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# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# HIGHLIGHTS



## STATE OF ORIGIN

**9** million viewers across the series

**2** wins at 3 Queensland venues

**3** series wins in 4 years

**50-6** biggest winning Blues margin

**26-0** first time QLD held scoreless at home



# HIGHLIGHTS



## COMMUNITY



**107,528**

participants registered to play across all competitions in NSW



A record

**22,810**

female participants signed up to play in 2021



More than

**5000**

footballs handed out on regional NSW tours



# HIGHLIGHTS



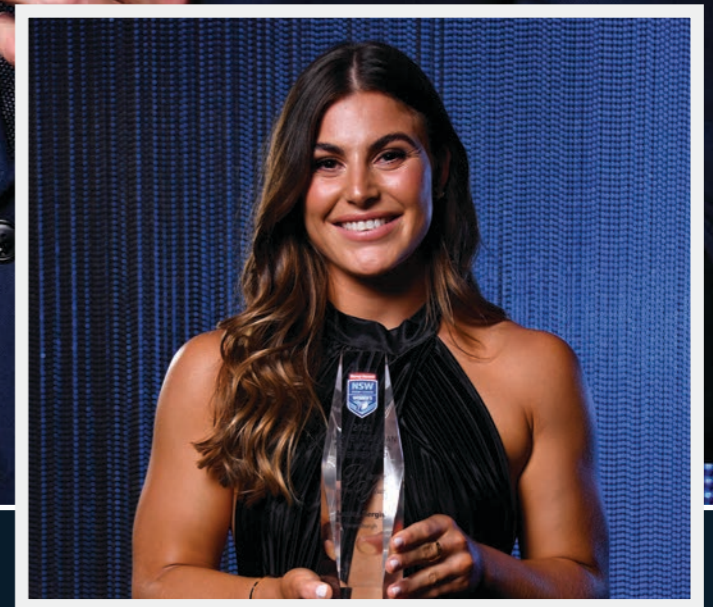
## MAJOR NSWRL AWARDS

**Brad Fittler Medal**  
Tom Trbojevic

**True Blue Award**  
Latrell Mitchell

**NSW Sky Blues  
Player of the Year**  
Isabelle Kelly

**NSW Women's  
Player of the Year**  
Jessica Sergis



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### DR GEORGE PEPONIS OAM, NSWRL CHAIRMAN

The NSWRL adheres to core values to progress as an organisation, and to continue to grow the great game of Rugby League, and we were forced to draw on these again to navigate another difficult season. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc on all walks of life across Australia and it became evident that all community sport would be affected again once the NSW Government was forced to place the population into lockdown to cope with rising case numbers. The learnings from the previous season when the Board was required to make several difficult decisions after the initial pandemic outbreak left the organisation in a better position to handle the COVID challenges this year. The resilience shown by the NSWRL to navigate the setbacks that were occurring on an almost daily basis and still emerge successfully on the other side is to be commended.

#### Origin Champions

The performance of the Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues this season deserves the highest praise for the obstacles they overcame on their way to reclaiming the State of Origin Shield. There were last-minute changes with flights, accommodation, training facilities and even venues for the games but they successfully navigated all of them. Coach Brad Fittler deserves our congratulations. I would also like to congratulate Brad Fittler Medallist Tom Trbojevic and True Blue winner Latrell Mitchell, who played key roles in our dominant series win. They are players who are still in the early stages of their Rugby League journeys. I am confident if they can maintain that type of form, alongside all their NSW teammates whose performances were just as impressive, then NSW will continue to give a good account of themselves in the Origin arena.

#### One State

The positive impact of One State, which is a strategic blueprint for Rugby League across NSW and started when the NSWRL and Country Rugby League came together in 2019, was felt throughout this season with several initiatives being realised. The decision to create six new zones across the state was made to improve the Rugby League experience for all participants by offering more competition opportunities and further improving governance and administration. We saw the creation of the Peter McDonald Premiership which will nurture Rugby League in Western NSW and fill the final arm of the Presidents Cup, which is a knockout competition featuring the premiers from four Major Competition conferences. The Player Points Index System was also unveiled, which is the first time a scheme rewarding junior development and player loyalty and promoting talent equalisation, has been implemented across NSW. We also saw the formation of the Macarthur Conference Competition and the Hunter Junior Rugby League Association which will provide improved pathway options for all participants.

#### Partners

It was a tremendous season for our partners, with the NSWRL welcoming some new members to the family and existing partners enjoying further success. Our partners will always play an important role in providing support for our organisation, from elite competitions like State of Origin right through to grassroots football. Congratulations to Brydens Lawyers, who have now won three of four series since coming on board as the naming rights partner for the NSW Blues. We also extended our successful partnership with Transport for NSW for another three years, who have assumed naming rights for our premier competition, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup. The move enables us to continue to build on an important initiative to address the impact of serious road accidents across NSW. Global sportswear giant PUMA joined us in 2021 and their first jersey of a classic sky blue colour and navy chevron paid homage to our proud history. Harvey Norman continued to be proud supporters of the women's game, from our Junior Representative programs all the way through to the Sky Blues. I thank all our partners, who are acknowledged in full in this report, for their ongoing support.

#### Women's Rugby League

The growth of the women's game continues to impress with participation numbers soaring past the 20,000 mark for the first time in history in 2021. There were 22,810 female participants who signed up to play Rugby League across all formats of the game which helped the NSWRL achieve a higher participation rate than the last pre-COVID-19 year of 2019. The Board appointed former NSW women's Origin player Kylie Hilder as coach of the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues. I am confident the work being done by Kylie to improve and refine competitions and pathways in the women's game will benefit the participants and place it on a fast track for even more success into the future.

#### Vale

It is always sad to farewell people who have made a huge contribution to our game as players, coaches or administrators, and the NSWRL lost several giants of Rugby League in 2021. Whether they were Immortals and NSWRL Hall of Famers, Bob Fulton and Norm Provan, or the very first NSW Blues State of Origin captain and NSWRL Hall of Famer, Tommy Raudionikis, or tireless administrators like Peter McDonald, their input was significant, and the game is poorer for their loss.

#### Thank You

I would like to commend everyone at the NSWRL for their hard work and diligence to ensure the organisation continued to prosper in 2021. I look forward to watching some of the initiatives take shape in 2022 and the success they will bring.



## CEO'S REPORT

## DAVID TRODDEN, NSWRL CEO

The NSWRL experienced another challenging season in 2021 as the world continued to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic but we again managed to overcome the challenges presented to us. The challenges this season were different to the ones NSWRL faced in 2020, when COVID-19 forced most of our major competitions to be cancelled and delayed the start to community competitions. However, they remained just as difficult to manage as the situation was constantly evolving and we were forced to make changes on an almost daily basis in line with advice from the NSW Government. I was pleased to see our Junior Representative programs complete their season in 2021 as they have always provided an important pathway to higher honours in Rugby League. Our major competitions made a welcome return this season and provided plenty of highlights for both the men's and women's games before we were forced to abandon them. I appreciate all the hard work that went on behind the scenes from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers and NSWRL staff across all formats of the game to adapt in a positive manner to keep our game on the field for as long as possible. I look forward to an uninterrupted season in 2022. Finally, key indicators of a successful year have always included our performances in the Ampol State of Origin arena and our participation numbers for community football and I am pleased to report we delivered exceptional results in both of those areas in light of the enormous challenges.

**Origin History**

There have been many memorable series wins from NSW since the Origin concept started in 1980 but the performance by the Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues in 2021 was nothing short of remarkable. The ongoing uncertainty with COVID-19 forced all three matches to be played in Queensland and the Blues managed to overcome the hurdles placed in front of them and create history in the process. It was a testament to the coaching staff, led by True Blue Brad Fittler, and the character of the players that they did not let any of the distractions unfolding around them take their focus away from the task at hand. The opening game was shifted away from the MCG to Townsville, which was the first time an Origin match had been played in North Queensland. NSW responded with a 50-6 win which was their biggest winning margin in Origin history. The second match in Brisbane saw the Blues forced to relocate to train at Kingscliff and their families asked to return to Sydney only days before the game. They handled that with a 26-0 win to wrap up the series and hold Queensland scoreless at home for the first time ever. We went from playing the final game in Sydney, to Newcastle and then finally the Gold Coast and after losing a few key players to injury still only narrowly missed pulling off a rare clean sweep. It was a performance that every NSW fan should be proud of as it is something that is unlikely to ever occur again. Freddy has now won three of the past four series as coach and I'm confident that Fittler has built the foundations of the team upon will ensure that NSW continues to enjoy success into the future.

**Grassroots**

Community football had an important role to play in helping bring people back together after COVID-19 had disrupted the 2020 season and it was wonderful to see the number of participants sign up across the state to play our great game. The number of total participants increased by five per cent from the previous pre-COVID-19 season of 2019; including the largest representation of male participants since 2015; while female players smashed through the 20,000 mark for the first time ever. Breaking down the figures for further analysis was just as pleasing with increases being shown across key Rugby League heartland areas from both the Sydney metropolitan area and regional NSW, including Balmain, St George, Manly, North Sydney, Group 3 JRL, Group 9 JRL, Group 10 JRL, Group 18 JRL and Western Riverina. The success we enjoyed this season on the field at a grassroots level provides a wonderful platform for the organisation to build on in the years to come.

**Country v City**

The Country v City representative match is a concept steeped in history at the NSWRL with the first match being played in 1911 before becoming a permanent fixture on the calendar in 1928. It was played under residency selection rules until 1986 when it was rejigged to be played under Origin selection rules. The concept was shelved in 2017 but returned this season with six games played over two days in Sydney and Wollongong in May. NSWRL prides itself on being diverse and inclusive, while promoting Rugby League as "The Game for All", and this was truly reflected in the Country v City matches this season with games played for Physical Disability Rugby League, Wheelchair Rugby League, Under 16s, Under 18s, Men's Open Age and Women's Open Age. NSWRL acknowledged the legacy of both concepts of Country v City, with the Men's Open Age played under residency selection rules. The Women's Open Age match was filled with players from the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership and acted as a genuine selection trial for the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues for the Ampol Women's State of Origin match in June. The weekend was a celebration of Rugby League which benefitted all participants and it will remain an important event on our calendar into the future.

**Thank You**

A special thank you goes to our partners for their valued support and ongoing contribution to NSWRL. These include Brydens Lawyers, The Star, Lion, PUMA, McDonald's, Harvey Norman, Transport for NSW, Gatorade, Steeden, Painaway, My Sports Tape, Monarch, I Want 2 Work, Hyperice, KARI Foundation, University of New England, SLE, Compass Corp, CABE Investments, Command 51, Rich Digital, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Accor, Murrays Coaches, Sydney Markets, Arthur J. Gallagher, and Leagues Club Australia.

Finally, I thank NSWRL Chairman Dr George Peponis OAM and his board for their ongoing support, as well as the talented and dedicated staff I work with at the NSWRL. We have managed to successfully overcome the obstacles placed before us this season and laid the groundwork for even more success in 2022.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**WILLIAM “SMILEY” JOHNSTONE**  
Director: Since 8 March 2011  
Managing Director: Kimaka Holdings Australia  
Director: KMK Consulting

**BOB WALSH**  
Director: Since October 2019  
CEO: Narromine United Services Memorial Club; Club Directors Institute; Club Managers Association

**GEOFFREY GERARD**  
Director: Since 3 December 2010  
Director: NSWRL Foundation Pty Ltd

**JOHN ANDERSON OAM**  
Director: Since October 2019  
Chairman/Director: Newcastle Rugby League  
Life Member: NSWRL; South Newcastle; Newcastle Rugby League  
Member: Australian Rugby League Indigenous Council

**DR GEORGE PEPONIS OAM**  
Chairman: Since 1 May 2013  
Director: Since 2 December 2011  
Chairman: NSW Leagues Club Ltd; Clubs NSW

**NICK POLITIS AM**  
Director: Since 6 June 2013  
Chairman: Sydney Roosters; Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club Ltd

**DOUG HARRISON**  
Director: Since October 2019  
Life Member: NSWRL; Group 1 Rugby League; Northern Rivers Regional Rugby League

**TERRY BRADY**  
Director: Since October 2019  
Chairman: Bidgee Region  
President: Darlington-Point Colleamby Rugby League Football Club

**PROFESSOR DEBORAH HEALEY**  
Director: Since 6 June 2013  
Director: UNSW Faculty of Law; Herbert Smith Freehills China International Business and Economic Law Centre; NSWRL Foundation Pty Ltd; NSW Leagues Club Ltd; LLM Program



# ONE STATE

The NSWRL One State Strategic Plan continued to make valuable inroads in 2021, in line with its vision to further strengthen Rugby League across NSW. Borrowing its name and many of its ideas from a paper presented by distinguished Life Member Paul Broughton some years ago, One State aims to bring the game in the Sydney metropolitan area and regional NSW closer together to set it up for future success. This is achieved by looking at ways to administer competitions across the state more efficiently which will have a flow-on effect with retention and recruitment for all participants. The plan includes the restructure of the state into six zones of approximate equal sizes in terms of participation numbers, enhancing competition and pathways for women and girls, and the creation of a third-tier statewide competition.

### Peter McDonald Premiership

An exciting new cross-conference competition, involving clubs from Western NSW, was announced in March for the 2022 season. The Peter McDonald Premiership - named after the late passionate administrator from the region - was officially unveiled in July for clubs from Group 10 and Group 11. The competition includes a conference system and crossover games, a top eight finals system for teams from each conference, and the premier to take part in the Presidents Cup against the winners of the Ron Massey Cup (Central Conference), Denton Engineering Cup (Northern Conference) and Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup (Southern Conference) to determine the State Champion. A draw for the competition was released ahead of schedule in November with the opening round of the competition in 2022 featuring five cross-conference games.

### Macarthur Conference Competition

The NSWRL announced in August a partnership between Macarthur and Group 6 that would lay the foundation for future growth and improve pathways in the region. The conference was formed after consultation with the NSWRL and stakeholders from the area and will see Wests Tigers Macarthur Junior Rugby League, Group 6 Junior Rugby League and Group 6 Senior Rugby League play in combined competitions from Under 13s through to First Grade next season. The Macarthur and Southern Highlands Region boasted 7,034 participants in 2021 and the move towards a combined competition structure next season will ensure a more competitive balance for participants and create a better pathway for development. Both areas have produced plenty of Rugby League talent, including David Nofoaluma (Campbelltown Warriors), and True Blues Ryan Hoffman (Campbelltown Collegians) and Anthony Minichiello (East Valley United) from Macarthur, while Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues captain James Tedesco (Camden Rams) started his decorated career in Group 6.

### Player Points Index System

A statewide Player Points Index System (PPIS), will be used for the first time across Regional and Metropolitan Open Age competitions, was unveiled in October. The PPIS, which has been a work in progress for the past 12 months, will reward junior development and player loyalty, improve talent equalisation across NSW-based competitions and encourage former NRL stars to give back to their communities. For more than two decades various Leagues across NSW have been utilising the player points system model specific to the needs of their local competitions, but the new system will provide a consistent document gazetted for application across the state. Other aspects of the PPIS framework of rules and principles include a player having their playing history for their past five seasons (2017-21) considered for categorisation purposes; a player being categorised at the highest level they have played in the past five seasons with categories for developing, graded, representative, Major Competition and Elite Competition players; and a sliding scale points system based on ladder position, with teams finishing higher having reduced points and teams in the bottom half having full points. Shortly after the PPIS was unveiled, former NRL star Greg Inglis announced he would return to play in his home town of Macksville on the far north NSW coast in 2022.

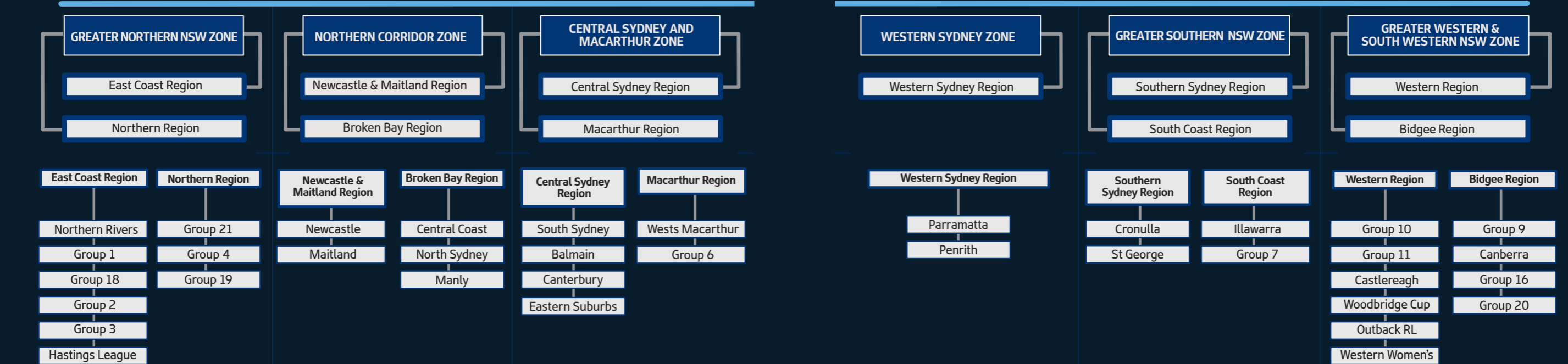
### Hunter Junior Rugby League

The Hunter took major steps to unify the game in the region after forming the Hunter Junior Rugby League Association (JRLA) in December. The decision to form one governing body for the area came after a unanimous vote from the Newcastle JRLA and Maitland and District JRLA. The move will make the Hunter JRLA the state's second-largest catchment area behind Penrith, with a combined 6,656 participants (Newcastle JRLA 4,340 and Maitland and District JRLA 2,316) which could assist with resources, funding and sponsorship for the region. It will only include Under 6s to Under 18s competitions with senior competitions to remain the same. The Hunter Junior Rugby League Association, which will comprise 22 clubs from Newcastle JRLA and 10 clubs from Maitland and District JRLA, has also been backed by the NRL's Newcastle Knights as it creates a clearer alignment between local competitions and elite pathways.



# ONE STATE

## NSWRL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



EAST COAST REGION			
NRRL	Group 2 IRL	Group 3 IRL	Hastings League
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albion Park RL</li> <li>Alford RL</li> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>
Group 1 IRL	Group 2 IRL	Group 3 IRL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	
Group 18 IRL			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>			

NEWCASTLE & MAITLAND REGION			
Newcastle RL	Newcastle & Hunter RL	Newcastle RL	Maitland RL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

CENTRAL SYDNEY REGION			
South Sydney	Balmain	Canterbury	Eastern Suburbs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

CUMBERLAND REGION		
Parramatta	Parramatta Catholic Comets	Penrith
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

SOUTHERN SYDNEY REGION	
Cronulla	St George
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

WESTERN REGION			
Group 10 IRL	Group 11 IRL	Castlereagh League	Woodbridge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>
Group 10 IRL	Group 11 IRL	Group 14 IRL	Barwon Darling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>
		Western Women's	Outback
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

NORTHERN REGION		
Group 21 IRL	Group 4 IRL	Group 19 IRL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>
Group 21 IRL	Group 4 IRL	Group 19 IRL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

BROKEN BAY REGION		
North Sydney	Manly	Central Coast RL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

MACARTHUR REGION		
West Macarthur	Group 6 IRL	Group 6 IRL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

SOUTH COAST REGION			
Illawarra RL	Illawarra IRL	Group 7 IRL	Group 7 IRL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>

BIDGEE REGION			
Canberra RL	Group 9 IRL	Group 16 IRL	Group 20 IRL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>
Murray Cup	Group 9 IRL	Group 16 IRL	Group 20 IRL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>
Western Riverina Community Cup			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alford Park RL</li> <li>Alford Park West RL</li> <li>Alford Park East RL</li> <li>Alford Park South RL</li> <li>Alford Park North RL</li> </ul>			

## MEDIA COVERAGE

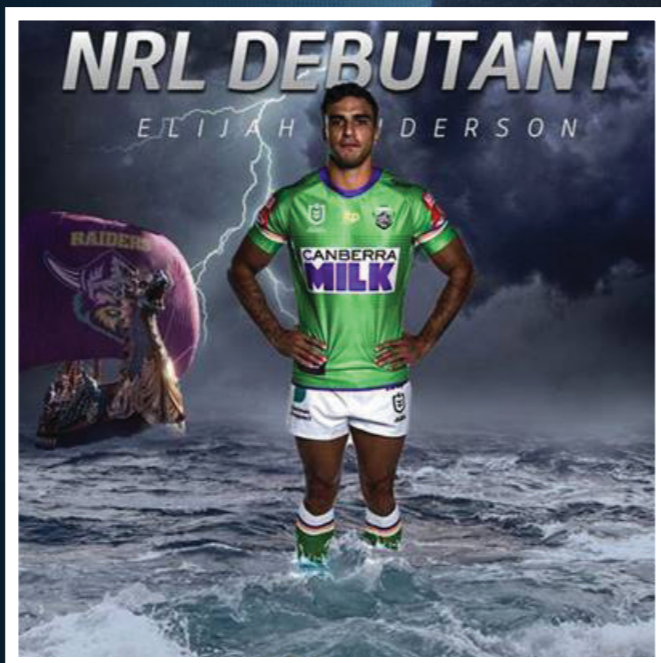
The NSWRL's strong relationship with the media continued in 2021 through traditional broadcast partners and the organisation's own social media channels and the development and implementation of an exciting new internal initiative, NSWRL TV.

The Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues' historic win in the Ampol State of Origin series continued to be a major drawcard across Australia with almost 9 million viewers tuning in to the Nine Network for all three games. The 50-6 NSW win in Game One in Townsville was watched by 3,012,720 across metropolitan and regional stations and 9Now and there were 2,994,928 viewers for the Blues 26-0 win in Game Two in Brisbane. The dead rubber match claimed 20-18 by Queensland was watched by an audience of 2,801,641. The women's Ampol State of Origin match, which was shown on the same weekend as the second Origin game, also proved popular with 618,000 viewers watching the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues lose 8-6 in the final minute on the Sunshine Coast. The ratings took into account both the Nine Network and Fox League on FOX SPORTS.

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup was well supported by Fox League on FOX SPORTS with 16 games of the state's premier Rugby League competition being shown before the competition was abandoned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The season averaged 27,000 viewers a week which represented a marginal increase on the pre-COVID-19 season of 2019. The Round 10 match between North Sydney Bears and the Western Suburbs Magpies, which was shown on a Thursday night before the NRL Magic Round in Brisbane on Friday, was the most watched with 42,000 viewers.

The figures were just as impressive for the launch of NSWRL TV in January, with more than 100 games across all competitions live streamed on the NSWRL Facebook page which drew a total audience of 1,740,180. The competitions shown included the UNE Harold Matthews Cup, SLE Andrew Johns Cup, UNE SG Ball Cup, Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup, SLE Laurie Daley Cup, Ron Massey Cup, Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup as well as Group competitions in regional NSW. The top programs for the season included the Junior Representative Grand Final Day (57,840), Country v City weekend (53,603), and Ron Massey Cup match between the Kaiviti Silktails and Ryde-Eastwood Hawks (40,685).

The NSWRL continued to engage strongly with fans across its social media channels, with the pages for the NSW Blues, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup and the NSWRL reaching 11.2 million. There are 954,429 followers on Facebook, 408,882 on Instagram, and 125,206 on Twitter for a total cross platform of 1,488,517 followers, which represents an eight per cent increase on 2020. The NSWRL also enjoyed strong support on its website with 14,634,599 page views and unique page views of 11,246,479. The Ampol State of Origin series period was the strongest driver of traffic with 6,233,452 unique people reached and 153,495,32 impressions across all social media channels.



 Impressions: 23,194

 Impressions: 8036

 Impressions: 143,870

## PARTNERS

The NSWRL continued to enjoy a strong relationship with all its partners in 2021 to confirm its reputation as one of the strongest brands on the Australian sporting landscape.

Brydens Lawyers assumed naming rights of the Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues in 2018 in a move which saw them put their name to one of the most iconic teams and biggest sporting rivalries in Australia. They continued to enjoy success with the Blues winning the Ampol State of Origin series in 2021 to make it three wins in four years for their major partner.

The NSWRL announced in March that it was teaming up with global sportswear giant PUMA, with the Blues and the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues now sitting alongside some of the biggest names in world sport including Ferrari, Manchester City, footballer Neymar Jr, cricketer Virat Kohli, golfer Rickie Fowler and NBA stars Demarcus Cousins and Lamelo Ball. The jumper designs boasted the latest dryCELL moisture-controlling technology while the men's jersey returned to a traditional design of a classic sky blue colour and navy chevron to acknowledge the NSWRL history which dates back to 1908.

It was a memorable year for McDonald's after they collected the biggest prize in Australian advertising for the most original television commercial, aired during the Origin series. The "State of Originality" competition was run by Channel Nine, and McDonald's "End of Night" ad created by agency DDB and OMD focused on the aftermath of an Origin game to the tune of Bjork's "It's, Oh, So Quiet".

The Star continued a strong association with the Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues with a social media post for the anthem, "We all Bleed Blue" performed by NSW players Damien Cook, Jarome Luai, Brian To'o, Junior Paulo and Josh Addo-Carr, becoming the highest-viewed video on the NSW Blues Instagram page after generating 517,000 impressions. The Star also showed their support for the NSW Sky Blues after extending their partnership to the back-of-jersey for the women's Origin team.

Tooheys New has had a long history with the NSW Blues after appearing on the front of the jersey more than three decades ago and their support continued in 2021 after they appeared on the jersey sleeve for the first time.

Harvey Norman continued their long association with the women's game which includes the NSW Sky Blues, NSW Under 19s, Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership and Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup. They were quick to show their support when the NSWRL appointed Kylie Hilder as coach of the Sky Blues which was the first time a female had been appointed to a major coaching position since the organisation was formed in 1907.

The NSWRL's premier Rugby League competition, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, started the season with a new naming rights sponsor after Transport for NSW agreed to extend its association for another three years. The new partnership was announced by NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence at Sydney Olympic Park, with The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup among the 14 competitions the NSWRL administered in 2021. The NSWRL had already successfully teamed up with Transport for NSW to deliver The Knock-On Effect campaign, which aims to reduce road deaths and serious injuries on NSW roads, across Sydney schools and regional NSW.

It was also an exciting season for NSWRL Junior Representatives competitions after insurance firm SLE Worldwide Australia became the naming rights partner for the Laurie Daley Cup and Andrew Johns Cup. The Daley Cup (Under 18s) and Johns Cup (Under 16s) are the premier pathways competitions across regional NSW, which has proven a successful nursery for Rugby League stars.

Other highlights for partners this season included football manufacturer Steeden and accident vehicle replacement company Compass Corp renewing their deals, while sports drink partner Gatorade got to enjoy Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues coach receiving his first Gatorade shower after wrapping up the Ampol State of Origin series 2-1.

The NSWRL looks forward to further strengthening our relationships with all of our partners in 2022, bringing to life their stories with state-of-the-art marketing campaigns and working together to achieve more success, both on and off the field.



REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL



COACH'S VIEW

BRAD FITTLER, BRYDENS LAWYERS NSW BLUES COACH

The 2021 Ampol State of Origin series win was one of the more satisfying moments of my coaching career, particularly when you consider the hurdles the players were asked to overcome with all three games being played in Queensland because of the ongoing COVID-19 issues.

I was really impressed with the way we responded to the situation, which was constantly changing in the lead-up to all three games. For example, the players only found out two days before Game Two in Brisbane that all their families would have to return home to Sydney but they didn't let it affect them, or distract them from the job at hand. We were going to play in Newcastle for Game Three and that got changed to the Gold Coast with only a few days remaining.

The Blues broke records in the first two games, after scoring their biggest-ever winning margin in Game One with a 50-6 victory in Townsville; and holding Queensland scoreless at their home ground for the first time in Origin history in Game Two with a 26-0 win in Brisbane. The way they combined in attack in the first game in North Queensland, and the way they defended in the second game in Brisbane, just showed what a classy outfit they are. One of the important things about Origin is coming together and fighting for a common cause and they did that as good as anyone I've seen. We had opportunities to win the last game under challenging circumstances and make it a clean sweep, but it was still a great effort and we were only a goal kick away from taking it into extra time.

The attitude of the NSW Blues since I took the coaching reins in 2018 has always been, "anyone, anywhere, anytime"; a catchcry of no excuses and no blame and that was certainly the call for this year. We understood things were going to change because of the uncertainty with COVID-19 which forced Melbourne and Sydney into extended lockdowns during the Origin series. The players always deserve all the credit. They showed a real willingness to work hard for each other.

Congratulations to our debutants this year Jarome Luai, Brian To'o, Liam Martin, Mitchell Moses and Apisai Koroisau. There was a lot said beforehand about whether some of the new faces would be able to make the transition successfully to the Origin arena, on top of Queensland trying hard to put them under pressure, but our captain James Tedesco and our senior players helped bring them into the fold. They made them understand the culture and what you have to do to be part of this team.

This year's series was the first time since 2018 NSW had Tedesco, Tom Trbojevic, Latrell Mitchell and Nathan Cleary all playing together. They showed how hard they are to beat when they combine, and they very rarely play full seasons so to get them all together isn't a given. One of the keys is to make sure that if it does come about, you make the most of it.

Congratulations to Tom for winning the Brad Fittler Medal after an incredible season which also included other major awards, the Wally Lewis Medal, Dally M Medal and The Players' Champion from the Rugby League Players Association. Everyone across the NRL can see there are plenty of talented players but not all talented players reach their potential. For Tom, it was one of those years where you've got a super talented player who reached his potential. His contribution to Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, and then what he was able to do for the Blues, was incredible. If he stays injury free, works hard and improves on that, it will drive everyone else.

Congratulations to Latrell also for winning the True Blue Award, which is determined by the coaching staff and goes to the player who reflects the values on which the team culture is built. He came up with some important plays, including a couple of try saves, an intercept and getting the ball out of trouble. I always felt confident that we'd win but I don't know if we would have won like we did without those plays. He was extremely focussed and that's what the True Blue Award is about - someone who is on top of their game for our team and it was great to see.

We say goodbye to assistant coach Craig Fitzgibbon next season who has taken on the job of head coach at Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks. He has been part of my life since 2000 and that relationship over the past 21 years has been forged under pressure, from when we played together to coaching together. He's been there for the past three years and to come from a club team and bring specific ideas, run the drills and train the players the way he has won't be forgotten.

We've brought in Paul McGregor next season as an assistant and I've also got a great relationship with "Mary" that dates even further back to the 1990s. Like "Fitzzy" he's also a very good person and from dealing with him when we've been putting together emerging camps, he's very organised and very humble and I look forward to working with him next year, alongside our valued advisor Greg Alexander and assistant coach Danny Buderus.

Next year will be another challenge but I'm looking forward to playing the first game in front of our home fans in Sydney after they missed out this year. It will be the first time we've been back home in 574 days. We have a great record at our spiritual home, Stadium Australia (now Accor Stadium), so we need to maintain that standard. I just pray for our players to be injury free, for them to be at their absolute pinnacle. I'll be waiting for the good signs that they're working hard for their clubs and we'll go from there. Up the Blues!



STATE OF ORIGIN

# GAME ONE

The opening game of the Ampol State of Origin series was played in Townsville for the first time in history after the COVID-19 outbreak in Melbourne forced the NRL to move it away from the MCG.

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler selected a strong squad for Game I at Queensland Country Bank Stadium which included three debutants, Brian To'o, Jarome Luai and Liam Martin. It was also the first time that gamebreakers James Tedesco, Latrell Mitchell, Tom Trbojevic and Nathan Cleary had been able to play together in the same side since the 2018 Origin series win.

The Blues based themselves at Coogee, and also trained at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence, before relocating to Townsville to put the finishing touches on their preparations. The venue change with only nine days before the match meant there were few NSW supporters at the ground and the team was confronted by a hostile atmosphere.

The opening exchanges were tight before Queensland captain Daly Cherry-Evans was penalised for escorting Tom Trbojevic off the ball and Cleary landed the penalty goal to put the Blues up 2-0. Trbojevic, who had been in sublime form in the NRL, extended the lead after getting on the outside of his man and sliding over to score.

A dummy-half scoot from hooker Damien Cook provided the momentum for the next try before Luai and Mitchell combined on the next play to send To'o over in the corner. The NSW winger made it a double five minutes later after backrower Tariq Sims punched his way through the defensive line before floating a cut-out pass for To'o to dive over in the corner again. NSW was well in control at 20-0 with only five minutes to go until half-time but the Maroons gave themselves some hope when centre Kurt Capewell scored to reduce the margin to 20-6.

The first try in the second half was going to be important and it came the Blues way after Trbojevic put a deft left foot grubber kick through for Mitchell to pounce on in a rare moment of a centre combining with a centre to set up a scoring play.

Luai kept the momentum going for NSW when he made a bust 40m out from his own line before finding Mitchell in support who in turn released Trbojevic to score underneath the posts and extend the lead to 32-6.

A towering bomb from Cleary proved too tough for winger Xavier Coates to handle 10m out from his own line and Mitchell, who had been in ominous form all night, was on hand to pounce on the scraps before sprinting away to score.

The Blues engine room had been strong all night and prop Daniel Saifiti was finally rewarded for his tireless efforts when he charged on to a pass from Cook and busted his way through the goal-line defence of Queensland to score.

The Blues arguably saved the best for last when Cleary sparked a long-range break with a dummy before finding Tedesco in support. The NSW captain feigned to slip the ball back to Cleary before picking out Trbojevic instead to dive over for his hat-trick and complete a memorable victory.

Isaah Yeo came up with a huge play at the death that typified the defensive resolve of the team that night when he pulled down Maroons centre Dane Gagai short of the line when he seemed certain to score. It was the Blues biggest winning margin in Origin history, eclipsing the 56-16 win from Game Two at ANZ Stadium in the 2000 series, with Trbojevic named Man of the Match.

**NSW Blues 50** (Tom Trbojevic 3, Brian To'o 2, Latrell Mitchell 2, Daniel Saifiti tries; Nathan Cleary 8, Mitchell goals) **def Queensland Maroons 6** (Kurt Capewell try; Valentine Holmes goal) at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, Townsville, on Wednesday 9 June.

**Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues**

1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters),
2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers),
3. Latrell Mitchell (South Sydney Rabbitohs),
4. Tom Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles),
5. Josh Addo-Carr (Melbourne Storm),
6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers),
7. Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers),
8. Daniel Saifiti (Newcastle Knights),
9. Damien Cook (South Sydney Rabbitohs),
10. Jake Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles),
11. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs),
12. Tariq Sims (St George Illawarra Dragons),
13. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers),
14. Jack Wighton (Canberra Raiders),
15. Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels),
16. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos),
17. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers),
18. Apisai Koroisau (Penrith Panthers),
19. Campbell Graham (South Sydney Rabbitohs),
20. Keaton Koloamatangi (South Sydney Rabbitohs). Coach Brad Fittler.



STATE OF ORIGIN

# GAME TWO

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler only needed to make one change from the team that won Game One so comprehensively in Townsville after Jake Trbojevic was ruled out with a hip injury. Junior Paulo was promoted to the starting side with Angus Crichton being recalled to the bench after missing the first game through suspension.

NSW faced another challenging preparation following the COVID-19 outbreak across Greater Sydney which saw them relocate to Kingscliff and arrive at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane the day before the match. They were also confronted with another hostile atmosphere at Suncorp Stadium with only 2000 Blatchys Blues fans in attendance due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Maroons muscled up in the opening exchanges before Latrell Mitchell came up with a telling play after stealing the ball off Kurt Capewell. The Blues were quick to capitalise on the advantage two plays later with captain James Tedesco throwing a cut-out pass for Josh Addo-Carr to stroll over out wide untouched. Nathan Cleary landed the extras to put NSW in front 6-0.

Mitchell then came up with another huge play with the Maroons on the attack and pressuring the Blues line. A pass from Valentine Holmes was intercepted by the NSW centre who then sprinted 80m upfield to score next to the posts. Cleary landed the conversion to put the Blues in control at 12-0 and silence the parochial crowd.

Tedesco was turning in a captain's knock for NSW and sparked the next try for his state after the Maroons were unable to put him down. Crabbing his way across field, the Blues fullback linked up with Cleary who in turn found Cameron Murray in support. Murray dummied his way past Xavier Coates before finding Tom Trbojevic who released Addo-Carr down the sideline. The NSW winger then turned it back inside for Trbojevic to race away to score. Cleary converted to give the Blues a commanding 18-0 lead at half-time. The Blues had another chance to score after Addo-Carr made another long break down the sideline before kicking ahead for Trbojevic but Cameron Murray was ruled to be in front of the play-the-ball in the lead-up and the try was disallowed. The Blues kept piling on the pressure with Cleary kicking ahead for Tariq Sims but the backrower was taken out in the chase by Daly Cherry-Evans. Cleary landed the penalty goal to extend the lead to 20-0.

Trbojevic then showed great desperation in defence when he came across in cover to stop Coates from scoring in the corner following a long cut-out pass from Cameron Munster. The Maroons celebrations were cut short after replays showed that the NSW centre had got over to Coates just in time to strike his arm and dislodge the ball just before he was about to score.

Tedesco put the finishing touch on an impressive win when he scooted out of dummy-half, shaped right before heading back to the left and flicking a pass for Addo-Carr to step back infield and grab his second try of the night. Cleary added the extras to make it 26-0. The Maroons would have one more opportunity to score when Cherry-Evans put a kick through for Kyle Feldt but Brian To'o showed plenty of resolve to turn and chase to spoil any chance of a try.

The Blues had claimed the series and sent records tumbling again along the way. It was only the third time Queensland had been held scoreless in an Origin game and the first time that had happened at their spiritual home ground. The performance was even more impressive when it emerged that Cleary had played on through the pain barrier after dislocating his shoulder during the match.

**NSW Blues 26** (Josh Addo-Carr 2, Latrell Mitchell, Tom Trbojevic tries; Nathan Cleary 5 goals) **def Queensland Maroons 0** at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, on Sunday 27 June.

**Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues**

1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Latrell Mitchell (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 4. Tom Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 5. Josh Addo-Carr (Melbourne Storm), 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers), 8. Daniel Saifiti (Newcastle Knights), 9. Damien Cook (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 10. Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels), 11. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 12. Tariq Sims (St George Illawarra Dragons), 13. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 14. Jack Wighton (Canberra Raiders), 15. Angus Crichton (Sydney Roosters), 16. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 17. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 18. Apisai Koroisau (Penrith Panthers), 19. Campbell Graham (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 20. Dale Finucane (Melbourne Storm). Coach Brad Fittler.





STATE OF ORIGIN

# GAME THREE

The Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues were challenged by coach Brad Fittler to become the first NSW team since 2000 to achieve an Origin series clean sweep but faced a number of hurdles before the match had kicked off.

The starting halves from the first two games, Nathan Cleary and Jarome Luai, were both ruled out through injury. Cleary dislocated his shoulder in Game Two while Luai injured his knee playing for his club side, Penrith Panthers. Their places were taken by Mitchell Moses, who was making his debut, at halfback, while Jack Wighton started at five-eighth.

There were other injury concerns up front after Daniel Saifiti was ruled out with a knee injury. His place in the starting side was filled by Dale Finucane with Apisai Koroisau named to make his debut off the bench. It was hoped the match would be played in NSW after the first two games of the series were played in Queensland but ongoing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic in Greater Sydney saw the match shifted to Newcastle initially. When COVID-19 spread to Regional NSW it was decided that the match would be shifted to Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast.

The Maroons opened the scoring through a penalty goal to Valentine Holmes before Latrell Mitchell stepped back inside past Dane Gagai to score next to the posts. He converted his own try to put the Blues back in front 6-2. The Maroons hit back with a try to Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow before the Blues showed great defensive resolve to deny another to Gagai after Brian To'o turned and chased a dropped ball to stop the Queensland winger from scoring.

The Maroons just had their noses in front 8-6 at half-time before Wighton showed the strength of his running game to dummy his way past the goal line defence before crashing over the line to score. Mitchell converted to put the Blues back on top 12-8. The Maroons took a 20-12 lead through a double to Ben Hunt before NSW set up a grandstand finish after Moses kicked twice in a play with the second one leading to a try to Apisai Koroisau after he snatched the ball away from Cameron Munster to wheel around and score. Mitchell converted to have the Blues trailing 20-18 and set up a thrilling finish with 10 minutes to go.

A penalty against the Maroons at the death gave Mitchell the opportunity to kick a goal and lock the scores up but unfortunately the long-range attempt – the NSW centre was on the halfway line – fell agonisingly short. The Blues had missed out on the opportunity to land the clean sweep but had still claimed the series to make it three series wins in the past four years.

**Queensland Maroons 20** (Ben Hunt 2, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow tries; Daly Cherry-Evans 2, Valentine Holmes 2 goals) **def NSW Blues 18** (Latrell Mitchell, Jack Wighton, Apisai Koroisau tries; Mitchell 3 goals) at Cbus Super Stadium, Gold Coast, on Wednesday 14 June.

**Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues**

1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Latrell Mitchell (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 4. Tom Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 5. Josh Addo-Carr (Melbourne Storm), 6. Jack Wighton (Canberra Raiders), 7. Mitchell Moses (Parramatta Eels), 8. Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels), 9. Damien Cook (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 10. Dale Finucane (Melbourne Storm), 11. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 12. Tariq Sims (St George Illawarra Dragons), 13. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 14. Apisai Koroisau (Penrith Panthers), 15. Angus Crichton (Sydney Roosters), 16. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 17. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 18. Nicho Hynes (Melbourne Storm), 19. Campbell Graham (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 20. Clint Gutherson (Parramatta Eels), 21. Stefano Utoikamanu (Wests Tigers). Coach Brad Fittler.



## WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

The NSWRL had already made history for the Ampol Women's State of Origin match in 2021 before the match kicked off after announcing that Kylie Hilder would coach the team. It was the first time the NSWRL had appointed a female to a major coaching position since the organisation was formed in 1907. Hilder brought an impeccable pedigree to the position, having represented NSW and the Australian Jillaroos as well as winning four Touch Football World Cups.

Hilder's appointment wasn't the only significant change, with the women's team also adopting a new moniker to be officially known now as the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues.

Hilder was a keen observer of the Country vs City Women's match, which returned to the NSWRL representative calendar in 2021 and acted as a selection guide for the Sky Blues. She moved Jessica Sergis into the centres, Yasmin Meakes joined the team on the wing, Maddie Studdon returned at halfback, Keeley Davis replaced the now retired Hilder at hooker, Sarah Togatuki started in the second row while Kennedy Cherrington and Holli Wheeler joined the bench.

The game was played in tough, rainy conditions on the Sunshine Coast, but that didn't dampen the early enthusiasm from the Sky Blues after Isabelle Kelly powered her way through the Queensland goal-line defence before stretching out to plant the ball down for a 4-0 lead.

A kick from Hannah Southwell presented the Sky Blues with another opportunity after Maroons winger Shenae Ciesiolka dropped the ball but Tiana Penitani was ruled to have knocked on while attempting to ground the ball in-goal.

The Maroons took a 6-4 lead through a converted try to Destiny Brill before the Sky Blues came close to scoring again. A kick from Studdon was taken by Meakes 10m out from the Maroons line who found Kelly in support. Kelly was claimed by the defence but still managed to get a pass away to Meakes who threw a long pass to Botille Vette-Welsh. The Blues fullback found Quincy Dodd who put a kick up for Sergis who seemed certain to score but she was unable to hang on to the ball cleanly with the try line beckoning.

A high shot on Southwell by Chelsea Lenarduzzi presented the Sky Blues with a chance to level the scores at 6-all and Studdon obliged after landing the goal from right in front. That set up a frantic final 20 minutes with the Sky Blues surviving several scares until their luck finally ran out when Filomina Hanisi was penalised for a leg pull on Lenarduzzi. Lauren Brown landed the goal from right in front in the final minute to hand the Maroons an 8-6 win.

The Sky Blues had shown plenty of grit with Southwell leaving the field in the first half in pain with an ankle injury before returning to finish the match. Penitani also hobbled from the field with a knee injury while Togatuki was also forced off for a HIA. Ultimately, a lack of possession and too many errors came back to haunt the Sky Blues.

**Queensland Maroons 8** (Destiny Brill try; Lauren Brown 2 goals) **def NSW Sky Blues 6** (Isabelle Kelly try; Maddie Studdon goal) at Sunshine Coast Stadium, Sunshine Coast, on Friday 25 June.

### Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues

1. Botille Vette-Welsh (Wests Tigers), 2. Yasmin Meakes (Central Coast Roosters), 3. Jess Sergis (Helensburgh Tigers), 4. Isabelle Kelly (Central Coast Roosters), 5. Tiana Penitani (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 6. Corban Baxter (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 7. Maddie Studdon (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 8. Simaima Taufua (Mounties), 9. Keeley Davis (Mounties), 10. Millie Boyle (Burleigh Bears), 11. Kezie Apps (c) (Helensburgh Tigers), 12. Sarah Togatuki (St Marys Saints), 13. Hannah Southwell (Central Coast Roosters), 14. Quincy Dodd (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 15. Filomina Hanisi (Mounties), 16. Kennedy Cherrington (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 17. Holli Wheeler (North Sydney Bears), 18. Brydie Parker (Central Coast Roosters), 19. Renee Targett (North Sydney Bears). Coach Kylie Hilder.



## UNDER 19S WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

The NSW Women's Origin Under 19s team started the season with a new coach after Blake Cavallaro was appointed to the position. Cavallaro had experience as a former coach of the Sydney Roosters SG Ball Cup side as well as the current coach of the Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup team, which he steered to a Grand Final.

The 2021 match was the first time an interstate women's pathways match had been played since the NSW Women's Origin Under 18s team beat Queensland in the inaugural game in 2019. The 2020 edition was unable to go ahead after the COVID-19 pandemic. The squad for the Origin match was chosen after a camp for NSW Women's Under 19s players on 9 May, and the NRL Women's National Championships at Redcliffe from 20-23 May. The NRL Women's National Championships were spread over four days and involved 300 players from across Australia. The Under 19s competition featured eight teams, including NSW City and NSW Country, with pool matches before finals for the top six teams. Both NSW teams just missed out on the final, with NSW City losing 6-4 to the Queensland Sapphires and NSW Country losing 12-10 to the Queensland Rubys. The two NSW sides couldn't be split in a play-off for third after fighting out a thrilling 8-all draw.

Cavallaro and Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder selected the squad which included four players from the St George Dragons and three players from the Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters that had faced off in the Grand Final. The match was played as a curtain-raiser to the Ampol Women's State of Origin match on the Sunshine Coast in June.

The two sides struggled for territory in the opening 10 minutes before a penalty paved the way for NSW to open the scoring with Luisa Yaranamua muscling her way over the line to establish a 4-0 lead. Queensland conceded another penalty which Yaranamua capitalised on again after throwing a pinpoint pass for winger Teagan Berry to touch down. Queensland were desperate to score just before the break and found a try through Sara Sautia to reduce the margin to 10-6 at half-time.

They extended their lead to 12-10 after Hannah Larsson scored next to the posts before Teagan Berry changed the course of the match with a long-range try to help put NSW back in front 16-12. Queensland had one more chance with a minute left, but the NSW defence held firm to seal a four-point win. NSW had defended the Shield they won in 2019 and Yaranamua was named Player of the Match after scoring a try and setting up another.

**NSW Under 19s Women 16** (Teagan Berry 2, Luisa Yaranamua tries; Rueben Cherrington, Yaranamua goals) **Queensland Under 19s Women 12** (Sara Sautia, Hannah Larsson tries; Z Cook 2 goals) at Sunshine Coast Stadium, Sunshine Coast, on Friday 25 June.

NSW Women's Under 19s State of Origin team  
 1. Jamie Chapman (Tweed Seagulls), 2. Charlize Lloyd-Phillips (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 3. Andie Robinson (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 4. Cassey Tohi-Hiku (St George Dragons), 5. Teagan Berry (Illawarra Steelers), 6. Luisa Yaranamua (St George Dragons), 7. Tayla Montgomery (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 8. Fatafehi Hanisi (St George Dragons), 9. Rueben Cherrington (St George Dragons), 10. Rose Lina Tau (Illawarra Steelers), 11. Hope Tevaga (Wests Tigers), 12. Chantel Tugaga (Illawarra Steelers), 13. Lilly Baker (Glebe Dirty Reds), 14. Taneka Todhunter (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 15. Tegan Dymock (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 16. Folau Vaki (Wests Tigers), 17. Jordyn Preston (Illawarra Steelers), 18. Keele Brown (Illawarra Steelers), 19. Leilani Wilson (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs). Coach: Blake Cavallaro.



## COUNTRY v CITY

Country v City matches returned to the NSWRL representative calendar in 2021 after a four-year absence with six games played across two different venues in Sydney and Wollongong in May.

Country v City has a proud tradition in NSW with the first match played under residency rules in 1911 with the best players from the NSWRL Premiership taking on the best players from the Country Rugby League. The concept was shelved until 1928 where it was played every season until 1987 when the criteria for selection changed to Origin selection rules, with the match being used as a guide for the NSW State of Origin team.

The rejigged concept this season returned to residency selection rules with games scheduled for Women's Open Age, Under 16s and Under 18s at Bankwest Stadium, and Wheelchair Rugby League at Shellharbour City Stadium on Saturday 15 May. The Women's Open Age match helped form the Origin team for the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues.

The Physical Disability Rugby League and the Men's Open Age games were played at Collegians Sporting Complex on Sunday 16 May.

The NSW Men's Country team was made up of players from Men's Country Championships and the NSW Men's City team from the Ron Massey Cup. The Women's NSW Country and City teams were comprised of players from the Women's Country Championships and the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership. The Under 16s Country team was made up of players from the SLE Andrew Johns Cup and the City team from the UNE Harold Matthews Cup, while the Under 18s Country team was comprised of players from the SLE Laurie Daley Cup and the City team the UNE SG Ball Cup.

### Country v City Men's Open Age

City halves Zac Greene and Kamren Cryer turned in strong performances to steer their side to a 38-12 win over Country. Greene scored a try and set up another to establish a 22-0 lead at half-time while Cryer produced three try assists in the second half to snuff out any chance of a comeback.

**City 38** (Jake Toby 2, Danny Fualalo, Zac Greene, Semisi Kioa, Kane McQuiggin, Kieran Hayman tries; Greene 5 goals) **Country 12** (Chanse Perham, Jake Goodwin tries; Hamish Oxley 2 goals) at Collegians Sporting Complex on Sunday 16 May.

### Country v City Women's Open Age

A Player of the Match performance and hat-trick of tries from Jessica Sergis helped City to a 40-16 win over Country. City halves Maddie Studdon and Corban McGregor also put their stamp on the match to always have City in control.

**City 40** (Jessica Sergis 3, Jocephy Daniels 2, Shanice Parker 2, Corban McGregor, Tiana Penitani tries; Maddie Studdon 2 goals) **Country 16** (Jocelyn Kelleher, Tayla Predebon, Rachael Pearson tries; Pearson 2 goals) at Bankwest Stadium on Saturday 15 May.

### Country v City Under 18s

Justin Matamua starred for City in the 46-6 win over Country after coming off the bench to score a hat-trick of tries. City led 16-6 at half-time before going on with the job after the break with Turoa Williams also scoring a double.

**City 46** (Justin Matamua 3, Turoa Williams 2, Jack Cole, Michael Asomua, Brandon Morkos, Jabriel Kalache tries; Ethan Sanders 4, Williams goals) **Country 6** (Matthew Wheatley try; Braye Porter goal) at Bankwest Stadium on Saturday 15 May.

### Country v City Under 16s

A powerhouse performance from Roy Quiroz-Mapusua helped City to a comprehensive 34-12 win over Country. UNE Harold Matthews Cup Player of the Year Latu Fainu was also strong after having a hand in a number of tries.

**City 34** (Cooper Toy 2, Jermaine McEwen, Siamani Leuluai, Roy Quiroz-Mapusua, Jesse McLean, Lehi Hopoate tries; Blaize Talagi 3 goals) **Country 12** (Tyreece Arama, Kaide Pratt tries; Clay Baldock 2 goals) at Bankwest Stadium on Saturday 15 May.

### Country v City Wheelchair Rugby League

Country captain Brad Grove scored four tries and Diab Karim three on the way to a comfortable 56-22 win over City. Country led 28-18 at half-time and City had no answers as they piled on more points after the break.

**Country 56** (Brad Grove 4, Diab Karim 3, Mitch Stone, Brett Henman, Jason Attard tries; Henman 5, Karim 2, Tim Robinson goals) **City 22** (Craig Cannane 2, Stephan Rochecouste, Liam Luff, Jeremy Ayoub tries; Cannane, goal) at Shellharbour City Stadium on Saturday 15 May.

### Country v City Physical Disability Rugby League

Noah Pittas provided plenty of highlights for City's 12-4 win over Country after scoring a try and almost grabbing another with a searching run downfield. Country never gave up and were rewarded with a try to Tristan Gibbs in the second half.

**City 12** (Noah Pittas, Jack Bryant, Marco Quintao tries) **Country 4** (Tristan Gibbs try) at Collegians Sporting Complex on Sunday 16 May.



## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

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## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

### THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, which is the state's premier competition, continued to provide a valuable pathway for Rugby League players looking to further their careers with 52 graduates progressing to play in the NRL competition in 2021.

The competition featured 11 teams including Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles, Canberra Raiders, Mounties, Newcastle Knights, Newtown Jets, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George Dragons and Western Suburbs Magpies. It was scheduled to be played over 24 rounds with a top eight finals series. The impact of the competition can also be seen in the team lists for the NRL Grand Final with Penrith Panthers' Matt Burton and Scott Sorensen, and South Sydney Rabbitohs' Jaxson Paulo having played for their respective clubs in Round One of The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup.

Other graduates included North Sydney Bears halfback Sam Walker, who went on to claim the NRL Rookie of the Year Award after stepping up for the Sydney Roosters in the NRL, Roosters young gun Joseph Suaalii, St George Illawarra Dragons rookies Junior Amone, Tyrell Sloan, Jayden Sullivan and Mathew Feagai, and Rabbitohs Grand Final fullback Blake Taaffe.

There were 58 games scheduled to be shown as curtain-raisers for NRL games, and at least 23 games to be broadcast by Fox League on FOX SPORTS, until the competition was shut down in June because of the COVID-19 pandemic across Greater Sydney and regional NSW.

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup started 2021 with a new naming rights sponsor, and welcomed back the Canberra Raiders, who were playing under their own logo for the first time in 14 years.

The Penrith Panthers mirrored the success of their NRL counterparts and were well on their way to securing the Minor Premiership when the competition was forced to be abandoned. They remained unbeaten until Round 12 when they proved no match for Mounties. Penrith halfback Kurt Falls played a role in their success after leading the competition for goals (52), kick metres (3866) and all kicks (123), as well as being the third best point scorer (130).

Western Suburbs Magpies also enjoyed a successful season, which included a nine-game winning streak until the Panthers brought it to an end in a highly anticipated match between the two teams in Round 13 at Lidcombe Oval.

West's Tigers' Jock Madden was the top point scorer (130), second for kick metres (2,905) and all kicks (114), and third for goals (49).

Parramatta Eels' Jordan Rankin also enjoyed a strong season after leading the competition for try assists (14) and linebreak assists (10), was second for points scored (118) and goals (51), and third for kick metres (2841) and all kicks (110).

The NSWRL made the decision not to award the premiership after the competition was forced to be abandoned after Round 15 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The competition will expand to 12 teams in 2022 with Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs re-joining after sitting out this season.

Standings: Penrith Panthers (37), Western Suburbs Magpies (31), Parramatta Eels (30), North Sydney Bears (27), Newcastle Knights (25), Mounties (23), Canberra Raiders (22), Newtown Jets (22), St George Illawarra Dragons (20), Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles (20), South Sydney Rabbitohs (17).



## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

### HARVEY NORMAN NSW WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

The Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership entered its fifth season in 2021 and featured 11 teams including the Cabramatta Two Blues, Central Coast Roosters, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Glebe Dirty Reds, Helensburgh Tigers, Mounties, North Sydney Bears, St Marys Saints, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Wentworthville Tigers and Wests Tigers. There were an additional four teams that took part after the 2019 season was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic with the competition to be played over 15 rounds before a finals series involving the top six teams.

The Central Coast Roosters, aided by Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues representatives Isabelle Kelly, Yasmin Meakes and Hannah Southwell, proved to be the pacesetters after winning all 11 regular season games. Their biggest challenge came in their Round 13 clash against Mounties, who had Sky Blues Simaima Taufa, Keeley Davis and Filomina Hanisi in their line-up. The top-of-the-table clash lived up to expectations with Mounties surging to a 14-0 lead following two tries to Sereana Naitokatoka and another to Jamie-Anne Wright. The Roosters then showed their class to soar to a 22-14 lead after tries to Meakes, Keilee Joseph, Shawden Burton and Kelly. Mounties set up a grandstand finish when Jade Etherden scored to reduce the margin to 22-20 with 10 minutes remaining but the Roosters defence held firm.

The finals series was poised to start in July when the COVID-19 outbreak forced Greater Sydney into lockdown and eventually resulted in the competition being abandoned. The NSWRL awarded the Central Coast Roosters the Minor Premiership as the regular season had concluded and they had finished on top of the table when the competition was stopped. Helensburgh Tigers fullback Jessica Sergis was later named the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership Player of the Year at the Brad Fittler Medal.

Players from the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership dominated the Country and City teams that were chosen for the representative match in May. The game acted as a selection trial for the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues with 18 of the 19 players picked in the squad having played in the state's premier women's Rugby League competition.

Standings: Central Coast Roosters (26), Mounties (24), Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (22), Helensburgh Tigers (18), St Marys Saints (16), Wests Tigers (16), North Sydney Bears (16), South Sydney Rabbitohs (10), Wentworthville Magpies (6), Glebe Dirty Reds (6), Cabramatta Two Blues (4).



## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

### JERSEY FLEGG CUP

The Jersey Flegg Cup for Under 21s players featured 10 teams including Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Dragons, South Sydney Roosters, Sydney Roosters, Victoria Thunderbolts and Wests Tigers.

The competition was scheduled to be played over 24 rounds before a finals series for the top five teams. The Tigers were on top of the table, after remaining unbeaten throughout the regular season. They faced competition from the Dragons with the two teams squaring off against each other in Round 12. The Tigers took an early lead after three tries in the opening 23 minutes, including a double to captain Rua Ngatikaura.

The Dragons pegged one back through winger Alexander Lobb to stay in the contest 18-6 at half-time before the Tigers score back-to-back tries when play resumed to run away with the match 30-10.

The Jersey Flegg Cup was to also feature in 25 NRL curtain-raisers, 16 triple-headers (Jersey Flegg Cup, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup and NRL) and 50 double-headers (Jersey Flegg Cup or The Knock-On Effect Cup and NRL), before the competition shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The success stories from the Jersey Flegg Cup included South Sydney duo Lachlan Ilias and Davvy Moale, Manly's Ben Trbojevic (the younger brother of Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues' Jake and Tom Trbojevic), and Canterbury-Bankstown's Bailey Biondi-Odo, who all went on to play NRL this season. Roosters winger Vuate Karawalevu was another positive story after being elevated into the Jersey Flegg Cup from the Kaiviti Silktails squad in the Ron Massey Cup.

The Jersey Flegg Cup was abandoned after 15 rounds due to the COVID-19 outbreak across Greater Sydney and a decision was made not to award a premiership as the competition was incomplete.

Standings: Wests Tigers (29), St George Illawarra Dragons (27), Penrith Panthers (23), Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (22), Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (20), South Sydney Rabbitohs (20), Sydney Roosters (20), Parramatta Eels (16), Manly Warringah Sea Eagles (16), Victoria Thunderbolts (15).





## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

### RON MASSEY CUP

The Ron Massey Cup, which is the state's second-tier competition, returned in 2021 after the competition was abandoned after just one round in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It featured 11 teams including Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles, Cabramatta Two Blues, Glebe Dirty Reds, Hills District Bulls, Kaiviti Silktails, Mounties, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, St Marys Saints, Wentworthville Magpies, Western Suburbs Magpies and Windsor Wolves.

The finals were scheduled to be held over three weeks and involve the top six teams.

St Marys had not participated in the COVID-19 affected Presidents Cup competition in 2020, which included teams from the Sydney metropolitan area and regional NSW, but were quick to show the type of form that had propelled them into the Grand Final in 2019. They had lost only one game and were sitting on top of the ladder when the competition was abandoned after Round 15 because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Hills District Bulls, who narrowly missed out on the Presidents Cup Grand Final in 2020, were also strong and were only three points adrift of the Saints in second spot when the competition stopped.

The Kaiviti Silktails, who had been admitted to the competition in 2020 and won their opening match against Windsor Wolves at Lautoka before COVID-19 struck, relocated to Sydney to avoid any further disruptions. Supported by the Australian Government's PacificAus Sports program and coached by former NRL player Wes Naiqama. After a shaky start to the season, they rallied and were still on track to play in the finals after fighting their way back to sixth position.

Players from the Ron Massey Cup filled the City squad for the representative match against Country in May with St Marys dominating selection with six players. St Marys hooker Soni Luke was named Player of the Match after a strong performance which included two tries.

The NSWRL elected not to award a premiership in 2021 as the competition was incomplete.

Standings: St Marys Saints (33), Hills District Bulls (30), Wentworthville Magpies (25), Mounties (25), Glebe Dirty Reds (23), Kaiviti Silktails (22), Windsor Wolves (20), Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles (20), Western Suburbs Magpies (20), Ryde-Eastwood Hawks (20), Cabramatta Two Blues (12).



## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

### SYDNEY SHIELD

The Sydney Shield, which is the state's third-tier competition, featured 11 teams including Belrose Eagles, Brothers Penrith, Cabramatta Two Blues, Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks, East Campbelltown Eagles, Hills District Bulls, Moorebank Rams, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, St Marys Saints, Wentworthville Magpies and Windsor Wolves.

The finals were scheduled to be held over three weeks and involve the top six teams. The competition had operated in the COVID-19 affected season with nine teams but the 2021 version saw the withdrawal of Helensburgh Tigers and Sydney University and the addition of Brothers Penrith, Cabramatta Two Blues, St Marys Saints and Windsor Wolves.

