

HISTORY'S PAGE

league wins throughout the years

Continued from page 14

Three Donnelly brothers, Reg, Bill (Rocky) and Ray played in Gunnedah teams in the late 1940s and 1950s. Reg, a tough front-row forward, also had a season with Newtown in the Sydney competition.

The highest honour in league came to Rocky's son, John, a schoolboy prodigy who represented NSW at 18 and went on to play Test and World Cup football.

Reg's sons - Terry, Brian, Garry, Phillip and Greg - were also good footballers.

Terry achieving interstate standard, captaining Queensland, and Greg winning selection as NSW Country fullback.

The first international from the district was Boggabri's Trevor Eather, who played in the centres with Australian captain Joe Jorgenson in the Third Test against Great Britain at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1946. Great Britain won 20-7.

Gunnedah was well and truly in the league spotlight in the 1970s, with John O'Neill, Ron Turner and John Donnelly all winning selection in Australian teams.

Don Pascoe, a big, mobile winger, forced his way into the NSW team in 1968 and 1969, on debut scoring three tries in NSW's 32-8 win over Queensland on the Sydney Cricket Ground in May 1968. He scored six tries in six games for NSW and played in a World Cup trial in 1970.

Flying winger Bruce Mercer was a member of the Australian schoolboys' team which toured England in 1972-73.

A rugged prop forward, Lindsay Johnston played two State of Origin games for NSW. Between 1983 and 1989 he played for North Sydney, Eastern Suburbs and South Sydney.

Alan Davidson, John Gurd, Col Pritchard, Bob Thomas, Paul Hassab, Hilary Daley, Terry and Greg Donnelly, David McCann, James Wynne, Roger Torrens and Peter Ryman have all represented Country and Phillip Hawkins Combined Country juniors.

In 1984 John Lennan, Ross Whitaker, Robert Brady, Greg Donnelly and Mick McCann were in the Northern Division side which played Great Britain in Tamworth.

On the same day, at Kitchen-er, Gunnedah defeated the Moree



Boomerangs 48-46, after trailing 40-0 at halftime, one of the most amazing recoveries in the history of competition football.

The entry of women's teams into the Group 4 competition has changed the face of rugby league, with the matches quickly drawing a large following - but that's another story.

The 1973 Gunnedah team which won the Group 4 competition, defeating old rival West Tamworth in the grand final. Back row, from left, Neville Launt (strapper), Derek Lucas, Roger Gawthorne, Gary Scovell, Don Pascoe, John Donnelly, John Rennick, John Lennan (manager). Second row, from left, Neville Bayliss (secretary), Ray (Spike) Smith, Merv Turner, Roger Buttenshaw (coach), Paul Hassab (captain), Barry Tydd (President), Ivan Wheeler, Hilary Daley. Front row, from left, Peter Wilkins, Robert Jones, Vern Bartlett, A. Rennick (ballboy), Robert Miller, Richard Gallen, Ken McKenzie. Gunnedah also won the Clayton Cup, as the champion team in NSW Country.

MARKETPLACE

Recover ecosystems and bring fauna back into the landscape

By NICKY CHIRLIAN, LIVERPOOL PLAINS AND GUNNEDAH LANDCARE COORDINATOR

In May, as the new Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah Landcare co-ordinator, I had the pleasure of meeting with Tony and Wendy Bernays and Margaret and Geoff Hood, stalwart members of Gunnible Landcare Group, and touring with Tony and Margaret around some of the country that this "little" group covers.

The area covered by the group is north of the Namoi River at Gunnedah, out to the Melville Ranges/Kelvin Hills - approximately 30,000 hectares. Orange Grove River Care, Nobbys Rock Landcare and Burbargate Landcare were melded to become Gunnible Landcare in the mid 1990's.

Gunnible Landcare Inc has conducted environmentally focused projects in the Gunnedah area since 1997 and offers a collective viewpoint and a social community focus.

Specific activities have included maintenance and beautification of local reserves and travelling stock routes, noxious weed control, protecting 'at risk' tree avenues (replacing dead trees, installing tree guards etc.) and revegetating private land to encourage biodiversity. Members of the group have a diverse range of skills that are of significant value for new revegetation and habitat restoration projects.

On our tour, I saw many examples of Gunnible plantings and areas that the group 'cares' for - with regular cleanups and weed control, e.g. the TSR site on the Namoi River opposite the Riverine Parklands. Lovely signs mark much of their work! Tony and Margaret pointed out strategic and large corridor tree plantings along fencelines by landholders. Of




Chair of Gunnible Landcare Group Tony Bernays.

particular significance are historic plantings of silky oaks on O'Keefe Avenue maintained by Gunnible volunteers.

A delicious and most appreciated morning tea in Wendy and Tony's garden, followed by a river walk - viewing the impacts of the last flood.

Upcoming activities include a Biodiversity workshop and paddock walk funded by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust on Friday, October 25, being led by Liz Blair, from Ecosystem Thinking, and members of Local Land Services Travelling Stock Routes Team (see advertisement on the right).

Gunnible Landcare Inc have a busy time coming up - they are supporting Peter Long and Sarah Ferguson's workshop at "Ngiyaani" on Sunday, November 3; and are planning an update their five-year activity plan, and welcome community

 The area covered by the group is north of the Namoi River at Gunnedah, out to the Melville Ranges/Kelvin Hills - approximately 30,000 hectares.

input to a survey to determine its direction. Gunnible Landcare is also interested in river restoration and flood mitigation work and is in initial planning stages of a project with Ozfish River Repair. Check and like Gunnible Landcare's Facebook page to stay informed and get involved.



The Donnelly brothers of the 1940s and 1950s. From left, Ray, Bill (Rocky) and Reg.



NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust



Biodiversity in Our Community: Recovering Natural Ecosystems
25th October 2024



Learn about management options for remnant, recovering and recreated ecosystems, and how to bring fauna back through landscape management.



NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust



Gunnedah Aero Club, 41 Wean Rd, then moving to 437 Blue Vale Rd, Gunnedah.



25th October 2024
8:30am Registration - 3:00pm



Register at <https://tinyurl.com/4xu52pnj>



Call Nicky Chirlian Liverpool Plains & Gunnedah Landcare Coordinator
0488 056 199 for enquiries