

2022 – La Nina Strikes

2022 saw the world emerge from the calamity that was the Covid 19 pandemic. The virus was still very much present but with advances in medicine and a large uptake of vaccines people were learning to live with it and get on with their lives.

On the rugby scene everyone was keen to get back on the field and play rugby. It was not easy to get players and volunteers to be involved and most clubs were experiencing some difficulty in recruiting enough players to field two teams. Vikings were doing it tougher than most and were even looking at joining with University as their numbers were so poor. In the end they managed to field one team and got through the season.

University's situation was helped by the fact that students were back on campus and so our numbers allowed us to put two teams on the paddock each week. It was disappointing that we couldn't enter a Colts team in the Radford Cup Colts competition. We had plenty of interest from players, but we needed all our players for the two senior teams. Things worked out in the end as the younger guys more than held their own in the senior ranks.

Mother Nature didn't allow sporting activities to get underway easily as she certainly 'rained on our parade', in the early months of the year.

The La Nina phenomenon resulted in the whole state being bombarded with torrential rainfall for many months. It began during the cricket season where only a handful of games were played and continued for the first six months of this year.

Grounds were water logged for long periods and coaches were pulling their hair out just trying to find a venue for training. Clubs resorted to using hockey fields, car parks, tennis courts and gyms to allow players an opportunity to run around. It was frustrating for all concerned especially the administrators who were constantly altering the draw to try and complete the competition. Many clashes were cancelled and there were numerous draws recorded as games simply could not be played.

The weather did eventually improve, and the competition was finalised, but it certainly was no easy task.

THE BOARD.

There was movement on the board as a couple of stalwarts 'Big Hearted Bob' Wheway (President), and 'Sproggy' McGuinness (Rugby Administrator) announced that they were going to step aside from their positions. Their reasoning for doing so was to give an opportunity for some younger blood to have input into the club's direction. This was not an easy decision but was made with the good of the club in mind. Both of the guys were not going to be lost to the club and would be around to assist when needed.

The new President was Bob Nowotny, who was previously a board member, but work commitments had made it too difficult to stay involved. Bob's desire to contribute saw him step into the hot seat and his leadership skills were vital to the club. Over the last few seasons Bob worked tirelessly, with his mate Max Heggen, in making the canteen one of the major fund-raising avenues for the club which they continued to do.

The season was a difficult one for Bob with lots of negotiating done between clubs to get games played while Bob also worked tirelessly on trying to get overseas players their visas. This proved to be an expensive and fruitless exercise but not because of lack of effort on Bob's part.

The other major development came about when we were approached by Vikings to amalgamate just prior to the season starting. We really weren't interested but tried to assist them to keep their club viable. After a great deal of toing and froing on their part their conditions couldn't be met. To their credit they did play in first grade and survived the season, even winning three games.

The other new Board members were Grace Wright, Penny Fletcher and Mitch Bell, who put their hand up to take on the role of Rugby Administrator. Penny and Grace were heavily involved on the Women's side of things and had been Board members previously while Mitch was still playing but he was keen to contribute back to the club.

Due to circumstances a lot of the load fell on Grace's shoulders, and she made her way through the maze that is Uni Rugby. Her tenacity and hardworking attitude ensured that the club fulfilled all of its obligations.

Canio Fierravanti (Rugby Director), Glenda Heggen (Secretary) and Andrew Newhouse (Finance) continued in their roles and their experience was vital in ensuring that we met the many challenges the club encountered.

Unfortunately, Andrew couldn't be as involved this year, especially with the juniors, as a family member became ill, and Andrew's energies were needed in this area. The fact that his two boys couldn't play rugby this season as there were no options available to them also impacted on Andrew's availability

We were blessed that Michael Jennet was able to take up the slack and did a magnificent job. Michael is Larry Jennet's son and so had a close association with the club and he worked tirelessly to keep the Junior club functioning.

Michael was assisted by a cohort of interested parents who all contributed time, energy and expertise in the running of the Juniors.

SPONSORS.

Sponsors were hard to find this year but luckily we still could call on the generosity of a few stalwarts who continued to support the club financially.

After a break during the pandemic, we were welcomed back to **The Wisemans Park, Wollongong City Bowling Club** who became our major sponsor once again. It was a continuation of our agreement that has now lasted five years and is appreciated by all as it is definitely a place the players like to 'go and relax' after a game.

Paul Martin (**Ledacon**) continued his association with the club as a player, Sponsor and parent that has seen his company's logo on our apparel for over 20 years. This is phenomenal effort on Paul's part and is much valued. His willingness to give players employment has also been a key factor in attracting players to the club.

Tim Grey at **U Physio and Pilates** was once again on deck to look after all the players – men, women and Juniors. The great thing about Tim is that he goes out of his way to look after all the players welfare, not only on game day but also in treating their injuries, often at a very good price.

Funnily enough three of our other sponsors were also Board members. Bob Nowotny (**Tunnelling and Mining Consultants Pty Ltd.**) and Andrew Newhouse (**Total Civil Recyclers**) also put their hand in their pocket in order to maintain the club's financial sustainability.

Bob Wheway' s financial assistance helped the junior girls 7's program while his BBQ's still are very much appreciated by all as no one goes away hungry.

Hugh Wingate (**Synergy Dry Cleaning and Laundry Service**) was responsible for laundering our jumpers which the company has done for so many years no one remembers when the company came on board as a sponsor.

WOMEN

UOW's Women's team had a lot to be proud about in 2022. The group has always displayed the true spirit of rugby – playing with your mates, never giving up and improving and playing to the best of your ability. All of these traits were evident in the team this year.

The perennial problem of getting enough keen players to form a team was overcome somewhat this year by playing in the Sydney 7's competition but this also presented challenges. Travelling every couple of weeks to play a number of games that took up the whole of the day was not easy, especially in regards to coaching and getting a trained sports injury person to the game.

The driving force behind the Women's team's development is undoubtedly Grace Wright. Grace's efforts off the field were outstanding as she was always fighting the battle to get the things the girls needed to be able to compete with the other clubs and she succeeded

Grace's efforts on the field were also noteworthy as she trains hard and plays hard but always with the right attitude.

Unfortunately, Penny Fletcher had to take a step back this season due to work and study commitments, but we were blessed to have Jess Pereira come on board as team manager and she was a real asset not only to the team but the entire club.

COACHING

One of the most difficult things to organise was getting a coach that was prepared to take on the herculean task of coaching a team that had to travel to Sydney to play on Sundays. No easy task.

Training was difficult for the whole club due to the constant rainfall, but the girls joined with the men and then had some sessions with different coaches, helping out as best they could.

Sam Hackett did come on board in the first round, but the key addition came about due to a serious injury. 'Figa' Sa broke his arm in the first game of the season and after recovering he took on the role as Women's coach and he did it a great job.

Training sessions were well organised, and the girls enjoyed leaning new skills and developed as individuals and as a team.

GAME DAY

Jess Pereira's organisational ability came to the fore on Game Day as she worked tirelessly to get things done that needed to be done. She formed a great team with Grace and things were always under control.

Aine Bailey, Neesha Barrett and Lille Clark also helped with coaching, managing and running water when they were injured.

Jack Webb (physio) was a welcome addition to the team as he ensured the girls' injuries were treated promptly and effectively.

A real plus this season was that the girls got to play some games with the rest of the club and as such enjoyed some enthusiastic support which they certainly appreciated.

THE COMPETITIONS

It was decided that the girls would enter a team in the Sydney7's 3rd Division again this season. The level of competition was suitable for the majority of the players and the numbers were also workable.

It was difficult to get a lot of support to the games as they were played all over the Sydney area and encompassed playing on Sundays and for a large section of the day. The comp was not played on consecutive weekends with often a number of weeks between games. The girls were always competitive.

It was also great to have the opportunity to be a part of the re-development of a women's rugby competition in the Illawarra. We even played our first home game since 2019!

The aim of the 10 a side comp was to showcase the Women's games at IDRU fixtures. There were three teams – University, Avondale and Campbelltown so most weeks the girls played two games. It was also pleasing to see Shoalhaven field a side at their home ground.

The highlight was when the teams combined for a 15 a side game on WIN Stadium on Grand Final Day. We played with Avondale and even though we were beaten it was a thrill to play in a great stadium.

PLAYERS

Nineteen players represented the Mallee Bulls this year and what an asset to the club they were socially and on the field.

The squad was a mix of experienced players such as Grace Wright, Chantelle and Malama Leatigaga and Neesha Barrett mixed with youngsters such as Liana Taufaa.

Chelsea Pascoe, Emma Lonsdale, Lara Hawker, Neesha Barrett, Rachel Gandy, Skye Robins and Jenna Kleeberg all made their debut for the club in 2022.

Rachel Gandy was exceptional blitzing opposition teams with speed and agility and scoring tries at will.

All of the girls developed greater confidence with more experience and the supportive coaching of 'Figa' with Gabrielle Casey earning the most improved award.

The plan is to have all the girls back on deck next year and hopefully see the local competition continue to grow.

Chantelle Leatigaga,
Emma Lonsdale,
Jenna Kleeberg,
Lille Clark,
Sian Wright,

Charlotte McCarthy,
Gabrielle Casey,
Kaitlen Wellington,
Malama Leatigaga,
Skye Robins,

Chelsea Pascoe,
Grace Blackmore,
Lara Hawker,
Malama Leatigaga,
Jess Pereira

Emily Adam,
Grace Wright (c),
Liana Taufaa,
Neesha Barrett,

Women 2022



Back Row: Taofiga Sa (Coach) Emma Lonsdale Gabrielle Casey Lillie Clark Kaitlen Wellington
Jess Pereira (Manager)

Front Row: Rachel Gandy Neesha Barrett Charlotte McCarthy Grace Wright (c), Chelsea Pascoe
Skye Robins, Sian Wright

SYDNEY 7'S

Rd 1– 8/5/22		North Curl Curl			
		University	14	Burra Rays	19
		University	26	Macquarie Uni	17
		University	33	Sea Lice	7
	3rd place Playoff	University	26	UTS Gordon	14
Scorers:	Chelsea Pascoe Neesha Barrett	Emily Adam Rachel Gandy	Gabrielle Casey	Lara Hawker	

Chelsea Pascoe, Emma Lonsdale, Lara Hawker, Neesha Barrett, Rachel Gandy and Skye Robins debuted for the club in our first hit out playing at North Curl Curl. Under the expert coaching of Sam Hackett, we made a promising start to the year, winning 2 out of 3 games and then proceeding to dominate over Gordon to secure 3rd place.

