



2010 marked the Centenary Year of Rugby League in Newcastle, and the Centenary Year of West, as West, together with South, Central and North were the 4 teams in the inaugural 1910 competition. To mark the occasion a replica set of 1910 jumpers were purchased, a “Centenary” round of Rugby League was played on Saturday 15 May (West v South, and Central v Northern Blues), and a Centenary Dinner was held that night at West Leagues Club where a “Team of the Century” was announced. More of this on Page 2 – so what about the 2010 season. Dan Quinn (pictured left – 2014) took over as First Grade Captain / Coach. First Grade were “unlucky” in the Major Semi at Maitland when they were beaten in extra time. Reserve Grade were coached by Matt Marks and were eliminated in the semi final stage. Presidents Cup coached by Wayne March “got the chocolates” when they defeated Wyong 34 to 18 in the Grand Final. The winning West team was 1. Rhys Nixon (try) 2. Luke Poolman (2 tries) 3. Andrew Isaac 4. Clint Davies (pictured try bound in the GF) (2 tries and 1 goal) 5. Shane Bowman 6. Stephen Latu 7. Matt Redman (try and 2 goals) 13. Tom Hine 12. Matt

Casserly 11. Blayde Hill 10. Nick Mahon 9. Jamie Thomson (try) 8. Mark Morrissey 14. Paul Brogan 15. Chris Carter 16. Todd Cooper 17. Harrison Ison 18. Matt McLaren and 19. Felise Taufua. Joel Penny was awarded the trophy for “Clubman of the Year”, and trophies for the “Most Outstanding Player in each Grade” were awarded to Joel Penny (Firsts), Danny Cooper (Reserves) and Matt Redman (Presidents Cup). The Centenary Game, West v South, was a bit of a “fizzer”, as it seemed that only one team wanted to play football. South had a player “dismissed”, and West went on to record an easy 50 to 8 win. On Sat 14 May 1910, South 18 def West 9 and on Sat 15 May 2010 West 50 def South 8. With the “score” being “one all” the “decider” will be played on Sat 12 May 2110. ....(I wonder who wins?)



	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Pres Cup
Round 1	Cessnock	Won 21 - 14	Won 60 - 6	Won 48 - 4
Round 2	Kurri	Won 24 - 10	Won 28 - 0	Won 30 - 0
Round 3	Northern Blues	Won 48 - 20	Won 82 - 6	Won 40 - 4
Round 4	Macquarie	Lost 28 - 24	Won 26 - 24	Won 36 - 8
<b>Centenary Game</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Won 50 - 8</b>	<b>Won 42 - 12</b>	<b>Lost 26 - 12</b>
Round 6	Wyong	16 all Draw	Won 40 - 18	Lost 30 - 10
Round 7	Maitland	22 all Draw	Lost 38 - 8	Lost 40 - 16
Round 8	Central	Won 20 - 6	Lost 40 - 26	Won 30 - 20
Round 9	Wyong	Won 32 - 24	Won 48 - 0	Won 26 - 24
Round 10	Cessnock	Won 30 - 10	Won 42 - 12	Lost 20 - 10
Round 11	Kurri	Won 26 - 0	Won 24 - 4	Lost 52 - 32
Round 12	Northern Blues	Won 60 - 12	Won 30 - 6	Won 48 - 16
Round 13	Lakes	Won 62 - 0	Won 20 - 0	Won 16 - 12
Round 14	Macquarie	Won 36 - 10	Won 34 - 18	Won 44 - 18
Round 15	South	Won 24 - 16	Won 40 - 0	Won 48 - 6
Round 16	Central	Won 34 - 22	Won 48 - 8	Won 34 - 24
Round 17	Maitland	Lost 36 - 10	Lost 34 - 8	Won 24 - 10
Round 18	Lakes	Won 42 - 22	Won 52 - 12	Won 42 - 10
<b>Qualifying Semi</b>	<b>Wyong</b>	<b>Won 24 - 22</b>	<b>Central 24 West 6</b>	
<b>Minor Semi</b>			<b>Wyong 10 West 8</b>	
<b>Major Semi</b>	<b>Maitland</b>	<b>Lost 22 - 18</b>		<b>West 28 Mait 14</b>
<b>FINAL</b>	<b>Cessnock</b>	<b>Lost 34 - 22</b>		
<b>GRAND FINAL</b>	<b>Maitland 24 def Cessnock 8</b>			<b>West 34 Wyong 18</b>

## Centenary Dinner



On Saturday evening 15 May a Dinner was held at West Leagues Club to celebrate the Centenary of the Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club. The function was attended by over 400 guests. The guest speaker on the night was former Australian Player, Peter Sterling. He gave an outstanding “off the cuff”

address. This was followed by an article in the Newcastle Herald on the Thursday after the dinner, and the article is reproduced on Page 3. During the evening West’s “Team of the Century” was announced. This team, selected by veteran Newcastle Herald Sports Reporter, George Piggford, was



