

## 1965

Brian Carlin took over as West Coach in 1965 from “Charger” Walls. West had a successful season winning Reserves and Thirds and being beaten by Maitland 19 – 12 in the Final. Reserve Grade beat Maitland 22 -11 in the deferred Grand Final. The West team was 1. B Spruce (try), 2. K Orr (try), 3. G Gaegler, 4. G Walsh, 5. M Alchin, 6. B Stanbridge (5 goals), 7. M Gallagher, 8. P Clarke, 9. G Alchin, 10.D Howlett, 11. K Davies, 12. M Page and 13. G Savage (try). J Cooper must have been a reserve because he scored a try. Third Grade defeated Maitland 30 – 15 in the Grand Final. The West team was 1. J Gardiner, 2. B Westbury (try), 3. E Snelson (6 goals) ,4. L Cox, 5. J Bowe, 6. B Martin (try), 7. J Cooper (2 tries), 8. A Glover (try), 9. K Emerton (try), 10.N Tarrant, 11. R Campbell, 12. K Duncan and 13. G Savage.



New players to the club in 1965 included West Juniors Mick Gallagher and Wayne Hore. Mick went on to play 104 games for West and tasted 1<sup>st</sup> Grade success in 1966 when West 31 def Cessnock 7. Wayne Hore went on to play 181 games for West, and tasted First Grade success in 1966 and 1970, when West 21 def Maitland 14. “Bomber” Hore is one of the “foundation stones” that underpins the West Rosellas. At the time of writing (Feb 2014) “Bomber” is beginning his 24<sup>th</sup> year as President of the WSRLFC – a remarkable achievement. Brian Stanbridge also joined West from Kurri, and became West’s most successful coach ever. Part of West’s folklore is the State Cup game against St George at Kogarah Oval on 23 May (and just incidentally – I was there). Apparently West hooker Allan Buman played in the annual City v Country game at the SCG the day before. Apparently, “Charger” Walls was on the West bus going to Kogarah, and because he was not selected in the team, he had a rum...or two...or three...or more. On arriving at Kogarah Oval it was found that “Charger” had to play, because Allan Buman had suffered an injury in the City v Country game. Apparently all was going to plan until the first scrum, when the entire St George front row reeled back in horror from the “foul” smell emanating from the West hooker.

Date	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
13 Apr	Macquarie	Won 22 -17	Won 33 - 7	Won 29 - 6
20 Apr	Cessnock	Lost 15 - 10	Won 26 - 16	Won 20 - 6
25 Apr	South	Won 23 - 10	Lost 15 - 9	Won 11 - 0
8 May	Waratah	Won 27 - 13	Won 17 - 16	Won 38 - 6
15 May	North	Lost 15 - 9	Won 16 - 12	Won 32 - 0
29 May	Lakes	Won 9 - 5	Won 14 - 2	Won 20 - 4
5 Jun	Kurri	Lost 24 - 5	Lost 14 - 7	Won 9 - 6
13 Jun	Maitland	Won 21 - 19	Won 23 - 7	Lost 14 - 3
19 Jun	Central	Won 11 - 6	Lost 15 - 6	Won 9 - 2
27 Jun	Macquarie	Won 9 - 6	Won 10 - 6	Won 22 - 3
2 Jul	Cessnock	Won 15 - 9	Won 27 - 0	Won 15 - 2
11 Jul	South	Won 14 - 5	Won 17 - 5	Won 16 - 7
17 Jul	Maitland	Won 23 - 8	7 all Draw	Lost 15 - 6
24 Jul	Waratah	Lost 25 - 14	Won 26 - 3	Won 45 - 0
1 Aug	North	Lost 17 - 14	Won 27 - 6	Won 28 - 3
8 Aug	Central	Won 14 - 3	Won 29 - 7	Won 20 - 2
15 Aug	Lakes	Won 32 - 16	9 all Draw	Won 32 - 0
21 Aug	Kurri	Won 30 - 8	Lost 18 - 15	Won on Forfeit
28 Aug	Minor Semi	West 25 Nth 7		
4 Sep	Major Semis		Mait 26 West 16	West 17 Mait 17
11 Sep	Finals	Mait 19 West 12	West 6 South 6	
11 Sep	Maj Semi Rep			West 18 Mait 2
18 Sep	Final Replay		West 17 South 3	GF West 30 Mait 15
26 Sep	Grand Final		West 22 Mait 11	

