

## Bill "Wacker" Lucas

..... was referred to as John William Lucas "Wacker" in the death notice that appeared in Ryersons Index. There was various forms of his nick name recorded over the years such as "Wakka", however given that there is a formal notification and the term Wacker is used in that form, then that has been the one adopted here.

The Rugby League News wrote an article about Bill "Wacker" Lucas, which gives a good account of his time in rugby league albeit there are a few errors. It reads as follows;

" When the subject of 'hookers' is raised in League circles, all has not been said without the name of Bill (Wakka) Lucas being mentioned. A product of the League, he first came into prominence in 1911, playing for Leichhardt Royal A Grade, represented Balmain-Leichhardt in the President's Cup, which by the way, was the first match played on the historic Sydney Cricket Ground.

Since then he had a somewhat varied experience. Season 1912 saw him with Balmain Seconds and 1913 Annandale Seconds. Retiring then, he was persuaded to help the now defunct Annandale team in 1918. The next year he transferred to Western Suburbs and in 1920 he went back to Annandale. From there, in 1921 and 1922 to Balmain, and 1923 and 1924 to the Glebe Club.



Annandale District First Grade RL Team 1920

Back: M Sykes, T Dagg, R Lennon, S Le Serve, G Quigley, J Bain, D McDonald, W Proctor, W O'Brien  
3<sup>rd</sup> Row: H Sykes, G Jolly, W Lucas, F B Geoghegan, S Perry, P Coll, L Bryant, D McDermott,  
Sitting: N McGuinness, Brown, H Hunt, T McGuinness, C Stuart, A Potter, F Dudley, A Wardley  
Front: W Beaumont, M Keogh, A Compton

As shown by his rather lengthy record, Lucas has moved about a lot, but he has gone farther than that. For part of the 1923 season saw him, always keen for his football, hooking for Tamworth whom he represented against Queensland.

This year he was selected for Metropolis v Country. A good, clean, quiet player, hard and keen. Glebe owe a deal of their success to his ability gaining possession. He is no mean exponent of boxing, and a few years ago he won an open amateur tournament in good style."

Bill "Wacker" Lucas played two First Grade games for Wests in 1919. He lived most of his adult life at Five Dock in the heart of Western Suburbs territory and died at Ashfield, NSW in May 1961. His memorial is at Rookwood Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria, Rookwood, NSW, Catholic Mortuary 2, Section 3 Row 12, Grave 437-438.