

2018 -LAST MAN STANDING

2018 was a tough year for the Mallee Bulls' as a high number of serious injuries was to have a dramatic effect on the club's fortunes during the season. All clubs suffer injury woes every year but the misfortunes that dogged the Mallee Bulls this year were hard to overcome and certainly impacted on all grades. The fact that 51 players represented the club in first grade alone highlights just how desperate the situation became during the season.

It was even tough being a coach or manager in 2018 as there were a couple of very serious incidents that happened at training and on Game Days. The club was rocked in early March when Dave Reed suffered a massive heart attack at training and only the quick actions of Joel Wilson, Shaun Dutailis and the staff at Uni Pulse saved Dave. A few days in hospital and major heart surgery saw him make a complete recovery but it was a close-run thing.

Another victim of the Uni curse was new first grade manager, John Heath, who took a fall at one of the home games and suffered a serious shoulder injury. John is a tough nut to crack as he came back to the ground to do his managerial tasks after a quick visit to the Emergency Department, but the injury slowed him down and took a long time to heal,

Indeed 2018 was a tough time to be a Mallee Bull, but we managed to survive and still prosper.

BOARD

There was a new Board structure implemented in 2018 with the aim of making the Board to more reflect the makeup of the club with Men's, Women's and Junior components being represented. It was a step forward and the club functioned effectively off the field due to a lot of hard work by some very dedicated people.

'Big Hearted Bob' Wheway was again President as well as being a gold sponsor and manager of the Colts. Bob's fabulous monthly barbeques after Thursday night training drew big crowds and no one walked away hungry thanks to his generosity. Bob was his usual dynamic self but even he couldn't avoid the Mallee Bull curse and suffered a health scare towards the end of the year which gave everyone cause for concern. Fortunately, Bob bounced back to be at his best for the club's presentation night.

Canio Fierravanti continued to be the driving force behind our Juniors in his role as Rugby Director which was a huge task as he oversaw the Men's, Women's and Junior sections of the club. Canio was a key link between the club and UNI Pulse and was also on the IDRU Junior committee. He even found time to be our linesman on many Saturdays.

The Administration work was carried out by 'Sproggy' McGuinness who was able to devote a significant amount of time to ensuring all the little things were done to keep our head above water. Retirement is a wonderful thing. There were no huge blow-ups this year and so Sproggy was able to sleep at night.

Thankfully Glenda Heggen was able to continue as Secretary and she kept a close eye on all the happenings at the club. Despite her busy work schedule Glenda was a dynamo on Saturdays as manager of Third and Second grade teams as well as ensuring all the players welfare issues were handled effectively.

Andrew Newhouse was the man responsible for our finances and he was a key contributor in making sure we always paid our way. Andrew was also very prominent at Junior games as he watched his two sons develop into handy rugby players.

The club had four club captains this year, two from the Men's side and two women representatives. Lachlan Conyers was a legend as social committee chairperson and he was extremely active in organising events such as Ladies Day, the Protégé Auction as well as end of season trips to Bathurst and the Ball. Lachlan was also the licensee for the home games and he and his committee was outstanding this year. Wayne Ngatai was also club captain and the respect shown by the players for him was evident every time he spoke at training and after match functions.

Bess Platt and June Norton did a commendable job representing the Women and were always willing to take on things to ensure that the Women's team continued to grow in what was a very tough environment when you consider the fact that they were playing in the top Women's comp in the country.

The juniors were able to call on Ben North and Lusii Tanevesi to represent their views on things and they were very committed to the cause. Lusii was instrumental in attracting many families to join the club and was successful in getting our Junior girls teams on the field while Ben also coached the u/12's to a successful season.

SPONSORS

The Mallee Bulls are blessed with numerous sponsors who annually dip their hands into their pockets to keep the club functioning. To be honest many of the sponsors receive little in the way of monetary returns but do get their company's logos on our playing uniforms. However, many are happy to come along to games and enjoy a beer and sausage sandwich with a few mates. This is one of the special things about our club.

The major sponsor was again Wisemans Park Wollongong City Bowling Club (Wiso's) and this was the second year of our two-year deal. The boys like the atmosphere of the club and are happy to spend time there and the club welcomed us with open arms. A win-win situation.

UPhysio came on board as the primary sponsor this year and provided the physiotherapy coverage for the entire club. Tim Gray was the driving force behind the deal and also took on the role of coach in his son's junior team.

The Gold Sponsors were HLB Mann Judd (Andrew Newhouse), Bob Wheway, Ledacon (Paul Martin) and North Beach Charcoal Chickens who provided the food for our after-match functions.

The companies that were Silver sponsors were Soilco (Charlie Emery) Dave Petty Conveyancing (Dave 'Chief' Petty), Chris Adams Law Group (Chris Adams), Harrisons Pharmacy, DMC Contracting (Dion Miller) while Synergy Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services looked after all our jumpers again this year as they have done for about twenty years.

The list of Bronze sponsors includes Affective Services, Crown West Cellars (Mark Hampton), Shellharbour Roofing Service (Matt Wolfe), Hanson Construction Materials, Crean Group (Richard Crean), Urban Timber (Shane King), Titan Education (Scott Bultitude) and Excel Performance who provided some of juniors' free gym time.

We also had some former players in Dave Dobinson, Ken Wright, Chris Jerez, Rhys Jones and Bob Nowotny who wanted to contribute to the club and so came on board as jumper sponsors.

FUND RAISING:

The major fund-raising activities were:

- The fifth year of the Campus Colleges Challenge Rugby Tag for the Vice Chancellor's trophies. (*Bob Wheway / Glenn McGuinness*)
- the Sporting clubs at the University were able to attract some support from Student Funding. This enabled the club to purchase new equipment and a trailer to hold training equipment.
- The canteen at senior games has become a major revenue source due to the efforts of Bob Nowotny and Max Heggen.

SOCIAL:

Events that were organised by the social committee:

Protégé Auction Night.

The Annual Season Launch was held for the first time at WPWC Bowling Club, and the barefoot bowls was a very popular activity on the day.

Old Bulls Muster – Fi-Ta donated a set of playing jumpers which were auctioned and raised \$2000. After the usual post-match function in the Sports Lounge the players headed to the Wiso's to continue reminiscing past deeds and renewing friendships.

Ladies Day

Rugby Ball and Presentation Night

JUNIORS

In 2018, Uni juniors again enjoyed a competitive and successful season with over 100 registered players. We were able to field sides in U7s, U8s, U9s, U11s, U12s and 1st XV for boys whilst having both U15s 7s and U17s 7s for girls. We were the only club in the Illawarra Junior Rugby Competition that fielded two girls team.

Once again leading the way for the juniors was the ever-present Canio Fierravanti. Canio devoted a huge amount of time and effort getting all the teams organised and then was at the ground all day when we had a home fixture. As Canio's youngest son, Luca, was playing his last season as a junior Canio announced that he would be stepping down at the completion of the season. He will be missed.

The season started with a registration day at the UOW pool, and this was a big hit with the youngsters. Training was organised for Wednesday afternoons on Oval 1 for all teams except for the First XV team that trained with the seniors on Tuesday and Thursday nights

The facilities were a major drawcard for new families while the structure of the sessions allowed the players to develop their team and individual skills. This all resulted in a positive family spirit that was appreciated by many parents.

MATCH DAY:

Canio Fierravanti was a master of organisation – booking and setting up the fields, arranging referees, communicating with parents and other clubs plus dealing with a myriad of issues that always come up on game days and during the week.

He was aided in this mammoth task by parents who contributed by being managers of the teams. Chris Jerez (First XV), Chris Adam (u/12's), Bryce Coleman (u/11's), Matt and Amy Duggan (u/9's), Lusii Tanevesi and Piki McCreedy in the younger ages were fantastic at doing all the little things that were needed for the teams to function.

We were also fortunate to have *UPhysio* on deck at home games to look after the safety of all players and it was comforting to have such a professional as Tim Gray involved.

Treasurer Andrew Newhouse was also a constant at games doing a lot of stuff behind the scenes while a heap of parents were also willing to get involved when help was needed.

COACHES:

The club was able to draw on the services of some very high-quality coaches. This was an excellent drawcard to attract new players.

In the younger age groups Paul Tuala, Shaun McCreedy, Tim Gray, Duncan Alin and others all contributed to Wednesday training sessions and at games. The major emphasis was placed on involvement and fun and most players certainly enjoyed their early rugby experience.

The u/9's had Matt Bird in charge and with his Kiwi background he imparted a lot of rugby knowledge with a very positive approach to being good citizens as well.

The u/11's and u/12's spent a lot of time together under the watchful eyes of Dion Miller, Ben North, Paul Martin, 'Sproggy' McGuinness and Jay Tregonning. All of these guys had a wealth of rugby knowledge and were excellent mentors for the young Mallee Bulls.

The First XV were in an interesting position of training with the seniors. Coaches Joey Aiono and Evan Poata-Smith challenged the players and they soon developed into a very good rugby team. Training with men also demonstrated to the players what training was all about.

TEAMS:

The U6-U9 age groups played in Minis competitions. In u/7's and u/8's they played with seven on the field while the U/9's progressed to 10 a side with modified rules.

Under 7's and Under 8's:

Our squads in the two younger ages were intermixed to allow more game time for the players. We had 19 players registered but not everyone was available each weekend.

Under 7's:

Ethan Alin	Lachlan Gray	Seth Egan	Jemison Hanson	Jackson Hill
Seth Hogan	Hugh Martin	TeAhure McCreedy	Tuafona Pahulu	Lilly Tanevesi
Rocky Tuala	Taylor Wharakura	Easton Wharakura		

Under 8's:

Api Kolitagane	Hami Miller	Darby Parrish	Quentin Schofield	Austin Skarpona
Nate Skarpona				

Under 9's:

The u/9's had 11 players on the books, and they developed into a well drilled outfit that played some excellent rugby.

Sam Bird	Dan Duggan	Hayden Flanagan	Elijah Hobbs	Elijah Kennedy
Felix Nepia	Cale Parr	William Lovegrove	Noah Tanevesi	Tom McRoberts
Jayden McMahon				

Under 11's:

The u/11's impressed everyone with their great improvement during the year. This could be attributed to a positive approach by the coaching staff who encouraged all players to do their best at training and in games. This meant that most players stay involved and developed.

The comp they were in was made up of 9 teams and some of these were outstanding, particularly the two Campbelltown teams, so wins were hard to find.

However, one of the great moments arrived when the team won their first game ever when they played against Bowral. You could've heard the cheers from the supporters from a long way away.

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Bye	Draw	-/+	BP	Points	Total
1	Campbelltown Green	13	13	0	2	0	507	13	52	65
2	Camden	14	10	4	1	0	203	11	40	51
3	Kiama	14	8	5	2	1	114	9	34	43
4	Tech Waratahs	14	9	5	0	0	102	11	36	37
5	Woonona Shamrocks	14	7	6	1	1	-48	7	30	37
6	Campbelltown Maroon	14	5	9	1	0	-34	10	20	30
7	Bowral Blacks	14	1	13	1	0	-400	3	4	7
8	Wollongong Uni	13	1	12	0	0	-444	1	4	5

Players	Games	Tries	G	Total	Player	Games	Tries	G	Total
u/11's									
ACOSTA, Angel	9				AZAR, Zavier	10			
COLEMAN, Toby	9				CRUMP, Heyden #	1			
DANIELA, Dakota	1				ESCRIBANO, Mauro	10			
FLANAGAN, Hayden	8				HUTCHINSON, Mackayla #	1			
HOBBS, Elijah	10				KENNEDY, Elijah	8			
KENNEDY, Ezekiel #	1				LOVEGROVE, William	8	1		5
MARON, Keighan	1				MARTIN, William	11			
MCROBERTS, Tom	10				MILLER, Mikaere	10	3	1	17
NEWHOUSE Spencer	11				NORTH, Elijah #	11			
PARRISH, Saxon	10				SHAW, Ben	2	1		5
SIMONA, Steve #	1				SPURR, Jaydn	1			
SUTTON, Max	10				TEO, Joseph	1			
TOLAND, Wyatt	1				TREGONNING, Ashton	9	1		5
WADE, Ethan	8				WELLINGTON, Ashleigh	1			
# Played down									

Under 12's:

The u/12's continued their steady improvement as a squad with a group of 16 players, including two girls who were very dedicated. This age group had 10 teams involved and the standard of the top teams was excellent.

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Bye	Draw	-/+	BP	Points	Total
1	Campbelltown	12	10	2	2	0	311	10	40	50
2	Kiama	12	10	2	3	0	242	9	40	49
3	Camden	12	9	3	2	0	164	9	36	45
4	Tech Waratahs	12	7	5	1	0	127	10	28	38
5	Bowral Blacks	12	8	4	2	0	117	8	32	31
6	Wollongong Uni	12	5	6	2	1	-115	6	22	28
7	Woonona Shamrocks	12	4	8	1	0	-93	7	16	23
8	Shoalhaven	12	4	8	1	0	-144	6	16	22
9	Southern Crushers	12	1	10	1	1	-293	3	6	13
10	Avondale	12	1	11	3	0	-316	1	4	5

Players	Games	Tries	G	Total	Player	Games	Tries	G	Total
u/12's									
ADAMS, Cameron #	12				COLEMAN, Toby*	2			
CRUMP, Hayden	5				DAVIES, Cameron #	6			
Di NORO, Gabriela	11				DWYER, Kynan	7		1	2
HUTCHINSON, Mackayla	10	1		5	KENNEDY, Ezekiel	10	8	1	42
KOLITAGANE, Jacob	12	1		5	KOUKA, Mana	9	1		5
MORRIS, Kaleb	11	2		10	NEWHOUSE, Jack #	10	15	5	85
NEWHOUSE Spencer*	3				NORTH, Elijah	11			
REED, Conrad	11	1	4	13	SIMONA, Steven	12	3	4	23
SPURR, Jake #	11	1		5	SPURR, Jaydn	11			
# Played down					* Played up				

First XV's:

The highlight for the club was in the First XV group. These 27 guys were melded into a fine team by the coaches. The competition was not ideal as there were only four clubs able to field teams – Kiama, Uni, Shamrocks and Shoalhaven.