## 1966

What a year! For the first time West were Major Premiers in all 3 grades as well as being Club Champions. West welcomed new Captain / Coach, John Hobby (pictured) from Eugowra. Originally from Coolah, John was a tough lock or 2<sup>nd</sup> row forward. He is regarded by many, along with Rex Elvin, David Howell and John Cootes as West's best ever signings. Indeed Rex Elvin, David Howell and John Hobby all won Premierships in their



1<sup>st</sup> year with West. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Grand Final, West 31 def Cess 9. The West team was 1. "Monty" Spruce 2. M Alchin (2 tries) 3. W Hore (try) 4. R Hensby (try) 5. J McLaughlin (try) 6. "Tag" Spruce 7. M Gallagher 8. J Hobby (try, goal) 9. D Rowston 10. R Johnson 11. J Richards 12. A Buman 13. R Davies (4 goals). In Reserve Grade, West 19 def Maitland 9. The Reserve Grade side was 1. R Turner 2. ?? 3. G Sutcliffe 4. T Jukes (2 tries, FG) 5. O Kilpatrick 6. B Martin 7. K Hodgson (4 goals) 8. G Alchin 9. K Emerton 10. K Partridge 11. G Whitmore (try) 12. A Dagwell 13 C Bakes Res A Milton and R Walls. The deferred 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Grand Final was played at DISTRICT PARK (yep, District Park, now defunct, behind the tennis courts at Broadmeadow). Brian Warby scored a Club Record of 6 tries in this Grand Final when West 41 def Kurri 0. The winning West side was 1. B Warby (6 tries) 2. G Ravelon 3. B Stanbridge (3 goals) 4. W Mahoney (try) 5. K Campbell (2 tries) 6. A Wallis 7. J Cooper (try) 8. D Howlett 9. G Whitmore 10. G McLachlan 11. G Savage (try) 12. H Hill 13. R Campbell Res K Davies (goal), B Smith, J Everleigh. Players to come into West grade in 1966 included West stalwart (and games record holder) Allan Dagwell, Jesmond lads, "larger than life" "Cas" Whitmore and Danny Armstrong and local junior Alan Wallis. George Ravelon came to West from Narrabri and centre, Bob Hensby (who later formed a great combination with John Cootes) came from the Roosters in Sydney.

Date	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
9 Apr	Central	Won 24 - 11	Won 21 - 8	Won 9 - 2
16 Apr	Waratah	Won 26 - 13	Won 24 - 9	Won 33 - 2
23 Apr	Kurri	Won 24 - 7	Won 11 - 4	Won 8 - 0
30 Apr	South	Won 18 - 12	Won 23 - 0	Won 20 - 0
8 May	Macquarie	Lost 11 - 6	Won 5 - 2	Won 34 - 6
15 May	North	Won 20 - 15	Won 19 - 2	Won 30 - 2
22 May	Cessnock	Won 7 - 2	Won 54 - 7	Won 45 - 0
30 May	Lakes	Won 13 - 4	Won 19 - 13	Won 44 - 6
4 June	Maitland	Lost 11 - 6	Won 20 - 6	Won 7 - 2
18 Jun	Waratah	Lost 17 - 0	Won 39 - 0	Won 15 - 0
25 Jun	Kurri	Won 15 - 7	Won 27 - 2	Won 18 - 2
2 Jul	South	Won 32 - 10	Won 13 - 7	Won 25 - 2
10 Jul	Macquarie	Won 29 - 7	Won 46 - 19	Won 62 - 0
16 Jul	North	Won 16 - 7	Won 21 - 0	Won 19 - 4
23 Jul	Cessnock	Lost 22 - 3	Won 19 - 11	Won 15 - 7
30 Jul	Lakes	Won 11 - 9	Won 18 - 2	Won 21 - 2
6 Aug	Maitland	Lost 12 - 5	Won 14 - 3	4 all Draw
21 Aug	Central	Won 15 - 8	Won 18 - 0	Won 10 - 4
27 Aug	<b>Major Semis</b>	<b>West 7 Cess 4</b>	<b>West 24 Mait 11</b>	
2 Sep	<b>Major Semi</b>			<b>West 39 Kurri 4</b>
9 Sep	<b>Grand Finals</b>	<b>West 31 Cess 9</b>	<b>West 19 Mait 9</b>	
17 Sep	<b>Grand Final</b>			<b>West 41 Kurri 0</b>

