

Here Come The

Roosters..



The History of the Woy Woy RLFC

Part Two -

“Here Comes The Premier Club”

1960

Once again Rod Lennon was appointed Captain/Coach, with the Roosters First Grade squad containing many fine players such as Jim King, Bruce "Boston" Black, Dick Gormley, Kevin Plasto, Bill Word, Jim Ashton and the incomparable George Bartlett, who joined the club after playing lower grades with the North Sydney Bears from 1956 to 1959.

Bartlett's arrival proved to be a pivotal one for the Roosters, as Captain/Coach Lennon was to take ill mid way through the season. Bartlett, the hard nosed Lock Forward, was called upon to take the reins from Lennon, for his first stint in coaching.

Injuries were to play havoc, with the side finishing well out of contention after starting the season with high expectations.

Pictured - The Roosters 1960 Reserve Grade Side

Reserve Grade finished third on the Points ladder, while the club's most successful team was the "C" Grade side coached by club stalwart Dennis Coffey. Under Coffey's guidance the Roosters lost only one match for the season, scoring 224 points for and only 43 against, in 15 games. Centre Les Tomkins was the grade's highest point scorer with 61 from 9 tries and 17 goals.



The victorious 1960 "C" Grade Premiership team was;

Warren Taylor, Ian Taylor, Lou Fisher, Les Tomkins, Charlie Saunders, Norm Johnson (C), Barry Thorsby, Ray Forrester, Noel Fenning, John Miles, Peter Coran, Alan Breakwell, Les Dillon, Noel Walker, Graham Hiscox, Terry Lynch. Coach; Dennis Coffey.

"D" Grade were coached by Ron Derley, and finished the 1960 season in fourth position.

1961

The club strived to capitalise on the positive aspects of 1960, and were confident of edging closer to what had become an elusive First Grade Title.

Acting coach George Bartlett was relieved of the First Grade Coaching duties when the club appointed Kerry Thurtell as playing coach. Davey Jones was selected as Reserve Grade coach, with the Premiership winning Coach Dennis Coffey and Ron Derley continuing as "C" and "D" Grade coaches respectively.

1961 proved to be an excellent year for the Woy Woy Roosters, with the club reaching the semi finals in all grades. This led to Woy Woy winning the coveted Club Championship trophy for the first time since 1956.

First Grade, with players such as Ian Willis, Clive Griffith, Warren Kain, Ray McFarlane, Harry Hayward, Joe Wilesmith and Brian Taylor finished fourth on the table, being accounted for by The Entrance in the Semi Finals.

The Reserves showed good form consistently throughout the year, but couldn't go on with it, being defeated in the major Semi Final. "C" Grade were looking to make it back-to-back titles however suffered a disappointing loss to Ourimbah 4-2 in the Grand Final.



It was left to the "D" Grade side, captained by Kevin Annand to win the clubs only Premiership banner for the season with a gutsy 5 points to 2 win over short priced undefeated Grand Final favourites Wyong.

Kevin Annand was a valuable member of the Roosters squad, scoring 414 tries and kicking 45 goals. His tally enabled him to finish as the "D" Grade highest point scorer. 1961 was the first of many successful seasons for Coach Ron Derley.

In his season journal Derley made this observation; *"a good all around team from start to finish, in my opinion they would have gone better had I had more coaching experience, which says a lot for the ability of the players in the team. It was a great feat for them to go into the Grand Final as the under dogs and defeat Wyong in good style"* and he further noted *"players for bigger things - John Monie, Mick Allen and Kevin Annand"*

The Roosters "D" Grade Premiership winning team pictured above was;

Ross Roberts, John Davell, Col Barrett, Kevin Annand (c), Neville Stokes, John Monie, Mick Allen, Norm Hyde, Les Patterson, Percy Murphy, G. Wilesmith, Peter Rose, Noel Ell. Coach; Ron Derley

1962

1962 would turn out to be a vintage year for the club, under the astute guidance of its new Captain/Coach Bobby Wallace.