It turned into a two-horse race between Kiama, who were the leading team over several seasons, and Uni who were the big improvers.

Kiama emerged as Minor premiers even though Uni had only lost one game. It seems that Uni had played an unregistered player in their first-round victory against Kiama. This resulted in the loss of the 5 points plus a penalty of an additional 4 points. Kiama were awarded the points for the win and therefore they won the Minor Premiership

Uni were confident of continuing their dominance and prevailed in the Major semi, winning 20-7.

Kiama and Uni then did battle in the Grand Final, played at Kiama and the crowd was treated to a great game of rugby. In the final moment Uni wrapped up a sensational victory (28-22) to end Kiama's dominance. It was very difficult to hide the joy on players, coaches and supporters as they accepted the trophy.

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Bye	Draw	-/+	BP	Points	Total
1	Kiama	11	8	3	2	0	145	7	32	43
2	Wollongong Uni	11	10	1	1	0	298	10	40	41
3	Woonona Shamrocks	11	3	8	1	0	-221	3	12	6
4	Shoalhaven	11	1	10	2	0	-222	5	4	5

Players	Games	Tries	G	Total	Player	Games	Tries	G	Total
First XV									
AIONO, Ulrich	12	1	1	7	BOURNE, Trent	6			
CAIRNS, Manaia	12	2		10	DEBBES, Joshua	9	2		19
Di NORO, Sebastian	13	2		19	ELLCOTT, Hamish	4			
FIERRAVANTI, Luca	11	1		5	GREEN, Rory	9	5		25
HANSEN, Cooper	14	3	39	93	KENNERLEY, Tolson	13	4		20
LEUELU, Anniversary	1				MALAFU, Tremane	14	7		35
MALAKI, Nathaniel	9				MASON, Te Atawhai	6	3		15
MILROSS-ROSE, Samuel	7				NASSAU, Giovanni	14	7	1	37
PLUMB, Joshua	14	9		45	PLUMB, Nathaniel	14	8		40
RADUVA, Isaac	14	5		25	RANGIHAEATA, Tua	8	4		20
RETI, Atutahi	12	4		20	STONE, Darcy	14	1		5
TAUFAHEMA, Oukei	10				TIANANGA, Te Paki	13	5		25
VIANE, AJ	2				WATTS, Calvin	12			
WELLINGTON, Blake	6								

The other team that did the club proud was the Girls u/15 seven a side team that defeated Shamrocks in the Grand Final which was a tremendous effort.

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY:

Girls:

NSW Country u/17's:

Camelia Lotoaatu

NSW Country Girls u/15's Development Squad:

Salina Heritage, Lilli O'Dea

Junior Illawarra:

u/17's - Camelia Lotoaatu

u/15's - Bronte Buckton, Salina Heritage, Tiana Kore, Tominika Malafuka, Lilli O'Dea, Tully Phillips and Holly Whitton

Boys:

NSW Country

u/16:

Blake Wellington – Withdrew due to injury

Illawarra:

U/17:

Manaia Cairns, Tremane Malufa, Te Atawhai Mason, Nathaniel Malaki, Issac Raduva, Atutahi Reti

u/16:

Sebastian Di Noro, Rory Green, Cooper Hansen, Darcy Jerez, Anniversary Leuleu, Joshua Plumb, Nathaniel Plumb, AJ Viane, Calvin Watts and Blake Wellington

u/15:

Sam Milross-Rose, Oukei Taufahema

Individual Awards:

Giovanni Nassau - Illawarra Junior Rugby Award Best & Fairest in the 1st XV age group.

Luca Fierravanti - joint winner of Sue Smith Memorial Trophy presented annually to the Under 18 player that has played the most games in the Illawarra Junior Rugby competition.
- UOW Rugby Club U7s-U17s Career Award.

Tolson Kennerley - UOW Rugby Club President’s Award for Outstanding Leadership.

First XV Premiers 2018



Back Row:	Joey Aiono (coach)	Evan Poata-Smith (coach)	Giovanni Nassau	Hamish Ellicott
Darcy Stone	Manaia Cairns	Joshua Debbes (partially concealed)	Te Paki Tiananga	Oukei Taufahema
Ulrich Aiono	Isaac Raduva	Tremane Malafu	Sam Milross-Rose	Trent Bourne
Luca Fierravanti	Chris Jerez (manager)			Nathaniel Malaki
Front Row:	Sebastian Di Noro	Calvin Watts	Joshua Plumb	Tolson Kennerley
Rory Green	Nathaniel Plumb	Atutahi Reti		Cooper Hansen

WOMEN'S

OUR TEAM

The UOW Women's Rugby Union team is one in a million. From our spirit, commitment, determination and drive to keep playing in Australia's Women's Rugby union's most competitive club competition, the Jack Scott Cup. Our girls put their body on the line for each other each week, on and off the field. Playing rugby union with the Mallee Bulls goes beyond just playing a team sport week in and week out, remembering that you can't coach courage!

PRE-SEASON

Beach Rugby – placing 2nd in The Jackal Academy Beach competition at North Wollongong beach was a hefty fitness test and intense first contact back for our girls. We were able to put up a decent fight against Campbelltown Mixed Nation, however they came out on top winning the Beach competition. Looking forward, the Women's Mallee Bulls are excited to compete next year and take home that cup.

While still preparing for the 2018 Jack Scott Cup, the Women's team were lucky enough to have Gungahlin make their way across to Wollongong for a friendly preseason game. Finally, after 3 years the Women's Mallee Bulls claimed our first win in a trial game against Gungahlin!! Mind you, we didn't even realise we won the game until Tony casually mentioned it 10mins after the whistle had blown. I truly believe this reflects our attitude towards the game. Win or lose, we'll still come off the field as if we've taken home the Jack Scott Cup. This game gave us the confidence we needed to start our season strong with a growing number of team members.

2018 JACK SCOTT CUP SEASON

Our 2018 season may not have presented the outcome we had hoped for but the skills we have learnt along the way will only make us grow as a team over the next few years. Our forwards continuously defended against some strong packs including players that represent the NSW SuperW and the Wallaroos, holding their ground working together with our backs taking us over the line, scoring consistently nearly each week.

OUR SUPER STARS

A special mention to our superstars who lift the level of skill for our team each week.

Bess Platt, Steph Ball and Brooke Harper represented the Illawarriors during the country championship, beating the Hunter who have previously defended their title for 14 years. Now the Illawarriors have brought competition to the Country competition, making the Illawarra proud. From here, Brooke was selected to represent Country NSW making our Mallee Bulls extremely proud and honoured to play with such an amazing athlete.

Additionally, Brooke Harper and Stephanie ball represented SA U18s School girls in the inaugural School Girls 15aside tournament. We are extremely lucky and proud to have these athletes on our team. Given the chance to represent the Victorian Police force in their Australian Rugby Police Tournament, when asked by their coach to help them out Penny, Malama, Channy, Brooke, Steph and Vanessa were happy to do so and coming away with beating the NSW Federal Police team to win the tournament. Considering the finals were the morning after presentation girls did the club proud and played great.

OFF-SEASON

Bathurst Red Dog 10's tournaments was the season finale, BIG BANG! Wrapping up the season on a high! From bringing the atmosphere, to winning the plate final. Our girls had an amazing weekend

away in Bathurst, being part of the first 10's Women's Series at this tournament. We cannot thank the organisation and hospitality enough and the crew at Red Dog Rugby club. We will be back!!

Women's 2018



Back Row:	Tony Leeder-Smith (coach)	Jasmin Sanchez-Bruce	Kaitlin Wellington	Amandeep Chahal
	Vanessa Bright	Teleri Jamieson	Lusii Tanevesi	Penny Fletcher
	Rebeca Hegedus	Kiara Smalle		
Middle Row:	Bess Platt	Mikayla Dennelly	Georgie Leayr	Ashleigh Walter
	Malama Leatigaga	Chantelle Leatigaga	Ruari von Prott	Skye Hely
Front Row:	Brooke Harper	Georgia Laker		Rob Pezzutto (physio)

Jack Scott Cup Points Table 2018

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP	Points	Total
1	Sydney University	14	12	0	0	420	11	48	59
2	Warringah	14	9	3	0	267	11	36	47
3	Parramatta	14	8	4	0	57	6	32	38
4	Campbelltown	14	6	6	0	-58	4	24	28
5	Waverley	14	4	8	0	-80	6	16	22
6	Blacktown	14	3	9	0	-235	2	12	14
7	Wollongong University	14	0	12	0	-371	1	0	1

Points Scored 2018

Players	Total	Tries	G	PG	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG
Women									
HOLMES, Abby	25	5	0	0	O'MEARA, Abigail	10	0	5	0
ALVES PLATT, Bessie-Lucile	5	1	0	0					

MEN'S

THE COACHES:

There was a changing of the guard as regards the coaching personnel in 2018. Some of the changes came about at the start of the year but for a variety of reasons others occurred during the season.

At the top Shaun McCreedy continued in his role as Club Coach but stepped down from coaching First grade as he was looking at ways to not only refresh himself but also to introduce new ideas into training and the way we play the game. Shaun was not lost to team coaching as he took on the role of Colts coach as we entered a team into the Radford Shield in Sydney for the first time.

The First-Grade coaching group was headed by Dion Miller, who came back to coaching after a short break. Dion's enthusiasm and positive approach saw him draw out the best in players and he was in fact recognised by rival coaches as being the joint Illawarra Coach of the Year.

Dion was able to draw on the experience of several astute coaches in Richard Thompson, Joey Aiono and Donny Nepia and all these guys' input made our first-grade side a very competitive unit which performed incredibly well under difficult circumstances.

Evan Paota Smith was again in charge of Second grade but lost Dave Reed as his assistant for obvious reasons. Evan was also under the pump at work and at home as his son had moved to a private school in Sydney and played his games on Saturdays. Evan was devastated as it became obvious to all that he was stretching himself too thin and something had to give so he reluctantly stood down as coach. Leon Mason then stepped into the breach, but he couldn't continue as he found himself playing first grade as the club's injury crisis deepened. Fortunately, we were able to call on Greg Bourne and captain Eoin Power, who had suffered a season ending foot injury, to fill the void. Greg is a vastly experienced player whose son Rhys had moved from Vikings to Uni in the off season and he certainly threw himself in the coaching job whole heartedly. It was a difficult task to get guys to commit but Eoin and Greg worked well as a team and contributed a great deal to the club's efforts in seconds and first grade.

It was a similar tale in Thirds with original coaches Killer Grennell and Dave Shepherd having difficulty in getting to games and training for a variety of reasons. Killer was forced to miss a big chunk of the season but was back on deck to finish the year and Shep was able to contribute as a player, but we needed people to step up and help with running thirds. Luckily Bill Hurley and Will Harris took on the onerous task for a long period of time and certainly kept things functioning until Killer was back on the scene.

As mentioned, Shaun McCreedy oversaw our young colts, and he certainly had the side developing into a well-oiled machine. Several of his charges came back to senior rugby after their Sydney commitments were finished and all of these guys made an impression in the higher grades thanks to Shaun's coaching knowledge.

An important innovation in 2018 was the First XV (under 17's) training with our grade teams. Joey Aiono oversaw the youngsters and did a magnificent job in helping the guys develop into a premiership winning combination. Joey was welcomed back into the Mallee Bulls family after stints with Avondale and Camden and he was welcome addition to the coaching panel as he helped with the backs in all grades and even donned the boots to play in first grade when the injury crisis hit.

MATCH DAY

Match Days, especially when the club plays at home, can be 'Hell on Wheels' but we are fortunate to have a group of hard workers who got the myriad of tasks done with a lot of professionalism and a minimum of fuss. This year we had the situation where we sometimes had five teams playing at home on the same day, so it was all hands-on deck to survive.

At home games Bob Nowotny, Max Heggen and a band of helpers ran a tight ship in the canteen which earned high praise from visiting teams and contributed significantly to the club's funds. Once again, we were also able to offer meals at three of our after-match functions thanks to the wives and girlfriends of many of the players and these were really appreciated by all.

It was great to have Max and Glenda Heggen on board as they always started early setting up the grounds and then stayed late to clear away all the equipment. Max often came back on Sundays to give the canteen a much needed clean up. Their contributions didn't end here as Glenda managed Second and Third Grade and Max stocked up the canteen on Fridays before games. Where they get the energy from is a mystery.

The other key people at home games were Ken Wright, who looked after all the gear for players and was tireless in just doing all the little things that need doing, and Dave Dobinson, who was the Match Day Controller. 'Dobo' did begin to get a bit of a complex as he was on duty when we lost several games during the season but in the end, we forgave him and allowed him to continue in his role.

It was also a bonus to have a new manager looking after first grade with John Heath taking on the responsibilities associated with the job. He had previously worked with Dion and Richard when they coached at Shamrocks, and he did a commendable job often under pressure especially when he had to ring players to see if they were able to play.

Iain Lamb continued to do the Registrars job but as his son, Bailey, was playing in Sydney Iain couldn't always get to games. 'Sprogy' McGuinness helped by entering results on Rugby Link as well as being Match Day Controller at away games.

The club was fortunate to have Tim and the UPhysio staff at games to look after the players before, during and after games. Casey certainly earned her pay as she was a very busy lady at times but always looked after the interests of players and ensured they were back on the field as soon as possible after being injured.

An important addition to the administration side of things was the appointment of some interns who were responsible with the communication aspects of running the club. Abi Norman was tireless in getting information out on all sorts of social media while Hamish Cole and Jett Hatton did a good job writing the weekly newsletter aka The Mongrel.