St Marys proved to be a dominant force after missing the 2020 season and were sitting on top of the table after getting off to a flying start. They racked up some impressive performances, including a huge win over East Campbelltown in Round Five where five-eighth Aiden Glanville scored 28 points from a hat-trick of tries and eight goals, before their run came to an end in Round Nine at the hands of Hills District Bulls. The Bulls were only one point behind Saints on the table and fought hard for a 18-8 win. They scored the opening two tries of the match and their defence held firm at the end after Saints scored to provide some hope of a late fightback.

Brothers Penrith were not far off the top two teams and turned in several impressive performances during the season, with brothers Tori and Riki Willie combining for four tries in the Round Nine win over Windsor Wolves. The Sharks had captured the premiership last season and still proved strong in 2021 with former NRL stars Michael Lichaa and Bronson Garlick both on their roster.

The regular season was abandoned after Round 15 due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the decision was made not to award a premiership as the competition was incomplete.

Standings: St Marys Saints (31), Hills District Bulls (30), Brothers Penrith (28), Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks (24), Moorebank Rams (21), Wentworthville United Magpies (19), Ryde-Eastwood Hawks (17), Windsor Wolves (17), East Campbelltown Eagles (16), Belrose Eagles (14), Cabramatta Two Blues (11).



## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

### OTHER COMPETITIONS

The NSWRL successfully administered several other competitions and representative matches in 2021.

#### Denton Engineering Cup

The Denton Engineering Cup in Newcastle started in March and featured 10 teams including Cessnock Goannas, South Newcastle Lions, Lakes United Seagulls, Western Suburbs Rosellas, Wyong Roos, Central Newcastle Butcher Boys, Kurri Kurri Bulldogs, Maitland Pickers, The Entrance Tigers and Macquarie Scorpions.

Maitland captured the Presidents Cup in the COVID-19 affected season in 2020 and proved a force again this season with former NRL player Brock Lamb steering the ship at halfback. The Pickers were on top of the table when the competition was cancelled due to the extended COVID-19 lockdown.

The Goannas featured heavily in the Newcastle Rebels squad that played in May after filling eight of the 19 positions, including former NRL player Tyrone Roberts-Davis. The Scorpions also boasted NRL experience after former Canterbury-Bulldogs centre Kerrod Holland signed for 2021.

The winner of the Denton Engineering Cup was to represent the Northern Conference for the Presidents Cup until the competition was officially abandoned in June.

Standings: Maitland Pickers (29), Cessnock Goannas (23), Central Newcastle Butcher Boys (21), Macquarie Scorpions (20), Western Suburbs Rosellas (19), Wyong Roos (15), The Entrance Tigers (13), Lakes United Seagulls (13), Kurri Kurri Bulldogs (9), South Newcastle Lions (8).

#### Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup

The Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup started the season with a new naming rights sponsor after Mojo Homes signed a partnership for three years. The competition started in April and featured five teams including Thirroul Butchers, Collegians Collie Dogs, Western Suburbs Red Devils, Corrimal Cougars and Dapto Canaries. Thirroul started the season as favourites and were on top of the table when the competition was abandoned in June because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Butchers team included True Blue Tim Grant and former Manly Warringah Sea Eagles players Josh Starling and Frank Winterstein.

The winner of the Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup was to represent the Southern Conference in the Presidents Cup until the competition was abandoned.

There will be plenty to look forward to next year with two more teams, Helensburgh Tigers and Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks joining the competition. The move has been made possible through the NSWRL One State Strategic Plan which created six new zones including the South Corridor Zone that connects the St George and Cronulla districts with Illawarra and Group 7. Standings: Thirroul Butchers (14), Collegians Collie Dogs (12), Western Suburbs Red Devils (12), Corrimal Cougars (8), Dapto Canaries (4).

#### Men's Country Championships

The Men's Country Championships featured 10 teams including Northern Rivers Titans, North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Tigers, Western Rams, Newcastle and Maitland Region Knights, Central Coast Roosters, Macarthur Wests Tigers, Illawarra South Coast Dragons, Monaro Colts and Riverina Bulls.

The competition was comprised of two pools of five teams who played two rounds before two weeks of finals. The top four teams from either group (based purely on competition points and for and against) progressed through to the Semi-finals before the Grand Final.

Monaro Colts proved to be the feel-good story of the competition after True Blue and coach Terry Campese pulled the boots on again to answer an SOS call over injury concerns. The final against the Illawarra South Coast Dragons was a see-sawing affair with both sides trading tries in the first half to go to half-time locked up at 10-all. That pattern continued in the second half with the scores locked up again at 16-all until Campese broke the deadlock with a penalty goal to seal a win for the Colts.

**Monaro Colts 18** (Jake Butler-Fleming, William Pearce, Tristan Eldridge tries; Terry Campese 3 goals) **Illawarra South Coast Dragons 14** (Ryan James 2, Dylan Farrell tries; Cameron Vazzoler 2 goals) at H.E. Laybutt Sporting Complex on Saturday 27 March.



## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS

### OTHER COMPETITIONS

#### Women's Country Championships

The Women's Country Championships featured the same 10 teams as the men's competitions and followed the same format.

The Grand Final between Newcastle Maitland Region Knights and Riverina Bulls was played in May as a curtain-raiser to the NRL match between Canberra Raiders and Newcastle Knights. It proved to be a one-act affair with the Knights turning in a near flawless performance while the Bulls were guilty of too many errors. Knights halfback Ashlee Harvey led her team around the park superbly as the Knights surged to a 26-0 lead at half-time. The Knights went on with the job in the second half to win 38-0 and claim the second edition of the competition which the Bulls won in 2019.

**Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 38** (Margaret Watson, Rhianni Cipta, Emma-Marie Young, Phoebe Desmond, Harmon Liddell, Amy Broadhead tries; Ashlee Harvey 7 goals) **Riverina Bulls 0** at McDonalds Park, Wagga Wagga, on Saturday 8 May.

#### Steel City Challenge

The Steel City Challenge between the Newcastle Rebels and Illawarra Steelers was played as part of the Country v City representative weekend in May. The Rebels were comprised of players from the Denton Engineering Cup while the Steelers came from the Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup.

The Rebels started strongly after scoring three tries in the opening 10 minutes and they were well on their way to a win after taking a 26-4 lead at half-time. Both sides struggled to find the ascendancy early in the second half before the Rebels took control with two more tries to seal the result. Rebels halfback Adrian Davis had a hand in two tries and landed six goals, while hooker Billy Gilbert scored a try and set up another for backrower Luke Higgins.

**Newcastle Rebels 36** (James Bradley, Cameron Anderson, Luke Higgins, Dylan Phythian, Billy Gilbert, Tom Woodbury tries; Adrian Davis 6 goals) **Illawarra Steelers 4** (Tom Angel try) at Collegians Sporting Complex on Sunday 16 May.

#### Steel City Challenge Under 19s

The Steel City Challenge Under 19s match between the Newcastle Rebels and Illawarra Steelers was played as part of the Country v City representative weekend in May. The Rebels were comprised of players from the local Newcastle competition including the Denton Engineering Cup while the Steelers came from the local Illawarra competition including the Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup.

Newcastle surged to a 20-4 lead at half-time with playmaker Max Buderus, the nephew of True Blue and former NSW captain Danny Buderus, playing a key role for his team. The Rebels were the first to score after the break to extend the margin to 26-4 before Illawarra staged a memorable comeback. The Steelers whittled the deficit down to 26-22 in the final few minutes and while they had a few more chances to score after that, the Rebels defence held firm to secure the win.

**Newcastle Rebels 26** (Pat Achurch 2, Sam Smith, Joseph Barber, Carlin Pettit tries; Max Buderus 3 goals) **Illawarra Steelers 22** (Iye Patterson, Tully Mackay, Jacob Marsters, Riley Ford tries; Josh Martin 3 goals) at Collegians Sporting Complex on Sunday 16 May.



JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES

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## JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES

### UNE SG BALL CUP

The UNE SG Ball Cup for Under 19s players from metropolitan Sydney featured 15 teams including Balmain Tigers, Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Newcastle Knights, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, Sydney Roosters, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George Dragons, Victoria Thunderbolts and Western Suburbs Magpies.

The competition was played over nine rounds before a top six finals series. The Roosters lost their opening game of the season to the Bulldogs but remained unbeaten for the regular season after that. The top of the table was heavily congested with only three points separating the top seven teams, with the Eels just missing out on a spot in the finals. The Roosters and the Sea Eagles sat out the Elimination Finals after finishing in the top two but bowed out in the Semi-finals the following week after losing to the Steelers and the Raiders respectively.

The Grand Final at Leichhardt Oval was a hard-fought affair with the Steelers team featuring Tyrell Sloan and Junior Azone, and the Raiders fielding Xavier Savage. All three would go on to play NRL in 2021. The Raiders scored first after Caleb Esera crashed over the line, but the Steelers scored through Brandon Morkos to reduce the deficit to 6-4. An error from the Steelers gave the Raiders another opportunity and they capitalised when halfback Sione Moala dummied before carrying several defenders over the line to extend the lead to 12-4. The Steelers hit back just before half-time when Joshua Coric barged his way over the line to keep his side in touch at 12-10. Both sides had further chances before Canberra launched a short side raid for Jack Sandford to score and establish some breathing space at 18-10. The Steelers scored again through Alexander Lobb to set up a grandstand finish but the Raiders held on for a 18-14 win.

Raiders Lock Trey Mooney was named Player of the Match while Steelers five-eighth Azone was named Player of the Series. He helped steer his team into the Grand Final from sixth position and turned in several starring performances including scoring a hat-trick in the Semi-final win over the Roosters.

Players from the SG Ball Cup filled the City squad for the Under 19s representative match against Country in May which won 46-6.

Standings: Sydney Roosters (16), Manly Warringah Sea Eagles (15), South Sydney Rabbitohs (15), Canberra Raiders (14), Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (14), Illawarra Steelers (13), Parramatta Eels (13), Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (10), Balmain Tigers (9), Penrith Panthers (8), Newcastle Knights (7), Victoria Thunderbolts (6), Western Suburbs Magpies (4), St George Dragons (4), North Sydney Bears (2).



JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES

HARVEY NORMAN TARSHA GALE CUP

The Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup for Under 19s women entered its fifth season in 2021 and remained a significant pathway to progress to the elite level. The competition featured nine teams including the Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Newcastle Knights, Parramatta Eels, St George Dragons, Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers with the competition to be played over nine rounds before a top six finals series.

The Knights and the Steelers finished first and second respectively at the end of the regular season and progressed straight through to the second week of the finals. The Roosters ended the season of the Sharks in the elimination final while the Dragons proved too strong for the Tigers. The Roosters knocked out the Steelers in the Semi-final to book their place in the Grand Final while the Dragons maintained their giant-killing ways to secure the other spot after a comfortable win over the Knights, who had finished the season as Minor Premiers.

The Roosters took an early lead in the decider through a try to Keilee Joseph but the Dragons took control from that point on and were never headed. A Roosters turnover put the Dragons on the attack and a perfectly timed long pass from Luisa Yaranamua gave centre Rosemarie Beckett enough time and space to step back infield to score. The Dragons backed that up with tries to Cassey Tohi-Hiku and Rayven Jodeci-Boyce to take a 14-4 lead into half-time.

The Roosters started the second half with plenty of intent but couldn't convert that into points and the road back got a little harder when Yaranamua dragged three players over the line to extend the lead. Halfback Rueben Cherrington added a double in the final 10 minutes to seal a 30-4 win and finish a fairy tale run for the Red V who had won the premiership from fifth position. The Dragons win was made even sweeter after Jodeci-Boyce was named Player of the Match while Fatafehi Hanisi was named Player of the Series. The Grand Finalists were well represented in the NSW Under 19s team to face Queensland with four players selected from the Dragons and three from the Roosters.

Standings: Newcastle Knights (16), Illawarra Steelers (14), Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy (12), Wests Tigers (12), St George Dragons (10), Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (8), Canberra Raiders (7), Parramatta Eels (7), Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (4).



**JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES**

**SLE LAURIE DALEY CUP**

The SLE Laurie Daley Cup for Under 18s players from regional NSW featured 10 teams including the Central Coast Roosters, Illawarra South Coast Dragons, Macarthur Wests Tigers, Monaro Colts, Newcastle-Maitland Region Knights, North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans, Northern Tigers, Riverina Bulls and Western Rams. There were five rounds of the regular season followed by a finals series consisting of the top four teams with Semi-finals and a Grand Final.

The Roosters were the only team to go through the regular season undefeated with the Rams and the Colts just behind them after fighting out a 22-all draw in Round Four. The Roosters fought hard in their Semi-final against the Colts with hooker Tyler Moriarty scoring a double to set up a 12-6 win. The Tigers stole a 12-0 lead on the Rams with two early tries in their Semi-final and ended any hopes of a fightback with a try to centre Blake Johnston with eight minutes remaining for a 16-10 win.

The Tigers got off to a flying start in the Grand Final at H.E. Laybutt Stadium following a try to captain Mitch Henderson to establish a 6-0 lead but the Roosters levelled the scores through backrower Jye Boyle. Henderson got involved again to put Johnston over the line, but the Roosters locked the scores back up at 12-all after a Moriarty try from dummy-half. The Tigers took a 14-12 lead through a penalty goal early in the second half before the Roosters rallied with another try to Boyle. Moriarty then capped off a Player-of-the-Match performance after scoring again to seal a hard fought 24-14 victory.

The Grand Final teams were strongly represented in the Country squad named to play against City in the representative match in May with nine players selected (six from the Roosters, three from the Tigers). Western Rams fullback/five-eighth Braye Porter was later awarded the Tom Nelson Medal for the SLE Laurie Daley Cup Player of the Year following a breakout season.

Standings: Central Coast Roosters (10), Western Rams (9), Monaro Colts (9), Northern Tigers (6), Illawarra South Coast Dragons (4), North Coast Bulldogs (4), Northern Rivers Titans (2), Newcastle-Maitland Region Knights (2), Macarthur Wests Tigers (2), Riverina Bulls (0).





JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES

UNE HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

The UNE Harold Matthews Cup for Under 17s players from metropolitan Sydney featured 15 teams including Balmain Tigers, Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Central Coast Roosters, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Newcastle Knights, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, Sydney Roosters, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George Dragons and Western Suburbs Magpies. The competition was played over nine rounds before a top six finals series.

Manly remained unbeaten during the regular season and led the competition in both attack and defence. They were closely followed by Parramatta, whose only loss had come against the Sea Eagles in the opening round. Both the Sea Eagles and the Eels progressed straight through to the Semi-finals, winning their respective matches against Western Suburbs and Penrith to set up a thrilling Grand Final.

The decider at Leichhardt Oval saw both teams test each other early before an Eels penalty paved the way for the Sea Eagles to score after five-eighth Latu Fainu slipped a short pass for Roy Quiroz-Mapusua. Manly took a 10-0 lead into the half-time break after Lehi Hopoate put winger Revelation Sio over the line out wide.

The Sea Eagles maintained their momentum after the break when Fainu turned a ball back inside for his brother Samuela Fainu to sprint past the goal-line defence and score virtually untouched. The Eels threatened to make a game of it when Declan Murray scored to reduce the deficit to 16-6 but Fainu sparked a long-range try for Josh Feledy to score and put the result beyond doubt. The Eels would score again through Blaize Talagi to make it 24-12 but the day belonged to Manly. Fainu completed a masterclass performance after being named Player of the Match and Player of the Series.

The Sea Eagles dominated the Under 16s Country representative team to face City in May with five players selected, including Fainu. They proved too strong for Country after running away for a 34-12 win.

Standings: Manly Warringah Sea Eagles (18), Parramatta Eels (16), Penrith Panthers (14), Western Suburbs Magpies (14), Central Coast Roosters (12), Sydney Roosters (12), Newcastle Knights (12), Illawarra Steelers (9), Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (8), North Sydney Bears (8), Balmain Tigers (8), Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (7), St George Dragons (6), South Sydney Rabbitohs (4), Canberra Raiders (2).



**JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES**

**SLE ANDREW JOHNS CUP**

The SLE Andrew Johns Cup for Under 16s players from regional NSW featured 10 teams including the Central Coast Roosters, Illawarra South Coast Dragons, Macarthur Wests Tigers, Monaro Colts, Newcastle-Maitland Region Knights, North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans, Northern Tigers, Riverina Bulls and Western Rams. There were five rounds of the regular season followed by a finals series consisting of the top four teams with Semi-finals and a Grand Final.

The Roosters and the Dragons dominated the regular season after remaining unbeaten from their five matches. The Roosters booked their place in the Grand Final after an 18-0 win in the Semi-final against the Colts, with winger Jarrod Dann scoring a double. The Dragons also secured a spot in the decider after proving too strong for the Bulldogs with a 22-0 win, with hooker Dexter Grant and interchange player Isaac Laughton both grabbing two tries apiece.

The Grand Final between the top two sides at H.E Laybutt Stadium was a tight battle with the Dragons landing a penalty goal in the first half to take a 2-0 lead into the break. The Dragons defence had been inspirational in the first 40 minutes and they heaped even more pressure on the Roosters through their kicking game early in the second half. They finally broke the shackles and the Roosters took an 8-2 lead after a brilliant long ball from Malachi Smith sent Tyrone Durrell over the line. With only one minute to go, Roosters half Zac Gillett scored a well-deserved try with Smith adding the extras to secure a 14-2 win.

The Grand Final teams were strongly represented in the Country squad named to play against City in May with 11 players selected (six from the Roosters and five from the Dragons). Roosters captain and lock James Miller was later awarded the Ron Lanesbury Medal for the SLE Andrew Johns Cup Player of the Year at the Brad Fittler Medal after a dominant season which culminated with the Player of the Match in the Grand Final.

Standings: Central Coast Roosters (10), Illawarra South Coast Dragons (10), Monaro Colts (8), North Coast Bulldogs (6), Macarthur Wests Tigers (6), Northern Rivers Titans (4), Western Rams (4) Newcastle-Maitland Region Knights (2), Riverina Bulls (0), Northern Tigers (0).



NSWRL COMMUNITY

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NSWRL COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

Despite ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic there were many achievements to celebrate in Community Football highlighted by record participation figures.

Our state participation result of 107,528 players was a clear endorsement of Rugby League's continued position as a focal point in communities throughout the state. Overall, this result represented a 4.7 per cent increase in total player registrations from 2019 (2020 was not used for comparison because the season was significantly impacted by COVID-19).

Our women and girls surpassed the 20,000 mark for the first time in the game's history, registering 22,810 participants, reflecting 20 per cent growth on 2019. Women and girls now make up 21 per cent of our total participation base, compared with 8 per cent in 2015. Additionally, our male participation prospered, with 84,663 players, our strongest participation since 2018.

These results are testament to the amazing work of our avid volunteers supported by players, officials supported by our NSWRL and NRL Development staff. We thank everyone involved for their contribution. Their unyielding energy keeps youth smiling and continues to develop our game into the future.

Aiding this growth are various initiatives across club and community programs. Together with NRL Development a revamped coach education model for community coaches was rolled out. The program provides tailored and age specific content to better equip coaches in their education delivery.

**NSW Community Football Conference**

We were fortunate to be able to finish the year on a positive note conducting a united state conference. Almost 100 NSWRL Community Football and NRL Development Staff converged at Bathurst in December. After spending much of the year working from home it was refreshing to simply be able to meet face to face with staff to share information, learning about participation and other community initiatives.

**Grassroots Support**

To make the game more accessible in regional and remote areas, NSWRL increased its club support through provision of bus travel. The funding was offered to clubs for return journeys at or greater than 300km return.

With another year punctuated by lockdowns, the NSWRL helped negotiate some further financial relief for clubs, confirming an insurance rebate for season 2021 premiums from Gallagher's.

The above measures were in addition to redistribution of licensed supplier funds back to clubs, along with the provision of footballs for each team and Tags for Monarch Blues Tag sides.

**Active Kids**

The NSW Government's Active Kids initiative proved popular again with the Rugby League community, with 76,200 Active Kids vouchers, valued at \$7.42 million, redeemed in 2021 (5 per cent increase on 2020). The vouchers continued to be a hit with female participants with Rugby League sixth in the Active Kids top 10 activities for girls, and Rugby League fourth in the top 10 sports overall.



NSWRL COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The NSWRL's community engagement program, spearheaded by Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and True Blues Ambassadors, reached almost 7000 children across the state in 2021, despite the limitations of COVID-19.

Just as COVID-19 impacted Rugby League competitions and activities on the field, it also significantly restricted the amount of community interaction off the field for Fittler, our Ambassadors, and NSWRL community football staff. Many of the community programs had to be modified, either in length, location or presentation, from face-to-face to zoom calls or other methods, to cater for ever-changing COVID-19 protocols.

However, despite the restrictions, NSWRL's community engagement program continued to deliver on its core activities including: regional trips to support local communities and promote Rugby League participation; Try League programs for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities to encourage inclusion of multicultural communities in the game; health, wellbeing and cultural awareness initiatives in conjunction with our Indigenous community partners; and mental fitness education in Junior League clubs through Changing Rooms.

