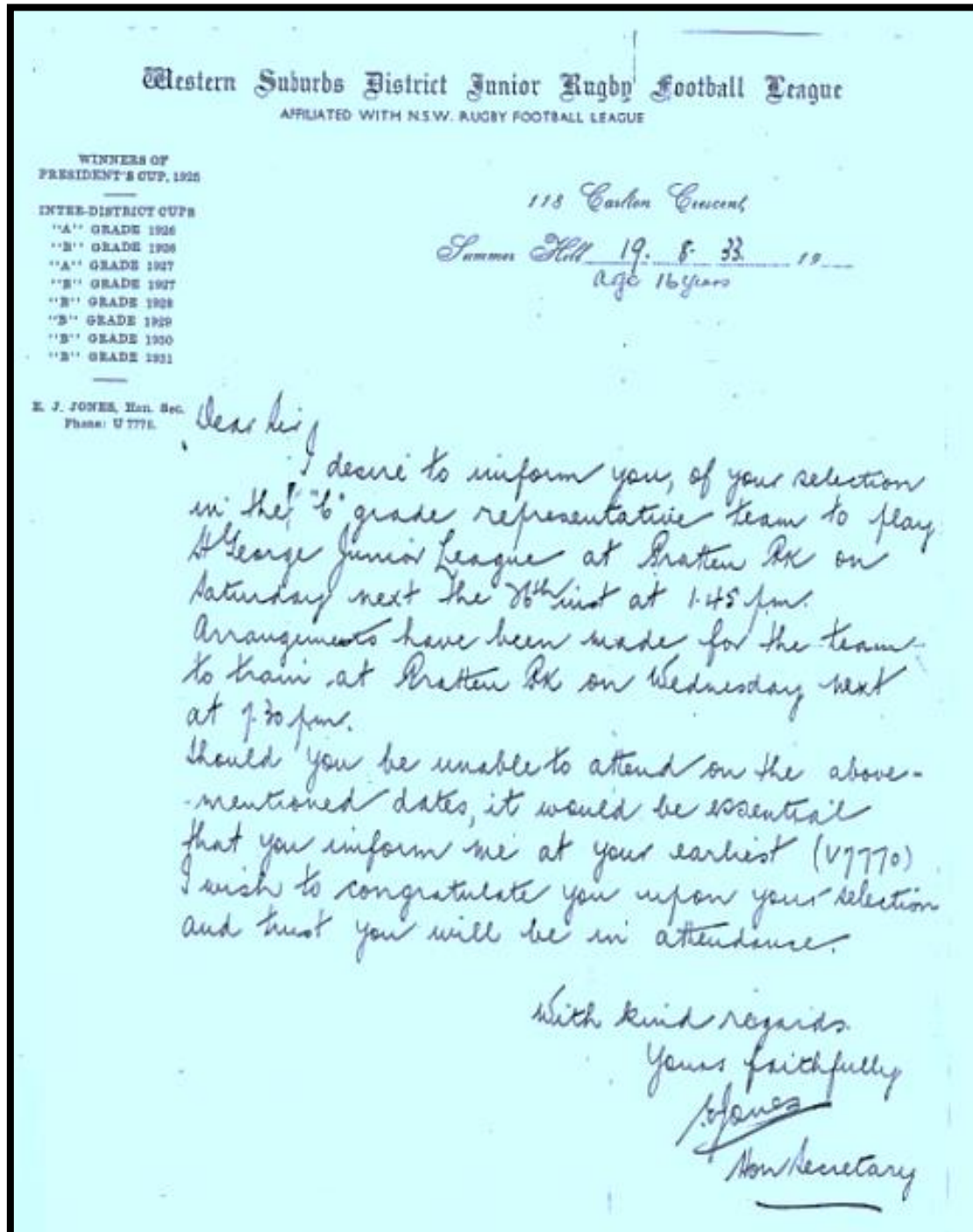


Colin Fewtrell

.... went on to play with the Homebush Junior Rugby League Club from 1935 until 1937, and from there soon found himself wearing the black and white of Wests.




