

2016 - TWO OUT OF THREE AIN'T BAD.

The University club has an enviable record over the last decade, especially in first grade. Since 2005 Uni has played in all the semi-finals series with the only exception being 2009. We have featured in five Grand Finals, and we have been Premiers on three occasions. In fact, we have played in the last three Grand Finals, with wins in 2014 and 2016. Indeed 'two out of three ain't bad.'

The Board

Once again, we were blessed with a hard-working committee that ensured that the club built on the sound foundation laid in previous years. President Bob Wheway, aka Big-Hearted Bob, was influential in the organisation, particularly in the social area where his Thursday night BBQs were keenly attended. He was also a great link with the club and the University especially when Uni's facilities were required for meetings etc.

Other ongoing committee members - Treasurer Andrew Newhouse, Secretary Glenn McGuinness, Juniors organiser Canio Fierravanti, Will Wood and his social committee, sponsorship organiser Larry Daniella, Club Captain Rob Mardus, parent rep David Shala and registrars Pembo and Iain Lamb—carried out their responsibilities with great professionalism, for which the club is extremely appreciative.

A newcomer to the Board was ex player, Bob Nowotny, who took on the role as senior rugby coordinator and he and President Bob represented the club at monthly IDRU meetings. Bob was also very active on Game Days doing a myriad of tasks and becoming chief cook and bottle washer on the BBQ.

On the Junior front Dion Miller and Evan Paota-Smith were instrumental in establishing the concept of First XV and Second XV at a district and club level. This move was a step forward and greatly improved the standard of play in the older age groups.

Brad Milner communicated information to all club members via the Mongrel and other avenues but unfortunately had to step down towards the end of the season due to greatly increased workloads at work and home.

Part of monthly Committee business includes the ongoing support of Edwin Edista and his family (Ed is a past player severely injured in 2001). The club continues to pay the Edista family monthly expenses incurred in caring for Ed from our Injured Players Trust.

Fund Raising:

The major fund-raising activities this year were:

- The third year of the Campus Colleges Challenge Rugby Tag for the Vice Chancellor's trophies.
- Two BBQs at the Wollongong Bunnings store.
- The bus trip to the Bledisloe Cup Rugby Test at the ANZ Stadium.
- The third club annual golf day at Wollongong Golf Club. With thanks to Chris Parkes of Shootout Golf and Dave Dobinson for organising the day and providing the prizes.

Social:

The social committee was chaired by Wil Wood and comprised Rob Mardus, Pat Perillo, Dan Ward, Justin Stanbrook & Tom Baker. The main events that appeared on the social calendar were:

- Annual Season Launch & Protégé Auction

- Old Bulls Muster – Fi-Ta donated a set of playing jumpers which were auctioned and raised \$2000. It was Back to College Day and a host of the 2006 premiers were presented to the crowd.
- Ladies Day
- Rugby Ball and Presentation Night

Sponsors

Larry, Glenn, Canio and Andrew also spent many hours on club budget and sponsorship matters. Without their support and that of the club sponsors, Uni Rugby could not financially survive, and we realise that many of these sponsor have been supporting the club for many years.

MAJOR

The City of Wollongong Tennis Club – Chris Watson

PREMIUM SPONSORS

Physical Therapy Group – Dave Beconsell

Soilco – Charlie Emery

UOW Faculty of Engineering – Bob Wheway

HLB Judd – Andrew Newhouse

Ledacon – Paul Martin

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Dave Petty Conveyancing – Dave Petty

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Crown Medical Centre – Davis Shala

JUMPER SPONSORS

Martin Plum, Tom Wren, Glenda Heggen, Bob Nowotny, Matt Wolfe, Dion Miller, Mark O'Keefe

Competition Setup.

The number of clubs in the IDRU first grade competition remained stable for 2016 with Avondale, Campbelltown, Camden, Bowral, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Shamrocks, Vikings, Techtahs and Uni all fielding teams.

Avondale and University were two of the favourites but a promising aspect of the comp was the huge improvement of Shamrocks and Bowral, who both played in the semis for the first time in a fair while, and the continued development of Vikings and Kiama as realistic semi-final candidates.

These six sides battled it out throughout the season with no teams dominating to any real extent, which resulted in a tight competition proper and a very exciting Final series with no clear favourite.

Seconds grade was in a similar position to Firsts with a ten-team competition, but it was different tale in thirds where Vincentia was the only one team club that played. Kiama, Shoalhaven and Techtahs did not field teams which resulted in byes in this grade and made the comp a stop start affair as there were only twelve games spread over eighteen weeks.

The Colts competition was also disappointing with Camden, Campbelltown and Uni having the numbers while Kiama and Shoalhaven put a combined team (South Coast) on the field. The comp was originally set down as an Under 19 comp, but things fell apart and there would not have been a competition if the age was not raised to Under 20. The comp was played mainly on Friday nights and was a very much shortened comp with only 7 rounds being played with the final being held in June.

The Women's team joined the Sydney Women's competition which featured some very strong teams which included numerous Wallaroos representatives. Needless to say, it was a tough initiation into rugby for all the girls.

Club Championship 2016

Club	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Total
Shamrocks	360	222	44	626
University	355	219	37	611
Avondale	345	162	11	518
Vikings	265	162	34	461
Bowral	310	93	n/a	403
Campbelltown	160	216	24	400
Camden	145	198	11	354
Kiama	255	57	n/a	312
Shoalhaven	115	15	n/a	130
Tech Waratahs	10	33	n/a	43
Vincentia	n/a	n/a	40	40

Coaches.

The major announcement on the coaching front was the return of Shaun McCreedy as First Grade coach. Shaun had stepped down from this position in 2015 due to work restraints and even though he did have input as club coach his expertise and attention to detail was sorely missed.

Shaun was also Illawarra senior and Colts coaching director and was appointed as an assistant coach to the Country squad.

It was obvious that Shaun would need help in fulfilling all his commitments and so up stepped Donny Nepia to act as the assistant coach, as he did in 2015. Things also changed a little as the season progressed as Donny was required to play first grade and so Dion Miller did come along on Saturdays to run the team when available. This system worked effectively as all the coaches and players were on the same page and it must be said that the senior players also had a significant input into how the team prepared for matches.

The club was fortunate to retain the services of Evan Poata -Smith and Dave Reed to coach Second Grade as these two work well together. There was a reversal of roles as Evan took on the head coach position with Dave acting as his assistant, but it was a partnership that combined the best of both guy's strengths and abilities.

Veteran player Killian 'Killer' Grennell was coerced into accepting the role of coach for Thirds, but he really wanted to continue to play in the higher grades. Reluctantly he agreed to get his Safe Rugby Accreditation and as the season started, he warmed to the coaching role. He soon decided that he was happy in his new position and took to the task with great enthusiasm and genuine caring attitude to all the players. Killer was determined that the Thirsties were not going to be the poor cousins in the club.

Many found his systems different as he worked hard on fitness, but no one could doubt his willingness to get in and have a go.

Killer was ably assisted by a coaching 'old head' in Tom Wren who was around on Thursday nights and occasionally on game days and was a valuable sounding board for Killer.

The one disappointing thing to come out of the year was that Killer could not be around for the semis as he headed to France for a mate's wedding. In his absence Lee Tanks stood in but could not quite replicate Killer's success and the boys just fell short in the semis.

Lee Tanks was again the man in charge of the Colts, but it was far from being an easy road to travel. Some of the problems encountered were that his able assistant in Geoff Devitt had moved to Sydney and Tanksy was virtually left on his own to coach and manage the team. Iain Lamb and others did help when available, but this was a problem.

Tanksy was also late on the scene as he went to America for six months' s to visit his in laws. The fact that games were played on a Friday night also meant that support was difficult to organise and so it was a lonely task at times.

The Women's side had a difficult time attracting a coach with a few notables helping out until Chris Sellars, the NSW Development Officer, stepped into the breach and did a commendable job.

Management

The management staff again contributed to the smooth running of the club. This job does not happen just on games days as there is the constant communication between coaches and players as well ensuring all the little things are down properly.

Robbie Mardus was the man charged with this responsibility for First grade but as he was also making a comeback by playing third grade Mark Elson was enticed back to finish the season as manager. These two blokes were tireless in their efforts to meet the expectations of Coach McCreedy and were a vital cog in the team's triumph.

Glenda Heggen returned to assist the club by being the Manager for Seconds, after break of many years, and it was like she had never been away. Glenda put her heart and soul into looking after the welfare of 'her boys' and it was a like a breath of fresh air having her around.

A real plus for the third graders was the availability of Mark Elson to be the manager. Mark's attention to detail and his willingness to contact players to get to games was a key factor in getting the team to gel as a unit.

One of the factors that made match day a stress-free experience was the efforts of Match Day Controller, John Pemberton. Pembo is the glue that holds it all together and his attention to detail ensures that all aspects of the day run smoothly. This year he was assisted greatly by all the team managers who were very professional in their duties. Kenny Wright was also a welcome addition as he looked after the distribution of apparel to the players.

Players

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:

NSW Country Representatives:

Seniors:

Paul Tuala

Squad Members:

Tyler Aitken, Alyd Owen, Nick Rangiura.

Coaching Staff:

Shaun McCreedy – Assistant coach of Country Firsts.

Colts (u/20's):

Nathan Illy, Rueben Thompson

Illawarra Representatives:**Seniors:**

Paul Tuala, Tom Baker, Tyler Aitken, Nick Rangiura, Ben Cheetham, Alyd Owen, Charlie Freeman and Andy Rae (withdrew due to injury)

Coaching Staff:

Shaun McCreedy – Head Coach

Richard Thompson – Assistant coach

Donny Nepia- Assistant Coach

Dion Miller – on field Manager

Evan Paota-Smith - Manager

Colts (u/20's):

Rye Cambourne, Ed McClymont, Takunda Chimwaza, Dylan Peppernell, Jonah Potgiester-Denton and Brayden Grehan. Rueben Thompson and Nathan Illy

Women

Tori Ellis, Kaari Macdonald, June Norton, Bess Platt, Lusii Tanevesi

Coaching Staff:

Marie MacDonald – Assistant Coach

Personal Milestones

250 games – Steve Elson

200 games – Killian Grennell

100 games - Chris Parker, Charlie Freeman

First Grade Squad

One of the real strengths of the playing group was the fact that it was a squad of thirty players who all contributed to achieving the goal of winning the Premiership. The maturity of the squad was exemplified by the way players were willing to sacrifice game time for the good of the team's performance. This was particularly important in the Finals series.

The squad was a real mix of youthful exuberance and tough old heads, and this was a key factor in the team's ability to perform well under pressure, especially after losing several games during the season.

It was a bonus to have guys come back into the team after considering retirement after the 2015 campaign. Karl Smith, Jason Hughes, Donny Nepia, Matt Lee and Hemi Wickliffe all found the desire to continue playing and were welcomed back with open arms as they played key roles in the team's performances.

The club was also fortunate to have players of the calibre of Tyler Aitken and Ben Crowley return to the Bulls after missing 2015. These guys were joined by Lachlan Conyers, Nick Longhurst, Casey Rameka and Travis Hardaker who had gained valuable experience playing lower grades in previous seasons but more than held their own in the top grade.

There was also an influx of some exciting talent into the club who all worked their way into the squad during the season. Headlining this group was Miguel Lucas, who had played International 7's for Portugal. Miguel was an exchange student and missed the final games of the season as he had to return home, but he showed some real touches of class in many games.

Another experienced newcomer was Damian Mei who had played Rugby overseas and was a real warrior on the field. Damien took a while to get fit and work commitments made it difficult to get to games, but his desire and ability saw him play a significant part in the finals games.

Nick Mastro, who was a Uni Junior, re-joined the club after a stint at Avondale and he played the entire season in firsts and was a main stay of the pack playing as a loose forward or in the second row. Another rookie was Simon Douch, an excitement machine on the wing, who after eye catching performances in the lower grades found himself in the top team where he was always a threat.

The leadership provided by senior players Paul Tuala, Andy Rae, Donny Nepia, Tyler Aitken, Charlie Freeman, Wayne Ngatai, Jason Hughes, Will Wood, Damien Mei, Karl Smith and Andy Papworth was pivotal throughout the season and the guys were excellent role models for the entire club, juniors included. Just as crucial to the experience side of things was the youthful exuberance provided by Dan Ward, Lachlan Conyers, Simon Douch, Ben Crowley, Casey Rameka, Chris Parker, Rueben Thompson, Sam Latu, Nick Ranguira, Tom Baker, Charlie Curry and Ben Cheetham.

This mix of playing ability, excellent coaching and good organisation combined with a burning desire to win the Premiership again resulted in The Bulls emerging as one of the best teams in the 2016 competition.

Up front we had the luxury of having a number of outstanding props who allowed us to dominate the set pieces. Andy Papworth, Casey Rameka, Hemi Wickliffe, Dan Reed and Travis Hardaker were the backbone of the forwards. Karl Smith also played a key role until work commitments saw him become unavailable. Another bonus was that all of these guys were excellent around the paddock as well as being terrific in set pieces.

Wayne Ngatai made the adaptation from breakaway to hooker with ease and his reliance saw him play nearly every game.

In the second row Nick Mastro and Will Wood were key players and they were joined by Andy Rae after he overcame a preseason injury. Unfortunately, Will Wood was injured in the major semi and missed the Grand Final. Youngster Chris Parker also played a significant role often coming off the bench and was a very reliable contributor.

Our loose forwards were an awesome bunch. Charlie Freeman was outstanding, and he was joined by Paulie Tuala in a devastating combination. Jason Hughes and Damien Mei provided experience while Ben Cheetham and Takunda Chimwaza were very capable performers in the top grade.

Tom Baker and Charlie Curry were the halves combination for the early part of the season until Charlie missed some games and Donny Nepia was coerced into playing in the top side. His experience was vital to the team's performance, and he provided great leadership, especially in pressure situations. Ben Crowley was also a handy replacement at halfback.

We were blessed with a number of options to fill the centre positions. Miguel Lucas was a surprise addition to the team and his ability was sorely missed when he returned to Portugal. Nick Ranguira was a rock with great running and solid tackling, and he got better the longer the season went. His partner in crime was Sam Latu who was hampered by injury at stages and played some games on the wing until another injury saw him miss the Grand Final.

A youngster in Dan Ward was a winger who stepped up and formed a solid pairing with Nick, particularly in the end of season games.