## 1966 - Rugby League History



FIRST GRADE — CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP — MINOR AND MAJOR PREMIERS, 1966  
Back Row R to L: M. Carr, D. Hand, J. Ashburn (Player), N.R.L., J. McWhorter, M. Tyrone, D. Wilson,  
J. Harvey (N.P.L.), C. Madigan (Club), Back: Mick Ross (captain), R. Wharton, Roy, J. Anderson, A. Parsons,  
M. Riddick, D. Johnson, J. Richards, A. Brown, R. Davis, I. McLennan, D. Harding (Player), N. Johnson (N.P.L.),  
J. Smith, Mick Ross (captain), M. Ashby, G. Walsh, R. Taylor, R. Cameron, A. Fisher (Player), G. Walsh,  
D. Cameron, W. Hain, Front Row: R. Martin, R. Storey, J. Walsh (Player), R. Patterson (Player), G. Spence,  
M. Gillman, J. Wagon (Player)



SECOND GRADE — CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP — MINOR AND MAJOR PREMIERS, 1966  
Back Row R to L: M. Madigan (Player), A. Wilson, M. Ashby, G. Walsh, G. Wharton, G. Madigan (Player), G. Wilson,  
D. Kinnick, R. Parry, K. Finlay, J. Girdler (Player), Mick Ross, R. Martin, A. Haywood, R. Johnson, R. Walsh (Player),  
Front Row: G. Smith, G. Fisher, R. Taylor, Front Row: J. Walsh (Player), R. Patterson (Player)



THIRD GRADE — CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP — MINOR AND MAJOR PREMIERS, 1966  
Back Row R to L: J. Campbell, G. Wharton, D. Haywood (Player), G. Taylor, W. Mahoney, G. McLachlan, R.  
Clark, Mick Ross, G. Riddick, D. Ash, W. Campbell, R. Macdonald (Player), W. Smith, R. Campbell,  
A. Walsh, Front Row: J. Walsh (Player), R. Patterson (Player)

In 1966 (the Golden Year) West created history by winning the major and minor premierships in all 3 grades. This was the first (and only time) that this has been achieved in Newcastle Rugby League. A special poem was penned for the occasion. When you recite the poem, speak loudly and think proudly of the mighty red and green!

**They brought back many memories**  
*Of dim days of the past*  
**And raised the tattered red and green**  
*Sky high to fly top mast*  
**In all three grades they reached the peak**  
*And won the final game*  
**They wrote new records in the book**  
*To give West pride and fame*  
**Upon the fields of Rugby League**  
*They carved a tale of glory*  
**For bards to write in years to come**  
**THE MIGHTY WESTERN STORY!**



