

## Stan Simpson

..... was born in the Balmain district and grew up in that rugby league stronghold where he learned to play the game. In the 1930's Balmain had a very organised junior rugby league structure which nurtured future grade players. This system required players to trial with the District Club at the start of each season, thereby ensuring a flow of quality players to fill the ranks of the senior Club.

He was selected to play in the Balmain President's Cup team in 1930 and this team went on to narrowly beat Southern Districts (Wests) in the 1930 final. Stan was graded with the Balmain Rugby League Club in 1930 after fulfilling his President's Cup duties and played with the Tigers until 1934. During his time with Balmain, Stan played twenty First grade games.



### Balmain President's Cup Winners 1930

Back: J Pritchard (Sel), W O'Connor (Sec & Sel), G Robinson (Coach), E McFarlane (Train), J Shaw (Sel), G Hamer (Amb)  
Standing: A Starke (Sel), W Pearson, R Brennan, G Reid, D Little, Stan Simpson, A Boyce, J McGarry (Pres & Sel)  
Sitting: F Williams, R Dunn, H Robson (C), T Fitzgerald (Patron), P Goldsmith, G Pyke, W Phillips  
Front: B Bell, H Matthews, H Munro, G Woods

Stan appeared to have had a break from playing in 1935, but around this time he moved to the suburb of Westmead, near Parramatta. He joined Wests in 1936 and played until 1942.

Stan brought a level of experience to Wests which was much needed in the lean years of the late 1930's. Stan captained the Wests Reserve Grade team in 1938 and was the captain and coach of the Reserve Grade team in 1940 and 1941.

During Stan's seven seasons at Wests he played twenty First Grade, forty two Reserve Grade, five Third Grade and ten City Cup games. In all grades he scored ten tries and sixty one goals for a tally of one hundred and fifty two points.

Stan Simpson enlisted with the RAAF for service in the Second World War in 1943. He was a Leading Aircraftsman with No.1 Attack Squadron which was based at Kingaroy, Queensland. After serving initially on Australian Shores he was posted for overseas duty in May 1945 and served at Morotai and Labuan. Stan was discharged in March 1946.

Stan became a Committee man and Vice President at Wests and maintained his connection during the war years. While still a Vice president at Wests he was actively involved with a group seeking admission of Parramatta into the premiership competition in 1947.

It was reported in August 1946 that Stan addressed a group of Parramatta businessmen and supporters and indicated that Wests were not likely to oppose the move. That was not a universal position at Wests and subsequent objections were made to the NSW Rugby League.

**Third R.L. Bid  
By Parramatta**

Parramatta will make another application to the New South Wales Rugby League for admission as a district club.

This was decided at a meeting of businessmen and supporters at Parramatta last night.

Parramatta unsuccessfully applied for admission to the League in 1936 and 1937.

At last night's meeting, Western Suburbs vice-president, Mr. Stan Simpson, said his club were not likely to oppose the move.

Mr. Vince O'Neill, organiser of the movement, said there were 14 A-grade junior teams and 1300 registered players in the district.

Daily Telegraph 21 August 1946

In 1947 Stan Simpson was elected as a Vice President of the newly formed Parramatta Rugby League Club. He was also appointed as the Reserve Grade Coach and captained the Reserve Grade team in its inaugural year. In fact Parramatta had all former Wests players as Coaches in 1947. Frank McMillan was the First Grade coach and Henry Hannan coached Third Grade.

**NEW PRESIDENT**

**PARRAMATTA RUGBY LEAGUE**

Parramatta Rugby League Club last week voted its president, Mr. Jack Scullin, out of office, 134 votes to 108.

A stormy annual meeting at Parramatta Town Hall elected Mr. Stan Simpson, the senior vice-president last year, to the presidency.

His defeat came after twelve months of bickering among players and officials, as well as an official investigation into the club by the N.S.W. Rugby League.

Mr. Scullin was president of Parramatta in 1949, 1951 and from 1953 until this year.

