

Perc Williamson

..... learned his rugby league playing with the Tweed Rugby League Club and was recorded making his debut in the senior grades as early as 1951. Perc was a speedy winger or centre and was a prolific try scorer. Newspaper reports from the time indicate that Perc was a major contributor to the success of the Tweed team.

Scorers: Tweed (Williamson 5 tries, Cramp 2 tries, goal, Butler and Edwards tries, Lena five goals, Dinsey goal). Kyogle (Roach try and goal, Jones goal).

Northern Star 16 July 1951

Scorers were: Tweed 67 (P. Williamson 3, K. Cramp, S. Edwards 3, K. Bath 2, K. Dinsey, P. Saunders, C. Edwards, R. Lake, Reeves and M. Power tries; Reeves 3, Bath 2, S. Edwards, Dinsey and Cramp goals) beat Kyogle 2 (B. White goal).

Northern Star 30 June 1952

Richmond, hopelessly beaten for the ball in the scrums, could not hold back Tweed's matchwinners—the centres Percy Williamson and Pat Pyers.

Northern Star 27 July 1953

Representative centres, Perc Williamson and Alan Pyers, spearheaded Old Boys' attack, particularly in the first half, when they scored four tries between them.

Williamson scored all his points, three tries in the first half.
He was moved on to the wing in the second.
Williamson's tries were scored with sheer speed and

Kyogle Examiner 30 March 1954

In April 1954 Perc Williamson played in a series of trial matches for selection in the Group One representative team. He scored two tries for the northern zone in the trials and was selected in the team to play Combined Group Two. The Daily Examiner (Grafton) on 19 April 1954 reported on the Group One v Group Two match, and noted that "winger, C. Williamson showed good form", and in the results section it had "T. Williamson" as one of the try scorers.

There is little doubt that it was Perc Williamson that played for Group One in that match as there was no one else on the representative scene by the name of Williamson. To have his name mis-recorded twice in the same news article was only a fore runner of the variation to his name in later news reports. One player that did appear in that match was future Wests player Mark Patch.

Richmond and Tweed players dominate tomorrow's North v. South rugby league match at Murwillumbah to select the Group One team.

Northern Star 10 April 1954

North selectors have surprisingly split the two brilliant Tweed threequarters, Percy Williamson and Allan Pyers.
Williamson and Pyers were the force in the Tweed team which won the Anthony Shield last season.
Selectors have chosen Pyers as a centre and Williamson on

Williamson scored two run-away tries early in the game, but his defence was poor.

Northern Star 12 April 1954

Between April and June 1954 Perc Williamson moved to the North Coast town of Macksville which is in the Group Two rugby league district. Perc was only 21 years of age but had a career in the Banking Industry. At that time he was described as a Bank Clerk and his move to Macksville would have been a career move with his employer, the E.S. and A. Bank.

Perc joined the strong Macksville Rugby League team, and within a short time he came to the notice of the Group Two Selectors. On 9 June 1954 it was reported in the Daily Examiner that Perc had been selected in the "Rest of Group Two" team to play against the "Group Two Country Week" team. The arrangement was something similar to a Possibles v Probables match. It was important as the next stage would be the selection of the final Group Two team that would then meet other Northern rugby league Groups for ultimate selection of a Northern Division team that would meet the touring England side. Perc Williamson was reported as W. Williamson in some newspapers.

The "Rest of Group Two" defeated the "Group Two Country Week" team 17-15, and Perc Williamson was selected to play for the final Group Two team. The Group Two team played in the Northern Division selection trials but Perc was not selected in the Division team.



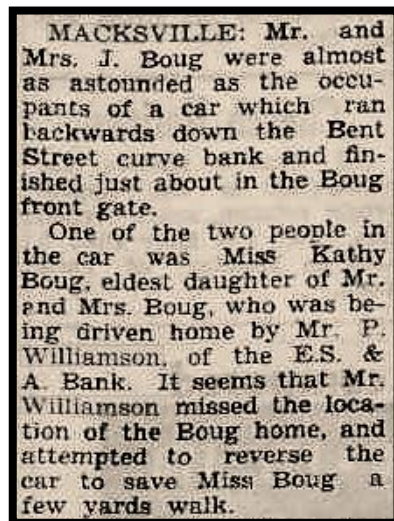
Other new players in the Group team are P. Williamson, N. Periera and J. Collinge.