Rd 2– 28/5/22		Killara			
		University	14	Eastwood	33
		University	0	Macquarie Uni	24
		University	17	Lindfield	22
Scorers:	Rachel Gandy				

The opposition was a bit harder this week and we failed to win a game, but it was fantastic to have 'Figa' Sa on board as coach and things were looking positive. Rachel Gandy certainly impressed a few good judges with her ability to score tries.

Rd 3–19/6/22		Sylvania Waters	
		University	26
			Macquarie Uni 19
		University	36
			Sea Lice 0
		University	24
			Eastwood 10
Scorers:	Chelsea Pascoe Rachel Gandy	Grace Wright	Kaitlen Wellington Lille Clark

Our coaching sessions with Figa paid immediate dividends as we won all 3 games but missed out on the final by 3 points. It was also pleasing that we had a few supporters from the club on hand to witness our improvement.

We were also privileged to have first grade coach Simon Hackett on duty as our referee.

Round 4 - washed out due to rain

Round 5 - washed out due to rain

Rd 6– 6/8/22		Kellyville	
		University	0
			Renegades 49
		University	36
			Sea lice 5
		University	22
			Norths 0
Scorers:	Rachel Gandy	Charlotte McCarthy	Malama Leatigaga

ILLAWARRA 10'S

Rd 1– 16/7/22		Saunders Oval	
		University	Campbelltown
Scorers:	Chantelle Leatigaga	Chelsea Pascoe	Rachel Gandy
Support Crew:	Toafiga Sa (coach)	Neesha Barrett (coach)	Jess Pereira (manager)

Our first game in the Illawarra for a long time saw us take on Campbelltown at Saunders Oval.

It needs to be said that the organisation left a little to be desired as Campbelltown rocked up late and the result was debated for a while as we felt the game was a forfeit. However, the main thing to come out of the day was that Women's rugby was back in the Illawarra.

Special mention to the evergreen Lusi Tanevesi for stepping up and playing after we were short on numbers.

Rd 2– 30/7/22		University Oval	
		University	Avondale
University Loss			
Scorers:	Grace Wright		

This was our first home game for a couple of seasons (2019) and it was great to have the whole club there to support us. The result wasn't what we were looking for, but the game was very close.

We then spent the afternoon enjoying each other's company as well as supporting the Men's teams and helping with the game Day organisation.

Rd 3– 13/8/22	Kiama Showground	
	University	Avondale
University win		
	University	Campbelltown
University loss		
Scorers:	Rachel Gandy	Gabrielle Casey

Rd 4– 20/8/22	Shoalhaven Rugby Park	
	University	Avondale
University draw		
	University	Shoalhaven
University win		
Scorers:	Liana Taufaa	Chelsea Pascoe

In a sign for the future Liana Taufaa, a junior player, made her debut in the seniors comp.

Rd 5– 27/8/22	Campbelltown Showground	
	University	Avondale
University win		
	University	Campbelltown
University win		

The club were all together as we took on Campbelltown at their home ground. There was a festive mood as we had journeyed up on a bus with the rest of the club and it was going to be a great trip home especially as we won both of the games.

Debut for the club-Jenna Kleeberg

Rd 6– 3/9/22	Ocean Park	
	University	Avondale
University win		
	University	Campbelltown
University loss		

We had an opportunity to showcase our skills in front of a big crowd as we played before the Men's semi-final at Ocean Park. A win and a loss were the results, but we certainly earned the respect of the crowd.

Rd 7– 13/8/22	WIN Stadium	
	Avondale/University	Campbelltown
University loss		

The culmination of the season came when the three teams had the opportunity to play a 15 a side game on Grand Final day at WIN Stadium.

Uni and Avondale combined to challenge Campbelltown and it was a great opportunity for all concerned to play a full game on a great surface. Rugby was the winner on the day, and it was a significant step forward for Women's Rugby in Illawarra.

Women's Awards 2022

Awards:	Winner:
Trainer of the Year	Rachel Gandy
Coaches Award	Jess Pereira
Most Improved	Gabrielle Casey
Leading Try Scorer	Rachel Gandy
Leading Point Scorer	Rachel Gandy
'Players Player'	Grace Wright
Best and Fairest	Rachel Gandy
Rookie of the Year	Chelsea Pascoe
Most Outstanding Prospect	Rachel Gandy
Iron Woman Award	Skye Robins

JUNIORS

It was a tough year for all sport in the Illawarra due to horrendous rainfall that occurred throughout the early months of the year and then returned for another bout in July. Organising training was a nightmare as water logged grounds meant that outdoor training was impossible for long periods.

One shining light was the fact that Shaun McCreedy, through his company The Coaches Assistant, again ran training sessions for the older players on a weekly basis at his indoor facilities, from which the kids all gained a great deal of development.

The uncertainty created by these circumstances placed a huge amount of pressure as regards attracting new players and even getting old players to commit to the new season.

What made this task even harder was the fact that Andrew Newhouse was unable to commit the time and effort that he had put into the role as Chairperson for the juniors due to family health issues. The fact that we were unable to field teams in the age groups where his two sons would have been playing meant that Andrew's Sundays now revolved in getting the boys to their other sporting endeavours.

Into the breach stepped Michael Jennett and he did a tremulous job as Chairperson. He liaised with the other clubs' presidents to reschedule games and clubs were even willing to have extra games played at their grounds to help out the other clubs.

The clubs also came together to get viable teams up and running. Tech Waratahs fielded a u/16's team and so a number of our players joined them and ended up with a competitive team. It was the similar situation in the u/14's where a number of Tech players joined our ranks and enjoyed a successful season.

Michael was assisted by a cohort of committed parents in the running of the Juniors.

Matt and Amy Duggan, Duncan Alin, Lussi Tanevesi, Brad Milner, Luke Arrandale and Piki McCreedy plus the other coaches and managers all contributed a great deal of time and energy to off field matters in order to get kids onto the field.

The other person who put his body on the line was Larry Jennet. Larry came along to watch grandson Nate play in the u/14's and then became the referee for quite a few games. It must be said that Larry wasn't moving as well on some Monday mornings, but his efforts were appreciated

It was also a bonus to have Tim Gray available to look after the physio wellbeing of the players.

In the end about 55 players registered for the club and we fielded sides in the u/7's, u/8's, u/11's and u14's age groups.

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS:

NSW Country u/14's

Cruz McGuinness

ILLAWARRA

u/16's

Ezekiel Kennedy

Bethany Whitnall

u/15's

Dusty Moffit

U/14's

CJ Meafou, Cruz McGuinness, Decklyn Chambers, Daniel Duggan, Keenan Seales, Te Awemapara Chase.

Sarah Heaton

U/13's

Max Kean, Cale Parr Keanu Cook

U/12's

Setarikis Raiwalui

u/11's

Hugh Martin

ILLAWARRA ACADEMY OF SPORT

Sarah Heaton, Bethany Whitnall, Bailey Blackwell, Cruz McGuinness, Decklyn Chambers, Daniel Duggan, Keenan Seales.

ILLAWARRA 7's

U/15's

Decklyn Chambers

U/13's

Cale Parr, Fred Swenke, Apenisa Kolutagane, Keanu Cook, Kahuitara Te Ra Chase

TEAMS

Under 7's



Coach: Duncan ALIN	Assistant Coach: Craig WITT
Players: Judah BOOTH	Ethan Witt
Matthew GLOVER	Te'One MCCREEDY
Sebastian ALIN	Hunter MARKWICK
	Quin MILNER

Under 8's



Coach: Brad MILNER

Assistant Coach: Luke ARRANDALE

Players: Marsali TUALA

Matarina McCREEDY

Adam CROUS

Levi ARRANDALE

Noah ALIN

Finn Duggan

Elias TANEVESI

Will GRAY

Jarrold NEWHOUSE

Raymond GILMOUR

Hayley MILNER

The under 7's and Under 8's played in games where no points were recorded with the emphasis being on fun, developing positive attitudes and friendships. The two teams played eight weeks culminating in a Gala Day.

Under 11's

The u/11's struggled to get enough players with a few players gaining dispensation to play down an age group due to weight considerations and another couple playing up as there was no u/10 team at Uni.

Coach Rainford did a wonderful job in getting the boys to gel into a competitive outfit. It was a tough year as the other four clubs had larger squads with bigger and more experienced players, but our boys never gave up. The Mallee Bulls were competitive against Bowral, Kiama and Vikings, but Camden were a very well drilled team who easily won the competition.

Although the team failed to win a game their development over the season and their attitude was commendable.

Under 11's



Coach: Adam Rainford
Managers: Paul Ormerod
 Bryce Coleman

<i>Players</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Tries</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Tries</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>u/11's</i>									
ALLIN, Ethan	2	0	0	0	COLEMAN, Angus	4	0	0	0
DUFFY, Fred	3	0	0	0	GRAY, Lachlan	3	0	1	2
JOHNSTON, Hunter	4	4	0	20	MARTIN, Hugh	4	1	0	5
McCREEDY, TeAhurei	2	0	1	2	NEWHOUSE, Jacob	2	0	0	0
NAPPER, Julien	4	0	0	0	ORMEROD, Luke	4	1	0	5
RAINFORD, Theodore	4	1	0	5	SMITH, Max	3	0	0	0
TUALA, Rocky	3	0	2	4	NAPPER, Julien	4	0	0	0

RESULTS

Rd 4: Bowral

Rd 4– 22/5/22	Eridge Park
U/11's:	University 0 Bowral 22

Rd 6: Kiama

Rd 6– 5/6/22	Saunders Oval	
U/11's:	University 19	Kiama 47
Tries:	Hunter Johnson (2)	Luke Ormerod
Goals:	Rocky Tuala (2)	Penalty Goals:

Rd 7: Camden

Rd 4– 19/6/22	Camden Rugby Park	
U/11's:	University 7	Camden 43
Tries:	Hugh Martin	
Goals:	Lachlan Gray	Penalty Goals:

Rd 8: Camden

Rd 8– 26/6/22	University Oval	
U/11's:	University 19	Camden 52

Rd 11: Bowral

Rd 11– 31/7/22	University Oval	
U/11's:	University 17	Bowral 27
Tries:	Hunter Johnston (2)	Theodore Rainford
Goals:	TeAhurei McCreedy (1)	Penalty Goals:

Rd 12: Vikings

Rd 12– 7/8/22	Vikings Oval	
U/11's:	University 26	Vikings 37

Rd 13: Camden

Rd 13– 14/8/22	University Oval	
U/11's:	University 0	Camden 50

U/11 Points Table 2022

<i>Pos</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Draw</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>-/+</i>	<i>Bonus</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Camden	9	7	2	0	269	7	32	39
2	Vikings	8	4	2	2	21	5	20	25
3	Kiama	8	3	2	3	4	5	16	21
4	Bowral	7	2	1	4	-84	2	10	12
5	University	8	0	1	7	-210	0	2	2

Under 14's

Coach: Tim Guest
Ass Coach: Matt Duggan
Ass Coach: James Seales
Manager: Michael Jennett

Under 14's



The u/14 's ended up with a 24-player squad including two u/15 girls who were given dispensation to play in the younger age group. The reason for high numbers was the fact that Tech Waratahs couldn't field a side so a number of players made the trek from across the motorway to uni.

