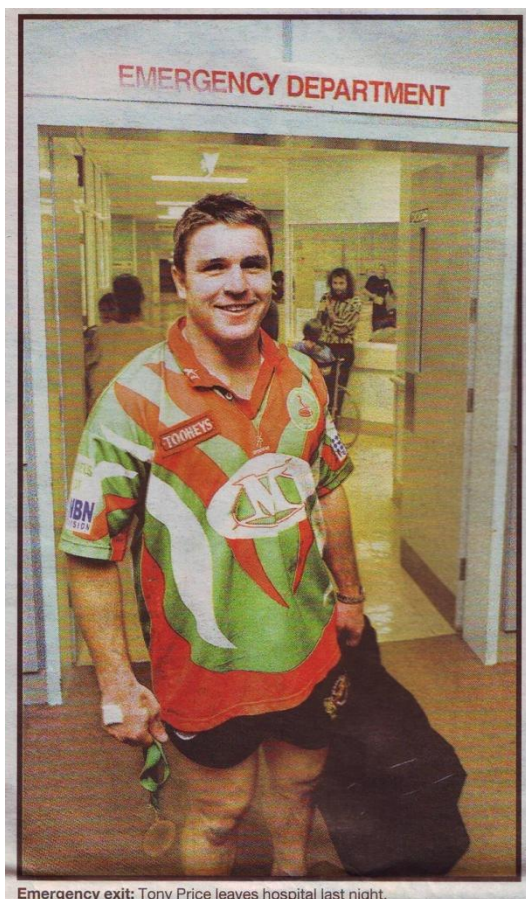


# 1999

All three coaches remained from 1998 – Tony Price (First Grade), Geoff Gidley (Reserve Grade) and Dennis Duncan (Under 20's). What a year – a “triple” for Tony Price, and a “double” for Dennis Duncan. In First



Emergency exit: Tony Price leaves hospital last night.

Grade West 22 def Cessnock 18. The West team was 1. Scott Bradley (3 goals) 2. Brett Cullen 3. Gavin Cook 4. Shane Johnson (3 tries) 5. Kurt Stallworthy (try) 6. Paul Skovgaard 7. Tony Price 13. Anthony Pauling 12. Tony Hutton 11. Jarrod O'Doherty 10. Andrew Weir 9. Ryan Dagwell 8. Craig Melia 14. Adam Frost 15. Andrew Taylor 16. Adam Dagwell and 17. Troy Hilder. Under 20's also defeated South by 36 to 10. The West team was 1. Garth Ross (try) 2. Craig O'Loughlin 3. Jay Bolton 4. Ryan Finley (3 tries) 5. Adam Considine 6. M Henry? (try and 3 goals) 7. Jay Walls (try) 13. Nathan Kelly 12. Martin Boyd 11. David Burgess 10. Nathan Parker 9. Scott Collins (2 tries) 8. Todd Maddison 14. Kurt Gidley and 15. Alex Seiul (goal). Mention the 1990 First Grade Grand Final and there were 2 main talking points. As reported in the Newcastle Herald on 23 August “West's Captain / Coach, Tony Price, left the field after just 8 minutes with concussion after being hit by a shoulder charge from Cessnock prop Jason Hoogerwerf. This meant that West played 72 minutes without their Captain / Coach, and with one man short on the bench”. (It's not “quite the way” that I saw the incident but I can only report what was written in the paper). The other incident occurred in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute of the game when Cessnock hooker, Zane Clarke, claimed a try, but was ruled to have “dropped the ball”. As reported in the Newcastle Herald on 24 August, the referee said “I made that decision on the field in a split second, which I have to do for all decisions..and I stick by it”. “You know what – the referee was right!” (Photo shows Tony Price leaving the John Hunter Hospital later that evening)