Fullbacks	Scott Bradley	Geoff Spruce
Wingers	Brett Cullen	Neil Gibson
Centres	John Cootes	Dan Davies
5/8	Paul Skovgaard	
Halfbacks	Tony Price	Dennis Ward
Locks	David Howell	Peter Howlett
2 <sup>nd</sup> Row	Ray Johnson	John Raper ©
Front Row	John Hobby	Steve Smith
Hookers	Allan Buman	Allan Dagwell
Manager	Glen Maloney	

(Photo - John Cootes – singing the West song – wearing his Centenary Jersey)



# Rosellas Rise to the Occasion

By Peter Sterling

Newcastle Morning Herald

20 May 2010



I've been to many rugby league functions but few as enjoyable as last weekend's Western Suburbs anniversary.

In a celebration of 100 years as a foundation member of the Newcastle competition, the Rosellas gave an insight as to why they have developed into the most successful of organizations.

Despite 500 being in attendance it still managed to be a somewhat intimate evening, reflecting how close and tight the club continues to be. The warm relationship between past and present players and with officials was particularly obvious.

For someone who played his first game of rugby league as a six year old second rower just up the road at Raymond Terrace, I found the whole night to be a nostalgia trip.

It reminded me of a childhood that was spent heading to No 1 Sportsground for the weekend match of the day and listening Noel Harrison calling games on NBN at night.

That was also a time when, even though many of my heroes were running around for Manly in Sydney (sad. I know), most of them were part of the Newcastle comp – plenty were there in person on Saturday night.

Now I wasn't a West faithful – I was more a supporter of the Terrace Magpies on the local scene – however, I was a big fan of the likes of Peter Howlett, Mick Trypas, John Barber, John Hobby, Allan Dagwell and, of course, Father John Cootes.

When it came to other clubs there was plenty of admiration for Maitland, who were a formidable outfit at that time and won premierships titles in 1969 and 71.

I remember how excited I was to find out that my dad was doing some dental work for the great Terry Pannowitz and that we actually got to go around to his house one school night. It has been very disappointing to watch the Pumpkin Pickers struggle for their existence after these heady days.

As part of the festivities respected league reporter George Piggford was given the unenviable task of sorting through the multitude of players who have worn the red, white and green jersey to determine a Team of the Century.

There were a criterion of number of games played but most important, it was a 17 man squad chosen on value given to the club.

Somehow George must have got the mix right, because it was received enthusiastically.

It spanned Dan "Laddo" Davies, who began his career at West in 1915, through to Brett Cullen, who finished up in 2004.

The highest profile member was Johnny Raper, league Immortal and perhaps the greatest player to ever lace a boot. He was captain coach for three seasons after heading up from Sydney to continue the most illustrious of careers.

I told the story of how I'd been to Chook's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at which his wife, Carol, had told of a near death experience. She said that she had nearly drowned one day and along the lines of what many believe her whole life flashed before her eyes. During this life threatening experience her whole life did pass before her and with tongue firmly planted in cheek she lamented that "John wasn't in it".

He continues to be the life of the party but I wouldn't surprise if he was seen around the streets of Newcastle early on Sunday morning "running out" the night before.

Raper's 1970 World Cup teammate John Cootes was as dapper as ever and still looks fit enough to pull on a boot. Along with Allan Buman and Dennis Ward, Cootes played Test football while representing the Rosellas. He was a superb athlete and an inspiration to plenty of us young players in our formative years.

So too Dennis Ward, who like Raper, came to Newcastle after enjoying plenty of success in the big smoke.

As a former Sea Eagle he was a particular favourite of mine and was part of one of rugby league's most infamous and controversial referring decisions.

In the 1972 World Cup the Australians took on France, and in a set move Ward chipped the ball back to the blind side where, in one of the most incredible efforts, Graeme Langlands dived full length to regather and "score" in the corner.

The French referee disallowed the try solely because he couldn't believe that anyone could physically achieve what Langlands had done, and possibly be on side. Instead of being duded by such a shocking call it would now be regarded as one of the greatest tries.

Possibly the biggest ovation of the night was afforded to hooker Allan Dagwell, the only man to play more than 300 first grade games for the club. He was the last player read out, cut the cake and given the distinction of being acknowledged as West's most valuable player in their history.

I recall what a big deal it was for him to be named for NSW for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> games against Queensland in 1975.

In doing so he was given the nod in front of the lights of George Piggins and Elwin Walters.

After meeting the man for the 1<sup>st</sup> time I decided that next time I was in his company, I would make sure Wendell Sailor was with me, to learn the meaning of the word humility.

It was quite surreal to leave the function on Saturday night to the strains of John Cootes on stage playing his guitar and singing the club song.

The last time I'd heard him sing was on my vinyl 45 titled "The Man in Black".

Now that's nostalgia.