In addition, 2021 saw NSWRL extend their community support in other areas, assisting NSW Health with initiatives to help drive COVID-19 vaccination programs for all communities across the state; as well as teaming up with the NSW Police in November to support an important youth engagement program, "Straight Outta Lockdown", following the COVID-19 lockdown; and the Sport NSW "Shoosh for Kids" statewide awareness campaign.

Regional Visits

Led by Fittler, the NSWRL ran free footy clinics and barbecues at junior clubs, conducted mental fitness sessions at primary and secondary schools, and handed out footballs to 3000 plus children while visiting almost 50 regional towns across the state in two trips in February and December.

The number and type of activities were limited because of the ongoing changes around the NSW Government's Public Health Orders and COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

The February 'Hogs' tour, which is one of the main programs of the NSWRL Foundation, was the first around regional NSW in two years after 2020 was disrupted by the summer bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tour was spread over two weeks and took in 13 schools, six free football clinics, with footballs handed out along the way. Fittler was joined by Gus Worland, the Chairman and Founder of Gotcha4Life, who delivered messages about mental fitness to high school children.

True Blues Hindmarsh, Steve Menzies and Luke Lewis were involved in different stages of the tour which included a training session with Sydney Roosters players and Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues James Tedesco and Angus Crichton, and Blues hopeful Victor Radley.

In December, Fittler embarked on a week-long tour to promote 2022 junior registration, which took in 24 towns, seven football clinics, two referees clinics and more than 3000km.

He was joined by Harvey Norman Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder, Hindmarsh, Menzies, and NSWRL Officiating Development Co-ordinator and former NRL referee Gavin Badger for the seven-day ride.



NSWRL COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**CALD to Try League**

The NSWRL's multicultural Try League program for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities reached more than 230 children and experienced a number of firsts in 2021, with the initiative being extended to teenagers and young adults in Sydney's west, as well as being conducted online via Zoom because of COVID-19 limiting participation and delivery.

The online version, piloted as a result of the extended COVID-19 lockdown in 2021, is an adaptation of the existing face-to-face Try League program, which helps children from diverse backgrounds integrate into the community through Rugby League sporting activities.

The NSWRL created online workshops to combat the effect COVID-19 had on community sport, with participants going through four 30-minute sessions with a focus on the core skills of Rugby League including scoring tries, kicking and passing.

The face-to-face programs that were able to be held earlier in the year included delivery to young people aged 12-24 years at Rooty Hill, in partnership with SydWest Multicultural Services, a leading organisation for all cultural diversity issues responding to community needs and opportunities.

The program was also delivered in Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Fairfield and The Ponds including a rescheduled washed-out Harmony Day Try League clinic at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence at Homebush, with 50 children attending from across the state.

Since the program started in 2019, following a successful pilot in 2018, more than 600 children have participated in the initiative and a further 380 have participated in a one-off clinic at a language school with many graduates continuing on to play in Community Football competitions.

The Try League program is backed by the State Government (Multicultural NSW) and has attracted interest from a variety of different cultural groups representing countries including India, Philippines, China, South Africa, Fiji, Lebanon, Romania, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

**Changing Rooms**

The NSWRL's Changing Rooms program reached more than 1000 young Rugby League players across the state in 2021 despite the disruption of COVID-19 which limited the delivery of the valuable face-to-face initiative for the football community when in need.

The program, facilitated by True Blue Paul Langmack, in partnership with expert presenters in the mental health industry, targets males and females aged 14-20, offering support around coping with life challenges off the field, including providing support after critical incidents affecting junior club members.

Generally, the program is held in the club changing room after training on a weekly basis over a four-week period. With a shortened competition season and COVID-19 protocols restricting group and indoor gatherings, modified versions were held, including some sessions via Zoom.

Clubs who participated this year included Como Crocodiles, Farrer Agricultural College, Carlingford Cougars, Dundas Shamrocks and Milperra Colts. Langmack also delivered a modified Changing Rooms presentation to 600 students at the Sydney Boys High School Winter Sports Assembly.



NSWRL COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Indigenous Participation**

The NSWRL was involved with a variety of programs across the state with our key Indigenous community partners from the KARI Foundation, Deadly Choices, and Clontarf Academy.

NSWRL took part in the Clontarf Academy football day held at Wyong where all of the academies came together to see which academy would take out top honours and become the Clontarf State Champion. Fittler made a special appearance to present a merit team with a NSWRL playing kit.

NSW Police Crime Manager Central North Police District Paul Quigg attended the NSWRL Centre of Excellence with a group of 20 teenagers from Bourke and surrounding districts as part of their School attendance and respectful behaviour program. The group was hosted by True Blue Paul Langmack and NSWRL Officiating Development Co-ordinator and former NRL referee Gavin Badger. The group have been invited back to take on a Clontarf Academy team on the field at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence.

The NSWRL expanded its Deadly Blues campaign to help improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the state in 2021, continuing the healthy cooking and eating program to complement the ongoing health checks preventative care initiative.

This was the final year of the current partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) Deadly Choices program which aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to make healthy choices for themselves and their families – to stop smoking, to eat good food and exercise daily. The program is backed by the Australian Government with a commitment of \$1.2 million over three years.

In 2021, more than 5000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members took the important step of heading along to one of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in NSW and for a full health assessment. Everyone who undertook a health check received a free NSWRL-inspired Deadly Blues shirt.

True Blue Willie Mason and former Rugby League players Nathan Blacklock, Reni Maitua and Ronny Gibbs headed out to spread the Deadly Blues message and visited communities as far west as Broken Hill, and even spent some time in enemy territory during the Origin Series in Townsville and Brisbane.

Almost 400 students from regional NSW learned about our First Nations heritage while taking part in Rugby League gala days on the Far South Coast in May as part of a new initiative by the NSW Rugby League and the KARI Foundation.

The three-day pilot program also aimed to bring together and provide development opportunities for all members of the Rugby League community including coaches, volunteers, Junior Leagues clubs and stakeholders. The Far South Coast Festival of Communities kicked off with a Coach Update hosted by True Blue Paul McGregor.

**Pride In Sport**

The New South Wales Rugby League strengthened its commitment to further develop and enhance Rugby League as an inclusive sport that is the game for all in 2021, becoming a member of the Australian Pride in Sport program. ACON Health's Pride in Sport program is the only sporting inclusion program specifically designed to assist sporting organisations with the inclusion of employees, athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials and spectators with diverse genders and sexualities. Being a Pride in Sport member means changing practices and working towards a more inclusive, safe, and healthy sporting environment for people with diverse sexualities and genders.

**NSWRL Foundation**

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler made a special presentation to Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets charity at the "Youthchella" Youth Week celebrations at Marrickville in April.

Fittler was joined by NSWRL Foundation Chairman John Ajaka and NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden to present a cheque for \$10,000 to Youth Off The Streets CEO Lex Lutherborrow as part of the NSWRL and Fittler's ongoing commitment to the charity which supports homeless youth.

Through the Hogs regional tours, which is one of the main programs of the NSWRL Foundation, Fittler has helped to raise more than \$760,000 for Youth Off The Streets since 2013. Fundraising opportunities were restricted in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



NSWRL COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY AWARDS

The NSWRL acknowledges the invaluable contribution made by almost 30,000 people who give up their time as volunteers, officials, coaches and referees to ensure the NSWRL can run community football at more than 700 clubs across the state. In addition to recognising all volunteers with a small gift, the Rugby League community has the opportunity to nominate volunteers for official recognition as part of the annual NSWRL Volunteer of the Year Awards.

In 2021, 11 Regional Volunteer of the Year award winners were chosen with the NSWRL Gordon Lowrie Memorial Award for the Volunteer of the Year selected from that pool. There were also five major Volunteer of the Year awards that included Inclusive; Indigenous; Coach (male and female); Referee; and Club of the Year. The winners of this year's Regional Volunteer of the Year awards were invited to the Brad Fittler Medal while several winners were visited by the NSW Blues Origin coach during his week-long regional tour of NSW in December.

**NSWRL Gordon Lowrie Memorial Award | Volunteer of the Year (Southern Sydney):**

**Theresa Tasaico** (pictured, bottom left) Tasaico was recognised for being one of the driving forces in re-establishing the Riverwood Legion JRLFC in the St George District which helped revitalise Rugby League in the area. In 2018, Riverwood Legion JRLFC was reborn with Tasaico taking on the role of Club Secretary and her husband Daniel becoming President. That year Riverwood fielded three teams but the club now boasts nine teams, including three female sides. Tasaico has been involved as Team Manager with the St George Junior League Development Squads, Tonga NSW Harmony Cup Squad, NSWRL Girls 16s Harmony Cup side, St George Girls 15s Monarch League, St George Lisa Fiola Girls 16s, and the St George Dragons Tarsha Gale side. She has also been the Riverwood Legion Club Secretary for the past four years and the St George Junior Rugby League Football District Vice-President.

**Volunteer of the Year Regional Winners**

Bidgee Region	Katie Howard
Western Region	Tammy Greenhalgh
Northern Region	Jack Woolaston
East Coast Region	Rebecca Austin
South Coast Region	Chris Shea
Western Sydney	Michael Zammit
Broken Bay Region	David Zimmer
Newcastle and Maitland Region	Sharon Jones
Central Sydney Region	John Critchley
Macarthur Region	Robert Dreis

**NSWRL Grassroots Club of the Year:**

**Casino RSM Cougars** (main picture) Casino Cougars prides itself on inclusiveness, especially between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Inviting former junior club members and NRL legends to return and talk to the younger generations of football has seen a positive impact on participation numbers despite it being another challenging season for community sport due to COVID-19.

**Indigenous Volunteer of the Year: Rhonda Hynch**

Hynch has been recognised as president for the Wilcannia Parntu Warriors after forming the club a decade ago (parntu means "fish" in the local Indigenous language) to provide a second team for the area. She also runs the women's tackling team, the Wilcannia Wildflowers.

**Inclusive Volunteer of the Year: Ethan Shultz**

Schultz, who has a mild intellectual disability started up an All-Abilities League Tag team, nicknamed "Lightning", within the Albury Thunder club so others like himself can play the game. He also helps the Albury Thunder with ground management as well as posting videos of the club's away games on their social pages.

**Coach of the Year (Male): Alan Brookman**

Brookman was nominated for his work at Valley Dragons Under 9s in Canberra where he has formed a special bond with all the children, taught them the importance of being positive and helped them with their confidence. He has ensured players are always learning and developing skills, while building friendships and having fun, and makes sure that they always feel valued.

**Coach of the Year (Female): Pauline Wagner**

Wagner was nominated for her work at the Kyogle SRFLC after playing an important role to ensure the club fielded a team in both tackle and tag competitions. She juggles her own playing career with coaching and is keen to increase female participation across the Northern Rivers region of Northern NSW,

**Dennis Braybrook Referees Association Award:**

**John Taylor** (pictured, bottom right) Taylor began refereeing almost three decades ago and his career has seen him officiate 500 games and 20 Grand Finals. He was part of the NRL squad from 2001-03 as a touch judge and is an active member of the Newcastle Coalfield Rugby League Referees Association (NCRLRA). He has taken on roles at the NCRLRA including Welfare and Support Officer, Director of Coaching and Development, Senior Referee Operations Manager, Training Coordinator and Chairman of Life Member committee.





NSWRL EVENTS



NSWRL EVENTS

TRUE BLUES

The NSWRL inducted three new members into the NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame at a glittering ceremony in front of 470 guests at The Star Event Centre in May.

True Blues Billy Smith, Brett Kenny (main picture left) and Glenn Lazarus (main picture right) were all welcomed into the prestigious club to take the total number of players to 21, including the Rugby League Immortals who represented NSW.

Smith started his career as a centre before switching to halfback and his competitive spirit saw him win four consecutive premierships at the Dragons from 1963-66.

Smith played for NSW in interstate matches from 1964-73, including captaining the team in 1967, and never tasted defeat in a series.

Kenny was a gifted player and a big-match performer who played a key role in Parramatta capturing four premierships in the NSWRL competition in the 1980s. In the 12 State of Origin games where he was selected at five-eighth, Kenny enjoyed an eight games to four winning advantage over Wally Lewis.

Lazarus was widely regarded as the world's best prop in his prime and is the only player to have won three Grand Finals with three different clubs.

He was an uncompromising front rower whose tireless work rate laid the platform for his team's success and he was part of the first NSW Blues teams that won three consecutive series from 1992-94.

The guests were entertained by popular Australian rock band Baby Animals and they were also presented with the Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues for the opening game of the Ampol State of Origin series.

A moving tribute was shown for late Hall of Famers Bob Fulton and Tommy Raudonikis. Fulton, also a Rugby League Immortal who achieved everything in the game, and Raudonikis, who was the first NSW Origin captain and later coached the Blues to a series win, had tragically both passed away in the lead-up to the event.

Following the tribute, the guests heard about the importance of Origin and what it meant to wear the sky blue jumper from a panel of True Blues. Lazarus and Kenny then shared their thoughts on the honour of being inducted into the Hall of Fame.



Inductee 2021  
Brett Kenny



NSWRL EVENTS

BRAD FITTLER MEDAL

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues superstar Tom Trbojevic put an exclamation point on a stunning season after being crowned the Brad Fittler Medallist in front of 330 guests at The Star Event Centre.

Trbojevic was judged to be the best player by his NSW teammates after a memorable Ampol State of Origin series which saw the Blues win 2-1.

He was also named the fans' favourite after taking out The Daily Telegraph People's Choice Award while centre partner Latrell Mitchell won the True Blue Award, which is judged by the coaching staff and goes to a player who displays qualities upon which the team culture is built.

Trbojevic had an outstanding series for the Blues after running for an average of 187m across all three games. He scored a hat-trick and set up another try in Game One in Townsville and scored another try in Game Two in Brisbane to help seal a historic series win.

The Brad Fittler Medal was another prestigious award to add to the burgeoning trophy case for the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles fullback in 2022 after he collected the Wally Lewis Medal, Dally M Medal, and The Players' Champion by the Rugby League Players' Association (RLPA).

Trbojevic was also awarded the Roy Bull Best and Fairest Player award, the Players' Player, Leading Try Scorer and the Gordon Willoughby Medal as the Members' Best Player at the Sea Eagles presentation night; the NRL and RLPA's Academic Player of the Year; and was named at fullback in both the Dally M and RLPA Teams of the Year.

Other major award winners at the Brad Fittler Medal included Isabelle Kelly, who claimed the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues Player of the Year after a spirited performance in the narrow 8-6 loss against Queensland in which she showed great determination to power her way over the line for the Sky Blues' only try.

The night also featured a panel discussion with Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues captain James Tedesco, hooker Damien Cook, NSW Blues assistant coach Craig Fitzgibbon and advisor Greg Alexander to discuss the Origin series win. The Blues were forced to play all three games in Queensland for the first time because of COVID-19.

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and True Blues Nathan Hindmarsh and Ian Schubert also spoke to the guests about their December tour of Regional NSW to promote Junior Rugby League registrations for the 2022 season.

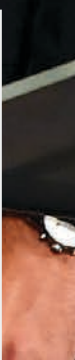
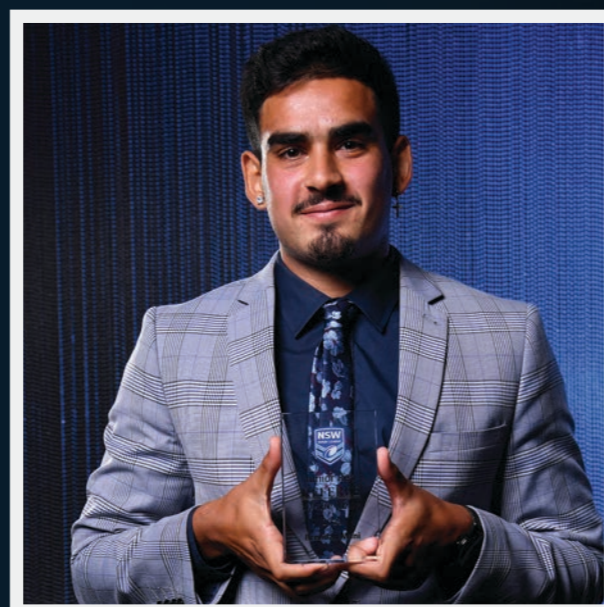
The annual Brad Fittler Medal recognises and celebrates the achievements of players across all NSWRL teams and competitions, from Origin to seniors, juniors and women, as well as the contributions of referees, club officials and volunteers.

Other players to have won the Brad Fittler Medal include True Blues Steve Menzies (2006), Danny Buderus (2008), Paul Gallen (2011), Robbie Farah (2012), David Klemmer (2017), Tedesco (2018-19) and Nathan Cleary (2020).

Other winners on the night from major competitions included Jessica Sergis (Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership Player of the Year) Chantelle Graham (Country Women's Player of the Year) and Jake Goodwin (Country Men's Player of the Year).

The Junior Representative awards included Braye Porter (Ron Lanesbury Medal for Andrew Johns Cup), James Miller (Tom Nelson Medal for Laurie Daley Cup) and Brendan Mani (pictured bottom left; Junior Representative Referee of the Year).

There were also community awards for Theresa Tasaico (pictured bottom middle; Gordon Lowrie Community Rugby League Volunteer of the Year) and Ian Robinson (pictured bottom right; Ray Stellar Club Person of the Year).



VALES



NSWRL VALES

**Noel Charters**

Originally from Forbes, Charters was a successful player and coach at Gilgandra before moving on to a career as a Rugby League administrator. He served a long stint as President of Group 14 and Western Division, as well as managing several Country Rugby League representative teams. He was later made a Life Member of Gilgandra, Group 14, Western Division, Country Rugby League and the NSWRL.

**Kevin Dann**

Dann was a Blacktown junior and former fullback for the Penrith Panthers who made his debut in Round Two of the 1977 season. He played 121 games for the club and made one appearance for NSW in 1980 before the State of Origin concept started. He was hampered by injuries later in his career before eventually hanging up the boots for good in 1984.

**Peter Dimond**

Originally from Dapto on the NSW south coast, Dimond represented NSW Country as a teenager before linking with Western Suburbs Magpies in 1958. He went on to play 165 games for the club highlighted by four Grand Final appearances against the St George Dragons juggernaut which dominated the era with 11 consecutive premierships. He played four games for NSW, 10 Tests for Australia and was named in the Western Suburbs Team of the Century, Western Suburbs Hall of Fame and the Wests Tigers Team of the Century.

**Bob Fulton**

Fulton (main picture) was a Rugby League Immortal who held the rare distinction of winning premierships and Ashes series as a player, captain and coach, before moving on to an equally successful career as a selector and commentator.

He was one of the original post-war Immortals chosen in 1981, was named in Australia's Team of the Century in 2008 and was amongst the original inductees in the NSWRL Hall of Fame in 2017. Born in England in 1946 before moving to Wollongong when he was four, Fulton made his senior football debut for Western Suburbs at age 17 in the Illawarra Rugby League in 1965 before being signed by Manly Warringah Sea Eagles the following season. Playing as a centre or five-eighth, he was a fierce competitor who could single-handedly turn a game. He won premierships with the club in 1972-73 and 1976 before signing with the Eastern Suburbs Roosters where he played three seasons before hanging up the boots in 1979. He made his NSW debut in 1967 and would go on to play 16 games for his state, winning 12 consecutive series before his representative career ended in 1978. Fulton also played 35 Tests for the Kangaroos from 1968-78

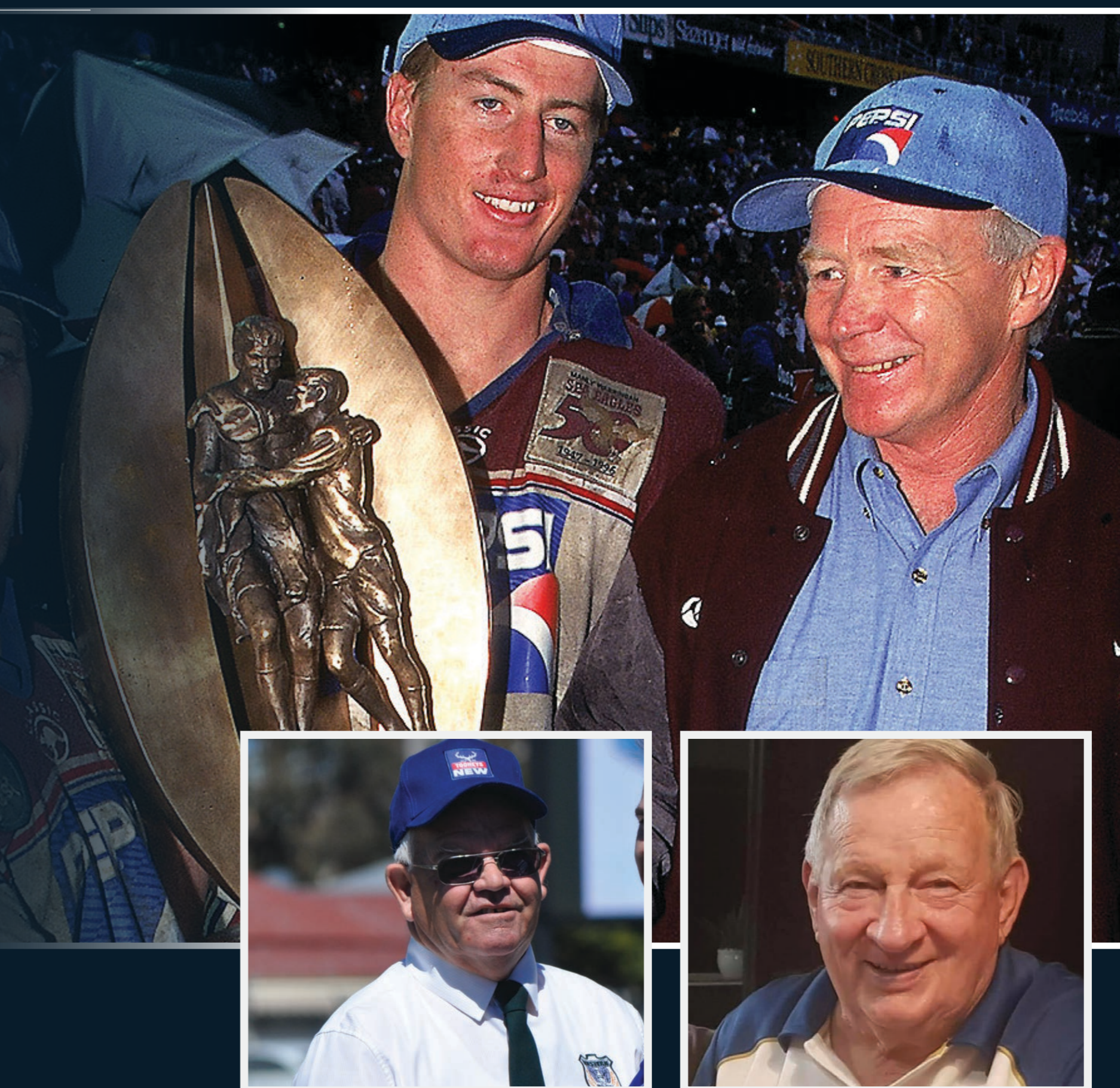
where he won both Ashes series and World Cups. After a knee injury forced him into retirement, Fulton turned his attention to coaching with his greatest success coming at Manly where he won titles in 1987 and 1996. He also coached the Kangaroos to Ashes series and World Cup successes during his stint as national coach from 1989-98. Fulton was also a selector for NSW and presided over the NSW Blues teams which won three consecutive series from 2003-2005.

