

Jack Russell

.... was an adventurous character and could be described as a bit of larrikin. In March 1939 he was taken to Court by the NSW Railways. He was charged with jumping off a train at Helensburgh Station while the train was travelling at 20 mph. John had been previously warned but apparently saw the escapade as a challenge.

JUMPED FROM TRAIN
Jack Russell, was fined £1 with 8/- costs and 5/- witness expenses for leaving a railway carriage while the latter was in motion. A railway official told the court that Russell had jumped from a train on to the Helensburgh railway platform at a speed of approximately 20 m.p.h. Defendant had previously been warned.

South Coast Times 10 March 1939

It was also the year that John was identified as a rising football talent. He was described as a "mighty atom" and a "champ in the making."

Latest midget to loom on the horizon is Helensburgh youth, Jack Russell. A mighty atom behind the Scarborough pack last Sunday. A brother of the genial "Blue" he is a champ in the making.

South Coast Times 23 June 1939

Jack Russell was playing rugby league with the Scarborough senior team in 1939 but in 1940 the local Helensburgh club formed an under 21 team in which Jack wanted to play. He made an application to be regraded with the junior club but was refused no doubt due to his competent performances at the senior level. A newspaper report in 1956 indicates that Jack did play for Helensburgh U/21's but was also playing for the Scarborough team later in the season.

JACK RUSSELL REFUSED RE-GRADE
Scarborough half back, Jack Russell, who figured prominently last season for the northern combination, applied for a re-grade last Monday night. Russell intimated his desire to play with Helensburgh's Under 21 thirteen. The application was refused.

Illawarra Mercury 26 April 1940

Scarborough will meet Wollongong on the local green. DeCluett, Russell, Oliver, Green and Dodds have shown good form to date and Scarborough expect to open their account in this game.

South Coast Times 31 May 1940

In 1941 it was a similar story for Jack. He was playing on the wing for Scarborough and was very much a crowd favourite.

Scarborough — H. Everitt, C. DeCluett, E. DeCluett, J. Woods, R. Byrnes, C. Brandon, L. Savage, J. Thorn, King Green, N. Martin, S. Oliver, W. Ferguson, D. Timmins, W. Dodds, F. Smith, J. Russell, A. Green Perkins.

South Coast Times 25 April 1941

Helensburgh Under 21 centre, Jack Russell, replacing Chad DeCluett, on Scarborough's wing repeatedly held the crowd spellbound.
Possessed of speed and a most deceptive side step the youth made several brilliant runs.

South Coast Times 19 September 1941

There was a Jack Russell who played half back for Wests in 1941 and 1942 but this was a different player. The Wests Third Grade team photo from 1941 clearly shows that the two Jack Russells were physically different.

TINY JACK RUSSELL, who made his debut as half for the "Weenies" on Saturday, made a welcome appearance, and is sure of greater success. His score was a very nice try.

This was not Jack Russell from Helensburgh - RLN 17 May 1941

In September 1941, at the end of the football season, Jack Russell enlisted with the Citizens Military Forces for service in the Second World War. He was posted to the 34th Australian Infantry Battalion. Initially, he spent time at the Ingleburn Army Camp in Sydney but was soon back at Wollongong and played rugby league there in 1942.

Scarborough did not have a team in 1942. The Illawarra Rugby League ruled that Jack could play with either the Corrimal or the Thirroul Clubs. Jack played with Thirroul in 1942. Jack also played with the Army team in Wollongong that season.

Jack Russell, who later received a nasty bump, registered Thirroul's only try. Great work too,

South Coast Times 4 September 1942

He was selected as a reserve for the Southern Sector Army Team that played Illawarra at Wollongong on 30 May 1942. In that team was Arthur Morris who played five-eighth for the St George rugby union team and later would become a revered Australian cricket Test batsman. Also on the wing for the Army team in that game was Wests First Grade player Doug Rogers.

