of players were on hand to take on the Rams in what is a tough assignment as they are always a very big side with lots of experienced players. The squad assembled for the Bulls included a number of Colts boys and some interesting newcomers in Tom Baker and Justin Stanford.

Things started poorly with a very easy try being scored by the Rams in the opening minutes and things looked grim for a while.

Confidence is a funny thing and eventually we found some and started to tackle effectively and run hard with the ball in hand.

The first half saw tries to Kieran McEvoy and a dashing Mal Adeng which when added to a conversion and a penalty to the ever-reliable Geoff Devitt gave us a 15-12 lead.

The second half was a torrid affair as we repelled the Camden attack for long periods but in the end, they crossed for the winning try and we were unable to bridge the gap but not through lack of effort especially by Michael Mamatta and Rob Leane.

In the end a very creditable performance against good opposition.

Rd 4 – 10/5/14	Camden Rugby Park	University 15	Camden 19
<b>Tries:</b>	Mal Adeng	Kieran McEvoy	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Geoff Devitt (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Michael Mammata		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Mal Adeng	Michael Mammata	Rob Leane



## Seconds

We were up against last year's beaten Grand Finalists who had not tasted defeat so far this season, but our Entertainers soon lived up to their reputation. It was a new look backline that took the field and they showed enough promise to bring a smile to Coach Reed's face.

The first half was a dour affair with both teams never giving an inch and some big hits were the order of the day. Killer and Charlie Curry were directing play which allowed Corey White to display his hard running direct style. The deadlock was finally broken when skipper James Read swooped on a pass from a Camden scrum and raced over for the only points of the half.

As the second stanza progressed, we were making breaks and defending well but we needed to sap the Rams confidence to get control of the match. It was at this point that new fullback Alyd Owen stepped up and delivered a great across field kick for another newcomer in Tom Baker to race across with not a Ram player in sight.

This set the scene for us to apply even more pressure to the Camden defence and they were struggling. This unrelenting pressure by the forwards lead by Rhys Hancock soon resulted in another try being scored as Charlie Curry made the Rams pay for making mistakes close to their line. This gave us a 21-0 lead and we never let them back in the game.

Overall, a great performance, especially in keeping them pointless, that shows we are a force in this year's competition.

Rd 4 – 10/5/14	Camden Rugby Park	University 21	Camden 0
<b>Tries:</b>	James Read	Charlie Curry	Tom Baker
<b>Goals:</b>	Alyd Owen (2)	Charlie Curry (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Read		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Rhys Handcock	Corey White	Alyd Owen

## Firsts

Both teams were close to full strength with all the Country players available and all were expecting a close game as the two teams were chasing a much-needed confidence boost.

It took 16 minutes for the first points to be scored when Camden kicked a penalty for the Rams to take the lead. Their lead was short lived, however, when Uni centre Ash Mason came up with the ball from the ensuing kick-off and made a long run down the right side of the field. Former Ram, Tyler Aitken loomed up in support on the inside to score. With Donny Nepia's conversion, the Bulls were up 7 – 3.

After the try Camden took field position in the Uni half and at the 26-minute mark the Camden winger was on the end of a long cut out pass to post the Rams first try and Camden lead 8 – 7. With a couple of minutes left in the first half Matt Lee was pulled down agonizingly short of the line after some slick backline play. Two phases later flanker Wayne Ngatai scored the Bulls second try. A side-line conversion by Donny brought up the halftime score of 14 – 8 in favour of Uni.

With Paul Tuala sparking numerous attacking raids play moved from one end of the field to the other. At the 57-minute mark Pauly made a charge at the Camden line and when tackled a meter short got a miraculous ball away to flanker Jason Hughes to score a converted try next to the posts for a 21 – 8 lead. Camden got right back in the match when the five-eighth impersonated a forward to barge over for a five pointer. With the try converted, our lead was down to six, 21 – 15 with 10 minutes remaining. Donny coolly added a penalty goal to give the Bulls some breathing space with just a minute to go.

The Mason brothers, Leon and Ash, were a constant threat to the Camden defence but it was the Bulls men up front who laid the foundation for the win. It certainly was a dominant forward pack lead by debutant Andrew Papworth that laid the foundations for a great team performance.

I believe that as we gain more time together as a squad, we will certainly present some real problems to opposition teams.

Rd 4 – 10/5/14	Camden Rugby Park		University 24	Camden 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Jason Hughes	Wayne Ngatai	Tyler Aitken	
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Andy Papworth			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Andy Papworth	Rapine Mason	Paul Tuala Leon Mason	

## Rd 5 -Techtahs - University Oval

### Colts

If you look at the score line for the game you would expect that it was a bit of a bore, but this was certainly not the case as both teams played with great enthusiasm in a highly entertaining fixture. The referee made special comment after the game that he was in awe of the commitment of both teams and the spirit in which the game was played.

Both teams had scoring chances, but the quality of the defence meant that points were extremely hard to come by. Our tight forwards were again in good form with our front row of Harry, Keto and Tom showing the way while our loose forwards were always striving to win possession at the breakdown.

We were desperate to get our first win of the season, and this showed as all players threw themselves into the fray. We missed a couple of chances to get on the board but just when things looked as though we would not get the breakthrough we required up steps 'Mudgee" Cheetham who forced his way over for the only points of the game. This was a fitting reward for another tireless display by Ben, but he was far from being a one man show as all the boys dug deep to keep the Rocks boys at bay.

In summary a much-needed result that was richly deserved.

Rd 5 – 16/5/14	University 5		Shamrocks 0
<b>Tries:</b>	Ben Cheetham		
<b>Goals:</b>	<b>Pen Goals:</b>		
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Cheetham		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Ben Cheetham	Harry Ottley	Kieran Bonin

### Thirds

The Thirsty Thirds have been up against some quality sides in the opening rounds of the comp, and this continued on Saturday when they took on last season's premiers in Techtahs. They have maintained a lot of players from the successful team and are a very experienced and skilful third grade team that would definitely beat a number of second grade sides

Coaches Dutailis and Devitt put a competitive team together with some colts backing up from Friday night and things were evenly balanced for a while. Kyper Yap was a show out in the tight stuff and was supported by veteran Niko in his comeback game. Michael Tremain was also prominent in attack and defence while Michael Mamatta never stopped trying. In the backs we were well served by Haydn McDuff, but it was no easy task to try and stop the flow of the opposition's attack as they were too big and too experienced for us on the day.

Rd 5 – 17/5/14	University Oval	University 0	Techtahs 47
<b>Players Player:</b>	Kyper Yap		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Michael Tremain	Kyper Yap	Michael Mammata Hori Leef Zac Gorman

## Seconds

Another dominant performance by the Entertainers saw them run out comfortable winners in a very comprehensive display that again demonstrates that we are capable of giving this comp a big shake. After getting out to a commanding lead the only negative thing that could be said is that it was a bit disappointing to take our foot off the accelerator when we let them in for some easy tries at the end of the game. We really do need to be a bit more ruthless.

There were changes made from last week's team due to players moving up and some injuries, but this did not affect the quality of our play. Charlie Curry once again steered the backs around the park as well as kicking six conversions. However, it was in the forwards that we were well and truly in command. The front rowers Hardaker, Elson and Rameka dominated in the set pieces while Read and Cheetham terrorised the opposition at the breakdown.

The list of try scorers is impressive with Ben Cheetham notching two 'meat pies' with others going to 200 gamer Steve Elson, James Hurley, James Read, Cruz Wakefield and Harry Cummins.

A solid performance but we will be tested by other teams in the coming weeks.

Rd 5 – 17/5/14	University Oval		University 47	Techtahs 17
<b>Tries:</b>	Ben Cheetham (2) Cruz Wakefield	Steve Elson Harry Cummins	James Hurley	James Read
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (6)			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Cheetham			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Charlie Curry	Ben Cheetham	Travis Hardaker Casey Rameka	

## Firsts

It is always a tough game when we play our neighbours in the Battle of the Bridges no matter where the teams are on the points table, and this was certainly the case this week. I don't think we were ever going to lose the game, but they certainly made us work hard for any points.

Our pack worked well together and gave us good ball, but it was not a walkover in any sense of the word. Their forwards are their strength and their set piece and effort at the breakdowns is always difficult to match. Saying this we were more than up to the challenge. Leading the charge in the forwards were Will Woods and Jason while the ever-reliable Alex Sims was the perfect link between the forwards and backs. In fact, our first two tries were scored by forwards, where Jason Hughes continued his try scoring efforts and few will forget Karl Smith's steamrolling effort from 20m out from the line.

The first half was marred by a serious elbow injury to one of the Techtahs backs which resulted in a long break as the ambulance was called. This seemed to upset our rhythm and made it hard to get back in the game.

The second half was a repeat of the first with the game becoming a bit of a dog fight. We did manage to score tries to Rapine Mason and Rueben Thompson with the scoring being completed by Rapine's 2 conversions and a penalty.

Rd 5 – 17/5/14	University Oval		University 27	Techtahs 8
<b>Tries:</b>	Karl Smith	Jason Hughes	Rueben Thompson	Rapine Mason
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (2)			<b>Pen Goals:</b> Rapine Mason (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Jason Hughes			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Will Wood	Rapine Mason	Alex Sims	

## Rd 6 – Bowral -Eridge Park

Any trip to Bowral that doesn't involve donning the thermals is a good one and so we were blessed with a balmy Autumn day as we took on the Bowral Blacks in three Grades, while the thirds had to venture to Wollondilly to play their game in what all agree is a farcical situation.

### Colts

Things didn't start too promisingly for the lads in the game as Bowral scored in the opening minutes as they pressured us into a mistake near our line. This, however, seemed to act as a wakeup call and the lads completely dominated the game from there on.

Once again it was our scrum that laid the foundation for the win as they demolished the opposition scrum. This domination resulted in the Bowral boys calling uncontested scrums in the second half but to no avail. Keto Neheja was again the leading performer in the tight stuff and Rob Leane was everywhere in attack and defence.

Blessed with quality ball we actually started to put some promising attacking raids together and looked like a premiership winning team. Harry Ottley was setting up the raids with deft passes and intelligent kicking that had the Bowral side continually on the back foot.

Six tries were the result of good teamwork with Keto, Chris Parker, Nick Longhurst, Lachlan Williams and Kieron McEvoy, who crossed for a double, being the scorers. Another plus for the Lads was the accurate kicking of Colin Hammond-Tighe who converted five of the tries and also two penalties.

The game became a bit fiery towards the end which saw Chris Parker and Kieron McEvoy spending some time in the bin. It was a shame to let Bowral in for some easy tries, but the Lads were very deserved winners.

Rd 6 – 24/5/14	Eridge Oval	University 46	Bowral 17
<b>Tries:</b>	Kieran McEvoy (2) Keto Neheja	Chris Parker	Nick Longhurst Lachlan Williams
<b>Goals:</b>	Colin Hammond-Tighe (5)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Colin H-T (2)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Rob Leane		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Keto Neheja	Harry Ottley	Rob Leane

### Thirds

Thanks to all the Lads who backed up for the Thirsties when they took on Wollondilly. It was a bit of a battle to get things organised, but Geoff Devitt and Shaun Dutailis again waved the magic wand and a team appeared on the field. This was a tough assignment to be away from the rest of the club and we all appreciate those that made the effort.

Things started well for the guys and at the break there was not a lot in it. It was, however, a short period of time after half time when concentration dropped, and we let them in for a few tries that saw the lead blow out.

To the boys credit we got back on the horse and started to claw our way back into the contest. I was asked not to mention individual tires by the coaching team, but I have been told that Tanksy' s effort was one to be admired with the chip and chase being on the coaching plan for the week.

Other try scorers were Michael Mamatta and Pat Perillo who also converted his try. Geoff Devitt completes the scoring with a penalty and a conversion.

A special mention to Pat who went along to be the strapper for the team and ended up playing the full game.

Rd 6 – 24/5/14	Hannaford Oval	University 22	Wollondilly 35
<b>Tries:</b>	Michael Mammata	Lee Tanks	Pat Perillo
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (1)	Pat Perillo (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b> Geoff Devitt (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Rob Leane		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Rob Leane	Michael Mammata	Geoff Devitt

## Seconds

I can't say much different this week as I have written for the last three weeks with the Entertainers living up to their name by scoring wonderful tries and defending their line with grim determination. Another victory that saw the opposition pointless indicates just how well we are travelling and even with new personnel stepping in each week, especially in the backs, we have maintained our high standards.

We played non contested scrums but allowed the Bowral boys to play with their full complement in a great show of sportsmanship, but we never looked like losing. James Read again displayed his leadership skills and was a constant thorn in the opposition's side. He was ably supported by the entire pack, especially Hori Leef, Steve Elson and Ed Owens.

This supremacy allowed the backline to show its class as Charlie Curry and Tom Baker steered the ship around the park. Hori, Rhys Hancock, Ready, Ben Crowley, Harry Cummins and Bill Hurley were the players to cross for five pointers while Curry kicked four conversions and a penalty.

