



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



The New South Wales Rugby League acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we gather and play throughout Australia. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

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YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY

The NSW Blues Wheelchair Rugby League team are defeated in their State of Origin clash against Queensland

The Kaiviti Silktales arrive in Sydney from Fiji to begin preparations for the Ron Massey Cup season

FEBRUARY

The NSWRL Junior Representatives season kicks off, with five competitions starting in metropolitan Sydney and across regional NSW

The NSW Blues unveil a traditional all sky blue jersey for the State of Origin series to celebrate their first game back in Sydney in 574 days

MARCH

The 2022 season for NSWRL Major Competitions is launched at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence

The NSWRL Board announces a relief package worth more than \$600,000 to assist Rugby League communities across NSW which have been devastated by floods

APRIL

The inaugural season of the Peter McDonald Premiership starts for clubs from Groups 10 and 11 in western NSW

The Regional Representatives Grand Finals are held with the winners crowned for the SLE Andrew Johns Cup, SLE Laurie Daley Cup and Men's and Women's Country Championships

The Junior Representatives Grand Final day is held at the world-class CommBank Stadium with the premiers decided for the Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup, UNE Harold Matthews Cup and UNE SG Ball Cup

MAY

NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder complete their Blues Youth Leadership Program which has taken in more than 2000 students since March

Justice Michael Ball of the Supreme Court rules the NSWRL did not breach its Services Agreement with the ARLC in its board appointments and the ARLC had no right to terminate it. In relation to the election process at the AGM, he comments: "The question was raised with the board whether Mr Mezzatesta was eligible to stand for election. The question having been raised, the board quite properly sought legal advice on it. The board acted on that advice. There is no suggestion that the advice was not sought or given in good faith. The board properly concluded that no election was necessary in circumstances where only two candidates remained. No challenge has been made to any of the persons who currently act as directors of NSWRL by any person with standing to do so."

The NSWRL announces an extension of its partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health's (UIIH) Deadly Choices program

A new partnership with the world's leading bourbon, Jim Beam, is announced for the NSW Blues and NSW Sky Blues

True Blues Ken Kearney, Ricky Stuart and Harry Wells are inducted into the NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame at the annual True Blues dinner

JUNE

The NSWRL celebrates representative success with the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues, NSW Under 19s and NSW Women's Under 19s all winning their respective State of Origin matches

The NSW Government awards a \$50,000 Her Sport Her Way grant to the NSWRL for its Women in Sport Leadership Program which provides aspiring elite female coaches and administrators with further knowledge and skills

YEAR IN REVIEW



JULY

The NSW Blues surrender the Ampol State of Origin Shield to Queensland after narrowly losing the decider at Suncorp Stadium

Wests Tigers win an epic Grand Final against Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks in the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership with the match going to golden point

The NSWRL celebrates the inaugural Licensed Clubs Round to acknowledge more than \$40 million in funding that clubs provide to the game every season

The NSWRL announces an exciting new blueprint for Rugby League in the Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast areas after undertaking a strategic review of the region

AUGUST

True Blue Paul Langmack addresses more than 300 teenagers about mental fitness in regional NSW for the first time after taking the NSWRL's 'Changing Rooms' program to Griffith

Transport for NSW completes its Regional Roadshows program with True Blues stars delivering road safety messages to more than 1000 high school students

The NSWRL season sees almost 106,000 participants sign up to play Rugby League, including a record 23,155 female participants

SEPTEMBER

The Grand Finals for the Ron Massey Cup and Sydney Shield are held at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium

The NSWRL announces its Community Award winners for 2023 with Volunteer of the Year winner Wendy Povey later named at the Brad Fittler Medal

NSW Blues captain James Tedesco becomes the first player in NSWRL history to win three major awards at the Brad Fittler Medal while Isabelle Kelly claims her third medal for the NSW Sky Blues

Penrith Panthers are crowned premiers in The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup to complete a remarkable season which saw them also win titles in the NRL, Jersey Flegg Cup and SG Ball Cup

The Maitland Pickers defend their Presidents Cup title at NSWRL Grand Final Day

OCTOBER

The Harmony Nines makes a return to the Rugby League calendar for the first time in four years with the NSW Government providing \$100,000 in funding for the community tournament

NOVEMBER

The NSWRL announces banking giant Westpac as the new naming rights partner for the NSW Blues with and the Junior Sky Blues Academy for teenage girls

The Court of Appeal dismisses an appeal by the ARLC against the Supreme Court ruling of Justice Bell. Chief Justice Bell comments: "The fact that the NSWRL is a member of the ARLC does not mean that the ARLC has standing to challenge the validity of the election of the NSWRL Board of directors."

The NSWRL is named Organisation of the Year at the Rebel NSW Champions of Sport Awards

DECEMBER

The new PUMA jersey for the Westpac NSW Blues is released with the NSWRL logo superimposed across the background to acknowledge the organisation's proud history

The NSWRL releases the 2023 draws for its Major Competitions and Junior Representatives Competitions

The NSWRL presents a cheque to RuffTRACK Farm for \$16,000 after the NSW Blues auctioned off their jumpers from Game One of the Origin series



NSW beats Queensland in **THREE** of four Origin matches



Almost **106,000** participants registered to play across all competitions in NSW



More than **23,000** female participants signed up to play in 2022



HIGHLIGHTS



\$600,000

relief package announced to assist flood victims in NSW



More than

116,000

Active Kids vouchers accessed to play Rugby League



Almost

1.7 million

followers across all NSWRL social media channels





NSWRL MAJOR AWARDS

Brad Fittler Medal
James Tedesco

True Blue Award
James Tedesco

NSW Sky Blues
Player of the Year
Isabelle Kelly

Sky Blues Award
Caitlan Johnston

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup
Player of the Year
Kayal Iro

NSW Women's Premiership
Player of the Year
Kirra Dibb



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

JOHN ANDERSON OAM, ACTING NSWRL CHAIRMAN

There were plenty of highlights for the NSWRL in 2022, including being able to complete a full season for the first time since 2019. The COVID pandemic resulted in the past two seasons having to be abandoned as the NSW Government understandably tried to manage an unprecedented problem to minimise the risk of infection in the community. Effectively, this impacted on the development of Rugby League players in the state from grassroots right through to the elite level in The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup as they were unable to take the field. Bearing that in mind, it was wonderful to see participation figures reach almost 106,000 by the end of the season with the community keen to embrace the game again. It was also great to see Grand Finals return across the board after the 2021 season had to be abandoned in June. I remain hopeful we have turned the corner with the pandemic and we will be able to build on the growth we experienced this season into the future.

Origin

State of Origin is the pinnacle of our sport, and I was glad to see our fans turn out in numbers to Accor Stadium to welcome the NSW Blues home this season. It was the first time we have been able to play in front of our home crowd since 2020. Although we didn't get the result we had all hoped for this year, I have full confidence in our coach Brad Fittler. The contribution he makes to the NSWRL as coach of the Origin team, our pathways squads, and driving other initiatives including a Blues Youth Leadership Program for high school students, the Hogs tours around regional NSW and registration drives, is invaluable. I extend that sentiment to our NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder, whose work in the development of our female participants around the state is just as important. 'Freddy' and Kylie are both former players and their dedication in giving back to the game reflects their characters.

Indigenous Programs

The NSWRL has a long and proud association with the Indigenous community, with some of the greatest NSW players hailing from indigenous backgrounds. Being a proud Indigenous man myself, I was pleased to see the initiatives and programs the NSWRL undertook to nurture this important relationship. Gamilaroi man and former Rugby League player Daren Dunn created unique artwork representing the NSWRL's story and connection to Indigenous culture which now adorns the walls of the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. He also created a map of traditional Indigenous nations of NSW which features on the office walls. NSWRL staff undertook cultural training with the KARI Foundation to get a better understanding of the history of Aboriginal traditions, customs and practices. The NSWRL, in conjunction with the Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC), welcomed back the PCYC Nations of Origin after a two-year

break due to the COVID pandemic. That was followed by the Talented Aboriginal Athletes Program (TAAP) camp, which was also held for the first time since 2019 due to the pandemic. These are important programs that provide development opportunities for Indigenous players, with the TAAP camp including two teenage brothers who had only become involved with Rugby league after riding camels from the Northern Territory to Taree as children.

One State

One State continued to make strong inroads into the way the game was administered in 2022. The strategic blueprint for Rugby League in NSW started in 2019 and saw six new zones created across the state to offer more competition opportunities and further improve the experience for all Rugby League participants. This season saw the Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup reinvigorated after it expanded from five to eight teams following the addition of De La Salle, Helensburgh Tigers and Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks to the competition. The Peter McDonald Premiership, named after the legendary administrator who had done so much for the game in western NSW before passing away last year, kicked off in April and was open to all clubs from Group 10 and Group 11 in western NSW. The Forbes Magpies toppled some of the competition heavyweights to claim the first title and had the honour of representing the western conference in the end of season Presidents Cup knockout competition to determine the best team in the state. The Macarthur Conference Competition, which incorporated teams from Wests Tigers Macarthur Junior Rugby League and Group 6, kicked off its season with a \$330,000 funding deal from Wests Group Macarthur. An exciting new blueprint was announced for the Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast areas in July and followed a strategic review of Rugby League competitions and pathways in the region. Finally, a state-wide Player Points Index System (PPIS) was introduced for the first time in 2022 to reward junior development and player loyalty, and improve talent equalisation across NSW-based competitions.

Partners

The NSWRL has been successfully running competitions in the state since 1908 and therefore has strong commercial appeal for partners across the country. This was reflected late in the season when we welcomed banking giant Westpac as the new naming rights partner for the NSW Blues. It also ended a successful relationship with Brydens Lawyers, and I thank them for their support which has seen the State of Origin pendulum swing back in favour of the Blues after winning three of the past five series since their involvement started since 2018. The Westpac partnership includes developing a Junior Sky Blues Academy for teenage girls which is a terrific investment in our female pathways. We also

welcomed Jim Beam into the NSWRL family which again reflects the strength of our brand and includes opportunities for them to connect with our fans.

Vale

It is always sad when the game loses good people, and this was certainly the case again in 2022 as we bid farewell to some absolute legends of Rugby League. Whether they were Immortals like John Raper MBE, or respected coach and administrator Paul Broughton OAM, they all made a significant contribution to our game, and we are poorer for their loss.

Thank You

I congratulate NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden and his staff for all their hard work this season. The good work they do was acknowledged after we were chosen over 90 different sporting bodies to claim the Organisation of the Year at the Rebel Champions of Sport Awards. It is the second time since 2019 the NSWRL has received the prestigious award which reflects the hard work being done across the state to promote the greatest game of all.