Colin Fewtrell's invitation to play with a Wests Junior representative team in 1933, at age 16.

In 1937, Colin was selected as a member of the Wests President's Cup team. In an article in Rugby League News in April of that year it was noted that Claude McFayden, who had recently been appointed as a selector for Wests, was also to be the Coach of the Wests President's Cup team that year. It acknowledged Claude's long and successful involvement with junior rugby league.

Colin Fewtrell was in good hands, and after the completion of the President's Cup competition mid-year, he was graded with Wests at the age of 20, becoming a regular member of the Third Grade team and making one appearance in Second Grade that year. He was in the victorious 1937 Third Grade City Cup team. The competition in 1937 was an unusual arrangement in that the first round of that season became the premiership competition and what would normally have been the second round became the City Cup competition.

WESTERN SUBURBS



E. Jones

COL. FEWTRELL, direct from the Western Suburbs President Cup team, has played in the past two third grade fixtures. We have gained a splendid player in this young lad, his play generally was of a very high order. Col. has the distinction of scoring four tries in his first two grade matches. A bright future should be in store for this player.

Rugby League News 10 July 1937

Colin made his First Grade debut in 1938. The Rugby League Project indicates that Colin made his debut in round two against Canterbury but the Rugby League News lists him in the Reserve Grade team for that match. Nevertheless he was certainly in the First Grade team the following week against Balmain, playing at five-eighth. It wasn't the best start to his career as Wests were thumped 57-11 by Balmain.

SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND—12.45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, 1937
CITY CUP COMPETITION—FINAL

THIRD GRADE

WESTERN SUBURBS v. BALMAIN

<p>WESTERN SUBURBS (Colors—Black and White)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FULL-BACK: 53—J. BOWDEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THREE-QUARTERS: 45—N. HOGAN 36—C. FEWTRELL L. FISHER—50 D. DOBSON—55</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HALVES: 48—J. FARRELL R. AINSWORTH—54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FORWARDS: 25—R. ACKLING 23—J. ARNOLD F. KELL—57 22—R. REIMER 60—A. PATRICK J. KINNARD—39</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RESERVE: 49—H. ALLEN 31—K. TIGHE E. BRADY—35 41—J. SMITH</p> <p>Referee—A. SPANKIE</p>	<p>BALMAIN (Colors—Black and Gold)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FULL-BACK: 51—D. BARTLETT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THREE-QUARTERS: 49—C. McDONALD 30—G. SYKES L. LANGSHAW—28 C. KEMP—23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HALVES: 20—H. WRIGHT (Capt.) J. QUEALEY—33</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FORWARDS: 40—W. BROWN 50—F. TUFFY J. BARR—55 34—E. BOWTHORPE 42—L. FRASER W. MATTHEWS—39</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RESERVE: 44—J. MANSFIELD 43—A. WINCH E. LATTA—27 48—H. CARROLL 19—M. HENDERSON M. GEROS—45 45—L. WILLIAMS 52—W. PHILLIPS W. McKEE—53</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tenth Judges—E. York and T. Bennett</p>
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Victorious Western Suburbs Third Grade City Cup Final Team 1937 (Rugby League News 11 Sep. 1937)

In fact it wasn't the best start to the season for Wests as they lost their first five games in the competition. However the great Wests player Cec Fifield, who was also the Coach, came into the side in round three and Colin Fewtrell joined Cec in the centres. Gradually the team improved and had their fair share of wins from round six onwards.

Colin was a regular in 1938, playing eleven First Grade games and then another twelve First Grade games in 1939. However he only played the one First Grade game in 1940. Nevertheless, Colin was clearly a club man and did his bit to promote the club and the game in general. In September 1940, he and Club Secretary Lou Moses attended an end of season smoko for the Fairfield A Grade Rugby League team as visiting guests.