A good win as we keep rolling along getting better at each outing.

Rd 6 – 24/5/14	Eridge Oval		University 41	Bowral 0
<b>Tries:</b>	Hori Leef Rhys Handcock	James Read Bill Hurley	Ben Crowley	Harry Cummins
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (4)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Read			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	James Read	Tom Baker	Ed Owens	

## Firsts

Bowral have improved this year both on and off the field. They fielded a side that contained some old faces from the past and some new ones and they were competitive for a long period of the game. The score would suggest otherwise but it was only in the last fifteen minutes where we got on top as they fell away due to lack of fitness.

Our pack was in control, especially in the set pieces where Andrew Papworth stood tall and dominated. It was also evident in the loose play that we had an advantage in pace and fitness as James Hurley and the other guys were able to secure possession that our back thrived on. 'Leech' Mason and his brother, Rapine, were in fine form and both scored a couple of tries. Their ability to find space also saw Matt Lee notch a hat trick of tries before the break. Apparently, this is what happens when you pay your fees. The other tries were scored by Alex Sims, who had a fine match even though carrying a shoulder injury and Tyler Atkins.

I think everyone in the backs had a shot at goal with Alyd Owen (2) and Rapine (1) being successful.

Rd 6 – 24/5/14	Eridge Oval		University 51	Bowral 7
<b>Tries:</b>	Matt Lee (3) Tyler Aitken	Leon Mason (2)	Rapine Mason (2)	Alex Sims
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (1)	Alyd Owen (2)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Leon Mason			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	James Hurley	Andy Papworth	Rapine Mason	

## Rd 7 – Engadine – Engadine & Kiama - Kiama Showground

### Thirds

The Thirsties had to venture up the Prince's Highway to take on the Engadine Black, which was a big ask as the rest of the club were playing Kiama at their home ground. To make matters even more complicated there were some awkward moments at the ground as there had been a mix-up with starting times with Engadine ready to play at 2pm and our guys all prepared for a later start at 3pm.



After a bit of toing and froing a compromise was worked out and the game started with the boys starting very positively, establishing control in the forwards. Mitch Bell again demonstrated his ability to dominate in the forward exchanges and he was well supported by Michael Mamatta and Michael McKenzie. The Thirsties also benefitted by having Coach Dutailis back on deck and his combination with Geoff Devitt was crucial in getting us on the front foot. The further the game went the more we got on top which resulted in six tries. It was interesting to note that only one of these tries were scored by a back, Tyson McEvoy. The others were scored by forwards Mitch Bell, Dustin Barnett, Michael McKenzie, Rob Pomana and Luke Symons. Geoff had his kicking boots on again with three conversions and a penalty.

The game ended in somewhat of a controversy when one of the Engadine guys let fly with some advice to the referee which resulted in him missing the last three minutes of the game as he had already been given a yellow card earlier in the game.

It was good for the Thirsties to break their duck, especially in such fine fashion.

Rd 7 – 31/5/14	Engadine Oval		University 39	Engadine 7
<b>Tries:</b>	Mitch Bell Dustin Barnett	Brenton Ritchie Michael McKenzie	Rob Pomana Tyson McEvoy	Luke Symons
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt
<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	Geoff Devitt	Michael McKenzie	

### Seconds

The juggernaut continued as the Entertainers continued on their winning ways with a solid performance against Kiama who were just a few points behind us on the points table.

Our forwards laid the foundation for the victory with the loose forwards terrorising the opposition with their ability to get the ball for our backs to launch raids. James Read was again a very inspiring leader who did his best to keep onside with the ref, who seemed in a very cranky mood, especially when he yelled at our supporters to be quiet early in the game. Bill Parnell was on the receiving end of a yellow card after a strong tackle after which he received a few whacks in the head by a couple of angry Kiama players

Rhys Hancock was on the spot to score two tries while fellow forwards Ed Owens and Hori Leef also scored well deserved tries. Rueben Thompson showed his pace as he raced over after a very good run while Charlie "Golden Boots" Curry was on target to convert three of the tries and was also well in control with some excellent skills on show. Harry Cummins also had a strong game as he was able to benefit with the amount of room he was given by the opposition. It was also good to welcome Jade Gardiner back to the fold and he was good foil for our young backline.

Rd 7 – 31/5/14	Kiama Showground		University 31	Kiama 17
<b>Tries:</b>	Rhys Handcock	Hori Leef	Ed Owens	Rueben Thompson
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Harry Cummins			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Harry Cummins	James Read	Rhys Handcock	

### Firsts

This was a danger game for us as we had often found Kiama a difficult opponent on their home turf. They had also started the season with some good performances and had recruited well with some quality players added to their squad.

Once again it was in the set pieces where we were able to stamp our authority and we were never going to let the points slip away from us this time. It was no walk in the park, however, as the Kiama

guys were well drilled and once they had the ball were able to keep it for extended periods of time. Our defence proved to be difficult to crack and therefore they seemed to run out of options after a while and once we did gain the ball, we were able to play some excellent running rugby.

James Hurley was a little confused as he obviously thought he was a winger as he raced across for two tries while Matt Lee showed his pace and straight running to notch a five pointer and also set up another for Nic Rangiura.

The Little General in Leon Mason was also dominant in the attacking raids we went on and Rapine Mason was also in fantastic form, scoring a double of great 'meat pies'. The biggest cheer was given to Prop Andy Papworth as he raced across for a well-deserved try as a reward for his tireless efforts in the tight stuff.

In summary a solid performance against improved opposition.

Rd 7 – 31/5/14	Kiama Showground		University 44	Kiama 24
<b>Tries:</b>	James Hurley (2) Nik Rangiura	Rapine Mason (2)	Andy Papworth	Matt Lee
<b>Goals:</b>	Alyd Owen (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Alyd Owen (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Matt Lee			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	James Hurley	Alyd Owen	Will Norrie Leon Mason	

### Rd 8 – Vikings - Uni Oval

Saturday's game was a bit of a homecoming with a number of well-known faces turning up out of the blue to see the guys take on Vikings in 4 grades. Amongst the crowd was Paul Hundy, a Uni player from the 60's, Nite Nati, Illawarra Player of the year on two occasions, Wa Hanita-Paki, who starred in the 2006 premiership winning team and 'Fiji' Tom Fenelelui back for a visit from Orange. It was great to see all the guys back and Nite even threatened to bring his boots for the next game, and I don't think he was joking.

#### Colts

The Lads are coming into the period where they have a lot of weeks off due to byes etc. so it was important to give a good account of ourselves against the only team we have not beaten yet. Things weren't looking too promising as there was an air of confidence - or should I say an aroma of bourbon, around the group as they had obviously indulged at the Ball the previous night. Our task was made even harder as we had to go non contested in the scrums due to a lack of props which meant that we had to play with only 14 players, which had a major impact on the performance.

The Lads were always in the game but never in control as both teams scored tries against some poor tackling, especially in the backs. True, they had some big guys who could run but we did make them look like world beaters at times.

On the other hand, we looked good with the ball in hand and scored some excellent tries to keep in the game. The lead changed hands a couple of times but as the game came down to the pointy end the Vikings guys had too much in reserve and a couple of late tries meant that we lost by 11 points, which in fact was not a true indication of the effort by the Lads.

To our credit we did score four tries and secured a bonus point as a reward for the effort put in by all players. Once again 'Mudgee' and Rob Leane lead the way for our forwards and Harry Ottley is really settling into the pivot role and doing a great job.

Our tries were scored by 'Mudgee' Cheetham, Harry Cummins, Bill Hurley and Will Lamb while Colin Hammond-Tighe converted two of the tries.

Rd 8-7/6/14	University Oval	University 24	Vikings 33
<b>Tries:</b>	Ben Cheetham	Harry Cummins	Bill Hurley
<b>Goals:</b>	Colin Hammond-Tighe (2)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Cheetham		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Ben Cheetham	Harry Ottley	Rob Leane

### Thirds

Numbers were not an issue this week as Coach Dutailis had over 25 players to try to give game time to in what was to be a game of two completely different halves as the Thirties took on a very quick Vikings outfit.

The first 30 minutes were completely dominated by the Blues as they ran in 28 unanswered points and seemed to be capable of running up a cricket score in the remainder of the game.

Whatever was said at the break by Coach Dutailis had its effect and the boys came out and actually got on top for long periods of the game. The second stanza actually ended in a 5 all draw after James Bull crossed for a well-deserved try in the corner. It should be note that we did have a change of personnel at the break with some experienced campaigners in Deano Rossit and others making an appearance which certainly made a difference. There were some big performances in the forward pack, which was lead my Michael McKenzie and Mitch Bell, when not off injured. They were well supported by Zac Gorman, who has worked hard on his fitness and played the complete game. newcomer in Leland Yeo.

It was a great achievement to stay in the game but again shows we need to keep developing if we are to move up the ladder in what is a very good third grade comp.

Rd 8 – 7/6/14	University Oval	University 5	Vikings 33
<b>Tries:</b>	James Bull		
<b>Goals:</b>	<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>
	Michael McKenzie	Zac Gorman	Dean Rossit Leland Yeo

### Seconds

The juggernaut hit a bump this week and came to a shuddering halt as the second placed Vikings put us to the sword. What the score doesn't indicate was the effort put in by the younger guys in the team as Kieran Bonin showed his class by being named man of the match in his grade debut. Others to stand out included the two Mudgee boys in Cheetham and Ottley who backed up after a torrid battle in the Colts game to be key performers in the match.

There were a number of reasons why we couldn't match the Blues but the main one was the fact that we had nearly an entire backline out due to injuries etc. and we hadn't trained well.

The effort was there as we scored tries by Ben Cheetham and Cam Thompson and held our own for long periods of the game but as the full-time whistle neared, we let Vikings run amok in the backs and let the score blow out somewhat.

There is certainly no panic in the outfit, but the break will allow a lot of players to overcome their injuries and Coach Reed will soon have that smile back on his dial.

Rd 8 – 7/6/14	University Oval	University 12	Vikings 36
<b>Tries:</b>	Ben Cheetham	Cameron Thompson	
<b>Goals:</b>	Harry Ottley (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Kieran Bonin	Cam Thompson	
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Kieran Bonin	Ben Crowley	Travis Hardaker

### **Firsts - report by Ron Wood – The Rogue’s Rant**

The Mallee Bulls put on a powerful display of running rugby to blitz Vikings by 51 points to 14 in their round 8 Builders Club Premiership match at University Oval. With the Bulls forward pack strongly led by Man of the Match, Jason Hughes, overpowering their opponents the Uni boys ran in seven tries to two to post their fifth win on the trot.

Uni’s forward dominance was most evident at scrum time as they continually drove the Blue’s pack backwards to allow their attacking style of play to come to the fore and attack they did. The bulls line speed in defence also never allowed Vikings the opportunity to mount any real pressure on the Uni line until late in each half.

The Bulls went on the attack from the kick-off and after turning down an opportunity for penalty goal, choosing a scrum instead, it was front rower Andy Papworth who finished off with a try in the corner after they had spread play from one side of the field to the other. Their second try came in the ninth minute for centre Rapine Mason, when he worked a clever play with his centre partner Nik Rangiuiira, to score under the posts. With fullback Alyd Owen’s conversion the Bulls led 12 – 0.

Five minutes later the Mason brothers combined to make Vikings pay for some loose handling as they gained possession and exchanged several passes before Leon Mason scored the sides third try. With another conversion from Owen the Bulls lead was 19 – 0 after just fifteen minutes.

Vikings regrouped as the half went on and with a change of tactics their pick and drive style of play finally paid dividends as big prop Joel Diggins bumped off several defenders to score five minutes before half time. Michael Maidment converted the try for a 19 – 7 score line. Alyd Owen goaled for Uni two minutes from the break, for a half time score of 22 – 7.

Two minutes after the restart, Owen kicked another penalty goal and shortly after half back Alex Simms split the Vikings defence and found Leon Mason in support. Leon worked another exchange of passes with his brother Rapine for Leon to score his second try under the posts. Owen converted again for Uni to lead 32 – 7.

Three more tries came in the next eight minutes. The first was scored by hooker Hemana Wickliffe after Vikings were able to repel several forward rushes at their line. Owen goaled again and then added a try of his own two minutes later. From a Uni scrum win on halfway he joined the backline and sliced through to race fifty meters to score wide out, to take the score to 44 – 7.

The final Bulls try came at the fifty-six-minute mark when centre Nik Rangiuiira put Matt Lee away down the left side. As Lee drew the Vikings defence Rangiuiira backed up on the inside to score.

Owen kicked his fifth conversion for the day to bring up 51 points for the Bulls.

Vikings showed plenty of resolve to continue to try to break the line but lacked the penetration in attack to trouble the Bulls. A clever kick in general play from Vikings best player on the day, Andrew Barrett, was pounced on by replacement Steven Sunderland who scored and converted to bring up the final score.

