

## WOY WOY ROOSTERS 2011

The 2011 season has now gone as quickly as it arrived, with the Woy Woy Roosters performing strongly to finish Semi Finalists in three grades and in sixth place in the coveted Club Championship, despite not fielding an Under 17s team.

The **WOY WOY LEAGUES CLUB** First Grade side did the Club proud in 2011, leading the Competition for the second half of the season before finishing in third place on 32 points behind Minor Premiers Ourimbah and Umina, scoring 340 points while conceding 142.

With a host of players missing from 2010, including Matt Riddle (Tweed Heads), Jade Mason (Kincumber) Mick Maryska and Glen McLellan (both Retired) the Roosters added only Boydie-Lee Symes (Umina), Jeremy Williams (Kincumber) and veteran Danny Sommerville (Toukley) to its squad, however soon lost Sommerville (who played in the Club's 1999 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Premiership winning team) in the second match of the season after suffering a broken leg against his former Club.

Coach Les Lowe then turned his attention to the youngsters in the lower grades to bolster his side, which reaped rewards throughout the season. Players such as Mitch Manson, Alex Baxter and Brent Bovis were consistently outstanding performers for the Club, while Under 19 players Geordie Makey, James Murphy, Zane Rickit, Joe Wood all had a taste of First Grade and gave a great account of themselves.



Mitch Manson (pictured playing for the Central Hunter Power Under 18s) was a revelation for the Club. Brought in to make his First Grade debut as Fullback against Erina in round two, Mitch soon grew into the role and was one of the Roosters best despite not turning 18 until August. Mitch scored 6 tries from 16 First Grade matches, Represented the Central Hunter Power Under 18s, and was named CCRL Rookie Of The Year for 2011 – a well deserved honour for a fine young man and loyal Rooster Junior.

As the Season rolled on the side continued to play entertaining football on the back of the creative pairing of skipper Adam Tippett and Chris and the speed out wide of Ryan Drew, who scored 24 tries for the season, and Represented the Central Hunter Power Senior side early in the season.

The Roosters mobile and energetic pack turned out to be a handful for opposition teams, with the young Roosters combining nicely with the experienced Shaun O'Cass, Scott Wilesmith, Geoff Wilkin and Aaron Hardman leading the way, as Woy Woy marched into the Semi Finals.

The Semi Finals saw Woy Woy face Umina at Mingara in the Qualifying Semi with the Roosters playing great Semi Final football to defeat our great rivals 36-18, to make an appointment with Minor Premiers Ourimbah. Adam Tippett returned from injury to score a try, while Chris Hyde scored three tries in a Man Of The Match performance.

In one of the fiercest games of the season the Roosters battled Ourimbah at EDSACC, and despite controlling the game at different times could not overcome the Magpies, who advanced directly to the Grand Final with a 12-10 victory. The following week everything was on the line against Berkeley Vale at Woy Woy Oval, with Woy Woy playing outstanding football in the First half to lead 24-10 at Half Time.

The second half proved to be a contrast, with victory looking assured the Panthers kept coming and eventually stormed home to snatch a 36-32 win as the Roosters faded in the dying minutes.

Despite falling short of the Grand Final the Roosters should be proud of their efforts and achievements, which were many.

In addition to Mitch Manson being named CCRL Rookie of The Year, Les Lowe was named Coach Of The Year and Chris Hyde was named CCRL joint First Grade Player Of The Year, the 7<sup>th</sup> Roosters to do so, and the first since Jade Mason in 2006.

Long serving First Grader Troy McLellan reached the milestone of 100 First Grade games for Woy Woy during the Season and was recognized for this achievement along with his brother Glenn who played his 100<sup>th</sup> game for the Club at the end of 2010.

After two years in charge of Woy Woy Coach Les Lowe has decided to stand down having done a great job in returning the Roosters to a Premiership force. Aaron Hardman and Adam Tippett have been appointed joint Coaches with Tippett shelving plans to retire and will return as skipper for another tilt at the title in 2012.



The **CAMPBELLS HOME HARDWARE** Reserve Grade under the Coaching of Bob Gordon had an up and down season in their quest for the Semi Finals.

A loss late in the season looked to have ended the Roosters Season, before the side went on an amazing run which lasted 6 matches and secured a fourth place on the ladder with 28 points from 11 wins and 7 losses.

A solid first up 25-16 win in the elimination Semi Final got the campaign underway, with Josh McGlynn, Dane Budd and Ernie McGillicuddy lifting for the occasion. The following week at Erina Oval the Roosters had to overcome some injury concerns against Northern Lakes if they were to advance further.

Despite falling behind by 10 early, the Roosters fought back to lead 18-10 inside the last ten minutes, however the Warriors capitalized on field position and some Roosters mistakes to run out winners 23-18, thus ending a fine run by the side.

Throughout the Season long serving Roosters Dane Budd, Shane Wilson, Sean Stevenson, Mitch Gordon were consistent performers, while Aaron Hamstra, Brad Harridge (pictured)



and Brett "Bull" McGrath were welcomed back after a break of a few seasons. It was Josh McGlynn though, who captivated everyone with some brilliant late season performances scoring 5 tries in the Semis in a brilliant solo contribution.

Dane Budd contributed 104 points for the Season with 6 tries and 40 goals, while talented Fullback Ernie McGillicuddy scored 15 tries and kicked 20 goals and a Field Goal for 101 points of his own prior to the Finals.