THE COMPETITION

The 2018 IDRU First and Second grade competitions were based on Bowral, Camden, Campbelltown, Kiama Shoalhaven, Shamrocks, Vikings, Tech Waratahs, Avondale and Uni fielding teams in the two grades.

Wollondilly, Albion Park Southern Crushers and Vincentia played in the Third-Grade competition. The 13-team situation in this grade made the draw interesting. All teams played each other once and then played four of the clubs again which resulted in teams playing 16 matches. Our four added games were against Vikings, Shamrocks, Tech Waratahs and Bowral.

In order to accommodate our large playing numbers in the early part of the season we entered a u/21 Colts team in the Radford, an eight-team competition which included teams from the Sydney competition. This eight-week format suited us down to the ground and provided some great experience for our younger guys.

Club Championship 2018

Club	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Total
Avondale	375	180	47	602
Bowral	355	180	48	583
Shamrocks	305	174	47	526
Vikings	325	165	22	512
University	340	129	27	496
Shoalhaven	255	168	58	481
Campbelltown	110	186	47	343
Tech Waratahs	185	69	30	284
Camden	90	126	56	272
Kiama	70	3	48	121
Wollondilly			54	54
Vincentia			23	23
Southern Crushers			2	2

THE PLAYERS

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:

NSW Country Representatives:

Seniors:

Tom Baker, Paul Tuala, Takunda Chimwaza, Hori Leef and Sam Latu

Coaching Staff:

Shaun McCreedy – Assistant coach of Country Firsts.

U/20's:

Opeti Taufahema, Reece Apollo

Illawarra Representatives:

Seniors:

Tom Baker, Paul Tuala, Takunda Chimwaza, Hori Leef, Sam Latu, Simon Douch, Wayne Ngatai, Ben Cheetham and George Rixon.

Coaching Staff:

Shaun McCreedy – Head Coach and Colts Coach

Richard Thompson – Seniors coach

Donny Nepia- Assistant Coach

Dion Miller – on field Manager

Evan Poata-Smith - Manager

Colts (u/20's):

Te AtaWhai Mason, Opeti Taufahema, Jett Hatton, Sam Laurie, Simon Bayley, Alphonso Pyne, Alex Srbnovski, Jack O'Neill, Will Smith, Ben Muirhead and Jackson Rice

Personal Milestones

150 – Charlie Curry

100 First Grade games - Will Wood, Donnie Nepia

100 games – Will Wood, Casey Rameka, Zac Gorman, Matt Lee

50 Games – Sam Latu, Pat Byrnes, Jonathon Cudaj, Takunda Chimwaza, Hemi Wickliffe, Dan Ree

FIRST GRADE

First Grade Finalists 2018



Back Row:	Richard Thompson (coach)	Dion Miller (coach)	Brayden Grehan	Matt Lee	Justin Stanbrook
	Lachlan Conyers	Jerome Ramus	Nick Bennet	Jack Nash	Dan Reed
	Mike Malakai	Casey Rameka	Paul Tuala	Hemi Wickliffe	Evan Poata-Smith (Ast Coach)
	Dave Reed (Ast coach)				
Front Row:	Will Harris (mascot)	Leon Mason	Charlie Curry	Rowan Wilson	Tyler Aitkin
	Tom Baker	Donny Nepia	Sam Laurie	Wayne Ngatai	Ryan Witherdin
	Will Wood	Shaun McCreedy (club coach)	John Heath (manager)	Tim Gray (Physio)	Takunda Chimwaza

The 2018 first grade squad at the start of the season was probably the most experienced and talented group to represent the Mallee Bulls for several seasons. Nearly all the players were hardened first graders and very gifted rugby players which is exemplified by the fact that the club fielded five current Country reps, Tom Baker, Paul Tuala, Takunda Chimwaza, Hori Leef and Sam Latu. We also had another four current or former Illawarrior reps, Wayne Ngatai, Simon Douch, Ben Cheetham and George Rixon. The personnel changed dramatically as the season wore on due to a horrific injury toll, but the club was fortunate to call on the services of many former stars to steady the ship and still stay very competitive in the race for the Premiership.

Up front the team was well served by Casey Rameka, Dan Reed and Hemi Wickliffe, who was back after a year's break. Jack Nash was another prop back at the club after a long time away from the game and he was an excellent addition to the squad until injuries forced him to miss several games. Wayne Ngatai was again the hooker till he suffered a bad concussion and was replaced by Rookie of the Year, Rhys Bourne. Rhys, a Canberra lad, had played for the Vikings last season but came over to the good guys and was very impressive when thrown into first grade. Another young colt, Sam Laurie, also sat on the bench for the latter half of the season and was a capable front row replacement when needed.

Second rower Will Wood was an inspirational captain as he led from the front and was indeed the leading try scorer with eleven tries, a wonderful effort. Will played in all twenty games in 2018 but the same can't be said of his second-row partners who often were forced to miss games through injury. The first cab off the rank was Lee Verrall, a medico, who had played a lot of rugby and who was fit and tough. Unfortunately, Lee was forced to miss a significant part of the year due to injuries and work commitments and he was a big loss.

Other second rowers to step up into first grade were newcomers Jordan Coles and John Melville plus young colt Beppe Fierravanti who was carrying on his family's association with the club. All three guys started in the lower grades but forced their way into the top grade only to suffer season ending injuries after only a couple of appearances. It then basically fell to Frenchman Jerome Ramus to share the second-row duties with Will, and he did a commendable job after recovering from a serious knee injury suffered in a trial game.

Our back-row stocks ran deep with Paul Tuala, Takunda Chimwaza and Ben 'Mudgee' Cheetham forming a deadly trio in both defence and attack, scoring twenty-one tries between them. We also had Hori Leef back on deck until a knee injury ended his season in addition to Ryan Witherdin who was playing well until he broke his hand and missed games in the middle of the year. Things were getting desperate when 'Mudgee' left Uni to find work and to go on an overseas holiday until we roped in Mike Malakai who came out of retirement after playing for Avondale and Camden for many years.

Our backline started the season in scintillating form, but it was also tough being a back in 2018 as we lost half back, Ma Penetito, both centres Sam Latu and George Rixon, plus both wingers in Jamie Mason and Simon Douch to very serious injuries. The only constants in the backline ended up being Tom Baker and veteran Donny Nepia. So, it then was up to Charlie Curry and Brayden Grehan to move up from seconds to fill the void in the centres and they did the job with class. Charlie showed his ability in the top grade and ended up being the leading point scorer with seventy-eight points.

Another guy who accepted the challenge of being in the top grade was winger Lachlan Conyers who had an excellent season on the wing.

As the injury toll continued to mount and with the team running out of options the cavalry arrived in the form of Leon 'Leech' Mason and Joey Aiono who put away the coaching clip boards and donned their playing gear. Leon was instrumental in keeping things moving forward as he had lost none of his competitiveness and guile and he was inspirational under difficult circumstances. Also returning was Tyler Aitken who answered the emergency call and finished the year on the wing while Matt Lee also came back to the fold to fill-in when he was available.

What was truly amazing was that with all the disruptions the team stayed focused and answered the challenge finishing the season in third spot and remained serious contenders for the premiership.

THE SEASON:

RD 1: Avondale

Rd 1 – 7/4/18	University Oval		
First Grade:	University	21	Avondale 5
Tries:	Takunda Chimwaza	Tom Baker	George Rixon
Goals:	Donny Nepia (3)		
Players Player:	Donny Nepia	Takunda Chimwaza	Paul Tuala
B & F Points:	George Rixon (3)	Donny Nepia (2)	Will Wood (1)

First grade started the season in sensational form beating the 2017 undefeated premiers, Avondale, in convincing fashion. In a tight first half the only try was scored just before the break by Takunda Chimwaza. The second half followed the same pattern with Uni scoring two more tries while Avondale only crossed the line in the last few minutes of the game. A great win.

Rd 2: Shoalhaven

Rd 2 – 14/4/18 Shoalhaven Rugby Park			
First Grade:	University 25		Shoalhaven 27
Tries:	Will Wood (2)	Ben Cheetham	Justin Stanbrook
Goals:	Donny Nepia (1)	Pen Goal: Donny Nepia (1)	
Players Player:	Sam Latu		
B & F Points:	Ma Penetito (3)	Will Wood (2)	Sam Latu (1)

Shoalhaven were the big improvers in 2018 and were no easy beats, especially at home. Uni started strongly and lead 8-0 but Shoalhaven then dominated possession which saw them score three tries to lead 8-15 at half time. Uni's desperation was evident, and we soon evened the score and then shortly after hit the front 20-15. Shoalhaven wouldn't go away and snatched back the lead 20-22 but a Will Wood try saw the Bulls in front by two. In the last play of the game Shoalhaven made a break, after a disputed penalty was awarded to them, and their prop scored the winning try. The boys were very disappointed not to take the points.

RD 3: Vikings

Rd 3 – 21/4/18 University Oval			
First Grade:	University 50		Vikings 13
Tries:	Amos Leef (2)	Hemi Wickliffe	Will Wood
	Paul Tuala	Simon Douch	Ben Cheetham
Goals:	Donny Nepia (2)	Tom Baker (4)	Pen Goal: Tom Baker (1)
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham		
B & F Points:	Paul Tuala (3)	Will Wood (2)	Hemi Wickliffe (1)

First grade dominated the game, especially in the battle for possession as our scrum was on top. We lead early and maintained the lead throughout the game. It was 19-13 at half time but Uni scored a further four tries to win easily. A big loss for the side was the season ending knee injury to centre George Rixon.

Rd 4: Kiama

Rd 4 – 5/5/18 Kiama Showground			
First Grade:	University 62		Kiama 15
Tries:	Will Wood (3)	Simon Douch (2)	Jamie Mason
	Ben Cheetham	Paul Tuala	Tom Baker
Goals:	Tom Baker (6)		
Players Player:	Sam Latu		
B & F Points:	Will Wood (3)	Ryan Witherdin (2)	Ben Cheetham (1)

Kiama was a young, very inexperienced side that was struggling to score points. Uni were too big, too strong and too fast and blew them off the park. The highlight was Will Wood's hat trick of tries.

Rd 5: Camden

Rd 5 – 12/5/18 University Oval			
First Grade:	University 24		Camden 31
Tries:	Casey Rameka	Hemi Wickliffe	Max Beechin
			Ben Cheetham
Goals:	Tom Baker (2)		
Players Player:	Ma Penetito		
B & F Points:	Ma Penetito (3)	Amos Leef (2)	Casey Rameka (1)

Camden came to Uni in poor form, but the Mallee Bulls made them look like champions in the second half with the defence poor by any standards. The game was evenly poised in the first 40 minutes, and it was 19 all at the break. It was all Camden from there and the lead was out to 12 points late in the game. Fortunately for the Bulls Casey Rameka charged over on the bell to earn the side two crucial bonus points.

Rd 6: Shamrocks

Rd 6– 19/5/18		University Oval			
First Grade:		University	39	Shamrocks	29
Tries:	Wayne Ngatai Jono Lally	Lee Verrall Lachlan Conyers	Donny Nepia	Jamie Mason	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (2)	Donny Nepia (1)	Pen Goal:	Charles Curry (1)	
Players Player:	Wayne Ngatai				
B & F Points:	Ben Cheetham (3)	Lee Verrall (2)		Ryan Witherdin (1)	

Ladies Day is always interesting and 2018 was no different, especially with 5 Country players unavailable. Uni raced away to a 17-point lead only to see the Rocks bounce back with two tries for the score to be 17-12 after 40 minutes. The next 20 minutes were close with Uni clinging to a 31-29 lead, but Shamrocks were a very determined opponent. We scored a try and looked comfortable but needed a late penalty to be sure of the win

Rd 7: Tech Waratahs

Rd 7– 26/5/18		Saunders Oval			
First Grade:		University	43	Tech Waratahs	31
Tries:	Sam Latu (2) Simon Douch	Jono Lally (2)	Tom Baker	Jamie Mason	
Goals:	Tom Baker (4)				

Tech Waratahs enjoy playing the Mallee Bulls and always make it a real battle. The first stanza was made difficult as we had two players in the sin bin in the first 15 minutes of the game which allowed Tech to score 3 tries and lead the match 12-24. An intercept try on halftime by Tom Baker meant we were still in the game at 17-24. The Mallee Bulls performed better after the break running in another 4 tries and only allowing Tech to get a consolation late try.

Rd 8: Campbelltown

Rd 8– 2/6/18		Campbelltown Showground			
First Grade:		University	29	Campbelltown	24
Tries:	Simon Douch (3)	Hemi Wickliffe	Jono Lally		
Goals:	Tom Baker (2)				
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham	Lachlan Conyers			
B & F Points:	Jordan Coles (3)	Simon Douch (2)		Jono Lally (1)	

The Uni boys got away to their customary strong start and led 12 nil after 8 minutes. We then allowed 'Quins' back into the game and had to rely on a good try to take a 17-12 lead after 40 minutes. The second half was a physical encounter as we established a 29-17 lead. TK was then heavily concussed which resulted in the game being moved to an adjacent field. It must be said that things were tight with Campbelltown scoring a try to get to 29-24 but we managed to close out the game with some strong defence in the last 5 minutes.

Rd 9: Avondale

Rd 9– 16/6/18		Gerry Cappetta Oval			
First Grade:		University	17	Avondale	24
Tries:	Ben Cheetham	Jade Gardiner	Simon Douch		
Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)				
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham				
B & F Points:	Ben Cheetham (3)	Simon Douch (2)		Hemi Wickliffe (1)	

Uni was short on troops with the Country players absent and the holidays in full swing. Avondale were on fire in the first half, and we were like 'deer in the headlights' as they raced in four tries to lead 24 nil. To make it even harder Carl Lanigan was severely concussed. In the second half we suddenly decided to play some rugby and in 25 minutes crossed for three tries to be down 17-24. We battled it out but couldn't bridge the gap, but the boys did display great resilience under pressure.