Coffs Harbour Advocate 15 June 1954

Perc focussed on the local competition for the remainder of the year and was instrumental in taking the Macksville team to the finals series where they were eventually defeated by the minor premiers, Bowraville. At season's end, the young Perc Williamson found himself at the centre of other social and sporting activities.

On Friday 13 August 1954, it was reported in the MacLeay Argus that a car being driven by Perc Williamson was involved in an unusual accident. Perc who was described as "being of the E. S. and A. Bank", was driving a young lady by the name of Kathy Boug to her home at Macksville. Perc missed the entry gate to her parent's property and to save the young lady a walk, Perc decided to reverse the car back to the entry of the property.

Kathy Boug, as there was no long-term relationship.



MACKSVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. J. Boug were almost as astounded as the occupants of a car which ran backwards down the Bent Street curve bank and finished just about in the Boug front gate. One of the two people in the car was Miss Kathy Boug, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boug, who was being driven home by Mr. P. Williamson, of the E.S. & A. Bank. It seems that Mr. Williamson missed the location of the Boug home, and attempted to reverse the car to save Miss Boug a few yards walk.

MacLeay Argus 13 August 1954

It seems that Perc Williamson's driving skills only went as far as going in a forward direction. No sooner had he started reversing the vehicle, than he found that he had lost control of the contraption with it rolling backwards down the street and aimed at the gate of the property owned by the parents of young Kathy. It appears that no one was seriously injured but Perc's skills behind the wheel did not impress

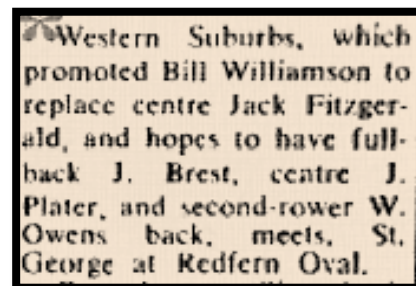
Perc Williamson was quick on the football field, but he was more than a match in sprint races off the field. In October 1954 he entered the Macksville Gift sprint race, which was one of the leading sprint races in NSW.

There were sixteen heats and Perc won his heat to then run in one of seven semi finals. Perc won his semi-final and lined up against six others in the final. Perc was unplaced in the final, but it was a particularly good effort against some of the top sprinters in the State.



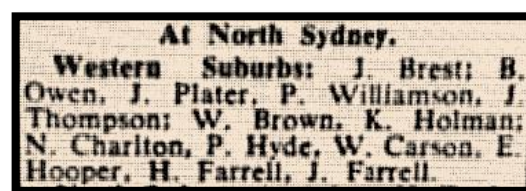
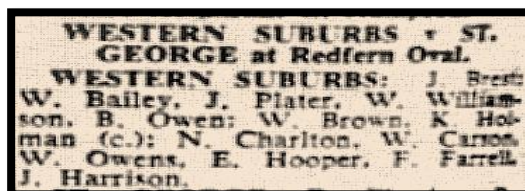
1954 Macksville Gift- Perc Williamson - Finalist

In 1955, Perc Williamson moved to Sydney. It was more than likely that this move was due to his work commitments as he did not play in the pre-season trials with Wests. His first game with Wests was in round four when he was selected in Third Grade. Perc was elevated to Reserve Grade the following week and played three Reserve Grade games before making his debut in First Grade against St George in round nine, in June 1955. The Sun newspaper noted his selection in First Grade but referred to him as "Bill" Williamson.



The Sun June 5, 1955

Perc played one more First Grade game with Wests in the following round against North Sydney. Again, his name was mis-reported, with both W. Williamson and P. Williamson being recorded in successive weeks.