SOUTHERN SECTOR ARMY
H. Hallett.
J. Jackson, P. O'Carroll, P. Tierney, W. Rogers.
A. Morris, J. Clyburn.
A. Corcoran, J. Sweeney, W. Ludowici; R. Smith, W. Evans, R. Foote; reserves: G. Burke, T. McDermott, J. Russell, J. Cooke.

Southern Sector Army RL v Illawarra RL – 30 May 1942

Jack Russell enlisted with the 2nd AIF at Dapto NSW in August 1942. In effect he had transferred from the Citizens Military Force to the Regular Army where he joined the 6th Australian Infantry Machine Gun Battalion, which was raised in August 1942 and based at Narellan, NSW. Jack like many young men at that time had his issues with military discipline and was recorded as absent without leave on several occasions and also disobeying a command from a superior officer for which he was admonished.

It is likely that his rugby league ability assisted in him receiving a lesser response to his indiscretions from the authorities. He continued to represent the Army at rugby league, and in June 1943 he was selected to once again represent Army against an Illawarra representative team and from there to

represent NSW Country in the annual match against City. His selection in the Country team was enhanced by him scoring four tries against Illawarra.

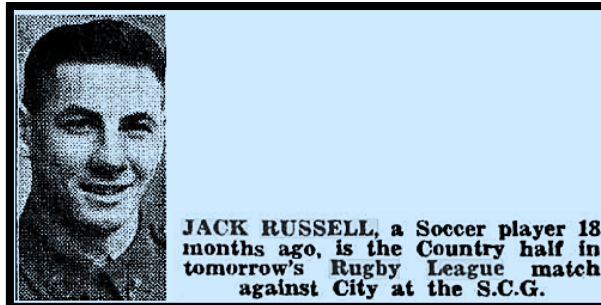
Army team—Full back, R. Hurties; three-quarters, Parkinson, Wood, Jacobson, Carrig; five-eight, J. Kadwell; half, Russell; forwards, J. Hamilton, C. Marsh, J. Parker C. Langton, P. Minns, T. McDermott.

Army v Illawarra South Coast Times 4 June 1943

**COMBINED ARMY
v. ILLAWARRA**
W'GONG SHOWGROUND
ON SUNDAY, 6th JUNE, 1943

The entire proceeds to the South Coast
UGLY MAN COMPETITION
for the Australian Comforts' Fund

Proceeds from the match to be given to the South Coast Ugly Man Competition



Daily Telegraph 11 June 1943

Saturday, June 12, 1943 — Sydney Cricket Ground	
3.15—SYDNEY	v. COUNTRY
SYDNEY (Colours—Blue with Gold V)	COUNTRY (Colours—Maroon with Gold V)
<i>Full-back:</i> 13—R. LINDWALL (St.G.)	<i>Full-back:</i> (N'cstle) O. SCREEN—13
<i>Three-quarters:</i> 12—M. DENTON (B.) 11—T. KAINE (E.S.) 10—T. BOURKE (B.) 9—F. COLLINS (N.S.)	<i>Three-quarters:</i> (Army) R. GILL—9 (Lithgow) L. TAYLOR—10 (W'gong) J. JORGENSEN—11 (N'cstle) W. RICHARDSON—12
<i>Halves:</i> 8—W. O'CONNELL (E.S.) 7—A. McANDREW (St.G.)	<i>Halves:</i> (W. Kembla) L. DOYLE—8 (Army) J. RUSSELL—7
<i>Forwards:</i> 6—J. HAMPSTEAD (B.) 5—G. SCULLY (N.S.) 4—H. PIERCE (E.S.) Capt. 3—J. WALSH (S.S.) 2—H. GILBERT (St.G.) 1—F. FARRELL (N.)	<i>Forwards:</i> (Army) J. HUTCHINSON—6 Capt. (Lithgow) H. BAILEY—5 (Katoomba) C. RUSSELL—4 (Bathurst) F. BELL—3 (Pt. Kembla) F. JOHNSON—2 (N'cstle) A. GIBB—1
<i>Reserves:</i> 14—T. Allen (E.S.), 15—R. Andrews (W.S.), 16—P. Bugden (N.), 17—J. Armstrong (S.S.) L. Doran (N.S.)	<i>Reserves:</i> 14—C. Hauvillo (Lithgow) 15—G. Grills (Cessnock)