The Bulls performance had even more merit for the fact that they were still without their two country rep players Paul Tuala and Donovan Nepia who were side-lined for the match. Number Eight Jason Hughes was outstanding for the Bulls and hooker Hemana Wickliffe was strong, with halfback Alex Simms feeding well of his forwards dominance.

<b>Rd 8 – 7/6/14</b>	<b>University Oval</b>		<b>University 51</b>	<b>Vikings 14</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	Leon Mason (2) Nik Rangiuiira	Andy Papworth Alyd Owen	Hemana Wickliffe	Rapine Mason
<b>Goals:</b>	Alyd Owen (5)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Alyd Owen (2)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Alex Sims			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Andy Papworth	James Hurley Leon Mason		

### Rd 9 – Shoalhaven - Uni Oval

Saturday marked the start for the traditional tough time for Uni as we enter the Exam/holiday period. This is the danger period for us in all grades and just how successful we are this season depends on how much players are willing to sacrifice in order to meet our goals.

#### Thirds

If you just look at the score you would imagine that this was a one-sided encounter with Uni well out of their depth. Things can, however, be quite deceiving as the Thirsties performance was a good one. Vincentia are a very good third grade side with big forwards, a quick backline and apparently a good coach. They are a typical one team club with players capable of playing in higher grades, but our blokes were far from disgraced.

The forward tussle was pretty even and in fact I would suggest that our pack was a tad better on the day. Luke Symons and Mitch Bell were excellent in the tight stuff and were well supported by all the pack. Mitch was rewarded for his efforts by a well-deserved five pointer while the other try was scored a young colt Rob Pomana. Both of the tries were converted by Geoff Devitt.

Our problem with lack of experience was exposed in the backs where some simple errors and missed tackles meant that just when we were applying pressure, we allowed Vincentia to break out, which often resulted in points being scored.

It was good to see Falelima Nati make a guest appearance after a break of at least ten years, and he showed glimpses of form to demonstrate why he was Illawarra player of the Year on two occasions. Rumours persist that this would not be his last game, but we will wait and see.

Rd 9 – 14/6/14	University Oval	University 14	Vincentia 59
<b>Tries:</b>	Mitch Bell	Rob Pomana	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt		<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>
	Luke Symons	Mitch Bell	Falelima Nati

#### Seconds

Too big, too fast, too good. This simple synopsis sums up the performance by the Entertainers. Our forwards dominated and the backs ran amuck. Leading the charge was Ben Cheetham and Travis Hardaker but they were certainly not alone in the effort department.

It was good to see old stager Dean Rossit on the field and he made his presence felt with the first hit up of the game as he ran 20m through poor defence. This set the standard for the rest of the game. On the opposite end of the age scale youngster Pauro Kemp showed just how talented a footballer he is by scoring two tries and kicking seven conversions in a dazzling display.

Other try scorers were 'Mudgee' Cheetham (3), Rob Leane (2), Rhys Hancock, Dean Rossit, Ben Crowley and Kieran McEvoy.

Rd 9 – 14/6/14	University Oval	University 79	Shoalhaven 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Ben Cheetham (3) Rhys Hancock Kieran McEvoy	Rob Leane (2) Dean Rossit	Pauro Kemp (2) Ben Crowley Travis Hardaker Gordon Akauma
<b>Goals:</b>	Pauro Kemp (7)	Rob Leane (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Ben Cheetham		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Ben Cheetham	Dean Rossit	Travis Hardaker



### **Firsts**

Ditto from the second-grade report. It was a totally dominant performance against dispirited opposition. In fact, their only points came late in the game when a Shoals player took an intercept and scored under the posts.

Our execution was in all facets of the game was excellent and some of the tries scored showed just how talented our players are with the ball in hand. Our set play was strong and when you consider that Shoalhaven have two Country forwards in their pack this was not as easy as it looked with Jason Hughes leading the way.

It was great to see Jade Gardiner back in Firsts and he made life hell for his wing opponent who would still be experiencing nightmares of Jade running over him. The two Mason boys were also in rare form with Rapine notching a double of tries and also contributing 6 conversions to continue his scoring frenzy.

It was good to see Justin Stanbrook and Pauro Kemp score tries on their first-grade debuts while other try scorers were Wayne Ngatai (2), Will Wood, Paul Tuala, Tyler Aitkin and Charlie Curry. All in all, a great performance to finish the first round in second place behind Avondale, who we play in a couple of weeks.

<b>Rd 9 – 14/6/14</b>	<b>University Oval</b>	<b>University 77</b>	<b>Shoalhaven 7</b>	
<b>Tries:</b>	Wayne Ngatai (2) Paul Tuala Charlie Curry	Jade Gardiner (2) Jason Hughes Pauro Kemp	Rapine Mason (2) Justin Stanbrook	Tyler Aitkin Will Wood
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (6)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Jade Gardiner			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Rapine Mason	Paul Tuala	Jade Gardiner	

### **Rd 10 – Forfeit by Engadine in Thirds**

### **Rd 11 – Avondale - Gerry Cappetta Oval**

A tough day at the office when we took on the table topping teams in all three grades. A big ask but we stepped up in all the games but found that the task was beyond us at this stage of the season.

### **Thirds**

The Thirsty Thirds had enough players for a training run on Thursday night and with a mixture of old and new players available we were in a position to take on the Wombats at their home ground, no easy task. It was good to see Justin Placek strap on his boots again to enter the fray.

Numbers were not an issue on Saturday as we had players on the bench, but the opposition were a formidable side, but not as big as in previous encounters. The boys were, however, under the pump from the opening whistle. We certainly tried hard, especially Harley Parnell and Brandon Woods, our Canadian import, but any mistakes we made were punished by the Wombats.

There were flashes of brilliance on our part with Kieran McEvoy doing well to score our only try which was converted by Geoff Devitt. Michael Tremain also did well in the fullback position Avondale were well in control as can be seen by them running in 56 points against us but that won't be the only time they do this to opposition sides.

<b>Rd 11 – 5/7/14</b>	<b>Gerry Cappetta Oval</b>	<b>University 7</b>	<b>Avondale 56</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	Kieran McEvoy		
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Brandon Woods		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Brandon Woods	Harley Parnell	

## Seconds

Second grade were looking good as they ran on the field as it would be the strongest combination we have put together for a while. We had an experienced pack, led by Hori Beef and Steve Elson and we were confident of putting in a good performance against the undefeated Avondale side.

Things started positively as we placed the Wombats under concerted pressure early on which resulted in a try to prop Casey Rameka. Charlie Curry converted the try to see us in front for the first time.

Our scrum was solid, but the Wombats were allowed to push over the mark and soon we were the ones under pressure. All of this resulted in us having to defend for long periods of time and consequently missed tackles allowed the Wombats to gain control. It is important to recognise that they hadn't been beaten in three years, so they are a quality outfit.

When we had the ball our backs looked good with Charlie Curry and Cruz Wakefield causing problems with straight running and clever passes but even though we tried hard we leaked tries. After what promised so much, we couldn't match their size and speed and trooped off the field disappointed with our performance when we had promised so much.

Rd 11 – 5/7/14	Gerry Cappetta Oval	University 7	Avondale 34
<b>Tries:</b>	Casey Rameka		
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry		<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>
	Hori Leef	Cruz Wakefield	Charlie Curry

## Firsts - report by Ron Wood – The Rogue's Rant

Avondale extended its unbeaten lead in the IDRU Builders Club Premiership with a last second 18 to 15 points win over a desperately unlucky Wollongong University side on Saturday at Gerry Cappetta Oval. Andre Itula crossed for a converted try in the dying seconds of the match to put Avondale in front for the first time and deny Uni the competition points.

The Bulls came with a very well devised game plan to limit the attacking opportunities of the dangerous Wombat backline. With champion No. 8 Paul Tuala defending as an extra centre, the fast-moving Bulls defensive line managed to limit the attacking opportunities of the usually potent Wombat three quarter line. The Bulls defensive effort was outstanding right across the park as they defused Wombat raids time and time again. The Uni forward pack completely dominated in the scrums and was getting the better of the Wombat forwards at the breakdown as the game moved on.

With Avondale never able to get into their usual attacking rhythm Uni went to the break with 10 points to nil lead which could have been 16 but for two failed penalty goal attempts from right in front early in the match by stand in kicker Rapine Mason. Leon Mason kicked his side's first points with a penalty goal after twenty-five minutes. Ten minutes before half time Paul Tuala cleaned up a poor Avondale lineout throw at the back to score his side's first try from close range. Leon Mason converted for the half time score.

Darryl Sanft registered Wombats first points with a penalty goal five minutes after the restart. Despite repeated strong charges by Avondale forwards Matt Taufua and Steven Fuka and several probing runs by Wingman Eli Sinoti the Uni defence refused to yield. In the fifty ninth minute Uni were in again when Avondale turned over possession on the halfway line and the ball was spread quickly to Leon Mason who found himself in space on the left flank. With no Avondale cover defence at home Mason raced the fifty meters down the touch line to score but could not convert from out wide for Uni to lead 15 – 3.

Shortly after the Mason try, Bulls winger Cameron Thompson broke away from the defence and set off on a strong run toward the Avondale line. As he approached the Avondale Fullback Scott Morgan, he swerved and wrong-footed Morgan, who lunged and contacted Thompson's head knocking him to

the ground. Referee Craig Conway consulted both Touch Judges before issuing Morgan a Yellow Card. This turned out to be a turning point of the game.

With replacement halfback Pauro Collier coming onto the field, the Wombat effort lifted noticeably, and it was Avondale who scored next four minutes later. Hooker Karl Horne found himself on the end of a backline raid to score wide out on the right for a seven-point margin to Uni at 8 – 15. Sanft reduced the lead with a penalty goal ten minutes later and the margin was down to four.

As Avondale poured on the pressure, the Bulls effort started to fade and with five minutes remaining their key man Paul Tuala was yellow carded for dissent by Referee Conway. With the Avondale players throwing everything at the Bulls line a bit of good fortune came their way. After a raid on the right broke down a loose pass was deflected into the arms of Andre Itula who found just the space he needed to score the winning try.

The Bulls effort proved that they can be more than competitive with the unbeaten competition leaders and will be very keen for another crack at Avondale come Finals time. The Bulls front row of Andy Papworth, Hemana Wickliffe and Karl Smith continue to impress week in week out, with loose forwards Jason Hughes and Wayne Ngatai having strong games alongside Tuala. Centres Rapine Mason and Nik Rangiuiira stood out in both defence and attack, with Leon Mason again the side's busiest player.

The Bulls can put this one down to the one that got away, but Avondale showed that they are not going to go down without a fight.

Rd 11 – 5/7/14	Gerry Cappetta Oval	University 15	Avondale 18
<b>Tries:</b>	Paul Tuala	Leon Mason	
<b>Goals:</b>	Leon Mason (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Leon Mason (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Leon Mason		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Leon Mason	Wayne Ngatai	Nik Rangiuiira

### Rd 12 – Shamrocks - Uni Oval

It can't be denied that there were strong emotions on both sides when the two clubs clashed and there were some unpleasant incidents that further strained the relationships but as these mainly occurred off field the day did go reasonably well.

#### **Thirds**

There were plenty of bodies ready to take on the Rocks, but it needs to be said that the game was a trip down memory lane for a number of our club members who donned the playing gear for the first time in a while. 'Nite' Nati combined with Coach Reed and Zac Gorman to form one of the oldest front rows to have played for the club, while Shaun Dutailis, Geoff Devitt, Shaun McCreedy and Justin Placek are no spring chickens either. On the other side of the ledger, we also fielded a good number of Colts players who gained a lot from the opportunity to play with these experienced 'veterans'.

In a close fought encounter, the Thirsties more than held their own and were always in the game. Tries were scored by Justin Placek, Shaun McCreedy and Dean Ward, two of which were converted by Geoff Devitt.

There was a fair degree of niggles in the match with three players having to sit in the sin bin at stages of the game but the fact that Uni were applying pressure meant that the Rocks became frustrated, despite winning the game 19-26. This tension blew up at the completion of the match when an unsavoury incident resulted in words being exchanged between players which was later dealt with at the District level.

The other disappointing aspect of the game was the fact that Shamrocks complained about Dion Miller coming on to play at prop as he was not officially cleared by them to play. This very minor infringement saw Uni deducted four points from their season tally, which was of no real concern as we were running last, but it did leave a bitter taste in the mouth.

Rd 12 -12/7/14	University Oval	University 19	Shamrocks 26
<b>Tries:</b>	Justin Placek	Dean Ward	Shaun McCreedy
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Shaun McCreedy		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Justin Placek	Geoff Devitt	Will Lamb Dean Ward Falelima Nati

### Seconds

Things were becoming desperate for the Entertainers because a bit of gap was opening between them and the Rocks in the battle for the fourth spot in the semi-final race. Our cause was not helped by the number of players who were unavailable for the fixture for a variety of reasons, and this resulted in players moving up from the lower grades.