Rueben Thompson and Lachlan Conyers were wingers who made the transition from Colts and created problems for opposition teams' defence. Lachlan missed games during the holiday period and was replaced by a dashing newcomer in Simon Douch. Simon had starred in second grade and his pace, size and skill level were a welcome addition to the first-grade backline.

At fullback Tyler Aitken displayed all his class and reliability and was a constant throughout the season.

First Grade Premiers 2016



Back Row:	Rob Mardus (manager)	Ben West (physio)	Evan Poata-Smith (coach)		
	Mark Elson (manager)	Wayne Ngatai	Jason Hughes	Casey Rameka	Hemi Wickliffe
	Matt Lee	Will Wood	Shaun McCreedy (coach)		Andy Papworth
Middle Row:	Kai Miller (ball boy)	Seamus King (ball boy)	Ben Cheetham	Dan Reed	Dan Ward
	Tyler Aitken	Nick Mastro	Ben Crowley	Charlie Curry	Damien Mei
					Bob Wheway (Pres)
Front Row:	Lachlan Conyers	Nick Rangiura	Chris Parker	Rueben Thompson	Donny Nepia
	Charlie Freeman	Paul Tuala (c)	Simon Douch	Andy Rae	Sam Latu

First Grade Points Table 2016

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP4T	BP-7P	Points	Total
1	Shamrocks	18	14	4	0	399	14	2	56	72
2	University	18	14	4	0	349	12	3	56	71
3	Avondale	18	14	4	0	329	13	0	56	69
4	Bowral	18	12	6	0	219	11	3	48	62
5	Vikings	18	10	7	1	42	9	2	42	53
6	Kiama	18	9	9	0	74	10	5	36	51
7	Campbelltown	18	5	12	1	-43	8	2	22	32
8	Camden	18	6	12	0	-148	3	2	24	29
9	Shoalhaven	18	5	13	0	-288	3	0	20	23
10	Tech Waratahs	18	0	18	0	-933	2	0	0	2

Second Grade Squad

The playing squad was lucky to have several players from 2015 keen to stay involved and this was certainly a positive factor in the team's performances. Another important consideration was that serious injuries were rare, and the core of the team played in nearly all games

The forward pack was not made up of big individuals but did have many players with big hearts. Up front the tight five was well led by Captain Chris 'Taco' Parker and he was ably supported by the other 'piggies'. The front row was blessed with players of the calibre of Luke Symons, Travis Hardaker and newcomer Dan Reed, while later in the season Hemi Wickliffe was also on deck. The hooking position was a potential problem to start the season, but it was solved with the introduction of American exchange student, Chuck Hamilton, who did a superb job. Later in the season Armstrong Waremakei was introduced into the pack to add his bulk to the hooking position and both guys did well.

The second-row combination was consistent with 'Taco' and Jonah Potgiester-Denton being mainstays throughout the season. Unfortunately, Jonah missed the semis due to an injury suffered in a night club and was replaced by Todd Wilson from the colts.

One of the real strengths of the side was the depth of players available to play as loose forwards. Rhys Handcock continued to be one of the best forwards in the comp and he was assisted by Phil Johnson, Rob Leane and converted back Rueben Butler in harassing opposition backlines. It was also pleasing to witness two young colts in Bailey Lamb and Takunda Chimwaza burst onto the scene and these two were not daunted by playing against men twice their age, displaying enormous potential.

It was also a great plus for the team to welcome back Ben Crowley after a season away and he came into the side after a brief stint in First grade to be the halfback link between the forwards and backs. His partner in the halves changed during the season as several alternative players were tried but in the end Brad Reed was given the role. With the return of Charlie Curry, who had played in the top grade but went on holidays and could not get back into the side, Brad was able to play in his favoured fullback position.

Pat Perillo and Matthias Wann played just about the whole season in the centres and developed into a solid pairing as they both ran hard and straight much to the dismay of opposition backs. The wing spot was also a strength of the team as newcomers Chris Duxfield and Simon Douch were very difficult to contain. Indeed, Simon eventually made the transition to the first-grade side where he continued to impress with his pace and skills. Nick Longhurst also was impressive with his hard running but unfortunately an overseas holiday meant he missed several games. Another to show his ability on the wing was Lachlan Conyers who came into the side after he also went on holidays and as a result lost his place in first grade. To his credit Lachlan didn't let this dampen his enthusiasm and he was a key member of the backline in the semis. It was also pleasing to see Matt Lee back on the park after a brief flirtation with retirement and he again showed that pace doesn't disappear with age.

As usual there were also several players who stepped up from third grade and Colts to help when needed and blokes like Charlie Grogan, Christo Crous, 'Beaver Tarlinton, Ry Cambourne, Jamie Mason, Dylan Peppernell, Ed McClymont, Harry Cummins, Brendan Grehan and others were always willing to give of their best, often after playing a game beforehand.

Second Grade Finalists 2016



Back Row:	Evan Paota-Smith (coach)	Hemi Wickliffe	Pat Perillo	Simon Douch	Brad Reed
Rhys Handcock	Luke Symons	Jonah Potgiester-Denton	Dan Reed	Jamie Mason	Dave Reed (coach)
Front Row:	Tom Moore	Bailey Lamb	Chris Duxfield	Ben Crowley	Phil Johnson
Rueben Butler	Nick Longhurst	Takunda Chimwaza			

Second Grade Points Table 2016

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP4T	BP-7P	Points	Total
1	Shamrocks	18	15	2	1	297	12	0	62	74
2	University	18	14	4	0	361	15	2	56	73
3	Campbelltown	18	14	4	0	283	13	3	56	72
4	Camden	18	12	5	1	236	13	3	50	66
5	Avondale	18	10	8	0	240	11	3	40	54
6	Vikings	18	11	6	1	126	7	1	46	54
7	Bowral	18	6	11	1	-186	4	1	26	31
8	Kiama	18	3	15	0	-384	3	4	12	19
9	Tech Waratahs	18	2	16	0	-485	1	2	8	11
10	Shoalhaven	18	1	17	0	-488	1	0	4	5

Third Grade Squad

As is the case in every third-grade team in the rugby world there are always numerous transient players who enjoy playing rugby at this level. This year 62 players donned the Mallee Bulls jumper in thirds and many of these worthy players managed only a game or two, often to help when we were down on troops, especially during the holidays.

One of the strengths of the squad was that there was a significant number of more mature players who were on hand to assist Killer.

The early season plan was to have Donny Nepia play thirds and this was a success until Donny was called up to First grade where he again dominated. His loss was a significant one. The backs who stepped up to share the burden of leadership included Mark Placek, Rob Mardus, Shaun Dutailis, Lee Tanks and of course Killer himself.

In the pack the leadership group revolved around Brad Milner, Christo Crous, Beaver Tarlinton and Steve Elson who were the glue that held the pack together.

There was also a crop of talented players who had been around the club for a couple of years and these guys provided a lot of skill to the team. Rob Leane, Michael McKenzie, Joel Wilson, Zac Gorman, Jon Cudaj, James Bull, Beau Shipley, Huean Armstrong and Harry Cummins were key contributors, with some of them more than able to play up the grades.

Third Grade Semi Finalists 2016



Back Row:	Huean Armstrong	Peter Nikolovski	Lee Tanks	James Bull	Brenton Ritchie
	Joel Wilson	Mark Placek	Brad Milner	Howard Zhang	Jon Cudaj
	Mitch Bell	Steve Elson	Christo Crous		
Front Row:	Rob Mardus	James Tarlinton	Harley Purnell	Pat Davis	Charlie Grogan
	Dan Squires	Zac Gorman	Rob Pomana	Shaun Dutailis	

Another pleasing aspect to makeup of the squad was many new or inexperienced players who developed a great deal during the season. Dan Squires, Lachlan Williams, Todd Wilson, Jamie Mason, Josh Groves, Charlie Grogan, Toby Goodsell, Will Exton, Pat Davis, Pat Byrnes who were keen to learn and enjoy the comradery of thirds.

A couple of standout players in Justin Stanbrook and Mitch Bell also found themselves in the third-grade ranks and these talented guys often provided the spark to win tight games and showed touches of class in the process.

It was also a pleasure to welcome back Julian Payne, Brenton Ritchie and Bill Hurley who returned to the club after missing the early rounds and these guys always put in 100%.

Third Grade Points Table 2016

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP4T	BP-7P	Points	Total
1	Shamrocks	12	10	2	0	87	3	1	40	44
2	Vincentia	12	8	4	0	147	6	2	32	40
3	University	12	8	4	0	95	3	2	32	37
4	Vikings	12	7	5	0	74	3	3	28	34
5	Campbelltown	12	5	7	0	-50	2	2	20	24
6	Avondale	12	2	10	0	-130	1	2	8	11
7	Camden	12	2	10	0	-223	2	1	8	11

Colts Squad

Things looked promising at the start as we had 26 players eligible to play in the Colts. It was soon apparent that the competition was not all that popular with many players, particularly the ones who were good enough to play up the grades. As a result, there became a bit of a tug of war for these guy's services which made things awkward for without these players the team did not have enough troops. This issue was worked through, and all the players were available to play Colts and then move up the grades at the completion of the comp.

Colts Squad 2016



Back Row:	Lee Tanks (coach)	Lachlan Fawkes	Heuan Armstrong	Shane Feeney	
	Adam Bede	Jye Perkins	Ry Cambourne	Edwin Stokes	Todd Wilson
			Finlay Murphy	Beppe Fierravanti	Iain Lamb (manager)
Front Row:	Lewis Goodsell	Brayden Grehan	Dylan Peppernell	Bailey Lamb	Sam Williams
	Hugh Alston	Michael Nguyen	Andrew Johnston	Takunda Chimwaza	Michael Shambira

Players who also ventured into third grade and beyond included Takunda Chimwaza, Ry Cambourne, Heuan Armstrong, Jonah Potgiester-Denton, Ed McClymont, Ed Stokes, Lewis Goodsell Dylan Peppernell, Bailey Lamb, Andrew Johnston and Brayden Grehan. There were also some talented guys who were content to just play colts such as Harry Edwards, Nick Banic, Hugh Alston, Bede Adam, Shae Feney, Bepe Fierravanti, Lachlan Fowke, Lewis Goodsell, Vaughan Higgins, Jye Perkins, Finlay Murphy, Michael Nguyen and Henry Pearce.

Due to the nature of the comp some players never committed to the club and so were not sighted after the holidays but quite a few became regulars in the higher grades.

Colts Points Table 2016

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP4T	BP-7P	Points	Total
1	Campbelltown	9	7	0	2	168	6	0	28	34
2	University	8	4	2	2	5	4	1	16	21
3	Camden	8	1	5	2	12	2	3	4	9
4	South Coast	7	0	5	2	-185	0	0	0	0

Women's

2016 saw the reintroduction of a women's 15 aside rugby team in the Illawarra since 2007 when Vikings last had a team in the Sydney Comp. Kaari and Marie Macdonald (ex UOW player) our mother daughter combination played for Campbelltown Harlequins in 2015. After a year of travelling, they decided to start a team closer to home. When calls were made to all the local clubs Bob Wheway from UOW was the only respondent in supporting their goal and welcomed the idea with open arms.

Once the green light was given there was only three weeks till the comp, so a lot of work had to be done to recruit, train and find a coach. Teaming up with ex UOW players Lusi Johnson and Lusii Tanevesi (our committee) new players were recruited, predominantly from Uni. Our team became a reality with Michael Roberts filling in as an interim coach as well as Tony Leeder-Smith helping us till we could secure a coach. Thankfully, Chris Sellar stepped up to the plate. We were also lucky enough to have Micka Bajjada and Peter Wetherill from Barloaded Fitness become our strength and conditioning coaches and sponsors.

We started off with 14 girls, only 5 having played before with the rest relatively new to football in general and ended up with 20 girls registered in the end. We were given support from opposing teams with the lending of players. They were happy to see another team in the Sydney Women's Comp and were understanding of the struggles we faced. It did not go unnoticed that the team were improving week in week out with coaches from other teams such as Sydney Uni and Waverley having a chat after the games and giving us feedback with areas to work on.

Although the girls were beaten every week it did not dampen their enthusiasm and unwavering dedication to the team, they still turned up every week to training and 5 of our girls were selected for Illawarra that being Tori Ellis, Kaari Macdonald, June Norton, Bess Platt, Lusii Tanevesi with Marie Macdonald as Assistant Coach. Unfortunately, the end of our season ended with a few forfeits due to many injuries and players being away over the Uni holidays.

Our off season was just as busy with the Women running a Viva7's comp with the hopes of recruiting new players for next season. Chris Sellar was instrumental with supporting the girls throughout the season and helping organise and set up the Viva7's comp, with approximately 50 players registered.

Seven of the women committed to playing with us in 2017, so it was very successful with our main goal of recruiting. We also played Oz tag under the Mallee Bulls banner in the hopes of recruiting, and we managed to get a few more girls on board. The girls also played in the Southern Highland 7's and the Fisher Ghost 7's tournament and finishing off the summer with Kiama 7's, by then we will be ready to kick off 2017 in a big way.

Women's Squad 2016



Back Row:	Marta Ramos	Jasinda Lee	Lauren Malpass	Jasmine MacDonald	Kaari MacDonald
Jessie Kendall	Bess Platt	Giulia Rossini	Marie MacDonald	Micka Bajjade (Trainer)	
Middle Row:	JV Visesio	Clare Foster	Maddie Visesio	Pandora Visesio	Myrha Taufa
Telia Fenwick	Eugenia Visesio	Tori Elis			
Front Row:	Lusii Tanevesi				
Absent:	June Norton	Chris Sellars (coach)	Peter Weatherall (trainer)		

This year was a huge learning curve for the team having Marie Macdonald as our biggest driving force on and off the field with Lusii Tanevesi supporting and happily doing all that needs to be done behind the scenes. We saw lots of positives throughout 2016 and were very thankful for all who helped us along the way such as Bob Wheway, Glenn McGuinness, Brad Milner, Larry and Carmen Daniella, Michael Roberts, David Ryan, Melissa Stahl-Blood, Tony Leeder-Smith, Chris Sellar and being a part of a very supportive rugby club - The UOW Mallee Bulls.

The Season

Rd 1: Bowral at University Oval

The season began with a home game against Bowral at home. Only First and Second were involved in competition games while thirds took on Avondale in a trial game to give players a chance to run around and blow away the cobwebs.