Throughout the season Woy Woy set the pace, fighting an ongoing battle with the Ourimbah-Wyoming Magpies, who had dominated Central Coast Rugby League winning 7 Premierships and appearing in 12 Grand Finals, including 10 straight, between 1947 and 1961.

Grand Final day was a red letter day for the Roosters, with the Peninsula club fielding teams in "B" Grade, "D" Grade and for the first time a First Grade Premiership decider.

The Roosters fought a tough battle against Ourimbah, eventually prevailing by 12 points to 3. This victory gave the Woy Woy Roosters its first First Grade Premiership and was the signal for wild celebrations at the Woy Woy Masonic Club.

The inaugural Woy Woy First Grade Premiership winning team was;

Bruce Black, John Dalzell, Charlie Jurd, Jack Harris, Billy Bartlett, Geroge Bartlett, Bobby Wallace (c), Bill Morelli, Eric Rowlands, Les Tomkins, Harry Hayward and Tom Austin (now known as Keith White). Coach Bobby Wallace.

Bill Groves and Peter Guest were regular members of the squad however were injured in the preliminary final.

The other Roosters teams competing on Grand Final day were both defeated, "B" Grade being defeated 15-3 by Erina and "D" Grade 4-3 by Ourimbah. The success of "D" Grade though, would unearth some great talent such as Brad Berry, Mick Allen, John Monie and Peter Louis, who would all go on to be household names with Woy Woy.

1963

The Roosters were looking forward to another successful season under the guidance of George Bartlett, in his first full season as Player/Coach. The club's initial First Grade Premiership lifted its level of competitiveness to unprecedented heights, which saw Woy Woy claim the Central Coast Club Championship for the third consecutive year.

First Grade, as defending Premiers, was always in for a torrid season. Gosford, Ourimbah and The Entrance all had strong teams around this time, and would be hard opposition to get on top of.

As the Semi Finals rolled around, the Roosters faced The Entrance, and were soundly beaten in the Minor Semi Final at Taylor Park by 22 points to 10. Gosford went on to win their third First Grade title, beating Ourimbah 6-5 in a close Grand Final.

Whilst disappointing for the Roosters, the club was still one on the rise, as evidenced by their being represented by three teams on Grand Final day.

Reserve Grade, "C" Grade, and "D" Grade all made the Grand Finals, with "D" Grade the only side to bring home a Premiership. Erina defeated the Roosters 7-5 in the Reserves while Gosford were the victors in 'C' Grade 11-0.

"D" Grade had a marvellous year, scoring 192 points for, while having only 14 points against. Of the 15 games they played during the season they lost only one, and go on record as one of the clubs finest junior sides.

The Premiership winning "D" Grade side was;

Mick Allen, Rick Weatherstone, Terry Dreis, Terry Longmore, John Sullivan, John Monie, Bill Tyacke, Brian Slade, Greg Lee, Col Makepeace, Ron Perrin, Terry Gannon and Brad Berry. Coach Ron Derley

1964

Heading into the new season, the contrast of tasting Premiership success in 1962 and disappointment in 1963 made the Woy Woy Roosters keener than ever to become the Premier Club on the Central Coast.

Pictured - Winger Bill Groves on the fly at Sohler Park in 1964

The Club was beginning to prosper under the astute coaching and leadership of George Bartlett, and although being denied a fourth consecutive Club Championship, would take on all comers throughout the season.



A champagne finish to the 1964 season was on the cards, with the club making Grand Finals in all four grades, the first club to do so since "D" grade was introduced in 1955.

First Grade marched into the Premiership decider against Gosford. The Townies scored the first try of the match, however Woy Woy's Les Tomkins responded almost immediately following a bulking run from Murray Urquhart. Further tries came for the Roosters by way of Bill Groves, George Bartlett and Col Clarke, who scored a memorable three pointer from a movement started by Fullback Warren Taylor.



The Roosters played champagne football to score three more tries in a 22 points to 3 win.

The Roosters 1964 Premiership winning team was;

Warren Taylor, Ian Stewart, Bill Groves, Bill Morelli, Col Clarke, Les Tomkins, John Graffin, George Bartlett (C), Barry Ashford, Warren Kain, Murray Urquhart, Dick Winscombe and Pat Quinlan. Coach George Bartlett.