The coaching staff lead by Tim Guest managed to mould the individuals from the two clubs into a very competitive team by the end of the season.

There were only five teams in the competition with Kiama fielding two teams with Campbelltown, Uni and Camden rounding out the comp.

Needless to say, it was a struggle to get games played and not every team managed to play the same number of games.

The semis saw Uni take on Kiama Black where the Mallee Bulls were impressive in winning 20-10.

This setup a contest with Camden who were a dominate side. Unfortunately, Uni went into the game with a depleted side due to injuries and were beaten but far from disgraced.

It was disappointing to bow out, but the team earned a lot of respect through their endeavours and were a credit to both clubs with their attitude and ability.

RESULTS

Rd 4: Kiama White

Rd 4 – 22/5/22	Saunders Oval			
u/14's:	University	29	Kiama White	5
Tries:	Cruz McGuinness (3)	Bailey Blackwell (1)	Daniel Duggan (1)	
Goals:	Daniel Duggan (2)	Penalty Goals:		

Rd 6: Kiama Black

Rd 6 – 5/6/22	Saunders Oval			
u/14's:	University	5	Kiama Black	24
Tries:	Te Awemapaara Chase			

Rd 7: Kiama Black

Rd 7 – 19/6/22	Kiama Showground			
u/14's:	University	27	Kiama Black	29
Tries:	Cruz McGuinness (2)	Bailey Blackwell	Daniel Duggan	Api Kolitagane,
Goals:	Daniel Duggan (1)	Penalty Goals:		

Rd 8: Camden

Rd 8 – 26/6/22	University Oval			
u/14's:	University	19	Camden	40
Tries:	Hayden Flanagan	Fred Schenke	Creighton Meafou	
Goals:	Creighton Meafou (1)	Daniel Duggan (1)		

Rd 11: Campbelltown

Rd 11 – 31/7/22	University Oval			
u/14's:	University	22	Campbelltown	19
Tries:	Hayden Flanagan	Creighton Meafou	Hayden Flanagan	
Goals:	Daniel Duggan (1)	Creighton Meafou (1)	Pen: Daniel Duggan (1)	

Rd 12: Camden

Rd 12 – 7/8/22	Camden Rugby Park			
u/14's:	University	7	Camden	36
Tries:	Cruz McGuinness			
Goals:	Daniel Duggan	Penalty Goals:		

Rd 13: Kiama White

Rd – 14/8/22	University Oval			
u/14's:	University	27	Kiama White	0
Tries:	Deklyn Chambers (2)	Api Kolitagane	Te Awemapaara Chase	Angus Lawson
Goals:	Dan Duggan	Penalty Goals:		

Rd 14 -Minor Semi-Final – Kiama Black

Minor Semi– 21/8/22	Kiama Showground		
u/14's:	University	20	Kiama Black 10

Rd 15 -Final – Camden

Rd – 28/8/22	Gerry Cappetta Oval		
u/14's:	University	17	Camden 38
Tries:	Deklyn Chambers (2) Te Awemapaara Chase		
Goals:	Creighton Meafou (1)	Penalty Goals:	

<i>Players</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Tries</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Tries</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>u/14's</i>									
ACOSTA, Angel	3	0	0	0	BURNELL, Lachlan	0	0	0	0
BLACKWELL, Bailey	5	2	0	10	CHAMBERS, Deklyn	5	8	0	40
CHASE, Te Awemapaara	4	4	0	20	CHASE, Kahuitara-Te Ra	5	0	0	0
COOK, Keanu	4	0	0	0	DUGGAN, Daniel	5	2	9 3PG	37
FLANAGAN, Hayden	4	3	0	15	HEATON, Sarah	4	0	0	0
JENNETT, Nate	5	0	0	0	KEAN, Max	3	0	0	0
KELLY, Brodie	5	0	0	0	KOLITAGANE, Apenisa	5	2	0	105
LAWSON, Angus	3	1	0	5	MAHE, Pania	2	0	0	0
MCDONALD, Bryson	0	0	0	0	MCGUINNESS, Cruz	3	7	0	35
MEAFU, Creighton	4	3	1	25	PARR, Cale	4	0	0	0
POIDEVIN, Kip	3	0	0	0	RAINFORD, Oliver	4	0	0	0
RAIWALUI, Setariki	4	1	0	5	SCHWENKE, Frederick	5	0	0	0
SEALES, Keenan	5	0	0	0	WHITNALL, Bethany	3	0	0	0

U/14 Points Table 2022

<i>Pos</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Draw</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>-/+</i>	<i>Bonus</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Camden	8	5	0	3	99	6	20	26
2	Campbelltown	6	4	0	2	85	4	16	20
3	Kiama Black	5	4	0	1	44	3	16	19
4	University	7	3	0	4	-17	3	12	15
5	Kiama White	6	0	0	6	-211	0	0	0

Junior Awards 2022

Awards:	Winner:
U/11's	
Coaches Award	Rocky Tuala
Players Player	Hugh Martin
u/14's	
Coaches Award	Oliver Rainford
Players Player	Deklyn Chambers

HORNETS GIRLS RUGBY PROGRAM

Coaching Staff

Coaching Director:

Shaun McCreedy (NSW Waratahs Super W Forwards & Defence Coach, NSW Country Snr Men's Coach, NSW Rugby Development Officer)

Head Coach:

Donovan Nepia (NSW Country Women's Attack Coach, NSW Country U18s Girls Attacks Coach, Illawarra U15s Girls 7s Coach, World 7s Invitational Coach)

Assistant Coaches:

Claudia Nielsen – (Level 2 Coach, Australia A Women's 7s Team, NSW 7s Snr Women's Team)

Craig O'Brien – (Level 1 Coach, Illawarra U15s 7s Girls Coach)

Pauro Collier – (Level 1 Coach)

Lachie Morse – (Level 1 Coach)

Hornets Ambassador:

Dom Du Toit (Australia Women's 7s team – Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, Rugby 7s World Cup Champion)

Higher 7s Rep Honours:

Tahlia O'Brien – Australian U16 Merit Team, Australia U15s NSW U15s Squad, World 7s Invitational Team 22,

Bronte Wilson - World 7s Invitational Team 22, Australian Schools, NSW U17s, NSW Schools, NSW CCC

Damita Beetham – World 7s Invitational Team 22

Illawarra 7s Rep Players

U17s

Bronte Wilson, Damita Beetham, Gabriella Di Noro

U15s

Tahlia O'Brien, Holly Sheldrick, Maddi Lewis, Tori Shipton, Hine Ponga, Ainslie White, Alisha Mustapic, Stella Darby

U13s

Remi Basham, Niamh Hicks, Aaliyah McGuinness

In our first full season of Hornets 7s program we have steadily increased our playing base to 37 players currently registered, 33 actively playing in our squads and 26 players having made representative teams this season.

We have a lot of girls who are playing rugby for the first time and are absolutely loving the program and the opportunity 7s rugby provides.

We have also had a number of our girls achieve rep honours locally representing Illawarra and a couple of our players reaching higher honours. We want to say congratulations and well done to those players.

Due to the weather, we were lucky enough to do a fair bit of our training and programming with our S&C provider 'The Coaches Assistant' where we were able to work on functional strength and conditioning as well as micro skills applicable to rugby in doors.

When the weather allowed, we were able to get outside on the grass to hone the girls individual skillset, tactical and positional awareness and skills.

This season saw our U15 and U17s team enter in the newly formed Illawarra Girls Club 7s championship which both teams were the overall winners. The season comprised of 12 weeks of tournament style play.

The team is now about to embark on the springs 7s circuit based in Sydney which will be run over 4 weeks.

With summer around the corner, 7s tournaments around the State are about to resume (after a couple of seasons off due to covid) which will see our girls compete against the best club teams the state has to offer.

We entered and played in our first tournament in Canberra in September which saw our U17s team crowned champions and the U15s team were runners up.

Our U17s team has also competed and won 2 Sizzling Sydney 7s gala days, while our U15s has been runners up in the U15s Sizzling Sydney 7s days.

The Hornets program has also been fortunate to have Dom Du Toit to come on board as our Player Ambassador. This has seen Dom do a Q&A with our playing group and attend and run a training session with the playing group.

Claudia Nielsen has also joined our coaching group she also is pursuing a 7s career which sees her representing NSW and in the wider Australian women's 7s squad.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for your support over the last 12 months of the formation of our program and would welcome your support again and any new sponsors who would be able to be a part of the Hornets program.

Shaun McCreedy (Coaching Director)

MEN

MATCH DAY

The shortened nature of the competition caused by the atrocious weather meant that we only played four home games. The first home game, which was against Camden, was played in conditions rarely seen at University Oval. The upshot from the game was that training was severely impacted and the oval was in very poor condition for the rest of the season. We even had to move our home game to the opposition's ground on two occasions.

The facilities on Oval 1 were also the worst they have been in over twenty years. The roof on the grandstand was destroyed in a wind storm, the scoreboard was often unusable and Pulse's speaker system had parts missing and couldn't be used.

One of the frustrating factors was that we could never be sure that games would go ahead because even the smallest amount of rainfall could rule out the ground. This made planning for the canteen a nightmare. Canteen managers Bob Nowotny and Max Heggen were frustrated as the crowd numbers were also down on previous seasons, but their dedication couldn't be faulted. The fact that Max had a fall and injured both his arms somewhat limited his contributions on Game Day.

When you take all of this in consideration it was a tough task for all the volunteers on Match Days. The games against Camden and Shoalhaven were played in heavy rain and cold conditions which just meant that even getting the paper work completed was a nightmare.

Glenda Heggen took on the role of Match Day Controller (MDC) and she was on a steep learning curve often made harder by the weather conditions. Not all the other clubs even had an MDC, so it was often Glenda running the desk by herself. Despite the difficulties Glenda did her job very professionally.

Iain Lamb was again the registrar and his expertise in getting guys registered was a bonus. He also stepped up when Glenda was away.

The First-Grade manager was John Heath who was back on deck after a break. His vast experience and expertise certainly assisted in getting all the many things required to run a game day completed. Contacting coaches and players to check availability, organising replacements, collecting players votes, entering data on Rugby Xplorer, collecting jumpers etc were all things that needed to get done. John did these with 'the patience of Job' and even kept the coaches a little less stressed than what might have been the case.

