

## 2014

Another great year for West! First Grade went “back to back to back” – so coach Craig Miller joined Tony Price (1997, 1998, 1999) and David Howell (1980, 1981, 1982), in winning “3 in a row”. First Grade were Minor Premiers and defeated Cessnock 22 – 8 in the Grand Final. The West team was 1. Justin Smith (try) 2. Callan Richardson 3. Simon Williams 4. Steve Gordon 5. Ryan Lamb (try) 6. Jade Porter 7. Brad Murray (3 goals) 13. Lucas Miller 12. Peter Mannion (*see next page*) 11. Warren Schillings 10. Ryan Petro 9. James Woolford (try) 8. Mark Taufua (c) 14. Jake Finn, 15. David Dryden 16. Mark Farrar (try) and 17. Liam McKenna. Reserve Grade under Captain / Coach Colin Clarke were also Minor and Major Premiers, and they defeated Central 28 – 22 in the Grand Final. The winning Reserve Grade team was 1. Dain Bamblett (4 goals) 2. Kyle Davies 3. Simon Dall 4. Michael Hendry (try) 5. Luke Poolman 6. Tim Penny (try) 7. Matt McLaren 13. Josh Gorton 12. Jackson Hill 11. Matt Casserly 10. Malcolm Green 9. Nathan Lo Monaco (2 tries) 8. Colin Clarke (CC) (try) 15. Nick Mahon 16. Gareth Evans 17. Jack Yates 18. Dylan Jones 19. Scott Blanch and 20. Larry Taufua. To top off a great day West Under 18’s defeated Maitland 16 – 8. Congratulations to coach Brett Pennell. Interestingly sons of former West First Grade Premiership winners (Bobby Treacy – son of Darren, and Frazer Price – son of Tony) were members of the winning team. West’s “Third Grade Team” – our Under 23’s were eliminated at the semi final stage of the competition. West’s major signing for the year, prop Mark Taufua (pictured) (from the Sharks, but previously the Knights) played right up to his reputation, and at Presentation Night he was awarded the Trophy for the “Most Outstanding Player in First Grade”. The Reserve Grade award went to coach, Colin Clarke, while the Under 23’s award went to Gareth Evans. The “Clubman of the Year” trophy was awarded to David Locker (and he was chuffed)! Some drama towards the end of the year, when First Grade coach, Craig Miller, signed on to coach Cessnock from 2015. Miller leaves West with a great record over the years ... something like 9 teams, 8 Grand Final wins..and we wish him well..but certainly not “all the best” – Cessnock have never beaten West in a Grand Final and we’d like that to continue. Special mention should be made of Colin Clarke, who played his 200<sup>th</sup> game for the club, and Luke Poolman his 150<sup>th</sup>. Mark Farrar and Murray Parker were awarded Life Membership of the club by playing 120 grade games.