**Ron Lanesbury**

Lanesbury (pictured bottom right) gave a lifetime of service to Rugby League and was regarded as one of the game's greatest-ever servants, especially in the Hunter River hinterland. After a lengthy playing career, he devoted nearly half a century to a career as an administrator. He served as President of Group 21, was a delegate on the Management Committee for the Country Rugby League for over four decades and was a long-serving director for the NSW Leagues Club. He was later made a Life Member of Muswellbrook Rams, Group 21, Northern Division, Country Rugby League and the NSWRL.

**Peter McDonald**

McDonald (pictured bottom left) worked as a Rugby League administrator for the better part of half a century, assuming the role of secretary of the Cowra Magpies in the 1970s. He took on the role as Group 10 secretary in 1996 and remained in the position until 2020. He managed numerous touring Country Rugby League sides and had a massive impact on the Western Rams Junior Representatives programs, with the Under 16s and Under 18s both winning Championship Finals. He became the longest-serving Western Rams chairman in 2018, when he was re-elected for an 11th straight term.



NSWRL VALES

**Peter Mulholland**

Mulholland (pictured bottom left) was a NSWRL Life Member who forged a reputation as one of the best talent scouts in the game. He had an extensive 17-year playing history starting at the Camden Rams in 1964, as well as time at the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs' lower grades in 1973. He went on to coach Western Suburbs Under 21s team in 1988, before taking on the job for the North Sydney Bears Reserve Grade team in 1993. He was then headhunted to be coach of the Western Reds from 1995-96 before ground-breaking stints in roster management at five NRL clubs. He was part of the Penrith 2003 NRL Premiership before moving to the Bulldogs in 2008, joining Wayne Bennett at the Newcastle Knights in 2011, shifting to St George Illawarra in 2014 and then finally the Raiders for the 2016 season. He was an instrumental part of Canberra's recruitment and retention of players, throughout the club's pathway programs through to NRL level.

**Barry Nelson**

Nelson (pictured bottom right), widely known as "Punchy", was a former NSW and Canterbury forward. A nuggety forward known for his work rate in both attack and defence, he joined the Berries in 1950 and went on to play 61 first grade games for the club. His career highlight came in 1959 when he won selection for NSW but his state debut was bittersweet as he suffered a broken jaw which ruled him out of the contention for that year's Kangaroos Tour. After a two-year stint at Newtown in 1962-63, he finished his career with Wollongong. A dedicated Bulldogs stalwart, he went on to serve the club as Chairman from 1982-2002 during a golden era for the club.

**Tom Nelson**

Nelson, who was known around Regional NSW as "the King of Under 18s", enjoyed a long association with coaching, mentoring and selecting young talent for Under 18s teams in the Western Division. He started as a coach with Westside and St Johns in the late 1960s and later coached the Western Division Under 18s from 1975 until 1988, apart from 1979-80 when he coached Dubbo CYMS first grade. Nelson steered the Western Rams Under 18s to a swag of titles in the 1970s and 1980s - seven in total plus runner-up three times - and coached NSW Country to an historic win over City. He brought through several players who would go on to pursue successful Rugby League careers, including David Gillespie and Dean Pay.

**Tim Pickup**

Pickup was a talented Enfield Federals junior who switched to rugby union after Western Suburbs Magpies denied him a clearance to play with Manly Warringah Sea Eagles. He returned to playing Rugby League while on a working holiday to England and caught the attention of Australian clubs following a successful season. Upon returning to Australia, he signed with the North Sydney Bears which sparked his representative career. He played six games for NSW and 11 Tests for Australia where he formed a formidable partnership with Tommy Raudonikis. Pickup later signed with the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs before chronic knee injuries ended his career. Following his retirement, he served as a director of the Bulldogs Leagues Club and Football Club.

**Norm Provan**

Provan (main picture), affectionately known as "Sticks", was a Rugby League Immortal, NSWRL Hall of Famer and a cornerstone of the indomitable St George Dragons team which captured a record-breaking 11 consecutive premierships from 1956-66. In 1982 he was immortalised alongside the late former Western Suburbs Magpies captain Arthur Summons on the Provan-Summons Trophy which is awarded to the NRL premiership winners, after the pair were captured in a famous photograph "The Gladiators" following a muddy 1963 Grand Final. Born in Urana in the Riverina Region in 1932, Provan played his junior football for the Willoughby Roos in the North Sydney District before his family relocated to the St George-Sutherland Shire region. He was graded by St George in 1950 and played a key role in turning the Dragons into a premiership force, culminating with their record run from 1956.

Provan was also a regular in the representative arena, playing his first game for NSW in 1954 before going on to play 25 games for his state including against touring sides. He made his Test debut also in 1954, was selected for the 1956 Kangaroos Tour, was part of the 1957 victorious World Cup squad and went on to play 18 Tests for his country. After retiring in 1965 Provan tried his hand at coaching. He had stints at the Dragons (1968) and Parramatta Eels (1975) before achieving his greatest success at the Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks in 1978-79 which included a Grand Final appearance in 1978. He was named the NSWRL Player of the Year in 1958, in the NSW and ARL Teams of the Century in 2008, was inducted into the NSWRL Hall of Fame in 2017 and was named an Immortal in 2018.



NSWRL VALES

**Tommy Raudonikis**

NSWRL Hall of Famer Raudonikis (main picture; pictured bottom right) was one of the toughest players to ever lace up a boot and had the rare distinction of both playing for and coaching the NSW Blues. He was born in Bathurst in 1950 and shifted to the Western Suburbs Magpies from Wagga in 1969. Known as "Tom Terrific" he played 200 games for the Magpies before shifting to the Newtown Jets in 1980 where he turned in an inspiring performance in the 1981 Grand Final loss to the Parramatta Eels. The tough-as-teak halfback made his first appearance for NSW in 1971, toured New Zealand with the Australian squad later that year and won the Rothmans Medal for the Best and Fairest Player in 1972. Raudonikis was a fierce competitor who terrorised his opponents and enjoyed a distinguished representative career which included two World Cups (1975, 1977) and four Ashes series wins (1973-74, 1977-78). He played 21 games for NSW in interstate matches from 1971-80 for 19 wins and two draws before captaining the Blues to a hard-fought 20-10 loss in the inaugural State of Origin match. He started his coaching career in Brisbane before returning to take the reins at Wests, which led to his appointment as NSW coach for two seasons in 1997-98 where he guided the Blues to a 2-1 series win. Raudonikis was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1982, was inducted into the NRL Hall of Fame in 2008 and the NSWRL Hall of Fame in 2019.

**Dennis Ward**

Ward (pictured bottom left) was a crafty halfback who played first grade in the NSWRL Premiership for the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs and Manly Warringah Sea Eagles from 1965-1972. He was named Man of the Match after steering the Sea Eagles to their first premiership in 1972. He played five games for NSW, scoring a try and kicking a field goal on debut in the 26-0 win over Queensland in Game One in 1969. He played three of the four games in that series which was won 4-0 by NSW, and played two of three games in the team that won the 1973 series 3-0.



RECORDS

7





## RECORDS

## NSWRL LIFE MEMBERS

NAME, ELECTED

Abercrombie, J 1908  
 Boss, G 1908  
 Brackenreg, H 1908  
 Brackenreg, G 1908  
 Bressington, G 1908  
 Buckle, A 1908  
 Burdon, A 1908  
 Burdon, R 1908  
 Cann, WA 1908  
 Carty, R 1908  
 Cheadle, F 1908  
 Conlon, A 1908  
 Costello, TB 1908  
 Courtney, E (Jnr) 1908  
 Courtney, E (Snr) 1908  
 Cribb, J 1908  
 D'Alpuget, L 1908  
 Devereaux, J 1908  
 Dobbs, A 1908  
 Fenely, J 1908  
 Flegg, H 1908  
 Ford, CH 1908  
 Fry, E 1908  
 Giltinan, JJ (Founder) 1908  
 Glanville, H 1908  
 Graves, R 1908  
 Halloway, A 1908  
 Hamill, HC 1908  
 Headley, C 1908  
 Hennessy, AS 1908  
 Hoyle, HC MLA 1908  
 Hutcheson, C 1908  
 Lawrence, HE 1908  
 Lutge, D 1908  
 Mable, R 1908  
 Macnamara, ALH 1908  
 McQuade, P 1908  
 Messenger, HH 1908  
 Miller, HR 1908  
 Moir, P 1908  
 Noble, W 1908  
 Odbert, H 1908  
 O'Farrell, T 1908  
 Pearce, S 1908  
 Rosenfeld, A 1908  
 Scott, NH 1908  
 Smallwood, R 1908  
 Smith, H 1908  
 Stack, J 1908

Stuntz, J 1908  
 Trumper, V 1908  
 Weymark, A 1908  
 Ball, SG 1912  
 Quinlan, J 1912  
 Carpenter, S 1913  
 Frawley, D 1913  
 Blue, JE 1914  
 Brennan, G 1914  
 Edwards, J 1914  
 Hooper, EJ 1914  
 Larkin, Serg EJ MLA 1914  
 Mead, EJ 1914  
 Moffatt, JB 1914  
 Phelan, TE 1914  
 Joynton Smith, J, the Hon 1914  
 Upton, CHJ 1915  
 Webb, W 1915  
 Ellis, WJ 1916  
 Kelley, HPS 1916  
 Butler, A 1919  
 Chaseling, WA 1919  
 Latta, A 1919  
 McFayden, E 1920  
 Broomham, A 1921  
 Davis, H 1921  
 Fitzgerald, T 1921  
 Hallett, H 1921  
 Lennon, W 1921  
 McDougall, C 1921  
 McGrath, J 1921  
 Ballerum, A 1922  
 Lennon, R 1922  
 Apoloney, J 1923  
 Dawson, G 1923  
 Kelly, WJ 1924  
 McMahan, TI 1924  
 Flowers, F the Hon, MLC 1924  
 Fraser, C 1925  
 Schofield, L 1926  
 Dargan, JL 1927  
 Elliot, CJ 1927  
 Haron, F 1928  
 Delaney, F 1931  
 Hawkes, A 1931  
 Lees, C 1931  
 Neill, W 1931  
 Horder, H 1931  
 Burge, F 1934  
 Bruce, W 1935  
 Savage, RE the Hon MLC 1935

Latta, RA 1936  
 Johnston, A 1938  
 Gray, A 1939  
 Lynch, CJ 1939  
 Bennett, WG 1941  
 Corbett, CG 1941  
 Fusedale, RG 1942  
 Horne, JP 1943  
 Pert, S 1944  
 Russell, CJ 1944  
 Oxford, A 1946  
 Steel, LW 1947  
 Fahy, CW 1949  
 Matthews, HR MBE 1949  
 Justice, AJ 1950  
 Brennan, MT 1952  
 Bowd, HR 1953  
 Buckley, WG OBE 1953  
 Wales, BP 1954  
 Brand, AW 1955  
 Burns, EE 1955  
 McGauley, JV 1956  
 Robinson, NC 1957  
 Kessey, JH 1958  
 Folwell, A 1959  
 Neill, JC 1959  
 Evatt, Dr HV 1960  
 Dunn, RA OAM 1960  
 Lynch, JE 1961  
 Munro, JL 1961  
 O'Neill, SA 1961  
 Drews, JR 1966  
 Watson, DW 1966  
 Ford, JJ 1968  
 O'Toole, JJ MBE OBE 1968  
 Kingston, AM 1969  
 Bishop, G 1971  
 Liston, R 1971  
 Toby, A 1971  
 Wigzell, CE BEM 1971  
 Charlton, KJ 1971  
 Mackie, AI MBE 1971  
 McKinnon, RH BEM 1972  
 Kell, C 1972  
 Argent, JN OBE, OAM 1973  
 Cohen, O 1973  
 Loveday, T 1973  
 Facer, F 1974  
 Stehr, AB 1974  
 Walsh, K 1974  
 Forbes, HH 1975

Kelly, LT 1975  
 Simpson, SA 1975  
 Moses, JA BEM 1975  
 Clunas, G 1975  
 Cahill, C 1976  
 Goodman, TL MBE 1976  
 Fry, D 1978  
 Ibbitson, RJ 1978  
 Shiner, A OAM 1978  
 O'Brien, J 1979  
 Arthurson, KR AM 1979  
 Beaver, WF 1979  
 Cox, EH OAM 1980  
 Humphreys, KE 1980  
 Bellew, TJ OAM 1981  
 Gibson, CH 1981  
 Willoughby, G 1982  
 Bell, L 1982  
 Johnson, F OAM 1982  
 Duggan, JT 1983  
 Holman, KV MBE 1983  
 O'Donnell, RS 1983  
 Stephen, KG 1984  
 Farrington, FJ 1984  
 Abbott, RJ AM 1985  
 Walsh, F 1985  
 Pearce, CF 1985  
 Barnhill, D 1986  
 Hammerton, EAE OAM 1986  
 Price, G 1986  
 Hyde, FP MBE, OAM 1987  
 Williams, LG 1987  
 Hampstead, J 1988  
 McCaffery, KA 1988  
 Porter, M 1988  
 Bull, ER 1989  
 Moore, PS OAM 1989  
 McIntyre, LJ OAM 1989  
 Neville, A 1989  
 Byrne, VJ OAM 1990  
 Kimberley, W 1991  
 Daley, D 1992  
 Richards, A 1993  
 Barnes, WK AM 1994  
 Rayner, W 1995  
 Broughton, P 1995  
 Doust, SL OAM 1995  
 McCall, I 1995  
 Matthews, L 1996  
 Quayle, J 1996  
 Raper, J MBE 1997

Monaghan, Dr W 1997  
 Lumsden, E 1998  
 Mossop, R 1999  
 Falla, M 2000  
 Hayes, J 2000  
 Lanesbury, R 2000  
 Millward, R, OAM 2001  
 Nelson, B OAM 2001  
 Watson, R 2001  
 Walsh, B OAM 2002  
 Wright, G 2002  
 Corcoran, P OAM 2003  
 Roberts, K 2003  
 Elliss, P 2004  
 Massey, R 2004  
 McCarthy, R MBE 2004  
 Coote, RAM 2005  
 Gibson, J OAM 2005  
 Thompson, F 2005  
 Bampton, D OAM 2006  
 Feltis, D OAM 2006  
 Stone, M 2006  
 Spagarino, D 2007  
 Riordan, J 2007  
 Cleary, MA AO 2008  
 Kurtz, B 2008  
 Piggins, G 2008  
 Fitzgerald, D AM 2009  
 Powell R 2009  
 Aggett, K 2012  
 Wallace, B 2012  
 King, J 2013  
 Renilson, C 2013  
 Chalk, J OAM 2014  
 McMartin, J 2014  
 Politis, N AM 2015  
 Cronin, M OAM 2016  
 Byrne, V 2019  
 Byrnes, A OAM 2019  
 Kimberley, W 2019  
 Lanesbury, R 2019  
 O'Dwyer, J OAM 2019  
 Kelly, J 2019  
 Mayhew, G 2019  
 Charters, N 2019  
 Nelson, T 2019  
 Riolo, K OAM 2019  
 Wright, G 2019  
 Hamilton, R OAM 2019  
 Hardy, K 2019  
 Fish, F 2019

Harrison, D 2019  
 Marsh, T 2019  
 Carroll, B 2019  
 Hollingsworth, Dr J 2019  
 Rossiter, P 2019  
 Anderson, J OAM 2019  
 Smith, N 2019  
 Latter, J 2019  
 McDonald, P 2019  
 Anderson, J 2019  
 Walsh, R 2019  
 Ghosn, S 2020  
 Mulholland, P 2020  
 Rowney, T 2020  
 Betts, S 2021

## CRL LIFE MEMBERS

Cahill, FJ  
 Ferris, HC  
 McGuire, J  
 Gleeson, MJ  
 Thirwell, TL  
 Quinn, J  
 O'Malley, D  
 Elliott, AC  
 Flanigan, W  
 Brazil, H  
 Loveday, T  
 Meaney, F  
 Chandler, E  
 Kingston, AM  
 O'Toole, J OAM  
 Gillard, H  
 Ward, J  
 Rigby, E  
 Roach, V  
 Gahan, J  
 Hattam, J  
 Walsh, K  
 Thom, J  
 Wilson, J  
 Hagan, AP  
 Moreland, D  
 Smith, F  
 Baker, R  
 Slogget, G  
 Sercombe, S  
 Barrett, V  
 Maitland, B

Devlin, F  
 McIntyre, L  
 Sharpe, J  
 Gale, N  
 McAlpine, E  
 Barnhill, D  
 Cosgrove, K  
 McNamara, K  
 Bartlett, J  
 Fawkner, J  
 Bowden, J  
 Tilson, R  
 Kelly, M  
 Middleton, H  
 Riordan, J  
 Best, N  
 Lumsden, E  
 Tiernan, G  
 Farmer, T  
 Williams, W  
 Smith, K  
 Barker, G

## RECORDS

### STATE OF ORIGIN

\*NSW won a fourth game played in California, which carried Origin status but did not count towards the series result

\*\*Queensland retained Shield after third game finished in a draw

#### Year, Winners

1980 Queensland 1-0	2003 NSW 2-1
1981 Queensland 1-0	2004 NSW 2-1
1982 Queensland 2-1	2005 NSW 2-1
1983 Queensland 2-1	2006 Queensland 2-1
1984 Queensland 2-1	2007 Queensland 2-1
1985 NSW 2-1	2008 Queensland 2-1
1986 NSW 3-0	2009 Queensland 2-1
1987 Queensland 2-1*	2010 Queensland 3-0
1988 Queensland 3-0	2011 Queensland 2-1
1989 Queensland 3-0	2012 Queensland 2-1
1990 NSW 2-1	2013 Queensland 2-1
1991 Queensland 2-1	2014 NSW 2-1
1992 NSW 2-1	2015 Queensland 2-1
1993 NSW 2-1	2016 Queensland 2-1
1994 NSW 2-1	2017 Queensland 2-1
1995 Queensland 3-0	2018 NSW 2-1
1996 NSW 3-0	2019 NSW 2-1
1997 NSW 2-1	2020 Queensland 2-1
1998 Queensland 2-1	2021 NSW 2-1
1999 1-all**	
2000 NSW 3-0	
2001 Queensland 2-1	
2002 1-all**	

### WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

Women's Interstate Challenge 1999-2017. Holden Women's State of Origin 2018-Present.