Within four weeks of his last First Grade appearance against Norths, Perc found himself selected as a Reserve for Third Grade. He played no further games with Wests after that. It appeared to be a significant downfall for Perc as Wests had an horrendous season with injuries and someone of Perc Williamson's ability would have been a welcome addition to most teams.

There was also no report of him being injured either, as if that was the case, he would not have played at all, rather than being selected in lower grades. The most likely reason for his early exit from Wests

was that he had work commitments which could have included being transferred to a new locality by his Bank employers.

Perc Williamson moved back up to the North Coast area in 1956. No record has been found to identify exactly where he was living but it could have been the town of Casino, where banking services were available. It is known that he played rugby league at the small town of Mallanganee in 1956 and probably 1957.

Mallanganee is a rural community located in the Richmond Ranges about forty kilometres to the West of Casino on the Tenterfield Road. Timber cutting and dairying were the predominant industries in the locality, but Perc Williamson had another interest at Mallanganee and that was his future wife Doris Fuhrmann, who he married in the district in 1959.

If Perc thought that First Grade rugby league in Sydney was tough, then he underestimated the way they played football in the Richmond Ranges. Playing for Mallanganee in 1956, Perc was captain of his team which travelled across to Woodenbong, another small town located in the Ranges just south of the Queensland border. The Canberra Times on 18 June 1956 gave the following account of the match between Mallanganee and Woodenbong.

"One hundred spectators joined fighting footballers in a match at Woodenbong today. Spectators, players, and the referee struggled on the field while ambulance men removed casualties from the struggling group.

One player received concussion and shock, and sixteen players received minor injuries. The referee, Martin Fitzhenry was later struck in the dressing room by a player. the two teams were Mallanganee and Woodenbong All Blacks.

In the first half Fitzhenry, a Mallanganee resident, sent off two opposing players. Late in the second half, when Mallanganee was leading 17-8, he warned two other players. Immediately fighting broke out and spectators rushed onto the ground. In the confusion it was hard to tell friend from enemy, and wild 'hay makers' were delivered freely.

Percy Williamson, Mallanganee captain, was knocked out and referee Fitzhenry discreetly left the field where he declared Mallanganee the winner from the side line. Lindsay King, another Mallanganee player was taken to Urbenville Hospital with concussion and shock.

An All-Black player then paused for a moment, took off his jumper with its identifying number, threw it to a team mate and hit the referee again. Fitzhenry suffered a split lip. Woodenbong Police said that night that they were out of town on another job when the fight occurred."

Work commitments then took Perc Williamson to Newcastle where he was recorded living at Cook's Hill in 1958. Neil Pollock (Maher Cup Country) indicates that Perc was playing with the South Newcastle Club. No information has been found regarding Perc's time at Newcastle.

1959 brought about another change for Perc as his banking job took him to the south-west NSW town of Temora. The town has a proud history in rugby league, making its first appearance in Maher Cup Football in 1923, and its last appearance in 1970. Perc Williamson played with Temora in 1959, 1960 and 1961.



Temora Rugby League Team 1960

Back: Charlie Bray (Man), Len Henman, Barry Brabin, Graham Garvin, Barry Roberts, Perc Williamson, Alan Knight, Barney Roberts, Beau Dare

Front: Tony Gelfius, Geoff Thomas, Ron Allen, John Kelly (C), P Kerry (Ball Boy), Barry Casey, Bernie Harmer, Bill Sullivan

Missing: Bob Sait, Ron Coleman, Jim Schroeder & F or P Fogarty Source: Maher Cup web site

18-Jun-60	Harden-Murrumburrah	7	Temora	3
	Graham McDonald, B. 'Gerry' Robinson, Pat 'Ding' Doyle, Kevin Apps, Tex Steele, Bernie Nevin, Eric Kuhn, Mick 'China' Kelly(c), Lionel 'Nick' Cullen, Gary Lanham, T. Wood, Kevin Negus, Tom Apps [Temora Independent]	Try: Robinson -- Goals: Nevin(2)	Graham Garvin, Barry Roberts, Perc Williamson, Fogarty, Beau Dare, Ron 'Gubby' Allen, Barry Casey, Bob Sait, Len Henman, Bill Sullivan, Alan Knight, Bernie Harmer, Barry Brabin[Temora Independent]	Try: Williamson

Perc played two Maher Cup games for Temora in 1959 and then a further game in 1960. He missed a second game for Temora on 14 May 1960, as he was in Sydney playing for Country Seconds.