CEO'S REPORT

DAVID TRODDEN, NSWRL CEO

The healing power of our great game, and the tremendous bond that it helps drive to unify people across our state, never ceases to impress me. After battling bushfires and a global pandemic for the past two seasons, we were confronted by another devastating threat in 2022 in the form of severe wet weather and flooding. The effect that it had on the state, particularly in northern NSW, was catastrophic. It will take several years for some communities to rebuild and overcome the mental scars which have been left behind. The NSWRL responded with a \$600,000 flood relief package which helped benefit 30 clubs and 4700 participants. The package covered items such as jerseys, shorts and socks, footballs, tackle pads and goal posts, and insurance. The NSW Blues had no hesitation in visiting the flood-ravaged town of Lismore in July as they continued their preparations for the Ampol State of Origin decider. The team was there to spread some goodwill among the 1000 residents who turned up to Oakes Oval to see their heroes. It made me proud to see the players, led by captain James Tedesco, give away the very shirts off their backs to the fans at the end of the session. That goodwill trip had followed an earlier visit by True Blues Boyd Cordner, Steve Menzies and Nathan Hindmarsh in March for a BBQ and to distribute essential items. The attitude of our players, from our former legends to our current stars, to pitch in without question and help those who most need it is something I am always grateful for. That sentiment extends to all our grassroots players, coaches, officials and volunteers in the region who did what they needed to do in the face of enormous challenges to get Rugby League back on the field, as well as the support that was offered to them from other communities around NSW. The Northern Rivers Titans in the Andrew Johns Cup for Under 16s from regional NSW typified the fighting spirit of the area. They lost their gear, team bus and training venue to the floods but overcame the odds to go on and claim a memorable win in the Grand Final to help raise morale in the region.

Origin

It was a case of mixed success for our State of Origin teams after we claimed three of the four titles that were up for grabs in the representative contests against Queensland. The NSW Blues, led by coach Brad Fittler, came up just short in the decider at Suncorp Stadium but that should take nothing away from the effort they put in for the series. One of the things I admire about 'Freddy' as a coach is that the Blues are always in the contest right until the very end and that was the case again this season. We lost 16-10 in Game One in Sydney, scored a decisive 44-12 in Game Two in Perth, and then lost the decider 22-12 in Brisbane after the Maroons scored a try with two minutes to go. I know how much the result hurt 'Freddy' and the Blues and I am confident they will do everything within their power to return the Shield to NSW in 2023. The NSW Sky Blues, led by Kylie Hilder, are a great example of how fortunes can

turn quickly in the Origin arena. They had lost the past two years in games that again went down to the wire but managed to turn the tables this season with a committed performance in Canberra. The Sky Blues' victory followed Origin success for both our pathways teams. The NSW Under 19s women's team has not been beaten since the concept started in 2019. This is a strong advertisement for the work being done by Kylie as female pathways manager and bodes well for the NSW Sky Blues in the future. I was also pleased to see the NSW men's Under 19s team win their match comprehensively as we have not been able to have a men's pathways game for three years due to the COVID pandemic. Again, I am confident this will set the NSW Blues up to achieve further success in the years to come.

Women's Leadership

There have been tremendous inroads made into women's Rugby League over the past few seasons and it remains one of the fastest-growing participation areas for our sport. The NSWRL is proud to be involved with the work going on in this space and it was great to see the NSW Government invest in our Women in Sport Leadership program this season through the Her Sport Her Way grant program. This followed the success of the 2021 pilot of the program, run in conjunction with the University of New England, to remove barriers and equip women with the skills to be leaders in their chosen sport. Early in the year we celebrated our first round of graduates with a dinner at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence which was a tremendous night. The interest in the program this season saw NSWRL offer 20 scholarships which were taken up by women from 10 sports in addition to Rugby League participants. I am confident this will have a ripple effect for gender equity across all sports in the future.

Grassroots

It was another tremendous season for community football with almost 106,000 participants signing up to play Rugby League in 2022. This came against the backdrop of the severe wet weather mentioned earlier, which left parts of NSW particularly the north of the state, badly flooded in March. Female participation is one of the fastest-growing areas in our game with a record 23,155 players registering in 2022. This was an increase on our record participation numbers for women's Rugby League in 2021 and the first time more than 23,000 females have signed up to play our great game. There were almost 35,000 volunteers – or more than one for every three participants – whose support is invaluable in keeping our game operational on a weekly basis. Further, it is estimated that for every registered volunteer there are another three unregistered volunteers who are also assisting which is a wonderful show of support for our game. Rugby

League is widely known as the game for all, and with formats available including men's and women's traditional (tackle), Blues Tag, Wheelchair Rugby League and Physical Disability Rugby League, I am confident the NSWRL will enjoy further success next season.

Thank You

A special thank you goes to our partners, who are also acknowledged elsewhere in this report, for their valued support and ongoing contribution to NSWRL. I welcome our new naming rights partner, Westpac, into the NSWRL family and thank Brydens Lawyers for their support over the past five years, which helped deliver three State of Origin series wins for the NSW Blues. I also thank The Star, Lion, PUMA, Transport for NSW, Harvey Norman, Jim Beam, Ignite HQ, KARI Foundation, University of New England, SLE, Rich Digital, McDonald's, Gatorade, Compass Corp, CABE Investments, Steeden, Painaway, Monarch, I Want 2 Work, Command 51, Therabody, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, My Sports Tape, Murrays Coaches, Sydney Markets, Arthur J. Gallagher, Accor and Leagues Club Australia.

Finally, I am indebted to NSWRL Acting Chairman John Anderson OAM and his board for their support this season, as well as the talented and dedicated staff I work with at the NSWRL. We achieved another successful season and I look forward to building on that in 2023.





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

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

WILLIAM "SMILEY" JOHNSTONE
Director: Since 8 March 2011
Managing Director: Kimaka Holdings Australia
Director: KMK Consulting

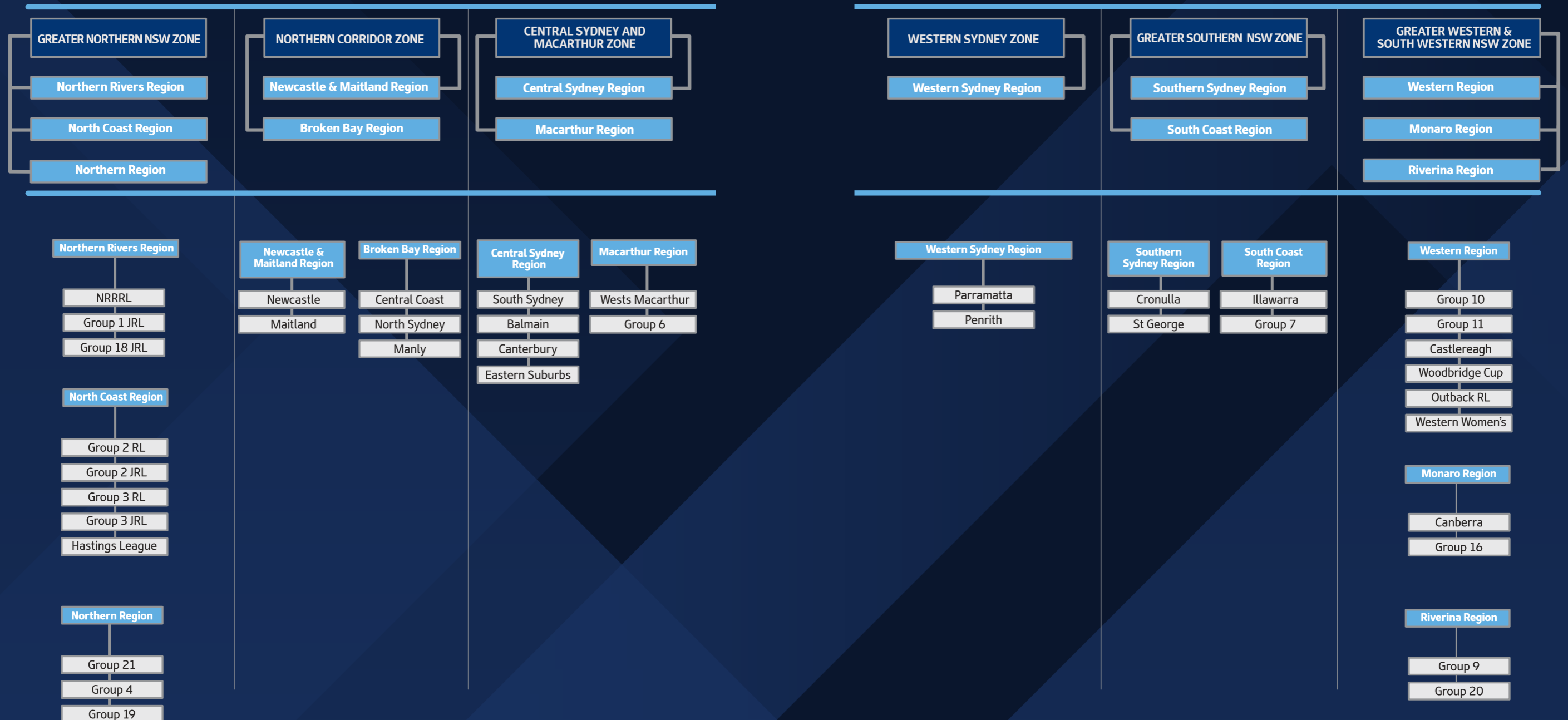
JOHN ANDERSON OAM
Acting Chairman: Since February 2022
Director: Since October 2019
Life Member: NSWRL; South Newcastle; Newcastle Rugby League
Member: Australian Rugby League Indigenous Council

HON. KEVIN GREENE
Director: Since 6 June 2022
Chairman: NSW Referees Association
Director: Cricket NSW; Club Central Hurstville

TERRY BRADY
Director: Since October 2019
Chairman: Bidgee Region

ONE STATE

NSWRL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



MEDIA COVERAGE

The NSWRL enjoyed another strong season of media coverage through traditional partners while the organisation's own social media channels recorded significant growth across all platforms.

The NSW Blues performance in the Ampol State of Origin series resonated with a national audience of 9,044,601 tuning in across all three games. The opening game in Sydney which the Blues lost narrowly 16-10 to Queensland drew 2,952,131 viewers; Game Two in Perth which saw the Blues respond with an emphatic 44-12 drew 3,020,665 viewers; and the Game Three decider in Brisbane which saw the Blues go down 22-12 in the final minutes drew 3,071,805 viewers. The other representative matches for the season, which were televised as part of the representative weekend in the lead-up to the men's match in Perth, also returned strong ratings. The Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues attracted an audience of 452,744 after downing Queensland 20-14; the NSW Under 19s drew an audience of 307,247 for their 32-4 win; while the NSW Under 19s Women's were watched by 41,964 fans for their 22-6 win.

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, which is the state's premier competition, had matches televised weekly on Fox League on FOX SPORTS for an average viewing audience of 24,468. The most-watched program was the Round 17 clash between Western Suburbs Magpies and Parramatta Eels (45,395) followed by the Mounties and Penrith Panthers in Round Six (41,848), and the Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles and North Sydney Bears in Round 13 (37,95). The Nine network also televised two finals matches which were well received with 51,449 viewers tuning in for the Qualifying Final between the Panthers and the Bears, followed by 78,827 viewers for the Preliminary Final between Newtown Jets and the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs. The Sunday Footy Show a moving segment in August on the community of Kurri Kurri which was still coming to terms with a road tragedy involving Eddie Faalua, who played for the Newcastle Knights in the Harold Matthews Cup. NSWRL TV continued to go from strength to strength in 2022 with 186 games live streamed to a total audience of 2,834,838. The dedicated channel for all NSWRL matches is housed on the NSWRL Facebook page and showed a significant increase from its inaugural season in 2021 of more than 100 games and a total audience of 1,740,180. There were even more competitions shown in 2022 with the Sydney Shield finals, Presidents Cup, Harmony 9s and Wheelchair Rugby League being captured alongside UNE Harold Matthews Cup, SLE Andrew Johns Cup, UNE SG Ball Cup, Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup, SLE Laurie Daley Cup, the Ron Massey Cup, Harvey

Norman NSW Women's Premiership, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup as well as Group competitions in regional NSW. The highest rating-stream for the season was the NSWRL Grand Final day with 107,120 fans tuning in, followed by the Junior Representatives Grand Final Day (45,367) and Week Two of the finals for The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup and Jersey Flegg Cup (44,498).

