

1977

Brian Moore was again the coach in 1977 and as the results show West First Grade failed to make the semis for the first time since 1963. West played in the Reserve Grade and Third Grade Grand Finals. In Reserve Grade the Wayne Hore coached side lost 17 – 15 to Cessnock in a very close game, whilst in 3rd Grade the Minor Premiers and Brian Warby coached side lost 27 – 9 in the Grand Final. New players to West in 1977 included West Juniors Wayne “Fish” Taylor, Chris Wright, Paul Brady and Geoff Coburn. Coburn (pictured left) went on to play for Parramatta and Newtown before returning to West to finish his football career. Steve Bowden came from Lakes and Robert Wharton (a Souths junior) came



from Parramatta. Strong forward Russell Petrie came from Narrabri. Glenn Frew played for Lakes and Stockton as a junior before coming to West as an Under 14. Glenn has the distinction of playing First Grade in his first year in grade. Unfortunately in the 2nd game an attempted tackle on Cessnock prop Warren Jowett left Glenn (yes there are 2 n’s in Glenn) with a broken leg. Have I forgotten any new players in 1977.....yep Graeme Wynn and Steve Smith. Apparently, Jack Aitcheson and some other officials went to Tamworth in 1976



to entice Country Firsts centre, Ashley Barnett, from Warialda, to join West in 1977. Things didn’t work out with Ashley (he decided to stay on the Warialda farm), but the West officials noticed an Under 18 “running around” for Werris Creek in Under 18’s...and he was outstanding...so outstanding in fact that after joining West in 1977 Graeme Wynn went onto a great career with St George. Steve Smith (pictured right) came from Balmain as a “top” front row forward. Smith went on to play 132 games for West and was selected in West’s “Team of the Century” in 2010. Anyone else?? David Howell gets his own page...that’s how good he was!

<i>Pre Season</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>
Round 1	Kurri	RAIN	Rd 4 - Lakes	Won 21 - 0
Round 2	Waratah	Lost 6 - 4	Rd 5 - Macquarie	Won 28 - 6
Round 3	Maitland	Lost 20 - 9	<i>Play off – 3 v 4 – West 25 South 13</i>	
<i>Competition</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Reserves</i>	<i>Thirds</i>
Round 1	Macquarie	Won 31 - 9	Won 35 - 18	Won 22 - 9
Round 2	Cessnock	Won 19 - 18	Won 14 - 10	Won 25 - 11
Round 3	Lakes	Won 42 - 0	Lost 15 - 8	5 all Draw
Round 4	North	Lost 15 - 12	Lost 23 - 18	Won 9 - 3
Round 5	Waratah	Won 15 - 3	Won 8 - 7	Lost 15 - 7
Round 6	Maitland	Won 27 - 9	Won 24 - 0	10 all Draw
Round 7	South	Lost 17 - 10	Won 12 - 3	Won 12 - 3
Round 8	Central	Won 35 - 13	Won 29 - 17	Won 14 - 7
Round 9	Kurri	Lost 12 - 11	Won 11 - 10	Lost 15 - 10
Round 10	Macquarie	Won 22 - 3	Won 31 - 10	Won 23 - 18
Round 11	Cessnock	Lost 14 - 6	Lost 12 - 10	Won 17 - 7
Round 12	Lakes	Won 20 - 7	Lost 22 - 19	Lost 10 - 3
Round 13	North	Won 22 - 13	Won 26 - 11	Won 13 - 7
Round 14	Waratah	Lost 20 - 12	Lost 13 - 11	Won 15 - 11
Round 15	Maitland	Won 22 - 10	Lost 17 - 11	Won 16 - 14
Round 16	South	10 all Draw	Won 20 - 12	Won 16 - 7
Round 17	Central	Lost 8 - 5	8 all Draw	Won 36 - 11
Round 18	Kurri	Won 9 - 7	Won 14 - 3	Won 50 - 0
Minor Semi			West 12 North 2	
Major Semi				Mait 6 West 5
Final			West 23 Lakes 15	West 14 North 5
GRAND FINAL	Cessnock 21 Maitland 17		Cess 17 West 15	Mait 27 West 9

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 Premieships...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 the special status at 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 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!