Rd 10: Bowral

Rd 10– 23/6/18		University Oval			
First Grade:		University	28	Bowral	37
Tries:	Lee Verrall	Tom Baker	Donny Nepia	Jamie Mason	
Goals:	Tom Baker (4)				
Players Player:	Paul Tuala				
B & F Points:	Tom Baker (3)	Lee Verrall (2)		Takunda Chimwaza (1)	

Bowral came down from the mountains and were a form team in the comp. Once again, we scored an early try but were soon behind 7-17. A try to Donny Nepia got the boys to 14-17 but a penalty saw us behind 14-20. The second half started well as we hit the front, but again poor defence saw Bowral out to 21-25. Things brightened for the Bulls when Lee Verrall got over the line and we were confident the boys could hang on for a win. However, Bowral scored 2 tries in the last 10 minutes to win a hard-fought contest, though the score didn't reflect the closeness of the game.

Rd 11: Shoalhaven

Rd 11– 30/6/18		University Oval			
First Grade:		University	41	Shoalhaven	31
Tries:	Wayne Ngatai (2) John Melville	Casey Rameka	Donny Nepia	Hemi Wickliffe	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (4)		Pen Goal:	Charlie Curry (1)	
Players Player:	Wayne Ngatai				
B & F Points:	Wayne Ngatai (3)	Donny Nepia (2)		Casey Rameka (1)	

Shoalhaven and Uni were in a dog fight for a place in the top four and it was a tough week for Uni as the five Country reps were absent. We called on the services of Leon Mason, John Melville, Sam Laurie, Dan Ward, Bailey Lamb and Will Lamb to fill the void and they all did a magnificent job. We played well in the first half and established a commanding 26-12 lead after scoring four tries. In a high scoring second half we maintained the lead, but it did get close when Shoalhaven trailed 38-31 but a Charlie Curry penalty sealed the game.

Rd 12: Vikings

Rd 12– 7/7/18		Vikings Oval			
First Grade:		University	10	Vikings	14
Tries:	Leon Mason				
Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)		Pen Goal:	Charlie Curry (1)	
Players Player:	Takunda Chimwaza				
B & F Points:	Takunda Chimwaza (3)		Sam Latu (2)		Leon Mason (1)

This was possibly the most physical encounter of the season as both teams were desperate to win and the defence was brutal. Leon Mason scored an early try but Vikings hit back with two tries to lead 7-10 at half time. The next 40 minutes was tough with Uni only able to score a penalty goal early to close the gap to 10-14. That was to be the final score as both teams fiercely defended their line and gave nothing away.

Rd 13: Shamrocks

Rd 13– 14/7/18		Ocean Park			
First Grade:		University	24	Shamrocks	17
Tries:	Casey Rameka	Paul Tuala	Will Wood	Lachlan Conyers	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (2)				
Players Player:	Charlie Curry				
B & F Points:	Rhys Bourne (3)		Paul Tuala (2)		Tom Baker (1)

Rugby is a tough game, and this was on display when we clashed with the Rocks at their home ground. The boys get away to their customary strong start and scored two tries to lead 14-5. Just after this we were all shocked to have two players suffer broken legs within minutes of each other. Sam Latu and John Melville virtually shared the same stretcher, and their loss was a real shock to all. Somehow the team regained their composure and held out the Rocks after establishing a 19-5 lead. The Rocks came back and got to 19-17 but a late try sealed the hard-fought win. The players were in a sombre mood after the game as everyone was concerned for the welfare of their teammates.

Rd 14: Kiama

Rd 14– 21/7/18		University Oval			
First Grade:		University	68	Kiama	19
Tries:	Rowan Wilson (2)	Paul Tuala (2)	Michael Malaki	Takunda Chimwaza	
	Charles Curry	Tyler Aitken	Matt Lee	Corey Fuller	
Goals:	Charles Curry (9)				
Players Player:	Paul Tuala				
B & F Points:	Paul Tuala (3)		Michael Malaki (2)		Charles Curry (1)

Uni dominated in all aspects of the game and the score indicated the difference between the team.

Rd 15: Camden

Rd 15– 28/7/18		Camden Rugby Park			University		52	Camden		22
First Grade:										
Tries:	Will Wood (2)	Takunda Chimwaza		Rowan Wilson	Corey Fuller					
	Tyler Aitken	Donny Nepia		Ben Cheetham						
Goals:	Charles Curry (6)									
Players Player:	Takunda Chimwaza									
B & F Points:	Takunda Chimwaza (3)			Casey Rameka (2)			Charlie Curry (1)			

Revenge is sweet as the Uni boys played their most complete game for a long time. As usual we raced out to an early 21-point lead but this time we maintained our discipline and went on with the job. It was 28-12 at half time and we scored another four second half tries to run out easy winners.

Rd 16: Tech Waratahs

Rd 16– 4/8/18	University Oval	University	33	Tech Waratahs	32
First Grade:					
Tries:	Casey Rameka	Charles Curry	Brayden Grehan	Tyler Aitken	
	Jackson Rice				
Goals:	Charlie Curry (4)				
Players Player:	Wayne Ngatai	Charlie Curry			
B & F Points:	Jerome Ramus (3)	Takunda Chimwaza (2)		Tyler Aitken (1)	

This was a game we really should not have won as Tech showed a real willingness to take the game to us. The boys found themselves behind 10-12 at the break after scoring a couple of tries late in the half. Tech were more enthusiastic and committed and soon lead 12-20 but we managed a couple of tries to regain the lead, but Tech wouldn't lie down. A try saw them out by 26-27 and the crowd was certainly worried. Tyler Aitken stepped up and crossed for a try to get us back in front 33-27. However, another Tech try cut the lead to one point with only minutes remaining. There was high drama as Tech was awarded a relatively easy penalty kick and all of the Mallee Bulls supporters were very relieved as the attempt hit the upright and we held on to win a game we didn't deserve to win. Rugby is a cruel game at times.

Rd 17: Campbelltown

Rd 17– 18/8/18	University Oval	University	52	Campbelltown	5
First Grade:					
Tries:	Takunda Chimwaza (3)	Wayne Ngatai	Paul Tuala	Leon Mason	
	Tom Baker	Rowan Wilson			
Goals:	Tom Baker (6)				
Players Player:	Takunda Chimwaza				
B & F Points:	Takunda Chimwaza (3)	Tom Baker (2)		Mike Malaki (1)	

Campbelltown don't travel all that well and this was certainly the case in this round as the Quins showed a real lack of enthusiasm for the contest. The Mallee Bulls scored a total of 8 tries with Campbelltown crossing for their sole try in the last minute of the game.

Rd 18: Bowral

Rd 18– 25/8/18	Eridge Park	University	29	Bowral	30
First Grade:					
Tries:	Lachlan Conyers (2)	Will Wood	Takunda Chimwaza	Ben Cheetham	
Goals:	Tom Baker (2)				
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham				
B & F Points:	Takunda Chimwaza (3)	Will Wood (2)		Tom Baker (1)	

The winner of this game would finish in second spot on the table and so both teams were very motivated as was shown by the quality of the game. Bowral enjoyed supremacy in the first half and led 5-17 at the break. The second half belonged to the Bulls as the boys crossed for four tries and nearly stole the match with two penalty goals being the difference. The fact that we scored five tries to Bowral's four also indicates that we were not far off being the better side on the day.

First Grade Points Table 2018

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP4T	BP-7P	Points	Total
1	Avondale	18	15	3	0	393	15	0	60	75
2	Bowral	18	13	4	1	313	13	4	54	71
3	University	18	12	6	0	241	15	5	48	68
4	Vikings	18	13	5	0	181	12	1	52	65
5	Shamrocks	18	12	6	0	205	12	1	48	61
6	Shoalhaven	18	9	8	1	74	13	0	38	51
7	Tech Waratahs	18	6	12	0	-26	9	4	24	37
8	Campbelltown	18	3	15	0	-374	6	4	12	22
9	Camden	18	3	15	0	-435	4	2	12	18
10	Kiama	18	3	15	0	-572	2	0	12	14

Points Scored 2018

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>First Grade</i>											
BAKER, Tom	77	5	26	0	7	CURRY, Charles	76	2	27	4	2
WOOD, William	55	11	0	0	10	DOUCH, Simon	40	8	0	0	4
CHIMWAZA, Takunda	40	8	0	0	15	NEPIA, Donovan	37	4	7	1	4
TUALA, Paul	35	7	0	0	8	CHEETHAM, Benjamin	30	6	0	0	7
WICKLIFFE, Hemana	25	5	0	0	2	WILSON, Rowan	20	4	0	0	0
LALLY, Jonathon	20	4	0	0	1	CONYERS, Lachlan	20	4	0	0	0
AITKEN, Tyler	20	4	0	0	1	MASON, Jamie	20	4	0	0	0
RAMEKA, Casey	20	4	0	0	4	LATU, Sam	15	3	0	0	3
NGATAI, Wayne	15	3	0	0	3	PENETITO, Marama	11	0	4	1	6
MASON, Leon	10	2	0	0	1	VERRALL, Lee	10	2	0	0	4
LEEF, Amos	10	2	0	0	2	MELVILLE, John	5	1	0	0	0
RIXON, George	5	1	0	0	3	STANBROOK, Justin	5	1	0	0	0
GARDINER, Jade	5	1	0	0	0	RICE, Jackson	5	1	0	0	0
GREHAN, Brayden	5	1	0	0	0	MALAKI, Michael	5	1	0	0	3
BEECHIN, Max	5	1	0	0	0	LEE, Matthew	5	1	0	0	0
LAURIE, Sam	5	1	0	0	0	FULLER, Corey	5	1	0	0	0
RAMUS, Jerome	0	0	0	0	3	BOURNE, Rhys	0	0	0	0	3
WITHERDIN, Ryan	0	0	0	0	3						

SECOND GRADE

Second Grade 2018



Back Row:	Eoin Power (coach)	Nick Bennet	Steve Elson	Hugh Britten	Jon Cudaj
	Justin Stanbrook	Tod Wilson	Sam Laurie	Bill Hurley (coach)	Jett Hatton
Front Row:	Jono Lally	Hamish Cole	Bill Exton	Dan Grainger	Patrick Byrnes
	Will Harris	Glenda Heggen (manager)	Billy Porter	Will Lamb	

The second-grade team that played in the first round of the competition was a mix of the old and the new and showed enough class to indicate that they would be a force in the competition. Ultimately this failed to eventuate as the performances deteriorated as players became unavailable and it was a struggle to get competitive teams on to the field. This was not a reflection of the efforts of the coaches or the players that did step up but the loss of so many class players in the end wore everyone down.

Early in the season the forward pack was able to draw on the leadership of captain Eoin Power who set a fine example for others to follow and prop Dan Reed who also played a lot of first grade during the year. One of the constants throughout the year was Number 8 Rhys Handcock who is one of the best loose forwards in the comp. These guys were joined by second rower Todd Wilson and Prop Paddy Brynes who was to be the mainstay for the scrum playing sixteen games, which was the most by any player. The pack was boosted by three newcomers who were talented footballers in second rower Jordan Coles, Englishman Max Beechin and hooker Rhys Bourne. When you added into this mix hooker/prop Dan Grainger when he was not working and Sam Laurie who also played in the Colts team the pack was a very solid unit.

In the backline it was a similar story with the experience coming from centres Charlie Curry and Brayden Grehan and outside backs Justin Stanbrook, Dan Ward and Matthias Wan. The side was also blessed with the speed of Chris Duxfield and the flair of Jonathon Lally. All these players were more than capable of holding down positions in most first-grade backlines.

To provide the impetus for the backline to fire was the halves pairing of Rowan Wilson and Dylan Peppernell who created a lot of excitement with the way they set the backline in motion. Rowan was new to the half back position, but his speed and tenacity saw him cross for ten tries in seconds and another four in the top grade to be the leading try scorer. Being a reliable goal kicker also added to his value to the team and he ended up with one hundred and seventeen points for the season and was acknowledged as the leading point scorer for the club.

The mounting injuries in first grade saw Dan Reed, Rowan, Rhys Bourne, Charlie and Brayden go on to play pivotal roles in first grade's premiership challenge and they were sorely missed in seconds.

Added to this Matthias, Eoin, Chris Duxfield and Jordan Coles suffered season ending injuries and Justin Stanford and Jonathon Lally missed many games with a variety of injuries. To make matter even worse was the fact that Dylan Peppernell, Dan Ward and Todd Wilson went on extended overseas holidays and Max Beechin had to return to England for his studies and as a result of all this carnage gaping holes were left in the team's roster.

To fill the gaps the coaches called on young players in wingers Michael Shambira and Alphonso Pyne who were more than able to handle the pressure of playing second grade. Others who answered the call were the experienced trio of Jon Cudaj, Steve Elson and Joel Wilson and they tried to stem the tide, but it was tough going. Will Lamb, Nolan Parker, Billy Porter and Bill Exton from the Thirds were always willing to help their mates, and all contributed to keeping the team competitive.

Late in the season a couple of shining lights appeared in the form of Frenchman Paul Dublanche who played well in the second row and Colts players Jett Hatton, Jackson Rice, Hamish Cole, Nick Bennet, Craig Matereke, and Isitolo Mau who all showed glimpses of promise under trying circumstances.

It would be fair to say that the season couldn't end quick enough, and it was frustrating for all that something that promised so much ended in disappointment.

