

## Glen Maloney 1924 - 2004



Glen was born in West Wallsend in 1924. He was only a baby when his family moved to Milton, on the South Coast, where his family was involved in a timber business. His father then joined the NSW Railways which resulted in the Maloney family “moving about”. Glen attended 11 Primary Schools, before attending High School in Parramatta. Late in his High School days Glen played A Grade for the Granville Shamrocks Rugby league team. In 1942 Glen joined the RAAF as an air frame fitter. He moved around a number of air force bases before coming back to the Newcastle region at the Rathmines Flying Boat base. Upon leaving the RAAF Glen set up a “Barber Shop” in Rugby Road, New Lambton. (He told me that I had the “roughest nut” of any kid that he knew – but I reckon he told that to every kid who went to his Barber Shop). He married Nita in 1946, and over the years, this

partnership was a formidable force as far as West was concerned. He played Third Grade for West in 1948. However, West’s records start in 1951, so his official record with West is – Glen Maloney – 2 Third Grade games – one in 1952 and the other in 1953 – most probably to “help out”. Glen took over as Secretary in 1953 from Gordon Brown. 1953 is significant because very few West records were handed over to Glen, so he “started from scratch”...and he started with the records of the 1951 season...and that’s why West records start at 1951. Glen was Secretary of the Football Club from 1953 to 1975 and President in 1976 and 1977 – an outstanding record. In 1957, Glen, together with Harry Harding, Jack Aitchison, Jack Bell, Doug Carroll, Jack Harvey and Bill Jukes started the idea of a Leagues Club. Special mention should also be made of Solicitor, Bruce O’Sullivan, who had the “know how” to “get things done”. West Leagues Club opened on 24 September 1960 with 150 members. It is no coincidence that West broke a 39 year old drought by winning the 1961 First Grade Grand Final with a 10 to 9 win over Waratah – almost 1 year to the day after the Leagues Club had opened. Glen Maloney gave

up his Barber Shop and became the inaugural Secretary / Manager of West Leagues Club. In my opinion Glen Maloney is the “Most Influential Person” in West’s history. On 31 July 1974 Glen, together with long term President, Harry Harding, and long term Treasurer, Jack Bell, were honoured at a Testimonial Dinner – recognition of the importance of these 3 men in West’s history. Glen was also honoured by being appointed “Manager” of West’s Team of the Century that was announced in 2010. My enduring memory of Glen Maloney, is Glen and Nita, circulating at all West’s home games with their weekly raffle – First Prize – a “wonderful” canteen of cutlery and Second Prize – a pure wool “Onkaparinga” blanket. Those were the days!!