The NSWRL continued to enjoy tremendous growth across its social media channels from grassroots to elite competitions with a total cross platform of 1,699,918 followers, which represents a 14 per cent increase on 2021. There are 1,009,845 followers on Facebook, 478,785 on Instagram and 134,688 on Twitter. The NSWRL relaunched its TikTok channel at the start of the State of Origin period with the number of followers growing by more than 100 per cent from 30,000 to 76,600. The NSWRL celebrated some strong performing posts throughout the season with a length of the field try by NSW Under 19s Women's fullback Jada Taylor receiving 14.2 million views; while a fend and try from South Sydney Rabbitohs forward Yillara Widders in the Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup attracted 23.9 million views.



Jada Taylor try (Facebook)
Followers: 1,000,845
Views: 14,422,000



Yillara Widders video (Instagram)
Followers: 478,785
Views: 23,954,370



Origin Welcome (Twitter):
Followers: 134,688
Impressions: 29,301

PARTNERS

The NSWRL enjoyed another strong season commercially with new partners coming on board to confirm our position as one of the premier sporting brands in Australia.

Westpac was announced in October as our new naming rights partner until the end of 2026, replacing Brydens Lawyers on the front of the iconic sky blue jersey. Brydens Lawyers had been the naming rights partner since 2018 and had been involved in three of five winning series. The new partnership with Westpac was announced at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence with True Blue Tom Trbojevic, Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues star Emma Tonegato and a Junior Sky Blue arriving for the launch in the Westpac Life Rescue Helicopter, while a five metre NSW Blues jersey displaying the Westpac logo was unveiled across the building.

The partnership, which provides financial support for programs promoting the men's and women's game, will see Westpac play a key role in supporting female participation pathways and other NSWRL initiatives, including the inaugural Westpac Junior Sky Blues Academy for teenage girls. The Academy aims to develop the next generation of female stars by providing 40 scholarships to girls aged 16-17. Metropolitan players took part in weekly training sessions over six weeks, while a weekend camp was held for regional players, both at Ignite HQ Centre of Excellence. Westpac also committed to donating \$5,000 for every NSW try scored in both the men's and women's 2023 State of Origin series to assist the helicopter rescue service with their valuable lifesaving work.

The NSWRL announced another new partner in May with the world's number one bourbon, Jim Beam. The agreement saw Jim Beam involved in match days, digital and social media campaigns, media integration and promotional opportunities, and in-store and online activity to engage with NSW's passionate base of supporters including Blatchys Blues fans. The partnership also allowed Jim Beam, who previously sponsored the Jim Beam Cup (now the Ron Massey Cup) from 2003-08, run competitions for money-can't-buy prizes including signed Origin jerseys from both the men's and women's teams.

The season kicked off with community rewards partner Ignite HQ coming on board as a major backer for NSWRL grassroots football as well as assuming naming rights for the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. The Ignite HQ logo featured on the back and bottom of the jerseys for both the NSW Blues and NSW Sky Blues as well as the jerseys of all Junior Rugby League participants across NSW. It was the first time a partner had been displayed on the back and bottom of the Origin jerseys to reinforce our reputation as one of the most highly sought-after commercial assets in Australian sport.

Harvey Norman continued their long-standing association with Women's Rugby League which takes into account pathways competitions all the way to the elite level including the Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup, Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership, Harvey Norman NSW Under 19s and Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues. Their commitment to the women's game saw Sky Blues Botille Vette-Welsh and Filomina Hanisi attend a girls' holiday clinic at Scully Park in Tamworth in April. Sky Blues captain Kezie Apps also recorded a daily diary while in camp with the Origin team before the team reclaimed the Origin shield with a thrilling win over Queensland at GIO Stadium in Canberra in June.

Tooheys teamed up with Australian punk band, These New South Whales, to create a new anthem for the Blues for this year's Origin series. The Tooheys New Anthem includes lyrics about the Blues, Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and True Blue Nathan Hindmarsh and was performed by the band at Sydney Olympic Park in the lead-up to Game One at Accor Stadium. Tooheys also produced a limited edition series of cans featuring iconic moments from NSW's Origin history including Fittler scoring a runaway try in 2004 and True Blue Ben Elias being hugged by his mother in 1992.

The Star welcomed Blatchys Blues fans and the iconic blue wig back home for the first time in 574 days, after all games of the 2021 series were played in Queensland because of the COVID pandemic. They hosted the True Blues dinner in May, which saw the addition of Ricky Stuart, Ken Kearney and Harry Wells into the NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame, and the Brad Fittler Medal for the best players from the Origin series, Major Competitions and Junior Representatives Competitions. The Star also conducted a competition to find the Super Blues Fan, with Mark Criminale taking out the title in Queensland after decking out his house and property in a sea of blue.

PUMA unveiled their new-look jersey for the 2022 Ampol State of Origin series in February. The traditional all sky blue jersey, with no chevron, was to celebrate the team's homecoming to Sydney for the first time in 574 days. The sporting apparel giant also revealed the 2023 jersey in December, which paid homage to the history of the organisation after superimposing the NSWRL crest – which dates back to 1908 – across the iconic sky blue strip.

McDonalds saw NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and True Blue Tom Trbojevic pay a special visit to Ronald McDonald House in November to show their support for McHappy Day. The pair spent time with the children and their families to spread awareness for the campaign which sees McDonalds donate \$2 for every Big Mac sold on the day.

PainAway provided regular injury updates for NSW players in the lead-up to the Ampol State of Origin series. There were also regular video updates provided in camp after the squads were chosen for the three-game series.

Transport for NSW continued their association with the state's premier competition, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, which completed its first full season since 2019 after the previous two years were disrupted by the COVID pandemic. They continued to spread positive messages about road safety with their Regional Roadshow program being delivered to more than 1000 high school students to the state's regional areas by True Blues including Mark O'Meley, Willie Mason, Tim Brasher, Steve Menzies, Matt Cooper and Andrew Ryan.

The NSWRL looks forward to working with all of its partners again in 2023 and using their invaluable support to achieve continued success both on and off the field.





1

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL



COACH'S VIEW

BRAD FITTLER, NSW BLUES HEAD COACH

I said during the Ampol State of Origin series this year that the representative contest, and the jewel in Rugby League's crown, is entering a golden period. This is based on the calibre of players who are eligible for their respective states. They are supremely talented and fiercely competitive, which are the qualities that any Origin coach looks for. NSW has stars like James Tedesco, Nathan Cleary, Tom Trbojevic and Latrell Mitchell to name a few; while Queensland has Cameron Munster, Harry Grant and Kalyn Ponga. The Maroons also appointed Billy Slater as their coach. I have worked alongside Billy as a commentator at Channel Nine so I know firsthand how competitive he is and how much work he would put into the series. To sum up, there is very little separating the two teams in terms of talent, and the games are likely to be decided by who best owns the big moments, which unfortunately we were on the wrong side of in 2022.

Our campaign got off to a challenging start after we lost Tom and Latrell to injuries for the series. They had both played a key role in helping the Blues secure the Shield in 2021 and while it was disappointing they were unavailable, I always prefer to look ahead and focus on the positives as it presented opportunities for other great players to represent their state.

The selection process for Game One is always a robust process for myself, and my support staff in advisor Greg Alexander and assistant coaches Danny Buderus and Paul McGregor, as we look to pick the right players to get the job done. We were confident with the squad we settled on with Stephen Crichton, Ryan Matterson and Kotoni Staggs all named to make their debuts. It is always a special time when a player gets to represent NSW for the first time and the jumper presentations are always emotional, particularly when they are able to be presented by the player's families. We enjoyed a good week in camp at Coogee preparing for the game before shifting base to Sydney Olympic Park. We were looking forward to the match as it was the first time we had played in front of our home crowd since Game Two of the 2020 series. We got off to the perfect start after Jack Wighton scored before the Maroons wrestled the momentum away from us. After trailing 16-6, we gave ourselves a chance when Cameron Murray scored with just under 10 minutes to go but unfortunately we were unable to find one more try and finished 16-10 behind on the scoreboard. I always admire the fighting spirit of our players and that was best typified by lock Isaah Yeo who stretched out to score in the final play of the game only to fall just short. We regrouped for Game Two in Perth which had already proved a happy hunting ground for us during the 2020 series. We found ourselves in a similar position to 2020 in that we needed to win to level the series and send it to a decider. The only negative is that we lost Jack to COVID after he had been a

standout for us in Game One but again, I prefer to focus on the positives and we welcomed two more debutants in Matt Burton and Siosifa Talakai into the fold. We followed the same formula which had proven successful for us two years ago after basing ourselves at the beachside community in Scarborough. We trained at the Hale School before shifting camp to Perth to put the finishing touches on our preparations. I was confident heading into the game based on the week we had and the players delivered. We were up 14-12 at half-time and gained further ascendancy in the second half after Maroons back-rower Felise Kaufusi was deservedly sin binned for a professional foul and we ran away to win the match 44-12. I was particularly pleased for our halfback Nathan Cleary, who finished the match with two tries, two try assists and eight goals. Nathan is subject to plenty of unfair criticism but is the best halfback in Rugby League and an integral part of the Blues' future.

The decider was to be played at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane which has never been an easy task for NSW. There have only been two NSW teams to have won a decider in enemy territory – in 1994 and 2005. We urged the players to create their own legacy as we headed to Kingscliff in far north NSW to prepare for the match. We had a few disruptions with the worst being the loss of prop Payne Haas to injury. We named Jordan McLean but he suffered a hamstring injury and was replaced by Jacob Saifiti. Jordan had worked hard to put himself in a position to make his debut for his state and it was shattering for us all to see him miss out on that opportunity. We knew the Maroons would be more determined, but we managed to overcome that and I thought we had played well to take a 12-6 lead late in the first half. Unfortunately, a few uncharacteristic errors proved costly and the Maroons were able to fight back. The match went down to the final minutes again with the Maroons only sealing victory after their hooker Ben Hunt scored a runaway try. It was a tough moment for all of us and I could see in the dressing room afterwards just how disappointed the players were. It will stand us in good stead for the 2023 series with Origin returning to Adelaide for the opening game.

I congratulate all the players and support staff who gave it their all this season and would also like to congratulate NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder and her team for winning the Women's Origin match, as well as our NSW Under 19s men's and women's teams who also tasted representative success. I have always been passionate about the game of Rugby League and the results show this season that it is in a strong position and will only get stronger in the state of NSW.



STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME ONE

The opening game of the Ampol State of Origin series saw the NSW Blues return home to Sydney for the first time in 574 days after all three matches of the 2020 series had to be played in Queensland because of the COVID pandemic.

NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler named seven players in his extended squad from 2021 NRL Premiers, Penrith Panthers, while James Tedesco captained the team for the second consecutive year, having officially taken on the role in 2020. The squad also included six players who were yet to debut for the Blues – Stephen Crichton, Nicho Hynes, Ryan Matterson, Jacob Saifiti, Joseph Suaalii and Kotoni Staggs. Crichton, Staggs and Matterson were all later named in the team for Game One. South Sydney fullback Latrell Mitchell and Manly Warringah Sea Eagles centre Tom Trbojevic, who had been an integral part of the 2021 series win, were both unavailable through injury.

The Blues based themselves at Coogee for the first part of camp before shifting to the NSWRL Centre of Excellence to put the finishing touches on their preparations. The camp also included a visit by the Blues to RuffTrack near Riverstone, with the players pledging to donate their jumpers from the opening game to the charity which assists disengaged youth. The Blues were desperate to retain the Shield they had won in convincing fashion in 2021 and the opening exchanges were physical with prop Payne Haas rolling over the top of Cameron Munster. Some slick backline play saw Jack Wighton drag Dane Gagai and Selwyn Cobbo over for the first try of the match. Nathan Cleary missed the conversion but the Blues had an early 4-0 lead.

It took Queensland 20 minutes to hit back through Gagai while NSW would rue a couple of missed opportunities to go ahead after a Daniel Tupou pass for James Tedesco was ruled forward, and a try to Junior Paulo was denied by the bunker for obstruction in the lead-up.

Queensland took a 6-4 lead into half-time and extended that margin after the break following tries to Daly Cherry-Evans and Valentine Holmes. The Blues cause wasn't helped with Staggs forced to leave the field with a shoulder injury.

Cameron Murray gave NSW fans some hope within the final 10 minutes when he charged on to a pass from Jarome Lui before stepping his way back infield and past Ponga to score while Cleary added the extras to set up a grandstand finish. The Blues had their opportunities, with Wighton making a promising line break at the end, but they were unable to convert them into points and Queensland hung on for a rare 16-10 win at Accor Stadium.

Tedesco turned in a traditional captain's knock after making 261 metres from 21 runs with a line break and eight tackle busts. The Blues wingers were also strong with Tupou running for 206 metres and Brian To'o for 205 metres. Prop Payne Haas was at his rampaging best with 143 running metres including 70 metres post-contact. Fittler said post-match the Blues had failed to take advantage of their scoring chances and they had failed to win control of the ruck.

The loss left the Blues with the challenge of becoming only the fourth NSW team since 1982 to come from a game down to win the Origin series. Fittler remained confident the Blues would be up for the challenge after they became the first NSW team in history to win two games in Queensland in 2021 to claim the series.

Queensland 16 (Dane Gagai, Daly Cherry-Evans, Valentine Holmes tries; Holmes 2 goals) **def NSW 10** (Jack Wighton, Cameron Murray tries; Nathan Cleary goal) at Accor Stadium, Sydney, on Wednesday 8 June.

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues: 1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Kotoni Staggs (Brisbane Broncos), 4. Jack Wighton (Canberra Raiders), 5. Daniel Tupou (Sydney Roosters), 6. Jarome Lui (Penrith Panthers), 7. Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers), 8. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 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. Stephen Crichton (Penrith Panthers), 15. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 16. Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Parramatta Eels), 17. Ryan Matterson (Parramatta Eels), 18. Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 19. Tyson Frizell (Newcastle Knights), 20. Jacob Saifiti (Newcastle Knights), 21. Joseph Suaalii (Sydney Roosters), 22. Apisai Koroisau (Penrith Panthers). Coach: Brad Fittler.



STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME TWO

The Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues returned to Perth for Game Two of the Ampol State of Origin series. The state had already proven itself to be a happy hunting ground for the Blues after they scored an emphatic 38-6 win at Optus Stadium to level the series in 2019 and they needed to repeat the dose to keep their hopes alive again in 2022.

Coach Brad Fittler made seven changes to the team that lost Game One in Sydney with Matt Burton, Angus Crichton, Clint Gutherson, Jordan McLean, Victor Radley, Siosifa Talakai and Jake Trbojevic being added to the squad. The squad also included six players who were yet to make their debut for the Blues including Burton, McLean, Radley, Talakai, Nicho Hynes and Joseph Suaali'i.

The Blues headed to Scarborough, a beachside community in Perth, which had proved to be such a successful base for the 2019 series. The squad trained at the ground at Hale School for the first stage of camp before switching to the city to put the finishing touches on their preparations which included a Captain's Run at Optus Stadium on the day before the game.

There was little separating the sides for the opening 40 minutes. The Blues took an early 2-0 lead through a penalty goal to Nathan Cleary before Queensland hit back with a try to Felise Kaufusi. Cleary then stepped up again when he put a grubber kick through for former Penrith teammate Burton to pick up on the bounce and score a try on debut.

Queensland re-took the lead after Cameron Munster finished off a long-range move, but things got tough for the Maroons after that when Kaufusi was sent to the sin bin for repeated infringements. NSW capitalised on the advantage just before half-time with winger Brian To'o scoring out wide to help the Blues to a 14-12 lead.

The floodgates opened after the break with the Blues scoring five unanswered tries to run away with the match. Cleary started the onslaught after floating a long cut-out pass for Daniel Tupou to score in the corner before five-eighth Jarome Luai skipped through the Maroons defence to help extend the lead to 26-12. Cleary then stepped his way back infield to score next to the posts, before dummieing his way past the goal-line defence to grab his second try for the match. The second-half rout was completed when Stephen Crichton put Angus Crichton into a yawning gap for the final try.

Cleary, who had been critical of his performance after the Game One loss, was deservedly named Player of the Match. He finished the night with two tries, two try assists, two line breaks, a line break assist, three tackle breaks, 446 kicking metres and eight goals from as many attempts. The result locked the series up and left the Blues needing to win the decider in Brisbane to retain the Origin Shield. Fittler was well aware of the challenge facing the team but the Blues had managed to secure the Shield in 2021 after scoring an emphatic 26-0 win at Suncorp Stadium to hold Queensland scoreless at their home ground for the first time in Origin history.

NSW 44 (Nathan Cleary 2, Matt Burton, Brian To'o, Daniel Tupou, Jarome Luai, Angus Crichton tries; Cleary 8 goals) **def Queensland 12** (Felise Kaufusi, Cameron Munster tries; Valentine Holmes 2 goals) at Optus Stadium, Perth, on Sunday 26 June.

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues: 1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 4. Stephen Crichton (Penrith Panthers), 5. Daniel Tupou (Sydney Roosters), 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers), 8. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 9. Apisai Koroisau (Penrith Panthers), 10. Jake Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 11. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 12. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 13. Isiah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 14. Damien Cook (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 15. Angus Crichton (Sydney Roosters), 16. Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels), 17. Siosifa Talakai (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 18. Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 19. Joseph Suaali'i (Sydney Roosters), 20. Jordan McLean (North Queensland Bulldogs), 21. Clint Gutherson (Parramatta Eels), 22. Victor Radley (Sydney Roosters). Coach: Brad Fittler.



STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME THREE

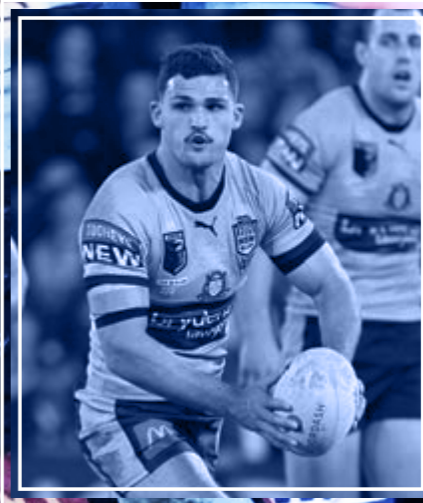
The NSW Blues were aiming to become only the third NSW team in State of Origin history to win a decider at Suncorp Stadium. The rare feat was first achieved in 1994 – with coach Brad Fittler scoring a try in the 27-12 victory – and then again in 2005 on the back of a dominant performance from True Blue and Rugby League Immortal Andrew Johns.

Fittler largely retained the same starting side which beat Queensland at Optus Stadium in Perth to level the series. North Queensland prop Jordan McLean, who was part of the extended NSW squad for Game Two, replaced Payne Haas who was ruled out through injury. Canberra Raiders five-eighth Jack Wighton, who played in Game One in Sydney but missed Game Two with COVID-19, was named as 18th man while the extended bench included Clint Gutherson, Nicho Hynes, Jacob Saifiti, and Reece Robson. Hynes, Saifiti and Robson were yet to make their debuts for NSW. The squad based themselves in Kingscliff on NSW's far north coast which had proved a successful formula for Fittler in winning Game Two of the 2021 series at Suncorp Stadium. There were some early hiccups with Hynes ruled out of contention after contracting COVID-19 while McLean was forced to withdraw after injuring his hamstring at training. Saifiti was promoted to the starting side, with Dale Finucane and Chad Townsend joining the extended squad. The Blues relocated to Brisbane two days before the decider to complete their preparations. The early exchanges were typically brutal with three players, including NSW back-rower Cameron Murray, ruled out for the match after failing head injury assessments. The Maroons scored first before the Blues hit back after Jarome Luai pounced on a grubber kick from Nathan Cleary in the in-goal area. NSW extended their lead after Api Koroisau scooted out of dummy-half and picked up a rampaging Saifiti to bust through the goal-line defence and score next to the posts to take a 12-6 lead. A Blues mistake before the break proved costly with Kurt Capewell scoring to reduce the deficit to 12-10.

The second half started in fiery fashion after NSW centre Matt Burton and Queensland's Dane Gagai were both sent to the sin bin for fighting. Once both players returned to the field, the Maroons took the lead after a 40/20 kick and a Blues error paved the way for Kalyn Ponga to score with 20 minutes to go. The Maroons closed out the match after Cleary attempted a chip kick with two minutes to go only for Ben Hunt to grab the ball and race 70 metres upfield to score. Fittler did not make excuses after the 22-12 loss and said the Blues had made basic errors which had come back to hurt them. He also praised the performance of the Maroons and said the result confirmed how difficult it was for a NSW team to win a decider in Brisbane.

Queensland 22 (Valentine Holmes, Kurt Capewell, Kalyn Ponga, Ben Hunt tries; Holmes 3 goals) **def NSW 12** (Jarome Luai, Jacob Saifiti tries; Nathan Cleary 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, on Wednesday 13 July.

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues: 1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 4. Stephen Crichton (Penrith Panthers), 5. Daniel Tupou (Sydney Roosters), 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers), 8. Jordan McLean (North Queensland Cowboys), 9. Apisai Koroisau (Penrith Panthers), 10. Jake Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 11. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 12. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 13. Isiah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 14. Damien Cook (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 15. Angus Crichton (Sydney Roosters), 16. Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels), 17. Siosifa Talakai (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 18. Jack Wighton (Canberra Raiders), 19. Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 20. Clint Gutherson (Parramatta Eels), 21. Jacob Saifiti (Newcastle Knights), 22. Reece Robson (North Queensland Cowboys), 23. Chad Townsend (North Queensland Cowboys), 24. Dale Finucane (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks). Coach: Brad Fittler.



WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

The Women's State of Origin match was held for the first time in Canberra with the NSW Sky Blues determined to wrestle back the Shield from Queensland who had held it for the past two years. Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder ensured the squad would adapt to the icy conditions in the nation's capital after holding evening training sessions at Ignite HQ Centre of Excellence in the lead-up. She selected an initial squad, but still considered the performances of players from the Country and City women's representative match before finalising her team.

