

Fred Munnery

..... was involved in athletics from as early as 1903. He competed in the NSW Cross Country Championships and finished in a credible ninth position. Over the years, Fred competed in both distance and sprint events.

N.S.W. CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.	
Five miles, over 35 obstacles.	
S. W. York (South Sydney), holder	1
H. Smith (East Sydney)	2
H. Abbott (East Sydney)	3
J. McNamee (East Sydney)	4
A. W. Braid (West Sydney)	5
J. Penny (South Sydney)	6
A. T. Brown (East Sydney)	7
G. Obiene (West Sydney)	8
F. S. Munnery (South Sydney)	9
C. D. Jones (East Sydney)	10
H. G. McFadden (West Sydney)	11
J. Fyfe (East Sydney)	12

Sunday Times 6 September 1903

However it was rugby union where Fred started to make his mark playing with a number of inner city clubs in the South Sydney and Newtown Districts. By 1904 he was playing in the South Sydney second team before moving to Alexandria in 1906.



South Sydney Rugby Union Second Grade Team 1905

Back: Smyth, F Munnery, W Cann, V Burghis, J Black, J Cochrane, T Kelly, T M Cann (Sec), M Downey
 Centre: J Ross, W Glover, W Batten, W Cochrane (C), A Humphries, C Sullivan, J Diamond
 Front: H Maitland, B Fitzpatrick, R Reimenschneider

It is not known what Fred Munnery was doing in 1907 and 1908 as no record has been found of him playing football, It is possible that he was involved in athletics as an S Munnery was recorded competing during this time. Fred Munnery was recorded as F S Munnery in earlier years. He also married in 1907 which may have reset his priorities at the time.



Australian Star 8 August 1905

In 1909, Fred Munnery joined up with the Newtown rugby league club and made his First Grade debut against Newcastle in round four of the competition. He scored two tries in his debut match helping Newtown to a 13-5 win. He played six First Grade games with Newtown that year including the final round against Wests when they had to “borrow” four Newtown players to take the field.

NEWTOWN v NEWCASTLE					
13 - 5					
SCORESHEET					
Fred MUNNERY	2	T		Charlie CROFT	
C MEREDITH					
Frank CHEADLE	2	G		Les CARPENTER	
TEAMS					
J JONES	1	FB	1	Alfred SMITH	
C MEREDITH	2	W	2	William BAILEY (c)	
Alby HAWKES	3	C	3	Nick BRIEN	
Frank CHEADLE	4	C	4	Ted McGUINNESS	
Fred MUNNERY	5	W	5	Anthony PAYNE	
H LEE	6	FE	6	R LAWSON	
E MacFARLANE	7	HB	7	Ernie PATFIELD	
William CROMPTON	8	L	8	Charlie CROFT	
Walter WRIGHT	9	2R	9	Jack BARTLEY	
Herbert CHEVALL	10	2R	10	Joe SHAKESPEARE	
T SMITH	11	FR	11	P SCOTTEN	
Bill NOBLE (c)	12	HK	12	Les CARPENTER	
W MURRAY	13	FR	13	Artie COLEMAN	

Fred Munnery's First Grade debut – Round 4 1909 Source: Rugby League Project

In 1910, both Newtown and Fred Munnery had a successful season. Fred played ten First Grade games including the 1910 premiership final against Souths which ended in a 4-4 draw. Newtown became premiers due to their higher position on the competition table.

Fred was also selected for the Metropolis rugby league team that played against the British Lions in June 1910. He was one of three Newtown players in that team including Paddy McCue and Jack Barnett.

SOUTH SYDNEY v NEWTOWN					
4 - 4					
MATCH STATS					
Halftime Score	4	-	0		
SCORESHEET					
Jim DAVIS	2	G	2	Charlie RUSSELL	
Jim DAVIS	OFF				
TEAMS					
Frank TWISS	1	FB	1	William NEILL	
Tommy ANDERSON	2	W	2	Charlie RUSSELL (c)	
Arthur CONLIN	3	C	3	Viv FARNSWORTH	
Howard HALLETT	4	C	4	Alby HAWKES	
Jack LEVESON	5	W	5	Fred MUNNERY	
Arthur McCABE	6	FE	6	Bill FARNSWORTH	
Arthur BUTLER	7	HB	7	William HAYES	
Arthur HENNESSY (c)	8	L	8	John CHEVALL	
Harry BUTLER	9	2R	9	Jack BARNETT	
Johnny ROSEWELL	10	2R	10	James MOGAN	
Bill SPENCE	11	FR	11	Joe MURRAY	
Jim DAVIS	12	HK	12	David GRUNDIE	
Ernie HUCKER	13	FR	13	Paddy McCUE	

