

Why do West play in Red and Green?

West chose to play in Red and Green when they entered the First Newcastle Rugby League Competition in 1910 because they combined the colours of Lambton Rugby Union (Maroon) and New Lambton Rugby Union (Green). West played their first game of the competition against South Newcastle on Saturday 14 May 1910. Mr Ted Rees was the referee and the 12 players who played for West were (surnames) Bradley, Kay, Brien, Thornton, Long, Anderton, Bartley, Ednay, Milgate, Young, Lewsam and Thompson. The final score was South 18, West 0.

Why did West play in Black and Gold in 1927?



Why is Regent Street, Regent Street? Why is Regent Park, Regent Park? Why are the colours of New Lambton Public School Black and Gold? Why is the motif of New Lambton Bowling Club a Regent Bower Bird? Why did West play in Black and Gold in 1927? Well.....at the end of 1926 there was tremendous upheaval in the West camp as many West players went across to play with the newly proposed club, Waratah Mayfield. There was a full scale exodus of players and West struggled with both players and officials. After a poor 1926 season, and the losing of many players, the newly elected officials decided that a new start was needed, and West played in 1927 in Black and Gold, the colours of the Regent Bower Bird. The Regent Bower Bird (a beautiful bird) was prevalent in the New Lambton area (especially around the Blackbutt area) in the early 1900's. Thus Regent Street and Regent Park are named after this bird, the colours of New Lambton Public School are taken from this bird, and the motif of New Lambton Bowling Club is taken from this bird. Did the change of colour from "Red and Green" to "Black and Gold" help West in 1927 - not at all. They performed poorly, and the "Black and Gold" colours of 1927, reverted to the "Red and Green" colours in 1928.

New Lambton PS - C Grade Premiers - 1949

The players in this schoolboy photo are from New Lambton Public School - Back Row L to R - Kevin Hodgson (186 games for West), Ken Hough, Alex Heaton (37 games for West), Warren Sands, Rod Cameron, Neil Hincks (Lakes United games record holder). Front Row L to R Ross Penfold, Bill Jackson, Leigh Maughan (Media - Administrator), Ernie Snelson (88 games for West), Barry Telfer, Peter Preston (55 games for West , John McLaughlin (West Director and 92 games for West). No wonder a team that contained such quality players won the C Grade competition!!



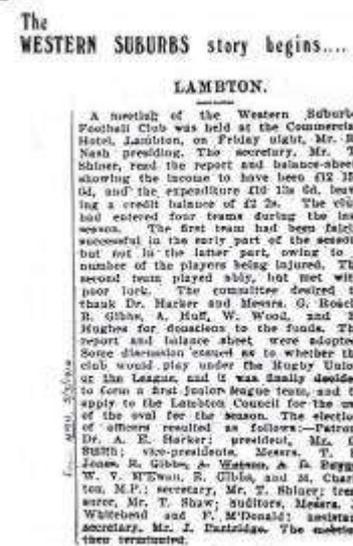
The story behind the name Rosella



Rosellas were named by the early settlers in Sydney Town. As the people made their way from Sydney Town to the township of Parramatta, they regularly saw these abundant, colourful birds near Rose Hill. The colourful birds were originally called the "Rose Hillers", which, over time, became corrupted to the word "Rosellas".

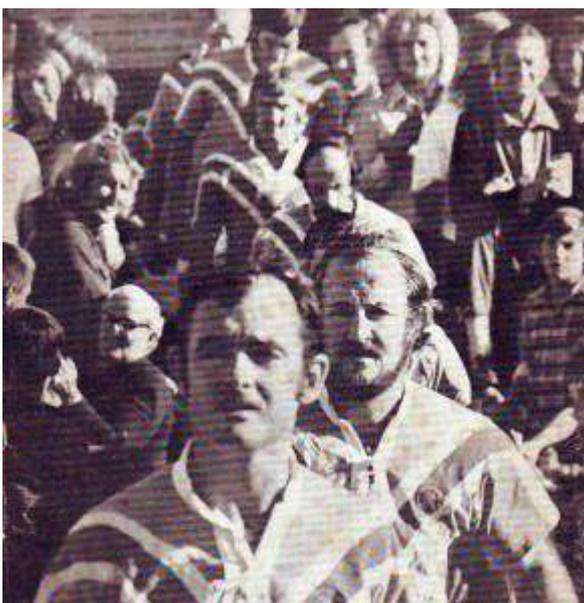
Minutes of WSRLFC Meeting 5 Mar 1910

Atached is a copy of the minutes of a meeting held at the Commercial Hotel at Lambton (now the Snake Gully Hotel) in March 1910, and reported in the Newcastle Morning Herald on 5 March 1910. From the minutes "*....Some discussion ensued as to whether the club would play under Rugby Union or the League, and was finally decided to form a league team and to apply to Lambton Council for the use of the oval for the season....*" It is now history that West entered the first Rugby League Competition conducted by the Newcastle Rugby League. The four initial teams were West, South, Central and North. West lost to South 18 - 0 in the first game of the competition on May 14 1910. West only lasted 4 games in the competition because of the lack of players. Central won the initial "Potter Shield" defeating South in the final.