Hilder named four debutants for the match at GIO Stadium including St George Illawarra Dragons duo Emma Tonegato and Rachael Pearson, Sydney Roosters back-rower Olivia Kernick and Newcastle Knights prop Caitlan Johnston. Kezie Apps was named captain, Kirra Dibb, Sam Bremner and Shaylee Bent were included to make their returns to the representative arena, while there were 11 players from the team which had lost narrowly to the Maroons in 2021.

The Sky Blues spent the first part of camp at Sydney Olympic Park where they trained at Ignite HQ Centre of Excellence before shifting camp to Canberra. Their preparation included an opposed session against Canberra's Jersey Flegg team, while Raiders NRL coach Ricky Stuart came into camp on the eve of the game for the jersey presentation.

The Sky Blues signalled their intentions from kick-off with some tenacious defence, but Queensland still found a way to score early to take a 4-0 lead. NSW hit back after Keeley Davis put a grubber kick through that sat up nicely for Tonegato to grab and plant down just before the dead ball line. Halfback Rachael Pearson landed the conversion for a 6-4 lead.

The Sky Blues extended that margin when Dibb came up with the play of the first half after she found space between two defenders before stepping her way past the fullback to score. Pearson had no trouble with the conversion to make it 12-4. The Maroons reduced the deficit after Tarryn Aiken proved too elusive for the defence, but the Blues went into the half-time break in front after Pearson landed a penalty goal to make it 14-10.

Another penalty goal to Pearson when play resumed extended the lead before the Maroons scored through Evania Pelite to close the gap to 16-14 and set up a grandstand finish. The Sky Blues were denied a try to Tiana Penitani after it was ruled there had been a forward pass in the lead-up, while Queensland also missed an opportunity through Shenae Ciesiolka after players were ruled to be offside from a kick. The Sky Blues finally sealed the result when Isabelle Kelly palmed off the Queensland goal-line defence to score a well-deserved try.

Kelly was named a deserved Player of the Match after a powerhouse performance which included a try, 17 runs for 181 metres, including 79 post-contact, a line break and 10 tackle busts. She was supported by fellow centre Jess Sergis (119 metres), props Simaima Taufua (144 metres) and Mille Boyle (111 metres), Tonegato (163 metres and a try), while Johnston proved to be a handful off the bench (99 metres, two line breaks and three tackle busts).

It was the first Origin win for Hilder as a coach, who made history after having an all-female coaching staff that included Ruan Sims and Kate Mullaly. True Blue Jamie Soward had also been an assistant in the lead-up, but contracted COVID when the squad went into camp and was unable to attend the match.

NSW Sky Blues 20 (Emma Tonegato, Kirra Dibb, Isabelle Kelly tries; Rachael Pearson 4 goals) **def Queensland 14** (Destiny Brill, Tarryn Aiken, Evania Pelite tries; Ali Brigginsshaw goal) at GIO Stadium, Canberra, on Friday 24 June.

Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues: 1. Emma Tonegato (St George Illawarra Dragons), 2. Yasmin Clydsdale (Sydney Roosters), 3. Jessica Sergis (Sydney Roosters), 4. Isabelle Kelly (Sydney Roosters), 5. Tiana Penitani (Parramatta Eels), 6. Kirra Dibb (Newcastle Knights), 7. Rachael Pearson (St George Illawarra Dragons), 8. Simaima Taufua (Parramatta Eels), 9. Keeley Davis (St George Illawarra Dragons), 10. Millie Boyle (Newcastle Knights), 11. Kezie Apps (c) (St George Illawarra Dragons), 12. Shaylee Bent (St George Illawarra Dragons), 13. Hannah Southwell (Newcastle Knights), 14. Quincy Dodd (St George Illawarra Dragons), 15. Sarah Togatuki (Sydney Roosters), 16. Caitlan Johnston (Newcastle Knights), 17. Olivia Kernick (Sydney Roosters), 18. Sam Bremner (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks)*, 19. Teagan Berry (St George Illawarra Dragons), 20. Filomina Hanisi (Parramatta Eels), 21. Talei Holmes (St George Illawarra Dragons), 22. Corban Baxter (Sydney Roosters). Coach: Kylie Hilder.

*Denotes Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership team.



UNDER 19s MEN'S ORIGIN

A State of Origin Under 19s match made its debut in the NSWRL calendar in 2022 and was the first time a men's pathways game had been played in three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Under 19s concept replaced the Under 21s and Under 18s which were both last played in 2019.

The Under 19s team was coached by True Blue Andrew Ryan, who represented NSW on 12 occasions (2001, 2004-07) and had been part of the back-to-back series wins in 2004-05. He assembled a strong coaching staff with True Blues Mark O'Meley, Shaun Timmins and Brett Morris assisting.

The team included Canberra's Trey Mooney, who boasted NRL experience, while Wests Tigers' Justin Matamua, Newcastle's Oryn Keeley and Penrith's Jack Cole would go on to make their NRL debuts before the end of the season.

The squad based themselves at Sydney Olympic Park and trained at Ignite HQ Centre of Excellence. The match was played at Leichhardt Oval and was broadcast on the Nine Network and Fox League on FOX Sports.

The NSW defence was put under pressure from the outset with Mooney coming up with a great tackle to save a certain try. Queensland maintained their momentum with halfback Thomas Duffy putting a kick through for winger Jacob Mene to score for a 4-0 lead before NSW took control of the opening half. Centre Brad Morkos got the ball rolling with a nice catch and pass for winger Utuloa Asomua to step back past the goal-line defence and score. Five-eighth Thomas Weaver landed the conversion for a 6-4 lead. Halfback Jonah Pezet then stepped up after throwing a cut-out pass for centre Paul Alamoti to grab a try, before putting a clever kick over the top for winger Jack Bostock to score in the corner. Weaver added both conversions to put NSW in control at 18-4.

Pezet completed the first half rout when he placed a grubber kick into the in-goal area which shaved the post and slowed up just enough for Weaver to grab and plant down before sliding over the dead ball line. He converted his own try to have NSW up 24-4 at the break. It was an almost flawless first-half performance from NSW who had 52 per cent possession, completed 19 of 20 sets and ran 805 metres compared to 665 for Queensland.

The second half got off to a tough start for both sides after NSW's Jacob Webster and Queensland's Benjamin Te Kura clashed heads and were ruled out for the rest of the match after failing concussion tests. Queensland had their chances to score but the NSW defence held firm each time. Weaver then extended the lead for the home team with a penalty goal to make it 26-4.

Pezet then capped a memorable night when he threw a pass over the top for Asomua to grab his second try of the night. Weaver's conversion attempt went in off the upright to make it 32-4 and complete a successful return for the NSW pathways team. Pezet was named Player of the Match after a dominant performance which included four try assists.

NSW 32 (Utuloa Asomua 2, Paul Alamoti, Jack Bostock, Thomas Weaver tries; Weaver 6 goals) **def Queensland 4** (Jacob Mene try) at Leichhardt Oval on Thursday 23 June.

NSW Under 19s: 1. Terrell Kalo Kalo (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 2. Utuloa Asomua (Canberra Raiders), 3. Paul Alamoti (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 4. Brad Morkos (Canberra Raiders), 5. Jack Bostock (Illawarra Steelers), 6. Thomas Weaver (Tweed Seagulls), 7. Jonah Pezet (Melbourne Storm), 8. Max Bradbury (Newcastle Knights), 9. Tyler Moriarty (Sydney Roosters), 10. Justin Matamua (Wests Tigers), 11. Oryn Keeley (Newcastle Knights), 12. Brandon Tumeth (Wests Tigers), 13. Trey Mooney (Canberra Raiders), 14. Jack Cole (Penrith Panthers), 15. Toby Couchman (Illawarra Steelers), 16. Larry Muagututia (Parramatta Eels), 17. Jacob Webster (Illawarra Steelers), 18. Charlie Thompson (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles). Coach: Andrew Ryan.



UNDER 19s WOMEN'S ORIGIN

The Harvey Norman NSW Under 19s women's team maintained their dominance after winning the interstate clash against Queensland for the third time. The match was first played in 2019 and the Under 19s team has not been beaten since (the match was not played in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic).

The squad was coached by Blake Cavallaro, who earlier in the season had steered the Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy to a win in the Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup. Cavallaro named NRLW player Chantel Tugaga, who alongside Rueben Cherrington, Tayla Montgomery, Andie Robinson and Casey Tohi-Hiki, had been part of the NSW team which beat Queensland in 2021.

The squad went into camp at Sydney Olympic Park and trained at Ignite HQ Centre of Excellence. The match was played at Leichhardt Oval and was broadcast on the Nine Network and Fox League on FOX Sports.

NSW started strongly with five-eighth Losana Lutu proving a handful for the defence. The first try had her fingerprints all over it after she combined with Jada Taylor to put Andie Robinson over the line for a 4-0 lead.

Queensland hit back after five-eighth Jada Ferguson started and finished a long-range break to take a 6-4 lead but that would be the only time they led the match. Fullback Jada Taylor started the NSW comeback when she caught the Queensland defence off guard from dummy-half and barged her way through two defenders before wheeling around to plant the ball down. NSW hooker Rueben Cherrington missed the conversion, but NSW had their noses back in front at 8-6.

Queensland had their chances to re-take the lead before half-time but the NSW defence held firm to deny them. The pressure continued in the opening exchanges of the second half before a huge run from Petesa Lio got NSW out of trouble and on the front foot. Shortly afterwards, Lutu shaped to go one way before stepping back the other to put Robinson through a gap for her second try of the game. Taylor then produced a massive run to take the pressure off NSW and put them again on the attack before the ball was shifted wide for Robinson to dive over the line for her hat-trick. Taylor then came up with the highlight of the night after defusing a grubber kick in her in-goal area, evading the defence to make it back into the field of play, and then pinning her ears back and setting sail up field to put the exclamation mark on a memorable victory. She was later named a deserved Player of the Match after

coming up with two tries, a try assist and three line breaks. Robinson was also strong after grabbing a hat-trick, Lutu was constantly scheming while Pio produced a couple of telling runs.

NSW 22 (Andie Robinson 3, Jada Taylor 2 tries; Rueben Cherrington goal) **def Queensland 6** (Jada Ferguson try; Chantay Kiria-Ratu goal) at Leichhardt Oval on Thursday 23 June.

NSW Under 19s Women's: 1. Jada Taylor (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 2. Petesa Lio (Parramatta Eels), 3. Andie Robinson (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 4. Mia Middleton (Newcastle Knights), 5. Cassey Tohi-Hiku (St George Dragons), 6. Losana Lutu (Wests Tigers), 7. Tayla Montgomery (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 8. Monalisa Soliola (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 9. Rueben Cherrington (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 10. Ruby-Jean Kennard (Parramatta Eels), 11. Leilani Wilson (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 12. Chantel Tugaga (St George Dragons), 13. Iesha Duckett (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 14. Anneka Wilson (Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters), 15. Tiana Kore (Illawarra Steelers), 16. Tahleisha Maeva (Parramatta Eels), 17. Jules Kirkpatrick (Newcastle Knights), 18. Rosemarie Beckett (Parramatta Eels). Coach: Blake Cavallaro.