SYDNEY II		COUNTRY II	
(Blue and Gold) Coach: CLIVE CHURCHILL		(Maroon with Double Gold V's) Coach: NOEL MULLIGAN	
14—Darrel CHAPMAN (S.S.)	Full-backs: (P.L.K.) Terry JOHNSTON (C)—14	15—Ray MONEY (Newt.)	Three-quarters: (Temora) Perc WILLIAMSON—15
16—Ron BODEN (C.) (Parra.)	John MONRO—16	17—Billy BISCHOFF (Bal.)	(Maitland) John MONRO—16
18—Ian MOIR (W.S.)	(Narromine) Bob WEIR—17	19—Barry O'CONNELL (Manly-Warr.)	(Thirroul) John CANN—18
20—Bobby BUGDEN (St.G.)	Five-eighths: (Tumut) Ray BEAVEN—19	21—Brian CLAY (St.G.)	Halves: (Wollongong) Gwil BARNES—21
22—Monty PORTER (St.G.)	Bob SMITH—20	23—Barry HARRIS (Newt.)	(Wollongong) Len MINSHALL—22
24—Bill DELAMARE (Manly-Warr.)	Forwards: (Walcha) Bill TONKIN—23	25—Bill RAYNER (Parra.)	(Lithgow) Bob GILSON—24
26—Nev CHARLTON (W.S.)	(Thirroul) Robin GOURLEY—26	26—Nev CHARLTON (W.S.)	(Wollongong) Ted JOHNSON—25

COUNTRY SECONDS		
Full-backs:	Terry JOHNSTON	21 13.8
Three-quarters:	Perc WILLIAMSON	24 14.0
	John MONRO	26 13.11
	Bob WEIR	23 13.8
	John CANN	22 13.6
Five-eighths:	Ray BEAVEN	23 11.0
Halves:	Bob SMITH	22 11.0
Forwards:	Gwil BARNES	19 12.1
	Len MINSHALL	25 13.9
	Bill TONKIN	21 13.6
	Bob GILSON	25 13.8
	Ted JOHNSON	24 12.13
	Robin GOURLEY	23 14.7
Reserves:	Jack FITZPATRICK	23 12.10
	Ern GILLIGAN	27 13.8
	John HOBBY	29 13.7
	Richie VAN-HAREN	22 14.0

Sydney RL 2nds v Country RL 2nds 1960

Perc played one more season with Temora and played in two further Maher Cup games. No record has been found of him playing beyond 1961.



Temora Rugby League Team 1961

Back: Ron Coleman, Jim Smith, Bruce Harmer, Barry Casey, Bob McColm,

Middle: Bert Howe (Strapper), Brian Matthews, Alan Crouch, Bob Sait (Coach), Barney Roberts, Perc Williamson, Fred McAle (Sec)

Front: Beau Dare, Darcy Holmes, Bill Sullivan, Geoff Thomas, Barry Brabin, John Milton (Mascot) **Source:** Maher Cup web site

Perc continued to move around the State of NSW in his capacity as a Bank employee. In 1963 he had move to the North Coast town of Kendall but was living in the south-west town of Lockhart in 1968. He was at Inverell in the State's north in 1972, before settling at Penrith in Sydney's west for an extended period.

In his retirement Perc returned to the NSW north coast, and it was reported that he died at Ocean Shores, near Brunswick Heads, NSW in December 2010. His death notice indicated that he was late of Iluka near Yamba, NSW.