

## Jim Brophy

..... played with the Mudgee Rugby League team from 1960 until mid-way through the 1963 season. He also was playing with the Rylstone Rugby Union Club from 1959 until mid-way through the 1962 season.

Jim had a full weekend of football by playing both codes, and he became very good at both. At twenty two years of age, he was selected in the 1962 Central West rugby union representative team. Jim could have gone on and been a success in Union but his time in that code would halted in 1962.

At the same time he was making the representative team in rugby union, Jim was also being selected to represent Western Division in rugby league. The Western Division team won the Country championship against Newcastle at Parkes in 1962.

● PARKES.—Western stalled off a strong finish by Newcastle to win the Caltex £1,000 country championship final at Parkes last Sunday. A crowd of 12,000 paid £1,600 to see Western lead by 15-nil at half-time. In the second half Newcastle concentrated on a forward game and were pegging Western back, but the locals held on for a 15-13 victory. Billy Owen scored a

RLN 12 May 1962

However, the matter came to a head when Jim played for Western Division against the touring Great Britain team at Bathurst later that month. This game had a high profile in the region, one that the rugby union authorities couldn't ignore. Reminiscent of what happened to the "Lithgow Four" who came to Wests in 1910, Jim also had his rugby union career terminated as a result of playing the professional game.

LIONS TOUR 1962					
WESTERN DIVISION		10 – 24		LIONS	
TEAMS					
Tony PASKINS (c)	1	FB	18	Gerry ROUND	
Greg McMILLAN	2	W	11	Laurie GILFEDDER	
A BURKE	3	C	9	Neil FOX	
Vince EVERINGHAM	4	C	20	Ike SOUTHWARD	
Jim BROPHY	5	W	4	Frank CARLTON	
Earl HARRISON	6	FE	17	Harold POYNTON	
Norm BROWN	7	HB	9	Don FOX	
W BYRNES	8	FR	26	Jack WILKINSON	
Kevin NEGUS	9	HK	21	John SHAW	
Athol CURRY	10	FR	16	Ken NOBLE	
Barry HARRIS	11	2R	24	John TAYLOR	
Keith KING	12	2R	25	Derek TURNER (c)	
George SMITH	13	L	13	Dick HUDDART	

Western Division v Great Britain 27 May 1962 at Bathurst NSW



#### Western Division Rugby League Team v Great Britain 1962

Back: (Heads Showing): A Jones (Wellington), J Brophy (Mudgee), A Currey (Dubbo), B Harris (Dubbo), G Smith (Lithgow),  
Second Row: M Nairn (Condobolin), A Burke (Bathurst), K King (Lithgow), V Everingham (Oberon), W Burnes (Parkes)  
Front: N Brown (Oberon), G McMillan (Lithgow), A Paskins (C) (Oberon), E Harrison (Gulgandra), K Negus (Cowra)

The other unexpected outcome from this match was that Jim was being observed by Sydney Clubs and soon after was offered contracts, including employment by both of the two top Sydney teams in St George and Wests.

The offer was tempting but there were consideration that would have to be weighed up. St George had two established wing-threequarters in Johnny King and Eddie Lumsden with Johnny Greaves as a handy back-up player. At Wests, the established wing-threequarters were Peter Dimond and Dave Barsley with John Mowbray available if needed.

Either way, Jim realised that he would probably have to bide his time in Reserve Grade until form or injury provided an opportunity to play in First Grade. Jim rejected the offer from both Clubs, not because who might be ahead of him on the pecking order, but on the basis of the employment that was on offer.

Jim had a career mapped out in Accountancy which would see him become successful well beyond his time in rugby league. Neither Club could enhance Jim's career path so he stayed in Mudgee in 1962.

In 1963, Jim once again struck form and was selected for the Western Division representative team that took out the Country championship for the third successive year. He then played for Western Division against the touring New Zealand team.