#### Year, Winners

1999 Queensland	2014 Queensland
2000 Queensland	2015 Queensland
2001 Queensland	2016 NSW
2002 Queensland	2017 NSW
2003 Queensland	2018 NSW
2004 Queensland	2019 NSW
2005 Queensland	2020 Queensland
2006 Queensland	2021 Queensland
2007 Queensland	
2008 Queensland	
2009 Queensland	
2010 Queensland	
2011 Queensland	
2012 Queensland	
2013 Queensland	

### STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 20s)

2012 NSW
2013 NSW
2014 NSW
2015 NSW
2016 NSW
2017 NSW
2018 Queensland
2019 NSW
2020 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)

### WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 19s)

Under 18s 2019. Under 19s 2020-present.

2019 NSW
2020 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 NSW

### STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 18s)

2014 NSW
2015 Queensland
2016 NSW
2017 NSW
2018 NSW
2019 Queensland
2020 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)

### STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 16s)

2013 NSW
2014 Queensland
2015 Queensland
2016 NSW
2017 NSW
2018 NSW
2019 Not contested
2020 Not contested
2021 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)

**RECORDS**

**COUNTRY V CITY MEN'S**

Residency selection rules 1928-1986. Origin selection rules 1987-2017. Residency selection rules 2021-present.

1928 Country	1944 City	1960 City	1976 City	1992 Country	2008 Draw
1929 City	1945 City	1961 Country	1977 City	1993 City	2009 City
1930 Country	1946 City	1962 Country	1978 City	1994 Country	2010 Country
1931 City	1947 City	1963 City	1979 City	1995 City	2011 Country
1932 City	1948 Draw	1964 City	1980 City	1996 Country	2012 City
1933 Draw	1949 City	1965 City	1981 City	1997 Country	2013 Country
1934 City	1950 City	1966 Draw	1982 City	1998 Not held	2014 Draw
1935 City	1951 City	1967 City	1983 City	1999 Not held	2015 Country
1936 City	1952 City	1968 City	1984 City	2000 Not held	2016 City
1937 Country	1953 Country	1969 City	1985 City	2001 Country	2017 City
1938 City	1954 City	1970 City	1986 City	2002 City	2018 Not held
1939 City	1955 City	1971 City	1987 City	2003 City	2019 Not held
1940 City	1956 City	1972 City	1988 City	2004 Country	2020 Not held
1941 City	1957 City	1973 City	1989 City	2005 City	2021 City
1942 Country	1958 City	1974 City	1990 City	2006 Country	
1943 City	1959 City	1975 Country	1991 City	2007 City	

**COUNTRY V CITY WOMEN'S**

Origin selection rules 2017. Residency selection rules 2021-present.

2017 City
2018 Not held
2019 Not held
2020 Not held
2021 City

**COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 18s**

2021 City
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**COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 16s**

2021 City
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## RECORDS

### NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

NSW Rugby League 1908-1997, National Rugby League 1998-Present.

Year, Premiers, Runners Up

1908 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1945 Eastern Suburbs, Balmain	1984 Canterbury, Parramatta
1909 South Sydney, Balmain	1946 Balmain, St George	1985 Canterbury, St George
1910 Newtown, South Sydney	1947 Balmain, Canterbury	1986 Parramatta, Canterbury
1911 Eastern Suburbs, Glebe	1948 Western Suburbs, Balmain	1987 Manly, Canberra
1912 Eastern Suburbs, Glebe	1949 St George, South Sydney	1988 Canterbury, Balmain
1913 Eastern Suburbs, Newtown	1950 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1989 Canberra, Balmain
1914 South Sydney, Newtown	1951 South Sydney, Manly	1990 Canberra, Penrith
1915 Balmain, Glebe	1952 Western Suburbs, South Sydney	1991 Penrith, Canberra
1916 Balmain, South Sydney	1953 South Sydney, St George	1992 Brisbane, St George
1917 Balmain, South Sydney	1954 South Sydney, Newtown	1993 Brisbane, St George
1918 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1955 South Sydney, Newtown	1994 Canberra, Canterbury
1919 Balmain, Eastern Suburbs	1956 St George, Balmain	1995 Sydney Bulldogs, Manly
1920 Balmain, South Sydney	1957 St George, Manly	1996 Manly, St George
1921 North Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1958 St George, Western Suburbs	1997 Newcastle, Manly
1922 North Sydney, Glebe	1959 St George, Manly	1998 Brisbane, Canterbury
1923 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1960 St George, Eastern Suburbs	1999 Melbourne, St George Illawarra
1924 Balmain, South Sydney	1961 St George, Western Suburbs	2000 Brisbane, Sydney Roosters
1925 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1962 St George, Western Suburbs	2001 Newcastle, Parramatta
1926 South Sydney, University	1963 St George, Western Suburbs	2002 Sydney City, New Zealand
1927 South Sydney, St George	1964 St George, Balmain	2003 Penrith, Sydney City
1928 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1965 St George, South Sydney	2004 Bulldogs, Sydney Roosters
1929 South Sydney, Newtown	1966 St George, Balmain	2005 Wests Tigers, Nth Qld Cowboys
1930 Western Suburbs, St George	1967 South Sydney, Canterbury	2006 Brisbane, Melbourne
1931 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1968 South Sydney, Manly	2007 No premier, Manly
1932 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1969 Balmain, South Sydney	2008 Manly, Melbourne
1933 Newtown, St George	1970 South Sydney, Manly	2009 No premier, Parramatta
1934 Western Suburbs, Eastern Suburbs	1971 South Sydney, St George	2010 St George Illawarra, Sydney Roosters
1935 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1972 Manly, Eastern Suburbs	2011 Manly Sea Eagles, NZ Warriors
1936 Eastern Suburbs, Balmain	1973 Manly, Cronulla	2012 Melbourne, Canterbury
1937 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1974 Eastern Suburbs, Canterbury	2013 Sydney Roosters, Manly
1938 Canterbury, Eastern Suburbs	1975 Eastern Suburbs, St George	2014 South Sydney, Canterbury
1939 Balmain, South Sydney	1976 Manly, Parramatta	2015 North Queensland, Brisbane
1940 Eastern Suburbs, Canterbury	1977 St George, Parramatta	2016 Cronulla, Melbourne
1941 St George, Eastern Suburbs	1978 Manly, Cronulla	2017 Melbourne, North Queensland
1942 Canterbury, St George	1979 St George, Canterbury	2018 Sydney Roosters, Melbourne
1943 Newtown, North Sydney	1980 Canterbury, Eastern Suburbs	2019 Sydney Roosters, Canberra
1944 Balmain, Newtown	1981 Parramatta, Newtown	2020 Melbourne Storm, Penrith Panthers
	1982 Parramatta, Manly	2021 Penrith, South Sydney
	1983 Parramatta, Manly	

### NSW CUP

Reserve Grade 1908-96, Presidents Cup 1997-98, NSWRL First Division 1999-2002, NSWRL Premier League 2003, VB NSW Cup 2008, NSW Cup 2009-2011, VB NSW Cup 2012-2015, Intrust Super Premiership NSW 2016-2018, Canterbury Cup NSW 2019-2020.

Year, Premiers

1908 Eastern Suburbs	1947 Newtown	1986 Eastern Suburbs
1909 Eastern Suburbs	1948 Newtown	1987 Penrith
1910 Eastern Suburbs	1949 Eastern Suburbs	1988 Manly
1911 Eastern Suburbs	1950 Balmain	1989 North Sydney
1912 Glebe	1951 Newtown	1990 Brisbane
1913 South Sydney	1952 South Sydney	1991 North Sydney
1914 South Sydney	1953 South Sydney	1992 North Sydney
1915 Balmain	1954 Manly	1993 North Sydney
1916 Balmain	1955 North Sydney	1994 Cronulla
1917 South Sydney	1956 South Sydney	1995 Newcastle
1918 Glebe	1957 Balmain	1996 Cronulla-Sutherland
1919 Glebe	1958 Balmain	1997 Parramatta
1920 Glebe	1959 North Sydney	1998 Bulldogs
1921 Glebe	1960 Manly	1999 Parramatta
1922 Newtown	1961 Western Suburbs	2000 Bulldogs
1923 South Sydney	1962 St George	2001 St George Illawarra
1924 South Sydney	1963 St George	2002 Bulldogs
1925 South Sydney	1964 St George	2003 Canberra
1926 South Sydney	1965 Balmain	2004 Sydney Roosters
1927 South Sydney	1966 South Sydney	2005 Parramatta
1928 Balmain	1967 Balmain	2006 Parramatta
1929 South Sydney	1968 South Sydney	2007 Parramatta
1930 Balmain	1969 Manly	2008 Wentworthville
1931 South Sydney	1970 Newtown	2009 Bankstown City
1932 South Sydney	1971 Canterbury-Bankstown	2010 Canterbury-Bankstown
1933 South Sydney	1972 Canterbury-Bankstown	2011 Canterbury-Bankstown
1934 South Sydney	1973 Manly	2012 Newtown
1935 Eastern Suburbs	1974 Newtown	2013 Cronulla-Sutherland
1936 Western Suburbs	1975 Parramatta	2014 Penrith
1937 Eastern Suburbs	1976 St George	2015 Newcastle
1938 St George	1977 Parramatta	2016 Illawarra
1939 Canterbury-Bankstown	1978 Balmain	2017 Penrith
1940 North Sydney	1979 Parramatta	2018 Canterbury-Bankstown
1941 Balmain	1980 Canterbury-Bankstown	2019 Newtown
1942 North Sydney	1981 Western Suburbs	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1943 South Sydney	1982 Balmain	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1944 Balmain	1983 South Sydney	
1945 South Sydney	1984 Balmain	
1946 Balmain	1985 St George	

## RECORDS

### NSW WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

Year, Premiers

2017 Redfern All Blacks  
2018 Mounties  
2019 CRL Newcastle  
2020 Central Coast

Year, Premiers

2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)

### JERSEY FLEGG CUP

Year, Premiers

1961 Manly  
1962 South Sydney  
1963 Canterbury  
1964 South Sydney  
1965 Western Suburbs  
1966 South Sydney  
1967 South Sydney  
1968 South Sydney  
1969 South Sydney  
1970 Parramatta  
1971 Canterbury  
1972 South Sydney  
1973 Balmain  
1974 Manly  
1975 St.George  
1976 Canterbury  
1977 Penrith  
1978 South Sydney  
1979 Canterbury  
1980 Balmain  
1981 Wests  
1982 Balmain  
1983 Canterbury  
1984 Balmain  
1985 Parramatta  
1986 Penrith

1987 Manly  
1988 Manly  
1989 Canberra  
1990 Parramatta  
1991 Newcastle  
1992 Newcastle  
1993 Canberra  
1994 Balmain  
1995 Roosters  
1996 St George  
1997 Balmain  
1998 North Sydney  
1999 Canterbury  
2000 Bulldogs  
2001 Bulldogs  
2002 Sydney City  
2003 Bulldogs  
2004 Sydney Roosters  
2005 St.George Illawarra  
2006 Penrith  
2007 Penrith  
2018 Cronulla-Sutherland  
2019 South Sydney  
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)  
2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)

### RON MASSEY CUP

Jim Beam Cup 2003-2008. Renamed Bundaberg Red Cup 2009-2012. Renamed Ron Massey Cup 2013-Present.

Year, Premiers

2003 The Entrance  
2004 Sydney Bulls  
2005 Windsor  
2006 Sydney Bulls  
2007 The Entrance  
2008 Windsor  
2009 Wentworthville  
2010 Wentworthville  
2011 Cabramatta  
2012 Wentworthville  
2013 Wentworthville  
2014 The Entrance  
2015 Mounties  
2016 Mounties  
2017 Wentworthville  
2018 Wentworthville  
2019 Wentworthville  
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)  
2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)

### SYDNEY SHIELD

Year, Premiers

2012 Wentworthville  
2013 Belrose  
2014 East Campbelltown  
2015 Wentworthville  
2016 East Campbelltown  
2017 St Marys  
2018 East Campbelltown  
2019 Ryde-Easwood  
2020 Cronulla-Caringbah  
2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)

### NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE

Year, Premiers

2018 South Newcastle  
2019 Western Suburbs  
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)  
2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)

### ILLAWARRA CUP

Year, Premiers

2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)

### MEN'S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Monaro

### WOMEN'S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Newcastle-Maitland Region

## RECORDS

### SG BALL CUP

Year, Premiers

1965 South Sydney	1994 South Sydney
1966 Parramatta	1995 Canberra
1967 Parramatta	1996 Illawarra
1968 Parramatta	1997 Sydney City
1969 South Sydney	1998 South Sydney
1970 St George	1999 Parramatta
1971 Western Suburbs	2000 Penrith
1972 Canterbury	2001 Newcastle
1973 Parramatta	2002 Western Suburbs
1974 South Sydney	2003 Canberra
1975 South Sydney	2004 Newcastle
1976 South Sydney	2005 Canberra
1977 Penrith	2006 Penrith
1978 Canterbury-Bankstown	2007 Parramatta
1979 South Sydney	2008 Sydney Roosters
1980 South Sydney	2009 Bulldogs
1981 Penrith	2010 Sydney Roosters
1982 Balmain	2011 Newcastle
1983 Parramatta	2012 Balmain
1984 St George	2013 Balmain
1985 Parramatta	2014 Sydney Roosters
1986 South Sydney	2015 Cronulla-Sutherland
1987 Parramatta	2016 Penrith
1988 Parramatta	2017 Parramatta
1989 Illawarra	2018 Penrith
1990 Newcastle	2019 Illawarra
1991 Parramatta	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1992 St George	2021 Canberra
1993 Parramatta	

### TARSHA GALE CUP

Year, Premiers

2017 Penrith
2018 Cronulla-Sutherland
2019 Illawarra
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 St George

### LAURIE DALEY CUP

Year, Premiers

2018 Newcastle
2019 Illawarra South Coast
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Central Coast

### HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

Year, Premiers

1970 Parramatta	1986 Parramatta	2004 Parramatta
1971 Parramatta	1987 Illawarra	2005 Penrith
1972 Parramatta	1988 Parramatta	2006 Penrith
1973 Cronulla-Sutherland	1989 Penrith	2007 Bulldogs
1974 South Sydney	1990 Parramatta	2008 Parramatta
1975 Parramatta	1991 Gold Coast	2009 Bulldogs
1976 Parramatta	1992 Newcastle	2010 Penrith
1977 Cronulla-Sutherland	1993 Canberra	2011 Canterbury-Bankstown
1978 Canberra	1994 Parramatta	2012 Parramatta
1979 Penrith	1995 Canberra	2013 Parramatta
1980 Group 12	1996 Illawarra	2014 Newcastle
1981 Parramatta	1997 Parramatta	2015 Cronulla-Sutherland
1982 Parramatta	1998 Parramatta	2016 Parramatta
1983 Group 6	1999 Parramatta	2017 Newcastle
1984 Canberra	2000 Newcastle	2018 Manly Warringah
1985 Penrith	2001 Sharks	2019 Newcastle
	2002 Penrith	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
	2003 Parramatta	2021 Manly Warringah

### ANDREW JOHNS CUP

Year, Premiers

2018 Western Rams
2019 Northern Rivers
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Central Coast

## RECORDS

## PRESIDENTS CUP

Junior Representative teams 1910-2006. Statewide Third-tier Competition 2020

## Year, Premiers

1910 Eastern Suburbs  
 1911 Eastern Suburbs  
 1912 Balmain  
 1913 Eastern Suburbs  
 1914 Balmain  
 1915 Eastern Suburbs  
 1916 No Competition  
 1917 No Competition  
 1918 North Sydney  
 1919 Newtown  
 1920 Eastern Suburbs  
 1921 Newtown  
 1922 Eastern Suburbs  
 1923 Eastern Suburbs  
 1924 Eastern Suburbs  
 1925 Western Suburbs  
 1926 Balmain  
 1927 Eastern Suburbs  
 1928 Newtown  
 1929 Balmain  
 1930 Balmain  
 1931 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1932 Balmain  
 1933 North Sydney  
 1934 Southern Districts  
 1935 St George  
 1936 South Sydney  
 1937 Northern Suburbs  
 1938 Eastern Suburbs  
 1939 Balmain  
 1940 Balmain  
 1941 St George  
 1942 South Sydney  
 1943 South Sydney  
 1944 Newtown  
 1945 Western Suburbs  
 1946 Manly Warringah  
 1947 Western Suburbs  
 1948 Eastern Suburbs  
 1949 Eastern Suburbs

1950 Newtown  
 1951 South Sydney  
 1952 Balmain  
 1953 South Sydney  
 1954 Balmain  
 1955 Eastern Suburbs  
 1956 Newtown  
 1957 St George  
 1958 Western Suburbs  
 1959 Balmain  
 1960 South Sydney  
 1961 South Sydney  
 1962 South Sydney  
 1963 South Sydney  
 1964 South Sydney  
 1965 South Sydney  
 1966 Balmain  
 1967 Balmain  
 1968 South Sydney  
 1969 South Sydney  
 1970 Manly Warringah  
 1971 South Sydney  
 1972 South Sydney  
 1973 Balmain  
 1974 South Sydney  
 1975 Parramatta  
 1976 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1977 South Sydney  
 1978 Eastern Suburbs  
 1979 Parramatta  
 1980 South Sydney  
 1981 St. George  
 1982 South Sydney  
 1983 South Sydney  
 1984 Illawarra  
 1985 Penrith  
 1986 Penrith  
 1987 Eastern Suburbs  
 1988 Parramatta  
 1989 South Sydney  
 1990 Canberra

1991 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1992 Western Suburbs  
 1993 Eastern Suburbs  
 1994 Cronulla-Sutherland  
 1995 Canberra  
 1996 South Queensland  
 1997 Parramatta  
 1998 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1999 Parramatta  
 2000 Bulldogs  
 2001 St George Illawarra  
 2002 Bulldogs  
 2003 Canberra  
 2004 Sydney Roosters  
 2005 Parramatta  
 2006 Parramatta  
 2020 Maitland  
 2021 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Flowers Memorial Pennant

## Year, Premiers

1930 Eastern Suburbs  
 1931 Eastern Suburbs  
 1932 South Sydney  
 1933 South Sydney  
 1934 Eastern Suburbs  
 1935 Eastern Suburbs  
 1936 Eastern Suburbs  
 1937 Eastern Suburbs  
 1938 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1939 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1940 St George  
 1941 Balmain  
 1942 St George  
 1943 Balmain  
 1944 Balmain  
 1945 Eastern Suburbs  
 1946 St George  
 1947 Balmain  
 1948 Western Suburbs  
 1949 St George  
 1950 Balmain  
 1951 St George  
 1952 South Sydney  
 1953 South Sydney  
 1954 South Sydney  
 1955 St George  
 1956 St George  
 1957 St George  
 1958 St George  
 1959 St George  
 1960 Western Suburbs  
 1961 Western Suburbs  
 1962 St George  
 1963 St George  
 1964 St George  
 1965 St George  
 1966 St George  
 1967 South Sydney

1968 South Sydney  
 1969 South Sydney  
 1970 Eastern Suburbs  
 1971 St George  
 1972 Manly Warringah  
 1973 Newtown  
 1974 Eastern Suburbs  
 1975 Eastern Suburbs  
 1976 Parramatta  
 1977 Parramatta  
 1978 Parramatta  
 1979 Parramatta  
 1980 Parramatta  
 1981 Parramatta  
 1982 Parramatta  
 1983 Manly Warringah  
 1984 St George  
 1985 St George  
 1986 Parramatta  
 1987 Manly Warringah  
 1988 Manly Warringah  
 1989 South Sydney  
 1990 Canberra  
 1991 Western Suburbs  
 1992 Brisbane/Newcastle  
 1993 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1994 Canterbury-Bankstown  
 1995 Cronulla-Sutherland  
 1996 Brisbane  
 1997 Parramatta  
 1998 Parramatta  
 1999 Parramatta  
 2000 Parramatta  
 2001 Parramatta  
 2002 Parramatta  
 2003 Parramatta

2004 Sydney Roosters  
 2005 Parramatta  
 2006 Sydney Roosters  
 2007 Penrith  
 2008 Parramatta  
 2009 Bulldogs  
 2010 Cronulla-Sutherland  
 2011 Cronulla-Sutherland  
 2012 Balmain  
 2013 Cronulla-Sutherland  
 2014 Penrith  
 2015 Penrith  
 2016 Mounties  
 2017 Mounties  
 2018 Penrith  
 2019 Wentworthville  
 2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)  
 2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)

## RECORDS

### BRAD FITTLER MEDAL

NSW Player of Origin Series

2005 Matt King  
 2006 Steve Menzies  
 2007 Jarryd Hayne  
 2008 Danny Buderus  
 2009 Jarryd Hayne  
 2010 Kurt Gidley  
 2011 Paul Gallen  
 2012 Robbie Farah  
 2013 Greg Bird  
 2014 Ryan Hoffman and Jarryd Hayne  
 2015 Josh Dugan  
 2016 Josh Jackson  
 2017 David Klemmer  
 2018 James Tedesco  
 2019 James Tedesco  
 2020 Nathan Cleary  
 2021 Tom Trbojevic