Our forwards battled hard but found the going quite tough while our backs lacked combinations and experience as many of them were Colts players.

We were in the game for long periods and tries to Dave Grimson and Kieran McEvoy, one of which was converted by Charlie Curry, gave us a chance of securing points but Shamrocks managed four converted tries and a penalty to earn five points that would make our end of season goals even more difficult to achieve.

Rd 12 -12/7/14	University Oval	University 12	Shamrocks 31
<b>Tries:</b>	Dave Grimson	Kieran McEvoy	
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Casey Rameka		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Casey Rameka	Andrew Walker	Charlie Curry

### Firsts

Firsts were also depleted by injuries, especially in the pack, but this certainly didn't stop them from riding roughshod over the Rocks and completely dominating the game. Mitch Bell, Hori Leef, Steve Elson and Rhys Hancock were elevated into the side and performed brilliantly and certainly didn't look out of place. In the end it became a rout as our scrum, led by Andrew Papworth, was awesome and laid the foundation for the win. The forwards really relished the opportunity to play attacking rugby and members of the pack scored five of the nine tries scored by the team. Hemi Wickliffe notched a double, while Andy, Mitch Bell and Wayne Ngatai also crossed the line.

In the backs the presence of Jade Gardiner in the centres was a nightmare for the young Rocks backs and he scored two tries and was always a threat. Other tries were scored by Alex Sims, Nik Rangiuira and Tyler Atkins. Leon Mason also had his kicking boots on as he kicked six conversions and a penalty to complete the scoring. All in all a great performance.

Rd 12 -12/7/14	University Oval	University 60	Shamrocks 7
<b>Tries:</b>	Jade Gardiner (2) Nik Rangiuira	Hemi Wickliffe (2) Tyler Aitken	Wayne Ngatai Andy Papworth
<b>Goals:</b>	Leon Mason (6)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Leon Mason (1)
<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	Leon Mason	Andy Papworth Hemi Wickliffe Karl Smith

## Rd 13 – Camden -Uni Oval

### Thirds

Once again, the Third graders had a heap of guys ready to run on to take on the Camden Rams, which was a great effort as we were still in holiday mode.

It was a bonus to have Pat Perillo and 'Taco' Parker back on deck, but it was going to be a struggle up front due to a lack of props.

This was certainly the case in the first half as the big Camden forwards constantly made attacking raids near our line. We hung in but it was only a matter of time before they crashed over. The Thirsties were still competitive thanks to Pat in the backs who led by example, and he was ably supported by Geoff Devitt and Coach Dutailis later in the game.

Harry Pitt made an appearance and his presence in the front row alongside Brad Milner helped to stabilise the pack and combined with the hustle provided by Rob Leane we got back into the game. Harry notched himself a try as did 'Taco', one of which was converted by Geoff, but we had given them too much of a head start to reel the Rams back in.

We still came off defeated but far from disgraced and as the younger guys gain experience, I predict we will win a few games later in the season.

Rd 13 – 19/7/14	University Oval	University 12	Camden 24
<b>Tries:</b>	Chris Parker	Harry Pitt	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (1)		<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	Chris Parker	Rob Leane

### Seconds

In what was a must win game for the Entertainers Coach Reed was confronted by the fact that the forward pack was in good shape, but the backs seemed to be a little disjointed as they had not really trained as a group.

Camden was in third place coming into the game, but it surprised everyone at the ground when more than half their side had to back up after the Third-grade fixture. Surely Camden don't have holidays at this time of the year as well!

The result of the game was never really in doubt as the forwards controlled the ball well with youngster, Kieran Bonin, and Rhys Hancock taking the ball forward at every opportunity. James Read was in good form at the breakdown until he went down as if he had been shot. Horrible thoughts of a serious injury went through people's minds but after a bit of treatment from miracle worker, Jeff Bridges, Ready was back in the fray.

The backline was disrupted when winger Brad Reed took a knock to the head, but the combination of Alex Van Dartel and Harry Cummins flourished. Much of the credit for these needs to be given to the halves where Ben Crowley was dynamic, making a lot of line breaks to get us going forward.

In the end we scored three tries, one each to Rhys Hancock, Alex Van Dartel and Harry Cummins, two of which were converted by Charlie Curry.

The only disappointment in the result was that we just couldn't get that elusive fourth try that would have given us a bonus point.

Rd 13 – 19/7/14	University Oval	University 19	Camden 3
<b>Tries:</b>	Rhys Handcock	Alex Van Dartel	Harry Cummins
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Read		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Ben Crowley	Kieran Bonin	Alex Van Dartel



### **Firsts - report by Ron Wood – The Rogue’s Rant**

On the back of another strong forward display University powered to a 36 to 26 win over the Camden Rams at University Oval in their IDRU Builders Club Premiership match on Saturday. A very entertaining first forty minutes saw each side score two tries. With both sides playing with flair and pace, Uni went to the break 15 - 14 up.

The Bulls took a stranglehold on the match scoring two converted tries in the first twenty-five minutes of the second half before Yellow Card trouble struck. In somewhat of a farcical situation Uni lost three players to the sin bin in the last fifteen minutes of the match as the Rams poured on the pressure at the Bulls line. Referee Craig Conway dispatched three Bulls players for repeated infringements which saw them play sections of the final fifteen minutes two players down. The Camden effort showed that they are not about to go down in this year's title race just yet, showing glimpses of the form that took them to last year's title.

With Uni looking the side most likely to score first, play moved from end to end at pace, but it was Camden who eventually posted first points at the 12-minute mark. Flanker Aaron Loxley caught the Bulls defence off guard and raced clear forty meters out and found speedy winger Faaluuila Tuaoi in support who positioned fullback Mark June for a clear run to the line. Ben Greentree converted for the Rams to go to a 7 points to nil lead.

Seven minutes later a Uni backline raid saw Reuben Thompson break away down the left side and when it looked like play would break down, No.8 Paul Tuala positioned himself well in support on the inside to score Uni's first points. Leon Mason kicked his first goal for the day to even the scores at 7 - 7.

One of the stars of the Rams 2013 Premiership side Mark Nightingale took the field as a replacement as the Uni try was being converted. Six minutes later, he found himself in the Bin after being deemed to have deliberately collapsed a maul by Referee Conway, leaving Camden one man down. From the ensuing penalty, Leon Mason kicked a penalty goal for Uni to take the lead 10 - 7.

Despite being shorthanded, it was Camden that scored next when skipper Gavin Holder broke from a driving maul to score at the thirty-third-minute mark, and with Greentree's conversion the Rams took back the lead 14 - 10. Uni front rower Karl Smith added to his try scoring tally for the year when he finished off a smart passing raid to score out wide, for Uni to take a one-point margin into the break. At the fifty-five-minute mark Paul Tuala backed up for another inside pass after a Uni scrum win to score a strong try, which was converted by Mason and Uni led 22 - 14. Ten minutes later Bulls, fullback Chris Miller, who was a constant threat with his electrifying running from the back, created space for flanker Wayne Ngatai, who raced forty meters to score. Another conversion from Leon Mason and Uni were out by 15 and looking in control at 29 - 14.

Camden were not ready to concede this match just yet and mounted several strong raids on the Uni line. After a succession of penalties to Camden at the Uni line, Uni hooker Hemana Wickliffe was sin binned. Within a minute of the binning the Camden pressure was rewarded when hardworking front rower Mark Minter barged over to score and give Camden some hope of victory, with the margin down to 10.

Two minutes later Miller was in the game again when, on a kick return, he cleverly made space for Rapine Mason to race away and score. With Leon Mason's conversion, Uni were out to an unassailable 36 - 19 lead.

With less than ten minutes left in the match Uni replacement James Read joined Wickliffe in the bin, again for repeated infringements. From the penalty tap restart of play Aaron Loxley scored a converted try for Camden reducing the margin to 10. Five minutes later Paul Tuala received the games fourth yellow card and spent the last two minutes of the match on the sideline with Read. With forwards Holder, Minter and Loxley having strong games for the Rams, and the return to the field of Mark Nightingale, the signs were there that Camden are still very much capable of playing a major role in this year's comp. Halfback Peninsula, Ben Leaupepe added poise to the side and with Ben Greentree back at his more comfortable role at No.10 the Rams had much better direction.

Once again, the Bulls forwards were very strong at the set piece and breakdown with their scrum again pushing their opponents off the ball several times. Paul Tuala was very busy throughout, with his work at the breakdown outstanding. He was well supported by Andrew Rae and the entire pack. After several years away from the Illawarra Rugby scene Chris Miller showed that he is very capable of inflicting any amount of damage to the best defence that any of his opponents can muster.'

Rd 13 – 19/7/14	University Oval		University 36	Camden 26
<b>Tries:</b>	Paul Tuala (2)	Karl Smith	Wayne Ngatai	Rapine Mason
<b>Goals:</b>	Leon Mason (4)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Leon Mason (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Paul Tuala			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Paul Tuala	Chris Miller	Andy Rae	

### Rd 14 -Techtahs - Saunders Oval

The Battle of the Bridges is always a keenly fought affair and so it was good to come away with two wins on the day.

#### Thirds

It feels as though I'm repeating myself each week as I write the report on the Thirsties efforts as once again the guys tried hard but just found the opposition too experienced to overcome. The most pleasing thing about the game was that in the second half we more than matched the Techtahs and scored some good tries to Ben Cheetham and Corey Daniela, both of which Kieran McEvoy converted.

It was great to see Physio Jeff Bridges don the boots and display his wide range of skills where he orchestrated the backline from five-eight. He was ably supported by the war horse, Nite, who relished his role as prop. Just a bit of background for new guys, Nite was the Illawarra Player of the Year on two occasions in the 1990's and also represented country. So, when he gives you some advice it would be wise to listen. The other person who made a comeback was Jinbin, who has found a way to stay in Australia and continue his rugby career. It would be wise not to ask him too many questions about how he managed to do this.

Rd 14 – 26/7/14	Saunders Oval		University 14	Tech Waratahs 59
<b>Tries:</b>	Corey Daniella	Ben Cheetham		
<b>Goals:</b>	Kieran McEvoy (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Falelima Nati			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Jeff Bridges	Jinbin Liang	Ben Cheetham	

#### Seconds

The Entertainers are walking a tight rope in their efforts to get into the semis and can't afford a slip up at any stage. They are currently ten points behind fourth placed Shamrocks, who haven't had the bye or played Avondale, which is in our favour. We also have a forty-point buffer as far as points go, which could be vital. We have to win all our remaining games with the game against Vikings looking to be the crunch fixture.

With this in mind the Seconds ran out against Techtahs and did what they were expected to do, win with a bonus point. They achieved this with tries to Casey Rameka, Harry Cummins, Kieran McEvoy, Ben Cheetham and a penalty try awarded to Charlie Curry, who also converted three of the tries. It was a good win with two young guns in Gordon Akauma and Kieran Bonin showing their potential in the higher grades. On the other end of the scale, it was great to see Donny Nepia back on the field and his poise under pressure and great kicking game was a delight to see.

The game was a tough one with 4 players spending time in the sin bin but only one was Uni, but it all got too much for Brad Reed who was given a red card after he offered some friendly advice to the referee.

Rd 14 – 26/7/14	Saunders Oval	University 31	Tech Waratahs 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Casey Rameka Penalty Try	Gordon Akauma	Kieran McEvoy Ben Cheetham
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (3)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Kieran Bonin		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Gordon Akauma	Kieran Bonin	Donny Nepia

### Firsts

Firsts continued on their winning way in much the same way as they have done for the last ten weeks. They were much too classy for the opposition who never gave up but couldn't match the size and skill of our players. Funnily enough the boot was on the other foot not so long ago and it is good to enjoy success while it's there.

Once again, the strong display by the pack laid the foundations for the win as they dominated set pieces and provided ample ball for the backs to cross for some exciting tries.

Paul Tuala also had a field day scoring four tries and just missing out on a few more. The other star runner was Andrew Papworth who showed all of his skills in some great open field running, belying the myth that front rowers can't run.

Our other tries were scored by Rapine Mason (2), Mitch Bell, Alex Sims, Justin Stanford and Chris Miller, who had a great game at fullback. Rapine also converted four of the tries.

In the end we were too big, too fast and too good for the opposition.

Rd 14 – 26/7/14	Saunders Oval	University 58	Tech Waratahs 5
<b>Tries:</b>	Paul Tuala (4) Justin Stanbrook	Rapine Mason (2) Chris Miller	Mitch Bell Alex Sims
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (4)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Chris Miller		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Andy Papworth	Justin Stanbrook	Andy Rae

### Rd 15 – Bowral - Uni Oval

Not a lot to write about as far as action on the park but this is a good time to reflect on some things. Congratulations to the guys from Bowral who did make the trip down the mountain to fulfill their commitments. It must be no fun to know that this is what is going to happen for the rest of the season as well, and still keep turning up.