## 1967

West nearly won all 3 again in 1967 – with First Grade unluckily beaten in the Grand Final by a couple of points. Reserve Grade defeated Lakes 21 – 9 in the Grand Final. The winning West team was 1. C John (try) 2. R Turner (try) 3. O Kilpatrick 4. D Armstrong 5. B Warby (goal) 6. B Martin 7. K Hodgson (5 goals) 8. G Walsh 9. K Partridge 10. K Emerton 11. G Savage (try) 12. A Dagwell 13. G McLachlan. Kevin Hodgson was Captain / Coach of this impressive team that lost 1 game during the season. Third Grade under Captain / Coach Brian Stanbridge also lost one game, and won the Grand Final 16 – 10 over North. winning team was 1. W Smith 2. A Milton 3. B Stanbridge (6 goals) 4. D Howlett 5. K Campbell 6. Wallis 7. J Cooper 8. W Mahoney 9. G Ravelon D Bullen 11. R Campbell 12. H Hill 13. R Gilson (goal, field goal) Reserves I Paul, N Tarrant, K Davies. Players first appearing in grade in 1967 inc West Juniors Garry Dagwell, Chris John and Peter “Sherm” Holmes, who was the first player to wear football laces. But the biggest name to appear in 1967 Father John Cootes. Cootes (pictured) was a Roman Catholic Priest and whilst studying in Rome he played Rugby Union with Lazio. He was a very talented player. On his return to Newcastle he played with West, and he represented Australia from West...that’s how talented he was! Cootes could do anything. On 7 May at Waratah Oval, goalkicker Rob Davies was dismissed from the field (yep, sent off). Coach John Hobby then missed one from in front. Then John Cootes kicked (I reckon) 11 from 11, but the Newcastle Herald said 11 from 15. Anyway, Cootes could score tries and kick goals, and from that day he was West’s goalkicker. All in all a very good year with just 2 points denying us a great year...and all the better with the arrival of John Cootes!.



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Date	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
1 Apr	Macquarie	Won 27 - 19	Won 19 - 6	Won 28 - 2
8 Apr	Cessnock	Won 20 - 16	Won 23 - 4	Won 52 - 0
15 Apr	South	Lost 14 - 7	Won 13 - 12	Lost 9 - 5
23 Apr	Maitland	Won 17 - 15	Won 14 - 4	Won 14 - 9
29 Apr	North	Lost 23 - 6	Won 22 - 8	Won 22 - 4
7 May	Waratah	Won 46 - 18	Won 10 - 6	Won 28 - 5
14 May	Central	Won 15 - 6	Won 44 - 2	Won 12 - 0
21 May	Lakes	Won 23 - 10	Won 29 - 7	Won 31 - 0
28 May	Kurri	Won 17 - 9	Won 21 - 0	Won 18 - 6
4 Jun	Macquarie	Lost 15 - 11	Won 26 - 10	Won 43 - 2
10 Jun	Cessnock	Won 21 - 13	Won 11 - 7	Won 13 - 4
17 Jun	South	Won 29 - 5	Won 16 - 4	Won 14 - 0
1 Jul	North	Won 8 - 7	Won 17 - 7	Won 9 - 5
9 Jul	Waratah	Won 43 - 4	Won 37 - 7	Won 16 - 7
15 Jul	Central	Won 25 - 13	Won 24 - 2	Won 17 - 4
23 Jul	Lakes	Won 25 - 21	Lost 9 - 6	Won 14 - 6
30 Jul	Kurri	Won 34 - 2	Won 37 - 4	Won 32 - 0
5 Aug	Maitland	Won 10 - 6	Won 32 - 6	Won 6 - 5
<b>13 Aug</b>	<b>Major Semis</b>	<b>West 16 North 7</b>	<b>West 24 Lakes 9</b>	<b>North 11 West 2</b>
<b>19 Aug</b>	<b>Final</b>			<b>West 19 South 2</b>
<b>9 Sep</b>	<b>Grand Finals</b>	<b>North 13 West 11</b>	<b>West 19 Lakes 9</b>	<b>West 16 North 10</b>

## 1968

West had another good year in 1968 with First Grade disappointing by losing their last 3 games of the season and failing to reach the Grand Final. Reserve Grade, again under coach Kevin Hodgson won the Grand Final by defeating North 15 – 9. The West team was 1. B Warby (3 goals) 2. K Campbell 3. D Armstrong 4. R Cronin (try) 5. P Holmes 6. B Martin (try) 7. K Hodgson 8. D Rowston 9. B Carlin 10. K Partridge (try) 11. T Browne 12. M Page 13. G Waldie. Third Grade under coach Brian Stanbridge made it 5 consecutive Premierships, when they defeated South 12 – 0 (perhaps 12 – 6) in the Grand Final. The West team was 1. C John 2. A Milton (try) 3. G Walsh 4. E Ellum 5. R Dowse 6. W Weston 7. J Cooper 8. D Howlett 9. B Stanbridge ( 3 goals) 10. J Peterson 11. R Bullen (try) 12. L Bartholemew 13. R Campbell. In one of the smallest turnover of players recorded there were only 18 new players who played for West in 1968. The most notable of these were West United prop Tony Browne, utility Ken Smith and Waratah 5/8 David Higgins.