1910 Final Teams Source: Rugby League Project

METROPOLIS v BRITISH LIONS					
25 - 34					
TEAMS					
[South Sydney]	Howard HALLETT	1	FB	1	Frank YOUNG
[Newtown]	Fred MUNNERY	2	W	2	Jack BARTHOLOMEW
[Eastern Suburbs]	Dally MESSENGER (c)	3	C	3	William JENKINS
[Glebe]	Jack HICKEY	4	C	4	Bert JENKINS (c)
[Glebe]	Albert WRIGHT	5	W	5	Billy BATTEN
[Newtown]	Bill FARNSWORTH	6	FE	6	Johnny THOMAS
[Balmain]	Arthur HALLOWAY	7	HB	7	Tommy NEWBOULD
[Glebe]	Sam GRIFFITHS	8	FR	8	George RUDDICK
[Newtown]	Jack BARNETT	9	HK	9	Frank BOYLEN
[Eastern Suburbs]	Bob WILLIAMS	10	FR	10	Ephraim CURZON
[Newtown]	Paddy McCUE	11	2R	11	Fred WEBSTER
[Balmain]	Robert CRAIG	12	2R	12	Bert AVERY
[South Sydney]	Alby BURGE	13	L	13	Herbert KERSHAW

Metropolis v British Lions 15 June 1910 at RAS Showground Source: Rugby League Project

Some newspaper reports recorded Fred's name in the Newtown and Metropolis teams as A. Munnery which has created some confusion.

However in an article in the Rugby League News in July 1931, the Newtown rugby league Secretary, J Chaseling was very clear on who was playing for Newtown in 1910. It is evident that Fred Munnery was in the Newtown team and then from there was selected in the Metropolis team.

The players who took part in that match were: Full-back, "Webby" Neill, the present referee, who had played for Souths the two previous years, and is the only player to have the 1st grade premiership medals for the 1st three years of the League's existence; wing-three-quarters, "Boxer" Russell and Fred Munnery; centres, Alby Hawkes and Viv. Farnsworth; five-eighth, Billy Farnsworth; half, W. Hayes; forwards, "Towser" Barnett, Paddy McCue, Joe Murray, Herb. Chevell, Dave Grundie, and "Sandy" Mogan.

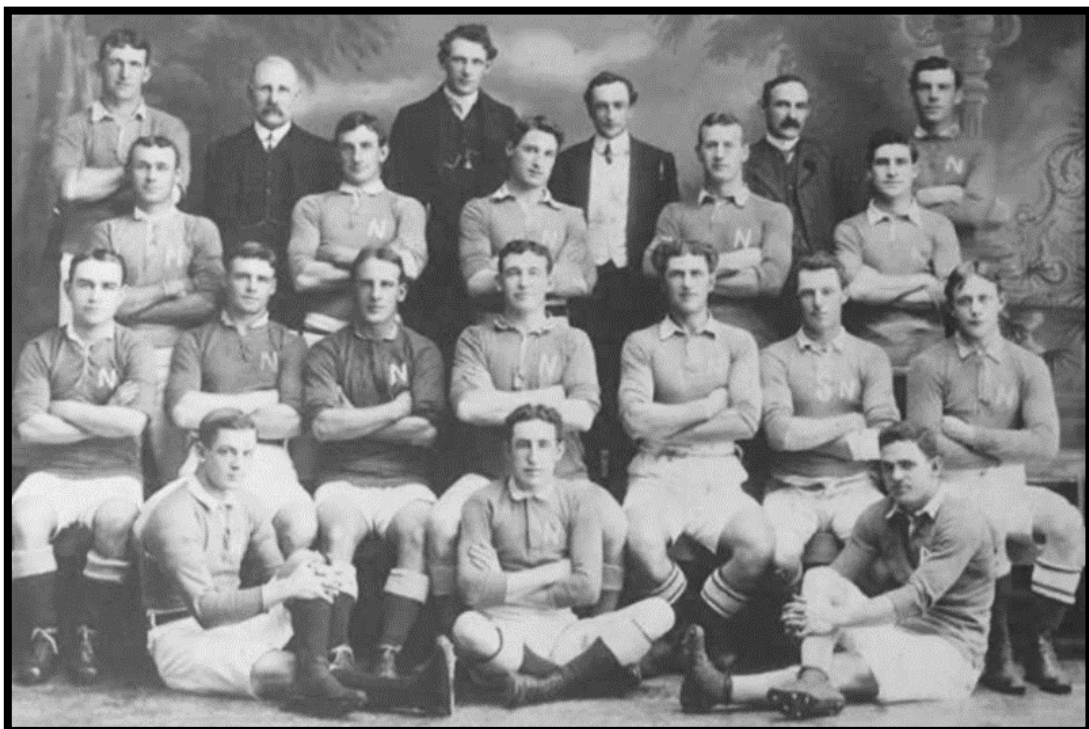
J Chaseling's (Newtown Secretary) reminisces in RLN of 25 July 1931.