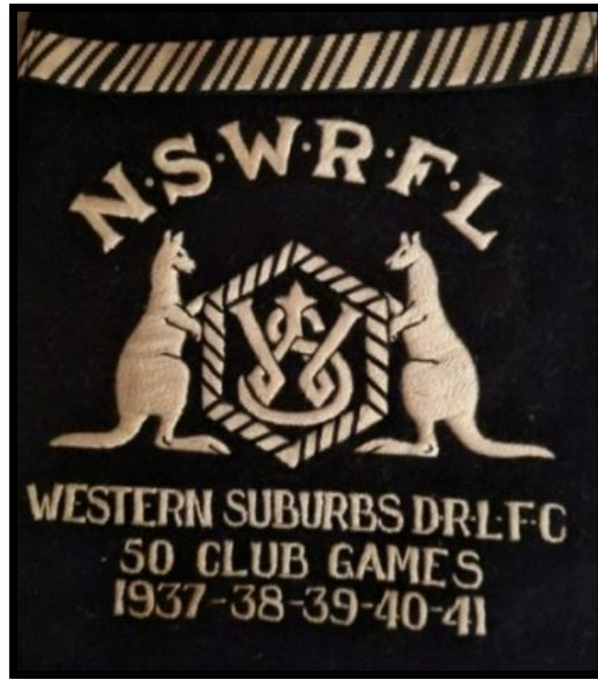
Wests v Wauchope 1939

Colin Fewtrell signed up for military training in August 1940 at Burwood, NSW, and completed training with the 4th Battalion at the Ingleburn Army Camp from December 1940 until March 1941. Wests like many other sporting teams were faced with losing players to the war effort.

In May 1941 it was reported in the Daily Telegraph that seven of Wests First Grade players had been called up for military training. The players were W. Keato, T. Slattery, J. Schuback, J. Piper, N. Parkinson, D. Rogers, and C. Fewtrell. The seven players were destined to go into Camp at Greta in the Hunter Valley on June 5.

West's Secretary, Ernie McFayden stated that; "we hope that the Camp officials will be as generous as in the past and release the players on Saturdays as frequently as possible." West's Coach, Les Mead said; "The players going to Camp have given me an assurance that they will keep themselves in condition. I plan to run the remaining First Graders with the Reserve Graders at training."

It appears that Colin Fewtrell never went to the Camp at Greta but was sent back to the Ingleburn Camp on the outer edge of Sydney in June 1941. He completed further training there through 1941. In December 1941 he enlisted with the Citizen Military Forces, but was discharged in January 1942, being required for employment in an essential occupation.



Blazer pocket acknowledging Colin Fewtrell's 50 games for Wests. These replaced the Honour Caps that were once in vogue.

In 1941, Colin Fewtrell had a successful season. In May of that year he lined up for Wests against Newtown at Pratten Park. There was a ground record for Pratten Park with an attendance of just over 8,000 patrons and the gate takings was a League record for a suburban ground. In an exciting game Wests narrowly went down to Newtown 14-18.

The report in the Daily Telegraph stated; "I've seen many League games in which the standard has been higher, but none in which the thrills have been so sustained or in which such glorious tries have been scored."

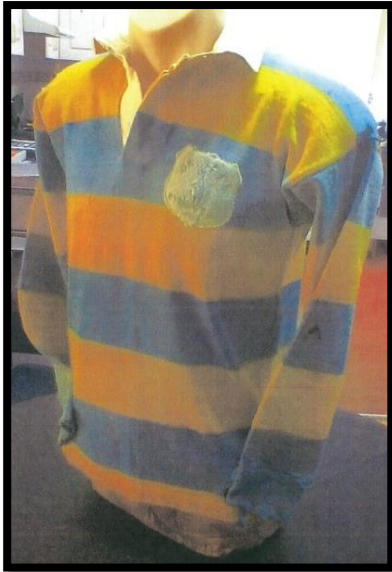
Colin Fewtrell scored two of Wests four tries and the match report noted that Fewtrell, Brown, Keato and Schuback were West's best.

In June 1941, Colin Fewtrell was selected for City Seconds to play against Country Seconds. City won the match 40-21 and Colin scored two tries from the wing. The report in the Sun newspaper noted that the; "nippy, swerving fellows like Fewtrell, Hart, Dunn, Lindwall, Quealey, and McAndrew twisted the Country players into tangles."