Second grade relied on the players to run the ship with the help of the Simon Hackett as Pat Perillo was often playing. 'Sproggy' also contributed when he was available.

Our players physical welfare was looked after by Tim Gray from UPhysio, and he was a key to getting our best team on the field as often as possible. Tim is also one of the major sponsors of the club and helps out at Junior games as his sons play for the Mallee Bulls as well.

John Pemberton did his best to get the scoreboard operational, but it was a battle. Late in the season 'Mags' Pemberton organised a different computer and things did get up and running.

Grace Wright was dynamic as she took on a lot of responsibilities in her role as Rugby Administrator. She was tireless in ensuring the Women's team continued to function as well as playing a leading role as a player. Not satisfied with this Grace also came to the men's games often being the Assistant Ref and also helping out in other areas.

Jess Pereira was also willing to get involved in assisting on home games as well as other members of our Women's team also lent their support.

Others to assist on game Day were Canio Fierravanti who often was the Assistant ref while Nick Halliday and other players contributed to the organisation when they were injured.

COACHES

This year was one of the hardest seasons to be a coach in any Winter sport in the Illawarra due to the wet weather.

Scott Hatch was once again the Head Coach, and he did a remarkable job under trying circumstances. Hatchy spent countless hours organising training sessions with the hardest task being somewhere to actually train.

A new member of the coaching panel was Simon Hackett who is experienced Level 2 ARU coach with a rich background as a professional player in the UK.

Simon had an association with the club through his son Sam who had joined the club in 2021. Simon took on the role as forwards coach, which he also did in the Illawarriors setup and also stepped in when Hatchy was unavailable because of work.

Seconds were looked after by Pat Perillo who took on the captain/coach role. Pat lacked experience as a coach, but the players respected his approach and gelled into a competitive team during the season.

We also attempted to form a Colts team but lacked the numbers across the club. Justin 'Froggy' Stanbrook was keen to take on the job of coaching the side. When the decision was made not to proceed with the colts 'Froggy' was involved in coaching drills but had to step down as work and family commitments made it too hard to continue.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:

NSW Country Representatives:

Players

Seniors:

Paul Tuala

U/20's:

James Hicks, Jaxon Clarke

Illawarra Representatives:

Seniors:

Coaching Staff:

Simon Hackett – Assistant Coach

Players:

Seniors

Tom Baker, Paul Tuala, Wayne Ngatai (Withdrew due to injury), Sam Hackett

Colts

Ben Keldie, Hugh Winning, James Hicks, Jaxon Clarke

PERSONAL MILESTONES

100 First Grade Games - Paul Tuala, Tom Baker

100 Games – Paul Tuala, Ben Cheetham

50 Games – Jonathon Lally

7 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS

7 Years' Service

Justin Stanbrook

2014-19, 2022 (Coach)

64 Games – 25 First Grade, 32 Second Grade, 7 Third Grade

79 Points – 10 Tries, 13 Conversions, 1 Penalty Goal

Luke Symons

2013-18, 2022

59 Games - 4 First Grade, 32 Second Grade, 23 Third Grade

40 Points – 8 Tries

Will Lamb

70 Games - 6 First Grade, 31 Second Grade, 27 Third Grade, 6 Colts

65 Points – 13 Tries

Dan Ward

2015-19, 2021-22

94 Games - 62 First Grade, 28 Second Grade, 4 Colts

192 points – 38 Tries, 1 Conversion

LIFE MEMBERS

Paul Tuala



Statistics

2005 – 06, 2012-22

106 games, 101 first grade games

330 points – 60 tries

Rep honours

Illawarra, Country, Country Eagles.

Illawarra Player of the Year

Club Awards

Sam Davey Award for Sportsmanship & Leadership – 2016 & 2017

First Grade Players Player 2015

Players Player 2015

Coaches Award 2014

Paul Tuala arrived in Wollongong in 2005 as a 18yo and he made an immediate impact on the local rugby scene. His ability as a player was instrumental in the Mallee Bulls going from the bottom of the pile in 2004 to the Grand Final. The fairy tale was not to be, and the team missed out to a good Tech Waratahs outfit.

Better things were to follow in 2006 as the journey to the top saw the Mallee Bulls crowned as Champions with Paul dominating and scoring the winning try.

Paul then went on a rugby journey playing in Sydney and Scotland before finding his way back to Wollongong in 2012.

Paul has been associated with the club continuously since his return. He has played a pivotal part in seeing the club be a consistent contender for the Premiership. Two of the highlights were premierships in 2014 and 2016.

One of Paul's major goals was to record a 100 games for the Mallee Bulls. He achieved this goal in 2022. The reason that it has taken this long is the fact that Paul was often injured and missed big parts of seasons with serious injuries.

A major health scare involved Paul having to have major heart surgery in 2019. This meant that he was not able to play games for 2019/20. Not a person to give up easily Paul was so determined to achieve his 100 games goal that he returned to the field and made his 100th game appearance in the first game of the 2022 season. After another break for an injury, he recorded his 100th first grade game a couple of weeks later.

In the recovery period Paul took on a coaching and mentoring role with the club and was a consistent presence at training. He attended games and ran water and even acted a touch judge on occasions.

Paul has also taken on a coaching role with the Juniors as he helps develop the future Mallee Bulls.

Paul's leadership and mentoring have played a significant role in attracting players to the club and maintaining the high levels that the club has reached.

Dean Rossit



Statistics

1997-2002, 2005-09, 2011-15

100+ games – no records for 1997-99

80 pts – 16 tries

Rep Honours

Illawarra Colts, Illawarra, Country

Dean Rossit arrived at University in 1997 and with other former Edmund Rice College players in Mark Placek and Andrew Hales became a key component in the premiership winning Colts team.

Dean was a fierce competitor and as a rugged loose forward struck fear into the hearts of many opposition players. Dean was keen to develop as a player and gained experience in the lower grades before graduation into first Grade.

Dean also took on the hooking role and his commitment to improving his skills saw him develop into a complete player.

Dean took time away from rugby but came back in 2005 and helped the Mallee Bulls reach the Grand Final in 2005 and then being Premiers in 2006. Dean was a wholehearted player who suffered some significant injuries which resulted in him missing parts of seasons, but he always came back.

Later in his career Dean stepped down the grades and played a few games when needed, mainly in the holiday periods.

Dean's daughter also enjoyed playing Junior rugby for the Mallee Bulls and Dean was the team coach for two seasons in 2018 and 19.

Lee Tanks



Statistics

2006-19

157 games

49 pts – 9 tries, 2 goals

Coaching

2011-12 – 3rd Grade

2013 – 1st grade assistant Coach

2014-16 – Colts Coach

2017 – 3rd Grade

Lee has contributed to the club as a player and a coach over 14 seasons.

His playing career stretches to over a 150 games, most of them in Thirds with a smattering of appearances in Seconds. Lee was a dashing outside back who was always willing to put in a wholehearted performance for his team mates.

Lee answered the call to take on coaching the Third-grade side when Greg Madigan stood down in 2010 after he had guided the team to two Grand Final appearances. Greg was hard act to follow but Lee had the ability to get players to want to play for him.

Lee also gained valuable experience when he was the assistant first grade coach under Shaun McCreedy.

Lee's real strength was shown when he took on the Colts teams with many young and inexperienced team members. His sides won premierships in 2014 and 2015 with many players going on to play higher grades over the years.

Lee coached Colts again in 2016 but after the season he decided needed a break. However, things changed in the new season when we found ourselves without a third-grade coach, so Lee and buddy Shaun Dutailis took on the job. This demonstrates what a great club man Lee is as he really only wanted to have a game with his mates, but both the boys did a commendable job under difficult circumstances.

Lee has taken a break as he is raising a young family and also developing a business but is always keen to come to games when he can and is also assisting in getting old boys back to be involved in the club.

THE COMPETITION

This year's competition featured 10 clubs – Shoalhaven, Tech Waratahs, Avondale, Shamrocks, Campbelltown, University, Kiama, Bowral, Camden and Vikings.

All of the clubs contested the first-grade premiership, but Vikings was not able to field a Second-grade team which meant that there was a bye in a nine-team format.

It would be fair to say that most clubs were struggling for numbers at different times of the season. The clubs with the most depth were Shoalhaven, Tech Waratahs and Campbelltown. These clubs were all on an upward trajectory and they were, with Avondale and Shamrocks, a step above the other five clubs.

La Nina was to have a significant impact on the competition as the Illawarra recorded a huge amount of rain over the first six months of the year. The draw needed to be rescheduled a number of times and the clubs needed to be cooperative and innovative in getting games played.

The fact that the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) World Road Championships were to be held in Wollongong in September also impacted when the season needed to be completed.

The IDRU decided that the first three rounds of the competition would be rescheduled to the wet weather weekends and the first game played would be round 4 on the 23rd of April. However, La Nina was still around and as a result of continued heavy rainfall Rounds 4 and 5 were cancelled.

In fact, the first games to be contested were in Round 6 on the 7th of May.

Over the next few weeks, the rainfall had a significant effect on all sporting grounds and a number of games had to be cancelled. Shamrocks', Shoalhaven's and Tech Waratah's grounds were able to handle the wet weather better than most and those clubs managed to get games played when others were cancelled.

Fortunately, a number of games were able to be played on Hannaford Oval, Wollondilly which was in good condition for most of the season as it was hardly used by local sporting clubs.

These cancellations were recorded as draws and so when you look at the points table there was a significant number of draws for all clubs.

The top four team contested the semi-final series with team 1 (Shoalhaven) taking on team 4 (Shamrocks) and Team (2) (Avondale) playing Team 3 (Tech Waratahs) with the winning teams to contest the grand Final.

Shoalhaven were the form team for the last two years and were crowned champions after defeating Avondale quite easily in the Grand Final at WIN Stadium. This was a fitting reward for a lot of hard work by the club over a two-year period.

Club Championship 2022

Club	Firsts	Seconds	Total
Shoalhaven	365	165	530
Tech Waratahs	295	162	457
Avondale	305	117	422
Shamrocks	275	123	398
Campbelltown	185	144	329
University	205	102	307
Kiama	165	75	240
Bowral	150	64	214
Camden	130	65	195
Vikings	120	0	120

FIRST GRADE

THE SQUAD

The coaches used 50 players in first grade in 2022 with 30 of these playing in 5 or more games. There was a mix of old and new with 16 players making their first-grade debut either as a run-on player or as a replacement.

The forwards were able to call on the experience of Country reps Paul Tuala and Wayne Ngatai but unfortunately both of these guys missed a significant number of games due to injury.