Seconds

The seconds were blessed with high numbers of players to select from as the Colts players were available to have a game. The squad was a strong one with quite a few experienced players on deck to guide the young guns in Takunda Chimwaza, Michael Martin, Rueben Thompson and Chris Duxfield.

Bowral were on the improve as a club and this was demonstrated by the fact that they had good numbers and seemed quite organised.

We certainly had to work hard for our points, but our forwards headed by new import, Chuck Hamilton, and Rhys Handcock saw us gain ascendancy up front which allowed our backs freedom to run. Wingers Thompson and Duxfield certainly showed their pace and class and ensured the boys a win in our first run of the year.

Rd 1 – 2/4/16	University Oval	University 31	Bowral 17
Tries:	Rhys Handcock (2)	Rueben Thompson (2)	Chris Duxfield
Goals:	Brad Reed (2)	Pat Perillo (1)	Pen Goals:
Players Player:	Charles Hamilton		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Charles Hamilton	Takunda Chimwaza	Chris Duxfield

Firsts Report by Ron Wood – The Rogues Rant

University accounted for Bowral in Round One of the Builders Club First Grade Premiership last Saturday in a scrappy performance at University Oval.

It was a very improved Bowral from 2015 who took on the students and kept the pressure on them throughout the duration of the first half. In fact, the Blacks were very unlucky not to go to the break leading 14-7. A well worked pick-and-drive play saw them appear to score adjacent to the posts only to drop the ball over the line and have the try disallowed. Instead it remained an even 7 points all at half-time.

Early in the second half University put on two good tries, using the style of play we have been accustomed to over the past two years, and it appeared the game was about to blow out as Bowral were very fatigued.

However, the students game then became error ridden and they invited Bowral into their red zone. After some built up pressure the blacks scored a converted try to be within 7 points with 20 minutes remaining.

The Blacks continued to feed on the students' mistakes but could not convert it into points.

Then with ten minutes remaining University sealed the match with a converted try.

Final score 28-14 to University over a spirited Bowral that will definitely trouble sides in 2016.

Rd 1 – 2/4/16	University Oval	University 28	Bowral 14	
Tries:	Andy Papworth	Wayne Ngatai	Charlie Curry	Sam Latu
Goals:	Charlie Curry (4)	Pen Goals:		
Players Player:	Andy Papworth			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Paul Tuala	Andy Papworth	Nick Mastro	

Rd 2: Shamrocks at Ocean Park

Thirds

Thirds fielded an experienced team in their first official hit out including Mark Placek, James Tarlinton, Steve Elson, Donny Nepia and props Shepherd and Milner. Intermingled with these notables were a host of young guns whose enthusiasm was a key ingredient to the mix. Unfortunately, we came up against a Shamrocks team with a Pacific Flair who ran us off our feet and although we were in the game we couldn't match the pace and skill of the opposition backs, including a first grader who wanted to have a warmup run and created havoc at times.

Rd 2– 9/4/16	Ocean Park	University 15	Shamrocks 26
Tries:	Killian Grennell	Justin Stanbrook	
Goals:	Mark Placek (1)	Pen Goals:	Mark Placek (1)
Players Player:	Justin Stanbrook		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Mike Vickers	Donny Nepia	Luke Symons

Seconds

Seconds fielded a very strong side with a pack filled with young guns from the Colts and led by Casey Rameka and Rhys Handcock. It was a similar tale in the backs where we were blessed with plenty of pace with Nick Longhurst, Rueben Thompson and newcomer Simon Douch. Unfortunately, the Rocks were a very difficult assignment as they dominated for long periods and recorded a good win.

Rd 2– 9/4/16	Ocean Park	University 13	Shamrocks 22
Tries:	Casey Rameka	Simon Douch	
Goals:		Pen Goals:	Brad Reed (1)
Players Player:	Rhys Handcock		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Casey Rameka	Takunda Chimwaza	Rhys Handcock

Firsts Report by Ron Woods – The Rogues Rant

Two Rounds into the 2016 IDRU Builders Club Premiership and Shamrocks have secured their second scalp of a top three side from 2015. A solid 31 – 24 victory over Grand Finalists University on Saturday at Ocean Park has come on the back of their sparkling Round 1 victory over Kiama. With their next outing to be against Premiers Avondale next week, Shamrocks have made a very impressive start to the year under new Coach Ron Davis and will be looking forward to the challenge of next weeks' match.

The Bulls completely dominated their smaller opponents for the first thirty minutes of the match to lead 12 - 0, but the very committed and enthusiastic Rocks put on two tries within ten minutes of the break to snatch the lead 14 – 12. With Bulls skipper Paul Tuala at his very best pilfering possession at will and defending with some crunching efficiency the Bulls looked to be on track to register their second win of the year.

Tuala scored the first try of the match when he broke from a scrum ten metres out and powered over for a five pointer. Charlie Curry converted the try for a 7 – 0 lead. The bigger Uni forwards continued to power forward despite some dogged defence from the Rocks. Uni Lock Nick Mastro crossed for a try at the sixteen-minute mark as it was beginning to look like it would be Uni's day, as the Bulls lead 12 - 0.

With both sides throwing themselves into their work it was the bigger Uni players who started to feel the heat of the day and as half time approached the Rocks took full advantage of their tiring opponents to pinch the lead. Fly half Luke Tonegato put on a strong attacking effort of his own beating four or five Uni defenders in a 20-metre evasive run to the line. With a minute left on the clock Flanker Manasc Tufui swooped on an unattended ball at the back of a ruck to stroll over and

score the Rocks second try. With both tries converted by Scott Tarasenko, Shamrocks had snatched the lead from Uni at 14 – 12.

The second term belonged to Shamrocks. With halfback Rory Davis directing traffic with precision and driving his forward pack in front of him the Rocks took control from the restart. The Bulls lost replacement centre Nick Rangiura to the Bin for a ruck infringement early in the second half, with Rocks wingman Rob Buasenga taking full advantage of a bit of extra space out wide to score his sides' third try. Another conversion from Tarasenko and the score was out to 21 – 12.

While still down by one player Uni managed to take play to within the Rocks quarter of the field and after several phases driving at the line Front Rower Karl Smith broke through to give his side some hope as Curry converted to bring the students back to within two of the lead. With their condition falling away and with their players taking several poor options, the Bulls couldn't mount a sustained challenge to the home side as the Rocks took control of the match. Halfback Davis took a quick tap from a penalty just into the Uni half and quickly directed play down the left flank. The ball came to Rhys Peters who used his speed and a sweet swerve to score his sixth try of the year. Tarasenko converted and then shortly after added a penalty goal for the Rocks to take back control of the match at 31 – 19.

Despite a second try by one of their best on the day, Nick Mastro, the Bulls never looked likely to take the match as the Rocks continually hustled the Bulls into error to run out 31 – 24 winners. Player of the Match points went deservedly to Rocks halfback Rory Davis for a strong all-round game, with lock Matt Bowen and skipper Tristram Storm also figuring well in the win. A perfect goal kicking display by Scott Tarasenko proved decisive in the match as both sides managed to score four tries. For Uni Paul Tuala was masterful at the breakdown winning possession on many occasions for his side. Lock Nick Mastro and centre Miguel Lucas also made strong contributions.

Rd 2– 9/4/16	Ocean Park		University 24	Shamrocks 31
Tries:	Nick Mastro (2)	Paul Tuala	Karl Smith	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (2)		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Miguel Lucas			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Paul Tuala	Miguel Lucas	Nick Mastro Andy Papworth	

Rd 3 - Camden at University Oval

Colts

After a delayed start to the competition our young Colts finally played their first competition game, and it was to be no push over as Camden were developing their skills as many of them came from a rugby league background.

We had to play on the Friday night but had a squad of twenty players on deck and we made a successful start to our campaign scoring three tries in the process.

A positive start to the season.

Rd 3– 15/4/16	University Oval		University 17	Camden 12
Tries:	Dylan Peppernell	Brayden Grehan	Michael Shambira	
Goals:	Jye Perkins		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Tod Wilson			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	

Thirds

Thirds took on Camden with a very crowded bench and the usual mix of older and less experienced players donning the jumpers. In an unusual game we completely dominated the Rams who are perennial heavy weights in this grade.

Rob Leane was outstanding in the battle for possession at the breakdown while old stager, Donny Nepia, really showed his class with deft kicking and passing being a highlight.

Rd 3– 16/4/16	University Oval	University 33	Camden 5
Tries:	Rob Leane (2)	Dan Squires	Beau Shipley Toby Goodsell
Goals:	Donny Nepia (3)	Mark Placek (1)	Pen Goals:
Players Player:	Rob Leane		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Rob Leane	Donny Nepia	Bill Exton

Seconds

A number of colts players backed up for seconds after their Friday night game and probably were feeling a tad fatigued after a hard match. This certainly seemed to affect the flow of the game and we struggled against a committed Camden outfit.

Young gun Ed McClymont was a standout player in the forwards while newcomer Simon Douch was again in great form.

In the end the game got away from us and we couldn't match Camden who were deserved victors on the day.

Rd 3– 15/4/16	University Oval	University 17	Camden 26
Tries:	Tom Baker	Dylan Peppernell	
Goals:	Brad Reed (2)		Pen Goals: Brad Reed (1)
Players Player:	Ed McClymont		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Ed McClymont	Simon Douch	Luke Symons

Firsts

Camden were a bit off the pace as they had lost a few players, but they certainly came down the coast ready for a battle.

As far as possession was concerned our pack were on top in the set pieces but the fight at the breakdown was very even. Wayne Ngatai as hooker was in great touch as was Paul Tuala who enjoyed his personal contest with Camden's Gavin Holder.

In the backs Lachlan Conyers benefitted from the good ball supplied by Miguel Lucas but we certainly had to work hard for any points.

Rd 3– 15/4/16	University Oval	University 17	Camden 3
Tries:	Wayne Ngatai (2)	Lachlan Conyers	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)		Pen Goals:
Players Player:	Wayne Ngatai		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Lachlan Conyers	Wayne Ngatai	Miguel Lucas

Rd 4 – Campbelltown at Campbelltown Showground

This round was the first time that all four of our senior teams playing together and it was a clear indication of the depth we have developed.

Colts

The game against Campbelltown was a coach's nightmare as we only had eleven fit players ready to take the field. The only positive was that Campbelltown were in the same boat.

In a high scoring fixture, we were totally blown away by the size and pace of the Campbelltown players and it needs to be said that our guys never gave up, but they were very relieved when the full-time whistle sounded.

Rd 4 23/4/16	Campbelltown S'ground		University 7	Campbelltown 62
Tries:	Sam Williams			
Goals:	Sam Williams		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Bailey Lamb			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Bailey Lamb	Ry Cambourne Sam Williams Lewis Goodsell	Huean Armstrong Ed Stokes Todd Wilson Michael Nguyen	Lachlan Fawke Michael Shambira Henry Pearce

Thirds

Thirds were in for a struggle against a big Campbelltown side but never shirked the tough stuff, especially when defending the try line.

The loose forwards in Dave Grimson, Phil Johnston and Rob Leane were awesome in tight as was second rower Killian Grennell. The backs were steered around by Donny Nepia, who scored a great individual try, while Rueben Butler excelled at Fullback.

In the end our defence won the game as Campbelltown couldn't get on the scoreboard.

Rd 4 23/4/16	Campbelltown S'ground		University 20	Campbelltown 0
Tries:	Donny Nepia	Rob Leane		
Goals:	Mark Placek (2)		Pen Goals:	Mark Placek (2)
Players Player:	Dave Grimson			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Rueben Butler	Rob Leane	Donny Nepia	

Seconds

Campbelltown was travelling well in seconds, and we had only one win, so pressure was building. In a game where attack was the name of the game both teams scored five tries and the and the teams were very evenly matched. Our flying winger, Nick Longhurst, had an outstanding game scoring a great double but in the end a Campbelltown field goal got them over the line and we were left shattered after what had been a grand effort. The positive was that we secured two valuable bonus points and were competitive against the top sides.

Rd 4 23/4/16	Campbelltown S'ground		University 32	Campbelltown 35
Tries:	Nick Longhurst (2)	Dan Ward	Beau Shipley	Jonah Potgieter-Denton
Goals:	Brad Reed (2)		Pen Goals:	Brad Reed (1)
Players Player:	Nick Longhurst			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Takunda Chimwaza	Nick Longhurst	Rhys Handcock	

Firsts

First were at near full strength and they certainly were up for a big effort against the unpredictable Campbelltown side whose fitness would have been a concern for their coach.

In a good all round display our forwards provided a lot of attacking options and the backs led by Miguel Lucas and Charlie Curry were outstanding with the ball.

As usual when we had a certain referee we ended up with two players in the sinbin and this contributed to Campbelltown scoring four tries but in the end we were always in control.

Rd 4 23/4/16	Campbelltown S'ground	University 38	Campbelltown 24
Tries:	Rueben Thompson (2) Tyler Aitken	Paul Tuala	Casey Rameka Miguel Lucas
Goals:	Charlie Curry (4)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Miguel Lucas		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Charlie Freeman	Jason Hughes	Tom Baker

Rd 5 – Vikings at University Oval

Thirds

The Third-grade game was a battle of attrition as the two evenly matched teams looked to gain the upper hand. Vikings scored three tries to our one but good goal kicking by Mark Placek and Donny Nepia kept us in the contest. In the forwards Killian Grennell was a shining light but in the end we were beaten by a good side.

Rd 5 30/4/16	University Oval	University 13	Vikings 19
Tries:	Killian Grennell		
Goals:	Mark Placek (1)	Pen Goals: Mark Placek (1) Donny Nepia (1)	
Players Player:	Killian Grennell		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Donny Nepia	Shaun Dutailis	Steve Elson

Seconds

Seconds needed a win to stay in the race for the top spots and their desperation showed in their performance. The tight five were always in control with hooker, 'Chuck' Hamilton, even crossing for a double of tries.

With plenty of possession the backs also were on fire and the result was never in doubt, even though we did have two players receiving yellow cards.

Rd 5 30/4/16	University Oval	University 36	Vikings 17
Tries:	'Chuck' Hamilton (2)	Rhys Handcock	Pat Perillo Nick Longhurst
Goals:	Brad Reed (4)	Pen Goals: Brad Reed (1)	
Players Player:	'Chuck' Hamilton		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	'Chuck' Hamilton	Justin Stanbrook	Nick Longhurst

Firsts

Firsts were forced to make a couple of changes which meant that Ben Cheetham played in the second row. This certainly didn't affect his play as he scored two outstanding tries in a man of the March display. There was not a poor player in the side and we totally dominated all aspects of the game to run out convincing winners.