COUNTRY V CITY

The Country v City representative weekend saw matches staged across three venues on 14-15 May. The weekend kicked off at 4 Pines Park, Brookvale on Saturday 14 May with matches played for Under 16s, Under 18s and Women's Open Age, with a Wheelchair Rugby League match played at Niagra Park on the Central Coast. The focus then shifted to Leichhardt Oval on Sunday 15 May with games being held for Men's Open Age, Physical Disability, and exhibition games for men's and women's police.

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 from the SLE Laurie Daley Cup and the City team the UNE SG Ball Cup.

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; while the Women's NSW Country and City teams were from the Women's Country Championships and the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership.

City dominated the pathways games after recording convincing wins before Country fought back to take out the matches for Wheelchair Rugby League, Physical Disability Rugby League, and Women's and Men's Open Age. The Women's Open Age match played a role in selection for the Women's State of Origin match with Country's Kirra Dibb, Olivia Kernick and Caitlan Johnston all going on to represent the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues, while Sam Bremner was part of the extended squad.

The Country v City concept has a proud tradition in NSW with the match first played under residency rules in 1911. It featured the best players from the NSWRL Premiership against the best players from regional NSW. The fixture was based on residency from 1928-1986 before changing to Origin selection rules from 1987-2017 when it acted as a selection trial for the NSW Blues. The concept was then shelved until 2021 where it returned to residency selection rules.

Country v City Under 16s

City 36 (Toby Rodwell 2, Lachlan Dooner, Mitchell Woods, Finau Latu, Jordan Uta, Luke Laullilli tries; Dooner 4 goals) **def Country 12** (Harry Hudson, Archie Duncombe tries; Lewis Sargent-Wilson 2 goals) at 4 Pines Park on Saturday 14 May.

Country v City Under 18s

City 42 (Ethan Sanders 2, Lajuan Vito, Charlie Guymer, Ethan Strange, Joshua Feledy, Jordi Mazzone tries; Ethan Ferguson 7 goals) **def Country 18** (Wesley Pring, Kyan Hjaltason, Oscar Holt tries; Shane Davis-Caldwell 3 goals) at 4 Pines Park on Saturday 14 May.

Country v City Women's Open Age

Country 14 (Vanessa Foliaki, Caitlan Johnston tries; Melanie Howard 2, Kirra Dibb goals) **def City 6** (Andie Robinson try; Maddie Studdon goal) at 4 Pines Park on Saturday 14 May.

Country v City Men's Open Age

Country 36 (Dillon Rota 2, Donte Efaraimo 2, Oliver Regan, Mitchell Andrews, Jake Brisbane tries; Blair Grant 4 goals) **def City 34** (Steven Tavita, Clayton Faulolo, Edward Aiono, Eparama Navale, Raymond Lesoa, Eli Roberts tries; Brad Keighran 5 goals) at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday 15 May.

Country v City Wheelchair Rugby League

City 30 (William Derederenalagi 2, Jessi Mowczan, Craig Cannane, Liam Luff tries; Craig Cannane 5 goals) **def Country 26** (Rick Engles 2, Zac Carl, Toby Popple tries; Brett Henman 5 goals) at Niagra Park Stadium on Saturday 14 May.

Country v City Physical Disability Rugby League

Country 10 (Siang Beh 2 tries; Ben Taprell conversion) **def City 4** (Rylee Low try) at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday 15 May.





2

NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS



THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup was able to complete its first full season since 2019 with the past two editions of the state's premier competition disrupted by the COVID pandemic. The importance of the NSW Cup was again reflected by the fact that 46 players from across the 12 clubs who took part in the competition went on to play NRL in the same season. The NSW Cup featured 12 teams including Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles, Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Mounties, Newcastle Knights, Newtown Jets, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Illawarra Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs and Western Suburbs Magpies. It was the first time the Bulldogs had returned to the NSW Cup since 2019. The competition was played over 24 rounds with the finals reverting to a traditional format of a top five over four weeks. Some of the players who graduated to the NRL included Manly Warringah Sea Eagles centre Toluatau Koula, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs winger Jacob Kiraz, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks duo Kade Dykes and Lachlan Miller, Canberra Raiders hooker Zac Woolford, Penrith Panthers Soni Luke and Jack Cole, Sydney Roosters prop Terrell May and South Sydney Rabbitohs centre Isaiah Tass.

There were 24 games of the regular season televised on pay-TV network Fox League on FOX Sports, while free-to-air broadcaster Channel Nine televised a Qualifying Final and Preliminary Final game. The Jets started the season in strong fashion after winning their opening five games, with former Olympian and Australian Rugby 7s player Lachlan Miller having an impact alongside Kayal Iro, and Warriors-bound Luke Metcalf. The Panthers were also impressive and had plenty of players with NRL experience to call on throughout the season including Sean O'Sullivan, Charlie Staines, Sunia Turuva, Kurt Falls and Soni Luke. The Bears and the Bulldogs also turned in strong seasons and were within striking distance when the finals arrived.

The Jets and the Panthers traded positions at the top of the table from Round Seven onwards with the Minor Premiership coming down to the final round of the regular season. The Panthers had the bye and were relying on the Bulldogs beating the Jets to secure top spot on the table. The match went down to the wire with Jets fullback Mawene Hiroti landing a penalty goal in the 80th minute to secure a draw and the club's first Minor Premiership in the NSW Cup since 1949.

The Panthers were the first team to book their spot in the Grand Final after two hard-fought wins over the Bears and the Jets. Their performance reflected the depth at the club after most of their regular NSW Cup players had been selected to play in a NRL match against North Queensland with most of the NRL team being rested. The Bulldogs went on a fairy tale run throughout the finals after winning sudden death games against the Eels, the Bears and the Jets to secure their spot in the decider.

The Grand Final at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 25 September lived up to expectations with the two sides trading tries before the Panthers began to assert their authority to take a 17-6 lead into the break. The Bulldogs fought back twice to reduce the margin to 17-16, and then 23-22 with just over 10 minutes to go. The Panthers sealed the result five minutes from full-time with a converted try to Turuva to hand the club its first NSW Cup premiership since 2017. The team was joined on the field by members of the NRL and Jersey Flegg Cup teams to celebrate the moment.

Newtown Jets centre Kayal Iro was named The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Player of the Year at the Brad Fittler Medal after a strong season where he topped the competition for post-contact metres (1599), scored 12 tries, made 14 line breaks and had 97 tackle busts. Penrith halfback Kurt Falls was the leading point scorer (164), North Sydney winger Tom Carr the top try scorer (22) South Sydney halfback Dean Hawkins had the most try assists (28) while Bears hooker Ben Marschke topped the tackle count (804).

Penrith Panthers 29 (Sunia Turuva 2, Kurt Falls, Jack Cole, Soni Luke tries; Falls 4 goals; Sean O'Sullivan field goal)
def Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 22 (Jayden Okunbor 2, Declan Casey, Jackson Topine tries; Brandon Wakeham 3 goals) at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 25 September.

Standings: Newtown Jets 38, Penrith Panthers 37, North Sydney Bears 33, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 33, Parramatta Eels 30, Canberra Raiders 29, South Sydney Rabbitohs 27, St George Illawarra Dragons 24, Mounties, 20, Newcastle Knights 18, Western Suburbs Magpies 15, Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles 8.



HARVEY NORMAN NSW WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

The Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership entered its sixth season in 2011 and featured nine teams including the North Sydney Bears, Mounties, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Wests Tigers, Newcastle Knights, Central Coast Roosters, St Marys Saints, South Sydney Rabbitohs and Wentworthville Magpies. The competition was played over nine rounds with the top four teams going on to contest the finals. The North Sydney Bears dominated the regular season after remaining unbeaten. Lock Kirra Dibb played a crucial role and had willing support from Nita Maynard, Raecene McGregor and Luisa Yaranamua, who was playing her first full season in the competition from the Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup. Mounties were just behind the Bears, with NSW Sky Blues Simaima Taufa and Keeley Davis leading the way, while the Sharks and the Tigers rounded out the top four. The Tigers, who boasted NSW Sky Blues captain Kezie Apps and centre Jessica Sergis in their line-up, needed to beat Newcastle Knights in the final round to book their spot in the finals.

The Sharks proved too strong for Mounties in their Semi-final win, with NSW Sky Blues representative Quincy Dodd and Tiana Penitani, and former NSW Sky Blues Sam Bremner and Maddie Studdon leading the way. The Tigers upset the Bears in the other Semi-final after racing to a big lead early in the second half which the Minor Premiers could never claw back. The Grand Final was played at Campbelltown Stadium on Saturday 16 July and lived up to the billing of a decider. The two sides traded tries throughout the match with the lead never more than six points for either team. The match headed into 10 minutes of extra time after the teams were locked up at 14-all at full-time. Bremner looked like she had secured the result for the Sharks when she scored underneath the posts to help set up a 20-14 lead before the Tigers scored again through Keele Browne to reduce the deficit to 20-18. Emily Curtain stepped up and landed a clutch conversion from the sideline to level the scores again and send the match into golden point. Curtain proved to be the hero again after landing a field goal to secure a 21-20 win and spark scenes of celebration.

Although her team missed out on playing in the Grand Final, there was a consolation prize for Dibb after she was named Harvey Norman NSW Women's Player of the Year.

Wests Tigers 21 (Keele Browne 2, Jessica Sergis, Josephine Lenaz tries; Emily Curtain 2 goals; Curtain field goal) **def Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 20** (Tiana Penitani, Talei Holmes, Zali Fay, Sam Bremner tries; Maddie Studdon 2 goals) at Campbelltown Stadium on Saturday 16 July.

Standings: North Sydney Bears 16, Mounties 14, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 12, Wests Tigers 12, Newcastle Knights 11, Central Coast Roosters 10, St Marys Saints 7, South Sydney Rabbitohs 6, Wentworthville Magpies 2.



JERSEY FLEGG CUP

The Jersey Flegg Cup for Under 21s expanded to 12 teams in 2023 with the Newcastle Knights and Canberra Raiders joining the competition. The full list of teams included the Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, the Knights, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Illawarra Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Victoria Thunderbolts and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over 24 rounds followed by a top five finals series.

The Roosters finished 2023 as Minor Premiers on the back of a nine-game winning streak midway through the season. Fijian winger Vuate Karawalevu continued his development after playing for the Kaiviti Silktails in the Ron Massey Cup in 2021 before joining the Roosters' Jersey Flegg Cup team. The Roosters' form tapered heading into the finals and they were knocked out in consecutive weeks.

The Knights were just behind the Roosters in second position with back-rower Oryn Keeley turning in a strong season which included his selection in the NSW Under 19s team. The Panthers finished in third position with a team that included prop Mavrik Geyer, the son of True Blue Mark Geyer, and halfback Isaiya Katoa, who was playing his final season with the club before linking with new NRL franchise Redcliffe Dolphins in 2023. The top five was rounded out by St George Illawarra Dragons and Wests Tigers.

The Knights were the first team to book their spot in the Grand Final after a narrow 24-22 win over the Roosters in the Major Semi-final. They faced the Panthers in the decider who secured their position after a 27-22 win over the Roosters in the Preliminary Final. The match included a rare ruling which saw the Panthers awarded a three-point penalty after Katoa landed a field goal and was then awarded a penalty for a late tackle by the Roosters.

The Grand Final was played at CommBank Stadium on Sunday September 25 with the Panthers scoring first after winger Daeon Amituanai dived on a loose ball to score. The Knights hit back through a piece of brilliance from captain Thomas Cant who sold the defence a couple of dummies before scoring to level the scores up at 6-all for half-time.