THE SEASON:

Rd 1: Avondale

Rd 1 –7/4 /18	University Oval			
Second Grade:	University 34		Avondale 24	
Tries:	Dylan Peppernell (2)	Jono Lally (2)	Max Beechin	Rowan Wilson
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (2)			
Players Player:	Dylan Peppernell			
B & F Points:	Jordan Coles (3)	Dylan Peppernell (2)		Jono Lally (1)

In a high scoring start to the season the Bulls outperformed the Wombats in an impressive display of running rugby. In the early part of the game Avondale got out to the front but we dominated the rest of the match. The half time lead of 24-12 was an indication of our ability and we continued this in the second half to run out comfortable winners. Newcomers Jordan Coles and Max Beechin were dynamic and set the scene for the backs to run riot scoring five of the six tries.

Rd 2: Shoalhaven

Rd 2 – 14/4/18	Shoalhaven Rugby Park			
Second Grade:	University 24		Shoalhaven 10	
Tries:	Rowan Wilson (2)	Dan Ward	Lachlan Conyers	
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (2)			
Players Player:	Max Beechin			
B & F Points:	Max Beechin (3)	Rowan Wilson (2)		Dylan Peppernell (1)

Shoalhaven at home is a tough assignment and the Bulls had to work hard for a 5-3 lead at the break. However, we played some great running rugby in the second half scoring three tries to win comfortably.

Rd 3: Vikings

Rd 3 – 21/4/18		University Oval	
Second Grade:		University 12	Vikings 12
Tries	Max Beechin	Dan Ward	
Goals	Rowan Wilson (1)		
Players Player	Rowan Wilson		
B & F Points	Rowan Wilson (3)	Ryan Witherdin (2)	Brayden Grehan (1)

The Vikings encounter was a real test for the lads as neither team was able to get on top. We led for most of the game, but the last twenty minutes were a battle of wills as both sides looked for a break. In the end the draw was a good result.

Rd 4: Kiama

Rd 4 – 5/5/18		Kiama Showground	
Second Grade:		University 55	Kiama 12
Tries:	Charlie Curry (2)	Brayden Grehan (2)	Dan Ward (2) Max Beechin
	Dylan Peppernell	Matthias Wann	
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (3) Charlie Curry (2)		
Players Player:	Charlie Curry Matthias Wann		
B & F Points:	Rowan Wilson (3)	Brayden Grehan (2)	Charlie Curry (1)

Kiama had a very young team, and our backline was on fire and the result was never in doubt. Nine tries were the result of some very entertaining rugby.

Rd 5: Camden

Rd 5 – 12/5/18		University Oval	
Second Grade:		University 17	Camden 15
Tries:	Todd Wilson	Eoin Power	Charlie Curry
Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)		
Players Player:	Joe Whitelock Charlie Curry		
B & F Points:	Joe Whitelock (3)	Jordan Coles (2)	Charlie Curry (1)

The Bulls scored a try in the first five minutes but then Camden gained the ascendancy and crossed for three unconverted tries to hit the front by 5-15. Seconds then displayed great commitment by getting back in the game and managed another two tries with the last one being converted with five minutes remaining. A gutsy effort.

Rd 6: Shamrocks

Rd 6 – 19/5/18		University Oval	
Second Grade:		University 32	Shamrocks 12
Tries:	Brayden Grehan (2)	Rowan Wilson	Max Beechin
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (3)	Pen Goals	Rowan Wilson (2)
Players Player:	Dylan Peppernell		
B & F Points:	Dylan Peppernell (3)	Brayden Grehan (2)	Rowan Wilson (1)

Both sides were undefeated coming into the game and the match lived up to expectations. Dylan Peppernell was the architect of the win, which was based on some excellent defensive work and enterprising counterattack. Uni was always in control, although under pressure, and was a worthy winner on the day

Rd 7: Tech Waratahs:

Rd 7– 26/5/18 Saunders Oval				
Second Grade:	University 40		Tech Waratahs 7	
Tries:	Rhys Bourne	Billy Porter	Charlie Curry	Dan Ward
	Chris Duxfield	Joe Whitelock		
Goals:	Charlie Curry (3)		Rowan Wilson (2)	
Players Player:	Max Beechin			
B & F Points:	Dan Ward (3)	Max Beechin (2)	Charlie Curry (1)	

Seconds were not really troubled by Tech Waratahs and played clinical rugby to notch six tries, all but one scored by backs. The loss of Chris Duxfield to a serious knee injury was a big disappointment to the team.

Rd 8: Campbelltown:

Rd 8– 2/6/18 Campbelltown Showground				
Second Grade:	University 24		Campbelltown 33	
Tries:	Jerome Ramus	Rowan Wilson	Pen Try	
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (2)		Pen Goal	Rowan Wilson (1)
Players Player:	Max Beechin			
B & F Points:	Max Beechin (3)	Jerome Ramus (2)	Dan Ward (1)	

Campbelltown, as always, was a very big team who came out really motivated to end our unbeaten run. The first forty minutes saw some alarming deficiencies in our tackling and willingness to do the hard work at the breakdown as the Quins raced out to be in front by 3-33. To their credit the Bulls did mount a bit of a comeback and scored two tries and were awarded a penalty try to put some respectability into the score line. Our boys were embarrassed by their performance, and they realised that a lot of work needed to be done.

Rd 9: Avondale

Rd 9– 16/6/18 Gerry Cappetta Oval				
Second Grade:	University 5		Avondale 19	
Tries:	Brayden Grehan			
Players Player:	Max Beechin			
B & F Points:	John Melville (3)	Jett Hatton (2)	Brayden Grehan (1)	Nick Bennett (1)

The holidays arrived, and as usual Seconds were forced to make changes as players were missing, either away or moved up into the top grade. We started positively scoring an early try but by the break we were down 5-12. Things didn't improve as Avondale scored a third try to lead 5-19 and it was impossible for us to break through for any further points. All in all, a much better effort than the previous week but still not good enough. The team farewelled Max Beechin who had to return home and he was sorely missed for the rest of the season.

Rd 10: Bowral

Rd 10– 23/6/18 University Oval			
Second Grade:	University 14		Bowral 22
Tries:	Rowan Wilson (2)		
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (2)		
Players Player:	Nick Bennett		
B & F Points:	Nick Bennett (3)	Charlie Curry (2)	Rowan Wilson (1)

Bowral had lost six of their first seven games and The Mallee Bulls were confident of a good showing against them. Rugby is a funny game and the Blacks got off to a solid start and lead by 7-10 at the break. They continued to apply pressure and scored another couple of tries to end up winning quite comfortably.

Rd 11: Shoalhaven

Rd 11– 30/6/18 University Oval			
Second Grade:	University 14		Shoalhaven 17
Tries:	Rhys Handcock	Eoin Power	
Goals:	Justin Stanbrook (2)		
Players Player:	Justin Stanbrook		
B & F Points:	Justin Stanbrook (3)	Beppe Fierravanti (2)	Paddy Byrnes (1)

This would be the most frustrating game of the season for the second graders. Shoalhaven were short of players with quite a few backing up from third Grade and so some of our players thought that they only had to front up to win. Shoalhaven were first to score after only five minutes, but we equalled them after twenty minutes. Shoalhaven then converted another try to lead by 7 points at the break. A penalty to Shoals meant that they were leading 7-17 with time running out. Try as hard as we did we only managed to get across the try line in the last minute of the game and came off the field very deflated as we should have won this game easily.

Rd 12: Vikings

Rd 12– 7/7/18 Vikings Oval			
Second Grade:	University 16		Vikings 31
Tries:	Sam Laurie	Alphonso Pyne	
Pen Goals:	Justin Stanbrook (2)		
Players Player:	Matthias Wann		
B & F Points:	Sam Laurie (3)	Justin Stanbrook (2)	Jett Hatton (1)

It was obvious that The Bulls needed to lift to stay in the hunt for the semis. The first half was a tight affair with Vikings hitting the front by 11-12 but the Uni boys were confident of finishing on top. Two early Vikings tries made a significant gap between the two sides which Uni managed to bridge with a try to make the score 16-24. Vikings then put the result beyond doubt with another five pointer and Uni's poor run continued.

Rd 13: Shamrocks

Rd 13– 14/7/18 Ocean Park			
Second Grade:	University 21		Shamrocks 36
Tries:	Rhys Handcock	Jett Hatton	Rowan Wilson
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (3)		
Players Player:	Rowan Wilson		
B & F Points:	Matthias Wann (3)	Rowan Wilson (2)	Jon Cudaj (1)

Uni scored the opening try of the match but that was where our challenge ended as Shamrocks dominated the game from that moment scoring six tries before Uni troubled the scorer twice late in the game. It wasn't lack of effort but more a result of not training as a unit that was causing most concern for the coaches

Rd 14: Kiama

Rd 14– 21/7/18		University Oval			
Second Grade:		University	67	Kiama	12
Tries:	Rowan Wilson (3)	Dan Ward (2)	Michael Shambira (2)	Opeti Taufahema	
	Matt Lee	Sam Laurie	Nick Bennett		
Goals:	Rowan Wilson (6)	Dan Ward (1)			
Players Player:	Rowan Wilson				
B & F Points:	Rowan Wilson (3)	Opeti Taufahema (2)	Paul Dublanche (1)		

Kiama were struggling in second grade and were short of numbers and ability as is reflected by the score in this very one-sided match.

Rd 15: Camden

Rd 15– 28/7/18		Camden Rugby Park			
Second Grade:		University	31	Camden	24
Tries:	Alphonso Pyne (2)	Ben Cheetham (2)	Justin Stanbrook		
Goals:	Justin Stanbrook (3)				
Players Player:	Justin Stanbrook				
B & F Points:	Jackson Rice (3)	Justin Stanbrook (2)	Dan Grainger (1)		

Uni travelled to Camden needing a win to restore confidence and in a tight first half both teams scored two tries and Uni lead 12-10. The second half started disastrously for the Bulls with Camden racing to a 12-24 lead. It was then that Ben Cheetham stood up and dominated scoring two great individual tries to complete a great comeback win. The boys certainly enjoyed the trip home.

Rd 16: Tech Waratahs

Rd 16– 4/8/18		University Oval			
Second Grade:		University	24	Tech Waratahs	26
Tries:	Rhys Handcock	Michael Shambira	Jett Hatton		
Goals:	Justin Stanbrook (3)	Pen Goal	Justin Stanbrook (1)		
Players Player:	Paul Dublanche				
B & F Points:	Jono Lally (3)	Jackson Rice (2)	Craig Matereke (1)		

This was a game of two halves with our Seconds doing it easy to score two tries and a penalty to lead 17-7 at the end of the first half. The next 35 minutes saw a dramatic reversal of form as suddenly Tech's scrum dominated, and we found ourselves behind 17-26. Just on full time we did manage a late try to make the final score 24-26 in what was a devastating loss, and the wheels were certainly well and truly falling off.

Rd 17: Campbelltown

Rd 17– 18/8/18		University Oval	
Second Grade:		University 23	Campbelltown 41
Tries:	Jackson Rice (2) Jono Lally		
Goals:	Jackson Rice	Pen Goal	Jackson Rice (1) Jono Lally (1)
Players Player:	Jackson Rice		
B & F Points:	Jackson Rice (3)	Alphonso Pyne (2)	Sam Laurie (1)

Seconds started positively against a strong Campbelltown team and lead 8-0 after 15 minutes but then conceded three tries to be behind 8-17. After the break a try by Jackson Rice got us back in the game and then a penalty saw us in front 18-17. Eventually the pressure applied by the Quins saw them score another four tries and the game was out of reach.

Rd 18: Bowral

Rd 18– 25/8/18		Eridge Park	
Second Grade:		University 0	Bowral 109
Players Player:	Justin Stanbrook		
B & F Points:	Sam Laurie (3)	Jono Lally (2)	Nick Bennett (1)

Tough day for the 2nd Grade side, with Bowral showing they were well and truly a class above. Although the side doesn't want to make excuses, they tried hard with a number of players out injured or playing first grade, with only a handful of players available to warm up. Hooker Sam Laurie tried his heart out all game, making several big hits on the Bowral forwards but overall had little support.

Second Grade Points Table 2018

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP4T	BP-7P	Points	Total
1	Campbelltown	18	10	5	3	191	12	4	46	62
2	Bowral	18	11	7	0	369	11	5	44	60
3	Avondale	18	11	6	1	153	12	2	48	60
4	Shamrocks	18	12	6	0	76	7	3	48	58
5	Shoalhaven	18	11	6	1	120	8	2	46	56
6	Vikings	18	11	6	1	70	6	3	46	55
7	University	18	8	9	1	-7	7	2	34	43
8	Camden	18	8	10	0	24	5	5	32	42
9	Tech Waratahs	18	4	13	1	-260	4	1	18	23
10	Kiama	18	0	18	0	-736	0	1	0	1

Points Scored 2018

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
<i>Second Grade</i>						WARD, Daniel	37	7	1	0	4
Wilson, Rowan	114	11	25	3	15	STANBROOK, Justin	28	1	10	1	7
CURRY, Charles	32	4	6	0	5	BEECHIN, Max	20	4	0	0	8
GREHAN, Brayden	25	5	0	0	6	PEPPERNEILL, Dylan	15	3	0	0	6
LALLY, Jonathon	18	3	0	1	6	HATTON, Jett	15	3	0	0	3
PYNE, Alphonso	15	3	0	0	2	RICE, Jackson	15	2	1	1	8
SHAMBIRA, michael	15	3	0	0	0	POWER, Eoin	10	2	0	0	0
CHEETHAM, Benjamin	10	2	0	0	0	HANCOCK, Rhys	10	2	0	0	0
LAURIE, Sam	10	2	0	0	7	BENNET, Nicholas	5	1	0	0	4
BOURNE, Rhys	5	1	0	0	0	RAMUS, Jerome	5	1	0	0	2
WILSON, Todd	5	1	0	0	0	CONYERS, Lachlan	5	1	0	0	0
WANN, Matthias	5	1	0	0	3	WHITELOCK, Joseph	5	1	0	0	3
DUXFIELD, Christopher	5	1	0	0	0	LEE, Matthew	5	1	0	0	0
PORTER, Billy	5	1	0	0	0	COLES, Jordan	0	0	0	0	5
TAUFAHEMA, Opeti	5	1	0	0	2	MELVILLE, John	0	0	0	0	3
WITHERDIN, Ryan	0	0	0	0	2	MATEREKE, Craig	0	0	0	0	1
FIERRAVANTI, Beppe	0	0	0	0	2	GRAINGER, Dan	0	0	0	0	1
BYRNES, Patrick	0	0	0	0	1	CUDAJ, Jon	0	0	0	0	1

THIRD GRADE

Third Grade 2018



Back Row:	Will Smith	Martin Lherbier	Hugh Britton	Bill Exton	Ed McClymont
Jett Hatton	Hamish Cole	Bill Hurley (coach)	Zac Gorman	Dave Shepherd	Joe Whitelock
Front Row:	Todd Wilson	Patrick Byrnes	Steve Elson	Alex Law	Will Harris (coach)
Pat Davis	Will Lamb	Shaun Dutailis	Glenda Heggen (manager)		

In many ways 2018 was a typical year for the Mallee Bulls third grade as 76 guys played at least one game for the Thirsties. Of course, many of these players only graced the field for the very occasional game to help in holidays or were injured or moved up the grades as their potential was soon evident to the selectors, but there were the usual stalwarts who played in nearly every game.