Their loss was negated somewhat by the return of Ben Cheetham who came back to Wollongong and became 'Mr Fixit' as he moved between Number 8 and centre as required. Ben also trotted out for his 100th game for the Mallee Bulls during the season.

It was also great to see Damian Mei back on deck towards the end of the season as he came down for a run in Second Grade and ended up playing a number of first grade games.

Wayne's absence meant that Seb Di Noro took on the hooking duties, but he too suffered some injury concerns. We were fortunate that after Uni's first session Sam Laurie became available and he did a commendable job in the hooking role.

Another rookie in Sam Milrose- Ross was a handy replacement in first grade and made his first grade starting debut in the last game against Campbelltown

Our front row stocks were a bit light on especially after Casey Rameka was lost for the season after injuring himself against Kiama. This even saw us having to go non contested scrums in the Shoalhaven game. Casey's partner in crime, Tolson Kennerley, was a constant in the front row although work commitments did see him miss an occasional game. The other prop was Nick Halliday who started the season late after recovering from a shoulder problem. Nick never stopped trying and is beginning to learn the dark art of being a front rower.

It was pleasing to witness the development of youthful Jack Scott who was willing to take on the job upfront and he was rewarded with a debut as a run-on player in the match against Camden. Another youngster who played in the tight was Clyde Muller who played the last two rounds of the comp. Clyde was a member of the Crusaders Academy and played for Southern Districts but joined us when the Shute Shield competition was completed. Clyde's size and agility were a welcome addition to the team.

The mainstay in the second row was youngster Sam Hackett who belied his age by becoming one of the leaders in the pack. Sam also impressed when he was selected in the Illawarriors team. The other key member was Mitch Bell who gave the pack some stability and experience.

A big loss was Jack McCarthy who showed a great deal of potential until he suffered a knee injury that saw him out for the season. Another youngster in Ben Keldie also impressed but after contracting glandular fever was ruled out for the year.

Lincoln Thompson and Harry O'Malley were part of the younger brigade who stepped into the role during the season and gained a lot from playing in the higher grade.

Paul Tuala was inspirational as he was a role model for our youngsters not only on game day but on the training field as well. When he was injured Ben Cheetham and Wayne Ngatai stepped into the gap as Number 8 and were a steadying influence under pressure.

The loose forwards were outstanding. Luka O'Shea and Hamish McDonald had played last year but really came into their own this season with a fierce determination to win possession at the breakdown. Their efforts in defence also allowed us to stay in games when under stress.

First grade were able to call on Ethan Mosely, Matt Zappia and Michael Nguyen who regularly sat on the bench and came on when needed and did an outstanding job, often late in games.

In the backs Tom Baker was the focal point of the attack as 5/8. Tom was a great leader but missed the start of the season as he celebrated his wedding. Tom also took on the goal kicking duties and was the leading point scorer for the team. When Tommy was absent Jaxon Clarke moved from fullback to the pivot role.

Tom's halves partner was Lachie Morse who played in every game. Lachie is a tough competitor who never takes a backward step and is the ultimate team player.

In the centres going into the first game, we looked very settled with Toafiga Sa and Greg Hosken forming a very hardened combination. Greg is a South African who joined the club and impressed everyone with his dedication and no-nonsense approach. 'Figa' is a fearsome character who looked to dominate the opposition with hard running and punishing defence.

The game was only minutes old when we lost 'Figa' to a badly broken arm while Greg also suffered a shoulder injury that saw him miss the rest of the season.

To fill the huge gap left by the two guys the coaches called on experienced players in Jono Lally, Pat Perillo and Donny Nepia to play inside centre. Later on, Ben Cheetham found himself in the role and we even had to use Paul Tuala in one game.

One of the finds of the season was youngster James Hicks who took the opportunity to play outside centre and he excelled becoming a lethal defender and an elusive runner. James crossed for six tries and was the leading try scorer in first grade.

On the wings we had the experienced Dan Ward, and he did a great job especially when you consider that he often carried injuries into games. Dan also came into the centres when required.

Jake Sasse impressed the coaches as he adapted to rugby after playing Rugby League. He moved from wing to centre but and was forced to miss the year after an injury playing against Kiama.

It was at this stage rookies Ben Dennis and Nathaniel Yarrow started in a few games and did well. Sanjay West joined the squad after a few games and displayed speed and determination to cement a spot on the wing.

The fullback position was occupied nearly all season by Jaxon Clarke. Jaxon is a student who had played some games for Kiama but decided to play with Uni as he lived in Wollongong. Jaxon was on

a steep learning curve especially when he was moved to 5/8 when Tom Baker was unavailable, but he accepted the challenges involved with playing first grade.

A late recruit in Caleb Beams who like his mate Clyde played for Souths and the Crusaders Academy showed some flashes of brilliance in the outside backs.

Lewis Dunshea, Will Lamb and Callam Rath played a key part in the team’s progress coming off the bench and occasionally starting in games and their willingness to play this role was appreciated by the coaches and players.

First Grade 2022



Back Row:	John Heath (Manager)	Jack Scott	James Hicks	Sanjay West	Lincoln Thompson
	Jaxon Clarke	Nick Halliday	Tolson Kennerley	Pat Perillo	Clyde Muller
	Scott Hatch (Coach)				
Middle Row:	Wayne Ngatai	Mitch Bell	Sam Laurie	Sam Hackett	
Front Row:	Paul Tuala	Damian Mei	Lachie Morse	Tom Baker	Will Lamb
	Sam Milrose-Ross	Caleb Beams	Taofiga Sa	Luka O’Shea	

MATCH RESULTS

First Grade

Rd 4: Tech Waratahs –

23/4/22 -Game cancelled due to wet weather

Rd 5: Bowral –

30/4/22 - Game cancelled due to wet weather

Rd 6: Avondale

Rd 6– 7/5/22		Gerry Cappetta Oval	
First Grade:	University 14	Avondale 17	
Tries:	Wayne Ngatai	Jono Lally	
Goals:	Tom Baker (2)	Penalty Goals:	

After a series of frustrating delays first grade finally made it onto the pitch when we played Avondale. The match took on special significance as it was Paul Tuala's 100th game for the club and we all realised just how much Paulie had sacrificed to achieve this goal.

No one was sure what to expect as neither side had played any trials and even training had been a hit and miss affair due to the wet weather.

We started positively and Wayne Ngatai scored after 10 minutes which was followed by a Jono Lally try near half time. Both tries were converted by Tom Baker. The really pleasing aspect of the game was the defensive intensity we applied which kept the big Avondale side scoreless.

It was not all plain sailing as we lost Figa Sa with a badly broken arm and Wayne Ngatai was binned for punching. What made this even worse was the fact that he broke a knuckle when hitting the guy. The second half was a tight affair with Avondale having a player sent off for a dangerous tackle, but they were struggling to break our defence. Unfortunately, we were in the same boat, but everyone dug deep to hold onto our lead. Things got close with the 'Wombats' getting within two points, but time was running out.

It was here that inexperience, fatigue and size difference took their toll and with fulltime about to be blown an Avondale player crashed over for the winning try.

It was disappointing to lose a game we could have won, but the effort was certainly there, and the players had learnt a lot about the how to win games.

Rd 1: Kiama –

14/5/22 - Game cancelled due to wet weather.

Rd 7: Camden

Rd 7– 21/5/22		University Oval	
First Grade:	University 17	Camden 10	
Tries:	Hamish McDonald (1)	Jake Sasse (1)	Jono Lally (1)
Goals:	Tom Baker (1)	Penalty Goals:	

Illawarra experienced some good weather, and we were looking forward to playing our first home game. All was good until the start of Second Grade when the heavens opened, and the ground quickly became a quagmire.

Jono Lally got us off to a good start with a try which was converted by Tom Baker. The game then became a war of attrition as the conditions limited attacking rugby. Camden drew level before the break and kept the crowd interested.

Tries to Jake Sasse and Hamish McDonald increased the lead to ten points but a Camden penalty goal made the coaching staff a bit nervous. As it was Camden were on the arrack when the ref blew full time, and everyone rushed to get out of the rain as it had become a very unpleasant afternoon.

Rd 8: Shoalhaven

Rd 8– 28/5/22		Shoalhaven Rugby Park			
First Grade:		University	12	Shoalhaven	29
Tries:	Hamish McDonald (1)	Lachie Morse (1)			
Goals:	Jonathon Lally (1)		Penalty Goals:		
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham				
B & F Points:	(3) Lachie Morse		(2) Paul Tuala		(1) Hamish McDonald

The atrocious weather continued, and we were forced to move our game against Shoalhaven to Nowra. We were surprised that the game went ahead as their field was a bog. What made it harder was the fact that we had no front row as work commitments meant Tolson and Casey were unable to travel to the game.

To Shoalhaven's credit we were allowed to play non contested scrums and not lose a player.

Shoalhaven were in good form and totally dominated the first half and were leading 22-0 at the break.

Things improved in the next half although the weather didn't as heavy rain was falling. As a matter of fact, we actually won the half 12-7. The most pleasing aspect was the tackling and determination exhibited by all the players that kept us in the game.

Rd 9: Vikings

Rd 9 - 4/6/22		Hannafoord Oval, Wilton			
First Grade:		University	34	Vikings	14
Tries:	Nat Yarrow (2)	James Hicks (2)	Jake Sasse (1)	Tom Baker (1)	
Goals:	Tom Baker (2)		Penalty Goals:		
Players Player:	Paul Tuala	Jake Sasse			
B & F Points:	(3) Jake Sasse		(2) Sam Hackett		(1) Casey Rameka Seb Di Noro Tolson Kennerley

The grounds were still unplayable and so Vikings moved the game to Wilton where the field was in good condition. Vikings were struggling for numbers but still fielded quite a few very good footballers

After a close first half where James Hicks crossed for a double we lead 12-7.

We dominated after the break scoring four more tries to win 34-14. It was great to see so many youngsters rubbing shoulders with the old timers in Donny Nepia and Paul Tuala.

Rd 10: Kiama

Rd 10 - 18/6/22		University Oval			
First Grade:		University	17	Kiama	42
Tries:	Ben Cheetham (1)	Jono Lally (1)	Lachie Morse (1)		
Goals:	Tom Baker (1)		Penalty Goals:		

We were bashed in the encounter with Kiama who funnily enough had not won many games before this one. It was no place for the faint hearted as Kiama had four players sinbinned at different times, but their aggression was difficult to overcome.

We failed to score in the first half and were behind 21-0 but a better attacking effort saw us cross for three tries in the second stanza.

Not only were we beaten we also lost a number of players with season ending injuries. Casey Rameka, Greg Hosken, Jake Sasse and Jack McCarthy were amongst the injured and they were difficult to replace.