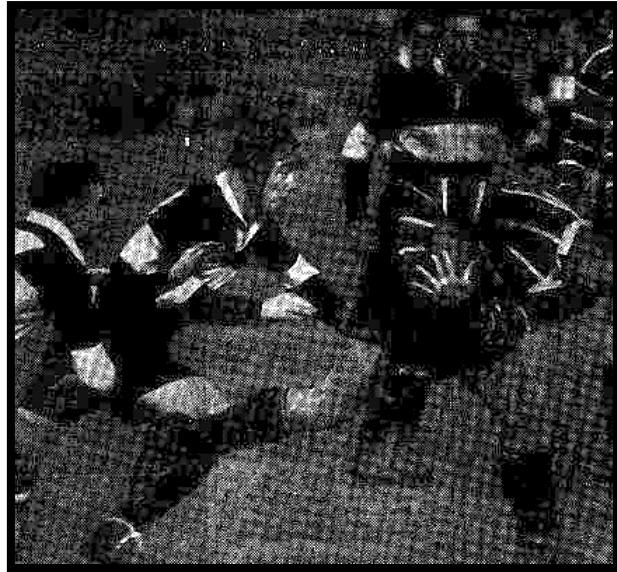
Colin Fewtrell was selected for Sydney Seconds to play an AIF selection in July 1941, but it was reported that he had to withdraw with a carbuncle on the thigh. Fellow Wests player, Jack Whitehurst also had to withdraw with seven boils that had abscessed. Wests First Grade players, Bill Keato and R. Campbell also had similar problems. Keato had twenty seven boils and had not been able to play for three weeks.

A subsequent report indicated that Colin Fewtrell had not withdrawn from the Sydney Second team to play the Services at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Wests Club Secretary, Ern McFayden stated that; "there was no foundation for the report. Fewtrell is in camp but will be available for the match."

No doubt Colin Fewtrell's Army duties required a fine balancing act with his rugby league obligations. Sydney Seconds beat the Services team 32-4 and Colin Fewtrell scored a try, playing on the wing.



Colin Fewtrell's Sydney Seconds jersey 1941



J. Clarke of Easts chased by Wests players T. Slattery and Colin Fewtrell



Sydney Seconds Rugby League Team 1941

Standing: F. Farrell, W. Tyquin, G. Scully, K. Phillips, A. Bowery, J. Lindwall,

Sitting: A. Smith, J. Quealey, G. Hart, A. McAndrew (C), R. Dunn, C. Fewtrell, F. Cottle

Front: H. Gilbert, S. Lisle

The 1941 season could have put an end to Colin's rugby league career, however much to his credit he managed his time in the Army with twelve First Grade games, two representative matches, and was probably at the peak of his playing career. He also married just after Christmas in 1941.

In 1942, he started the season where he left off in the previous season, playing the first six rounds in First Grade, however he only played one more First Grade game that year and that was in round ten. He suffered a leg muscle injury which forced his premature retirement.

During his six seasons with Wests, Colin played forty three First Grade, thirteen Reserve Grade and nine City Cup games. He scored twenty four tries and kicked two goals in all grades for a tally of seventy six points.

Fewtrell	Colin	1937				9												7	2		25
Fewtrell	Colin	1938	11															4			12
Fewtrell	Colin	1939	12															2			6
Fewtrell	Colin	1940	1																		
Fewtrell	Colin	1940		13														5			15
Fewtrell	Colin	1941	12															4			12
Fewtrell	Colin	1942	7															2			6
			43	13	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	2	0	76

Colin Fewtrell's Playing Record

Colin Fewtrell didn't play First Grade rugby league after 1942, however he maintained his interest in the game. He became Wests Second Grade Secretary in 1943 and passed the Referees examination at the end of the season. In 1944 he became an active Junior League Referee, taking part in refereeing the Wests Junior's Grand Final and President's Cup competition. Colin also became Secretary of the Western Suburbs Referees' Association and Delegate to the NSW Referee's Association.