The club made the decision to field a team in the Colts competition in Sydney to try and give as many people as possible regular rugby and this was indeed successful. However, it created the situation where Thirds were unable to call on some quality colts' players for half the competition.

The first three rounds saw many of the experienced guys in the club getting a lot of game time which was not always great as a shortage of replacement players resulted in some old legs not being given a much-needed rest during games. Numbers improved until the dreaded holidays came around and many calls were made to get bodies on the paddock. Once the Colts comp was finished many younger guys became available but there were tough times in the last couple of games.

The forward pack was able to hold their own for most games with Christo Crous, until injured, Zac Gorman, Steve Elson, Jon Cudaj and Joel Wilson showing the way for the younger brigade. A couple of young props in Tom Doyle and later in the season Will Smith were given the opportunity to learn their trade in the front row and didn't let anyone down.

Zac Gorman's durability was again on display as he played in every game which meant that he has played over a hundred games for the club without missing one match. It must be said that Zac was

fortunate in that he was unavailable for the Tech Waratahs game, but they forfeited at the last moment.

Matt Piggott, who took on the goal kicking duties, Alex Law, Nolan Parker and Bill Exton played their part mainly as loose forwards but the real star in this department was Joe Whitelock who was dynamic in every game. Joe 's performances made him a crowd favourite until injury kept him out for a long period, although he did make a comeback in the last round.

Thirds were also able to call on some international experience with three French students Paul Dublanche, Martin Lherbier and Bertrand Dufilh plus Danish import Tobias Mulvad displaying some Northern Hemisphere rugby flair.

In the backs the team relied heavily on the experienced Shaun Dutailis for leadership as a lot of players were new to the club. Troy Martin and Bill Hurley carried injuries for most of the year but contributed to the team's performance while Will Harris' enthusiasm was always on display.

Corey Fuller played a key role as five eight and did such a great job he was selected to make the occasional first grade appearance towards the end of the season. Ed McClymont was Mr. Versatility as he switched from loose forward to centre in many games and managed to kick a few goals, which even surprised himself.

On the wing Will Lamb was inspirational as he played in nearly every game for the thirds and often backed up for seconds and even first grade. He was rewarded for his commitment when he played in his first-grade debut match against Shoalhaven, which we won, but the game was even more special as he was able to play the game with his brother Bailey who made a guest appearance on the day.

Bill Porter, Jordan Holster-Tipene, Alasdair Kirkby and Dylan Jones were welcome additions to the squad and enjoyed the University rugby experience and were willing to play anywhere in the backs to help the team out.

The Thirds were able to call on some of the colts' players later in the season with Craig Matereke, Michel Nguyen, Isitolo Mau, Sam Bowen, Hugh Britton and Hamish Cole getting some valuable experience playing against men and all gained confidence from their appearances in the senior grade.

In the end the season didn't work out as planned but it did provide the opportunity for players to gain rugby experience and mate ship on and off the field.

THE SEASON:

Rd 1: Avondale

Rd 1 – 7/4 /18		University Oval			
Third Grade:		University	19	Avondale	31
Tries:	Matt Piggott	Sam Williams		Penalty Try	
Goals:	Brad Reed (1)				
Players Player:	Matt Piggott				
B & F Points:	Brayden Grehan (3)		Matt Piggott (2)		Joel Wilson (1)

Third grade managed to get a full side on the field, but it was a bit of a struggle and while it was a great day to watch rugby it wasn't fun to actually run around. Our lack of cohesion was matched by Avondale and both teams were very disjointed. It was 19 all at the break and then Avondale managed to scramble two second half tries to win the match. Things can only get better.

Rd 2: Vincentia

Rd 2 – 14/4/18 Shoalhaven Rugby Park			
Third Grade:	University 26		Vincentia 19
Tries:	Chris Duxfield (3)	Will Lamb	
Goals:	Chris Duxfield (1)	Ed McClymont (2)	
Players Player:	Chris Duxfield		
B & F Points:	Chris Duxfield (3)	Joel Wilson (2)	Joe Whitelock (1)

Vincentia were struggling for players and our blokes took full advantage of their situation with Chris Duxfield's speed seeing him cross for a hat trick of tries. Any win over Vincentia away was a rarity and the boys enjoyed the winning feeling.

Rd 3: Vikings

Rd 3 – 21/4/18 University Oval			
Third Grade:	University 17		Vikings 14
Tries:	Jon Cudaj	Sam Bowen	Pen Try
Players Player:	Joe Whitelock		
B & F Points:	Will Harris (3)	Joe Whitelock (2)	Joel Wilson (1)

A controversial final minute penalty try that saw Uni win the match was the talking point for both teams at the end of the match. We had been behind all game, but our pressure paid off in the end when the ref's patience ran out after repeated Vikings infringements saw the awarding of the winning penalty try.

Rd 4: Kiama:

Rd 4 – 5/5/18 Kiama Showground			
Third Grade:	University 12		Kiama 19
Tries:	Joe Whitelock (2)		
Goals:	Ed McClymont (1)		
Players Player:	Joe Whitelock		
B & F Points:	Joe Whitelock (3)	Dave Shepherd (2)	Shaun Dutailis (1)

Thirds numbers had improved and so had our performances over the last few games. Kiama were a vastly experienced team with many former First Grade stars strutting their stuff in thirds, so the game was a case of the old versus the new. Kiama had used all of their subs just into the second half and we were full of running with Joe Whitelock being outstanding. We got to 12 all but then made too many errors and were punished by Kiama. In the end we should have won the game, but old heads prevailed.

Rd 5: BYE

Rd 6: Shamrocks

Rd 6 – 19/5/18 University Oval			
Third Grade:	University 6		Shamrocks 15
Pen Goals:	Ed McClymont (2)		
Players Player:	Jon Cudaj		
B & F Points:	Joel Wilson (3)	Joe Whitelock (2)	Jon Cudaj (1)

Thirds had a full roster for the game, and this resulted in a somewhat disjointed performance due to the number of replacements that were made by the coaches. We took the lead courtesy of two

penalties by Ed McClymont after Shamrocks had scored a try. The fact that the Rocks had two players given yellow cards worked in our favour, but we couldn't capitalise on their lack of numbers. In the second half the Bulls lacked composure while Shamrocks crossed for another couple of tries to win 6-15.

Rd 7: Tech Waratahs:

Forfeit by Tech Waratahs

Rd 8: Southern Crushers:

Forfeit by Southern Crushers

Rd 9: BYE

Rd 10: Bowral

Rd 10– 23/6/18		University Oval	
Third Grade:		University 5	Bowral 11
Tries:	Martin Lherbier		
Players Player:	Joe Whitelock		
B & F Points:	Joe Whitelock (3)	Steve Elson (2)	Joel Wilson (1)

Several familiar faces were on deck to help thirds during the holidays. Mitch Bell, Harry Ottley, Luke Symons and Gus O'Connell were welcomed back into the fold for the day. The only score in the first half was a Bowral penalty which shows just how close the teams were in ability. Bowral and Uni scored tries early in the second stanza which made the score 5-8 and then both teams battled to get the crucial breakthrough. In the end Bowral kicked another penalty goal on the full-time siren to gain the points in a very close encounter.

Rd 11: Shoalhaven

Rd 11– 30/6/18		University Oval	
Third Grade:		University 14	Shoalhaven 36
Tries:	Corey Fuller	Lee Tanks	
Goals:	Hugh Britton (2)		
Players Player:	Joe Whitelock		
B & F Points:	Joe Whitelock (3)	Corey Fuller (2)	Nolan Parker (1)

Third grade were down on troops against a very experienced Shoalhaven team but put in a tremendous effort in the first half to only trail by twelve points. The effort took its toll as the Shoals piled on four good tries in the second stanza. Uni tried hard and did score two tries of their own and were not disgraced. Joe Whitelock worked tirelessly but ended up suffering an injury that saw him miss most of the season.

Rd 12: Vikings

Rd 12– 7/7/18		Vikings Oval	
Third Grade:		University 24	Vikings 12
Tries:	Nolan Parker	Matt Piggott	Shaun Dutailis Dylan Jones
Goals:	Matt Piggott (2)		
Players Player:	Paul Dublanche		

Third grade scrapped together sixteen players for the clash with Vikings and everyone gave their all in a hard-fought win. Uni was always in control and lead 24-7 late in the game. Vikings did manage a

late try to make the score more respectable, but it was a fantastic team performance by the Thirsty Thirds.

Rd 13: Shamrocks

Rd 13– 14/7/18	Ocean Park		
Third Grade:	University	7	Shamrocks 38
Tries:	Matt Piggott		
Goals:	Hugh Britton		
Players Player:	Dave Shepherd		
B & F Points:	Bill Exton (3)	Craig Matereke (2)	Tai Tuala (1)

Thirds started strongly against an in-form Shamrocks and actually led 7-5 after 20 minutes. Shamrocks did take a 7-12 advantage into half time, but the boys were quite pleased with their effort. Things changed in the second half as Shamrocks ran riot scoring four further tries to record an easy win. Not training together and constant changes certainly contributed to the loss.

Rd 14: Wollondilly

Rd 14– 21/7/18	University Oval		
Third Grade:	University	22	Wollondilly 33
Tries:	Jono Lally (2)	Alphonso Pyne (2)	
Goals:	Matt Piggott		
Players Player:	Tobias Mulvad		
B & F Points:	Tobias Mulvad (3)	Michael Nguyen (2)	Jono Lally (1) Alphonso Pyne (1)

Third grade were able to call on the services of a few of the colts players plus guys from the higher grades who returned to Uni after the holidays, so numbers were not an issue. A lack of cohesion saw a poor start to the game where Wollondilly scored three converted tries to Uni's one. Things improved in the next 30 minutes with the lads getting over the line three times to reduce the lead to 22-33. A much-improved effort.

Rd 15: Camden

Rd 15– 28/7/18	Camden Rugby Park		
Third Grade:	University	0	Camden 51
Players Player:	Troy Martin	Todd Wilson	
B & F Points:	Todd Wilson (3)	Hugh Britton (2)	Sam Bowen (1)

Camden were one of the leading teams and were very well structured with some very big, experienced players in their squad. We tried hard, but The Rams were too good in all facets of the game.

Rd 16: Tech Waratahs

Rd 16– 4/8/18	University Oval		
Third Grade:	University	12	Tech Waratahs 26
Tries:	Bill Hurley	Troy Martin	
Goals:	Ed McClymont (1)		
Players Player:	Zac Gorman		
B & F Points:	Bertrand Dufilh (3)	Steve Elson (2)	Sam Bowen (1)

Tech managed to attract a couple of handy players who were playing first grade Rugby League for Corrimal to come and have a game and they proved to be the difference between the two teams. In a tight first half both teams notched two tries to see a 12 all draw at the break. In the second half Tech crossed for an early converted try to put pressure on the Bulls and as hard as we tried, we couldn't break through and eventually Tech scored another converted try to seal the win.

Rd 17: Campbelltown

Rd 17– 18/8/18		University Oval			
Third Grade:		University	17	Campbelltown	26
Tries:	Will Lamb	Hugh Britton	Morgan Wilesmith		
Goals:	Hugh Britton (1)				
Players Player:	Morgan Wilesmith				
B & F Points:	Hugh Britton (3)	Alex Law (2)	Nolan Parker (1)		

Campbelltown started the game scoring an early try which was evened out by a try to Will Lamb, but Quins scored again to take a 5-12 lead. After another Campbelltown try the Bulls replied with two tries to be in the game at 17-19. However, a try on the bell saw Quins win 17-26

Rd 18: Bowral

Rd 18– 25/8/18		Eridge Oval			
Third Grade:		University	0	Bowral	50
Players Player:	Steve Elson				
B & F Points:	Alex Law (3)	Steve Elson (2)	Ed McClymont (1)		

A disappointing way for 3rd Grade to finish the season, but the boys showed plenty of spirit with a handful of players playing two full games of rugby back-to-back due to a number of injuries. Joe Whitelock showed why he had been missed in the forwards, bringing lots of physicality in defence. Overall, the boys never let their heads drop and certainly had fun after the whistle.