### Colts

Colts were in for a rude shock when they took on the Bowral side that contained some very good footballers. As hard as we tried, we never really got into the game and finished being beaten by 24-16.

The forwards were always looking to get the ball with Rob Leane showing the way and being ably supported by Kieran Bonin and Keto Neheja, but we were outgunned in the backs despite the fine effort by Harry Ottley.

Rd 15 – 2/8/14	University Oval	University 16	Bowral 24
<b>Tries:</b>	Kieran Bonin	Jon Cudaj	
<b>Goals:</b>		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Colin Hammond-Tighe (2)	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Keto Neheja		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Kieran Bonin	Rob Leane	Harry ottley

### Thirds

This was without a doubt the match of the day. Thirds were able to recruit some quality backs in Jeff Bridges, Pat Perillo and Jack Shaw and so it was game on.

Uni took the lead through a try to winger Will Lamb and another to Tai Tuala, (Paulie's brother) and so things looked good at 12 nil.

Wollondilly got back in the game as things became disjointed as the coaches made a heap of changes to give everyone game time. Late in the second half Wollondilly hit the front 19-12 and things looked grim as time was running out. But in typical never say die mode our forwards got the ball and after sustained pressure Prop Luke Symons crashed over for Geoff Devitt to convert and get us the draw we so richly deserved.

Rd 15 – 2/8/14	University Oval	University 19	Wollondilly 19
<b>Tries:</b>	Luke Symons	Raki Sakaeia-Cecil	Will Lamb
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt (2)		<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	Pat Perillo	Tai Tuala

### Seconds

There was doubt whether Bowral would get a team on the field but in the end enough bodies turned up and so it was game on. We did enough to get the win and the bonus point and to their credit Bowral made us work hard for the tries we scored but it was a one-sided contest.

It was good to see Casey Rameka display all his skills in running the ball and he looked like a back on some occasions. Others to stand out were Ben Crowley and James Read in what was an easy win. Tries were scored by Casey (2), Cruz Wakefield (2), Andrew Lindsay, Benn Alex Van Dartel, and Charlie Curry, who also converted 6 of the tries.

It was great to see Andrew Lindsay and Charlie Freeman back in the Mallee Bulls ranks.

Rd 15 – 2/8/14	University Oval	University 52	Bowral 12
<b>Tries:</b>	Casey Rameka (2) Alex van Dartel	Cruz Wakefield (2) Ben Crowley	Andrew Lindsay Charlie Curry
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (6)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Andy Papworth		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Paul Tuala	Hemana Wickliffe	Andy Papworth

### Firsts

Bowral second grade plus a few extras came back out to play our firsts and congratulations to them. The standard of the game meant that the ref called the game off 15 minutes early as there was a real possibility of one of their players being hurt. - enough said. Tries were scored by Andy Papworth (2), Rapine Mason (2), Chris Parker, Will Norrie, Paul Tuala, Leon Mason, Nik Rangiura, Chris Miller, Rueben Thompson. Rapine also kicked 11 conversions from eleven attempts.

Rd 15 – 2/8/14	University Oval	University 77	Bowral 0
<b>Tries:</b>	Andy Papworth (2) Paul Tuala Rueben Thompson	Rapine Mason (2) Nik Rangiura	Chris Parker Chris Miller Will Norrie Justin Stanbrook
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (11)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Andy Papworth		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Paul Tuala	Hemi Wickliffe	Chris Miller Andy Papworth

## Rd 16 -Kiama - Uni Oval

### Colts

The colts took on Bowral in the first game of the day and emerged quite handy winners. There was a full team on deck as the holidays were over with a new addition in David Berthelot who appeared on the scene and stole the show.

It must be said that Bowral were struggling at this stage of the season with only twelve players available and they were commended by all by their commitment to turn up knowing that a win for them was at long odds.

The game was not a great spectacle, but the Lads scored some great tries through enterprising attack with Rueben Thompson showing the way with a hat trick of tries.

Rd 16 – 16/8/14	University Oval	University 62	Bowral 17
<b>Tries:</b>	Rueben Thompson (3) Iain Atkinson	David Bartholot Harry Cummins	Ben Cheetham Nick Longhurst
<b>Goals:</b>	Colin Hammond-Tighe (4)	Brad Reed (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	David Bartholot		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	David Bartholot	Jon Cudaj	Harry Cummins

### Thirds

The holidays were over so there was a cast of thousands eager to have a run against Engadine. I think we even ran out of space on the team sheet.

In some ways this is not a good thing as the coaches give everyone some time on the field and this is very unsettling to our combinations. The fact that so many hardy souls still keep turning up after so many defeats shows that the coaches have done the right thing and most players enjoyed the experience, especially when we did have a win.

As was the case throughout the season Thirsties struggled but never gave up and made Engadine work hard for their 45 points. On the positive side we scored tries by Luke Symons and James Bull, both converted by Geoff Devitt but we were never really in the game.

Rd 16 – 16/8/14	University Oval	University 14	Engadine 45
<b>Tries:</b>	James Bull	Luke Symons	
<b>Goals:</b>	Geoff Devitt		<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>
	Pat Perillo	Luke Symons	Raki Sakkara-Cecil Michael Mammata

### Seconds

Seconds needed a win with a bonus point to keep in the race for the semis and they achieved this goal in a ruthless fashion. The Entertainers lived up to their name by racing in ten tries and keeping their try line intact. The massive win certainly helped our for and against statistics, which might come into play to determine the last spot in the semi-final battle.

A couple of players stood out in the try scoring department with prop Casey Rameka scoring a hat trick as did winger Justin Stanbrook. The thing about Casey's effort was that the tries were long distance affairs which show cased his speed and stepping ability. The other player to impress was youngster, Pauro Kemp who showed extraordinary ability every time he touched the ball and was rewarded with two tries.

Charlie Curry also kicked well converting five of the tries as well as two penalties.

Rd 16 – 16/8/14	University Oval	University 66	Kiama 0
<b>Tries:</b>	Casey Rameka (3) Donny Nepia	Justin Stanbrook (3)	Pauro Kemp (2) Hori Leef
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (6)	Justin Stanbrook (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Casey Rameka		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Casey Rameka	Ben Cheetham	Justin Stanbrook

### Firsts

Kiama were in a must win situation coming into the match and played with great intensity, but we were always in control of the game. The fact that we scored only four tries but had about 80% of the ball also indicates just how desperately Kiama defended their line. Their cause was also not helped by a large injury toll, but they certainly never stopped trying.

Our scrum was outstanding, and we won nearly every scrum in the second half, but we squandered a lot of this possession by poor handling, which kept Kiama in the game.

Jade Gardiner was a handful for his opposing centres, and he scored a great try as did his partner in crime Rapine Mason, who also kicked two conversions and a penalty. Old timer Donny Nepia continued his comeback from injury by scoring a try while prop Andy Papworth was rewarded for all his hard work in the pack by also crossing for a try.

To be honest it was a win but not one that indicates that we are playing well enough to win the comp.

Rd 16 – 16/8/14	University Oval	University 27	Kiama 15
<b>Tries:</b>	Andy Papworth	Wayne Ngatai	Jade Gardiner Donny Nepia
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Rapine Mason (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	Andy Papworth		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Andrew Lindsay	Jade Gardiner	Hemi Wickliffe

### Rd 17 -Vikings -Vikings Oval

After one of the driest seasons on record we were faced with the prospect of having a game washed out after three or four days of heavy rain. In the end the sun shone through, and we were able to take on Vikings at their home ground in all four grades. Vikings Oval had been a bit of a graveyard for all the grades over the year as the Blues defend their home turf with great pride, no matter where they are on the points table, and this game was a real challenge for them as their first grade were in a dogfight with Kiama for a spot in the final four.

### Colts

The Lads had yet to taste victory against Vikings, so it was an important moral victory as we put them away in a convincing victory in what was by far our most impressive performance.

Vikings seemed to be missing some of their quality backs, but the game was in the balance for a long period of time until The Lads eventually ran away with the game. In the forwards the scrum was once again solid, even though we were missing Keto, who suffered a head knock at training. His replacement Mustafa has shown surprising improvement over the last few weeks and more than held his own in the set pieces. Harry Pitt was also dominant and opened the scoring with a try in the corner.

Rob Leane and 'Mudgee' Cheetham were their usual dynamic selves and created havoc at times with great running and dogged tackling. Even though we dominated in the forwards scoring tries was a difficult assignment as Vikings tackled well when close to their line. Colin Hammond-Tighe is gaining confidence in the half back role and gave great service to the backs and was rewarded with a try of his own while his halves partner in Harry Ottley also crossed for a try. One of the surprise packets was Lachlan Williams who after having a fine game on the wing moved into the forwards and was everywhere earning the 'Players' Player' award.



Other try scorers were Brad Reed, who also converted two tries, Mudgee and Lachlan Williams. It was an impressive performance by the Lads which placed them in equal second place with Vikings.

Rd 17 – 23/8/14	Vikings Oval	University 29	Vikings 14
<b>Tries:</b>	Harry Pitt Brad Reed	Ben Cheetham	Harry Ottley Lachlan Williams
<b>Goals:</b>	Brad Reed (2)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Lachlan Williams		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Rob Leane	Ben Cheetham	Colin Hammond-Tighe

### Thirds

If the score line was the only thing you looked at you would think that the Thirds were horrible on the day. But this is far from the truth as the Thirsties once again demonstrated just what playing rugby is all about. Although we were beaten by a big score the amount of commitment shown by all concerned was a credit to our players. This has been the case throughout what has been a long and difficult season. The boys always turn up and give 100%, never turning on their mate and they have been a credit to themselves and the club, never even thinking about forfeiting.

A lot of the credit for this goes to the coaches in Shaun Dutailis and Geoff Devitt who ensure that everyone gets good game time and plays the game in the right spirit.

The highlight of the game for many was the long distance try scored by James Bull who out sprinted the cover defence, much to the delight of all his teammates. However, it was in the forwards where the hard work was done with the front row outstanding. Especially pleasing was Zac Gorman who continues to progress, especially in the fitness area, and he is one of the few guys to play every game this season. Leading the way were Rob Pomana, Luke Symons, Raki and Michael Mamatta who were consistently working at keeping the well drilled Vikings forwards at bay.

Rd 17 – 23/8/14	Vikings Oval	University 5	Vikings 54
<b>Tries:</b>	James Bull		
<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 Pomana	Luke Symons Zac Gorman Michael Mamata	Raki Sakaria-Cecil

### Seconds

The Entertainers needed a win over second placed Vikings to have any chance of making the semis and were fortunate to have probably their strongest team take the field for the first time for a while. We started well but then Vikings took control for a 20-minute period and things looked grim.

However, we came to life and scored a try just on the half time break to get back in the match. The match was then never in doubt even though the scores were close at the end.

Much of the credit for the win goes to Charlie Curry who ran well and made crucial tackles and James Read who lived close the edge with some penalties but did a great job as leader.

Our points were scored through tries to Kieran Bonin, who was in the bin at one stage, Charlie Freeman, Tom Baker and Nic Ranguiira, while Curry kicked a penalty and three conversions.

Rd 17 – 23/8/14	Vikings Oval	University 29	Vikings 22
<b>Tries:</b>	Kieran Bonin	Charlie Freeman	Tom Baker Nik Ranguiira
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (3)		<b>Pen Goals:</b> Charlie Curry (1)
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Read	Charlie Curry	
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Charlie Curry	James Read	Nik Ranguiira

### **Firsts**

Vikings were a desperate team and played the game in that fashion. We were missing a few keys players but really were never under too much pressure. That being said this was not a performance that would win the comp as we lacked real desire to put the opposition away. We even allowed a couple of soft tries at the end to give Vikings two bonus points which they really didn't deserve. Congratulations to Dave Bartholot who debuted in the top grade and worked hard to earn coaches points in a good display. He was looked after by Hori Leef back at hooker, and Wayne Ngatai who again excelled. Chris Miller also shone with some great runs from the back which resulted in two fine tries.

Others to score were Jade Gardiner, Tyler Atkins, and Jason Hughes while the old man, Donny Nepia, converted two tries and Rapine Mason also booted a conversion.

<b>Rd 17 – 23/8/14</b>	<b>Vikings Oval</b>	<b>University 31</b>	<b>Vikings 24</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	Chris Miller (2)	Jason Hughes	Jade Gardiner Tyler Aitken
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (2)	Rapine Mason (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	David Bartholot	Wayne Ngatai	
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	David Bartholot	Chris Miller	Andy Rae Wayne Ngatai

### **Rd 18 – Shoalhaven -Shoalhaven Rugby Park**

#### **Thirds**

Once again, a good roll up of players for the last game of a very long season saw the guys put in 100% effort for the same result - a loss. It was frustrating for the coaches not to have been more successful but the endeavour of all the players was pleasing and in reality, a couple of experienced players would have made a huge difference to the team's standing in the comp.