Pictured - The 1964 'C' Grade Premiership winning team

Reserve Grade met Erina in the Grand Final and were 15-6 victors following an inspired display by skipper Merv McGahey.

"C" Grade, having been beaten by Ourimbah four times during the season proper, lifted in

the Grand Final to run out winners over the Magpies by 7 points to 4.

"D" Grade were the disappointments of the season, Having been firm favorites for the title. The Roosters finished as undefeated Minor Premiers scoring 141 points for and 32 against in 18 games, however were beaten 12-0 by Ourimbah in the Grand Final.

During the season George Bartlett was selected to Captain/Coach a combined Central Coast side against Group 21. His leadership helped the Coast to a big victory over the visitors from the lower Hunter.

1964 also saw the introduction of a new team to the competition, being the Umina Rabbitoes. Umina was formed to offer another Rugby League outlet on the Peninsula.

Although some players moved across to the newcomers, the Roosters continued to grow stronger and the annual clashes with our neighbouring club took on legendary status.

1965

Mid way through the sixties, and the Roosters were still building momentum after adding a second First Grade Premiership in 1964. Smart administration and solid coaching would keep the Roosters one step ahead of the opposition, and even with a young developing side Woy Woy would still set the pace for Premiership honours in 1965.

George Bartlett was once again in charge of First Grade, and had quickly become a household name on the Peninsula, and probably contributed more to our success during this period than any other player.

Bartlett was joined in the coaching ranks by Eric Rowlands (Reserve Grade), Ron Nowland ("C" Grade) and Ron Derley who would again coach the clubs "D" Grade side.

First Grade made successive Grand Finals for the first time, and its third in total. Opponents Gosford were coached by the cagey Jock Daley and proved too good on the day for the Roosters, winning by 7 points to 2. Tough front rower Bill Teasdell assumed the captaincy following injury to George Bartlett and led the young side, which included John Monie and Brad Berry by example.

The clubs only Premiers for 1965 would be Reserve Grade, who defeated Ourimbah by the same margin as First Grade 7-2. This would be the second in a string of "B" Grade titles for the club.

The Premiership winning Reserve Grade side was;

Eric Rowlands(C), Greg Quill, Charlie Saunders, Bob Jones, Max Wooton, Les Shaw, Barry Thorsby, Peter Louis, Alan Peterson, Wes Singleton, Bert Ritchie, John Collins and Norm Hyde. Coach Eric Rowlands.

"C" Grade were defeated by Ourimbah in the Grand Final 13 points to 2.

Ron Derley continued to build a formidable coaching reputation, taking "D" Grade to the playoffs, however they failed to make the Grand Final after being eliminated in the Semi Finals.

The club was continuing to develop quality footballers with 1965 seeing the introduction of juniors Brad Berry and Peter Louis to First Grade. The Roosters also welcomed former South Sydney Fullback Bill Bennett to the club mid season. Bennett played 19 First Grade games with Souths in 1959-1960 scoring 62 points from 2 tries and 28 goals. His point scoring ability in the coming years would be huge asset for Woy Woy.

1966

Playing strength in 1966 was exceptionally high standard, with First Grade, under the coaching of George Bartlett, containing players such as, Bill Bennett, Kiwi import Jim Collins and tough forwards Warren Kain and Murray Urquart.

Pictured - The Great George Bartlett being held aloft after guiding Woy Woy to the 1966 First Grade Title



These tough experienced players, coupled with the talented young Woy Woy juniors, would keep the Roosters on top of the First Grade table throughout the season.

At the end of the home and away rounds the Roosters had exerted their authority, and regained the coveted Club Championship trophy, won the previous year by Ourimbah-Wyoming, for the fourth time since its inception in 1958.

First Grade finished as undefeated Minor Premiers and advanced to play the Erina Eagles in the Grand Final. In an absorbing contest scores were locked 9 all at the end of regular time. In extra time a brilliant penalty goal by Bill Bennett proved the difference and proclaimed the Roosters as the undefeated Premiers of 1966.