Third Grade Points Table 2018

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	-/+	BP4T	BP-7P	Points	Total
1	Shoalhaven	16	12	4	0	155	8	2	48	58
2	Camden	16	12	4	0	129	8	0	48	56
3	Wollondilly	16	10	5	1	105	9	3	42	54
4	Bowral	16	11	5	0	90	3	1	44	48
5	Kiama	16	10	6	0	127	5	3	40	48
6	Shamrocks	16	10	5	1	109	4	1	42	47
7	Avondale	16	9	7	0	123	7	4	36	47
8	Campbelltown	16	9	6	1	44	8	1	38	47
9	Tech Waratahs	16	6	10	0	-65	5	1	24	30
10	University	16	5	11	0	-144	5	2	20	27
11	Vincentia	16	4	12	0	-128	4	3	16	23
12	Vikings	16	4	11	1	-157	2	2	18	22
13	Southern Crushers	16	0	16	0	-388	0	2	0	2

Points Scored 2018

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	B&F
Third Grade											
PIGGOTT, Matthew	21	3	3	0	2	DUXFIELD, Christopher	17	3	1	0	3
BRITTON, Hugh	13	1	4	0	5	MCCLYMONT, Ed	12	0	6	0	1
WHITELOCK, Joseph	10	2	0	0	14	PYNE, Alphonso	10	2	0	0	0
LALLY, Jonathon	10	2	0	0	1	LAMB, William	10	2	0	0	0
PARKER, Nolan	5	1	0	0	2	HURLEY, William	5	1	0	0	1
LHERBIER, Martin	5	1	0	0	0	DUTAILLIS, Shaun	5	1	0	0	1
JONES, Dylan	5	1	0	0	0	BOWEN, Samuel	5	1	0	0	2
FULLER, Corey	5	1	0	0	2	MARTIN, Troy	5	1	0	0	0
CUDAJ, Jonathon	5	1	0	0	1	TANKS, Lee	5	1	0	0	0
WILESMITH, Morgan	5	1	0	0	0	WILLIAMS, Sam	5	1	0	0	0
REED, Bradley	2	0	1	0	0	WILSON, Joel	0	0	0	0	8
ELSON, Steve	0	0	0	0	6	GREHAN, Brayden	0	0	0	0	5
LAW, Alex	0	0	0	0	5	WILSON, Todd	0	0	0	0	3
DUBLANCHE, Paul	0	0	0	0	3	DUFILH, Bertrand	0	0	0	0	3
EXTON, Bill	0	0	0	0	3	HARRIS, Will	0	0	0	0	3
MULVAD, Tobias	0	0	0	0	3	MATEREKE, Craig	0	0	0	0	2
SHEPHERD, Dave	0	0	0	0	2	SYMONS, Luke	0	0	0	0	2
TUALA, Tai	0	0	0	0	1						

COLTS:

The Squad

One of the hurdles that the Mallee Bulls have had to get over was the fact that there was always an abundance of guys wanting to play for the club, particularly, in the early rounds. Previously this was solved to some degree by playing in the IDRU Colts competition, where we were very successful. The problem in 2018 was that there were no other clubs interested in playing Colts so to provide rugby for the younger brigade we entered a team into the Radford Cup which is based in Sydney for U/21 players. The clubs who entered teams were Briars, Eastern Suburbs, Lane Cove, Colleagues, Chatswood, Oatley and Mosman so the comp only ran for 7 weeks but there was a lot of travel involved. A positive factor that made this comp attractive was that it only ran until the University holiday period when numbers usually dropped dramatically.

Coach McCreedy took on the coaching duties and was aided by manager 'Big Hearted' Bob who did a great job hiring buses etc to get the guys to games all over Sydney.

There was a host of new players who were keen to display their skills and many of them were also selected in the Illawarra Colts team. Will Smith, Sam Laurie, Alex Srbinovski, Jett Hatton, Jack O'Neill, Ben Muirhead, Jackson Rice, Te Atawhai Mason, Simon Bayley, Opeti Taufahema and Reece Apollo helped the Illawarra Colts achieve some good results at the Country Championships. Opeti and Reece were both selected in the NSW Country Colts team and therefore missed some games for our Colts but were much better players for the experience.

Other players who were fresh on the scene were Hamish Cole, Seth Galvin, Jack Hannaford, Hugh Britton, Dexter Anderson, Nick Bennett, Isitolo Mau, Liam O'Reilly, Dakoyta Feirer, Alex Trobec and Morgan Wilesmith.

Beppe Fierravanti, Craig Matereke, Michael Nguyen, Rohan Wiles were older players who had played for the Mallee Bulls in 2017 but relished the opportunity of playing against guys of a similar age. Many of these guys played most games in the comp and many stayed involved with the senior teams later in the season.

THE SEASON:

Mosman:

Rd 1– 14/4/18	University Oval	University	12	Mosman	19
Colts:					
Tries:	Jack O'Neill	Sam Laurie			
Goals:	Hugh Britton				

In their first hit out the young lads took on the Phil Kearns coached Mosman side. It was a close encounter with the boys setting up an early 5-0 lead only to make many simple errors to fall behind 5-12 at half time. The second half was much the same as Uni got to 12 all but again mistakes cost the team dearly and Mosman ran out 12-19 winners.

Lane Cove:

Rd 2– 21/4/18	University	46	Lane Cove	7
Colts:				
Tries:	Opeti Taufahema (3)	Jett Hatton (3)	Craig Matereke	Beppe Fierravanti
	Sam Laurie			
Goals:	Jackson Rice (4)			

The Colts enjoyed the away trip to Lane Cove as they were on fire dominating the game and securing an easy win.

Chatswood:

Rd 3– 5/5/18				
Colts:	University 39			Chatswood 41
Tries:	Dexter Anderson (2)	Craig Matereke (2)	Nick Bennett	Beppe Fierravanti
Goals:	Jack O'Neill (2)			

Uni travelled to Chatswood with only the bare fifteen players available due to rep commitments but started the game strongly scoring three first half tries to go to the break leading 15-12. The Chatswood boys then established a 15-22 advantage and things were looking desperate. The Lads then steadied the ship by scoring a try to tie up the game at 22 all. It was then tit for tat as both teams lacked enough composure to control the game. With time running out Uni established a six-point advantage, but rugby is a cruel game at times and with time up Chatswood crossed for a try near the posts which they converted to win the game. It was a tenacious effort by an undermanned team, but the lads were disappointing to lose a game they should have won.

Oatley:

Forfeit by Oatley.

Colleagues:

Rd 5– 19/5/18 University Oval			
Colts:	University 0		Colleagues 27

Colleagues travelled to the Gong as undefeated leaders and after watching their display in the first half it was obvious that they were a well drilled outfit. The Lads did make it easier for them by being very disorganised in defence and panicking with the ball.

The second stanza was a much better performance by our colts as they got into a bit of rhythm but in the end, Colleagues were much too good on the day.

Briars:

Rd 6–26/5/18 Briars				
Colts:	University 44			Briars 21
Tries:	Opeti Taufahema	Nick Bennett	Beppe Fierravanti	Dexter Anderson
	Jack O'Neill			
Goals:	Hugh Britton			

The Lads took control of the game early establishing a 24-7 advantage after scoring three excellent tries. Briars did make the score closer with two tries of their own to be in the game at 29-21 but we regathered our composure and ran away with the game after compiling another couple of tries. This was a very good performance as the boys really gelled in attack and defence.

Eastern Suburbs:

Rd 7–2/6/18 Campbelltown Showground				
Colts:	University 24			Easts 25
Tries:	Jack Hannaford	Opeti Taufahema	Craig Matereke	
Goals:	Hugh Britton (2)			

Uni's clash with Shute Shield club Eastern Suburbs was moved to Campbelltown to allow all out teams to be together. There was a lot at stake as the winner of the game would finish in fourth spot and take part in the semis, so all was set for a good game of rugby and the crowd was not disappointed.

Uni took an early 8-0 lead but a converted try to East saw them back in the game. At this point Uni dominated the forward play and raced out to an 19-8 thanks to two tries to Opeti and Jack Hannaford. Unfortunately, Easts scored right on halftime to be behind 19-13.

After the break the Lads found themselves behind 19-20 but a good try to Craig Matereke saw us hit the lead 24-20. Time was ticking away, and the Colts boys were defending strongly but Easts were applying pressure and right on full time this pressure finally told, and Easts scored the winning try. It was a disappointing end to a game we could have won, and it was more frustrating in that the Lads had missed out on that precious fourth spot.

Radford Cup Points Table 2018

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	-/+	BP	Points	Total
1	Colleagues	7	7	0	0	167	6	28	34
2	Mosman	7	6	0	1	113	4	24	28
3	Chatswood	7	4	1	2	5	4	18	22
4	Eastern Suburbs	7	3	2	2	47	5	16	21
5	Wollongong Uni	7	3	0	4	55	8	12	20
6	Briars	7	2	0	5	-48	4	8	12
7	Oatley	7	1	1	5	-65	1	6	7
8	Lane Cove	7	0	0	7	-274	0	0	0

Points Scored 2018

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG
COLTS									
TAUFAHEMA, Opeti	25	5	0	0	MATEREKE, Craig	25	5	0	0
BRITTON, Hugh	21	0	9	1	FIERRAVANTI, Beppe	15	3	0	0
HATTON, Jett	15	3	0	0	O'NEILL, Jack	14	2	2	0
BENNET, Nicholas	10	2	0	0	HANNAFORD, Jack	10	2	0	0
LAURIE, Sam	10	2	0	0	ANDERSON, Dexter	10	2	0	0
RICE, Jackson	8	0	4	0	BAYLEY, Simon	5	1	0	0

END OF SEASON GAMES
Minor Semi-Final

FIRST GRADE SQUAD

(1) Hemi Wickliffe	(2) Wayne Ngatai	(3) Casey Rameka
(4) Will Wood		(5) Jerome Ramus
(6) Takunda Chimwaza	(8) Paul Tuala	(7) Michael Malakai
(9) Leon Mason		(10) Tom Baker
(12) Charles Curry		(13) Brayden Grehan
(11) Lachlan Conyers	(15) Donny Nepia	(14) Tyler Aitken
(16) Matt Lee	(17) Jack Nash	(18) Dan Reed
(19) Nick Bennet	(20) Sam Laurie	(21) Ben Cheetham
(22) Justin Stanbrook		(23) Rowan Wilson

Report by Ron Woods – The Rogues Rant

A last second Takunda Chimwaza try propelled University into the Preliminary Final against Bowral. With Vikings holding a six-point advantage and time up, Chimwaza powered over to score and with a Charles Curry conversion from in front University snatched a 22 – 21 victory. In what was a tight, typical finals match in which the lead changed seven times, each side scored three tries but it was the students who made more of their limited opportunities in an evenly contested match.

Both sides were affected by injury and unavailability as Uni continues to struggle to manage a huge injury toll at the club and Vikings were missing key backline players and also with Captain Joel Diggins unavailable overseas. In the first twenty minutes of the match both sides set about testing each other's defense with neither side able to strike a telling blow.

In a bazaar twist first points came to The Bulls through a Charles Curry penalty goal after Vikings were awarded a penalty in midfield. Referee Andrew Strode reversed the penalty after some verbal comments were made by Vikings players. Curry stepped up kicked a long-range goal with the assistance of the strong south easterly wind. Uni took the lead 3 – 0 after fifteen minutes in what proved to be a significant factor in the student's eventual win.

Play moved from end to end with the defense of both sides proving more than capable. Each side withstood long periods of sustained attack on their line before a try came to each side in the final fifteen minutes of the half. The first came to Vikings Flanker Thomas Claridge who took full advantage of one of Halfback Tom Sawden's darting runs close to the Uni line. Claridge scored inside the Posts after the Sawden run fell a meter short. Sawden converted and Vikings were in front for the first time at 7 – 3.

Paul Tuala crossed for Uni after the students had peppered the Blueys line for a long period. Tuala strolled over the line in an innocuous fashion from close range with two defenders giving little resistance. Curry converted and the students were back in front at 10 – 8.

Vikings surged after the try and on the back of a run of penalties spent the final minutes of the half in the Uni quarter. They had several opportunities to kick penalty goals but chose to play on only to be held up over the line in the dying stages of the half.

The second term saw Uni come out with an adjusted backline with several players changing positions and form back rower Ben Cheetham joining the match after spending the first half on the bench. But it was Vikings who came out with a more vigorous attitude immediately putting the Bulls under pressure at their own line. A string of penalties came Vikings way which resulted in a general warning to Uni from Referee Strode. After Sawden missed with one penalty goal attempt they eventually breached the Bulls line. Sawden took a quick tap and found center Paul Henshaw with a

bit of space as the big center took a couple of defenders over the line and with Sawden's conversion Vikings regained the lead after sixty minutes at 14 – 10.

The tries kept coming with hardworking Prop Hemana Wickliffe barging his way over the line for Uni to take back the lead at 15 – 14, but the lead was short lived. Minutes later standout Vikings No.8 Joshua Heggie took several defenders over the line with him in front of the clubhouse for a converted try which put the Blueys back in front 21 – 15, setting up what was to be a frantic final fifteen minutes.

As was the case throughout the match the sides once again worked hard defensively to keep their lines intact as it appeared that Vikings were going to hang on and advance through to next week's final. Uni took advantage of a string of Late penalties to take play deep into Vikings zone where the outstanding in form Chimwaza came up with his strong run beating three defenders over the line to score the match winner. Curry made no mistake with the conversion from right in front for Uni to progress to play Bowral in the Final next week.

It was a tough physical match typical of finals football which could have gone either way as shown by the closeness of the finish. Vikings in general had the better of the play for most of the match but the fight in this depleted University side cannot be denied.

For Uni Takunda Chimwaza was simply outstanding working himself into the ground in both attack and defense. Not far behind him were fellow forwards Casey Rameka, Wickliffe, Michael Malaki, and the ever-present Paul Tuala. Tom Baker who started the match at Fullback but switched to halfback for the second half continued his good form, with Charles Curry and replacement Ben Cheetham having strong games.

