

NORTH NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB



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JUNCTION—CHARLESTOWN—BELMONT—NELSON BAY—GOSFORD

BLUES NEWS

VOL. 1



NORTH NEWCASTLE

"GET WET" BLUES

V



WARATAH MAYFIELD CHEETAHS

**DANGAR PARK, MAYFIELD EAST
SUNDAY, 29th MARCH, 1987**



**NORTH LEAGUES CLUB
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TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT

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After the game we warmly invite all north and Waratah supporters and players to enjoy a cold beer at our friendly club

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4pm - 7pm : Music from "Country Feelings"

6pm - 6.15 : Norths Players awards presentation.

7.30pm 10.30pm : Music from "Edge"

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UPDATE ...

North Newcastle Rugby League Football Club, the "Get Wet" Blues, extend a warm welcome to all league fans at today's opening competition round at Dangar Park. We hope you enjoy the afternoon.

To our 'true blue' fans we again say thanks for your loyal and undying support, it means much to the players.

The eighties have been tough on North, with financial inducements luring a huge number of well-performed players to other clubs. However, the great tradition of the Blues remains intact, and we are confident that in 1987 the first steps will be taken towards re-instating Norths as a force to be reckoned with.

To former players and supporters who have drifted away over recent years, we ask just one small commitment. That is, your attendance at 3 Passmore Oval home games this season. A small price to pay, but a big encouragement to a club full of young players worthy of your support.

A tremendous sponsorship from 'Get Wet' Family Surf Centres has greatly assisted our promotional efforts. We particularly thank 'Get Wet' directors Chris Leach and Dave Crawford for their enthusiastic backing for every project we have undertaken.

A special welcome to those members of Jack 'Croaker' Gill's triumphant 1967 team present today. Twenty years ago this season, they personified the spirit that is North.

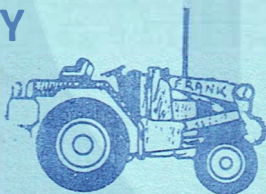
We thank Mayfield East R.U. for the provision of their home ground for today's fixtures, and our opponents Waratah-Mayfield for their ready co-operation.

Don't forget North Leagues club entertainment, and players awards, this afternoon after the game with entertainment and dining facilities open. All supporters from both clubs are invited.

Finally, wishing all players a successful, injury-free season, and long may the crowd roar "Blue ... Blue ... Blue".

*Lindsay Young, Promotions/Publicity Officer.
N.N.R.L.F.C.*

CAROLE AND FRANK "TRACTOR FACE" MULLANEY



Warmly invite
the mighty
"Get Wet" Blues,
their supporters, and any sports
fanatics to call in and enjoy a social ale.

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sport than Frank knows.

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IN APPRECIATION

Norths 'Get Wet' Blues executive committee would like to thank the following for their assistance in this 1987 season

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- Hamilton Station Hotel
- Mayfield East Rugby Union
- Aladdin Graphics
- Bennetts of Islington
- Blackbutt Hotel
- MacDonalds, Mayfield
- City of N'cie RSL Pipe Band
- Waratah-Mayfield RLFC
- Rick Wayde, Sydney Wests RLFC
- and many others

OUT OF THE BLUE ...

On a single weekend last season, a total of 31 former North Newcastle players turned out in various grades for other clubs. Goes to show what a difference a dollar makes!

Congratulations to Dave 'Motor-bike' Newton and Todd Anderson on their selection in the early season N'cle rep squads. Some good judges reckon our smart centre Nick O'Brien was a bit unlucky to miss out.

Last season the Tah's won the 1st round clash 70-6. North turned the tables 14-12 in the 2nd round. The "Cheetahs" won this seasons pre-season encounter 16-12.

Best excuse for missing a pre-season training session was Guy "Magic Wok" Yee's classic — "I was bitten by a trap-door spider". Guy even circled the puncture mark with a pen, just to silence the doubters.

Absent from today's North line-up is Peter "Pee-wee" Walker. Yesterday Peter married the lovely Kelly Blundell, and all at North extend congratulations to the newlyweds.

A big broadside to the officials from a rival club (guess which one?) who approached Norths clever ½ back Billy Lamb after a lower grade pre-season match. Billy laughed at them! And well he might, the same club had refused to even given him a trial run two seasons ago.

Norths 15 1st grade premierships are the most by any Newcastle club.

The last player to represent N.S.W. from a Newcastle club was Rex Wright (now with North Sydney) in the 1984 State of Origin series.