Woy Woy's undefeated Premiership team of 1966 included;

Brad Berry, Murray Urquart, Bill Bennett, George Bartlett (C), Arthur Bartlett, John Bourne, Warren Kain, Peter Louis, John Monie, Barry Ayshford, Charlie Saunders Jim Collins and Jim Robinson, who was unable to play due to qualification rules. Coach George Bartlett.

Reserve Grade also dominated the competition and also finished the competition undefeated, which was a great result for the club. The Roosters went into the Grand Final against a confident Ourimbah side, however overcame the Magpies 11-7 in the Grand Final.

“C” Grade started the season slowly but gained momentum as the playoffs approached. In a trifecta for the Club the Roosters triumphed over the Gosford Townies in the Grand Final by 23 points to 9.

“D” Grade once again made the Grand Final and were prepared nicely for the Grand Final against Gosford by Ron Derley. The Townies had other ideas and shocked the Roosters by winning 8 points to 3.

The 1966 season was another season a unparalleled success for the Roosters. Celebrations were on again in earnest with about 200 gallons of Toohey's product consumed at the end of season festivities.

1967

1967 was a year of sweeping change for Central Coast Rugby League with the region coming of age as a Rugby League stronghold. The Coast was awarded Group status as Group 12, under the Southern Division Banner.

The Roosters marched along as “top dog” in Group 12, started the season strongly, winning the Southern Division knockout for the first time, defeating Clayton Cup Holders Picton 16-0 in the final, with Mick Allen, Bill Bennett and John Monie the standouts.

In its first year Woy Woy had no less than 14 representatives in the Group 12 side. These players were;

Bill Bennett, Peter Louis, John Monie, Warren Kain, Keith Miller, Merv McGahey, John Bourne, warren Taylor, Charlie Saunders, Mick Allen, George Bartlett, Barry Ashford, Brad Berry and Jim Robinson.

Long serving Roosters forward Warren “Ossie” Kain went on to be Woy Woy's first Southern Division representative, whilst the club had 8 players selected in the Group 12 Under 18 side.

With a squad as strong as, if not stronger, than the previous season, the Roosters had high expectations for its First Grade squad in 1967. Whilst expecting a lot, the club had no idea that the clubs amazing undefeated run in First Grade would continue, resulting in the club claiming the Club Championship for the fifth time.

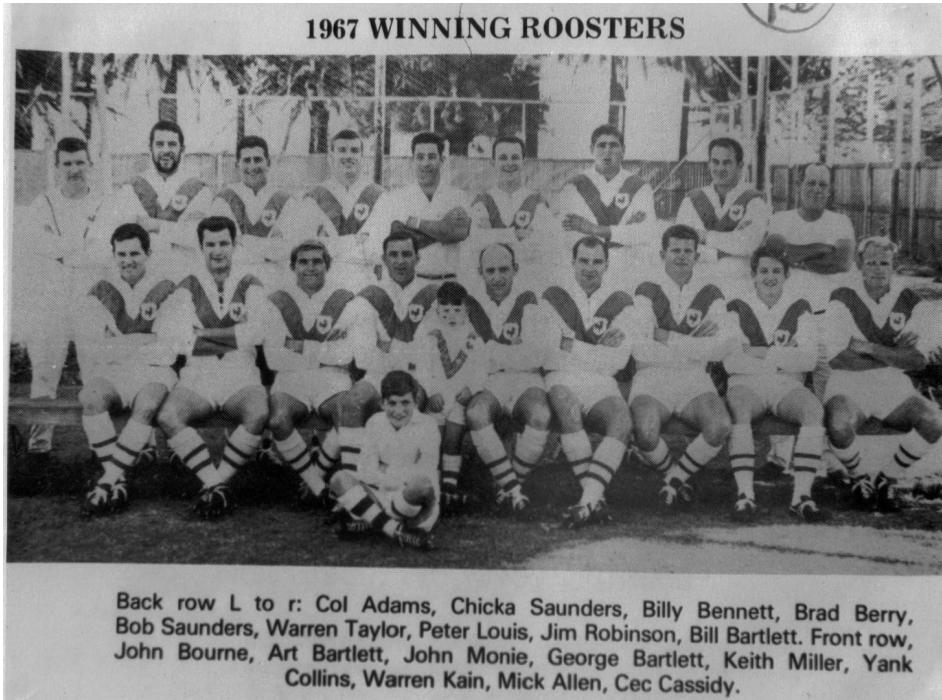
Once again the side was led by the experienced Bartlett, who played his 100th First Grade game for the club on April 16th . The Roosters swept through the competition rounds to the Grand Final, casting aside the challenge of Wyong 27-7 in the inaugural Group 12 Grand Final.