Sydney v Country 12 June 1943

J. RUSSELL (Army—Half-back): This boy forced his way into the side by his splendid display in the Army-Illawarra match at Wollongong on Sunday. Secured 4 tries and gave a brilliant all-round exhibition. Would be worth a place in any side on this display.

RLN 12 June 1943

CITY v COUNTRY MATCH
 A great following of fans journeyed to the City to see this game. The local lads did a great job. Leo Doyle's play was very favourably commented upon by the hard heads of the City clubs, while Jorgenson and Russell, at scrum half also came in for praise. F. Johnson, as hooker, out shone his City vis-a-vis.

South Coast Times 18 June 1943

Jack's performance in the Country v City game was noticed by the Sydney clubs and in particular Wests and St George. In a news report in the Sun on 21 June, Jack indicated that he was not going to play in Sydney in 1943, however that soon changed when he turned out for Wests a fortnight later. It was his one and only game in the 1943 Sydney premiership competition.

LEAGUE HALF DECLINES SYDNEY OFFERS
DAILY SPORTLIGHT—By CLAUDE CORBETT
 Half-back Jack Russell who suddenly burst into prominence during Country Week will not play for a Sydney Rugby League club this season. Army duties next year will guide his football career.

Russell informed me on Saturday that he had decided to remain where he is for the season. He is stationed in a country area.
 Western Suburbs was particularly keen to secure Russell's services, and hoped that he would have played last Saturday.
 St. George was another club interested in Russell, but wanted him as a five-eighth. Russell prefers to play behind the scrum.
 Now 22, Russell has plenty of football ahead and is doing the wise thing by taking his time regarding the future.

The Sun 21 June 1943

WESTERN SUBURBS		1943 Round 10 Saturday 3rd July Pratten Park		WESTERN SUBURBS	
Canterbury 16		def.	Western Suburbs 8		
Lin JOHNSON	<i>Fullback</i>		Patrick McFARLANE		
Billy HARRIS	<i>Wing</i>		Bruce BROWN		
Jack BONNYMAN	<i>Centre</i>		Jack WHITEHURST (c)		
Ron BAILEY (c)	<i>Centre</i>		Bob ANDREWS		
Ray POWER	<i>Wing</i>		Stan EISENHUTH		
Lew FISHER	<i>Five-eighth</i>		Albert McGUINNESS		
Roy McCARTER	<i>Half</i>		Jack RUSSELL		
Frank SPONBERG	<i>Lock</i>		Gerald BEGLEY		
Ron KELLY	<i>Second Row</i>		George LUCAS		
Ted ANDERSON	<i>Second Row</i>		Fred McKEAN		
Bob ALLISON	<i>Front Row</i>		Ron CAMPBELL		
Charlie JUPP	<i>Hooker</i>		Neville SPENCE		
Arthur MORRIS	<i>Front Row</i>		Fred FAYERS		
Tries	Ted ANDERSON Arthur MORRIS		Jack RUSSELL Bruce BROWN		
Goals	Lin JOHNSON (4) Roy McCARTER (1)		Bob ANDREWS (1)		

Jack Russell's First Grade Debut – Round 10 1943

Newspaper reports from the match noted that, Jack Russell, the brilliant Country team half, playing his first game with Western Suburbs, saw very little of the ball, and had few opportunities. Daily Telegraph 4 July 1943.