Rd 5 30/4/16	University Oval	University 52	Vikings 13
Tries:	Ben Cheetham (2) Tyler Aitkin	Lachlan Conyers (2) Jason Hughes	Casey Rameka Wayne Ngatai
Goals:	Charlie Curry (5)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Ben Cheetham	Tyler Aitken	Wayne Ngatai

Rd 6 – Vincentia/Shoalhaven at Vincentia

Colts

Colts played Camden again on a Friday night and in an entertaining encounter came out on top 20 – 12. Camden are definitely on the improve and we had to rely on a four try effort to come away with the points.

Rd 6 13/5/16	University Oval	University 20	Camden 12
Tries:	Andrew Johnson	Michael Shambira	Brayden Grehan Finn Murphy
Goals:		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)

Thirds

Taking on Vincentia at their home ground is never an easy task as, being a one team club, 'The Van Gogh's' often fielded some quality players. Indeed, I can't recall us ever having success in this encounter.

That being said our third-grade boys certainly put in a massive effort and really took it to the opposition.

The pack, led by Joel Wilson, was up to the challenge and defended manfully. Vincentia were not used to being put under pressure and gave away a number of penalties which allowed Donny Nepia to kick three penalties. The game was an arm wrestle and even though Vincentia scored two tries to our one we managed to stay in control and came away very proud winners 16-12.

This would rank as one of the best efforts put in by thirds in a long while.

Rd 6 14/5/16	Vincentia	University 16	Vincentia 12
Tries:	Lachlan Williams		
Goals:	Donny Nepia (1)	Pen Goals:	Donny Nepia (3)
Players Player:	Joel Wilson		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Joel Wilson	Donny Nepia	Michael McKenzie

Seconds

Shoalhaven were struggling in Seconds and were no match for our blokes who turned in a very polished performance to record an easy win.

The pack led by Travis Hardaker paved the way for the backs to totally dominate the opposition with some great tries being the result.

Rd 6 14/5/16	Vincentia	University 52	Shoalhaven 5
Tries:	Jonah Potgieter-Denton (2) Ben Crowley	Simon Douch (2) Brad Reed	Rob Leane Rhys Handcock Justin Stanbrook
Goals:	Brad Reed (6)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Travis Hardaker		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Matthias Wann	Jonah Potgieter-Denton	Ben Crowley

Firsts

Firsts continued on their winning streak with a comprehensive victory over Shoalhaven who were outclassed but never stopped trying. The forwards were able to overpower the Shoalhaven pack with Ben Cheetham and Charlie Freeman creating havoc at the breakdown.

Rd 6 14/5/16	Vincentia	University 38	Shoalhaven 12
Tries:	Tom Baker (2)	Rueben Thompson (2)	Charlie Freeman Dan Ward
Goals:	Charlie Curry (4)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Ben Cheetham	Dan Ward	Nick Mastro

Rd 7 – Kiama at University Oval

Colts

The Colts faced South Coast and it was pleasing to see a number of bodies on the bench. The same couldn't be said for the visitors who borrowed some players to make the game more equitable.

It was no walk in the park as we crossed for four tries and kept the South Coast boys scoreless until late in the game.

It is becoming quite obvious that everyone involved in the competition will be happy when the season finishes.

Rd 7 20/5/16	University Oval	University 24	South Coast 5
Tries:	Ed McClymont	Ed Stokes	Brayden Grehan Finn Murphy
Goals:	Dylan Peppernell (2)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)

Thirds

Bye

Seconds

Even at this stage of the season there was a distinct gap in ability between the top sides and those in the bottom half. Kiama were definitely one of the teams getting left behind and it showed in their performance.

Matthias Wann ran amuck scoring a hat trick of tries and dominating in defence. Rhys Hancock was also in good form and led the pack enthusiastically to an easy victory

Rd 7 21/5/16	University Oval	University 50	Kiama 7
Tries:	Matthias Wann (3) Chris Duxfield	Travis Hardaker Rueben Butler	Rob Leane Simon Douch
Goals:	Brad Reed (5)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Matthias Wann		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Matthias Wann	Brad Reed	Rhys Handcock

Firsts

First welcomed back Andy Rae from injury and we were a confident outfit going into the match, especially as Kiama were not performing as well as they had done in the previous season. Coach McCreedy was on rep duty, as was Paul Tuala, but the team was near full strength. The problem was that no one had informed Kiama that we were expecting to win, and they came out all guns blazing and dominated proceedings. In one of the poorest performances for a long time we were never in the game and try as hard as we could the longer the game went, the worse we performed. In the end it was a wakeup call that showed we still had a lot of improvement to do to win the comp.

Rd 7 21/5/16	University Oval		University 13	Kiama 29
Tries:	Karl Smith	Ben Cheetham		
Goals:			Pen Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)
Players Player:	Charlie Curry			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Ben Cheetham	Charlie Freeman	Wayne Ngatai	

RD 8 - Tech Waratahs at Saunders Oval

Colts

The second game against South Coast was in Nowra and the boys enjoyed the camaraderie of a bus trip in true rugby fashion and the resultant high score suggested that the team was building towards the Final.

Eighteen hardy souls boarded the bus and were a very excited bunch.

The rugby was a bit of a non-event with our lads winning easily 60-5. The ten tries were scored between five players who all scored a double plus three guys who had a chance to kick a conversion. The after-match function was the highlight with both teams enjoying the opportunity to mingle, have a drink and something to eat before heading home. This was probably the best thing to come out of the season and was a fitting reward for the guys who had hung in during some hard times.

Rd 8 27/5/16	Shoalhaven Rugby Park		University 60	South Coast 5
Tries:	Shae Feeney (2) Jye Perkins (2)	Takunda Chimwaza (2)	Dylan Peppernell (2)	Finlay Murphy (2)
Goals:	Andrew Johnson (3) Bailey Lam (1)	Sam Williams (1)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Hugh Alston			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Takunda Chimwaza	Dylan Peppernell	Finlay Murphy	

Thirds

Bye

Seconds

Seconds were on a roll and there was no way Tech were going to stop them at this stage as they were really struggling.

The game highlighted the difference between the top and bottom sides in the comp and was a very one-sided affair. We did play some good rugby with ten individual players crossing for a try. It was great to see Hemi Wickliffe don his boots for his first run of the year and score a try.

Rd 8 28/5/16	Saunders Oval		University 66	Tech Waratahs 0
Tries:	Luke Symons Phil Johnston Dylan Peppernell	Christo Crous Rhys Handcock Hemi Wickliffe	Brad Reed Simon Douch	Pat Perillo Brayden Grehan
Goals:	Brad Reed (8)	Chris Parker (1)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Christo Crous			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Ben Crowley	Hemi Wickliffe	Brad Reed	

Firsts

We were simply too good for Tech Waratahs who were languishing down the bottom of the table and had been on the receiving end of some quite big losses. Unfortunately for them this run continued.

We did rest some players and it was great to see Nick Longhurst make his starting debut in first grade and his blistering speed saw him notch two tries.

Rd 8 28/5/16	Saunders Oval		University 55	Tech Waratahs 17
Tries:	Jason Hughes (2) Lachlan Conyers	Sam Latu (2) Will Wood	Nick Longhurst (2)	Dan Ward
Goals:	Tom Baker (4)	Charlie Curry (1)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Sam Latu			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Charlie Freeman	Sam Latu	Tom Baker	

Rd 9 – Games washed out – Replay on 30th July.

Rd 10 Bowral at Eridge Park

Thirds

BYE

Seconds

Seconds dominated the match from the opening whistle with the loose forwards in Ruben Butler, Rob Leane and Rhys Handcock outstanding. The backs relished the amount of possession provided by the pack with Simon Douch scoring a double in another impressive display.

Rd 10 11/6/16	Eridge Park		University 51	Bowral 3
Tries:	Simon Douch (2) Takunda Chimwaza	Dan Squires (2) Brad Reed	Hemi Wickliffe	Charles Hamilton
Goals:	Brad Reed (4)		Pen Goals:	Brad Reed (1)
Players Player:	Charles Hamilton			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Rueben Butler Rob Leane Rhys Handcock	Simon Douch	Jamie Mason	

Firsts

Bowral was the real improver in the competition as was evident as they battled for the top four finish they deserved.

Playing them at their home ground made our task even more difficult but fortunately we were nearly at full strength.

In a tight encounter both teams scored three tries but unfortunately we couldn't kick a goal and so fell five points short, losing 15-20. The days of Bowral being the easy beats were well and truly over.

Rd 10 11/6/16	Eridge Park		University 15	Bowral 20
Tries:	Lachlan Conyers (2)	Nick Mastro		
Goals:			Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Charlie Freeman			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Paul Tuala	Charlie Freeman	Sam Latu	

Rd 11: Shamrocks at University Oval

It was 'Back to Uni Day', and we were recognising the First Grade Premiers from 2006 and it was good to see ten of the players return for the event that cumulated in us watching the Wallabies lose to the England in the second test.

Fortunately, the Mallee Bulls were more successful on the field with two good wins and very unlucky loss to the Rocks.

Thirds

Shamrocks who were leading the comp at this stage, continued to be our nemesis in thirds as they emerged victorious in a tight match where defence was the key factor as neither team could gain dominance.

The fact that our only points came from a Mark Placek penalty shows just how disjointed we were in attack. This could be attributed to the fact that we had not played a game in five weeks, due to byes and wet weather.

Shamrocks were not much better, but they did score the only try to win 3-7.

For the losing side Mitch Bell was outstanding and his performance nearly got us across the line.

Rd 11	18/6/16	University Oval	University 3	Shamrocks 7
Tries:				
Goals:			Pen Goals: Mark Placek	
Players Player:		Mitch Bell		
B & F Points:		(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
		Mitch Bell	James Bull	Joel Wilson Howard Zhang

Seconds

Shamrocks were the form team of the comp but apparently were missing some of their players. This would not deflect from the magnificent performance put in by our Second grade as they held them scoreless.

Our lightweight pack was dominant all over the park and the speedy backs thrived on the quality possession they were given.

Our five tries demonstrated the improvement in our side and showed Shamrocks they were in a contest for the premiership.

Rd 11	18/6/16	University Oval	University 31	Shamrocks 0
Tries:		Takunda Chimwaza Brad Reed	Simon Douch	Nick Longhurst Chris Duxfield
Goals:		Pen Goals:		
Players Player:		Takunda Chimwaza	Pat Perillo	Jamie Mason
B & F Points:		(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
		Rueben Butler	Luke Symons	Dan Reed

Firsts Report by Ron Woods – The Rogues Rant

University Bulls narrowed the gap on second placed Shamrocks with a seventeen-point shutout at University Oval on Saturday.

With visiting New Zealand Referee Mr Woodhouse applying a much more liberal interpretation than the players are used to at the breakdown, both sides were able to recycle possession efficiently throughout the first half as play progressed at a faster than usual pace for Illawarra club rugby. The Rocks came out determined to play the match at a high pace and did so dominating the early minutes of the match deep in the Bulls area, with the Bulls forced to clear their line several times with long clearing kicks from Fly-half Don Nepia.

The Bulls opened the scoring with what was their first period of sustained possession after eight minutes. After a strong series of phase play almost resulted in a try wide on the left, the Bulls spread the ball quickly to Portuguese centre Miguel Lucas who ran strongly to score wide on the right. A conversion from Nepia saw Uni take a 7 – 0 lead.

On the back of a succession of eight penalties, Shamrocks spent the majority of the next twenty minutes attacking the Bulls line from close range. In an incredible defensive effort from the Bulls throughout this period, Shamrocks could not break through. Choosing not to kick for penalty goal, the depleted Rocks were unable to take any advantage on the scoreboard.

Minutes from half-time University fullback Tyler Aitkin tried a quick throw in on halfway which threatened to turn sour when the ball went astray. However, the Bulls players cleaned the situation up and went on the attack which almost resulted in a try to Rueben Thompson in the left corner. From the resulting ruck the ball was once again spread quickly to the right for winger Dan Ward to have the overlap and score in the corner. Unconverted by Don Nepia, the try meant that the Bulls went to the break 12 – 0 in the lead.

With the frantic pace of the first half taking a toll on both sides, the second term fell away somewhat with plenty of drop ball and poor execution from both sides. Uni hooker Wayne Ngatai forced his way over for a five pointer as the Bulls pressured the Shamrocks line after seven minutes of the half, for what would be the final points of the match.

It was the defensive effort of the Bulls that won the day with Flankers Nick Mastro and Charlie Freeman prominent in tight and an exceptionally strong performance from Nepia, Lucas and centre Nick Rangiura in the Backs. The Uni scrum was far superior to the Rocks taking at least four tight heads as they were never troubled by the Rocks pack throughout the match.

Rd 11	18/6/16	University Oval	University 17	Shamrocks 0
Tries:	Dan Ward	Miguel Lucas	Wayne Ngatai	
Goals:	Donny Nepia		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Charlie Freeman			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Damien Mei	Sam Latu	Charlie Freeman	

Rd 12: Camden at Camden Rugby Park

There was a great deal of concern at training on Thursday night due to the fact that we looked as though seven of our props were going to be unavailable for the trip to Camden. Some were injured and some were otherwise engaged, and things were desperate.

It was then that the telephones ran hot, and a few heart strings were tugged, and a number of guys heeded the call for help. In fact, the first eight guys at the ground included at least five props so the situation was well in hand.

There were guys like Pat Byrnes who drove up from Wagga, Rob Leane travelled from Goulburn while others changed plans so that we could field the strongest sides possible.

Thirds

Third graders took the field but soon found themselves standing behind their goal line as Camden got away to a dream start scoring twelve points in a very short time. After our early concerns regarding props, we had an abundance with Brad Milner, Steve Elson, Pat Byrnes and Zac Gorman leading the charge. It was great to welcome back Julian Payne after a bit of a break along with Jack Nash.

It was then that the experience of some old heads in Shaun Dutailis, Rob Mardus and Mark Placek took control. It was pleasing to see that we didn't panic as we steadily worked our way into the game. A couple of great runs by Josh Groves led to tries and got the ball rolling and after another couple of tries the Camden challenge soon disappeared.