There was a huge amount of back slapping as James Pomana scored our only try but in the end the bus trip soon saw players forget the result, especially after the way our teams towelled up Shoalhaven in the other grades.

<b>Rd 18 – 30/8/14</b>	<b>Vincentia</b>	<b>University 5</b>	<b>Vincentia 33</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	James Pomana		
<b>Goals:</b>			<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	James Bull		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	James Bull	Michael Mammata	James Pomana

#### **Seconds**

The task that faced the boys was to win the game with a bonus point and thus secure the fourth spot in the semi-final battle. The team was a mix of regulars and Colts players as we had to ensure that all the players were qualified for the semis.

The result was in fact never in doubt as we smashed a very lack lustre Shoalhaven side. Ten tries, seven of them being converted, saw us win 64-7. Mission accomplished!

<b>Rd 18 – 30/8/14</b>	<b>Shoalhaven Rugby Park</b>	<b>University 64</b>	<b>Shoalhaven 7</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	James Read (2) Nik Ranguira	Brad Reed (2) Alex Van Dartel	Hori Leef Tom Baker Ben Cheetham Ben Crowley
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (5)	Tom Baker (2)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>
<b>Players Player:</b>	Casey Rameka		
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>
	Casey Rameka	Justin Stanbrook	David Bartholot

### **Firsts**

If Seconds was a rout, first grade was a slaughter as in reality only one team was interested in being out on the field and it was not Shoals. We were playing for the Foster Emery Shield, and it was a mismatch from the beginning and ended being a very embarrassing score for the home team. Our players ran amuck and tries were posted by Jason Hughes (3), Andy Papworth (2), Tyler Aitken (2), Rueben Thompson (2), Wayne Ngatai (1), Nik Rangiura (1), Matt Lee (1). To complete the scoring four kickers were used with Donny Nepia (3), Charlie Curry (2), Leon Mason (2) being successful, but the biggest cheer was for Prop, Andy Papworth, when he calmly converted one of the last tries.

I think this about sums up the effort as we once again held aloft the Foster Emery Shield, much to the delight of club sponsor, Charlie Emery, from Soilco.

<b>Rd 18 – 30/8/14</b>	<b>Shoalhaven Rugby Park</b>		<b>University 76</b>	<b>Shoalhaven 0</b>
<b>Tries:</b>	Jason Hughes (3) Wayne Ngatai	Andy Papworth (2) Matt Lee	Tyler Aitken (2) Nik Rangiura	Rueben Thompson (2)
<b>Goals:</b>	Donny Nepia (3) Charlie Curry (2)	Leon Mason (2) Andy Papworth (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	
<b>Players Player:</b>	Will Norrie			
<b>B &amp; F Points:</b>	<b>(3 points)</b>	<b>(2 points)</b>	<b>(1 point)</b>	
	Will Norrie	Bill Hurley	Leon Mason	

### **Major Semi Finals - Camden Rugby Park**

**6th September**

**Colts**

(1) <b>Mulhem Mustafa</b>	(2) <b>Tom Moore</b>	(3) <b>Harry Pitt</b>
(4) <b>Chris Parker</b>		(5) <b>Kieran Bonin</b>
(6) <b>Rob Leane</b>	(8) <b>Jon Cudaj</b>	(7) <b>Ben Cheetham</b>
(9) <b>Colin Hammond-Tighe</b>		(10) <b>Harry Ottley</b>
(12) <b>Bill Hurley</b>		(13) <b>Rueben Thompson</b>
(11) <b>Gordon Akauma</b>	(15) <b>Brad Reed</b>	(14) <b>Lachlan Williams</b>
(16) <b>Dave Bartholot</b>	(17) <b>Brandon Woods</b>	(18)
(19) <b>Harry Cummins</b>		(20) <b>Nick Longhurst</b>
(21) <b>Iain Atkinson</b>		(22)

There was drama a plenty leading into the game as Shamrocks were battling to get some of their stars from First Grade cleared to play in the semis. After some late-night phone calls, we allowed them to play just so the game would go ahead.

The Lads started the game confidently and dominated possession in the opening exchanges. A fine run by Harry Ottley saw us camped in the Rocks 22m Zone and we managed to convert this domination into points when Rob Leane forced his way over the line. The try was converted by Colin Hammond-Tighe, and we lead 7-nil.

It was then Shamrock's turn to get into the game as we were penalised a number of times for breakdown infringements. The ref's patience soon ran out and Rob Leane went from Hero to Villain when he was sin binned. The extra man saw Shamrocks score a try which was also converted, and it was a very evenly poised contest.

The match became a real arm wrestle where penalties were the order of the day. Fortunately for us one of these penalties was in Colin's range and he was successful, and we went to the break with a 10-7 lead.

The second half was just under way when a charged down kick resulted in the Rocks gaining the upper hand and scoring a converted try to set up a four-point lead.

This pattern continued with the Lads having to defend doggedly to keep Shamrocks at bay, but we eventually worked our way out of trouble. With ten minutes remaining a great move from a scrum saw Nick Longhurst sprint over in the corner to give us back the lead, 15-14.

The game then became bogged down in mid field and neither side could land the winning blow. As time was running out The Rocks had the ball from the scrum and attacked our line but with some great tackling, we kept them out but there was real concern as the ref awarded a penalty to the Rocks for a high tackle. The kick was 30 m out and just to the right of the posts and everyone held their breath as the kick was taken but the rugby gods were on our side as the ball drifted away and there were great scenes of jubilation as the full-time whistle was blown. The Lads were in the Grand Final!

Major Semi – 6/9/14		Camden Rugby Park	University 15	Shamrocks 14
<b>Tries:</b>	Rob Leane	Nick Longhurst		
<b>Goals:</b>	Colin Hammond Tighe (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Colin H-T (1)

## First Grade

(1) Andy Papworth	(2) Hemi Wickliffe	(3) Karl Smith
(4) Andrew Lindsay		(5) Andrew Rae
(6) Wayne Ngatai	(8) Paul Tuala	(7) Jason Hughes
(9) Alex Sims		(10) Leon Mason
(12) Jade Gardiner		(13) Rapine Mason
(11) Matt Lee	(15) Chris Miller	(14) Tyler Aitken
(16) Casey Rameka	(17) Hori Leef	(18) Mitch Bell
(19) Steve Elson		(20) Will Norrie
(21) Donny Nepia		(22) Justin Stanbrook

### - report by Ron Wood – The Rogue’s Rant

The University Bulls, superbly led by Flanker Jason Hughes, scored a convincing 30 points to 12 Major Semi Final victory over Minor Premiers Avondale at Camden Rugby Park in which the Bulls scored four tries to two. With the added bonus of having NSW Country Eagles rep Paul Tuala available for the match, the Bulls proved to be superior in all facets of the game taking a 10 points to 7 lead into the halftime break after running into the wind. In a well-constructed tradesman like performance of semi-final football the Bulls defence was outstanding right through the match keeping the Wombat attacking opportunities to a minimum. The number of missed tackles by the Uni players throughout the match could be counted on the fingers of one hand such was the standard of the Bulls defence.

The first points in the match came by way of a Penalty Try to the Bulls in the eighth minute. Winger Tyler Aitkin was taken in a head high tackle when attempting to ground the ball wide out in the Wombats in goal. The incident followed a wonderful play from fullback Chris Miller who ran onto a long pass from a quick lineout on the halfway line. In an electrifying thirty meter run he created space for Aitkin on the right who carried the ball into the in goal. Following the heavy tackle referee Craig Conway and Touch Judge David Gunning conferred and the Penalty Try was awarded under the posts. Aitkin left the field and took no further part in the match as the try was converted by Rapine Mason for the Bulls to lead 7 – 0.

With the big crowd being entertained by high quality performances across the park from both sides the Bulls were slowly but surely taking control of the match. But it was Avondale who posted the next points to get back into the game when Wombat winger Ryan Lonsdale scored on the left edge. The Darryl Sanft side-line conversion locked the scores at 7 all. Sanft failed with a penalty goal attempt before Mason added one in the closing minutes of the half for the Bulls to take the lead.

The Bulls took a stranglehold on the match putting on three unanswered tries in the thirty minutes after the break. Man of the Match Jason Hughes posted the first as a result of one of several very well constructed driving mauls from the Bulls in the fifty first minute. The try went unconverted before replacement Donovan Nepia kicked a penalty goal for Uni to go out to an 18 – 7 lead ten minutes later.

Hughes was prominent in the next try when he broke from a ruck with the ball ten meters from the Wombat line and cleverly put fly-half Leon Mason through a gap to score under the posts. With a conversion from Nepia, Uni tightened their grip on the semi-final at 25 – 7.

Despite having centre Rapine Mason sin binned, it was the Bulls who scored again as winger Matt Lee toed a loose ball through. After kicking again twice to reach the Avondale line, Lee just missed being able to regain the ball to score, but fortunately for the Bulls, front rower Andy Papworth was on hand to clean up and score the try.

Seconds after returning to the field Mason denied Wombats a try with a sensational covering tackle on replacement winger Tasesa Lalotoa bundling him into touch centimetres short of the line. In the dying minutes of the match Wombat front rower Anthony Amone posted Avondale’s sole second half points with a barge over try from close range.

Jason Hughes’ outstanding performance for the Bulls was ably supported by forwards Andrew Lindsay and Paul Tuala with the Mason Brothers and Chris Miller a strong force in the backline.

Major Semi – 6/9/14	Camden Rugby Park		University 30	Avondale 12
<b>Tries:</b>	Penalty Try	Jason Hughes	Rapine Mason	Andy Papworth
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (1)	Donny Nepia (1)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (1) Donny Nepia (1)

**Minor Semi Finals - Vikings Oval**  
**7th September**  
**Second grade**

(1) Steve Elson	(2) Hori Leef	(3) Casey Rameka
(4) Kieran Bonin		(5) Lachlan Wells
(6) Charlie Freeman	(8) Ed Owens	(7) James Read
(9) Ben Crowley		(10) Charlie Curry
(12) Nik Rangiura		(13) Alex Van Dartel
(11) Tom Baker	(15) Donny Nepia	(14) Adam Wright
(16) Kyper Yap	(17) Rhys Hancock	(18) Ben Cheetham
(19) Killian Grennell		(20) Rueben Thompson
(21) Brad Reed	(22) Gordon Akauma	(23) Dave Shepherd

The Entertainers took the field against the Camden Rams in a confident mood as they had defeated the Rams in their previous two encounters, and they were also buoyed by the other grades performances in their semis.

The squad was an experienced one, but we struggled to really dominate in any one area of the game but managed to be in control of the game for long periods. It was a real bonus to have Donny Nepia back after a long period out with injuries and his ability and experience were vital. The fact that he scored two tries certainly helped in us scoring 15 points and looking to be in a comfortable position.

This is when controversy stepped in, when with time almost up, Camden put a kick through and our winger, Adam Wright, seemed to have forced the ball over the try line just in front of a Camden player. There were claims of a try and as the referee was unsighted, he deferred to the linesman on the far side of the field who was adamant that a try should be awarded. This left the ref with no alternative than to give the try and make the score 15 points all.

Extra time was needed, and we were again able to hit the front when Colts player Kieran Bonin got over the line for a try which was converted by Charlie Curry. Camden were, however, not to be easily denied and also scored a try but their conversion was waved away. We were still under the pump and with time almost up a penalty was conceded in kicking range. The Uni crowd held their collective breaths as the kicker struck the ball and there were lots of cheers as the kick was unsuccessful and so we lived to fight another day.

Minor Semi – 7/9/14	Vikings Oval	University 22	Camden 20
<b>Tries:</b>	Donny Nepia (2)	Kieran Bonin	
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (2)	<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (1)



**Final - Ocean Park  
13th September  
SECONDS**

(1) Steve Elson	(2) Hori Leef	(3) Casey Rameka
(4) Mitch Bell		(5) Lachlan Wells
(6) Charlie Freeman	(8) Kieran Bonin	(7) James Read
(9) Ben Crowley		(10) Charlie Curry
(12) Nik Rangiura		(13) Alex Van Dartel
(11) Tom Baker	(15) Donny Nepia	(14) Adam Wright
(16) Ed Owens	(17) Rhys Hancock	(18) Ben Cheetham
(19) Will Norrie		(20) Rueben Thompson
(21) Brad Reed	(22) Dave Bartholot	(23) Dave Shepherd

Vikings were one of the form teams during the season and were going to provide a stern test for our guys, who really needed to improve on the performance against the Rams if they were going to join the other two grades on Grand Final day.

The game started at a furious pace, but it soon became obvious that the boys were in the right frame of mind as they set about dominating the opposition. This started up front and our forwards were awesome in all facets of the game. Leading the way was hooker Hori Leef who scored a try and was also instrumental in shutting down the Vikings chances of securing any quality ball.