**Wollongong—Western Division won the Caltex £1,000 country championship for the third successive year when they beat Southern Division 9-8 at Wollongong last Sunday.**

RLN 11, 12 May 1963

KIWIS TOUR 1963					
WESTERN DIVISION			11 – 36	NEW ZEALAND	
TEAMS					
Peter THOMPSON	1	FB	11	Gary PHILLIPS	
Kerry SMITH	2	W	10	Ken McCRACKEN	
Barry RUSHWORTH	3	C	3	Roger BAILEY	
Bob WEIR	4	C	9	Graham KENNEDY	
Jim BROPHY	5	W	5	Neville DENTON	
Des SHEAD	6	FE	4	Jim BOND	
Norm BROWN	7	HB	2	Bill SNOWDEN	
Bob GILSEN	8	FR	19	Sam EDWARDS	
Kevin NEGUS	9	HK	18	John BUTTERFIELD	
Athol CURRY	10	FR	20	Maunga EMERY	
Arnold GILLESPIE	11	2R	23	Don HAMMOND	
Keith KING (c)	12	2R	16	Ron ACKLAND	
John HOBBY	13	L	1	Mel COOKE (c)	
		HC		William TELFORD	

Western Division v New Zealand 22 May 1963 at Parkes NSW

Jim was working for the Ulan County Council while in Mudgee, and in 1963 he was able to secure a job with the Electricity Commission in Sydney which provided him with career prospects. He also signed a two and a half year contract with Wests and played his first game with the Club in Reserve Grade against Souths on 30 June.

Sunday, June 30, 1963	
RESERVE GRADE—1.45 p.m.	
WESTERN SUBURBS (Black and White)	
Coach: DUDLEY BEGER	
Full-back:	
15—R. PICKLUM	
Three-quarters:	
16—D. BARSLEY	J. BROPHY—17
19—D. MORGAN	P. GIBSON—20
Halves:	
21—R. BUTTENSCHAW (c.)	C. ROSS—22
Forwards:	
23—D. PAGE	D. HALL—24
25—G. RUSSELL	J. ROCHESTER—27
26—G. DOWNIE	R. McLACHLAN—28

Jim Brophy's first game with Wests – 30 June 1963

During the 1963 season, Jim played five Reserve Grade and two AMPOL Cup games with Wests. Jim's first AMPOL Cup game was a semi-final win against Canterbury. He was replaced by Gil McDougall for the final but was as on the bench for that match. Wests defeated Parramatta 17-11 to win the 1963 AMPOL Cup.

AMPOL CUP 1963 SEMI FINAL					
MAGPIES 20			13 CANTERBURY		
TEAMS					
Ken BRAY	15	FB	14	Terry JOHNSTON	
John MOWBRAY	2	W	10	John BURNS	
Don PARISH (c)	1	C	9	Dick McDERMOTT	
Jim BROPHY	4	C	11	Barry SMITH	
Dave BARSLEY	16	W	12	John RUSSELL	
Bob McGUINNESS	3	FE	8	Jim MATTHEWS	
Don MALONE	7	HB	7	Ray GARTNER (c)	
Jim CODY	10	L	6	Heinz BLUME	
John HAYES	9	2R	23	Kevin GOLDSPIK	
Denis CULPAN	10	2R	4	Don HOBSON	
Denis MEANEY	11	FR	1	Ken DAWSON	
John ROCHESTER	12	HK	2	Fred ANDERSON	
Jack GIBSON	13	FR	3	Ray NEWTOWN	
Jack FITZGERALD		HC		Clive CHURCHILL	

AMPOL Cup Semi Final – 1 September 1963

AMPOL CUP FINAL		COPYRIGHT SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND Saturday, September 7, 1963 — 3 p.m.	
PARRAMATTA		WESTS	
(Royal Blue and Gold) Coach: KEN KEARNEY		(Black and White) Coach: JACK FITZGERALD	
Full-backs:		Ken BRAY—1	
1—Ron WILLEY			
Three-quarters:		John MOWBRAY—2	
2—Ken FOORD—3		222—Don PARISH (C.)—3	
3—Bill RONEY		Gil McDOUGALL—4	
14—Derek HALLAS—3		3—Dave BARSLEY—5	
5—Mike JACKSON—3		Five-eighths:	
6—Leo TOOHEY		Bob McGUINNESS—6	
Halves:		Don MALONE—7	
7—Bob BUGDEN (C.)—2		Forwards:	
37—Ken CLUFF		3—Jim CODY—8	
50—Barry LEANEY		2—John HAYES—9	
26—Matt JOHNSTON		Don HALL—10	
13—Bill McCALL		1/2 off - Denis MEANEY—11	
12—Bill RAYNER		John ROCHESTER—12	
11—Noel DOLTON		3—Jack GIBSON—13	
Reserves:			
Kerry Burke 33, Ian McDonald 35, Lin R. Buttenshaw 14, J. Brophy 15, D. Armour 16, Rick Baber 24, Bill Jones 41, Col Alterator 19.		Culpan 16, J. Armstrong 17.	