Mitch Bell and Joel Wilson were always on the ball, while Jono Cudaj was his usual aggressive self. Not to be outdone Tanksy moved into the pack and took three lineout balls, but I must admit he never had to actually jump for any of them.

The final score was fifty points to seventeen and it must be said that it has been a long time since The Thirsties have posted fifty points in a game.

Rd 12 25/6/16	Camden Rugby Park	University 50	Camden 17
Tries:	Robbie Mardus (2) Toby Goodsell	Josh Groves (2) James Bull	Joel Wilson Shaun Dutailis
Goals:	Mark Placek (5)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Mitch Bell	Josh Groves	
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Mitch Bell	Josh Groves	Zac Gorman

Seconds

Seconds really needed a win to keep in touch with the top four teams, so they were a very determined lot as they took on the team that has had the wood on us for the past few games. The team was able to call on the services of Travis Hardaker, Beaver Tarlinton and Michael McKenzie up front to start the game and then were able to rotate Milner, Crous and Shepherd plus a few other worthy souls who soaked up the pressure. Bailey Lamb was in the mix and was never over awed by his older opponents and he was ably supported by Rob Leane and Rhys Handcock. Rueben Butler was also everywhere as he continues to enjoy the change into the forwards. A penalty goal and a try to Matt Lee saw us in front eight nil for much of the game but things got a little tense after Camden scored a try late in the game. Some excellent tackling by Ben Crowley often snuffed out attacking raids and in the end we triumphed eight points to five.

Rd 12 25/6/16	Camden Rugby Park	University 8	Camden 5
Tries:	Matt Lee		
Goals:		Pen Goals:	Brad Reed
Players Player:	Rob Leane		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Ben Crowley	Chris Parker	Bailey Lamb

Firsts

Coach Miller was back in charge of steering the ship with Shaun away and Donny having to don the boots again to play in the halves. Many considered this to be a danger game as we were missing Paulie Tuala, Karl Smith, Miguel Lucas and Charlie Curry. However, things were under control up front with Hemi Wickliffe and Casey Rameka on deck with Wayne Ngatai hooking. The fact that our scrum was dominant certainly made the going far easier and allowed our backs a bit of freedom to play attacking rugby. Our pack was ably led by Captain Freeman who was celebrating playing his century of games for the Mallee Bulls. It was also good to see Andy Rae causing damage with some bullocking runs up the middle. The first half saw Dan Ward get across for two tries and set up the early led. Our other two tries were scored by Nick Rangiura and Rueben Thompson, so our backs were on top. Donny was on target kicking all four conversion attempts. Phil Johnson and Simon Douch were making their top-grade debuts and excelled certainly indicating that they are more than ready to play at this level. Phil even impressed the ref who gave him three points in the IDRU Best and Fairest award.

Rd 12 25/6/16	Camden Rugby Park	University 28	Camden 5
Tries:	Simon Douch (2)	Rueben Thompson	Nick Rangiura
Goals:	Donny Nepia (4)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Simon Douch		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Dan Ward	Simon Douch	Phil Johnson

Rd 13 Campbelltown at University Oval

Thirds

Campbelltown is always a huge team in thirds with lots of Islander players who love playing attacking rugby, so the boys were up for a tough, physical encounter. And they were not disappointed.

Our bench consisted of some very experienced players including Steve Elson, Jack Nash and James Tarlinton. The forward battle was an epic one with the loose forwards Joel Wilson, Jon Cudaj and Mitch Bell prominent.

In a game where each side scored a single try it was the boot of Mark Placek that got us across the finish line.

Rd 13 2/7/16	University Oval	University 10	Campbelltown 7
Tries:	James Bull		
Goals:	Mark Placek (1)	Pen Goals:	Mark Placek (1)
Players Player:	Joel Wilson		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Joel Wilson	Jon Cudaj	Charlie Grogan James Bull

Seconds

Shamrocks, University and Campbelltown were in a dog fight to emerge as the top side in the comp so a win in this game was paramount to both clubs.

University had struggled to get a victory against the 'Quins' of late as Campbelltown always seem to have a size advantage all across the field.

Our forwards were on the light side but were obviously fitter so we knew we had to stay in the contest until the end and hopefully we would come out on top. Our task was also made a bit easier as Campbelltown had a player in the bin on two occasions as their tackling technique left a bit to be desired.

In a very entertaining match, we scored four tries to Campbelltown's three, but their kicker gave them a two-point lead as full time was near.

Our fitness allowed us to put pressure on them and with no time left we were awarded a penalty that could win us the game.

Sport can sometimes be cruel as it was on this occasion as the ball hit the upright and the Campbelltown followers breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Rd 13 2/7/16	University Oval	University 22	Campbelltown 24
Tries:	Ben Crowley (2)	Takunda Chimwaza	Matthias Wann
Goals:	Brad Reed (1)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Takunda Chimwaza	Matthias Wann	
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Takunda Chimwaza	Matthias Wann	Miguel Lucas

Firsts

Campbelltown was a very inconsistent performer during the season and often did not travel very well to away games. It might also be said that their second-grade side was a bit stronger than their First grade as was demonstrated by their position on the points table.

Coming into the game we had a few tight forwards absent, but our pack blew Campbelltown off the park.

It was a non-event as we raced in ten tries, most of them scored by the outside backs and never looked like being beaten.

One highlight was celebrated by all in the club when Miguel Lucas, who was playing his last game before heading back to Portugal, kicked the last conversion of the game.

Rd 13 2/7/16	University Oval		University 62	Campbelltown 12
Tries:	Nick Rangiura (2) Simon Douch	Dan Ward (2) Dan Reed	Casey Rameka Sam Latu	Tom Baker
Goals:	Donny Nepia (5)	Miguel Lucas (1)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Dan Ward			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Dan Ward	Casey Rameka	Tyler Aitken	

Rd 14: Shoalhaven at Shoalhaven Rugby Park

Thirds

Match against Vincentia deferred.

Seconds

Forfeit by Shoalhaven

Firsts

As a result of heavy rain and the holding of the Eastern Conference Games during the week the Ovals at Uni were unplayable and after a bit of discussion the games were switched to Nowra. Unfortunately, their grounds were also affected, and they were only able to host the first-grade fixture. Shoalhaven are struggling a bit and only were able to have two players on their bench so I doubt whether they would have been able to field a second-grade team if the match was played. The move also meant that there was another bus trip on offer and a hardy group boarded the minibus.

The support crew of Pemberton, Mardus, Fierravanti and Paota-Smith were on deck ensuring things went smoothly off field. We were pleased to welcome back Coach McCreedy and Paulie Tuala after their Country duties were completed. Other additions were Andy Papworth, who has recovered from his injured back, while Charles Curry returned from his holiday.

The ground conditions were reasonable and certainly allowed our backs the opportunity to play some good attacking rugby. The first try by Dan Ward was worth the price of admission while Sam Latu was also on song as he notched two tries. Tyler Atkin also was at his elusive best as he made the Shoals defence look a tad ordinary, at times.

The Shoalhaven, pack with two Country reps, provided stiff resistance even when Karl and Pappy were on the field together in the second half, but we really should have won the game even more convincingly after leading 28 nil at half time. The man of the match was Takunda who was making his first-grade debut against his former club while Tom Baker also set the backs alive with his accurate passing game.

We made eight replacements and became a bit disjointed in attack with a lot of dropped ball but in the end the forty points to nil score was a fair indication of the difference in standard of the two teams.

One pleasing thing to emerge is our solid defence which has allowed a total of only 17 points in the last 4 games, and as they say defence wins the big games.

Rd 14 9/7/16	Shoalhaven Rugby Park		University 40	Shoalhaven 0
Tries:	Sam Latu (2) Paul Tuala	Dan Ward	Casey Rameka	Chris Parker
Goals:	Donny Nepia (5)	Pen Goals:		
Players Player:	Takunda Chimwaza			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Takunda Chimwaza	Nick Mastro	Tom Baker	

Rd 15 Kiama at Kiama Showground

Thirds – BYE

Seconds

Seconds were expected to win the game against Kiama fairly easily as the Kiama side was in the lower portion of the table. However, Rugby is a funny game and a combination of poor play from University and dogged defence by the Kiama boys meant that the game was a real contest. Our forward pack excelled in tight, and this allowed our halves pairing of Ben Crowley and Charlie Curry to come to the fore.

The longer the game went the better we played and in the end the speed of our backs gave us the win.

Rd 15 16/7/16	Kiama Showground		University 25	Kiama 17
Tries:	Chris Duxfield	Matt Lee	Luke Symons	Matthias Wann
Goals:	Brad Reed (1)		Pen Goals:	Brad Reed (1)
Players Player:	Charles Curry			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Armstrong Waremakei	Ben Crowley	Charlie Curry	

Firsts Report by Ron Woods – The Rogues Rant

With the Semi-Finals just around the corner, finals football came early this week with University prevailing 12 – 8 in a hard-fought win over Kiama on Saturday. The Round 15 IDRU Builders Club Premiership match was no place for the faint hearted as both sides ripped into the task, with a strong physical performance from both teams giving some indication of what we can expect come finals time. Referee Andrew Strobe was kept busy at the breakdown with both sets of forwards leaving nothing to the imagination as they went about their task with power and enthusiasm throughout.

University got away to a very enthusiastic start pilfering the ball from their own kick-off which resulted in Lock Will Wood being held up over the Kiama line seconds after the start. With the Bulls pouring on the pressure in the following minutes, Rueben Thompson crossed for the first try of the match after a clever backline play featuring fullback Tyler Aitkin for Uni to lead 5 – 0 after three minutes.

It was to be the only points of the first half as both sides produced an exceptional defensive effort as the half was somewhat marred by a high penalty count. Normally reliable goal kickers Donovan Nepia for Uni and Ben King Gee for Kiama missed with penalty goal attempts throughout the half as a good crowd was entertained by a gripping contest.

With penalties continuing to flow during the first twenty of the second term the intensity of the match didn't wane with Kiama getting the better of field position in this period but were unable to breach a determined Bulls defence. After a succession of penalties to the cows, and a team warning for the Bulls, Kiama opted for a shot at goal and King Gee goaled to narrow the Uni led to 5 – 3 with still twenty on the clock.

Minutes later the patience of Referee Strobe was reached and Uni lost Lock Nick Mastro to the Bin for continued Infringements, followed a few minutes later by Flanker Charlie Freeman for stomping. However, it was the Bulls who reacted the most positively during this period and with replacement players Andrew Rae, Jason Hughes and Andy Papworth taking the field the Bulls lifted the intensity which resulted in their second try scored by Aitkin with less than ten remaining. Halfback Tom Baker ran from the base of a scrum twenty out creating space for Aitkin to sprint over for what would prove to be the winning try. Nepia kicked his first goal for the match after three failures, for the Bulls to take a strangle hold on the match at 12 – 3 with seven minutes left.

In the run down to full time Kiama pulled one back with a try to centre Sam Moore which came from a comedy of errors by the Bulls. A loose ball on halfway was toed through by the Cows and Moore fell on the ball over the Uni line after several Bulls players made clumsy attempts to secure possession.

Overall, it was an engrossing match indicating what we can expect from this year's finals series should Kiama prevail in the race for fourth spot which now goes narrowly to Bowral after their Round 15 win

over Vikings. Flanker Michael Kauter and Fly half Ben King Gee were busy for Kiama with Andrew Sulter and Ethan Ford producing their usually efficient effort. Reuben Thompson produced several threatening runs to add to his early try continually asking questions of the Kiama defence. Wayne Ngatai was strong in the thick of it with Paul Tuala and Charlie Freeman getting through plenty of work also. Donovan Nepia's kicking game and direction in the backs is crucial for the Bulls with Nick Rangiuira and big Sam Latu prominent in attack as well.

Rd 15 16/7/16	Kiama Showground		University 12	Kiama 8
Tries:	Rueben Thompson	Tyler Aitken		
Goals:	Donny Nepia (1)		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Wayne Ngatai			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Wayne Ngatai	Damien Mei	Nick Rangiuira	

Rd 16 – Vikings at University Oval

There was plenty of rain falling early in the week, but game day dawned as a brilliant sunny morning. The clash between Uni and Vikings was set down for Vikings Oval but as it was waterlogged the games were transferred to University Oval. This was possible due to the fact that we had covered the cricket wicket and the rest of the ground was in excellent condition thanks to the excellent drainage that had been installed over the years.

Thirds

Thirds had played little rugby over the previous few weeks due to byes, so everyone was keen for a run. Vikings had to scramble to assemble a side as they had assumed that the game would be called off, but they managed to field a very experienced team. This experience showed in the game as, although our team tried hard it couldn't score enough points to get the win as we could only manage a single five pointer.

Once again the forwards played with a lot of determination with Mitch Bell, Steve Elson and Jono Cudaj leading the way, but the going was tough.

Rd 16 23/7/16	University Oval		University 8	Vikings 22
Tries:	Dan Squires			
Goals:			Pen Goals:	Mark Placek (1)
Players Player:	Mitch Bell			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Mitch Bell	Steve Elson	Jon Cudaj	

Seconds

Seconds dominated this game and ended up winning convincingly over a Vikings side that were fighting for fourth spot. Our forwards won the battle for possession and then the backs cut loose in a very good display of attacking rugby.

Vikings defence had been solid in previous games but they had no answer to the speed and straight running of Chris Duxfield, Lachlan Conyers and Matthias Wann.

Rd 16 23/7/16	University Oval		University 37	Vikings 12
Tries:	Chris Duxfield (2) Matthias Wann	Chris Parker Lachlan Conyers	Rhys Handcock	Ben Crowley
Goals:	Brad Reed (1)		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Luke Symons			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Phil Johnston	Luke Symons	Ben Crowley	

Firsts - Report by Ron Woods – The Rogues Rant

An outstanding defensive effort, as good as any we've seen this year, laid the foundation for a spirited 24 – 19 victory for Vikings over the Semi-Final bound University Bulls at University Oval on Saturday. With captain Joel Diggins leading the way up front in a masterful display and with livewire Half-Back Tom Sawden terrorising the Bulls defence and also kicking four penalty goals, the Blueys scored the first try, led at half time and dominated the second half to put a dent in the Bulls Major Semi-Final aspirations. Despite Uni scoring three tries to Vikings two, the Bulls were never able to get themselves into a winning position once the Blues took the lead in the twenty fifth minute of the match.