He refers to the Newtown premiership team of 1910 and Fred Munnery who played in the Grand Final.

In July 1917 a reader of the Arrow newspaper asked for details of the Newtown team that won the 1910 premiership. The "Cynic" who wrote a column for the newspaper confirmed that F. Munnery was a member of that team.

Number three question : The Newtown team of 1910 in the final against South Sydney consisted of W. Neil, full-back; C. Russell (captain), V. Farnsworth, A. Hawkes, F. Munnery, three-quarters; W. Farnsworth, five-eighths; W. H. Hayes, half-back; J. Murray, J. T. Barnett, P. A. McCue, J. Mogan, J. Chevell and D. Grundie, forwards. Number

Arrow Newspaper 28 July 1917



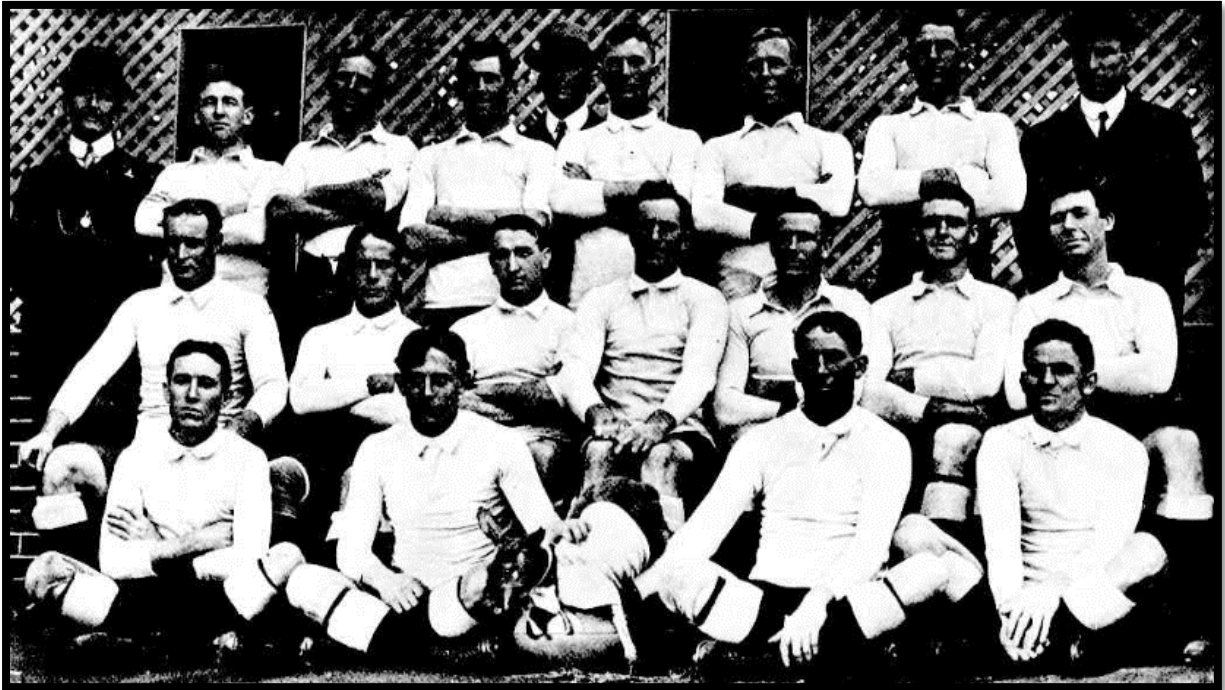
Newtown DRLFC Premiers 1910

Back: David Grundie, W J Ellis (Treas), Barnett? (Pres), W J Chaseling (Sec), H H Scott (Patron), William H Hayes

Standing: Herbert Chevell, Edward Burdett, Joe Murray, Paddy McCue, Sydney Sparrow

Seated: Frank Gressier, Charlie J Russell, William Farnsworth (VC), William S Noble (C), Jack T Barnett, James Mogan, Viv Farnsworth

Front: Alby Hawkes, William C Neill, Fred Munnery



NSW Rugby League Team 1910

Back: H Flegg (Sel), W Noble, W Cann, C Sullivan, D Lutge (Sel), R Williams, E Courtney, J T Barnett, C White (Sel)

Middle: S Griffiths, W Farnsworth, W Spence, H Messenger (C), A Broomham, C Russell, C H McKivatt

Front: W Neill, V Farnsworth, J Hickey, A Munnery

Fred Munnery did not intend to play for Wests in 1911. He was recorded living at Tabrett St Rockdale that year. This address was located in the St George district which at that time was part of the Wests catchment.