AMPOL Cup Final 7 September 1963



Wests AMPOL Cup Winners 1963

Wests also undertook a promotional tour to Western Australia at the end of the 1963 season and Jim was part of that squad.

Wests trip to West Australia was a highlight in the career of every member of the party. The hospitality could not have been excelled and apart from a little wet weather everything went off perfectly.

Our match in Perth against Western Australia resulted in a big win by 55-22 but it was noticeable that several of the young W.A. players have great potential.

RLN 7 November 1963

As a young man in Sydney, Jim was enjoying the lifestyle during the 1963-64 off season. He disclosed in this interview, that when he came back to training at the start of 1964, he was carrying extra weight which was noticed by the Wests officials. He had to lift his training effort and in doing so tore his hamstring. Jim advised that he tore the hamstring on three occasions that season.

The injury delayed the start to his season but Jim made it back to the top team and was selected for the Pre Season Cup semi-final against Norths and the play off final against Souths.

**SEMI-FINAL:** COPYRIGHT SYDNEY SPORTS GROUND  
Wednesday, March 25, 1964 — 7.30 p.m.

NORTHS		WESTS	
(Red and Black) Coach: FRED GRIFFITHS		(Black and White) Coach: JACK FITZGERALD	
1—Fred GRIFFITHS (C.)	Full-backs:	Don PARISH— 1	
2—Rob HANNON	Three-quarters:	Ken BRAY— 2	
3—Mick MAHER		Rob McGUINNESS— 3	
4—Denis CUBIS		Gil McDOUGALL— 4	
5—Eric SLADDEN	Five-eighths:	Jim BROPHY— 5	
6—Len DIETT	Halves:	Roger BUTTENSCHAW— 6	
7—Dinny O'BRYAN	Forwards:	Don MALONE— 7	
8—Eric BARNES		John ARMSTRONG— 8	
9—John GUDGEON		Garry RUSSELL— 9	
10—Don DOAK		Dennis CULPAN—10	
11—Billy WILSON		Denis MEANEY—11	
12—Bill HALSTEAD		Ken STEVENS—12	
13—Lloyd WEIER		Noel KELLY (C.)—13	

RESERVES: R. PICKLUM (14), W. MARTIN (15), B. KOWALD (16), C. BELL (17).

**THIRD PLACE:** COPYRIGHT REDFERN OVAL  
Sunday, March 29, 1964 — 1.30 p.m.

SOUTHS		WESTS	
(Red and Green) Coach: BERNIE PURCELL		(Black and White) Coach: JACK FITZGERALD	
1—Darrel CHAPMAN (C.)	Full-backs:	Don PARISH— 1	
2—Mike McCLEARY	Three-quarters:	Ken BRAY— 2	
3—Arthur BRANNIGAN		Rob McGUINNESS— 3	
4—Kevin LONGBOTTOM		Gil McDOUGALL— 4	
5—Eric ROBINSON	Five-eighths:	Jim BROPHY— 5	
6—Mick FALLA	Halves:	Roger BUTTENSCHAW— 6	
14—Jimmy LISLE	(one to be omitted)	Don MALONE— 7	
7—Neville HANNAH	Forwards:		
8—John SATTLER		John ARMSTRONG— 8	
9—Bob McCARTHY		Garry RUSSELL— 9	
10—Bill OWEN		Dennis CULPAN—10	
11—Barry HARRIS		Denis MEANEY—11	
12—Fred ANDERSON		Ken STEVENS—12	
13—John WILLMOTT		Noel KELLY (C.)—13	

RESERVES: K. ROBERTS, W. TONG, J. CAMPBELL, R. COOTE.

Pre-Season Cup Semi-Final and Play Off Final 1964

Jim started the 1964 season in Reserve Grade but by round six was out injured. He struggled to get back on the field over the following weeks but finally made his way back to the Reserve Grade team by round fourteen. He played out the season in Reserve Grade.

In 1965, Wests used a number of players on the wing including John Mowbray, Dave Barsley, John Armstrong, Peter Dimond, Dick Pickett and on the odd occasion Don Parish, Gil MacDougall, Graham Bevan and Roy Ferguson. It was evident that Wests had difficulty in settling on a preferred combination that year. Jim Brophy's played five First Grade games on the wing in 1965, making his debut in round eight against Eastern Suburbs.