1967 was the Wyong Kangaroos first Grand Final since 1947, and would mark the start of a great rivalry between the two clubs.

The Roosters undefeated Premiership side of 1967 was;

Charlie Saunders, Bill Bennett, Brad Berry, Warren Taylor, Peter Louis, Jim Robinson, Bill Bartlett, John Bourne, Arthur Bartlett, John Monie, George Bartlett (C), Keith Miller, John Collins, Warren Kain, Mick Allen, Cec Cassidy. Coach-George Bartlett Manager-Bob Saunders

Both the "C" Grade and "D" Grade made the Grand Final, with the highly regarded Ron Derley coaching the "D" Grade to a satisfying victory over Wyong (10-8). "C" Grade also faced the Kangaroos, who were too strong winning 25-3.



Pictured - The 1967 Undefeated First Grade Premiership winning team

At the seasons end young Brad Berry was named the "Sterland Medal" winner of 1967, for the Best & Fairest player in Group 12. In its 5th year the Sterland Medal was highly sought after with Berry being a popular winner, and the first player from the Roosters to achieve this honour.

Brilliant goal kicking fullback Bill Bennett was named the *Central Coast Express* player of the year, with rising star John Monie finishing a close runner-up.

1968

It its second season, Group 12 Rugby League took the step of revamping its competition. A Third Grade Premiership was added while the existing "C" and "D" Grades were formally changed to Under 18 and Under 16 competitions respectively.

First Grade, who suffered their first loss in almost 3 years at the hands of Wyong, were to lose some fine players heading into the 1968 season. John Monie headed off to Cronulla-Sutherland while hard running centre Peter Louis accepted an offer from Canterbury-Bankstown. Both players appeared in First Grade in the NSWRL Competition, but it was Monie who ended up being the most successful, playing 50 games between 1986-1970. His tally of 32 points consisted of 10 tries and 1 Field Goal.

Veteran representative forward Warren "Ossie" Kain announced his retirement prior to the commencement of the season; however it was the shock mid season retirement of Captain/Coach George Bartlett which would have the greatest impact on the Roosters.

In his eighth season with the club, and third as Captain/Coach, Bartlett was forced to retire after suffering a career ending injury. George was an inspiration to all young players and was responsible for preparing many of Woy Woy's future stars, through his coaching, leadership and ability to perform at a consistently high level.

Even with these personnel changes the Woy Woy continued to be highly competitive and were confident of claiming the Premiership for the third consecutive season. Come Semi Final time the battle with last years Grand Final opponents Wyong intensified.

The sides both won their way through to the Grand Final, when the Kangaroos avenged their 1967 loss with a comprehensive 20 points to 2 victory over the Roosters. The Premiership victory for the Groups Northern most club was their first since 1947.

Reserve Grade returned to the winners circle after a less than impressive finish to the 1967 season. Again under the guidance of Eric Rowlands the Roosters remained unbeaten throughout the season and took the same form into the Grand Final, defeating Wyong 18-2.

The Premiership winning Reserve Grade side was;

Warren Taylor, Greg Lee, Allan Breakwell, Allan Peterson, Terry Dreis, Lindsay Collins, Laurie Wilesmith, Colin Chaffey, John Newby, Geoff Pollett, Barry Fisher, Larry Brown and Merv McGahey.
Coach ; Eric Rowlands

In the first season of Third Grade competition Woy Woy were coached by Les Shaw and had the honour of winning the first Premiership on offer, defeating Ourimbah 20 points to nil.