Cant got involved again after making a break before finding fullback Fletcher Sharpe in support, and the Knights further increased their lead after five-eighth Kurt Donoghoe took on the defence to score. Trailing 18-6 with 10 minutes to go, the Panthers clawed one back after Geyer charged on to a ball to score next to the uprights. Samuel Lane then finished a movement off out wide with Hophepa Puru landing the conversion to lock the scores up at 18-all and send the match into golden point.

Panthers fullback Liam Ison put his side on the front foot with a telling run and with the momentum behind them, Katoa stepped up to land the field goal and give a the club a fitting parting gift. Panthers centre Jack Cole, who missed the Grand Final against the Knights after being called up to play in the decider of The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, was named Jersey Flegg Cup Player of the Year.

Penrith Panthers 19 (Daeon Amituanai, Mavrik Geyer, Samuel Lane tries; Niwhai Puru 3 goals; Isaiya Katoa field goal) **def Newcastle Knights 18** (Thomas Cant, Fletcher Sharpe, Kurt Donoghoe tries; Thomas Cant 3 goals) at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 25 September.

Standings: Sydney Roosters 36, Newcastle Knights 34, Penrith Panthers 30, St George Illawarra Dragons 30, Wests Tigers 30, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 29, Canberra Raiders 26, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 25, Parramatta Eels 24, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 22, Victoria Thunderbolts 16, South Sydney Rabbitohs 10.



RON MASSEY CUP

The Ron Massey Cup featured nine teams including Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles, Glebe Dirty Reds, Hills Bulls, Kaiviti Silktails, Mounties, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, St Marys Saints, Wentworthville Magpies and Western Suburbs Magpies. The competition was played over 16 rounds followed by a top five finals series.

Hills Bulls proved to be a dominant force after finishing the season as Minor Premiers. They lost only one game against St Marys in Round 11. They were six points clear of their nearest rival, St Marys, while winger Maile Li finished the season as top try scorer (13), while hooker Brad Keighran – the brother of Sydney Roosters NRL player Adam Keighran – was the leading point scorer (141).

The make-up of the top five went down to the final round of the season with Mounties and Fiji's Kaiviti Silktails up against each other for the final spot.

Mounties centre Jack Miller secured the spot for his team after scoring a try three minutes from full-time to level the scores at 26-all. The result saw Mounties finish on 19 points to clinch fifth position while the Silktails had fallen just short on 17 points. It was a gallant effort from the Silktails, who had spent another full season in Australia due to the COVID pandemic and whose football manager, Jacque Shannon, had passed away in June.

Glebe Dirty Reds won their opening finals match 28-18 against St Marys and backed that up with an upset 38-10 Major Semi-final win over the Hills Bulls to become the first team to book their place in the Grand Final. The Bulls recovered to down Wentworthville 22-12 in the Preliminary Final and secure their place in the decider. The two sides traded tries to start the Grand Final before the Bulls took charge at the back end of the first half to score twice for an 18-6 lead. The Dirty Reds pegged one back in the second half through Jonah Ngaronoa to cut the margin back to 18-12 but the Bulls muscled up in defence as they had done all season to hold them out and claim the title.

Bulls back-rower Jerry Key was named Player of the Match while Keighran was named later named Player of the Year. The Bulls had also been well represented in the City team which lost narrowly to Country in May, with six players chosen.

Hills Bulls 18 (Henry Raiwalui, Blake Goodman, Taniela Lasalo tries; Brad Keighran 3 goals) **def Glebe Dirty Reds 12** (Dylan O'Connor, Jonah Ngaronoa tries; Eli Levido 2 goals) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Sunday 4 September.

Standings: Hills Bulls 34, St Marys Saints 28, Glebe Dirty Reds 26, Wentworthville Magpies 22, Mounties 19, Kaiviti Silktails 17, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 13, Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles 12, Western Suburbs Magpies 9.



SYDNEY SHIELD

The Sydney Shield, which is the state's third-tier competition, featured seven teams including St Marys Saints, Hills Bulls, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, Sydney Roosters, Penrith Brothers, Moorebank Rams and Wentworthville Magpies. The competition was played over 19 rounds followed by a top five finals series.

St Marys dominated the competition after finishing the regular season as Minor Premiers. They were eight points clear of their nearest opponent, Hills Bulls, and lost only one game against Ryde-Eastwood Hawks in Round 14. They led the competition in attack (614 points) and defence (202), with centre Kaleb Farr finishing the season as top try scorer (28) and point scorer (150).

Hills Bulls, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks and Sydney Roosters rounded out the top four but the battle for fifth spot went down to the final round of the regular season. Brothers were sitting a point behind Moorebank and needed to beat the Hawks to secure their spot. They responded with a convincing 62-10 win to take some genuine momentum into the finals. Brothers continued their good form throughout the finals series after surviving three sudden death matches to make the Grand Final. They scored a try in the final minute of extra time to secure a 20-17 win over the Roosters in the Elimination Final; they proved too strong for Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 36-14 in the Minor Semi-final; and they scored a try within the final five minutes to upset Hills Bulls in the Preliminary Final.

St Marys started the Grand Final in blistering fashion after scoring four unanswered tries to surge to a 24-0 lead. Brothers finally clawed one back three minutes before half-time when back-rower Frank Toomalatai barged over from close range to reduce the deficit to 24-6. Any hopes of a further fightback evaporated shortly after play resumed when St Marys scored two tries through centre Mason Iaria to extend the lead to 34-6. Brothers would score a consolation try through back-rower Lufusi Tapaatoutai but St Marys finished the scoring with a penalty goal for a convincing 36-12 win.

Saints five-eighth Immanuel Tagaloamatua was named Player of the Match after scoring a try, setting up another and kicking five goals for a personal haul of 14 points. Toomalatai was later recognised for his efforts throughout the season after being named Sydney Shield Player of the Year.

St Marys Saints 36 (Mason Iaria 2, Quinn Ma'aelopa, Kaleb Farr, Adam Runchel, Immanuel Tagaloamatua tries; Tagaloamatua 6 goals) **def Penrith Brothers 12** (Dylan O'Connor, Lufusi Tapaatoutai tries; Jermaine Ma'u 2 goals) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Sunday 4 September.

Standings: St Marys Saints 36, Hills Bulls 28, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 24, Sydney Roosters 20, Penrith Brothers, 17, Moorebank Rams 16, Wentworthville United 13.



OTHER COMPETITIONS

Presidents Cup

The Presidents Cup made its return to the NSWRL calendar in 2022 after it was unable to be played in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. The Presidents Cup was formerly a junior representatives competition from 1910-2006, but returned as a statewide, third-tier, knockout competition in 2020. The competition was expanded to include the premiers from four competitions in 2022 – the Ron Massey Cup (Central Conference), Denton Engineering Cup (Northern Conference), Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup (Southern Conference) and Peter McDonald Premiership (Western Conference), with Semi-finals to be played followed by a Final.

The Pickers proved to be too strong for Forbes 52-6 in their Semi-final while Hills Bulls accounted for Collegians 26-16 in the other. The Grand Final was held at CommBank Stadium as part of the NSWRL Grand Final day on Sunday 25 September. Maitland surged to an early 12-0 lead before Tim Robinson scored for the Bulls to help reduce the deficit. From that point on, the Pickers took charge to race away to a 26-6 lead. The Bulls struggled after two players were sent to the sin bin in the second half, but they regrouped to grab a consolation try at the end. Maitland five-eighth Chad O'Donnell was named Player of the Match. It was the second time the Pickers had won the Presidents Cup after they beat Glebe-Burwood Wolves when the competition first returned in 2020.

Maitland Pickers 36 (Matthew Soper-Lawler, Perry Le Brocque, James Bradley, Brock Lamb, Daniel Langbridge tries; Brock Lamb 5, Chad O'Donnell 3 goals) **def Hills Bulls 12** (Timothy Robinson, Damon Smith tries; Brad Keighran 2 goals) at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 25 September.

Denton Engineering Cup

The Denton Engineering Cup featured 10 teams including Central Newcastle Butcher Boys, Cessnock Goannas, Kurri Kurri Bulldogs, Lakes United Seagulls, Macquarie Scorpions, Maitland Pickers, South Newcastle Lions, The Entrance Tigers, Western Suburbs Newcastle Rosellas and the Wyong Roos. The competition was played over 18 rounds followed by a top five finals series.

Maitland finished the season as Minor Premiers with the best attack (507 points) and best defence (203) of all teams. Former NRL player Brock Lamb played a key role in their success after finishing the season as the top point scorer with 215 points – 112 points clear of the next best player in Kerrod Holland from Macquarie Scorpions.

Maitland booked their spot in the Grand Final after a convincing 42-14 win over Macquarie in the Major Semi-final, before the Scorpions recovered to beat Cessnock 26-20 in the Preliminary Final and secure their place. Macquarie got off to a perfect start in the decider after scoring the opening try through Dean Morris but it was all one-way traffic after that with the Pickers scoring seven unanswered tries to run out convincing 40-4 winners.

Maitland Pickers 40 (Reid Alchin 2, Brock Lamb 2, Matthew Soper-Lawler, Alex Langbridge, Jayden Butterfield tries; Lamb 6 goals) **def Macquarie Scorpions 4** (Dean Morris try) at McDonald Jones Stadium on Sunday 11 September.

Standings: Maitland Pickers 31, Central Newcastle Butcher Boys 29, Macquarie Scorpions 22, Cessnock Goannas 22, South Newcastle Lions 22, Wyong Roos 16, The Entrance Tigers 15, Lakes United Seagulls 10, Western Suburbs Newcastle Rosellas 9, Kurri Kurri Bulldogs 4.

Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup

The Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup entered a new and exciting phase with the return of Helensburgh Tigers and the addition of Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks and De La Salle, which was made possible through the One State Strategic Plan after the St George and Cronulla districts connected with Illawarra and Group 7. There were eight teams including Collegians Collie Dogs, Corrimal Cougars, Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks, Dapto Canaries, De La Salle, Helensburgh Tigers, Thirroul Butchers and Western Suburbs Red Devils. The competition was played over 12 rounds followed by a top 4 finals series.

Thirroul finished as Minor Premiers but were knocked out of the finals in consecutive weeks after losses to Western Suburbs and Collegians. Collegians survived two sudden death finals to make the Grand Final against Western Suburbs. The decider was a hard-fought affair with Collegians rallying from a 10-0 half-time deficit to take a 12-10 lead. Western Suburbs attempted a two-point field goal to level the scores but fell short for Collegians to claim the premiership. Collies lock and captain Blake Phillips was named Player of the Match while departing coach and former NRL player Nathan Fien was given the perfect farewell.

Collegians Collie Dogs 12 (Ben Rumble, Clive Brett tries; Max Devlin 2 goals) **def Western Suburbs Red Devils 10** (Joey Dickson try; Mitch Porter 3 goals) at WIN Stadium on Sunday 4 September.

Standings: Thirroul Butchers 22, Western Suburbs Red Devils 18, Collegians Collie Dogs 18, De La Salle 16, Helensburgh Tigers 11, Dapto Canaries 5, Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks 4, Corrimal Cougars 2.