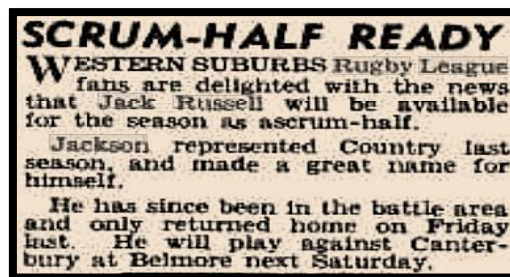
Match notes from the Wests Archive web site noted;

Jack Russell, who had starred as the Country half-back in the recent Country-City matches, made his debut for Wests but had limited chances. Source: westsarchives.com.au

Within a fortnight of Jack making his First Grade debut with Wests, he was deployed to Queensland in readiness to be transported to New Guinea. He arrived in New Guinea on 2 August 1943.

He spent almost eight months in New Guinea where the 6th Machine Gun Battalion saw action in the Ramu Valley and at Shaggy Ridge. Its role during this period was to defend Gusap Airfield amidst heavy fighting around Shaggy Ridge. Conditions around the airfield were highly malarial and the machine gunners were subjected to a number of aerial attacks.

Jack returned to Australia in mid-March 1944 and soon found his way back to Wests. He was granted extended leave without pay and finally discharged from military service in January 1945 when he was employed in an essential industry. The leave extended to him enabled Jack to concentrate on playing rugby league.



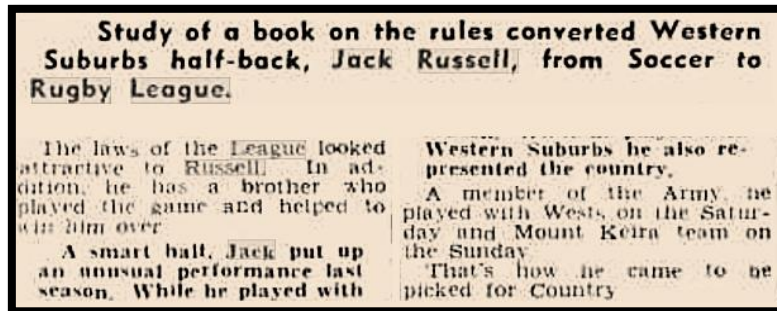
Daily Mirror 28 March 1944



LOU MOSES, secretary of Western Suburbs Rugby League Club, extends the hand of welcome to soldier Jack Russell, who played for Country against City last year and will work the Magpies' scrum this season.

Jack Russell returns from New Guinea - Daily Mirror 1 April 1944

The season ahead for Jack Russell had its highs and lows. He played the first seven rounds of the competition at half back in First Grade for Wests. He was also playing with the Mt Kembla club in the Illawarra competition at the same time. It was a scenario that would be unthinkable in the modern era. A news story in the Sun in May 1945 provided a brief explanation as to how that occurred. In the program for the City v Country match in 1944 it was recorded that Jack was playing with the Mount Keira club. That was not correct.



The Sun 15 May 1945

Jack's form was so good in 1944 that he was once again selected for the Country representative team that played City on 12 June.

SYDNEY versus COUNTRY	
Monday, June 12, 1944 — Sydney Cricket Ground 3.10 p.m.	
SYDNEY (Colours: Sky Blue and Gold V.)	COUNTRY (Colours: Maroon with Gold V.)
Full-back: 13— T. KIRK (Newtown)	Full-back: F. BALL —13 (Newcastle)
Three-quarters: 12— A. PATTON (Balmain)	Three-quarters: (C.) M. DENTON —12 (Young)
11— N. JACOBSON (Newtown)	F. BROWN —11 (Newcastle)
10— T. BOURKE (Balmain)	V. MADGE —10 (Kurri Kurri)
9— S. GOODWIN (Newtown)	V. CRONIN —9 (Newcastle)
Halves: 8— W. O'CONNELL (Eastern Suburbs)	Halves: C. HOLLINGSWORTH —8 (Bathurst)
7— W. THOMPSON (South Sydney)	J. RUSSELL —7 (Mt. Keira)
Forwards: 6— A. CLUES (Western Suburbs)	Forwards: F. BEAZLEY —6 (Port Kembla)
5— H. NARVO (Newtown)	C. RUSSELL —5 (Lithgow)
4— J. ARMSTRONG (South Sydney)	G. PEAT —4 (Lithgow)
3— F. FARRELL (Newtown)	F. MULLARD —3 (Maitland)
2— G. WATT (Balmain)	J. WILLIAMS —2 (Newcastle)
1— L. DORAN (North Sydney)	F. BELL —1 (Lithgow)
Reserves: 14 J. Payne (C'bury-B'town), 15 J. Hall (N.S.), 16 J. Walsh (S.S.), 17 G. Scully (N.S.).	Reserves: 14 J. Norley (Cessnock), 15 C. Houville (Lithgow).