Rd 11: Shamrocks

Rd 11– 25/6/22		Ocean Park	
First Grade:	University	3	Shamrocks 28
Tries:			
Goals:	Penalty Goals:	Tom Baker (1)	
Players Player:	Tom Baker	James Hicks	

Shamrocks dominated the game at their home ground, and we were never able to maintain pressure on them for long periods of time. After another disappointing first half (21-0) we showed more resilience after the break limiting the 'Rocks' to a single try. A big loss was Half back Lachie Morse coming off injured early in the game and this disrupted the backs while holidays and injuries meant that some guys were not available.

**Rd 12: Campbelltown –
2/7/22 - Game cancelled due to wet weather.**

Rd 13: Tech Waratahs

Rd 13– 9/7/22		Saunders Oval		
First Grade:	University	27	Tech Waratahs	40
Tries:	Lachie Morse (1)	James Hicks (1)	Ben Dennis (1)	Jono Lally (1)
Goals:	Tom Baker (2)		Penalty Goals:	Tom Baker (1)
Players Player:	Donny Nepia	Ben Dennis		
B & F Points:	(3) Donny Nepia	(2) Ben Dennis	(1) James Hicks	
		Sam Hackett		

The big wet again saw us lose our home ground advantage but it wasn't a long trip to Saunders Oval. The first half was a close affair with the Mallee Bulls being behind 10-14 in what was a good performance. We were again missing players, but the effort was certainly there. Tech Waratahs took control early in the next half and we were behind 33-10 before we crossed for a hat trick of tries. This had the opposition look a tad nervous before they sealed the win with a late try. All things considered it was a pleasing performance against good opposition.

Rd 14: Bowral

Rd 14– 16/7/22		Hannaford Oval Wilton			
First Grade:		University	31	Bowral	17
Tries:	Ben Cheetham (1) Sanjay West (1)	Lachie Morse (1)	James Hicks (1)	Jaxon Clarke (1)	
Goals:	Tom Baker (3)	Penalty Goals:			
Players Player:	Ben Cheetham				
B & F Points:	(3) Ben Cheetham Sam Hackett	(2) Mitch Bell		(1) Wayne Ngatai Jaxon Clarke	

It was once again off to Wilton as Bowral's ground was out of action. The 'Blacks' were in a similar situation to us as they were a very inexperienced team struggling for numbers.

We got on top early and scored three tries to Lachie Morse, Ben Cheetham and new boy, Sanjay West to be in the lead 19-0 at half time.

Bowral came out determined to get back in the game and the score was 19-12 when Uni restored order by scoring tries to our Country Colts reps James Hicks and Jaxon Clarke. Bowral had the last input into the game as they crossed for a try late in the game, but we were always in control.

Rd 15 Avondale –

23/7/22 - Game cancelled due to wet weather

Rd 2: Shamrocks

Rd 2– 30/7/22		University Oval			
First Grade:		University	19	Shamrocks	24
Tries:	Pat Perillo (2)	Wayne Ngatai (1)			
Goals:	Pat Perillo (2)	Penalty Goals:			
Players Player:	Pat Perillo				
B & F Points:	(3) Wayne Ngatai	(2) James Hicks		(1) Sanjay West	

We were at home again at last as we lined up against Shamrocks who were also experiencing some injuries to key players.

In another disappointing first up effort, we trailed 19-0. We tried hard but mistakes at key times hurt us badly.

True to form the second stanza saw us get back in the contest. We were down 7-24 when Pat Perillo stamped his authority on the match by scoring a double of tries and kicking two conversions. The game got interesting in the last minutes as a try would have won us the game, but it was not to be.

Rd 16: Camden

Rd 16– 6/8/22		Camden Rugby Park			
First Grade:		University	31	Camden	19
Tries:	James Hicks (2)	Nick Halliday (1)	Damian Mei (1)	Tom Baker (1)	
Goals:	Tom Baker (3)	Penalty Goals:			
Players Player:	James Hicks				
B & F Points:	(3) Tom Baker	(2) James Hicks		(1) Jack Scott	

It was a huge game for Jack Scott as he made his run-on debut in first grade. Jack would be one of the best clubmen as he has worked hard on developing his skills as a prop and is always willing to do his best.

We did struggle in the scrums but a lot of this was due to the ref's interpretations, some of which mystified our coaches. It even got to the stage where Jack spent time in the bin.

The two teams were locked up at 14 all when the ref blew half time, but we began positively after the break. It was still anyone's game as the score was 21-19 when the crowd rose to their feet as prop Nick Halliday streaked across for a try after a 40m sprint. This resulted in Nick being rested. James Hicks then scored his second try to finish the game at 31-19.

Rd 17: Shoalhaven

Rd 17– 13/8/22		University Oval	
First Grade:		University 12	Shoalhaven 52
Tries:	Hamish McDonald (1)	Tom Baker	
Goals:	Tom Baker (1)	Penalty Goals:	
Players Player:	Wayne Ngatai		
B & F Points:	(3) Sam Hackett	(2) Wayne Ngatai	(1) Ben Cheetham

Shoalhaven handed us a rugby lesson as they completely dominated the game. They were in control of the set pieces with their scrum well on top and the backs were finding gaps in our defence. We were short on backs and so Paul Tuala filled in at centre, but he was missed in his customary role in the forwards.

The pleasing aspect of the first half was that we scored tries by Hamish McDonald and Tom Baker but unfortunately 'Shoals' scored 38 points at the same time.

Things improved in the second half as we limited them to only two more tries, but we failed to bother the scorer.

Shoalhaven were good and although we tried hard we were well and truly beaten on the day.

Rd 18: Vikings

Rd 18– 20/8/22		University Oval	
First Grade:		University 48	Vikings 12
Tries:	Caleb Beams (2) Sanjay West (1)	Nick Halliday (1) Pat Perillo (1)	Mitch Bell (1) Clyde Muller (1) Paul Tuala (1)
Goals:	Tom Baker (4)	Penalty Goals:	
Players Player:	Paul Tuala		
B & F Points:	(3) Luka O'Shea	(2) Mitch Bell	(1) James Hicks

The return match against Vikings saw us play our most complete game for the season. We were able to call on the services of Caleb Beams and Clyde Muller who were in the Canterbury Crusaders Academy and they had a huge impact on the team.

We started well and were in front 31-5 at the break with five tries being scored, even with Mitch Bell having a break in the sin bin.

In the next half we maintained our control and crossed for another three tries. Vikings were committed but lacked numbers and experience, but we certainly enjoyed the win, especially as it was Paul Tuala's last game for the club.

Rd 3: Campbelltown

Rd 3– 27/8/22		Campbelltown Showground			
First Grade:		University	13	Campbelltown	10
Tries:	Jaxon Clarke (2)				
Goals:		Penalty Goals:			Sam Hackett (1)
Players Player:	Sam Hackett				
B & F Points:	(3) Sam Hackett Lachie Morse	(2) James Hicks Clyde Muller	(1) Jaxon Clarke Luka O'Shea		

A win over Campbelltown would see us finish the season in 5th spot which would be a commendable effort after all the drama of the year.

In a low scoring, stop start affair neither side gained the ascendancy.

We were missing key players in Tom Baker and Paul Tuala and then lost Caleb Beams early on, so things were a bit disorganised.

A good run by Jaxon Clarke was rewarded with a try which was the only points in the first half. Campbelltown began well in the second half and got to the front courtesy of two unconverted tries. It was then that Jaxon stepped up again and with a determined run charged over to level the scores. As time ran out we were awarded a penalty 40m out with the only problem being we had no one who could claim to be a kicker.

Up steps Captain Sam Hackett who coolly lines up the kick and steers it between the posts. The crowd was suitably impressed as the ref blew full time and we emerged as winners.

It was a good way to finish a difficult season.

First Grade Points Table 2022

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Shoalhaven	18	14	3	1	508	62	11	73
2	Avondale	18	11	5	2	158	54	7	61
3	Tech Waratahs	18	11	3	4	136	50	9	59
4	Shamrocks	18	10	3	5	-20	46	9	55
5	University	18	6	5	7	-36	34	7	41
6	Campbelltown	18	4	6	8	-76	28	9	37
7	Kiama	18	3	5	10	-67	22	11	33
8	Bowral	18	4	5	9	-183	26	4	30
9	Camden	18	3	3	12	-175	18	8	26
10	Vikings	18	3	4	11	-245	20	4	24

First Grade Points Scored 2022

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG
<i>First Grade</i>									
BAKER, Tom	59	3	19	2	HICKS, James	30	6	0	0
LALLY, Jonathon	22	4	1	0	MORSE, Lachie	20	4	0	0
PERILLO, Patrick	19	3	2	0	CLARKE, Jaxon	15	3	0	0
McDONALD, Hamish	15	3	0	0	BEAMS, Caleb	10	2	0	0
CHEETHAM, Benjamin	10	2	0	0	HALLIDAY, Nicholas	10	2	0	0
NGATAI, Wayne	10	2	0	0	SASSE, Jake	10	2	0	0
WEST, Sanjay	10	2	0	0	YARROW, Nathaniel	10	2	0	0
BELL, Mitch	5	1	0	0	DENNIS, Benjamin	5	1	0	0
MEI, Damien	5	1	0	0	TUALA, Paul	5	1	0	0
HACKETT, Sam	3	0	0	1					

SECOND GRADE

THE SQUAD

Pat Perillo took on the task of coaching the Second-Grade side with enthusiasm but no experience on the coaching side of things. What Pat did possess in bucketsful was the ability to get guys wanting to play in the team.

Pat also wanted to continue to play, and he had very impressive season even helping out in First Grade when required.

The team had 58 guys run on for at least one game and Pat had a very difficult task to try and give everyone game time. The fact that there was no Third grade meant that he had to make changes that did have an impact on the team's performance.

Pat's demeanour also earned the respect of the players so that basically Seconds were a happy bunch, which is half the battle in being a successful coach.

Our ability to field a front row was somewhat stretched at times with a couple of games seeing us play non contested scrums.

Jack Scott played in nearly every game and showed some ability in holding up our scrum.

Other worthies in the position were Luke Symons and Dave Shepherd. Both of these guys missed a few games, but their experience was invaluable.

Harrison Winter and Will Braham also took on the responsibilities of playing upfront and will gain from the experience gained playing in senior rugby.

Seb Di Noro came back to Seconds after being thrust unto the hooking role in First grade early in the season. The problem was that he injured himself and we then saw Sam Milrose-Ross and Will Ditchfield take on the position.

