

David “Chook” Howell

David Howell was born in Young and attended Young Christian Brothers High School. He was an outstanding schoolboy player, and excelled in either the lock or 5/8 positions. Even as a youngster he was described as “rugged”. David played 2 years for the Young Cherrypickers in Under 16’s, and 2 years in Under 18’s. These 4 years resulted in 4 Grand Final wins. David then played grade with Young where he slotted straight into First Grade. He had 2 seasons at Forbes (in 1972 and 1973), before returning to Young in 1974...and, yes, Young won the comp!

He stayed with Young until 1976 but then chance played a part in David joining West. After retiring from rugby league at the end of the 1971 season the “Prince of Hookers”, Allan Buman, bought a hotel in Tumut. David Howell, by chance, met Allan Buman, and Allan Buman (not by chance) met with Glen Maloney, and thus David joined West in 1977. His West record is most impressive. Played 1977 to 1983...116 games (114 in First Grade)...10



tries....and 3 or 4 Premierships...yep, we’ll call it **FOUR!** In 1978 Bob Adamson was the coach, but could not play in the Grand Final. Thus David was Captain of the side that defeated South 23 – 16 in the Grand Final. In

1970, as Captain / Coach, David led the side to an impressive 17 – 3 win over Cessnock. The same again in 1981, when West 13 def Cessnock 2. In 1982 David was again Captain / Coach, and although playing throughout the year, an eye injury kept David out of the Grand Final side. The result? West 21 – Kurri 14. At the time of writing (16 March 2014) David was watching West as late as yesterday in West’s first trial game of the 2014 season. If anyone deserves special status at West it is David Howell – the Cherrypicker who turned Rosella! Of course, when anyone mentions David Howell’s name...the reply is usually the same...”David Howell was the toughest man to ever play for West”...and that may well be true..but it would be better put, if the response was “David Howell was one of the greatest players to ever play for West”. In 2010 David Howell took his place amongst West greats when he was selected in West’s “Team of the Century”. The name “Chook”?.....as David explained..”Howell to Fowl...Fowl to Chook!”.



“West Legend” – “David Howell!”