Sydney v Country 12 June 1944

After the City v Country game, Jack played for Wests in a State Cup challenge game against Kurri Kurri. Paddy Bugden had been appointed Coach of Wests in 1944 but was unable to play until he residentially qualified mid-season. Paddy was available in round eight of the competition and slotted straight into the halfback position in Wests First Grade team.

It is not clear whether Jack Russell was dropped in favour of Paddy Bugden but he did not appear at all in the round eight Wests team lists. A clue has been found in the South Coast Times which indicated that Jack was fit again and available for the Mount Kembla team the following week. Therefore it

appeared that Jack was injured mid-season but eventually made his way back to the Wests First Grade team late in 1944.

money. J. Russell is fit again and he will ensure the Mount's back line sends that ball along. The astute

South Coast Times 7 July 1944

In 1945 Paddy Bugden had moved on. Frank McMillan had returned to Wests to Coach, and Jack Russell had a great year. Jack played every premiership game and two State Cup games that season. He also played in the semi-final loss to Easts. Eastern Suburbs were minor premiers and premiers in 1945. It was Wests best result in a decade.

For Jack Russell it was a tough year physically but he played to his ability and was a favourite of the crowds as the following news reports attest.

R.L. cripples after tense S.C.G. game

Western Suburbs Rugby League half-back, Jack Russell, could not put on his boots after yesterday's League classic at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Russell walked home in his bare feet.

He has a sprained ankle. Eric Bennett, Western Suburbs' five-eighth, pulled a leg muscle, and Arthur Clues hobbled to a tram at Anzac Parade.

Daily Telegraph 20 May 1945

Jack Russell, Western Suburbs Rugby League half-back, will receive a £5 War Savings Certificate for each try he scores against Eastern Suburbs at the Sydney Cricket Ground today.

The offer has been made by Newton Abrahams, a member of Western Suburbs Club.

Russell received a £5 War Savings Certificate for his try against Newtown last week.

Daily Telegraph 26 May 1945

More than £5000 was bet on the Easts-Wests Rugby League match of the day at Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

This orgy of betting was blamed on the attendance of a large number of Turf followers when Canterbury races were cancelled.

Blackmarket bookmakers operated openly at the foot of the Sheridan Stand, and wagers of £25 were common.

Western Suburbs won the match, 13-9.

In the Members' Stand prominent racing men bet "ponies" for a mild interest.

One wager of £150 to £100 on Easts, and another of £75 to £50 on were noted.

One bookmaker, who said he lost £400 on the game, was paying out half-an-hour after the end of the game.

Heavy bets were made also on the third and reserve grade games, shots at goal and the scores in each half of the game.

One Western Suburbs supporter took £50 to £15 that Yanz would score two tries. He collected.

Another Western Suburbs supporter gave £5 to secretary Lou Moses after the game.

"Buy the lads a drink," he said; "they earned it."

He had a handful of £5 notes. He said he had had a good win.

Jack Russell was given £5 for clinching the issue with a goal ten minutes before time.

Sunday Telegraph 27 May 1945

Jack Russell, behind the Western Suburbs pack, played capital football,



Jack Russell

which was all the more commendable when you consider the great "whack" Easts had of the ball.