North premierships: 1sts: 1911-14-20-25-26-29-35-38-48-51-53-59-62-67-79. Res: 1910-11-12-22-26-30-31-35-37-45-50. 3rds: 1975.

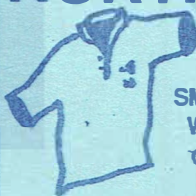
Norths won their last 1st Grade Grand Final in 1979 defeating Cessnock 20-8. North played most of the game one man short after the early sending off of forward Dave Edwards.

There are only two kinds of real Rugby League supporters. a) North supporters, b) Those who wish they were.

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FIRST GRADE — Kick-off: 3 p.m.

"GET WET" BLUES

Coach: Karl Hutchinson

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wayne Walker | 8. Rick Dyke |
| 2. Dave Anderson | 9. Col Giggins |
| 3. Tony Picken | 10. Rick McInnes |
| 4. Nick O'Brien | 11. Mick Ryan (C) |
| 5. Shane Banks | 12. Kent Lumsden |
| 6. Mark Wright | 13. Todd Anderson |
| 7. David Newton | |

"CHEETAHS"

Coach: Lindsay Gailey

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Craig Short | 8. Trevor Crowe |
| 2. Allan Liddiard | 9. Darrell Warden |
| 3. Steve Robinson | 10. Warren Black |
| 4. Tim Vaughan | 11. Mick Donnelly (C) |
| 5. Peter Sleap | 12. Mark Dart |
| 6. Craig Hewlett | 13. Tony Gough |
| 7. Dean Michalski | |

Referee: Mr. T. Hardy. — **Touch Judges:** Messrs. R. Stobbs, V. Wyborn.

RESERVE GRADE — Kick-off: 1.10 p.m.

"GET WET" BLUES

Coach: Chris Hartney

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Darren Mehan | 8. Darren Ball |
| 2. Peter Sullivan | 9. Wayne Hyde |
| 3. Rick Coleman | 10. Mark Payne |
| 4. Shane Garside | 11. Brad Casserly |
| 5. Rob Delaney | 12. Peter Preston |
| 6. Ken Fairhall (C) | 13. Brad Smith |
| 7. Mark Stanford | |

"CHEETAHS"

Coach: Joe Perry

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Gavin Dennis | 8. Wayne Bunt |
| 2. Mick Little | 9. Brad Lantry |
| 3. Davide King | 10. David Priestley |
| 4. Ken McCartney | 11. Andrew Rennie |
| 5. John Slookee | 12. Tony Walker |
| 6. Joe Perry (C) | 13. Brad Bannister |
| 7. Steve McCarty | |

Referee: Mr. T. Sutcliffe. — **Touch Judges:** Messrs. R. Stobbs, K. Fitcher

THIRD GRADE — Kick-off: 11.45 a.m.

"GET WET" BLUES

Coach: Peter Chapman

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Tony Dodd | 8. Filo Attio |
| 2. Dave Fletcher | 9. Mark Wrightson |
| 3. Alex Maher | 10. Peter Jackson |
| 4. Steve Parry | 11. Peter Turk |
| 5. Carl Blick | 12. Greg Morton |
| 6. Allan Armstrong | 13. Pat Tatu |
| 7. Billy Lamb (C) | |

"CHEETAHS"

Coach: Bill Carrigg

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Stephen Spier | 8. Casey McInnes |
| 2. Wayne Jones | 9. Richard Kaminsky |
| 3. David Sneddon | 10. Tom Pattison |
| 4. Scott Cashman | 11. Mick Forrester |
| 5. James Burrows | 12. Dean Perrett |
| 6. Mick Warne | 13. Greg Hamilton |
| 7. Garry Shore | |

Referee: Mr. K. Fitcher. — **Touch Judges:** Messrs. V. Wyborn, T. Sutcliffe

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1967 — BLUES WIN GRAND FINAL THRILLER

Twenty years since the game, and even today Newcastle League fans talk of Norths magnificent 1967 Grand Final win over Minor Premiers Western Suburbs.

A capacity crowd at No. 1 Sportsground was thrilled from start to finish with sharp attack and tremendous defence from both sides, before the outstanding leadership and tactical play of Norths captain-coach Jack "Croaker" Gill eventually prevailed to spearhead the underdogs to a memorable 13-11 triumph over the defending premiers.



Back Row: L. Perry, W. Owens, R. Cooper, K. Hutchinson, W. Mattingley, B. Askie, N. Hancock (Selector).