The first fifteen minutes of the match was fast paced and evenly contested as both sides clicked straight into attacking mode with plenty of ball movement and equally effective defensive efforts featuring from both sides. Uni went into the match without Captain Paul Tuala and Fly-Half Donavon Nepia who were both ill and rested from the match. With Vikings Fly-Half Michael Ashby returning from injury, adding much needed direction to an injury ravaged Vikings back-line, it was Vikings who eventually broke the deadlock with Ashby scoring the first try.

With Vikings putting together a well-constructed 8 phases of play to take the ball fifty metres deep into the Uni quarter, Ashby bumped off three defenders to score the opening try wide on the right. With the try unconverted the 5 – 0 lead was short lived as Uni responded with a try to No. 8 Damien Mei after a trademark Uni rolling maul took play close to the Blueys line. The try was converted by stand in Fly-Half Charlie Curry for the Bulls to take the lead 7 – 5 at the eighteenth minute.

The remaining twenty minutes of the first half was a tense semi-final style affair with both sides throwing their best at each other only to be denied by stoic defence from both sets of players. Sawden stepped up kicking two penalty goals for Vikings to take an 11 – 7 lead into the halftime break.

The gripping nature of the match continued after the break until an unusual try to Vikings Flanker Michael Davis extended Vikings lead. Davis ran free from a scrum ten metres from the Uni line to touch down under the posts. With Referee Ethan McIntosh discussing the circumstances of the play leading up to the try with his Assistant Referee Neill Greaves the try was awarded and with Sawden's conversion the Blueys were out 18 – 7 after forty-five minutes play.

With Uni lifting their effort and enjoying more than their share of possession, the Vikings defensive effort frustrated the Bulls denying them for long periods inside the Vikings quarter. Sawden added another penalty goal at the sixty fifth minute mark to extend the lead to fourteen. University responded with another extended period attacking the Blueys line resulting in a try to their ever-dangerous centre Nick Rangiura. After three strong phases of play, Rangiura took several defenders over the line with him to raise the hopes of the University fans. Charlie Curry converted the try to reduce the margin to one converted try at 21 – 14 with fifteen minutes left in the match.

The closing stages of the match were dominated by a determined Vikings side who were not to be denied in taking their seventh win of the year raising the question for their supporters as to what could have been in 2016. Tom Sawden kicked his fourth penalty goal before the Bulls scored a consolation try through replacement Ben Cheetham right on fulltime for the final score to the Blueys of 24 – 19. It wasn't the Bulls day with some disruption to the top side this week they will welcome back their more experienced players in the coming weeks. Nick Rangiura and Tyler Aitken at the back caused issues for the Blueys all day but their usually dominant forward pack was just overshadowed in this match.

Rd 16 23/7/16	University Oval	University 17	Vikings 24
Tries:	Damien Mei	Nick Rangiura	Ben Cheetham
Goals:	Charlie Curry	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Nick Rangiura		
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)
	Nick Rangiura	Charlie Freeman	Simon Douch

Rd 9 – Avondale at Gerry Cappetta Oval 9. - Game deferred form 4th June.

We had to travel to Avondale for a deferred game and all three University teams were well and truly in the mix for the semi-finals. The problem was that we had to play Avondale twice in the next two weeks. Usually this was a hard row to hoe but for whatever reasons the 'Wombats' were in disarray, on and off the field, and were struggling to field competitive teams.

Thirds

Thirds had a cast of thousands on hand but were missing a few key older players such as Mark Placek. A new addition to the squad was Frenchman Corentin Calvet who was on exchange with the university and had showed great speed and high skill level at training.

Avondale were a shambles and it was easy to see why they were near the bottom of the points table. Their lack of organisation showed in their effort in the game and in the end we ran out winners 34 -14.

The lads were very impressive in all aspects of the game and were a extremely jubilant lot as they realised the win virtually guaranteed a place in the semis.

Justin Stanbrook steered the team around and was ably supported by Robbie Mardus. However, the biggest cheer of the day came when prop Patty Byrnes, who is a great clubman, steamed rolled over for a well-deserved try.

Rd 9 30/7/16	Gerry Cappetta Oval		University 34	Avondale 14
Tries:	Pat Byrnes Toby Goodsell	James Bull	Jamie Mason	Corentin Calvet
Goals:	Toby Goodsell (2)		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Justin Stanbrook			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Justin Stanbrook	Rob Mardus	Pat Byrnes	

Seconds

Avondale Seconds were on the slide and needed a win to stay in the race for the semis while we were also in a log jam for the top position, so it was game on.

Whatever the problems within Avondale's organisation the seconds were also affected by them.

The match was the usual little guys versus big guys, but they certainly did not have their heart in it.

On the other hand, we played great rugby to come away comprehensive victors.

Rhys Handcock had a game to remember as he scored a hat trick of tries which is not bad for a No 8

Rd 9 30/7/16	Gerry Cappetta Oval		University 31	Avondale 14
Tries:	Rhys Handcock (3)	Jonah Potgiester-Denton		
Goals:	Charlie Curry (4)		Pen Goals: Charlie Curry (1)	
Players Player:	Ben Crowley			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Ben Crowley	Armstrong Waremake	Rhys Handcock	

Firsts

Avondale had only lost two games coming into the game and were still considered one of the favourites for the title. That being said the 'Mallee Bulls' were also in form and had most of their big guns available.

From the opening whistle University dominated in attack and our defence only allowed Avondale to pay their attacking game for short periods.

The five tries to two result was a pleasing reward for all the hard work everyone had been putting in at training and in games certainly guaranteed us a semi spot.

Rd 9 30/7/16	Gerry Cappetta Oval		University 31	Avondale 13
Tries:	Simon Douch (2)	Casey Rameka	Sam Latu	Donny Nepia
Goals:	Donny Nepia (3)		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Casey Rameka			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Nick Ranguira	Simon Douch	Wayne Ngatai	

Rd 17 – Tech Waratahs at University Oval

Thirds

Third grade had to play a deferred game against Vincentia which was no easy task. However, Vincentia sometimes struggle for numbers when travelling and it seems this was the case in this game. Our Thirds were on a roll and had already beaten Vincentia at their ground, so we were quietly confident of a positive outcome.

In the most entertaining game of the day, we took the lead early and held on to record a sensational result for the team for we had now beaten Vincentia twice in the season. This is a rarity for any team. The boys were over the moon and the semis could not come soon enough.

Rd 14 6/8/16	University Oval		University 25	Vincentia 17
Tries:	Ry Cambourne	Mitch Bell	Dan Squires	
Goals:	Mark Placek (2)		Pen Goals:	Mark Placek (2)
Players Player:	Mitch Bell			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Justin Stanbrook	Mitch Bell	Josh Groves	

Seconds

Forfeit by Tech Waratahs

Firsts

First grade solidified their position in the top three and gave themselves a chance of being Minor Premiers by demolishing Tech Waratahs.

In a complete performance against a weak side that were never in the game nearly all the players crossed for a try.

In what virtually was a training hit out the main thing to come out of the game was that there were no injuries.

Rd 17 6/8/16	University Oval		University 67	Tech Waratahs 0
Tries:	Simon Douch (2)	Will Wood	Jason Hughes	Tom Baker
	Wayne Ngatai	Rueben Thompson	Sam Latu	Tyler Aitken
	Nick Ranguira	Paul Tuala		
Goals:	Donny Nepia (6)		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Andy Rae			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Donny Nepia	Andy Rae	Casey Rameka	

Rd 18 – Avondale at University Oval

The final round of the competition saw us taking on Avondale at home. After a great showing against the perennial heavyweight of the district two weeks ago we were confident of a positive outcome as we headed into the semis in all grades.

Thirds

Thirds were at just about full strength and the team was peaking at the right time. This encounter was a bit closer than in the make up game and we had to work hard for the points. There were a lot

of replacements made to give everyone game time as a reward for a fantastic team performance during the season.

Mitch Bell and Rob Leane provided the impetus for the forwards and the n Justin Stanbrook and Mark Placek ensured the backs attacked at every opportunity. In the end another win over the “Wombats’ which made twice in the season – a feat not often recorded.

Rd 18 3/8/16	University Oval		University 21	Avondale 7
Tries:	Rob Leane	Mitch Bell	Rob Mardus	
Goals:	Mark Placek (2)	Toby Goodsell (1)	Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Justin Stanbrook			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Justin Stanbrook	Huean Armstrong	Rob Leane Mitch Bell	

Seconds

The Second-Grade guys had a lot to play for in this game as a win with a bonus point ensured them second spot and two bites at the cherry in the semis while a loss by Shamrocks could also mean that the boys were the Minor Premiers.

Avondale did not have a lot to play for, but they put a lot more heart into their performance than in the previous encounter.

The Avondale pack was on the big side physically, but they could not match the speed of Nick Longhurst and Chris Duxfield who ran in some great tries.

In the end a bonus point win saw us finish in second spot and in good form going into the end of season games.

Rd 18 3/8/16	University Oval		University 31	Avondale 24
Tries:	Nick Longhurst (2)	Chris Duxfield	Matthias Wann	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (4)		Pen Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)
Players Player:	Nick Longhurst			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Nick Longhurst	Matthias Wann	Brad Reed	

Firsts - Report by Ron Woods – The Rogues Rant

University has secured their spot in next Saturdays Major Semi-Final with a resounding 39 – 19 victory over defending Premiers Avondale at University Oval. With Shamrocks scoring an overwhelming 63-point win over Shoalhaven to take the Minor Premiership, Avondale must now meet an in-form Bowral in the sudden death Minor Semi-Final next Sunday at Camden.

Avondale were never in the match at Uni Oval as the Bulls showed that they are ready for the big end of season matches. The Bulls sent out a clear message to their opponents in the Finals that they are ready for the challenge in the coming weeks. The seven tries to three performance from the Bulls was built on a masterful defensive effort that never allowed the Wombats to find their free-flowing game. With a fast moving well organised defensive line dominating all day, the Bulls hard working forward pack laid the foundation for the seven well taken opportunities.

Three first half tries, which Avondale couldn't respond to until the last minute of the first term, had the Bulls leading 17 – 5 at the break. Centre Dan Ward scored the first of his two tries after six minutes of Bulls dominance, before Avondale were able to settle into the match and put any pressure on the Uni defence.

The next twenty minutes was a real arm wrestle before a length of the field try sparked by Fullback Tyler Aitkin doubled Uni's lead. Aitken started the raid from within his quarter and handled the ball twice before Winger Simon Douch touched down wide on the right. Minutes later the Bulls busy flanker Damien Mei scored when he found himself in open space after a rousing period of sustained

play from the Uni forwards. Fly-Half Donovan Nepia, who had an off day with the boot, converted the try for Uni to go out 17 – 0 after thirty-seven minutes.

One minute from the break Avondale put on the sort of try only they can produce from a line out following a penalty in the Uni quarter. With the lineout won on the right the ball was swung quickly and at pace to the left where fullback Scott Morgan swept into the line and created a clear run for winger Saimone Palu to score in the corner, bringing up the halftime score.

Dan Ward got his second five pointer within minutes of the resumption when he was put into some space wide on the left to stretch the lead to 22 – 5. Avondale enjoyed a healthy run of penalties as Uni's enthusiasm earned the wrath of the Referee. With the Wombats peppering the Uni line Flanker Toa Tuiti-Taanoa found him-self in free space and raced over to score a converted try to give his side some hope at 12 – 22.

Uni were quick to respond when from the restart they took play directly back into the Wombat half where replacement forward Ben Cheetham threw a beautiful pass to half-back Tom Baker, who raced thirty metres to score. Avondale were not ready to concede the match just yet and immediately put the Uni defence under some sustained pressure. Winger William Taanoa eventually found just enough space wide on the left to show great pace and outrun the Uni defence to score. With Jo Aiono's conversion the Wombats were within eight of the lead at 19 – 27.

The Bulls were not going to be denied as they lifted the intensity of their play forcing the Wombats deep into their own quarter. Try scorer Taanoa found himself trapped in his own in goal and when unable to kick clear, attempted to run the ball out only to lose possession ten metres into the field of play. Uni lock Andrew Rae, one of Uni's best today pounced on the ball and ran into the in goal to score. Nepia missed the conversion, but within minutes of the restart it was Nepia who started the play that led to the try of the match for Player of the Match Tyler Aitkin.

Nepia ran the ball from inside his own quarter finding Aitkin in support who scooted down the right touch line, and when cornered kicked ahead, winning the race for the ball to regather and outpace defenders to score the final try. Nepia converted for the final score of 39 – 19.

Uni lost skipper Paul Tuala to the Sin Bin for a high tackle two minutes from the final whistle which may present the club with some drama as the star Loose Forward has spent time in the Bin previously this year. Donovan Nepia could only manage two goals from seven attempts today so the result could have been considerably more pronounced than it already was. It was a solid performance from the Bulls showing all and sundry that they may well be the team to beat from here on in. Andy Rae, flanker Damien Mei and Jason Hughes were outstanding for the Bulls while Aitkin and centre Nick Rangiura were powerful out wide.

Rd 18 13/8/16	University Oval		University 31	Avondale 19
Tries:	Dan Ward (2) Simon Douch	Andy Rae Tyler Aitken	Damien Mei	Tom Baker
Goals:	Donny Nepia (2)		Pen Goals:	
Players Player:	Damien Mei			
B & F Points:	(3 points)	(2 points)	(1 point)	
	Damien Mei	Wayne Ngatai	Nick Rangiura	

End of Season Games

Minor semis

Thirds

We finished the comp in third position and had to take on Vikings in the minor semi which was played at Camden.

We were quietly confident of putting in a good display but realised that Vikings were a team of very experienced players, many with first grade experience, and others with real flair and speed. Based on our past performances we felt that whoever won this game could win to comp.

With Coach Grennell overseas Lee Tanks had the unenviable task of selecting 27 players to put on the team sheet and this was not easy. Training leading into the game was excellent and so we went into the game on a high.

Unfortunately, we ran into a very well drilled Vikings outfit who blew us of the park in the opening part of the first half and we could not recover. Trailing by a big margin is never easy but we applied ourselves and crossed for tries to Rob Leane and Mitch Bell, both converted by Marl Placek. Mark also kicked a penalty, but the match was gone by this stage.

Lee Tanks emptied the bench to give everyone a reward for the great season and we tried hard but Vikings scored six tries and all of them were converted. We tried to the end and managed to notch a converted try to Harry Cummins, but we were outclassed on the day.