**FIRST GRADE:** COPYRIGHT SYDNEY SPORTS GROUND  
SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1965 — 3.00 p.m.

WESTS		EASTS	
(Black and White) Coach: KEN KEARNEY		(Red, White and Blue) Coach: BERT HOLCROFT	
1—Don PARISH	Fullbacks:	Frank DRAKE (C.)— 1	
2—John MOWBRAY	Threequarters:	Paul CROSS— 2	
15—Jim BROPHY (one to be omitted)		Peter GALLAGHER— 3	
3—Gil McDOUGALL		Bob HENSBY— 4	
4—Dick PICKETT		Bob LANDERS— 5	
5—Dave BARSLEY	Five-eighths:	Gwyl BARNES— 6	
6—Bob McGUINNESS (C.)	Halves:	Kevin JUNEE— 7	
7—Pat THOMAS	Forwards:		
8—Jim CODY		Kevin ASHLEY— 8	
9—Peter DIMOND		John VAUGHAN— 9	
10—Doug PAGE		Col SCOTT—10	
11—Denis MEANEY		Ken FLANAGAN—11	
12—Noel THORNTON		Keith STONESTREET—12	
13—John HAYES		Geoff WALDIE—13	

Jim Brophy's First Grade Debut with Wests – Round 8, 13 June 1965

At the end of the season, Jim's contract with Wests had concluded and it was apparent that Wests were moving a number of players on including Jim. The Sydney Morning Herald in December 1965 listed six players with their transfer fees.

Other players listed for transfer by Wests are half Don Malone for £350, Jim Brophy £250, Jim Hayden £200, Garry Russell, club to club negotiation, Denis Laverty £450 and Bill Wilson £200.

During Jim's three seasons at Wests, he played five First Grade, twenty three Reserve Grade, five Third Grade, two Pre Season Cup and two AMPOL Cup games.

Surname	Forename	Year	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Pre-Season Cup	AMPOL Cup	Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total
Brophy	Jim	1963		5				2			6
Brophy	Jim	1963					2	1			3
Brophy	Jim	1964		6							
Brophy	Jim	1964			5						
Brophy	Jim	1964				2					
Brophy	Jim	1965	5					1			3
Brophy	Jim	1965		12				1			3
<b>Total</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>15</b>

Jim found a new rugby league home at Parramatta in 1966 and signed a two year contract with the Club. Jim played two Pre-Season Cup games and eight of the first nine competition games in the 1966 season.

Parramatta played St George in round two and Jim recounts that he saw a gap between John Raper and Brian Clay which he later believed was a ploy by the two St George greats. He went for it but no sooner was he seeing daylight, Clay and Raper hit him from both sides and crushed him in a classic tackle. Jim injured his knee and missed the following match but returned the week after to take on his former team, Wests at Cumberland Oval.

FIRST GRADE:		CUMBERLAND OVAL	
PARRAMATTA		WESTS	
(Blue and Gold) Coach: KEN THORNETT		(Black and White) Coach: NOEL KELLY	
1—Ken THORNETT (C)	Fullbacks:	Dave BARSLEY— 1	
17—Len STACKER	Threequarters:	Dick PICKETT— 2	
3—Fred PICKUP		Rob McGUINNESS— 3	
4—Barry RUSHWORTH		Gil McDOUGALL— 4	
5—Jim BROPHY	Five-eighths:	Peter DIMOND— 5	
6—Ivor LINGARD	Halves:	Dennis PITTARD— 6	
7—Ern GILLON	Forwards:	Pat THOMAS— 7	
8—Ron LYNCH		Jim CODY— 8	
9—Dick THORNETT		John HAYES— 9	
10—Mike JONES		Bill HANSEN—10	
11—Brian HAMBLY		Denis MEANEY—11	
12—Bill RAYNER		Noel THORNTON—12	
13—Vic COLLINS		Noel KELLY (C)—13	

Jim had the honour of marking Peter Dimond in that match which Parramatta won 11-0. The Cumberland Throw news report noted that Jim Brophy, playing against his old club, scored a try but could have scored three.

The knee damage persisted but Jim battled on until round nine. His cartilage was torn which needed treatment and as a result he missed the rest of the season.

In 1967, Jim did not feature in any First grade games. He was a regular member of the Parramatta Reserve Grade team throughout the year and played in the Reserve Grade Final which Parramatta lost to South Sydney 4-7.