3rd Row: S. Farquharson (Treasurer), D. Williams (Vice-President), J. Webber (Trainer), F. Wilkinson (Assist. Secretary), L. Bunt (President), W. Morton (Team Manager).

2nd Row: J. Lane (Secretary), D. Maddison, D. Ellis, J. Gill (Capt.-Coach), D. McManus, D. Newton.

Front: D. Davey, D. Nichols, C. Lawson (Ball Boy), C. Ball, E. Russell.

Absent: A. Jones, R. Butler, R. Hunter, P. Watsford.

Norths led 2-0 after 14 mins. when Gill landed a 35 metre penalty goal. 4 minutes later Wests captain/coach John Hobby equalised with a neat field goal.

Norths regained the lead in the 21st minute when ½ back Brian Askie scored after forwards Dennis Nichols and Bill Mattingly had combined to carry play from inside their half to within two metres of Wests line. From the ensuing play-the-ball Norths swung play across field and Askie crossed wide out. Gill's conversion attempt was astray.

Norths led 5-2 but Wests came back strongly when their champion centre, the footballing priest Father John Cootes, with a brilliant individual effort, eluded three tackles in a sensational 40 metre run to score. He converted his try from wide out and Wests led 7-5.

A further long range penalty goal by Cootes before ½ time saw Wests leading 9-5 at the break with the 2nd half wind advantage.

Gill narrowed the gap with a great penalty goal from near half-way and into the wind immediately after the resumption, but Cootes replied with his third goal and Wests stayed ahead 11-7.

The sustained defensive effort from both sides continued, but North drew level with further Gill penalty goals in the 14th and 25th minutes of the second half.

8 minutes from the finish Wests were caught offside in front of their posts. Gill again raised the flags and the Blues hit the lead 13-11.

"Croaker" Gill capped his fine display of kicking and general leadership with a superb tactical strategy over the dying stages.

Clinging to their slender lead, Gill and Askie repeatedly kicked the ball dead on the 3rd and 4th tackles. On seven occasions this tactic was employed.

Under the existing rules, and much to their frustration, Wests were forced to restart play with a drop kick, thus surrendering possession. Norths controlled the ball for 6½ of the final 8 minutes.

Full-time was greeted with a tumultuous roar from the hordes of Norths fans.

The "Newcastle Sun" reported:

They sat bare-chested — tired but triumphant — drinking champagne from paper cups. Around them the dressing room erupted with noise, laughter and beer. They were North — the mighty North — and once again they were champions of Newcastle Rugby League.

They had won it the North way, the only way they knew how.

With guts and determination . . .

North 13 (B. Askie try, J. Gill 5 goals) def. West 11 (J. Cootes try, 3 goals, J. Hobby f/goal)

Scrums: North 10-4. Penalties: North 14-8. Referee: N. Spohr

Res: West 21 def. Lakes 9. 3rds West: 16 (6 goals f/goal) def. North 10 (2 tries, 2 goals).

Footnotes: a) In 1968 the A.R.L. altered the "dead in goal" restart rule to a tap kick.

b) Father John Cootes went on to represent Australia.

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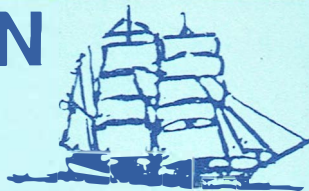
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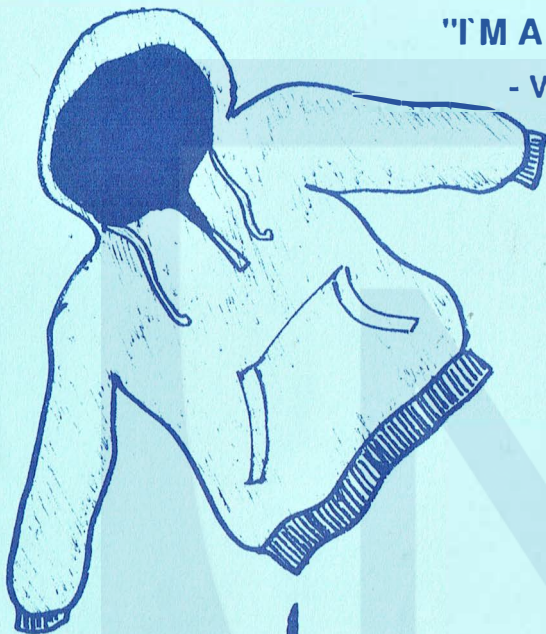
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