	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Under 23's	Under 18's
Rd 1	Kurri	Won 26 - 12	Won 42 - 12	Won 32 - 0	Lost 18 - 4
Rd 2	Central	Won 32 - 12	Won 40 - 12	Lost 34 - 32	Won 46 - 8
Rd 3	Port Stephens	Won 66 - 0	Won 54 - 4	BYE	Won 52 - 20
Rd 4	South	Won 20 - 4	26 all Draw	Lost 32 - 4	BYE
Rd 5	BYE		<i>(Under 18's v Maitland White)</i>		Won 66 - 16
Rd 6	Cessnock	Won 12 - 10	Won 50 - 16	Won 22 - 18	22 all Draw
Rd 7	Macquarie	Won 28 - 20	Won 28 - 12	Lost 36 - 12	Won 42 - 0
Rd 8	Maitland	Won 26 - 24	Won 44 - 14	Won 48 - 10	Lost 24 - 12
Rd 9	Kurri	Won 30 - 20	Won 70 - 1	Won 62 - 6	Lost 20 - 18
Rd 10	Port Stephens	Won 46 - 10	Won 56 - 0	BYE	Won 60 - 0
Rd 11	Lakes	Won 28 - 20	Lost 24 - 22	Lost 10 - 6	Won 18 - 8
Rd 12	Central	Lost 22 - 18	Won 56 - 6	Lost 26 - 22	Won 30 - 14
Rd 13	South	Lost 30 - 6	Lost 18 - 16	Lost 20 - 4	BYE
Rd 14	BYE		<i>(Under 18's v Maitland White)</i>		Won 32 - 12
Rd 15	Lakes	Won 48 - 8	Won 18 - 8	Won 30 - 18	Lost 24 - 22
Rd 16	Cessnock	Lost 22 - 6	Won 42 - 18	Won 34 - 22	Won 48 - 10
Rd 17	Macquarie	Lost 26 - 6	Won 30 - 14	Lost 26 - 12	Won 30 - 10
Rd 18	Maitland	Won 36 - 4	Won 26 - 16	Won 68 - 0	Lost 15 - 14
<b>Elim Semi</b>				<b>West 18 Cess 16</b>	
<b>Qual Semi</b>					<b>West 14 Lakes 4</b>
<b>Minor Semi</b>				<b>Cen 35 West 12</b>	
<b>Major Semi</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Won 22 - 10</b>	<b>West 20 Sth 12</b>		<b>West 26 Mait 14</b>
<b>GR FINAL</b>	<b>West 22 def Cessnock 8</b>		<b>West 28 Cent 22</b>	<b>Cent 17 Sth 16</b>	<b>West 16 Mait 8</b>

## Young Peter

Every so often a pretty unassuming footballer arrives at the club...does his thing...and it is only after a few years that you think...what an asset to the club. Young Peter is one of those players. Why “Young” Peter ...pretty obvious really...Peter hails from Young. He was born in Leeton, moved to Young when he was 12 months old, then played for the Young Tigers as an Under 10, and then the Young Cherrypickers from U 12’s to First Grade.



Now Pete can “play a bit”. He has of now (Sep 2014) played 135 games for West, with 132 of those in First Grade. He has played in 4 winning First Grade Grand Final sides...2008 West 12 def Cessnock 10, 2012 West 16 def Cessnock 14, 2013 West 21 def Kurri 8, 2014 West 22 def Cessnock 8. Josh Leeson (Newcastle Herald League Reporter) summed it up pretty well when he selected Peter in his 2014 “Team of the Year”. His No 12 was Peter Mannion (West)...*After years of consistent performances Mannion has finally received his rewards this season with selection in the Newcastle Rebels and NSW Country teams. Mannion is one of the best “edge runners” in the competition and was a constant threat to rival defensive lines...* So it was West who brought the best out of Peter?...well he could play a bit when he came. Peter (pictured as a “Cherrypicker” U 18) was Captain of Group 9 and Riverina Under 18’s, and played NSW Country U 18’s. Then he went to West Tigers where he played Jersey Flegg and Premier League in 2004 and 2005, In 2006 his uncle Steve Prest (1984 FG Grand Final, No 8 S Prest, West 10 def Lakes 2) suggested?...well told really...Peter to come to West. There are many attributes to Peter, but 3 stand out. Although he is as “tough as they come”, I can never remember him being as much as cautioned for foul play..”Play Hard, Play Fair” his Grandfather from Wombat..(Where’s Wombat?...Google it..it might surprise you) always told him, and it was good to see the “Wombat Grandparents” at the 2014 Grand Final. Another thing that impresses me about Peter (and I even asked him about

this)...is when the opposition kicks the ball downfield, and we need a forward back there to “take it up”, it nearly always is Peter Mannion who is back there first to “take the ball up”. When asked about this Peter shrugged his shoulders a little bit, and said something like “It’s just what I do..I like to get back there..it’s just part of my job”.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ...for some reason, “fingers crossed”, Peter very rarely succumbs to injury. He’s an international player...no, really he is...in 2011 he played for Saint Gaudens in France, and also played in America! Peter is not the most famous Young player to play for West. that honour belongs to David Howell ....but after 4 Grand Final wins...any more?...*Peter is very nearly of the “Chook” status.*