	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Under 20's
Round 1	Kurri	Lost 32 - 8	Lost 24 - 18	Won 46 - 28
Round 2	Central	Won 52 - 6	Won 26 - 4	Won 58 - 6
Round 3	Nth Nelson Bay	Won 46 - 6	Won 80 - 0	Won 44 - 14
Round 4	Macquarie	Won 36 - 8	Won 48 - 12	Won by Forfeit
Round 5	Cessnock	Won 24 - 22	Won 34 - 16	Won by Forfeit
Round 6	South	Lost 22 - 17	Won 28 - 24	Won 24 - 16
Round 7	Waratah	Won 24 - 20	Won 60 - 0	Won by Forfeit
Round 8	Lakes	Lost 23 - 22	Lost 26 - 12	Won 44 - 10
Round 9	Maitland	Won 46 - 12	Won 26 - 18	Won 60 - 14
Round 10	Kurri	Won 44 - 22	Won 34 - 18	Won 40 - 14
Round 11	Central	Won 52 - 10	Won 46 - 0	Won 32 - 12
Round 12	Nth Nelson Bay	Won 54 - 14	Won by Forfeit	Won 42 - 16
Round 13	Macquarie	Won 23 - 14	Won 42 - 12	Won by Forfeit
Round 14	Cessnock	Won 60 - 8	Won 19 - 12	Won 44 - 4
Round 15	South	Lost 10 - 6	Lost 30 - 16	Lost 16 - 12
Round 16	Waratah	Won 18 - 16	Won by Forfeit	Won 36 - 20 ##
		## Denotes U 20's played Kurri in Round 16 as Waratah forfeited		
Round 17	Lakes	Won 20 - 18	Lost 28 - 14	Won 32 - 16
Round 18	Maitland	Won 28 - 16	Lost 28 - 10	Won 40 - 10
<b>Elimination Semi</b>			<b>West 44 Maitland 22</b>	
<b>Minor Semi Final</b>			<b>Kurri 22 West 10</b>	
<b>Major Semi Final</b>	<b>Cessnock</b>	<b>Lost 27 - 14</b>		<b>West 24 Lakes 20</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>Lakes</b>	<b>Won 22 - 14</b>		
<b>GRAND FINAL</b>	<b>West 22 def Cessnock 18</b>			<b>West 36 South 10</b>



### *...and then “the penny dropped”*

West records are pretty good, but as these summaries are being prepared, only the “little picture” is being looked at, and the “big picture” is overlooked. The “little picture” is the year being summarised...the “big picture” is the history of the club. It was very impressive to note that in 1998 West Under 20’s went through the competition undefeated, and in 1999, West Under 20’s were again Minor and Major Premiers. Then it was noted that the same person, Dennis Duncan, had coached these two sides – **and then “the penny dropped”**.

I thought “Dunco’s done a lot in his time with West” – and he surely has! Dennis Duncan was born and bred in West Wyalong. He was always a good rugby league player, and like a lot of country kids, he played Under 18’s well before he was 18 – that was just the way it was. In fact Dennis played Under 18’s for five, yes five years. Simple Maths tells you that Dennis was playing Under 18’s when he was just 14. He was always a “hooker” when “hookers” had to “hook”. Indeed in 1966, Dennis won 3 Grand Finals with West Wyalong

– on the one day! After Under 18’s had won, he stepped up and played off the bench in Reserve Grade, and when Reserve Grade had won, he stepped up and played off the bench in First Grade – and they won. In 1966 Dennis represented Riverina Division in Under 18’s and in 1971 he represented Riverina Opens in the Country Divisional Championships. Dennis was also a member of the 1970 West Wyalong “Mallee Men” who defeated arch rivals, Temora, in the Grand Final. He played with West Wyalong until 1973, and came to

Newcastle in 1974. In that year, he played with West United 2<sup>nd</sup> Division with Col Pritchard, and in 1975 he started his grade career with West. Dennis played grade with West from 1975 to 1981. He played 120 grade games – with just 4 in First Grade. A great clubman was Dennis Duncan. He won 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Premierships in 1976 and 1980 before retiring a season later. Was that the end of “Dunco”? Well...NO. He coached Third Grade in 1981, Under 20’s in 1998 and 1999 and Reserve Grade in 2000. He was Secretary of the Football Club from 2000 to 2005 (assisting Tony Price in 2004). Then in 2006 he joined the football club committee.....and as this is written (*June 2014*) whose white ute is seen doing a lap of Harker Oval picking up the many protection pads after home games?...none other than the ute of Dennis



Duncan. Everyone likes “Dunco” – he calls “a spade, yep, a spade” and he is a “real doer” who gets in and “has a go”. So to the “Wily West Wyalong Warrior” we say - **a “Mallee Man’s” best friend is a “Rosella”**. (*Photos : Dennis – West Wyalong U 18’s v Tumut”, (below) West’s 1999 winning Under 20’s celebrate*)