Vikings will rue their choice not to take points through penalty goals when on offer late in the first half, but their effort was strong just the same. Joshua Wigmore led the forwards well in the absence of Captain Diggins with back rowers Jack Hobbs, Claridge, Dane Nethery and Heggie attracting plenty of admirers. Sawden was his usual effervescent self with Jason Reid probing at the Uni line all day, with centres Paul Henshaw and Liam Antrobus proving a handful for the Uni defense.

First Grade				
Minor Semi	2/9/18	Vikings Oval	University 22	Vikings 21
Tries:	Paul Tuala	Hemi Wickliffe	Takunda Chimwaza	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (2)		Pen Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)

Final

FIRST GRADE SQUAD - Final

(1) Hemi Wickliffe	(2) Wayne Ngatai	(3) Casey Rameka
(4) Will Wood		(5) Jerome Ramus
(6) Takunda Chimwaza	(8) Paul Tuala	(7) Michael Malakai
(9) Leon Mason		(10) Donny Nepia
(12) Charles Curry		(13) Brayden Grehan
(11) Lachlan Conyers	(15) Tom Baker	(14) Tyler Aitken
(16) Matt Lee	(17) Jack Nash	(18) Dan Reed
(19) Nick Bennet	(20) Sam Laurie	(21) Ryan Witherdin
(22) Justin Stanbrook		(23) Rowan Wilson

Bowral Fly Half Lachlan Huntington has steered the Blacks through to their first Grand Final since 2002. In a hard-fought defense oriented Final at Shoalhaven Rugby Park, Bowral has ended University's campaign with a narrow 25 – 18 win.

Huntington's form in both attack and defense was a standout as he directed the side around the park, but it was a wonderful display of long-range goal kicking from the No.10 that gives the Blacks another shot at Avondale at WIN Stadium next week.

With twenty-three penalties punctuating an intense game, Huntington kicked six long range penalty goals and a conversion to rack up twenty points for the win despite the Bulls registering two tries to one, including a penalty try.

Despite there only being three tries in the match it was an entertaining match with both sides throwing the ball around in search of points but outstanding defense across the park dominated the day.

Bowral had the first chance to score shortly after the start when Christian Vainerere, playing on the left wing, set sail down the line. Veteran Uni fullback Donovan Nepia had his measure though forcing him into touch with a powerful covering tackle setting the trend for the day. The Blacks settled for a Penalty goal to Huntington to take a 3 – 0 lead after three minutes.

The following ten minutes belonged to Uni who on the back of four penalties peppered the Bowral line but were unable to breach the Blacks committed goal line defense. Eventually the Bulls settled for the points with Charlie Curry kicking a penalty goal to tie the score after thirteen minutes.

From the restart Uni quickly took play back into the Blacks half with Nepia producing a run down the left out of nothing. He took on several defenders before putting winger Tyler Aitkin in space who scooted away to score wide on the left. Curry couldn't convert from the touch line but the Bulls now led 8 – 3.

The frantic pace of the game continued with the sides producing strong attacking raids but an even stronger defensive effort prevailed across the park. From an attacking Bowral line out fifteen out from the Uni line, Blacks Flanker Jack Parsons wrapped around the back of the line finding center Justin Madden on the burst with a flat pass. Madden forced his way over and with a conversion from Huntington, Bowral hit the lead 10 – 8 after twenty minutes.

With University 2014 Grand Final hero Half-Back Leon Mason and Fly Half Tom Baker leading the charge for the Bulls, the students threw everything at the Bowral defense over the final stages of the half. Mason and Nepia combined in one raid which saw Nepia just fail to score after being unable to ground a clever kick through from the half back. The defensive effort from the Blacks led by front rower Todd Pearce was outstanding.

Huntington goaled again from forty out to extend the Bowral led to 13 – 8 as the half time break closed in. Bowral lost hard working No.8 Harry Carlon to a blue card after he was knocked out and must now be in doubt for the last game of the year. His replacement Tim Lewis made an immediate impact on the game and proved to be one of the Blacks best for the remainder of the match. Charlie Curry added a penalty for the Bulls on the stroke of half-time to reduce the lead to 13 – 11.

The intensity of the match continued into the second term. Just two minutes into the Half, Uni were reduced to fourteen players when No.8 Paul Tuala was binned for stomping but it was the students who got the better of this time. Huntington kicked another penalty goal for a 16 – 11 lead but with Mason and Nepia again calling the shots the Bulls advanced to the Bowral quarter.

A penalty close to the Blacks line saw Uni elect to go to a scrum ten out. With Uni trying for a push over try another penalty came their way. This scenario was repeated three times with Referee John Maughan eventually going to the posts and awarding Uni a Penalty Try, giving the Bulls the lead at 18 - 16.

The intensity continued for the remainder of the match with neither side able to crack their opponent's defense but the Blacks slowly gained field supremacy and when the penalties came Huntington stood up slotting three more goals to establish the final score and take the Blacks to the Grand Final.

The Bowral pack worked hard throughout led up front by prop Todd Pearce with Mitchell Hardy, Carlon, Lewis and flankers Max Jenkins and Jack Parsons tireless. Lachlan Huntington starred for the Blacks in both attack and defense on top of his seven goals from nine attempts proving to be difference in the sides for this match. Also strong in the backs were Vainerere, Madden and wingman Tom Mooney.

Uni's forwards matched their opponents throughout with big games from Wayne Ngatai, Michael Malaki, Casey Rameka and Paul Tuala. Intelligent play from Mason and Nepia well supported by Tom Baker kept Uni in the contest but on the back of their horrific injury toll the students lacked the attacking penetration to get the job done.

First Grade			
Final	8/9/18	University 18	Bowral 25
Tries:	Tyler Aitken	Pen Try	
Goals:	Charlie Curry (1)	Pen Goals:	Charlie Curry (2)

Senior Awards 2018

Awards:		Donated by:	Winner:
President's Award	Jack Huxley Shield	Glenn McGuinness	Lachlan Conyers
Award for Leadership	Sam Davey Shield	Paul Webb Canio Fierravanti	Will Wood
Trainer of the Year		Paul Dunai	Will Lamb
Coaches Award		Wayne Dobson	Eoin Power Bill Hurley
Women's Coaches Award			Bess Platt
Women's Players Player Award			Teleri Jamieson
Colts Best and Fairest			Nick Bennet
Colts 'Players Player'			Opeti Taufahema
Third Grade Best and Fairest	Nick Theodore Shield	Peter Keeble	Joe Whitelock
Third Grade 'Players Player'			Joe Whitelock
Second Grade Best and Fairest		Noel Yates	Rowan Wilson
Second Grade 'Players Player'			Justin Stanbrook
First Grade Best and Fairest		Dave Rae	Takunda Chimwaza
First Grade 'Players Player'			Takunda Chimwaza
Players 'Player of the Year'	Phillip "Doris" McInerney Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Takunda Chimwaza
Rookie of the Year		Duarte Do Rego	Rhys Bourne
Player with the Most Potential	Dave Reading Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Takunda Chimwaza
Leading Try Scorer			Rowan Wilson
Leading Points Scorer		Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Rowan Wilson
Club Person of the Year		Keith Hales	Max Heggen Bob Nowotny
'Iron Man' Award Played in all rounds.			Will Wood, Lachlan Conyers

Games Played 2018

Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total
AIONO, Joseph	6	0	0	0	6	LALLY, Jonathon	9	6	1	0	16
AITKEN, Tyler	8	0	0	0	8	LAMB, Bailey	1	0	0	0	1
ANDERSON, Dexter	0	1	0	6	7	LAMB, William	2	9	13	0	24
BAKER, Tom	17	0	0	0	17	LANIGAN, Carl	1	1	0	0	2
BARBER, Max	0	0	1	0	1	LATU, Sam	9	0	0	0	9
BAYLEY, Simon	0	3	0	6	9	LAURIE, Sam	10	12	0	5	27
BEECHIN, Max	3	8	0	0	11	LAW, Alex	0	1	8	0	9
BELL, Mitchell	0	0	1	0	1	Lee, Matthew	6	4	1	0	11
BENNET, Nicholas	5	7	1	5	18	LEEF, Amos	4	0	0	0	4
BOURNE, Rhys	9	11	0	0	20	LHERBIER, Martin	0	1	8	0	9
BOWEN, Samuel	0	0	6	0	6	MALAKI, Michael	8	0	0	0	8
BRITTON, Hugh	0	1	6	5	12	MARDUS, Robert D	0	0	1	0	1
BYRNES, Patrick	0	17	2	0	19	MARTIN, Troy	0	1	8	0	9
CHEETHAM, Benjamin	14	1	2	0	17	MASON, Jamie	9	0	0	0	9
CHIMWAZA, Takunda	15	0	0	0	15	MASON, Leon	9	0	0	0	9
COLE, Hamish	0	5	4	6	15	MATEREKE, Craig	0	5	5	6	16
COLES, Jordan	4	5	0	0	9	MATTHEWS, Hugh	0	0	1	0	1
CONYERS, Lachlan	18	4	0	0	22	MAU, Isitolo	0	3	3	4	10
CROUS, Christo	0	1	4	0	5	MCCLYMONT, Ed	0	3	9	0	12
CUDAJ, Jonathon	0	10	7	0	17	MCKENZIE, Michael T	0	0	1	0	1
CURRY, Charles	12	7	0	0	19	MELVILLE, John	5	5	2	0	12
DAVIS, Patrick	0	0	4	0	4	MONK, Jake	0	0	2	0	2
DOUCH, Simon	10	0	0	0	10	MULVAD, Tobias	0	1	3	0	4
DOYLE, Douglas	0	0	1	0	1	NASH, Jack	7	0	0	0	7
DOYLE, Thomas	1	2	8	0	11	NEPIA, Donovan	15	0	0	0	15
DUBLANCHE, Paul	0	4	6	0	10	NGATAI, Wayne	14	0	0	0	14
DUFILH, Bertrand	0	2	3	0	5	NGUYEN, Michael	0	0	2	6	8
DUTAILLIS, Shaun	0	0	15	0	15	O'CONNELL, Angus	0	0	1	0	1
DUXFIELD, Christopher	3	6	2	0	11	O'CONNOR, Thomas	0	0	3	0	3
ELSON, Steven	0	7	7	0	14	O'NEILL, Jack	0	0	3	6	9
EXTON, William	0	4	7	0	11	OTTLEY, Harry W	0	1	1	0	2
FARRUGIA, Oliver T	0	0	1	0	1	PARKER, Nolan	0	5	6	0	11
FIERRAVANTI, Beppe	4	6	1	5	16	PENETITO, Marama	6	0	0	0	6
FOWKE, Lachlan J	0	0	1	0	1	PEPPERNEILL, Dylan	1	9	0	0	10
FULLER, Corey	3	1	9	0	13	PIGGOTT, Matthew	0	1	10	0	11
GARDINER, Jade	1	0	0	0	1	PORTER, Billy	0	4	10	0	14
GORMAN, Zachary	0	0	15	0	15	POWER, Eoin	3	10	0	0	13
GRANGER, Daniel	0	8	2	0	10	PYNE, Alphonso	0	8	2	0	10
GREHAN, Brayden	8	10	1	0	19	RAMEKA, Casey	19	0	0	0	19
HANCOCK, Rhys	3	14	0	0	17	RAMUS, Jerome	12	2	0	0	14
HANNAFORD, Jack	0	2	0	4	6	RANDALL, Liam	0	2	0	0	2
HARRIS, William	0	4	8	0	12	REDMOND, Keelan	0	0	2	0	2
HATTON, Jett	0	9	2	5	16	REED, Bradley	1	1	1	0	3
HOLSTER-TIPENE, Jordan	0	3	5	0	8	REED, Daniel	13	6	0	0	19
HURLEY, William	0	3	9	0	12	RICE, Jackson	3	8	0	2	13
ILLY, Nathan	0	0	1	0	1	RIXON, George	3	0	0	0	3
JOHNSON, Phillip G	0	0	1	0	1	SHAMBIRA, Michael	3	12	1	0	16
JONES, Dylan	0	1	7	0	8	SHEPHERD, Chris	0	1	3	0	4
KAPOOR, Sahil	0	0	1	0	1	SHEPHERD, David	0	1	12	0	13
KIRKBY, Alasdair	0	0	5	0	5	SMITH, Hunter	0	0	2	0	2
KOLAR, Benjamin	0	1	2	0	3	SMITH, William	0	4	5	4	13

Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	3rds	u/20	Total
SRBINOVSKI, Alexander	0	0	1	2	3	WILES, Rohan	0	1	0	5	6
STANBROOK, Justin	4	7	0	0	11	WILESMITH, Morgan	0	0	1	4	5
SYMONS, Luke	0	1	3	0	4	WILLIAMS, Sam J	0	0	1	0	1
TANKS, Lee	0	0	1	0	1	WILSON, Joel	0	5	9	0	14
TAUFAHEMA, Opeti	0	5	0	4	9	WILSON, Rowan	9	11	0	0	20
TUALA, Tai	0	0	2	0	2	WILSON, Todd	0	10	2	0	12
TUALA, Paul	12	0	0	0	12	WITHERDIN, Ryan	12	2	0	0	14
VERRALL, Lee	7	0	0	0	7	WOOD, William	20	0	0	0	20
WANN, Matthias	1	7	0	0	8	FEIRER, Dakoyta	0	0	0	1	1
WARD, Daniel	2	10	0	0	12	GALVIN, Seth	0	0	0	3	3
WAREMAKI, Armstrong	0	3	0	0	3	MUIRHEAD, Ben	0	0	0	3	3
WHITELOCK, Joseph	0	2	8	0	10	O'REILLY, Liam	0	0	0	1	1
WICKLIFFE, Hemana	15	0	0	0	15	TROBEC, Alex	0	0	0	1	1