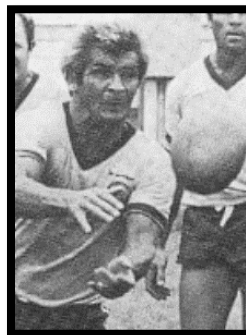
FINAL	
35 minutes each way. Time off for injuries.	
Saturday, September 9, 1967 — 1.30 p.m.	
COPYRIGHT SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND	
<b>RESERVE GRADE</b>	
<b>PARRAMATTA</b>	<b>SOUTHS</b>
(Blue and Gold)	(Red and Green)
Coach: IAN JOHNSON	Coach: "CHICK" COWIE
16—Kerry BURKE	Fullbacks: Colin DUNN (C)—20
20—Jim BROPHY	Threequarters: Wayne STEVENS—19
32—Fred PICKUP	Arthur BRANIGHAN—21
19—Gabe VERY	Ray BRANIGHAN—39
2—Len STACKER	Alan HEILER—22
7—Barry NORDEN	Five-eighths: Greg NORGARD—14
18—Ivor LINGARD	Halves: Bob GRANT—15
24—Ted HEINRICH	Forwards: Paul SAIT—51
23—Peter LINDE	Gary STEVENS—25
10—Mike JONES	Steve LAWRENCE—38
5—Bill JONES	Dennis LEE—43
1—Bill RAYNER (C)	Ted PAYNE—56
41—Brian WHITE	Chris ARMSTRONG—42

Jim Brophy's last game with Parramatta – Reserve Grade Final v South Sydney 1967

Jim trialed with Parramatta at the start of the 1968 season. He was focussed on playing First Grade and when he wasn't graded in First Grade or offered a contract he decided that he would retire from playing.

From the start, Jim had a plan to create a career in the finance sector and so much of his attention was directed to fulfilling that objective. However he was an avid sportsman and so he gravitated to activities that would keep him fit.

He initially became involved with the Elanora Eskies touch football team. Team members were mainly ex rugby league players including John Gibbs, Terry Randall and Les Hannigan. After a few successful seasons Jim was selected to represent the Manly Warringah over 35's touch football team. The captain-coach of this team was rugby league legend, Ken Irvine.



Ken Irvine – NSW O35's Touch Football Captain

In the late 1970's to the early 1980's, Jim represented NSW in over 35's touch football and played on the wing outside Ken Irvine. The two struck up a formidable combination and long term friendship. NSW were the national champions during this period. Jim ultimately had the honour of being selected for the Australian Over 35's Touch Football team for a tour of New Zealand. Unfortunately that tour did not proceed.

From touch football, Jim expanded his interest to running, cycling and ocean swimming and of course the inevitable short course triathlons. Now well into his eighties Jim, still regularly cycles and swims but the running has had to take a back seat as the ravages of time have impacted his knee which will likely need replacement.

In a 1999 interview, Jim gave a brief account of some of the events that he had completed to that point. These were;

- 23 triathlons, winning several in his class
- numerous City to Surf races with a best time of 59 minutes
- the one day, 210 kilometre circumnavigation of Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay
- two week cycle from Brisbane to Sydney
- 500 kilometre cycle through Adelaide's wine country (including obligatory sampling)
- annual 3 kilometre ocean swim from Palm Beach to Whale Beach
- member of Thredbo "dirt club" taking cannonball runs down ski slopes on mountain bikes

Jim was fifty nine when that interview was undertaken and since then Jim has done a lot more but perhaps a little slower these days. It would be easy just to focus on Jim's sporting achievements but it is fair to say that he has also been a high achiever in his professional career. Some of these significant milestones include;

- President of the NSW Division of the Australian Society of CPA's (Certified Practising Accountants)
- Appointed by the NSW Parliamentary Accounts Committee as one of six independent panel members to peer review the Auditor General's Office.
- Commissioner for Land Tax (NSW)
- Secretary, Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority
- Internal Auditor for Sydney University
- Review of the financial sustainability of the Manly and Warringah Councils (Brophy Report)
- Principal of a Sydney based advisory and accounting practice

These days Jim remains fit, healthy and enjoys the relaxed lifestyle in the Port Stephens district, north of Newcastle. He maintains a keen interest in the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club and has acted as Treasurer of the Pratten Park Magpies as well as assisting with the group's annual reunions. He is a regular attendee at reunions and enjoys the camaraderie of former team mates.