

John Sheridan

..... quickly adapted to the game of rugby league and was part of the Yanco High School team that won the University Shield in 1970. The Shield success was a very good achievement for a relatively small country school, as it was competing against 146 other high schools for the coveted trophy.

● The spectacular performance of Yanco Agricultural High School in winning the University Shield against a record number of 147 teams. It was again an all-Country final, Yanco beating Tamworth High School, 13-5.

Yanco defeated the favored Tamworth High School team, 13-5 to be crowned University Shield champions for 1970. Two players that received special mention from the Final were Yanco's Col Withers and John Sheridan, both who ended up at Wests in 1971.



Match Summary University Shield Final 1970 –RLN 22, 23 August 1970

John Sheridan played fourteen Reserve Grade and nine Third Grade games with Wests in 1971. In interviewing him recently he recalled that he was "Rookie of the Year" in 1971, and for his efforts he received \$100, a can of Berger Paint and a jacket with the Wests emblem.

The following season was a break out year for John Sheridan. He started the year playing three out of the four Wills Cup games that West contested and was on the bench for the other game.

He then made his First Grade debut in round two of the competition against Parramatta at Cumberland Oval. The match ended in a 9-9 draw after Wests made a comeback from an early onslaught by Parramatta. Crucially, John scored Wests try which salvaged the game. The Sun newspaper on 3 April gave an account of the match and a summary from that report and notes from the game have been reproduced below.

John moved back to Hillston but didn't lose his desire to play rugby league. He joined the Hillston Bluebirds in 1973 and played and coached throughout the 1970's and into the 1980's with only a brief break when he shot himself through the foot.

He had several premierships successes with Hillston. The last being a 27-19 win over Rankin Springs when he coached Hillston to the 1980 premiership.

1980	 Hillston Bluebirds	27-19	 Rankins Springs Dragons	John Sheridan
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1980 Group 17 Grand Final

John also coached the Group 17 Under 18's team during the 1980's. One of the players under his charge was a very young Laurie Daly. John noted that you could see something very special in Laurie at a very early age. Of course he went on and had some great achievements in rugby league.

About a decade ago John, along with his wife Jenny became involved in a community initiative called Waste Not, Want Not. It is an active enterprise, mostly running itself as farmers are keen to donate their left over produce rather than see it go to waste. Sometimes the food needs to be collected from the field but often farmers themselves arrange for produce to be sent direct to Foodbank.



Volunteers at Work – Waste Not Want Not

Most of those helping on the day were from the Hillston Men's Shed with Joy and Jenny, Steve, Principal of Hillston Central School, Lou Revelant, the Foodbank Produce Manager based at Griffith and John Sheridan, who is a member of the committee which oversees the running of WNWN in Hillston.

These days John is semi-retired from farming but keeps very much involved with community life in Hillston. He is quite proud of his grandson who was recently selected in the NSW Country rugby union team.