The guys who played in the second row were all from the same mould – young, small, fit but lacking in experience. This was compensated for by a lot of determination and skill. Lincoln Thomson, Harry O'Malley and Matt Zappia showed a willingness to get involved and earned a place in the first-grade pack during the season

Darcy Jerez-Stone also played a few games in the ‘engine room’ of the scrum. Early on we were fortunate to have a French import in Ryan Levy-Valensi join the club. It was a shame Ryan didn’t get to play many games as the wet weather ruined his season as he had to return to France after Semester 1.

Later in the season the team welcomed back Joel Wilson after a few years absence and his experience and fitness were a welcome addition to the squad. Joel was fortunate that his wife granted him permission to return to rugby as she was expecting a baby at any moment and Joel was always in the phone after the game to check on her condition. The good news was that she waited to the last game to deliver the baby. The other bit good news is that mum and bub are doing well but we’re not too sure about dad.

The two leading lights in the loose forward ranks were Ethan Mosely and Michael Nguyen who were more than capable of playing first grade. Their willingness to take on bigger opposition packs often saw us stay in games when we were under a large amount pressure. Others who played in this key role included Damian Mei who played a few games before gaining promotion to first grade. Mamoru Nakamura also played a few games but suffered a few concussions that saw miss a number of games. Raffaele D’Orazio came from Naples to the club via the Crusaders Program and was a great addition to the team due to his high work rate.

Ethan Moseley and Matt Zappia sherd the duties of being No 8 while Will Ditchfield did the job towards the end of the season. The Gaffey brothers also enjoyed the challenge of being at the back of the scrum and created havoc on occasions with their strong running.

Second Grade 2022



Back Row:	Jack Lake	Liam Surgeoner	Hugh Winning	Matt Zappia	Lincoln Thompson
	Harry O’Malley	Jack Scott	Will Lamb	Pat Perillo	Charlie Orton
	James Sykes				
Middle Row:	Sebastian Di Noro	Michael Nguyen	Luke Symons	Sam Milross-Rose	Ethan Mosley
	Dan Brennan	Lindsay Munro			
Front Row:	Ryan Levy-Valensi				

The halves combination consisted of some young talented players in Bryn Francis, Max Poynton and Lewis Dunshea. As a halfback Bryn displayed all the skills and toughness of a more experienced player. The unfortunate thing was that he missed a few games during the holiday period. It was a bonus to have Max Poynton to step up and he did a commendable job no matter where he played.

The 5/8th role was filled by Lewis Dunshea whose leadership skills and maturity stamped him as a key player in the team's makeup.

When Lewis moved up to first grade or was unavailable Pat Perillo took on the responsibilities of organising the backs and he had a sensational year being the club's leading point scorer and leading try scorer.

In the centres there was a fairly constant rotation of players due to a variety of circumstances. We were fortunate to have some old hands in Pat Perillo, Jono Lally and 'Figa' Sa on deck at different stages when they weren't injured or playing in First Grade. They teamed up with Callum Rath and Max Poynton who were versatile players capable of playing in a number of positions.

In the last few rounds the team was bolstered by the arrival of Tom and Aidan Gaffey who were mates with Ethan Mosely. The two brothers were new to rugby but were big, fast and talented league players. They switched between the forwards and backs and were lethal with ball in hand and solid defenders. Their inclusion bolstered our attack and gave everyone a boost in confidence. We also welcomed Caleb Beams who was member of the Crusaders Academy squad and also played a couple of first grade games.

On the wings Hugh Winning and Lincoln Batt were consistent performers throughout the season. Others who took on the role included Will Lamb, when not working, our Italian import Alesandro Esposito and a few guys who made an occasional appearance.

The responsibility of being the full back was shared between Callum Rath and Nat Yarrow and they were safe at the back.

SEASON RESULTS

**Rd 4: Tech Waratahs –
23/4/22 -Game cancelled due to wet weather**

**Rd 5: Bowral –
30/4/22 - Game cancelled due to wet weather**

Rd 6: Avondale

Rd 6– 7/5/22		Gerry Cappetta Oval	
Second Grade:		University 10	Avondale 22
Tries:	James Hicks	Lewis Dunshea	
Goals:		Penalty Goals:	

The first game in any season is always interesting in a university club. There is a deal of uncertainty as there are always new players making their first appearance for the club. This was even more evident this year as we had not trained consistently or played any trials.

There were plenty of bodies on the bench, so it was a positive start to proceedings. Avondale were as usual a physical side, but we managed to match them up front. We had a number of rookies in the team, and they acquitted themselves well under pressure. Avondale did get to score two tries while we struggled a bit with our combinations.

As the game went on we started to gel and applied pressure to the opposition who weren't the fittest team in the comp.

This pressure resulted in us scoring two good tries to newcomers Lewis Dunshea and James Hicks who both displayed a great deal of potential.

In the end Avondale won 10-22 but it was a game that showed we were going to be competitive in games.

Rd 1: Kiama –

14/5/22 - Game cancelled due to wet weather.

Rd 7: Camden

Rd 7– 21/5/22		University Oval	
Second Grade:		University 12	Camden 14
Tries:	Bryn Francis (1)	Luke Symons (1)	
Goals:	Pat Perillo (1)	Penalty Goals:	
Players Player:	Bryn Francis		
B & F Points:	(3) Bryn Francis	(2) Ben Keldie	(1) Luke Symons

A home game at last and the weather looked promising until the game started, and the rain came tumbling down. The ground quickly became a bog and any running rugby plans went out the window.

Our combinations were slowly coming together but it was difficult to maintain possession for sustained periods. In the first half Camden managed to get across the line to have a 7-point lead at the break.

They increased their lead by scoring converted try but then we gained some momentum when half Bryn Francis crossed for a try. The game then became a bogged down in the mud and not a great deal of open play was on display.

It was up to Luke Symons to get the crowd on their feet as he charged over for a rare try just on full time

It was a disappointing result as we showed enough skill and determination to have won the game..

Rd 8: Shoalhaven

Rd 8– 28/5/22		Shoalhaven Rugby Park	
Second Grade:		University 0	Shoalhaven 32
Tries:	n/a		
Goals:	n/a	Penalty Goals:	n/a

We were forced to travel to Nowra for the clash with Shoalhaven as our ground was certainly not fit for play. Funnily enough when we arrived at Shoal's ground we felt that their field was not in much better condition.

The change in venue meant that some players were not able to play so it was not a positive start to the day.

Shoalhaven at home is always a difficult assignment and it certainly was the case this time. They were one of the leading teams and had size and experience on their side.

That being said our boys certainly committed to the challenge and made their opponents work hard for any points.

In the end Shoalhaven won comfortably but we certainly were not disgraced.

Rd 9: Vikings- BYE

Rd 10: Kiama

Rd 10 - 18/6/22		University Oval	
Second Grade:		University 22	Kiama 24
Tries:	Dan Ward (2)	Nat Yarrow (1)	Pat Perillo (1)
Goals:	Pat Perillo (1)	Penalty Goals:	
Players Player:	Ethan Mosely		
B & F Points:	(3) Ethan Mosely	(2) Nat Yarrow	(1) Pat Perillo

Kiama's second grade side had been quite poor over the last few seasons, so our boys were confident of a good showing. Rugby is a funny game as Kiama got away to a good lead and were in front 19-10 when the ref blew his whistle for half time.

In a tight tussle we managed to hit the front 22-19 with time running out. It was then that the rugby gods deserted us as Kiama scored the winning try. Four tries each but Kiama had kicked an extra goal to achieve the win. Such is Life!

Rd 11: Shamrocks

Rd 11- 25/6/22		Ocean Park	
Second Grade:		University 29	Shamrocks 19
Tries:	Pat Perillo (2)	Dan Ward (1)	Lincoln Thompson (1)
Goals:	Pat Perillo (3)	Penalty Goals: Pat Perillo (1)	
Players Player:	Pat Perillo		
B & F Points:	(3) Ben Cheetham	(2) Damian Mei	(1) Ethan Mosely

Things were a bit tough coming into the game as we were short of players. It was great to see Damian Mei back in the red, white and blue after a long break. His calmness under pressure and experience created a lot of confidence in the other team members. We were also lucky to have a few first Graders willing to come on and help out as replacements.

Pat Perillo was in fine form, and he played one of the games of the year to completely dominate the match. He scored two tries, kicked three conversions and a penalty to win the man of the match award convincingly.

After leading 19-12 at the break, we managed to stay in the contest as blokes became fatigued. Damien's leadership also rubbed off and we managed to go further ahead to end up winning 29-19 in a grand performance.

Rd 12: Campbelltown –
Game cancelled due to wet weather.

Rd 13: Tech Waratahs

Rd 13– 9/7/22 Saunders Oval			
Second Grade:		University 21	Tech Waratahs 45
Tries:	Pat Perillo (2)	Max Poynton (1)	
Goals:	Pat Perillo (3)	Penalty Goals:	
Players Player:	Pat Perillo		
B & F Points:	(3) Ethan Mosely	(2) Matt Zappia	(1) Liam Surgeoner

The wet grounds meant that we had to transfer our home ground advantage to Tech but at least we got a chance to play some rugby. Holidays are a Uni coach's worst nightmare, but Pat Perillo worked his magic to get enough players to fill the team sheet. A few of the boys had dragged some mates along for a match and it was game on. Tech Waratahs were a good side, but our first half performance was satisfying with Pat Perillo outstanding.

We went off at the half time break all locked up at 14 all. The contest continued with Uni actually hitting the front 21-19 after scoring a converted try.

This was to be as good as it got as Tech gained the edge and scored another four tries to end up convincing winners. We struggled late in the game as replacements were made with many of the guys new to the team and a lack of fitness coming to the fore.

Rd 14: Bowral

Rd 14– 16/7/22 Hannaford Oval Wilton			
Second Grade:		University 26	Bowral 21
Tries:			
Goals:		Penalty Goals:	
Players Player:	Max Poynton	Jack Lake	
B & F Points:	(3) Max Poynton	(2) Jack Lake	(1) Jack Scott Will Ditchfield

We took on Bowral at Wilton as their ground was closed and we managed to get enough players and even had a couple of reserves. It was good to welcome back Joel Wilson after a few years break and his experience was a great addition to the team.

In a tight first half Bowral were the only team to score and lead 7-0 at half time.

What was said by Coach Perillo certainly worked as the boys' hard work was rewarded by four tries, all scored by backs including new comer Sanjay West.

Fatigue then set in, and we relaxed which allowed Bowral to score two converted tries in a minute to finish the scoring at 26-21. To be honest we really were in control and the score was not a reflection of our dominance.