Congratulations to Bob Gordon and his Assistant Coach Daniel King and Manager Daniel Biernat for their fine efforts during 2011 and contribution to the Club as a whole.

The **LANCE CLARKE AMCAL PHARMACY** Open Age got together just before the start of the Season and took time to gel with many players new to the Club and not having played for some years.

The Open Agers finished in eighth place with 54 wins and 11 losses, however supplied great support for the higher grades, regularly sacrificing their chances to ensure Reserve Grade, and in turn First Grade had competitive teams. They did have some highlights, which included a stirring away win over Semi Finalists Blue Haven on a cold Saturday Night. Another win over Northern Lakes late in the season was a fine one considering they were low on personnel and had to rely on Reserve Graders who turned up early and elected to play two matches.

Mitch Kreymborg (pictured) showed great potential having not played for 5 seasons, and was a standout playing 13 Open Age 3, Reserve Grade games and 1 First Grade Game in 2011.

Coach Aaron McLean and his regular offside Clint Israel should be congratulated for a great effort keeping the squad together for the whole season, playing with great spirit and doing the Club proud.



High hopes were held for the **ALITON EXCAVATION & DEMOLITION** Under 19s, however injuries at different time of the season appeared to have not only derailed the teams Premiership prospects but their Semi Final hopes as well.

In addition to missing Zane Rickit (pictured), Josiah Kearns, Luke Grant, Alex Brew (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) and Mitch Manson (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) the side was also rocked by other deciding not to continue, however they re-grouped to battle gamely as the Semi Finals approached. Newcomers Ben Dickson, Casey Natty, Kyle Shilling and Wade Hynes provided some much needed depth prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, and provided the spark the Roosters needed.



Despite a shock loss to Umina in the final away match of the season, the Roosters went into the Semi's in fourth place and full of confidence leading into the elimination match against Ourimbah. After being sidelined with a shoulder injury for the best part of 2011 Matt Cama burst into action, scoring two tries and creating havoc.

The Roosters march continued the following week with a tough 14-4 win against the Kincumber Colts. Again Cama was outstanding and got great support from big men Ben Dickson and James Hickey, who dominated the Kincumber pack.

This set up a Woy Woy Oval match up with the fancied Entrance Tigers with a place in the Grand Final up for grabs.

The Tigers started strongly, but the Roosters ground their way into the match and hit the lead late in the match through a tries to Matt Cama and Jason Hayward. The Tigers weren't to be denied though, scoring a late try to secure a win and end the Roosters gallant run.

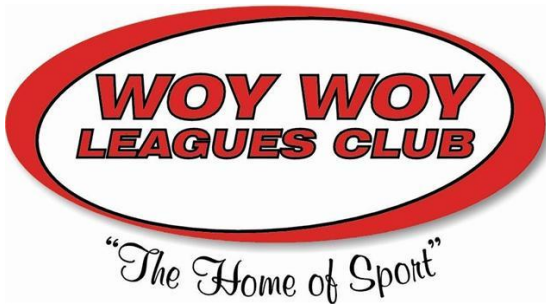
Congratulations to all the guys who stuck solid with Coach Junior Johnson and Manger Justin Markham to make the Finals and do themselves and the Club proud. Many players got the taste of First Grade in 2011 and will no doubt step up to the Grade ranks in 2012 on a permanent basis.

Off the field the Club had small but hard working Committee which kept the Club running throught the Season. Headed by President Grant Pride the Committee consisted of Chris James, Warwick Davis, Lorraine Davis, Stephen James, Paul Thomas, Gulette Wilson, Peter Read and Richard Smithers.

Our gratitude goes to our fine Medical/Conditioning Staff of Warwick Faint, Doug Ford, Quintin Gracen, Phil Ledingham, Scott Markham and all the League Safe guys who donned the yellow shirt to help out. A big thank you also to Laurie Powell, Larry Brown, Matt "Smiley" who chipped in with timekeeping and general odd jobs – we couldn't have got by without you.

In 2011 Gulette Wilson handled the Canteen Duties, and stands down after nearly 10 years in the role. A big thankyou to Gulette for her efforts, and to all the ladies who helped in the Canteen during the Season.

The assistance of everyone on game day throughout 2011 was a big help for the Club, and made life much easier for the Volunteers. Many Players and Supporters chipped in which was greatly appreciated.



And finally, to our Sponsors we say thank you for sticking with the Club during the past year. Times are tough out there for small Businesses so we appreciate any support that is forthcoming.

Josh Collins and the Board Of Directors have provided considerable Financial and moral support which has reinforced the Leagues Club's commitment to Rugby League, which is greatly appreciated.

The Woy Woy Roosters Sponsors in 2011 are;

**WOY WOY LEAGUES CLUB, BENDIGO BANK ETTALONG BEACH, RADIO 2GO, CAMPBELLS HOME TIMBER & HARDWARE, LANCE CLARKE AMCAL PHARMACY, ALITON EXCAVATION & DEMOLITION, LJ HOOKER WOY WOY, ANDERSONS MARINA & BOAT HIRE, BRACEY & ASSOCIATES, UNITED TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, QUICKSERVE FRUIT & VEG and CARLTON DRAUGHT.**

Congratulations to all teams who were Premiers in 2011 and to CCRL for a great Season. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2012.