**Ken Smith** : Ken Smith was born in Ryde, and commenced his football career with the Burnside Schoolboys. He played Under 18's with Concord West (coached by Harry Wells) and in 1959 he was approached to play First Grade Rugby League in Eugowra. At Eugowra, Ian Walsh was the coach for the 1959 and 1960 seasons without any success...and then... John Hobby took over in 1962 with immediate success by taking out the Minor Premiership. 1963 was another excellent season, and Ken was chosen in the Group 11

team as five – eighth. In 1964 with John Hobby as Captain / Coach and Ken Smith as five eighth Eugowra won the Major titles. John Hobby joined West in 1966 (and won the Grand Final with a 31 – 7 win over Cessnock) whilst Ken Smith coached Eugowra. In 1967 Ken coached Coolah and in 1968 he joined John Hobby at West. At West Ken was so versatile that he played in the backs or the forwards. At West he also gained the nickname “Poppa” because of his resemblance to St George great “Poppa” Clay. In 1970 he had a great game on the wing in the John Raper coached team that defeated Maitland 21 – 14. He had a real winger's game and capped it off with a grand try. In 1971 Ken won the “Best and Fairest” trophy for Reserve Grade. His willingness to play in any grade in any position was an object lesson to all the footballers at West.

Date	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
<b>Caltex Pre Season Final – West 16 Central 14 (Kilpatrick, Hodgson tries, Cootes 5 goals)</b>				
21 Apr	Central	Won 16 - 15	Won 46 - 4	Won 18 - 8
27 Apr	North	Won 19 - 12	Won 39 - 4	Won 41 - 0
4 May	Kurri	Won 13 - 9	Won 16 - 6	Won 20 - 0
11 May	South	Won 19 - 5	Won 15 - 0	Won 6 - 5
19 May	Macquarie	Won 24 - 2	Won 21 - 8	Won 13 - 8
25 May	Waratah	Won 19 - 14	Won 14 - 0	Won 26 - 8
2 Jun	Cessnock	Won 35 - 12	Won 31 - 12	Won 30 - 0
9 Jun	Lakes	Won 12 - 2	Won 21 - 8	Won 22 - 2
15 Jun	Maitland	Won 34 - 17	Won 36 - 2	Lost 11 - 10
23 Jun	Central	Won 25 - 6	Won 32 - 7	Won 39 - 4
29 Jun	North	Won 19 - 7	Won 22 - 9	Won 17 - 2
6 Jul	Kurri	Won 30 - 7	Won 34 - 8	Won 15 - 11
13 Jul	South	Lost 10 - 3	Won 12 - 5	Won 14 - 4
20 Jul	Macquarie	Won 15 - 6	Won 43 - 2	Won 21 - 9
27 Jul	Waratah	Won 19 - 10	Won 37 - 2	Won 45 - 6
3 Aug	Cessnock	Won 35 - 7	Won 46 - 0	Won on forfeit
10 Aug	Lakes	11 all Draw	Won 19 - 9	Won 23 - 2
17 Aug	Maitland	Lost 27 - 18	Won 42 - 12	Won 15 - 9
<b>31Aug</b>	<b>Major Semis</b>	<b>Lakes 20 West 18</b>	<b>West 36 South 6</b>	<b>South 7 West 6</b>
<b>7 Sep</b>	<b>Finals</b>	<b>South 13 West 11</b>		<b>West 22 Waratah 4</b>
<b>14 Sep</b>	<b>Grand Finals</b>	<b>South 9 Lakes 6</b>	<b>West 15 North 9</b>	<b>West 12 South 0</b>