Rd 15: Avondale

Game cancelled due to wet weather

Rd 2: Shamrocks

Rd 2– 30/7/22	University Oval			
Second Grade:	University	15	Shamrocks	18
Tries:	Will Lamb (1)	Nat Yarrow (1)	Sam Milross-Rose (1)	
Goals:			Penalty Goals:	
Players Player:	Pat Perillo			
B & F Points:	(3) Bryn Francis	(2) Matt Zappia	(1) Ethan Mosely	

Seconds had 22 players on deck but unfortunately only one of those was a prop. This meant that we played non-contested scrums and had to play with only 14 players on the field. This was a significant factor in what was a very close encounter.

The half-time score was 15-5 with Shamrocks on top but we were very much in the game.

After the break things became interesting as Sam Milrose-Ross crossed for a try to get us a bit closer. Shamrocks then kicked a penalty to give them an eight-point buffer.

However, we would not go away, and after Nat Yarrow scored a try we were very much in the race. Unfortunately, Patty left his kicking boots at home, and we failed to kick a goal which in the end was a factor in the result.

The game ended on a sombre note with our Japanese student, Mamoru Nakamura, suffering a concussion and being carted off to hospital in an ambulance. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when news came back later that night that he was fine and in good spirits.

Rd 16: Camden

Rd 16– 6/8/22	Camden Rugby Park			
Second Grade:	University	43	Camden	14
Tries:	Nat Yarrow (2) Matt Zappia (1)	Lewis Dunshea (2)	Max Poynton (2)	Tom Gaffey (1)
Goals:	Lewis Dunshea (3)	Tom Gaffey (1)		
Players Player:	Bryn Francis			
B & F Points:	(3) Lewis Dunshea	(2) Max Poynton	(1) Will Braham Raffaele D’Orazio	

What a difference a few players with size, speed and skill can make to any team. Seconds were short of players but were bolstered by the arrival of brothers Tom and Aidan Gaffey, who were mates of Ethan Mosely. Even though this was their first experience of rugby they could play.

Camden were not all that strong, and the lads dominated the first half and raced to a handy 31-0 lead. Five tries mainly scored by backs, were the result of excellent running and backing up that had the crowd wanting more.

This dominance continued into the second half as we added another two tries to lead 43-0. It was at this stage that fatigue set in, and we allowed Camden to score a couple of consolation tries.

Rd 17: Shoalhaven

Rd 17– 13/8/22		University Oval			
Second Grade:		University	26	Shoalhaven	12
Tries:	Tom Gaffey (2)	Aidan Gaffey (1)	Caleb Beams (1)		
Goals:	Pat Perillo (3)	Penalty Goals:			
Players Player:	Tom Gaffey				
B & F Points:	(3) Tom Gaffey	(2) Caleb Beams	(1) Sam Milross-Rose Raffaele D’Orazio		

The Gaffey brothers were back on deck, and they were joined by Caleb Beams who was a member of the Crusaders Academy who had finished his commitments playing for Southern Districts. In addition, we welcomed ‘Figa’ Sa back as he had recovered from his broken arm suffered in the first game of the season.

The lads were in a confident mood as they took on Shoalhaven who were the leading team in the competition.

Shoalhaven would have been expecting a fairly easy Saturday as they had won convincingly in our first encounter. They were the first to score but then Uni gained control and with tries to Tom Galley and Caleb we lead 14-12 at the break.

The second half was one of the best performances of the year as everyone dug deep to keep ‘Shoals’ at bay. Committed tackling and hard running kept them scoreless while we crossed for two more tries to win 26-12.

What a win!

Rd 18: Vikings

BYE

Rd 3: Campbelltown

Rd 3– 27/8/22		Campbelltown Showground			
Second Grade:		University	12	Campbelltown	28
Tries:	Hugh Winning (1)	Tom Gaffey (1)			
Goals:	Lewis Dunshea (1)	Penalty Goals:			
Players Player:	Tom Gaffey				
B & F Points:	(3) Bryn Francis	(2) Michael Nguyen	(1) Tom Gaffey Ethan Mosely		

Seconds were a little light on for numbers but did manage to get a full side on the field. Campbelltown were in the semis and funnily enough their side featured a few guys with a lot of first grade experience with some even having a few games for the Illawarriors the previous season.

Not daunted by the task the lads started positively with winger Hugh Winning getting on the scoreboard first with a good try. After this success the Campbelltown forwards came into their own and set up a platform for their backs. Tackle as well as they did the lads found themselves behind 21-5 at the break.

Many sides with nothing to play for may have stopped trying but the boys continued to work hard and a try to Tom Gaffey, converted by Lewis Dunshea saw us draw the half. This was a fitting reward for hard work and a lot of determination by all the players.

Second Grade Points Table 2022

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	-/+	Points	Bonus	Total
1	Shoalhaven	16	10	3	3	141	46	9	55
2	Tech Waratahs	16	11	2	3	133	48	6	54
3	Campbelltown	16	7	7	2	84	42	6	48
4	Shamrocks	16	8	3	5	13	38	3	41
5	Avondale	16	6	5	5	42	34	5	39
6	University	16	4	5	7	-35	26	8	34
7	Bowral	16	4	5	7	-45	26	6	32
8	Kiama	16	2	6	8	-132	20	5	25
9	Camden	16	1	2	13	-201	8	5	13
10	Vikings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Second Grade Points Scored 2022

Player	Total	Tries	G	PG	Player	Total	Tries	G	PG
<i>Second Grade</i>									
PERILLO, Patrick	54	5	13	1	POYNTON, Max	20	4	0	0
YARROW, Nathaniel	20	4	0	0	DUNSHEA, Lewis	18	2	4	0
WARD, Daniel	15	3	0	0	GAFFEY, Thomas	10	2	0	0
SCOTT, Jack	7	1	1	0	WILSON, Joel	7	1	1	0
BATT, Lincoln	5	1	0	0	FRANCIS, Bryn	5	1	0	0
GAFFEY, Aidan	5	1	0	0	HICKS, James	5	1	0	0
LAKE, Jack	5	1	0	0	LAMB, William	5	1	0	0
MILROSS-ROSE, Samuel	5	1	0	0	MOSELY, Ethan	5	1	0	0
SYMONS, Luke	5	1	0	0	THOMPSON, Lincoln	5	1	0	0
WEST, Sanjay	5	1	0	0	WINNING, Hugh	5	1	0	0
ZAPPIA, Matt	5	1	0	0					

Games Played 2022

Player	1sts	2nds	Total	Player	1sts	2nds	Total
BAKER, Tom	10	0	10	MORRIS, Ben	0	1	1
BATT, Lincoln	0	8	8	MORSE, Lachie	13	0	13
BEAMS, Caleb	3	0	3	MOSELY, Ethan	8	10	18
BELL, Mitch	6	1	7	MULLER, Clyde	2	0	2
BRAHAM, William	0	3	3	MUNRO, Lindsay	0	1	1
BRENNAN, Daniel	0	1	1	NAKAMURA, Mamoru	0	5	5
CHEETHAM, Benjamin	10	1	11	NEPIA, Donovan	6	0	6
CHOI, Liam	1	1	2	NGATAI, Wayne	6	0	6
CLARKE, Jaxon	10	0	10	NGUYEN, Michael	5	10	15
D'ORAZIO, Raffaele Pio	0	3	3	O'MALLEY, Harry	5	6	11
DENNIS, Benjamin	6	4	10	ORTON, Charlie	0	2	2
Di NORO, Sebastian	8	4	12	O'SHEA, Luka	13	2	15
DITCHFIELD, William	1	6	7	PERILLO, Patrick	5	8	13
DUNSHEA, Lewis	3	7	10	POYNTON, Max	1	8	9
ESPOSITO, Alessandro	2	2	4	RAMEKA, Casey	4	0	4
FRANCIS, Bryn	3	5	8	RATH, Callam	3	8	11
GAFFEY, Aidan	1	3	4	Sa, Taofiga	3	1	4
GAFFEY, Thomas	0	3	3	SASSE, Jake	5	0	5
HACKETT, Sam	12	1	13	SCOTT, Jack	9	10	19
HALLIDAY, Nicholas	8	1	9	SHEPHERD, David	1	3	4
HICKS, James	13	1	14	STURGEON, Lachlan	0	1	1
HOSKEN, Gregory	2	0	2	SURGEONER, Liam	0	2	2
JEREZ-STONE, Darcy	0	2	2	SYKES, James	0	1	1
JONES, Ryan	0	1	1	SYMONS, Luke	2	3	5
KELDIE, Ben	2	1	3	THOMPSON, Lincoln	8	5	13
KENNERLEY, Tolson	10	0	10	TICKNOR, Samuel	0	2	2
LAKE, Jack	0	2	2	TUALA, Paul	5	0	5
LALLY, Jonathon	7	2	9	WANSEY, Zachary	0	1	1
LAMB, William	4	7	11	WARD, Daniel	10	2	12
LAURIE, Sam	7	1	8	WEST, Sanjay	5	1	6
LEVY-VALENSI, RYAN	0	3	3	WILSON, Joel	0	3	3
MCCARTHY, Jack	4	0	4	WINNING, Hugh	0	10	10
McDONALD, Hamish	10	0	10	WINTERS, Harrison	1	2	3
McGRATH, Thomas	0	2	2	YARROW, Nathaniel	6	8	14
MEI, Damien	6	3	9	ZANIN, Jack	0	2	2
MILROSS-ROSE, Samuel	7	6	13	ZAPPIA, Matt	3	5	8

Men's Awards 2022

Awards:		Donated by:	Winner:
President's Award	Jack Huxley Shield	Glenn McGuinness	Skye Robins
Award for Leadership	Sam Davey Shield	Paul Webb Canio Fierravanti	Tom Baker
Trainer of the Year		Paul Dunai	Ethan Mosely
Coaches Award		Wayne Dobson	Sam Hackett
Most Improved – First Grade			Luka O'Shea
Most Improved – Second Grade			Lincoln Batt
Second Grade Best and Fairest		Noel Yates	Ethan Mosely
Second Grade 'Players Player'			Pat Perillo
First Grade Best and Fairest		Dave Rae	James Hicks
First Grade 'Players Player'			James Hicks Paul Tuala
Players 'Player of the Year'	Phillip "Doris" McInerney Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Pat Perillo
Rookie of the Year		Duarte Do Rego	James Hicks
Player with the Most Potential	Dave Reading Shield	Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	James Hicks
Leading Try Scorer			Pat Perillo
Leading Points Scorer		Dave Bateman Tom Wren Rob Pedersen	Pat Perillo
Club Person of the Year		Keith Hales	Glenda Heggen
'Iron Man' Award Played in all rounds.			Luka O'Shea Lachlan Morse James Hicks Jack Scott Ethan Mosely Hugh Winning