The Roosters Third Grade Premiership winning team was;

Neville Smith, Greg Quill, Tony Wessell, Steve Marvie, Jeff Shepherd, Les Shaw (C), John Butcher, Ken Davis, Steve Condren, Colin Symes, Bert Ritchie, Paul Henderson and Terry Gannon. Coach - Les Shaw

The two new age competitions brought little joy for the club, although both sides made the Semi Finals neither could advance through to the Premiership decider. The star of Ron Derley's Under 16 side was Graham Eadie, who would burst onto the scene during the following season.

Although defeated by Wyong in the Grand Final, the Roosters went on to record a second successive victory in the Southern Division knockout , defeating local rivals Gosford in the Final and added another trophy with a win in the Forster/Tuncurry knock out competition.

1969

Highly successful Reserve Grade coach Eric Rowlands was handed the First Grade reins, following the retirement of the great George Bartlett (*pictured*).



Bartlett's career included many highlights such as, four Premiership wins (three as Coach), successive Southern Division knock out victories, Selection as Captain/Coach of the Central Coast combined side and selection in the inaugural Group 12 representative side. George had the honour of being the first player to play 100 First Grade games for Woy Woy.

Rowlands would oversee a side Captained by the experienced Jim Robinson, containing youngsters Bill Monie, Geoff Pollett, Kevin Condren, Brad Berry, Graeme Commons and Bob Millwood.

For the third year the Club took part in the Southern Division Knock Out, travelling to Nowra for the Competition. Despite the sides relative inexperience, and led by the tough Robinson, the Roosters claimed their third successive victory.

The Southern Division knock out was the only joy in 1969 for the clubs senior sides. Both First Grade and Reserve Grade, who were minor Premiers were both defeated in the Preliminary Final. Once again the clubs dream of three First Grade Premierships in a row was thwarted.

Third Grade were again coached by Les Shaw but could not duplicate their success of the previous year, being eliminated in the Minor Semi Final.

The pride of the club in 1969 was the Roosters Under 16 team, which shattered all previous junior point scoring records. They went through the competition undefeated to be Premiers, amassing 634 points for with only 43 against. The star of the side Graham Eadie scored 247 of those points.

The Roosters Under 16 Premiership side of 1969 was;

G. Eadie, D.Coates, K.McMurtrie, P.Hall, T.Roberts, K.Farlow, P.Condren, P.Jones, G.Hutcheon, B.Leask, R.Mahar, J.Boyle and D. Horwell. Coach : Ron Derley

The 1960's was the era in which the Woy Woy Roosters came into their own in Central Coast Rugby League. From the easy beats tag in the late 1940's and early 1950's the club set about instilling pride and commitment into the famous Red & White jumper, and signed players who could achieve this goal.

First Grade under the leadership of Bobby Wallace and George Bartlett delivered the club four First Grade Premierships, the first being 1962, followed by success in 1964, 1966 and 1967. The undefeated reigns in 66 and 67 are unlikely to ever be duplicated. Under the banner of Southern Division the Roosters won the annual knock out competition in 1967, 1968 and 1969.

With the clubs playing depth at an all time high during the 1960s, Premierships in the lower grades came along at a steady rate. "B" Grade (or Reserve Grade) figured in 7 Grand Finals, winning Premierships in 1964,1965,1966 and 1968. "C" Grade (or Third Grade) made the Grand Final 8 times and were victorious on 4 occasions.

"D" Grade was coached for the entire decade by the incomparable Ron Derley who not only delivered some great results for the club, but developed some of the finest Rugby League players ever to play for the Roosters.

Pictured - Famous Ron Derley protégé' John Monie (left) alongside another great mentor George Bartlett

4 Premierships from 7 Grand Finals came the clubs way during this period, however the fact that 30 youngsters coached by Derley would go on to play First Grade, would be an astonishing achievement.

Two of his players, John Monie and Peter Louis went on to play First Grade in Sydney and both returned to Woy Woy coaching First Grade to Premiership victories.