### NSW SKY BLUES PLAYER OF THE YEAR

\* Previously NSW Women's Player of the Year

2015 Simaima Taufau \*  
 2016 Kezie Apps \*  
 2017 Simaima Taufau \*  
 2018 Isabelle Kelly  
 2019 Simaima Taufau  
 2020 Hannah Southwell  
 2021 Isabelle Kelly

### TRUE BLUE AWARD

2014 Brett Morris and Josh Morris  
 2015 Robbie Farah  
 2016 Aaron Woods  
 2017 Jake Trbojevic  
 2018 Tom Trbojevic  
 2019 Josh Addo-Carr  
 2020 Daniel Saifiti  
 2021 Latrell Mitchell

## NSWRL HALL OF FAME

2017 Clive Churchill  
 2017 John Raper  
 2017 Reg Gasnier  
 2017 Bob Fulton  
 2017 Graeme Langlands  
 2017 Arthur Beetson  
 2017 Andrew Johns  
 2017 Bradley Clyde  
 2017 Ron Coote  
 2017 Laurie Daley  
 2017 Brad Fittler  
 2017 Bob McCarthy

2017 Norm Provan  
 2018 Keith Holman  
 2018 Ken Irvine  
 2018 Steve Rogers  
 2019 Steve Mortimer  
 2019 Tommy Raudonikis  
 2021 Billy Smith  
 2021 Brett Kenny  
 2021 Glenn Lazarus

## COUNTRY RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONOUR ROLL

1965 Laurie Moraschi (Griffith)  
 1966 Terry Pannowitz (Maitland)  
 1967 Allan Thompson (Newcastle)  
 1968 Allan Thompson (Newcastle)  
 1969 John Cootes (Newcastle)  
 1970 Les Hutchings (Condobolin)  
 1971 Dick Jefferey (Glen Innes)  
 1972 Brian Burke (Maitland)  
 1973 John Donnelly (Gunnedah)  
 1974 Michael Cronin (Gerringong)  
 1975 Steve Hewson (Queanbeyan United)  
 1976 Peter Kennedy (Forbes)  
 1977 Barry Pearson (Illawarra Western Suburbs)  
 1978 Ray Brown (Griffith Waratahs)  
 1979 Pat Smith (Maitland)  
 1980 Perry Haddock (Erina)  
 1981 Terry Regan (Cessnock)  
 1982 Willie Tarry (Cessnock)  
 1983 Paul Field (Cootamundra)  
 1984 Ross Gibson (Wyang)  
 1985 Peter Hawthorne (Griffith)  
 1986 Neil Moy (Parkes)  
 1987 Steve Walters (Lakes United)  
 1988 Chris Cumming (Aberdeen)  
 1989 Mark Ryan (Moree)  
 1990 Paul Danes (Wagga Magpies)  
 1991 Richard Jones (South Newcastle)  
 1992 Trevor Crow (South Newcastle)  
 1993 Warren Douch (Erina)

1994 Brian Quinton (Kurri Kurri)  
 1995 Jamy Forbes (Cessnock)  
 1996 Brett Gallard (Orange CYMS)  
 1997 Darren Leaney (Bellingen)  
 1998 Paul Skovgaard (Western Suburbs/Newcastle)  
 1999 Troy Clear (West Belconnen)  
 2000 Jarrod O'Doherty (Western Suburbs/Newcastle)  
 2001 Jamie O'Connor (Burleigh)  
 2002 Ryan Dagwell (Western Suburbs/Newcastle)  
 2003 John Johnson (Scone)  
 2004 Phil Stonham (Queanbeyan)  
 2005 Chris Bailey (Northern Blues)  
 2006 Dean Amos (Wyang) and Darren Jackson (Cobar)  
 2007 David McLean (Berkeley)  
 2008 Grant Wooden (Wagga Kangaroos)  
 2009 Grant Wooden (Wagga Kangaroos)  
 2010 Mitch Williams (Wyang Roos)  
 2011 Jimmy Grehan (Wests Illawarra)  
 2012 Todd Maloney (Umina)  
 2013 Riley Brown (Cessnock) and Rory O'Brien (Wests Illawarra)  
 2014 Chris Adams (Cessnock)  
 2015 Jarrod Thompson (Collegians)  
 2016 Chris Adams (Lakes United)  
 2017 Tori Freeman-Quay (West Belconnen)  
 2018 Caleb Ziebell (Cudgen Hornets)  
 2019 Cameron Vazzoler (Kiama)



**FINANCIALS**

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**THE FOLLOWING DIRECTORS' REPORT HAS BEEN EXTRACTED FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT FROM WHICH THESE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE DERIVED FROM**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

NAME AND QUALIFICATIONS	EXPERIENCE, OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS	RESPONSIBILITIES	APPOINTED/ RESIGNED
<b>Geoffrey Gerard</b>	Past player; Parramatta Eels, Manly Sea Eagles, Penrith Panthers, NSW Blues and Australian Kangaroos Director; NSWRL Foundation Pty Ltd	Director	Since 3 December 2010
<b>William Johnstone</b>	Managing Director, Kimaka Holdings Australia; Director; KMK Consulting	Director	Since 8 March 2011
<b>Dr George Peponis OAM Member RACGP, AMA, GAICD</b>	General Practitioner Past player and club captain of Canterbury Bulldogs, Former captain of NSW and Australian Rugby League team (1979-1980).  Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors; Chairman NSW Leagues Club Limited; Chairman; ClubsNSW; Director, Hospitality Employers Mutual; Director, Club Keno.	Director	Since 2 December 2011
<b>Nick Politis AM B.Comm &amp; Ec</b>	Executive Chairman of WFM & NGP Group of Companies, Chairman of the Sydney Roosters' Board of Directors, Chairman of the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club Ltd	Chairman	Since 1 May 2013
<b>Deborah Healey LLB LLM (Hons) Syd Solicitor</b>	Professor, Director, Herbert Smith Freehills China International Business and Economic Law Centre, Law School, UNSW Australia; Director, NSW Leagues Club Limited; Director, NSWRL Foundation Pty Ltd	Director	Since 6 June 2013
<b>John Anderson OAM</b>	Former Chairman, Country Rugby League of New South Wales; Community Board Member, Private Hospital Newcastle; Deputy Chair, Awabakal Land Council. Member of the Hall of Fame Committee Newcastle.	Director	Since 18 October 2019
<b>Douglas Harrison</b>	Rugby League Administrator; Real Estate Rural Specialist Sales	Director	Since 18 October 2019
<b>Robert Walsh</b>	Rugby League Administrator; Chairman, Central West Region of Clubs NSW; CEO, Narromine United Services Memorial Club; Club Directors Institute and Club Managers Association	Director	Since 18 October 2019
<b>Terence Brady</b>	Rugby League Administrator; Former Club President, Group President, Chairman Bidgee Region and Board Member CRL; Proprietor, Brady Paint and Texture.	Director	Since 18 October 2019

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**COMPANY SECRETARY**

Mr David Trodden was appointed to the position of Company Secretary on 6 June 2013. Mr Trodden is also the Chief Executive of the Company.

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activities of the Company during the course of the financial year were the fostering and propagation of Rugby League in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Company performance is constantly measured against

- Demographic analysis of participation numbers, potential players, and lost players,
- Feedback from member clubs and other key stakeholders,
- Budgets and financial performance generally,
- Strategic plan implementation,
- Media profile indicators, and
- Performance of New South Wales Rugby League teams.

**OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The surplus from ordinary activities for the year ended 31 October 2021 amounted to \$2,281,257 (2020: \$1,805,541).

Coronavirus impact on the operations

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the operations of the Company during the financial year. There was no State of Origin game which was held in New South Wales. Competitions across the state were suspended for varying periods according to local lockdown conditions and a number of competitions were ultimately abandoned. Revenue from the Blatchys Blues program was negatively affected by the absence of a home State of Origin game. Variable costs relating to competitions were also impacted by comparison to budget, but not by comparison to the prior year due to the increased level of competition activity in 2021

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS**

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company in the financial year.

**EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE**

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial period and the date of this report any transaction or event of a material nature, likely in the opinion of the Directors, to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results or state of affairs of the Company.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION**

The Company's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State legislation.

**LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS**

The Directors do not anticipate any other developments in the operation of the Company which would significantly affect the operating result in subsequent years relating to current performance.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

### INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE OF OFFICERS

The Company has provided for and paid premiums during the year for directors' and officers' liability and legal expenses insurance contracts.

The insurance premiums relate to:

- Costs and expenses incurred by the relevant officers in defending proceedings, whether civil or criminal and whatever their outcome.
- Other liabilities that may arise from their position, with the exception of conduct involving a wilful breach of duty or improper use of information or position to gain a personal advantage.

The directors have not included details of the nature of the liabilities covered and the amount of the premium paid in respect of the directors' and officers' liability and legal expenses insurance contracts, as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of the contract.

### DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The number of directors' meetings, including meetings of committees of directors held and attended by each of the directors of the Company during the financial year are:

DIRECTORS	BOARD MEETINGS		RISK & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	
	ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	ATTENDED	ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	ATTENDED
Dr George Peponis OAM	18	18	4	4
Geoffrey Gerard	18	17	4	4
William Johnstone	18	18	-	-
Deborah Healey	18	18	4	3
Nick Politis AM	18	16	-	-
John Anderson OAM	18	18	4	3
Douglas Harrison	18	18	-	-
Robert Walsh	18	18	-	-
Terence Brady	18	18	-	-

In addition to the directors above the Independent Chair of the Risk and Governance committee is Greg Russell.

### REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered office of the New South Wales Rugby League Limited is located at:  
14 Dawn Fraser Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW Australia.

### CORPORATE STRUCTURE

New South Wales Rugby League Limited is a not for profit company domiciled in Australia.  
This report is made with a resolution of the directors:



**Dr George Peponis OAM**  
Chairman

Dated at Sydney this 15 December 2021

## NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Revenue	35,684,341	25,442,980
Cost of sales	(183,015)	(145,141)
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>	<b>35,501,326</b>	<b>25,297,839</b>
Centre of Excellence - tenants	349,309	360,996
Centre of Excellence - field hire	37,050	60,114
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(862,483)	(765,923)
Development project expenses	(5,023,102)	(4,805,254)
Employee expenses	(10,864,895)	(10,679,205)
Equipment maintenance expenses	(459,907)	(583,080)
General expenses	(543,098)	39,587
Corporate events expenses	(387,212)	(44,944)
Occupancy expenses	(1,238,472)	(858,743)
Professional services expenses	(944,441)	(940,156)
Referee and game expenses	(11,055,596)	(4,497,669)
Sponsorship expenses	(1,619,494)	(313,802)
Telecommunications expenses	(605,412)	(491,803)
<b>RESULTS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2,283,573</b>	<b>1,777,957</b>
Financing income	34,902	138,712
Financing expenses	(37,218)	(111,128)
<b>NET FINANCING INCOME</b>	<b>(2,316)</b>	<b>27,584</b>
<b>Surplus for the period</b>	<b>2,281,257</b>	<b>1,805,541</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>2,281,257</b>	<b>1,805,541</b>

## NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	13,847,284	4,471,460
Trade & other receivables	1,463,584	4,019,619
Inventories	37,896	57,647
Other assets	860,379	1,412,765
Accrued revenue	1,051,797	536,398
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	7,105,000	11,785,513
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>24,365,940</b>	<b>22,283,402</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	23,706,694	23,764,341
Intangibles	4,694	61,294
Accrued revenue	450,000	737,683
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>24,161,388</b>	<b>24,563,318</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>48,527,328</b>	<b>46,846,720</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade & other payables	9,901,938	11,300,296
Deferred COE funding	300,000	360,996
Employee benefits	1,220,488	796,018
Current lease liability	239,050	95,248
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>11,661,476</b>	<b>12,552,558</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	-	32,265
Provisions	1,596,151	1,335,795
Deferred COE funding	1,875,000	2,317,324
Employee benefits	668,139	575,867
Non-Current lease liability	429,011	16,617
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,568,301</b>	<b>4,277,868</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>16,229,777</b>	<b>16,830,426</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>32,297,551</b>	<b>30,016,294</b>
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated funds	26,649,605	24,368,348
Reserve	5,647,946	5,647,946
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>32,297,551</b>	<b>30,016,294</b>

## NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash receipts from customers	40,209,150	27,952,229
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(37,149,955)	(22,539,047)
<b>NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>3,059,195</b>	<b>5,413,182</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest received	29,141	167,102
Transfer of term deposit to/(from) cash and cash equivalents	4,680,513	(11,341,513)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(209,662)	(42,013)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	10,000	-
Surplus assets of CRL, net of cash received	-	1,800,000
Cash receipts from liquidation of CRL	2,067,587	-
<b>NET CASH (USED IN)/FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>6,577,579</b>	<b>(9,416,424)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Lease payments	(260,950)	(150,181)
<b>NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(260,950)</b>	<b>(150,181)</b>
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	9,375,824	(4,153,422)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 NOVEMBER	4,471,460	8,624,882
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 OCTOBER</b>	<b>13,847,284</b>	<b>4,471,460</b>

**NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS**

	Reserve	Accumulated Funds (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 November 2019	-	22,562,807	22,562,807
Surplus for the year	-	1,805,541	1,805,541
Surplus from CRL assets	5,647,946	-	5,647,946
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
<b>BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2020</b>	<b>5,647,946</b>	<b>24,368,348</b>	<b>30,016,294</b>
<b>Balance at 1 November 2020</b>	<b>5,647,946</b>	<b>24,368,348</b>	<b>30,016,294</b>
Surplus for the year	-	2,281,257	2,281,257
Surplus from CRL assets	-	-	-
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2021</b>	<b>5,647,946</b>	<b>26,649,605</b>	<b>32,297,551</b>

**NOTES TO THE ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The full financial report is available to the members, upon request to the Company, free of charge.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The full financial statements of the Company were Tier 2 general purpose financial statements which had been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements (AASB-RDRs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Corporations Act 2001. The full financial statements did not comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The full financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 15 December 2021.

**BASIS OF MEASUREMENT**

The full financial statements were prepared on the historical cost basis.

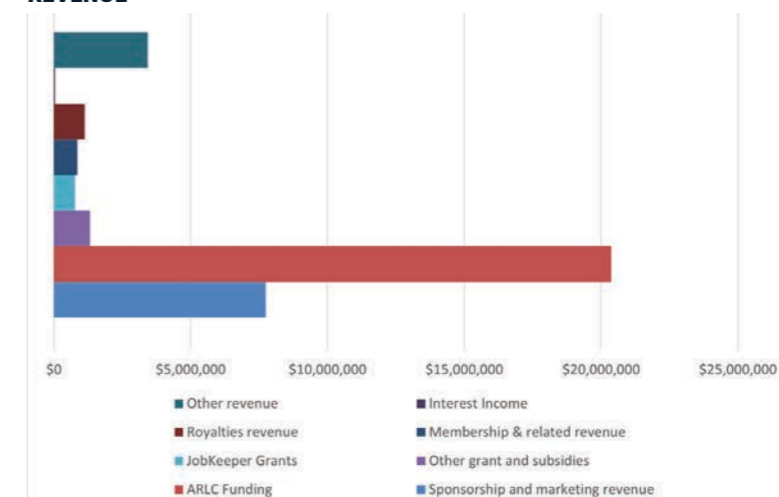
**FUNCTIONAL AND PRESENTATION CURRENCY**

The full financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Company's functional currency.

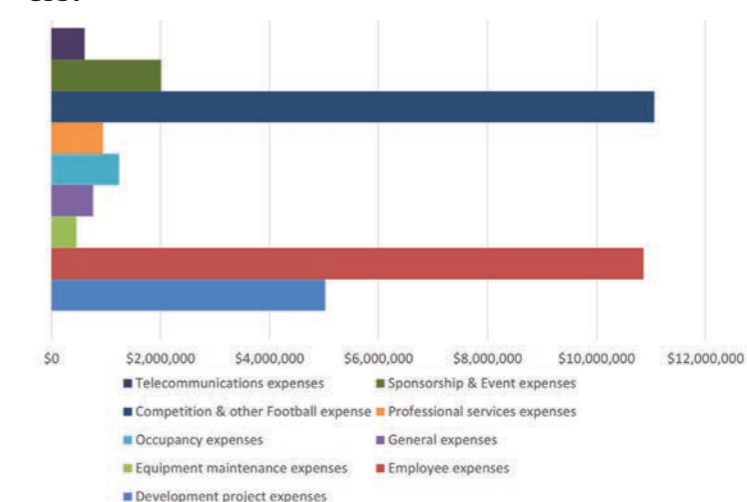
**REVENUE**

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Sponsorship and marketing revenue	7,736,607	4,239,427
ARLC Funding	20,364,975	15,182,731
Other grant and subsidies	1,316,154	678,271
JobKeeper Grants	772,600	1,935,900
Corporate Events Revenue	75,074	-
Membership & related revenue	861,578	196,970
Royalties revenue	1,133,010	1,154,343
Other revenue	3,424,343	2,055,338
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>35,684,341</b>	<b>25,442,980</b>

**REVENUE**



**COST**



**CONTINGENCIES**

The directors are of the opinion that provisions are not required in respect of the below matters, as it is not probable that a future sacrifice of economic benefit will be required.

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES NOT CONSIDERED REMOTE	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
NARRABEEN ACADEMY MAKEGOOD The Company holds a lease agreement with the Minister of Education which expires on 31 December 2040. Under the terms of the lease agreement, the Company may be required to make good in respect of the Narrabeen Academy site on the termination of the lease. The directors do not believe that it is probable that a future outflow of economic benefits will be required on termination and accordingly a provision for make good has not been provided for within the annual financial report.	-	-

During the prior year, the usage of the Narrabeen premises was revised, which is under ongoing review. An onerous contract provision of \$200,000 has been taken up in the prior year in respect of ongoing costs to be incurred over the life of the lease.

There are no further contingent assets or liabilities at 31 October 2021

**Economic dependency**

The Company is dependent upon the Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) providing project funding which is used in fostering and further developing the game of Rugby League in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. This position is contractually established through a right for the Company to be provided with adequate funding by the ARLC to administer the game in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, subject to the ARLC approving the business plan and budget of the Company.

**COVID-19**

The coronavirus COVID-19 has had an impact on the company's operations and activities subsequent to the end of the year, and is expected to increasingly affect the company. It is not possible to accurately determine the nature or extent of the impacts or the time over which the company will be impacted, however it is possible that it will be material to the company as the effects and consequences are outside the company's control and are far reaching in Australia and globally. Based on the current available information, the Directors believe that the company will remain a going concern.

**THE FOLLOWING DIRECTORS' DECLARATION HAS BEEN EXTRACTED FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT FROM WHICH THESE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE DERIVED FROM**

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of NSW Rugby League Limited ("the Company"):

- (a) the financial statements and notes, set out on pages 8 to 31, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company's financial position as at 31 October 2021 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



**Dr George Peponis OAM**  
Director  
Dated at Sydney this 15 December 2021



## Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of New South Wales Rugby League Limited

### Report on the Summary Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We report on the **Summary Financial Statements** of *New South Wales Rugby League (the Company)* as at and for the year ended 31 October 2021. The Summary Financial Statements are derived from the audited financial report of the Company.

In our opinion, the accompanying Summary Financial Statements of New South Wales Rugby League Limited are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in the Notes to the Summary Financial Statements.

The **Summary Financial Statements** comprise:

- Summary statement of financial position as at 31 October 2021
- Summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Summary statement of changes in members' fund, and Summary of cash flows for the year then ended
- Related notes.

#### Scope of the Summary Financial Statements

The Summary Financial Statements do not contain all the disclosures required by *Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements* applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. Reading the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Audited Financial Report and our auditor's report thereon.

The Summary Financial Statements and the Audited Financial Report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the Audited Financial Report.

#### The Audited Financial Report and our auditor's report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the Audited Financial Report in our auditor's report dated 16 December 2021.



#### Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation and restriction on use and distribution

We draw attention to the Notes to the Summary Financial Statements, which describes the basis of preparation.

The Summary Financial Statements have been prepared to assist the Directors of New South Wales Rugby League Limited for the purpose of reporting to the members. As a result, the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

This Auditor's Report is intended solely for the members of New South Wales Rugby League Limited and should not be used by or distributed to parties other than the members of New South Wales Rugby League Limited. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this Auditor's Report, or on the Summary Financial Statements to which it relates, to any person other than the members of New South Wales Rugby League Limited or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

#### Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in New South Wales Rugby League Limited's Annual Report which is provided in addition to the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report. The Directors are responsible for the Other Information.

The Other Information we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report was the Directors' Report and the Directors declaration from the audited financial report dated 16 December 2021.

Our opinion on the Summary Financial Statements does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Summary Financial Statements, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Summary Financial Statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

#### Responsibility of the Directors for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Statements in accordance with the basis of preparation described in the Notes to the Summary Financial Statements, including their derivation from the Audited Financial Report of the Company as at and for the year ended 31 October 2021.



**Auditor's responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Summary Financial Statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

*KPMG*

KPMG

Chris Hollis

*Partner*

Sydney

14 January 2022



# PARTNERS



# PROUD SUPPORTERS