Colin became a graded referee in 1945 taking part in matches including the Second Grade competition. In 1946 Colin had the honour of refereeing a First Grade knock out competition as a curtain-raiser to the England v Australia First Test at the SCG on 17 June 1946 in front of a crowd of 64,527.

1945 was also the year that Colin Fewtrell and his young family moved to the NSW Central Coast to take up a business opportunity. He was at first involved with The Entrance Rugby League team in a coaching capacity, but soon realised that the greatest need of the game in that area was to address the lack of referees and to raise the standard of their skills. In the interests of ensuring impartiality and transparency, Colin decided he would end his direct links with the local team and set about forming an association of referees to build their skills and increase their numbers.

The result of that initiative continues today in the Central Coast Rugby League Referees' Association. An item in the Mid-Week Post (Gosford Times?), reporting on a match between The Entrance and Gosford in 1946, made the following observations: "That the game was hard, fast and clean was a tribute to the masterly control exercised by referee Colin Fewtrell and the players themselves. The former's decisions, always correct, were instantly given; he was in control throughout." During Colin's time on the Central Coast he was an active referee and by 1949 held the position of President of the Association.

Although Colin moved back to Sydney in 1950, he retained an on-going interest in the Central Coast Referee's Association and endowed an annual trophy, awarded to the Best Association Member, the person who, whatever their role, made the most notable contribution to the success of the Association in that year.

It appeared that Colin Fewtrell tried to make a comeback or was at least a "fill in" in a match against Manly Warringah on 17 July 1948. C. Fewtrell was listed as a reserve for Wests Third Grade on that day, however it is likely that this was a reference to his brother Kevin Fewtrell who commenced playing lower grades with Wests at that time..

It was evident that Colin Fewtrell maintained his interest in the Wests Club and in 1952 the Nepean Times reported in August of that year; "Players from Western Suburbs Rugby League, headed by Lou

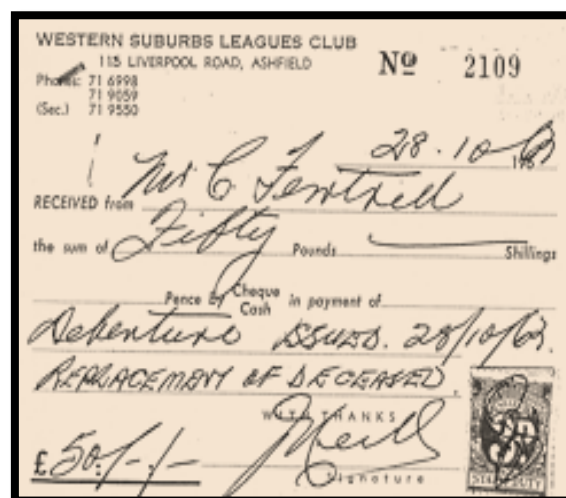
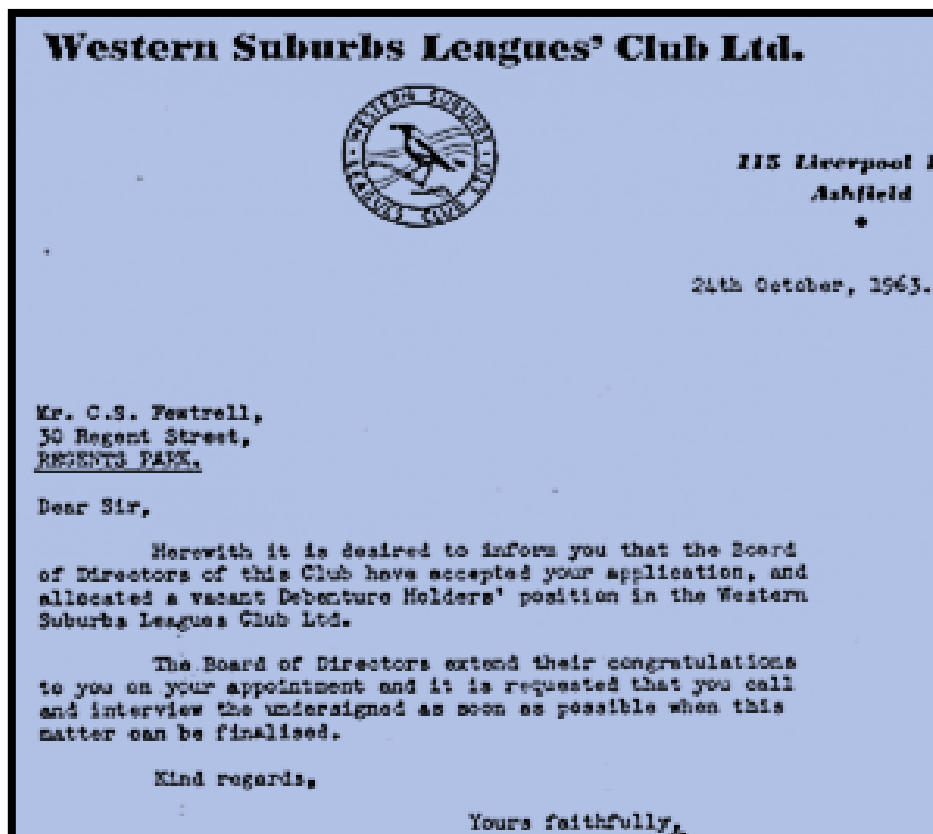
Moses, spent the day on Wallacia Golf Links last Sunday. These fellows play golf equal in comparison to the high standard of football they produced this season. They certainly enjoyed their golf. Scores were:

A Grade, A. McGuiness - 1, L. Trevena - 2

B Grade, W. Keato - 1, C. Fewtrell - 2

C Grade, L. Lackey - 1, P. Morrissey - 2.

Colin maintained his involvement with the Western Suburbs club, being a debenture holder for several years in the 1960s. He regularly attended and enjoyed reunions of ex-players and officials. He was always a Wests Magpies man.



Debenture for 50 pounds issued October 1963 - Colin Fewtrell put his money behind the Club

Colin's son, Terry Fewtrell, recorded some personal notes and observations about his father, and an extract is included below;

"Col Fewtrell loved the game of Rugby League. He played the game at a senior level, was a graded referee who played a significant role in the development of referees in one of the major nurseries of the game, served on club committees, coaching panels and in club administration. He was immersed in its culture from the 1930s till the end of the century. He personified the values and selfless community contribution that characterised the game throughout that period.

Colin was born in 1917, into a working-class family in the inner western suburbs of Sydney. He first played the game as a student at St. Patrick's College Strathfield and on leaving school he lined up for the Concord Ritz club. From there he quickly progressed as his skills were recognised and as a 16-year-old he was selected for a Western Suburbs C Grade representative side.

Col was an unassuming man who was happy to contribute his talents where they could be of value. He did so willingly and positively. Over the years he attended many games, and this collection of Rugby League memorabilia was compiled by him assiduously and deliberately. He always had a sense of history and for the importance of keeping alive the traditions and the stories of life's experiences and the organisations with which he was associated. This collection of valuable social history memorabilia was put together by a man who was a great servant of the game and personified its values in the middle decades of the 20th century.

Following Colin's death in 2001, his wife Joyce who had travelled the same journey as Col and was also an enthusiast for the game and especially the Magpies, ensured that the collection remained intact. It is only since her death in 2019 that the family has had to determine the fate of the collection. The family is acutely conscious of the collection's social history value and its link to Australian Rugby League history, which Colin greatly appreciated. Accordingly, it is appropriate that it be in the custody and care of the National Rugby League of Australia."

Colin Fewtrell lived his early years in the suburb of Homebush, spent a short period on the New South Wales Central Coast after the war, before returning to the Sydney western suburb of Regents Park. In his later years he resided at Epping before moving to the Aminya Nursing Home at Baulkham Hills. Colin Fewtrell died at Baulkham Hills in 2001.