In town in the morning, Jack said to us, "I am convinced you are going to see a good game this afternoon."

He was right and he contributed a terrific lot to it himself.

The Sun 21 August 1945

On the representative front, Jack was again being considered by the selectors and in June 1945 he was selected as a reserve for the City team that was to play Country in the annual clash. Wests had four representatives in the City squad.

Full-back: R. Johnson (WS).
Three-quarters: K. Parkinson (Bal.), J. Jorgenson (Bal.), T. Bourke (Bal.), N. Jacobson (Newt.)
Halves: E. Bennett (WS), C. Kennedy (SS).
Forwards: J. Humpstead (Bal.), H. Narvo (Newt.), captain, A. Cluaa (WS), P. Farrel (Newt.), G. Wait (ES), J. Spencer (Bal.).
Reserves:—Backs: J. Bliss (NS), J. Russell (WS). Forwards: J. Walsh (WS), P. Facer (NS).
Trainers: R. Kelly (WS), L. Harber (Newt.).

Sydney Team v Country - June 1945

Jack appeared to be ready for the 1946 season with Wests. Wests performed well in the trials and in round one of the competition faced the 1945 premiers, Easts. It was a sound 10-33 loss with the Daily Telegraph reporting;

“Test hopes Walsh, Bennett, and Russell lost face in Eastern Suburbs victory over Western Suburbs at the Sydney Sports Ground yesterday. They were flat-footed, faulty in handling, slow of movement and indecisive in technique. Bennett admitted after the game he had never played so poorly. Russell, with his shoulder injured, was handicapped, but he lacked snap in his passes from the scrum base, and his general play wasn't convincing. Curiously, a particularly clean game provided a crop of injuries.”


Jack Russell tore his shoulder muscle in this match. He played two more Reserve Grade games in 1946 but his time with Wests had ended for the foreseeable future. He was replaced by local junior, Neville Hogan who gave good service to Wests over the next three seasons.

Russell Leaves League Club

Solid half-back, Jack Russell, has severed his connection with Western Suburbs Rugby League Club.

Russell, first grade half last season, was dropped after the opening match this year.

He will return to the South Coast and play with one of the teams in the Group 7 competition.



Jack Russell

The Sun 2 May 1946

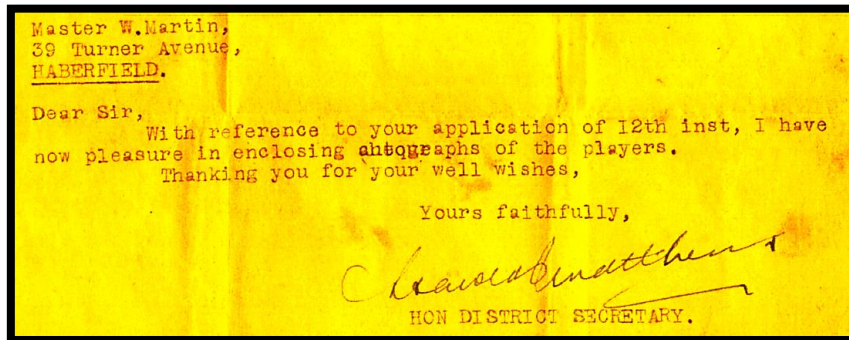
Jack returned to the Illawarra and played with the Northern Suburbs (Wollongong) team for the remainder of 1946. He again showed form and was selected to play for the Illawarra representative team against South Coast in a curtain raiser to the Great Britain v Southern Division match at Wollongong.

CLUB NEWS.
 Jack Russell (late of Western Suburbs, Sydney) is qualifying for our Northern Suburbs team (Scarborough-Helensburgh).

South Coast Times 3 May 1946

In 1947, Jack returned to Sydney and played with the Balmain club. He played twelve First Grade games for Balmain that year. Balmain took out its second successive premiership in 1947.