His successor, Mr. Simpson is a life member of the club having been a vice-president for its 10 years of existence. He is also a life member of Western Suburbs club, and played with Balmain as a forward for six years.

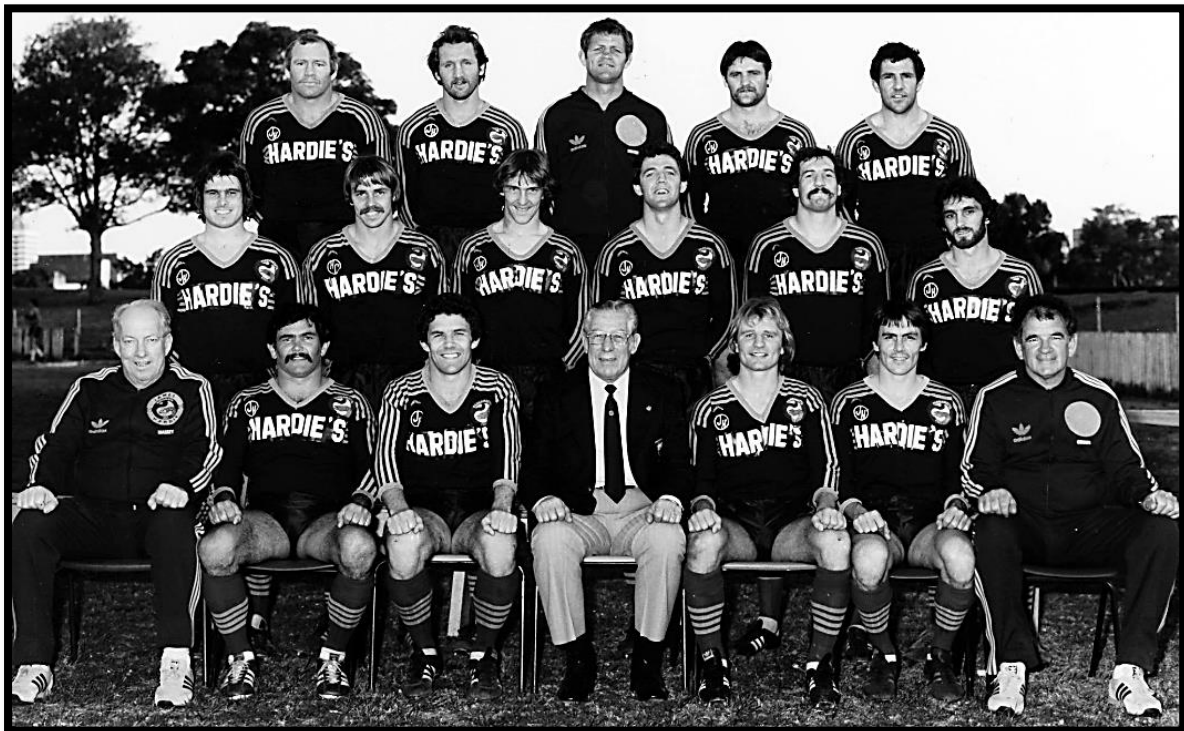
Last year he was a Parramatta first-grade selector as well as vice-president, and for his first five years with Parramatta was coach of the second-grade side.

Biz 27 February 1957

During Stan Simpson's time, Parramatta emerged from being a struggling Club in the 1940's and 50's to one of the premier Clubs in the Sydney competition. Stan was President of the Parramatta Club up until 1981 when Parramatta secured its first premiership. Stan relinquished his official positions with the Club after it reached this pinnacle.



Parramatta's Bob O'Reilly and Steve Edge with the J J Giltinan Shield



President Stan Simpson (front centre) with the Parramatta Premiership team – Jack Gibson, Coach (front right)

Stan lived his life at Westmead in the Parramatta district from the mid 1930's until his death in March 1990. His memorial is at the Pinegrove Memorial Park, Minchinbury, NSW





Stan Simpson's Heritage Medal and Deed of Recognition – Western Suburbs DRLFC