The St George Call reported on 29 October 1910 that signatures were being sought from players, desirous of forming a St George District League Football Club. (ie a First Grade Club) for season 1911. Among those present were, E. (Tedda) Courtney and W. Muller from the North Sydney Club and F. Munnery and T. McIntosh from the Newtown Club.

Messrs. Courtney, Muller and Munnery were asked to say a few words in support of the proposed Club, but being of the rather retiring disposition, said speaking was not in their line, but offered their services as players to the Club.

The application by St George to form a District Club was unsuccessful and so the players that pledged their allegiance to this new Club were now left without a Club for 1911. Courtney, Muller and Munnery didn't go back to their former Clubs in 1911 but stuck together, to play for Wests.



Wests First Grade Team Members 1911


Ranji Joass, Harry Thomson, Claude McFayden, Arthur Gillett, Jack Tully, J Thompson, A. "Fred" Munnery

Courtney having previously played with Wests, may have encouraged the others to follow him across. The Sydney Sun Newspaper on 2 April 1911 reported; "several other new men showed promise for Western Suburbs, whose team included Courtney (captain), Muller, and Munnery from the North Sydney and Newtown Clubs."

Fred Munnery, at age 30, was with Wests for five competition games at the start of the 1911 season. He played four of those in First grade and was a reserve on the other occasion.

He made his First Grade debut in round one against Glebe at the Sydney Sports Ground. Wests lost the match 0-8 but the team was significantly different in terms of personnel compared to the team that struggled to finish the 1910 season.

It is not known why Fred did not continue playing with Wests and no record has been found of him playing any Sydney premierships football after his time at Wests.

 1911 Round 1 Saturday 29th April Sydney Sports Ground 		
Glebe 8	def.	Western Suburbs 0
Roy ALGIE	<i>Fullback</i>	Stanley WALL
Dave GARLICK	<i>Wing</i>	Claude McFAYDEN
Tom MAHER	<i>Centre</i>	P J THOMPSON
Charles CUBITT	<i>Centre</i>	Harry GILBERT
Tom GLEESON	<i>Wing</i>	Frederick MUNNERY
Chris McKIVAT (c)	<i>Five-eighth</i>	Henry NAYLOR
Leslie CUBITT	<i>Half</i>	Jack TULLY
Ted SWINSON	<i>Lock</i>	Edward COURTNEY (c)
Harry BRIGHTON	<i>Second Row</i>	Lewis DUFF
Frank BURGE	<i>Second Row</i>	Ted MEAD
Peter BURGE	<i>Front Row</i>	William JOASS
Alby BURGE	<i>Hooker</i>	Sam PERRY
Sam GRIFFITHS	<i>Front Row</i>	Albert MULLER

Fred Munnery's First Grade debut with Wests 1911

Fred appears to have transitioned back into the realms of athletics by the end of 1911. Competitive professional athletic events were very popular at this time and many rugby league players participated in these activities. The prize money on offer would have well exceeded anything a player would have received from playing rugby league. Fred was a regular and successful contender in these events.

J. D. WILLIAMS HUNDRED,
with prize money of £150.
First Round.
Seventh Heat.—J. Lambert, 8½yd., 1; G. W. Hestie, 8½yd., 2. Time, 9 4-5sec.
Eighth Heat.—R. E. Nicholls, 10½yd., 1; H. L. Plummer, 12yd., 2. Time, 10sec.
Ninth Heat.—H. R. Thompson, 9½yd., 1; F. Munnery, 10½yd., 2. Time, 9 4-5sec.
Tenth Heat.—R. B. Campbell, 5½yd., 1; W. Woollen, 11yd., 2. Time, 9 3-5sec.
Eleventh Heat.—R. Collins, 10yd., 1; W. J. Shortland, 11yd., 2. Time, 10sec.
Twelfth Heat.—A. J. Lorimer, 10yd., 1; W. V. Smith, 9yd., 2. Time, 9 4-5sec.