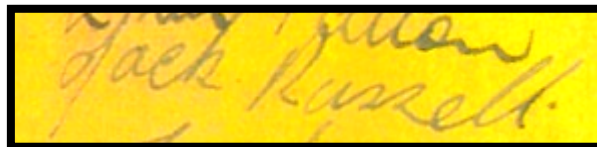
Wests Archive has received a donation from Dr W Martin of a list of autographs from the 1947 Balmain playing squad including the signature of Jack Russell. Dr Martin, as a young lad had written to Harold Matthews, Secretary of the Balmain Club at the time, and received a response which has been cherished over the years.



Master W. Martin,
39 Turner Avenue,
HABERFIELD.

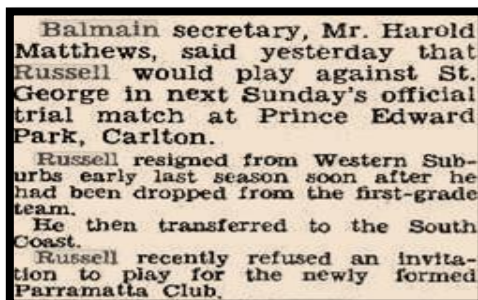
Dear Sir,
With reference to your application of 12th inst, I have
now pleasure in enclosing autographs of the players.
Thanking you for your well wishes,

Yours faithfully,
Harold Matthews
HON DISTRICT SECRETARY.



Jack Russell

Wests Archive Collection



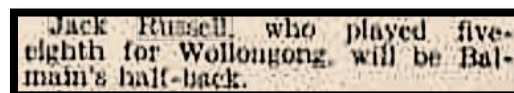
Balmain secretary, Mr. Harold Matthews, said yesterday that Russell would play against St. George in next Sunday's official trial match at Prince Edward Park, Carlton.

Russell resigned from Western Suburbs early last season soon after he had been dropped from the first-grade team.

He then transferred to the South Coast.

Russell recently refused an invitation to play for the newly formed Parramatta Club.

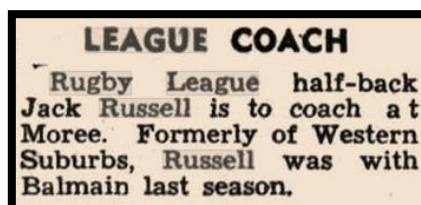
Daily Telegraph 5 March 1947



JACK RUSSELL, who played five-eighth for Wollongong, will be Balmain's half-back.

Daily Mirror 12 April 1947

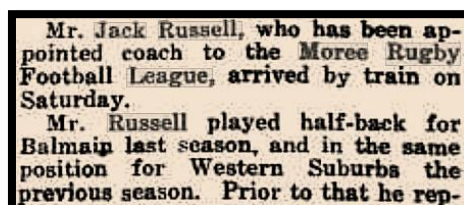
Jack took up his first coaching appointment at Moree in the north west of NSW in 1948. He captained coached the Moree representative team in the Spicer Cup competition.



LEAGUE COACH

Rugby League half-back Jack Russell is to coach at Moree. Formerly of Western Suburbs, Russell was with Balmain last season.

The Sun 11 March 1948



Mr. Jack Russell, who has been appointed coach to the Moree Rugby Football League, arrived by train on Saturday.

Mr. Russell played half-back for Balmain last season, and in the same position for Western Suburbs the previous season. Prior to that he rep-

North West Champion 22 March 1948

The appointment at Moree was for one season and in November 1948 it was reported that Jack would play for the Eastern Suburbs club in 1949. However, Jack returned to Wests in 1949. It was a relatively short reconnection with his former club with him playing three Reserve Grade and one Third Grade games. It was the end of Jack Russell's time at Wests.

Half-back Jack Russell has returned to Western Suburbs after a season with Balmain in 1947 and Moree last year.