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Tag turns 200 - (Not really)



Photos from the 1972 season of "Tag" Spruce leading West on and off the field at Cessnock to celebrate his 200th game for West. In the "run on" photo, "Tag" leads out John Raper, Gary Banks, Dennis Rowston, Peter Howlett and ? In the "chaired off" photo "Tag" is chaired off by Tony Browne and Dennis Rowston with Kevin Hardy, ? Peter Howlett and John Raper in the background.

John Raper's 70th

The 1970 winning Grand Final team gathered at Belmont in February 2010 to celebrate John Raper's 70th birthday. The team is still very close knit, and meets on a regular basis. Seen in the photo are Graham Morrissey, Peter Howlett, Gary Banks, Alan Dagwell, Tony Browne, John Raper, Brian Carlin, John Cootes, Wayne Hore, Geoff Spruce and Dennis Rowston. The players absent on this occasion were Ken Smith and Bob Adamson. West defeated Maitland 21 - 14 in the Grand Final.



Grandstand at Harker Oval destroyed in 1979



The morning after at Harker



On Saturday evening 24 April 1979 the Grandstand at Harker Oval burnt to the ground. It was an unfortunate happening as the Grandstand was protected by a heritage order, such was the significance and structure of the grandstand. Despite enquiries Police and Fire Personnel were never able to fully ascertain the real cause of the fire, although it has been reported that the cause of the fire "could have be faulty wiring, a faulty fridge or something else" - not very definite really. Nevertheless the sporting community of New Lambton was the loser, and the winner, because a new grandstand was completed in 1980 - the grandstand at Harker Oval today. After the fire, training was severely disrupted and it was only through the assistance of New Lambton and Lambton Soccer Clubs that West Seniors and Juniors were able to continue training. Indeed, New Lambton Soccer Club changed their training nights to accommodate the Rugby League players. Mention must also be made of Lambton - Jesmond RLFC who also came to West's aid. Makeshift arrangements were made on game days to ensure that Rugby league at Harker Oval continued for the remainder of the 1979 season. *(The photos show the former Harker Oval grandstand on the morning of April 25 1979 and the "new" grandstand at Harker Oval, and below, the Official Opening. The Grandstand was named the Dick Caelli Grandstand to recognise the achievements of Ovals Board member and West Official, Dick Caelli)*



West League President Kevin McDougall, Ald. Alan Tate, Dick Caelli (Oval Board), and Bill Parker (Junior League) at the official opening ceremony.

Dog and Rat

Bob Power in "The Saga of the Western Men" explains about "Dog and Rat". He writes that in the early 1900's many future West players were brought up at "Dog and Rat". *The naming of the locality "Dog and Rat" came from the days when the Geordie miners in Lambton in the early 1900's scoured nearby hills and caught large Kangaroo rats. Then they gathered every capable dog and the coursing event started at the bottom end of Lambton Park (near the present day Lambton Pool). The Geordie Promoters had the job of keeping the spectators in check, and the barking hounds restrained until the rat was released. With short sticks in their hand they drew lines in the ground, and yelled "Stand Back - Stand Back - Let dogs see rat - let dogs see rat" . At the appropriate time the starter gave the signal to release the rat, who would invariably head for the thick scrubland where East Lambton Park now stands.and so the name "Dog and Rat" was given to those people who lived in vicinity of the "Dog and Rat" course - i.e. that section at the bottom end of Lambton.*

Cheer, Cheer the Red and the Green



The Centenary Logo for the Western Suburbs RLFC has been unveiled. On 14 May 1910, West played South and North played Central in the first round of the first competition conducted by the Newcastle Rugby League. On 15 May 2010 West again played South, and Central again played North (now known as the Northern Blues) in a triple header at No 1 Sportsground - the additional game being a representative game featuring the Newcastle team.

What a great day for the Newcastle Rugby League - and what a great day for North, South, Central and West!! *(For the record in 1910 South def West 18 – 0, and in 2010 West def South 50 -8. Both clubs have agreed that "The Decider" will be played on Saturday 12 May 2110 for a "Centenary Shield" – GO YOU ROSELLAS!)*

Four West Players but only one in Red and Green



This 1976 photo shows Peter Burt (in Red and Green) surrounded by Peter Howlett, Paul Merlo and Gary Banks (in Red and White). Peter Burt played 95 games for West from 1972 to 1984. The 3 South players all played for West. Peter Howlett played 109 First Grade games for West from 1970 to 1975. Gary Banks played 65 First Grade games for West from 1970 to 1972 and Paul Merlo played 23 First Grade games for West in 1986.