The Sun 4 January 1912

Fred Munnery was also a member of the Maroubra Surf Club in Sydney. He was recorded making a surf rescue in August 1912 with fellow club member W Allman when a boat capsized in the surf break and the two occupants were thrown into the water. Allman was most likely William Allman who played First Grade with Eastern Suburbs in 1914 and 1915. Later that year Fred Munnery and W Allman were elected to the Committee of the Maroubra Surf Club.

A sailing boat capsized in the surf at Maroubra on Saturday afternoon. The occupants, two men, were thrown into the breakers, but, after an exciting experience, were rescued and landed in a state of collapse.
The boat, a heavy 20-footer, was endeavoring to make the beach through the breakers, when it capsized. W. Allman and F. Munnery, members of the Maroubra Life-saving Club, went to the rescue, and succeeded, after a tough battle, in landing the two men in a state of collapse. When the men regained consciousness they stated they had come from Cook's River, but had been overcome by seasickness when making the beach through the surf, and had lost control of their craft.

Daily Telegraph 26 August 1912

Fred Munnery joined the NSW Railways in November October 1913 and initially worked as a Spring Maker at the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops. He was there for about a month before being transferred to the Honeysuckle Point Workshops in Newcastle, NSW. He was employed there as a Spring Fitter. Fred Munnery remained in the Newcastle area until June 1924.

The first recording of Fred Munnery in Newcastle was when he achieved his Life Saving Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion in March 1914. He was a member of the Merewether Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Club

Merewether Amateur Swimming and Life-saving Club.—Messrs. Joseph Croft, Frederick Munnery, Edward C. Barlow,

Proficiency Certificate

Merewether A.S. and L.S. Club.—Messrs. Joseph Croft, Frederick Munnery, Edward C. Barlow, George H. Caldwell,

Bronze Medallion

Newcastle Morning Herald 24 March 1914

In February 1915, Fred Munnery was once again participating in athletic events in Newcastle and in May of that year he lined up to play rugby league with the South Newcastle Club. South Newcastle reached the semifinals in 1915 with Fred Munnery being a prominent player throughout the season.

South Newcastle.—Fullback, Ashman; three-quarters, Belcher, Scully, Munnery, Bailey; halves, Davis, Dunn; forwards, Carpenter, Sault, Hogg, Ritchie, Quinn, Shearer.

Newcastle Morning Herald 17May 1915

Fred returned to the beach in the summer and was appointed as a Beach Inspector at Merewether in December 1915. In 1916, Fred became a committee member and club captain of the Merewether Swimming Club and then in 1917 was elected as a Vice President of the Club.

The Eveleigh Railway Workshop was the location where the General Strike of 1917 commenced in August and September of that year. The strike spread to other industries with over 100,000 employees walking off their work places. The Honeysuckle Point Locomotive Workshop was an affiliated site and also became a location for strike action.

The unions eventually capitulated within weeks but there was retribution for many of those involved in the strike. Fred Munnery's work record was stamped with "Dismissed by Proclamation – Left Work on Strike." The date was 14 August 1917 and Fred was not re-employed by the Railways until March 1919.

The Eveleigh Workshops, in particular, provided employment for a number of Wests rugby league players including Harry Clark, Ray Steward, and Richard Swanson. Most were in the same position as Fred Munnery, while others never returned to the Railway Workshops.

With the loss of young men to the war effort there was no formal rugby league competition in Newcastle in 1917 and 1918. However, as soldiers returned in 1919, interest returned to re-form a competition. South Newcastle was one of the first teams to commit to playing and Fred Munnery at 37 years of age was ready to take to the field once more.

Jim Quinn, one of Newcastle's finest League footballers, has convened a meeting of all South Newcastle players and intending players for Tuesday night, in Chappell's Hall, The Junction. The following players have promised their support to the meeting, and their intention of donning the old red and white this season for premier honours:— Bert Creamer, Union representative three-quarter; Fred Munnery, League representative; Cooty

Newcastle Morning Herald 8 April 1919

There is no record of Fred Munnery playing rugby league after 1919 but he did maintain his interest in swimming and surf lifesaving. During the early 1920's he was a prominent senior official with the Northern Branch. In 1919 Fred became an Instructor at the Merewether Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Club while also becoming a Head Inspector.

Instructor Fred Munnery is busy at present with the bronze medal squads on Thursday nights in the Beach Hall, and on Sunday mornings on the beach.

Newcastle Sun 8 November 1921

By June 1924, the Honeysuckle Locomotive Workshop was progressively being reduced in capacity and Fred Munnery was transferred back to the Eveleigh Workshop in Sydney. He remained at Eveleigh until his retirement in July 1942.

Fred Munnery lived in the western suburbs of Sydney for the remainder of his life. He died at Lakemba, NSW in October 1947.