SMH 14 March 1949

Jack Russell played with Wests from 1943 to 1949 with interventions due to the war as well as stints at North Wollongong, Balmain and Moree. During his time at Wests he played twenty seven First Grade, seven Reserve Grade, one Third Grade and three State Cup games for a total of thirty eight games. Jack also scored eleven tries and kicked six goals in all grades for a tally of forty five points.

Surname	Forename	Year	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	State Cup	Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total
Russell	Jack	1943	1				1			3
Russell	Jack	1944	10				4			12
Russell	Jack	1944		2						
Russell	Jack	1944				1				
Russell	Jack	1945	15				5	6		27
Russell	Jack	1945				2				
Russell	Jack	1946	1							
Russell	Jack	1946		2			1			3
Russell	Jack	1949		3						
Russell	Jack	1949			1					
Total			27	7	1	3	11	6		45

Jack Russell's Playing record at Wests

Jack returned to the Illawarra in 1950 and took up a captain-coach position at Milton-Ulladulla on the NSW South Coast. After a successful season he moved on to Corrimal where he again captain-coached the First Grade team. From 1952 through to 1955 he played with the Northern Suburbs (Wollongong) team and coached the Reserve Grade, under 18's and junior teams. An account of his time in rugby league during the 1950's was reported in "League News" in September 1956. An extract has been reproduced below.

Northern Suburbs' dynamic half-back, Jack Russell is a glutton for work.
Here's Jack's week:
 Trains with Norths on Wednesdays and Fridays, coaches the reserves on Thursday, coaches the Under 18 team on Saturdays and turns out on Sunday for the match.

Daily Mercury 5 August 1954

From "League News" 14 September 1956;

Northern Illawarra is Proud of Jack Russell

The Country again claimed Russell in 1950, this time as captain-coach of Milton. He brought the side from a low place in the competition to the semi-finals. The Illawarra fans next saw Jack in 1951, this

time as player coach of Corrimal. He led this side to the minor premiership, only to be sensationally dropped for the grand final in which Corrimal went down to Wollongong.

Next year Jack returned to his old club, Northern Suburbs. He was playing coach of the Reserve Grade side which lost to Dapto in the grand final. During the same year, he was elevated to the First Thirteen for the grand final and played a big part in the team's 18-5 win over Port Kembla.

The following season Jack was the regular half in the First Grade side which was defeated 10-7 by Port Kembla in the final. It was during this year that Jack began to take an interest in the Club's junior sides. He coached the under 18 side and got results. The team made the semi-finals in 1953.

In 1954 Jack was again the half for the First grade side, which was not as successful as in previous years. However, the under 18 side brought another premiership home to the Northern Club. Six of this team are at present playing for Northern Suburbs First Grade side.

Last year (1955) was to be his last in top grade football. After playing the first three games he sustained a bad knock and gave the senior game away. Towards the end of the season he came out again for North's Reserve Grade side against Port in the semi-final. He was the lone scorer for his side and so finished his playing career with a try. During 1955 he again coached the under 18's and under 16's and even found time to take the under 12 and 14 sides.

This year (1956), Jack has devoted himself to junior football. He is the club's junior coach and is at present endeavouring to develop minor league in Helensburgh. He was appointed coach of the Probables side against the Possibles under 18 grade in a match staged to enable selection of the touring side. Jack was also successful with the Illawarra under 15 team which played Group 7 as a curtain raiser to the Kiwi game.

He coached the under 18 side which visited Newcastle this year. His efforts have been rewarded.

John Russell, Jack's son, advised that his father became ill in 1957. It would have come as a shock to many in the Illawarra as Jack was a very active man and a driving force in rugby league, utilising his experience in fostering the game particularly for the juniors who would aspire to the senior ranks and beyond. Jack lived most of his life in the town of Helensburgh but died at the Concord Repatriation Hospital in June 1958, at the young age of thirty eight years old.

Jack's memorial is at the Woronora Memorial Park, Sutherland, NSW, AA Rose Garden 31 0257.