The score was always fairly close as Vikings were not going to give up without a fight. We scored another try to young gun Kieran Bonin, which was converted by Charlie Curry, who also kicked a penalty goal while Vikings were able to score a try to keep them in the match.

The further the game went on our momentum built and really, we were never going to be beaten. The 15-5 score line was a good result but the manner in which we played also gave us a lot of confidence heading into the Grand Final.

Final – 13/9/14	Ocean Park	University	15	Vikings	5
<b>Tries:</b>	Hori Leef	Kieran Bonin			
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (1)		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (1)	

## Grand Final Day – WIN Stadium Colts/U20's

(1) Keto Neheja	(2) Tom Moore	(3) Harry Pitt
(4) Chris Parker		(5) Kieran Bonin
(6) Rob Leane	(8) Jon Cudaj	(7) Ben Cheetham
(9) Colin Hammond-Tighe		(10) Harry Ottley
(12) Bill Hurley		(13) Rueben Thompson
(11) Gordon Akauma	(15) Brad Reed	(14) Lachlan Williams
(16) Dave Bartholot	(17) Brandon Woods	(18) Dustin Barnett
(19) Harry Cummins		(20) Nick Longhurst
(21) Iain Atkinson		(22) Mulhem Mustafa

The Grand Final was a rematch of the Major semi as our opposition was the minor premiers in Shamrocks. We kicked off into the breeze and almost immediately found ourselves on the back foot as Shamrocks had a great deal of the ball. This pressure resulted in them taking the lead after a penalty kick

From the restart there was again a lack of discipline at the breakdowns, and we suffered under a heavy penalty count but hung in the contest due to sheer will power. Our scrum was going forward all the time but there was a lack of cohesion in the lineout which also caused us difficulties.

We were truly fortunate that a great run by the Rocks fullback was only ended by a huge tackle by Rueben Thompson who forced him into touch only meters from our line. But the Rocks were on the attack.

We were able, however, to weather the storm and some excellent kicking and chasing finally resulted in us getting a scrum feed 30m from the opposition try line. From the feed 'Mudgee' Cheetham took off down the blindside beating a tackle and then crashing through another tackle to put the ball down just inside the corner post. This gave us the lead, 5-3, which was the halftime score line.

Things started positively after the break with Rueben Thompson making a determined run and putting us on the attack. Frustratingly our lack of discipline again let the Rocks off the hook, and we were soon in our own 22m zone and having to defend doggedly. A great tackle in midfield saved a try but again we let ourselves down with penalties. Fortunately, our scrum was dominating until Harry Pitt earned the ire of the ref for repeated infringements and he was off to the sin bin. The Rocks were gaining momentum and looked dangerous until Colin Hammond- Tighe swooped on a pass and raced 80m to dot down under the posts. The conversion by Harry Ottley gave us a buffer of 9 points but we could not relax as Shamrocks came back at us.

The game became a bit of a 'mistakeathon' until eventually Shamrocks kicked a penalty to make the score 12-6. The return of Harry from the bin meant that our scrum was again on the front foot, and we were rewarded with a penalty on halfway. Up stepped a confident Colin H-T who calmly kicked

the ball over the cross bar and with the score being 15-6 we were able to breathe a little easier as time was running out.

However, Shamrocks were not going to give in, and they were soon on a roll and were back attacking our line, but a stomping incident saw a Rocks forward in the sin bin and we could relieve the pressure. This only worked for a moment as Shamrocks kept at us and were rewarded for some good play by scoring a try to get back to 15-11 and it was game on with only 5 minutes remaining.

A mistake from the restart saw us with the ball in their 22m zone, but they replied with some robust play that allowed them back into our red zone and it was all hands-on deck to hold them out. Time was up but they were close to the line and only desperate defence stopped their attack until finally a dropped ball brought the game to an end and the boys were Premiers.

Grand Final – 20/9/14		WIN Stadium	University 15	Shamrocks 11
<b>Tries:</b>	Ben Cheetham	Colin Hammond- Tighe		
<b>Goals:</b>	Harry Ottley		<b>Pen Goals:</b>	Colin Hammond- Tighe

### Player of the Grand Final – Ben Cheetham (University

#### Second Grade -

(1) Steve Elson	(2) Hori Leef	(3) Casey Rameka
(4) Mitch Bell		(5) Lachlan Wells
(6) Charlie Freeman	(8) Ed Owens	(7) James Read
(9) Ben Crowley		(10) Charlie Curry
(12) Nik Rangiura		(13) Alex Van Dartel
(11) Tom Baker	(15) Justin Stanbrook	(14) Adam Wright
(16) Kieran Bonin	(17) Rhys Hancock	(18) Ben Cheetham
(19) Gordon Akauma		(20) Rueben Thompson
(21) Bill Hurley	(22) Dave Bartholot	(23) Dave Shepherd

University's opponent in the Grand Final was Avondale who had only tasted defeat once in the previous four seasons, but we were confident that we had the side to win the game.

Avondale kicked off with the aid of a strong Southerly breeze and the boys were under pressure but some hard running by Nic Rangiura and astute kicking by Charlie Curry saw us go on the attack. Our forwards were on top in the set pieces, and we were playing attractive rugby with the ball in hand.

All this pressure soon was rewarded after 10 minutes when Mitch Bell was on the end of a passing movement and touched down near the posts. With Curry's conversion we were in front 7-0.

The game continued in this fashion with Avondale trying to bash their way into the game, but our tenacious tackling held them out and we ran well when we had possession. Ready was replaced by Ben Cheetham after an injury but we never missed a beat as the pack was in command.

With 5 minutes remaining in the half, we secured the ball from a scrum 30 m out and halfback Ben Crowley sniped down the blindside and brushed off two defenders to crash over in the corner to give us a 12-point buffer.

A mistake from the kick-off allowed the Wombats to gain the ball close to our line and they maintained possession until eventually one of their forwards crossed for a converted try just as the half time hooter sounded. The boys were disappointed to let the Wombats into the game at this late stage as we had clearly been the better side.

The game restarted with Avondale getting into our 22m zone, but dogged defence held them out. Our work at the breakdown was remarkably effective but some mistakes crept into our play. Fortunately, after about 10 minutes a kick through saw us only 5m from their try line. We won the ball and Charlie Curry's determined run saw him beat a couple of tackles and put the ball down over the line, His conversion attempt hit the upright but we in front 17-7 and looking confident

The game became tight with Avondale gaining some ground, but we were able to keep them at bay. Regrettably, they managed to get close to the line which meant that their only real means of attack, big boppers charging at the line, was again successful as a converted try saw them behind by 3 points with 15 minutes remaining in the game.

We threw fresh troops into the game with Shep, Kieran Bonin and Rhys Handcock coming on and adding some grunt to the pack.

The game became a bit like trench warfare in the middle of the field but neither side could land the killer blow. As time ran out, we gained the ball and Ben Crowley kicked the ball into touch and the celebrations began.

Grand Final – 20/9/14		WIN Stadium		University 17	Avondale 14
<b>Tries:</b>	Mitch Bell	Ben Crowley	Charlie Curry		
<b>Goals:</b>	Charlie Curry (1)			<b>Pen Goals:</b>	

### Player of the Grand Final – Charlie Curry (University)

#### FIRSTS

(1) Andy Papworth	(2) Hemi Wickliffe	(3) Karl Smith
(4) Andrew Lindsay		(5) Andrew Rae
(6) Wayne Ngatai	(8) Jason Hughes	(7) Will Norrie
(9) Alex Sims		(10) Leon Mason
(12) Jade Gardiner		(13) Rapine Mason
(11) Matt Lee	(15) Chris Miller	(14) Tyler Aitken
(16) Casey Rameka	(17) Hori Leef	(18) Mitch Bell
(19) Charlie Freeman		(20) Will Wood
(21) Donny Nepia	(22) Nik Ranguira	(23) Charlie Curry

### **Report by Ron Wood – The Rogue’s Rant**

The University Mallee Bulls capped off what was the club's greatest day in its history, with an engrossing hard fought 20 points to 11 Grand Final victory over the Camden Rams at WIN Stadium on Saturday. With the Bulls Colts and Second Grade sides taking out their respective titles earlier in the day, their top side executed coach Shaun McCreedy’s game plan to perfection to deny the Rams back-to-back championships.

In a gruelling hard fought First Grade Builders Club Premiership Grand Final, the Bulls prevailed over a courageous Rams side that fought to the end in pursuit of their second title in as many years. On the back of an outstanding defensive effort, the Bulls played with great composure throughout the match, after conceding an early eight-point lead to the Rams.

Bulls skipper Leon Mason had a brilliant game for the new premiers, showing all his experience to help keep his side in control for most of the match. With the Rams taking the early lead it was Mason’s kicking game that twice put his side in a position to strike back and take a 12 - 8 halftime lead. Then with seconds remaining in the game it was Mason who put the match to bed for the Bulls with a precision field goal to bring up the final score.

The Rams started the match with gusto and were soon camped in the Bulls territory keeping the students under pressure until the first try came after six minutes. Giant lock Tim Windle took advantage of a favourable bounce after a Ben Leaupepe kick to score the opening try.

With both sides probing away for a weakness in their opponent’s defence, the match covered almost the entire field as play moved at a frenetic pace. Camden lost centre Lee Russell with a nasty head gash at the fourteen-minute mark, with him leaving the field for some treatment in the Blood Bin for twelve minutes before returning heavily bandaged. In Russell’s absence Ben Greentree added a penalty goal for the Rams to lead 8 – 0 after twenty minutes.

With Mason's kicking game coming to the fore, the Bulls scored two tries in the space of four minutes as Mason continually turned the Rams around with probing kicks into the Camden quarter. The first try came when Rapine Mason finished off a standard backline raid with a pacey charge at the Rams line to score wide out. He missed with the conversion attempt, but it wasn’t long before the Bulls were in again.

Another kick from Leon Mason took play into the Rams quarter where they tried a quick line out. Uni flanker, Wayne Ngatai, pilfered the ball and found lock Andrew Lindsay in support who set up Tyler Aitkin for a run to the line to score. Rapine Mason made the conversion this time for Uni to go to a 12 – 8 lead which they held through to half time.

The Rams threw everything at the Bulls defensive line throughout the second half with the match continuing to captivate the big crowd. Lee Russell added a penalty goal to bring the Rams within one point at the forty- ninth minute to set up a suspenseful last thirty minutes. The Bulls withstood the pressure forcing the Camden attack into error as several attacking raids broke down through loose handling.

The Bulls front row of Andy Papworth, Hemana Wickliffe and Karl Smith were colossal as they have been all year, laying the foundation for the Uni effort. With back rowers Andy Lindsay, Wayne Ngatai and Jason Hughes also making strong contributions, it was not until the final minutes of the game that the Bulls were able to add points when replacement fullback Donovan Nepia crossed in the left corner. Rapine Mason took on the Rams outside backs drawing several defenders in a strong fifteen meter

run to create space for Nepia to carry a couple of Rams over the line to score. With the conversion missed the six-point margin meant the match was still in the balance at 17 – 11.

The Bulls went back on the attack as the final couple of minutes ticked down with the Rams out on their feet after their recent heavy workload. With seconds left in the match Bulls captain Leon Mason stood up and slotted a copybook field goal to seal the Bulls Premiership win, marking the start of jubilant celebrations for the Uni boys and their supporters.

The weeks rest for the Bulls earned by Uni’s win in the Major Semi proved to be a significant factor in the game. The Bulls composure being confident that their stamina would win out in the end was crucial in the outcome as fatigue set in for the Rams toward the end of the match.

Bulls lock Andrew Lindsay was awarded the Geoff Shaw Medal for Player of the Grand Final, after playing a key role in one of Uni’s tries and working tirelessly all match. Diminutive Captain Leon Mason brought all his experience and guile to the match leading the side in a masterful display. His little brother Rapine and centre partner Jade Gardiner stood tall for the winners with fullback come halfback Chris Miller showing his undoubted class once again.