To emphasise the quality of Vikings they did go on and win the Grand Final so to lose to them was not a disgrace.

THIRD GRADE SQUAD

(1) Christo Crous	(2) Zac Gorman	(3) Ry Cambourne
(4) Joel Wilson		(5) Steve Elson
(6) Jon Cudaj	(8) Mitch Bell	(7) Rob Leane
(9) Shaun Dutailis		(10) Justin Stanbrook
(12) Mark Placek		(13) Jamie Mason
(11) Josh Groves	(15) Rob Mardus	(14) James Bull
(16) James Tarlinton	(17) Lachlan Williams	(18) Julian Payne
(19) Dave Grimson	(20) Heuan Armstrong	(21) Pat Davis
(22) Toby Goodsell	(23) Michael McKenzie	(24) Charlie Grogan
(25) Harry Cummins	(26) Pat Byrnes	(27) Brad Milner

Minor Semi	21/8/16	Camden Rugby Park	University 24	Vikings 43
Tries:	Rob Leane	Mitch Bell	Harry Cummins	
Goals:	Mark Placek (3)		Pen Goals:	Mark Placek (1)

Major Semi-final

Seconds

The coaching staff were confident going into the semi against Shamrocks as we were in good form. The only question mark was the fact that we had not played a lot of rugby due to a couple of forfeits, but we trained well leading into the game.

We ran with the wind in the first half and things were going to plan until Shamrocks scored a try against the run of play for an early five nil lead. The boys didn't panic and shortly afterwards Matthias Wann charged down a kick and raced over for a try, which was converted by Charlie Curry. Charlie then kicked a penalty, and we were out in front 10-5.

More good news was to follow when winger Chris Duxfield scored a great try after a good backline movement which again was converted by Charlie.

Unfortunately, we then allowed Shamrocks back into the game when they crossed for an unconverted try for the score line to be 17-12 at the break.

Running into the breeze was always going to be a challenge and we spent a great deal of time under pressure in our half. We scrambled hard in defence and were beginning to look comfortable until a kick didn't find touch and the Shamrocks winger evaded some defenders and chipped into the in goal. The ball eluded Pat Perillo, and the Shamrocks player claimed a try but there was a great deal of doubt about whether he did ground the ball. The ref was unsighted but ruled that it was a try and to add salt into the wound the try was converted from out wide for Shamrocks to hit the front 19-17.

This was s to be the final score and so we were once again denied passage straight in the Grand Final.

SECOND GRADE SQUAD

(1) Luke Symons	(2) Armstrong Waremakei	(3) Dan Reed
(4) Chris Parker		(5) Todd Wilson
(6) Phil Johnson	(8) Rhys Handcock	(7) Rueben Butler
(9) Ben Crowley		(10) Charlie Curry
(12) Pat Perillo		(13) Mathias Wann
(11) Nick Longhurst	(15) Brad Reed	(14) Chris Duxfield
(16) Shaun Dutailis	(17) Lachlan Conyers	(18) Matt Lee
(19) Charles Hamilton	(20) Travis Hardaker	(21) Rob Leane
(22) Bailey Lamb		(23)

Major Semi	20/8/16	Campbelltown S'Ground	University 17	Shamrocks 19
Tries:	Matthias Wann	Chris Duxfield		
Goals:	Charlie Curry (2)		Pen Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)

Firsts

The Major semi against Shamrocks was always going to be a real battle, especially as Paul Tuala was ineligible to play because he had received three Yellow cards. The game was set down for Campbelltown Showground and the conditions were perfect for a great game of rugby.

The game started with our forward pack, led by Jason Hughes and Andy Rae. dominating their lighter opponents and after twenty minutes we raced to a 12 – nil lead, thanks to tries to Charlie Freeman and Dan Ward. To their credit Shamrocks toughed it out and managed to get in our half and were rewarded with two penalty goals to keep them in the game.

Just before the half time break we bombed a certain try and as hard as we tried we couldn't turn our pressure into points. Casey Rameka was solid up front and Nick Rangiura was causing problems for the Rock's backline, but we only lead by six-points when we should have blown the Rocks off the park. The second half started like a chess game with both teams kicking penalties and Shamrocks holding on with great defence, which we could not penetrate. Coach McCreedy made some replacements as we were tiring but still Shamrocks denied our attack. As the game moved on Shamrock's backs attacked our line and their Country rep Rhys Peters crossed for a converted try for the Rocks to hit the lead for the first time 16-15. From this point things got worse for the Bulls as Shamrocks scored a try from a kick and we were behind 23-15. We tried to bridge the gap, but we became sloppy as fatigue set in and Shamrocks made us pay with another try to finish the game as 28-15 winners. It was a quiet dressing room as everyone took the loss personally as we realised we should have never let them in the game, but we failed to finish our chances in the first half. The positive thing was we knew we could do better.

FIRST GRADE SQUAD

(1) Casey Rameka	(2) Wayne Ngatai	(3) Andy Papworth
(4) Nick Mastro		(5) Andy Rae
(6) Damien Mei	(8) Jason Hughes	(7) Charlie Freeman
(9) Tom Baker		(10) Donny Nepia
(12) Nick Rangiura		(13) Dan Ward
(11) Simon Douch	(15) Tyler Aitken	(14) Ruben Thompson
(16) Will Wood	(17) Dan Reed	(18) Ben Cheetham
(19) Rob Leane	(20) Ben Crowley	(21) Charlie Curry
(22) Hemi Wickliffe		(23)

Major Semi	20/8/16	Campbelltown S'Ground	University 15	Shamrocks 28
Tries:	Charlie Freeman	Dan Ward		
Goals:	Donny Nepia (1)		Pen Goals:	Donny Nepia (1)

The Final.

Colts

The top team, Campbelltown, went straight to the Grand Final which saw Uni taking on Camden in the Final. All our players were on deck, but it needs to be said that Camden were the big improvers in the comp with good numbers and some quality players.

We started poorly and let Camden skip away to a 12- nil lead but then a converted try to Michael Shambira got us back in the game.

Unfortunately, a try to Camden followed by a penalty saw us under pressure again. Lewis Goodsell then got into try scoring mode to make the score 12-22 but try as hard as we could we were unable to break the Camden defence. A final Penalty made the score 12 -25 and so the season finished on a poor note as we knew we could perform much better than the score indicated.

COLTS SQUAD

(1) Ry Cambourne	(2) Hugh Alston	(3) Edwin Stokes
(4) Beppe Fierravanti		(5) Shae Feeney
(6) Bailey Lamb	(8) Ed McClymont	(7) Takunda Chimwaza
(9) Andrew Johnston		(10) Dylan Peppernell
(12) Sam Williams		(13) Brayden Grehan
(11) Michael Shambira	(15) Jye Perkins	(14) Finlay Murphy
(16) Harry Edwards	(17) Lachlan Fowke	(18) Adam Bede
(19) Lewis Goodsell	(20) Heuan Armstrong	(21) Michael Nguyen

Final	10/6/16	University Oval	University 12	Camden 25
Tries:	Michael Shambira	Lewis Goodsell		
Goals:	Andrew Johnson (1)		Pen Goals:	

Seconds

Our opponent in the final was Campbelltown and although we had not beaten them in the competition the results were always close, and we were quite convinced that we deserved to be in the Grand Final.

Once again we started well, and a Todd Wilson try and a Charlie Curry penalty saw us out by eight points. Campbelltown did come back to score a try but then Matt Lee showed his pace to put us out by 15-5. The lead was increased by a Charlie Curry penalty but just prior to the break Campbelltown forced their way over for a try and a 15 -10 score line. Unfortunately, Phil Johnson had to be replaced after this and he was sorely missed in the rest of the game.

The second half started poorly for the 'Bulls' as Campbelltown scored a try and a field goal to lock the scores up at 18 all. We then witnessed Patty Perillo scoot away to notch a try which went unconverted for the boys to establish a five-point lead. To their credit the Quins would not lie down and with time running out and one of our players in the bin the Campbelltown forwards got over the try line but fortunately for us rather wide out. We were hoping but their kicker stayed calm and put

the ball over the crossbar and we were again denied victory and finished the year a week earlier that we hoped.

SECOND GRADE SQUAD

(1) Travis Hardaker	(2) Armstrong Waremakei	(3) Dan Reed
(4) Chris Parker		(5) Todd Wilson
(6) Phil Johnson	(8) Rhys Handcock	(7) Rueben Butler
(9) Ben Crowley		(10) Charlie Curry
(12) Pat Perillo		(13) Matthias Wann
(11) Matt Lee	(15) Brad Reed	(14) Chris Duxfield
(16) Charles Hamilton	(17) Luke Symons	(18) Rob Leane
(19) Bailey Lamb	(20) Mitch Bell	(21) Nick Longhurst
(22) Lachlan Conyers		(23)

Final	27/8/16	Ocean Park	University 23	Campbelltown 25
Tries:	Todd Wilson	Matt Lee	Pat Perillo	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)		Pen Goals:	Charlie Curry

Firsts - Match report by Ron Wood – The Rogue’s Rant.

Our opponent in the final turned out to be Bowral who had defeated Avondale comprehensively in the Minor semi. The game at Ocean Park was anticipated to be difficult for us with Bowral one of the form teams who would be the crowd favourite due to their resurgence as a rugby power in the Illawarra.

The game started well for the Bulls as Andy Rae made a storming run from thirty metres out which gave us an early five-point lead.

A fresh Paul Tuala, after sitting out last week’s Semi-Final loss to Shamrocks, worked non-stop as our bigger pack laid the foundation for victory but an enormous defensive effort from the workaholic Blacks enabled them to stay in the match. The game turned into an arm wrestle as both teams seemed to be suffering the effects of the previous week’s matches and it was a very dour encounter.

However, just prior to half time the game became even more intense when the Bowral winger finished off a kick return to score a try to see the score locked at 5 all. Both teams then had chances to score before the break, but poor finishing let us down.

In the second term, we spent the first twenty minutes in the Bowral half of the field without being able to score. Our pack, lead upfront by Wayne Ngatai and Andy Papworth, was applying enormous pressure in the set pieces and Charlie Freeman was strong at the breakdown but Bowral refused to buckle. It was at this point that the Bowral speedster Henry Yuill, picked up a loose ball from a kick and raced over to give Bowral a 12 -5 lead.

Fatigue was apparent in both teams, but it was skipper Tuala who stepped up and rallied the troops for another effort to make it through to our third Premiership decider in three years. Paulie was everywhere in both attack and defence as the Bulls once again gained supremacy. Replacement forward Ben Cheetham showed some sleight of hand as he stole the ball from a Bowral attacker on the run and set up Casey Rameka to score a try. With Donny’s conversion, the scores were equal at 12 – 12, with twenty minutes still on the clock. A few minutes later after several phases of forward pick and drive play it was Paulie who broke through the defence to post the winning try. In the gripping final fifteen minutes of the match the Blacks mounted a strong effort to bridge the gap. Despite a series of penalties enabling them to put plenty of pressure, the Blacks could not score again as our defence held strong to set up a rematch for the Bulls with Minor Premiers Shamrocks.

FIRST GRADE SQUAD

(1) Hemi Wickliffe	(2) Wayne Ngatai	(3) Andy Papworth
(4) Nick Mastro		(5) Andy Rae
(6) Jason Hughes	(8) Paul Tuala	(7) Charlie Freeman
(9) Tom Baker		(10) Donny Nepia
(12) Nick Rangiuiira		(13) Dan Ward
(11) Sam Latu	(15) Tyler Aitken	(14) Reuben Thompson
(16) Damien Mei	(17) Dan Reed	(18) Ben Cheetham
(19) Chris Parker	(20) Simon Douch	(21) Ben Crowley
(22) Charlie Curry		(23) Casey Rameka

Final	27/8/16	Ocean Park	University 19	Bowral 12
Tries:	Andy Rae	Paul Tuala	Casey Rameka	
Goals:	Donny Nepia (2)		Pen Goals:	

GRAND FINAL – Match report by Ron Wood – The Rogue’s Rant.

Firsts

The Grand Final was expected to be match up of contrasting styles of rugby between the bigger, more experienced University team and the younger, supposedly fitter Shamrocks outfit. Uni had also been in three grand finals in a row while Shamrocks were back in the big time after struggling in the last few seasons.

With strong committed defence the order of the day from both sides the first fifteen minutes of the match was like trench warfare. Shamrocks winger Cheyne Pike received the first of four Yellow Cards issued throughout the match after fourteen minutes from Referee David Gunning.

In this frantic ten-minute period, the Bulls were held up in the in goal, and then centre Nick Rangiuiira was pulled down just short of the line. Winger Simon Douch also made a strong thirty meter burst down the eastern touchline only to be bundled into touch and skipper Paul Tuala then mishandled the final pass a meter out as another try went begging. This lack of reward for our domination lead to some frustration creeping into our play.

However, shortly after Pike returned to the field, restoring the balance, fly half Donovan Nepia wrong footed his opposite number to score the opening try. Donny converted from in front for us to lead 7 – 0 after twenty-six minutes. Our size and power advantage was being put to good use as well dominating the set pieces and at the breakdown, but as they have shown all season the Rocks defensive effort was up to the task for much of the half.

The first period of the second half mirrored the first as the Bulls continued to dominate play with our power game but the Rocks defence denied the Bulls any score. Nick Rangiuiira was Yellow Carded for a professional foul with nine minutes left on the clock to leave the team short. Shamrocks raised another effort which resulted in a Shamrock forward forcing his way into the Bulls in goal to score a converted try to tie the match up with less than ten minutes to go.

In a remarkable end to regulation time fullback Tyler Aitkin also received a Yellow Card, leaving the Bulls two men down with a minute to play as the Grand Final headed toward extra time for the first time since the Kiama, Bowral Grand Final in 2002.

With both sides noticeably tiring extra time started with the Bulls down to 13 players as both sides also lost players to injury and exhaustion. The Bulls continued to get the better of play with Nick returning one minute into extra time. In a dramatic twist to the Grand Final Donny was Yellow Carded as well following a high tackle leaving Uni short with thirteen players.

As both sides strived to control possession in search of the winning points, Uni were awarded a penalty with one minute left in the first period of extra time. With sharpshooter Nepia in the bin, halfback

Tom Baker stepped up to take the most important shot at goal of his career. Tom calmly and carefully made the kick with the ball rebounding off an upright, to give us a three-point lead going into the second ten minutes.