## 1969

John Hobby's 4 year term came to an end, with one Premiership in 1966, three Minor Premierships (1966, 1967 and 1968) and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the points table in 1969. Hobby was one of West's best players ever and his record as Captain / Coach speaks for itself. The Bill Lockett coached made it 5 in a row when they defeated South 14 – 8 in the Grand Final. The West team was 1. C John 2. B Warby (try, 4 goals) 3. I Bell 4. C Pritchard (try) 5. K Campbell 6. A Wallis 7. J Cooper 8. W Lockett 9. R Dean 10. T Browne 11. K Partridge 12. K Wright 13. B Carlin Res G Ravelon. The Brian Stanbridge coached Third Grade made it 6 in a row when they defeated Maitland 23 – 16 in the Grand Final. The West team was 1. P Gilfeather (try) 2. O Kilpatrick 3. T Kelly (try) 4. G Dagwell (try) 5. Bob Campbell 6. B Martin (try) 7. R Mitchell 8. B Stanbridge (4 goals) 9. J Peterson 10. G Ravelon 11. W Mutu 12. B Rooney (try) 13. R Campbell. Many new faces joined West grade in 1969. West juniors "Flea" Anderson, Ian Bell, Steve Lawson and the Jesmond soccer goalkeeper "Bull" Druery all debuted in grade. Manly Junior Frank Frasca came to Newcastle University and made his name with West (and with the "fruit" community in Newcastle). Roger Dean came from Coonabarabran, Col Pritchard came from Newtown via Narrandera and Eugowra, and Brisbane lad Victor Poudziunas came to West from RAAF Williamtown. Marist Brother student, and South Junior, John Barber also made his grade debut in 1969. But the "biggest" imports were Alby Wiggs and Neil Berri from New Zealand. Rumour has it that Glen Maloney went to New Zealand to persuade a goal kicking winger Ernie Wiggs (Alby's brother) to come across the "dutch". However he came back with 2 props, the bigger Alby Wiggs (pictured) and the smaller "Butch" Beri. Both players fitted in well, and played 3 seasons with West. They were soon joined at West by the popular Kiwi, Waka Mutu, who played 5 seasons with West mainly in the lower grades. All in all another successful season for West.



Date	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
20 Apr	Waratah	Won 55 - 3	Lost 25 - 12	12 all Draw
27 Apr	South	Lost 33 - 12	Lost 13 - 10	Won 13 - 0
4 May	Macquarie	Lost 12 - 9	Won 29 - 15	Won 11 - 3
11 May	Kurri	Won 24 - 5	Lost 21 - 16	Won 19 - 4
18 May	North	Won 24 - 14	Lost 15 - 7	5 all Draw
24 May	Cessnock	Won 29 - 14	Won 19 - 12	Won 23 - 9
31 May	Central	Won 8 - 7	Won 10 - 6	Won 31 - 2
7 Jun	Maitland	Lost 23 - 4	Won 18 - 14	Won 10 - 3
15 Jun	Lakes	Won 14 - 12	Lost 26 - 19	Won 14 - 3
29 Jun	South	Won 42 - 16	Lost 13 - 12	Won 17 - 7
5 Jul	Macquarie	Lost 10 - 5	Won 9 - 7	Won 36 - 3
12 Jul	Kurri	Lost 23 - 17	Won 34 - 4	Won 23 - 9
19 Jul	North	Won 17 - 14	Won 27 - 5	9 all Draw
26 Jul	Cessnock	Won 49 - 11	Won 23 - 6	Won 67 - 0
2 Aug	Central	Won 36 - 20	Won 30 - 9	Won 54 - 0
10 Aug	Maitland	Won 22 - 7	Won 36 - 3	Won 20 - 4
17 Aug	Lakes	Lost 14 - 11	Won 16 - 13	Won 34 - 0
24 Aug	Waratah	Won 14 - 2	Won 40 - 3	Won 12 - 2
<b>6 Sep</b>	<b>Major Semis</b>	<b>Mait 31 West 16</b>	<b>West 9 South 7</b>	<b>West 7 South 2</b>
<b>7 Sep</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Lakes 12 West 8</b>		
<b>14 Sep</b>	<b>Grand Finals</b>	<b>Mait 19 Lakes 9</b>	<b>West 14 South 8</b>	<b>West 23 Mait 16</b>