Grand Final day 2014 will go down as Mallee Bull Day with the Uni boys celebrating titles in First Grade, Second Grade and Colts

Grand Final – 20/9/14	WIN Stadium	University 20	Camden 11
<b>Tries:</b>	Tyler Aitken	Donny Nepia	Rapine Mason
<b>Goals:</b>	Rapine Mason (1)	<b>Field Goal:</b>	Leon Mason

#### **Geoff Shaw Medal – Andrew Lindsay (University)**



## Senior Awards

Men's Awards:		Donated by:	Winner:
<b>President's Award</b>	<b>Jack Huxley Shield</b>	<b>Glenn McGuinness</b>	<b>James Read</b>
<b>Award for Leadership</b>	<b>Sam Davey Shield</b>	<b>Paul Webb</b>	<b>Leon Mason</b>
		<b>Canio Fierravanti</b>	
<b>Trainer of the Year</b>		<b>Paul Dunai</b>	<b>Will Lamb</b>
<b>Coaches Award</b>		<b>Wayne Dobson</b>	<b>Paul Tuala</b>
<b>Colts Best and Fairest</b>			<b>Ben Cheetham</b>
<b>Colts 'Players Player'</b>			<b>Ben Cheetham</b>
<b>Third Grade Best and Fairest</b>	<b>Nick Theodore Shield</b>	<b>Peter Keeble</b>	<b>Michael Mammata</b> <b>Luke Symons</b>
<b>Third Grade 'Players Player'</b>			<b>Mitch Bell</b>
<b>Second Grade Best and Fairest</b>		<b>Noel Yates</b>	<b>Casey Rameka</b> <b>James Read</b>
<b>Second Grade 'Players Player'</b>			<b>Casey Rameka</b> <b>James Read</b>
<b>First Grade Best and Fairest</b>		<b>Dave Rae</b>	<b>Andy Papworth</b>
<b>First Grade 'Players Player'</b>			<b>Andy Papworth</b>
<b>Players 'Player of the Year'</b>	<b>Phillip "Doris" McInerney Shield</b>	<b>Dave Bateman</b> <b>Tom Wren</b> <b>Rob Pedersen</b>	<b>Ben Cheetham</b>
<b>Rookie of the Year</b>		<b>Duarte Do Rego</b>	<b>Andy Rae</b>
<b>Player with the Most Potential</b>	<b>Dave Reading Shield</b>	<b>Dave Bateman</b> <b>Tom Wren</b> <b>Rob Pedersen</b>	<b>Ben Cheetham</b>
<b>Leading Try Scorer</b>			<b>Ben Cheetham</b>
<b>Leading Points Scorer</b>		<b>Dave Bateman</b> <b>Tom Wren</b> <b>Rob Pedersen</b>	<b>Rapine Mason</b>
<b>Club Person of the Year</b>		<b>Keith Hales</b>	<b>Shaun McCreedy</b> <b>Piki Hamahona</b>
<b>'Iron Man' Award Played in all rounds.</b>			<b>Zac Gorman</b> <b>Karl Smith.</b> <b>Wayne Ngatai</b> <b>Hemi Wickliffe</b>

## Games Played 2014

Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total
Tyler AITKEN	15				15	Leon MASON	17				27
Gordon AKAUMA		10	3	7	20	Shaun MCCREEDY			1		1
Mal ANDENG		1	3		4	Haydn MCDUFF		5	7		12
Iain ATKINSON			2	10	12	Kieran MCEVOY		11	14	6	31
Tom BAKER	2	10	1		13	Tyson MCEVOY		1	12	14	27
Dustin BARNETT			3	6	9	Michael MCKENZIE			8		8
David BARTHOLOT	2	3		4	9	Nick MEAD			1		1
Mitch BELL	5	2	5		12	Chris MILLER	8				8
Kieran BONIN		8		5	13	Dion MILLER			1		1
Jeff BRIDGES			2		2	Brad MILNER		2	15		17
James BULL		1	12		13	Tom MOORE		2		10	12
Ben CHEETHAM	2	14	1	10	27	Philip MORRISON		2	9		11
Christo CROUS			7		7	Mustafa MULHEM			1	4	5
Ben CROWLEY	2	17	1		20	Sean MURRAY-SMITH			2		2
Jonathan CUDAJ			1	7	8	Falelima NATI			3		3
Harry CUMMINS		7		9	16	Keto NEHEJA		4		7	11
Charlie CURRY	5	17			22	Donovan NEPIA	7	6			13
Corey DANIELA			10	6	16	Wayne NGATAI	18				18
Geoff DEVITT		2	14		16	Peter NIKOLOVSKI		1	2		3
Nathan DUNSTAN			2		2	Will NORRIE	13	4			17
Shaun DUTAILLIS		1	12		13	Harry OTTLEY		4	1	10	15
Steven ELSON	9	15	1		25	Alyd OWEN	4	1			5
Charlie FREEMAN	1	6			7	Edward OWENS		15	1		16
Jade GARDINER	11	3			14	Andrew PAPWORTH	14	1			15
Tim GODMAN			9		9	Chris PARKER	11	7	1	9	28
Zac GORMAN			17		17	William PARNELL		5	2		7
Killian GRENNELL		5	1		6	Julian PAYNE			6		6
David GRIMSON		4	1	2	7	Patrick PERILLO			6		6
Jarrold HALL		1	2		3	Harry PITT			4	9	13
Colin HAMMOND-TIGHE			1	10	11	Justin PLACEK		2			2
Rhys HANCOCK	4	12			16	Robert POMANA			12	1	13
Travis HARDAKER	7	9			16	James PORTEOUS			3	1	4
Jack HARTICAN			8		8	Harley PURNELL			9		9
Jason HUGHES	14				14	Andrew RAE	10	1			11
Bill HURLEY	1	3		8	12	Casey RAMEKA	7	15			22
James HURLEY	8	1	1		10	Nik RANGUIRA	14	6			20
Paura KEMP	1	2			3	James READ	7	16	1		24
William LAMB			11	6	17	Brad REED		8	1	7	16
Robert LEANE		2	9	10	21	Dave REED			1		1
Matthew LEE	10				10	Brenton RITCHIE			12		12
Hori LEEF	9	8	1		18	Vincent ROBINSON		1		3	4
Jinbin LIANG			4		4	Dean ROSSIT		2	3		5
Andrew LINDSAY	5	1			6	Raki SAKAEIA-CECIL			13		13
Nick LONGHURST		3	1	7	11	Llew SCOTT			3		3
Matthew LUTZ			2		2	Jack SHAW			3		3
Michael MAMATTA		6	12		18	David SHEPHERD		10	5		15
Rapine MASON	16				16	Ryan SHOARD			1		1

Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total
Alex SIMS	17				17	Dean WARD			5		5
Karl SMITH	18				18	Lachlan WELLS	1	14			15
Justin STANBROOK	11	9		1	20	Corey WHITE		2			2
Andrew STUCKEY		1	1		2	Hemana WICKLIFFE	18				18
Luke SYMONS		2	8		10	Lachlan WILLIAMS		2		9	11
Evan TANKARD			3		3	Ryan WILLIAMS			1		1
Joel TANKARD			3		3	Will WOOD	10				10
Lee TANKS			9		9	Brandon WOODS		1	14	9	24
Cameron THOMPSON	4	1			5	Adam WRIGHT	3	9	1		13
Reuben THOMPSON	6	7		7	20	Kyper YAP	3	7	3		13
Michael TREMAIN			9	4	13	Leland YEO		1	2		3
Paul TUALA	8				8	Howard ZHANG			6		6
Alex VAN DARTEL		10	1		11						
Cruz WAKEFIELD		4			4						
Andrew WALKER			1		1						

### Points Scored 2014

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>First Grade</i>											
Rapine MASON	137	14	29	3	8	Leon MASON	73	7	13	3 1 FG	10
Paul TUALA	50	10	0	0	8	Andrew PAPWORTH	47	9	1	0	13
Tyler AITKEN	45	9	0	0	0	Jason HUGHES	45	9	0	0	1
Donovan NEPIA	45	2	10	5	0	Wayne NGATAI	35	7	0	0	3
Alyd OWEN	34	1	10	3	2	Jade GARDINER	30	6	0	0	3
Nick RANGUIRA	30	6	0	0	1	Matthew LEE	25	5	0	0	0
Chris MILLER	20	4	0	0	5	Reuben THOMPSON	20	4	0	0	0
Alex SIMS	15	3	0	0	1	Hemana WICKLIFFE	15	3	0	0	4
James HURLEY	10	2	0	0	8	Karl SMITH	10	2	0	0	4
Justin STANBROOK	10	2	0	0	2	Charlie CURRY	9	1	2	0	0
Mitch BELL	5	1	0	0	3	Paura KEMP	5	1	0	0	0
Will NORRIE	5	1	0	0	4	Chris PARKER	5	1	0	0	0
Will WOOD	5	1	0	0	3	David BARTHOLOT	0	0	0	0	3
Bill HURLEY	0	0	0	0	2	Hori LEEF	0	0	0	0	1
Andrew LINDSAY	0	0	0	0	3	Andrew RAE	0	0	0	0	2
Cameron THOMPSON	0	0	0	0	2						

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Second Grade</i>											
Charlie CURRY	124	3	47	5	8	Ben CHEETHAM	45	9	0	0	7
Paura KEMP	34	4	7	0	0	Casey RAMEKA	30	6	0	0	13
Ben CROWLEY	25	5	0	0	9	Rhys HANCOCK	25	5	0	0	5
Hori LEEF	25	5	0	0	3	James READ	25	5	0	0	13
Brad REED	21	2	1	3	0	Harry CUMMINS	20	4	0	0	4
Tom BAKER	19	3	2	0	2	Justin STANBROOK	17	3	1	0	3

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
Kieran BONIN	15	3	0	0	7	Kieran MCEVOY	15	3	0	0	0
Alex VAN DARTEL	15	3	0	0	1	Cruz WAKEFIELD	15	3	0	0	2
Robert LEANE	10	2	0	0	0	Donovan NEPIA	10	2	0	0	1
Nick RANGUIRA	10	2	0	0	1	Reuben THOMPSON	10	2	0	0	0
Gordon AKAUMA	5	1	0	0	3	Mitch BELL	5	1	0	0	0
Steven ELSON	5	1	0	0	0	Charlie FREEMAN	5	1	0	0	0
Killian GRENNELL	5	1	0	0	1	David GRIMSON	5	1	0	0	0
Travis HARDAKER	5	1	0	0	3	Bill HURLEY	5	1	0	0	0
James HURLEY	5	1	0	0	0	Andrew LINDSAY	5	1	0	0	0
Haydn MCDUFF	5	1	0	0	1	Edward OWENS	5	1	0	0	1
Chris PARKER	5	1	0	0	0	Dean ROSSIT	5	1	0	0	2
Cameron THOMPSON	5	1	0	0	0	Alyd OWEN	4	0	2	0	1
Harry OTTLEY	2	0	1	0	0	Keto NEHEJA	0	0	0	0	3
Lachlan WELLS	0	0	0	0	1	Corey WHITE	0	0	0	0	2

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Under 20</i>											
Colin HAMMOND-TIGHE	54	1	14	7	1	Ben CHEETHAM	30	6	0	0	11
Brad REED	16	2	3	0	1	Nick LONGHURST	15	3	0	0	0
Reuben THOMPSON	15	3	0	0	0	Harry CUMMINS	10	2	0	0	1
Robert LEANE	10	2	0	0	7	Kieran MCEVOY	10	2	0	0	0
Chris PARKER	10	2	0	0	0	Harry PITT	10	2	0	0	0
Lachlan WILLIAMS	10	2	0	0	0	Harry OTTLEY	7	1	1	0	5
Iain ATKINSON	5	1	0	0	0	David BARTHOLOT	5	1	0	0	3
Kieran BONIN	5	1	0	0	3	Jonathan CUDAJ	5	1	0	0	2
Bill HURLEY	5	1	0	0	0	William LAMB	5	1	0	0	0
Keto NEHEJA	5	1	0	0	3	David GRIMSON	0	0	0	0	2
Tom MOORE	0	0	0	0	1	Vincent ROBINSON	0	0	0	0	2

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Third Grade</i>											
Geoff DEVITT	42	0	15	4	6	James BULL	23	4	0	1	0
Luke SYMONS	15	3	0	0	10	Kieran MCEVOY	14	2	2	0	0
Mitch BELL	10	2	0	0	8	Robert POMANA	10	2	0	0	3
Patrick PERILLO	7	1	1	0	8	Mal ANDENG	5	1	0	0	3
Dustin BARNETT	5	1	0	0	0	Ben CHEETHAM	5	1	0	0	1
Corey DANIELA	5	1	0	0	0	William LAMB	5	1	0	0	0
Michael MAMATTA	5	1	0	0	10	Shaun MCCREEDY	5	1	0	0	0
Haydn MCDUFF	5	1	0	0	0	Tyson MCEVOY	5	1	0	0	0
Michael MCKENZIE	5	1	0	0	4	Edward OWENS	5	1	0	0	0
Chris PARKER	5	1	0	0	2	Harry PITT	5	1	0	0	0
Justin PLACEK	5	1	0	0	3	Raki SAKAEIA-CECIL	5	1	0	0	2
Lee TANKS	5	1	0	0	0	Dean WARD	5	1	0	0	1

Jeff BRIDGES	0	0	0	0	3	Jonathan CUDAJ	0	0	0	0	1
Zac GORMAN	0	0	0	0	4	Robert LEANE	0	0	0	0	8
Jinbin LIANG	0	0	0	0	2	Falelima NATI	0	0	0	0	2
Peter NIKOLOVSKI	0	0	0	0	1	Harley PURNELL	0	0	0	0	2
Dean ROSSIT	0	0	0	0	1	Michael TREMAIN	0	0	0	0	4
Brandon WOODS	0	0	0	0	3	Kyper YAP	0	0	0	0	2
Leland YEO	0	0	0	0	1						