The Mallee Bull defensive effort in the extra time was outstanding as for long periods of time we only had fourteen players on the field, and we were even down to thirteen players at some stage, but Shamrocks couldn't break through.

Astute use of the bench By Coach McCreedy proved to be a significant factor in the outcome of the match as players from both sides struggled to cope with the extended workload on the back of what was an intensely hard-fought competition decider.

The second period of extra time became shrouded in controversy as an administrative error at the break lead to all types of confusion as the procedure for replacement of players was not followed by officials. This meant that Uni had an extra player on the field. This was then further compounded when the player came off, but another official sent a different player onto the field. Match officials were working to restore the correct numbers delaying the final stages of the match and creating great commotion amongst the crowd, especially Shamrocks supporters and officials.

As was the case throughout the match it was Uni captain Tuala and the experienced Nepia on his return to the field, who guided a tiring side to the title as the final moments of the match kept the biggest Grand Final crowd for some time enthralled through to the final whistle.

For the new Premiers, the experience and leadership of Tuala and Nepia was instrumental in the win, with forwards Andy Papworth, Nick Mastro, Andy Rae, Jason Hughes and Charlie Freeman contributing greatly. Nick Rangiuiira was sensational in another powerful performance for the club with his centre partner Dan Ward and fullback Tyler Aitkin were right in the thick of the action throughout. Halfback Baker had what was probably his strongest game for the club and showed strong nerves to kick the winning goal.

FIRST GRADE SQUAD

(1) Hemi Wickliffe	(2) Wayne Ngatai	(3) Andy Papworth
(4) Nick Mastro		(5) Andy Rae
(6) Jason Hughes	(8) Paul Tuala	(7) Charlie freeman
(9) Tom Baker		(10) Donny Nepia
(12) Nick Rangiuiira		(13) Dan Ward
(11) Simon Douch	(15) Tyler Aitken	(14) Reuben Thompson
(16) Damien Mei	(17) Dan Reed	(18) Ben Cheetham
(19) Chris Parker	(20) Matt Lee	(21) Ben Crowley
(22) Charlie Curry		(23) Casey Rameka

Grand Final	20/8/16	WIN Stadium	University	Shamrocks
Tries:	Donny Nepia			
Goals:	Donny Nepia (1)		Pen Goals:	Tom Baker (1)

Unfortunately, the controversy continued for weeks after the game as Shamrocks appealed the result to the Judiciary but as the matter had been dealt with by the referee on the day there was no case to answer and University were declared the undisputed premiers for the second time in three years.

SENIOR AWARDS

Men's Awards:		Donated by:	Winner:
President's Award	Jack Huxley Shield	Glenn McGuinness	Glenda Heggen
Award for Leadership	Sam Davey Shield	Paul Webb Canio Fierravanti	Paul Tuala
Trainer of the Year		Paul Dunai	Chris Parker
Coaches Award		Wayne Dobson	Will Wood
Colts Best and Fairest			Andrew Johnson
Colts 'Players Player'			Bailey Lamb
Third Grade Best and Fairest	Nick Theodore Shield	Peter Keeble	Nick Bell
Third Grade 'Players Player'			Justin Stanbrook
Second Grade Best and Fairest		Noel Yates	Ben Crowley
Second Grade 'Players Player'			Charles Hamilton
First Grade Best and Fairest		Dave Rae	Charlie Freeman
First Grade 'Players Player'			Ben Cheetham Nick Ranguira
Players 'Player of the Year'	Phillip "Doris" McInerney Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Wayne Ngatai
Rookie of the Year		Duarte Do Rego	Nick Mastro
Player with the Most Potential	Dave Reading Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Takunda Chimwaza Simon Douch
Leading Try Scorer			Simon Douch
Leading Points Scorer		Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Brad Reed
Club Person of the Year		Keith Hales	Dion Miller
'Iron Man' Award Played in all rounds.			Rhys Handcock Wayne Ngatai Brad Reed Dan Ward Will Wood
8 Years' Service			

Games Played 2016

Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total
ADAM, Bede				6	6	HURLEY, Bill			2		2
AITKEN, Tyler	20				20	ILLY, Nathan		1			1
ALSTON, Hugh				4	4	JOHNSON, Phillip	2	12	2		16
ARMSTRONG, Heuan			11	7	18	JOHNSTON, Andrew		2	1	6	9
BAKER, Tom	20	2			22	KILMISTER, Shayne		2			2
BANIC, Nick				1	1	LAMB, Bailey		10	2	5	17
BELL, Mitch		4	7		11	LATU, Sam	17				17
BULL, James			8		8	LEANE, Robert	2	11	9		22
BUTLER, Reuben		10	3		13	LEE, Matthew	1	8	1		10
BYRNES, Patrick		2	8		10	LONGHURST, Nick	5	13			18
CALVET, Corentin		3	2		5	LUCAS, Miguel	8	2			10
CAMBOURNE, Ry		4	5	6	15	MAHER, Malachy			2		2
CHEETHAM, Ben	17	2			19	MAMATTA, Michael			2		2
CHIMWAZA, Takunda	7	13		6	26	MARDUS-HALL, Robert		2	7		9
CONYERS, Lachlan	11	6			17	MARTIN, Michael		3			3
CROUS, Christo	2	3	8		13	MASON, Jamie		4	6		10
CROWLEY, Ben	12	15			27	MASTRO, Nick	19				19
CUDAJ, Jonathan			8		8	MCCLYMONT, Edward		3		6	9
CUMMINS, Harry		4	7		11	MCKENZIE, Michael		4	8		12
CURRY, Charlie	16	6			22	MEI, Damien	12				12
DAVIS, Patrick			11		11	MILNER, Brad			9		9
DEVERAUX, Matt			2		2	MOORE, Tom		2			2
DOUCH, Simon	11	11			22	MURPHY, Finlay				6	6
DUTAILLIS, Shaun		2	12		14	MURRAY-SMITH, Sean			1		1
DUXFIELD, Chris	1	14			15	NASH, Jack			1		1
EDWARDS, Harry				4	4	NEHEJA, Keto		2			2
ELSON, Steven		1	10		11	NEPIA, Donovan	12		5		17
EXTON, William			6		6	NGATAI, Wayne	21				21
FEENEY, Shae		4		6	10	NGUYEN, Michael				5	5
FIERRAVANTI, Bepe				5	5	NIKOLOVSKI, Peter			1		1
FOWKE, Lachlan		3		5	8	PAPWORTH, Andrew	10				10
FREEMAN, Charlie	17				17	PARKER, Chris	13	17			30
FREWIN, Glenn			1		1	PAYNE, Julian			4		4
GOODSELL, Lewis		1	1	6	8	PEARCE, Henry				2	2
GOODSELL, Toby			12		12	PEPPERNEILL, Dylan		4		6	10
GORMAN, Zac			11		11	PERILLO, Patrick		17			17
GREHAN, Brayden	2	3		5	10	PERKINS, Jye				6	6
GRENELL, Killian		1	7		8	PLACEK, Mark			11		11
GRIMSON, David		1	6		7	POMANA, Robert			7		7
GROGAN, Charlie		2	7		9	POTGIESTER-DENTON, Jonah	2	14		2	18
GROVES, Josh			9		9	PURNELL, Harley			3		3
HAMILTON, Charles		14			14	RAE, Andrew	12				12
HANCOCK, Rhys		19			19	RAMEKA, Casey	16	2			18
HARRIS, William		1	1		2	RANGUIRA, Nick	18	1			19
HIGGINS, Vaughan				1	1	REDMOND, Jack			1		1
HUGHES, Jason	15				15	REED, Brad	2	19			21

HUGHES, Robert		3			3	REED, Daniel	12	11			23
Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total
REED, Daniel	12	11			23	THOMPSON, Reuben	17	2			19
REYNOLDS, Sam			1		1	TUALA, Paulie	13				13
RITCHIE, Brenton			5		5	VICKERS, Michael			1		1
SHAMBIRA, Michael			1	7	8	WANN, Matthias	2	18			20
SHEPHERD, David		2	4		6	WARD, Daniel	21	1			22
SHIPLEY, Beau		1	4		5	WAREMAKI, Armstrong	4	8	2		14
SMITH, Karl	10				10	WICKLIFFE, Hemana	10	4			14
SQUIRES, Daniel		1	10		11	WILLIAMS, Lachlan		2	7		9
STANBROOK, Justin	1	2	6		9	WILLIAMS, Sam				7	7
STOKES, Edwin		1		6	7	WILSON, Joel		2	8		10
SYMONS, Luke	1	13	1		15	WILSON, Todd		4	6	6	16
TANKS, Lee			7		7	WOOD, Will	19				19
TARLINTON, James		4	8		12	ZHANG, Howard			6		6

Points Scored 2016

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>First Grade</i>											
NEPIA, Donovan	75	2	31	1	3	WARD, Daniel	55	11	0	0	8
CURRY, Charlie	54	1	23	1	0	LATU, Sam	40	8	0	0	5
BAKER, Tom	36	5	4	1	5	THOMPSON, Reuben	35	7	0	0	0
AITKEN, Tyler	30	6	0	0	3	CONYERS, Lachlan	30	6	0	0	3
DOUCH, Simon	30	6	0	0	3	NGATAI, Wayne	30	6	0	0	10
RAMEKA, Casey	30	6	0	0	3	RANGUIRA, Nick	25	5	0	0	8
TUALA, Paulie	25	5	0	0	9	CHEETHAM, Ben	20	4	0	0	9
HUGHES, Jason	20	4	0	0	2	MASTRO, Nick	15	3	0	0	7
LUCAS, Miguel	12	2	1	0	3	FREEMAN, Charlie	10	2	0	0	11
LONGHURST, Nick	10	2	0	0	0	MEI, Damien	10	2	0	0	9
RAE, Andrew	10	2	0	0	3	SMITH, Karl	10	2	0	0	0
WOOD, Will	10	2	0	0	0	PAPWORTH, Andrew	5	1	0	0	3
PARKER, Chris	5	1	0	0	0	REED, Daniel	5	1	0	0	0
CHIMWAZA, Takunda	0	0	0	0	3	JOHNSON, Phillip	0	0	0	0	1

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Second Grade</i>											
REED, Brad	117	4	38	7	4	HANCOCK, Rhys	45	9	0	0	7
DOUCH, Simon	40	8	0	0	4	DUXFIELD, Chris	40	8	0	0	1
WANN, Matthias	40	8	0	0	11	CURRY, Charlie	37	0	11	5	1
LONGHURST, Nick	30	6	0	0	5	CROWLEY, Ben	20	4	0	0	13
POTGIESTER-DENTON, Jonah	20	4	0	0	2	PERILLO, Patrick	17	3	1	0	0
CHIMWAZA, Takunda	15	3	0	0	10	HAMILTON, Charles	15	3	0	0	6
LEE, Matthew	15	3	0	0	0	JOHNSON, Phillip	10	2	0	0	3

PEPPERNEILL, Dylan	10	2	0	0	0	SQUIRES, Daniel	10	2	0	0	0
SYMONS, Luke	10	2	0	0	5	THOMPSON, Reuben	10	2	0	0	0
WICKLIFFE, Hemana	10	2	0	0	2	PARKER, Chris	7	1	1	0	2
BAKER, Tom	5	1	0	0	0	BUTLER, Reuben	5	1	0	0	6
HARDAKER, Travis	5	1	0	0	0	LEANE, Robert	5	1	0	0	3
RAMEKA, Casey	5	1	0	0	3	SHIPLEY, Beau	5	1	0	0	0
STANBROOK, Justin	5	1	0	0	2	WARD, Daniel	5	1	0	0	0
LAMB, Bailey	0	0	0	0	1	LUCAS, Miguel	0	0	0	0	1
MASON, Jamie	0	0	0	0	1	MCCLYMONT, Edward	0	0	0	0	3
REED, Daniel	0	0	0	0	1	WAREMAKI, Armstrong	0	0	0	0	5

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Third Grade</i>											
PLACEK, Mark	66	0	18	10	0	LEANE, Robert	25	5	0	0	6
NEPIA, Donovan	25	1	4	4	10	GOODSELL, Toby	21	3	3	0	0
BELL, Mitch	15	3	0	0	12	BULL, James	15	3	0	0	3
MARDUS, Robert	15	3	0	0	2	SQUIRES, Daniel	15	3	0	0	0
GRENNEILL, Killian	10	2	0	0	0	GROVES, Josh	10	2	0	0	3
GROVES, Josh	10	2	0	0	3	BYRNES, Patrick	5	1	0	0	1
CALVET, Corentin	5	1	0	0	0	CAMBOURNE, Ry	5	1	0	0	0
CUMMINS, Harry	5	1	0	0	0	DUTAILLIS, Shaun	5	1	0	0	2
MASON, Jamie	5	1	0	0	0	SHIPLEY, Beau	5	1	0	0	0
STANBROOK, Justin	5	1	0	0	9	WILLIAMS, Lachlan	5	1	0	0	0
WILSON, Joel	5	1	0	0	8	ARMSTRONG, Heuan	0	0	0	0	2
BUTLER, Reuben	0	0	0	0	3	CUDAJ, Jonathan	0	0	0	0	3
ELSON, Steven	0	0	0	0	3	EXTON, William	0	0	0	0	1
GORMAN, Zac	0	0	0	0	1	GROGAN, Charlie	0	0	0	0	1
MCKENZIE, Michael	0	0	0	0	1	SYMONS, Luke	0	0	0	0	1
VICKERS, Michael	0	0	0	0	3	ZHANG, Howard	0	0	0	0	1

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Colts</i>											
PEPPERNEILL, Dylan	24	3	3	1	2	FEENEY, Shae	20	4	0	0	0
MURPHY, Finlay	20	4	0	0	1	GREHAN, Brayden	15	3	0	0	0
JOHNSTON, Andrew	15	1	5	0	3	SHAMBIRA, Michael	15	3	0	0	0
WILLIAMS, Sam	14	2	2	0	1	PERKINS, Jye	12	2	1	0	0
CHIMWAZA, Takunda	10	2	0	0	5	ADAM, Bede	5	1	0	0	0
GOODSELL, Lewis	5	1	0	0	1	MCCLYMONT, Edward	5	1	0	0	0
STOKES, Edwin	5	1	0	0	0	LAMB, Bailey	2	0	1	0	2
ALSTON, Hugh	0	0	0	0	1	CAMBOURNE, Ry	0	0	0	0	2