OTHER COMPETITIONS

Peter McDonald Premiership

The Peter McDonald Premiership was a new competition open to clubs from Group 10 and Group 11 in western NSW which included a conference system and crossover games. The competition ran for 14 rounds before a top eight finals system involving teams from each conference. The teams from Group 10 included Bathurst Panthers, Bathurst St Patricks, Cowra Magpies, Lithgow Workies Wolves, Mudgee Dragons, Orange CYMS and Orange Hawks, while the Group 11 teams included Dubbo CYMS, Dubbo Macquarie Raiders, Forbes Magpies, Nyngan Tigers, Parkes Spacemen and Wellington Cowboys.

The top four teams from Group 10 included Mudgee Dragons, Orange CYMS, Bathurst St Patricks and Bathurst Panthers while the top four teams from Group 11 included Dubbo CYMS, Forbes Magpies, Dubbo Macquarie Raiders and Parkes Spacemen. The Grand Final proved to be an all Group 11-affair after Forbes outlasted Orange CYMS, while Dubbo CYMS proved too strong for Mudgee. Dubbo were heavily favoured to win after a run of 15 consecutive wins but Forbes rode their underdog status all the way through to the decider to come away with a 28-16 win. It was the Magpies' third premiership in seven years after taking out titles in 2016 and 2018, while star fullback Mitch Andrews was named Player of the Match.

Forbes Magpies 28 (Jake Grace 2, Toby Hurford, Alvin Maungaati tries; Nicholas Greenhalgh 6 goals) **def Dubbo CYMS 16** (Ben Marlin, Bradley Pickering, Alex Bonham tries; Pickering 2 goals) at Apex Oval on Sunday 4 September.

Group 10 standings: Mudgee Dragons 28, Orange CYMS 24, Bathurst St Patricks 21, Bathurst Panthers 19, Orange Hawks 18, Lithgow Workies Wolves 8, Cowra Magpies 8.

Group 11 standings: Dubbo CYMS 30, Forbes Magpies 23, Dubbo Macquarie Raiders 22, Parkes Spacemen 18, Nyngan Tigers 9, Wellington Cowboys 6.

Men's Country Championships

The Men's Country Championships featured 10 teams including 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.

The competition was contested on a statewide basis and consisted of two rounds before two weeks of finals. The top four teams based purely on competition points and for an against progressed through to the Semi-finals before the Grand Final.

The Northern Rivers Titans and Illawarra South Coast Dragons faced off in the decider after going through the regular season undefeated. The Dragons were always in control of the match after establishing a 16-0 lead at half-time. They took advantage of Titans captain Joe Besgrove being sent to the sin bin in the second half to score two quick tries to extend the lead to 26-4 before the Titans scored two late tries to put some respectability back into the scoreline. Dragons halfback Blair Grant was named Player of the Match after scoring a try and setting up another.

Illawarra South Coast Dragons 26 (Hamish Holland, Callan Thistlethwaite, Jake Brisbane, Jake Kamire, Blair Grant tries; Grant 3 goals) **def Northern Rivers Titans 16** (Rhys Riches, Robert Shepherd, Kalani Hensby tries; Oliver Regan 2 goals) at St Marys Leagues Stadium on Sunday 3 April.

Women's Country Championships

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

Newcastle Maitland Region Knights and the Central Coast Roosters went through the season unbeaten to face off in the decider. The Roosters were well in control of the match after taking a 14-0 lead midway through the second half. The Knights scored with five minutes remaining to give themselves a glimmer of hope, but the Roosters defence had been strong all game and they held on for the win. Roosters fullback Shannon Rose was named Player of the Match after a strong performance which included a brilliant 80-metre try.

Central Coast Roosters 14 (Ella Buteux, Shannon Rose tries; Jessica Gentle 2, Courtney Jago goals) **def Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 6** (Ebony Ford try; Brooke Carter goal) at St Marys Leagues Stadium on Sunday 3 April.





3

NSWRL JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES



UNE SG BALL CUP

The UNE SG Ball Cup for Under 19s players involved 15 teams including Sydney Roosters, Newcastle Knights, Balmain Tigers, Penrith Panthers, Illawarra Steelers, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Canberra Raiders, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Parramatta Eels, Western Suburbs Magpies, North Sydney Bears, St George Dragons and Victoria Thunderbolts. The competition was played over eight rounds followed by a top six finals series.

The Roosters finished the season as Minor Premiers after going through undefeated. While they boasted the best defence of the competition only conceding 66 points, it was the second-placed Newcastle Knights who dominated the attacking statistics after scoring 266 points for the season. The make-up of the top six went down to the final round of the regular season with eight teams still in contention. Ultimately, the Bulldogs, the Sharks and the Sea Eagles finished on 11 competition points, but it was the Bulldogs who clinched sixth spot on a better for and against. The Sharks, who finished seventh, beat the Bulldogs 26-24 in the final round and could have leapfrogged them with one more converted try. The Sea Eagles, who finished in eighth position, also just missed out after losing to the third-placed Tigers.

The opening week of the finals saw the Roosters and the Knights earn a week off, while the Bulldogs upset the Tigers and the Panthers proved too strong for the Steelers. Penrith kept their momentum going into week two to score a comprehensive 25-6 win over the Knights, while the Roosters ended the fairy tale run of the Bulldogs.

The Grand Final between the Roosters and the Panthers was played at CommBank Stadium on Saturday 30 April. The Tricolours got off to a great start when winger Xavier Chatfield-Mooka, who had been strong for the club all season, touched down for the opening try of the match and a 4-0 lead.

The Roosters backed that up with an impressive long-range effort which saw centre Robert Toia put into a gap before turning a ball back inside for fullback Benjamin Dufficy to score. Dufficy converted his own try to extend the lead to 10-0. Halfback Cassius Tia put the Tricolours further in front after proving too elusive for the Panthers defence and they looked well in control after Benaiah Ioelu burrowed over from dummy-half to set up a 20-0 lead at half-time. It was a different Penrith outfit that emerged after the break with winger Jesse McLean barging over in the corner to start the long road back at 20-4.

Halfback Isaiya Katoa then held up a pass nicely for captain and lock Mason Teague to charge through a gap and score. Five-eighth Keagan Russell-Smith added the extras to reduce the deficit to 20-10.

Panthers centre Angelis Hotare-Papalii stretched out to score to have Penrith back within striking distance at 20-16 and he backed that effort up after popping a pass for McLean to grab his second try of the afternoon and lock the scores up at 20-all. Russell-Smith then stepped up and coolly landed the conversion from the sideline to snatch a 22-20 win and seal a remarkable comeback.

Katoa was named Player of the Match while Roosters captain Joshua Wong received a consolation prize after being awarded Player of the Series. Roosters hooker Tyler Moriarty was selected to play for the NSW Under 19s team against Queensland in June.

Penrith Panthers 22 (Jesse McLean 2, Mason Teague, Angelis Hotare-Papalii tries; Keagan Russell-Smith 3 goals) **def Sydney Roosters 20** (Xavier Chatfield-Mooka, Benjamin Dufficy, Cassius Tia, Benaiah Ioelu tries; Dufficy 2 goals) at CommBank Stadium on Saturday 30 April.

Standings: Sydney Roosters 16, Newcastle Knights 15, Balmain Tigers 14, Penrith Panthers 13, Illawarra Steelers 13, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 11, Cronulla Sutherland-Sharks 11, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 11, Canberra Raiders 9, South Sydney Rabbitohs 9, Parramatta Eels 8, Western Suburbs Magpies 8, North Sydney Bears 5, St George Dragons 5, Victoria Thunderbolts 2.



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HARVEY NORMAN TARSHA GALE CUP

The Tarsha Gale Cup for Under 19s women welcomed three new teams into the competition in 2022 in the North Sydney Bears, Penrith Panthers and South Sydney Rabbitohs. The full list of teams included the Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters, Newcastle Knights, the Bears, Parramatta Eels, the Panthers, St George Dragons, the Rabbitohs and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over eight rounds followed by a top six finals series.

Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters finished the season unbeaten as Minor Premiers. They had the best defence of the competition after conceding only 34 points all year. They also had the equal second-best attack of the competition with Parramatta Eels (194), with the Newcastle Knights the only team to break the 200-point barrier after scoring 208 points in 2022.

There was a clear top six by the end of the regular season with the Knights (3) just scraping past the Dragons (6) 22-20, and the Tigers (4) pipping the Steelers (5) 8-4 in the opening week of the finals. The Knights scored another narrow 16-14 win over the second-placed Eels to book their place in the decider, while the Roosters cemented their place with a 22-8 win to end the Tigers' season.

The Grand Final was played at CommBank Stadium on Saturday 30 April. The Roosters were keen to make amends after losing the decider the previous year to St George Dragons, while the Knights were just as motivated after finishing as Minor Premiers in 2021 only to bow out in their Semi-final.

The opening half was fiercely contested with end-to-end action and solid defence from both teams on their own line. It took 24 minutes before the deadlock was broken with Roosters fullback Jada Taylor putting through a grubber kick for winger Zoe Cass to step back infield and score underneath the posts. Hooker Ally Bullman converted to hand the Roosters a 6-0 lead at half-time.

A break from Newcastle forward Lexi Beagan in the second half put her team on the front foot which paved the way for Sophie Clancy to score a much-needed try from dummy-half. Clancy converted her own try to level the scores at 6-all. The Knights then capitalised on a Roosters mistake for winger Kasey Gaukroger to score in the corner. Clancy was unable to convert but the Knights were in front 10-6. The Roosters needed something special to spark them and Otesa Pule – who had scored doubles in

four games in 2022 – responded when she caught the marker defence napping before sprinting 50 metres to score underneath the posts. Bullman converted to put the Roosters in front 12-10 and they then muscled up in defence to keep the Knights at bay on their way to claiming the title. Pule was later named both Player of the Match and Player of the Series. There were five players from the Roosters and two from the Knights who went on to represent NSW in the Under 19s Origin team.

Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters 12 (Zoe Cass, Otesa Pule tries; Ally Bullman 2 goals) **def Newcastle Knights 10** (Sophie Clancy, Kasey Gaukroger tries; Clancy goal) at CommBank Stadium on Saturday 30 April.

Standings: Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters 17, Parramatta Eels 15, Newcastle Knights 14, Wests Tigers 13, Illawarra Steelers 12, St George Dragons 12, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 8, Penrith Panthers 8, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 7, Canberra Raiders 6, North Sydney Bears 5, South Sydney Rabbitohs 3.



SLE LAURIE DALEY CUP

The SLE Laurie Daley Cup for Under 18s 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. The competition was split into two different pools and was played over five rounds. The top two teams from each pool progressed to a finals series which was held over two weeks.

The North Coast Bulldogs finished the season as Minor Premiers, with the Central Coast Roosters, Illawarra South Coast Dragons and Macarthur Wests Tigers making up the top four. The Bulldogs secured their spot in the Grand Final after a 34-16 win over Tigers in the Semi-final. The Bulldogs were always in control of the match after establishing a 32-0 lead before a late rally from the Tigers. There was little separating the Dragons and the Roosters in the other Semi-final with the scores locked at 12-all at half-time. Dragons fullback Wesley Pring broke the deadlock with his second try of the day and the Red V kept the Roosters at bay to secure an 18-12 win. The Grand Final was played at St Marys Leagues Stadium on Sunday 3 April. There was little between the two sides for the opening 10 minutes before Dragons front rower Kane Graham crashed over the line with halfback Taj Ford adding the extras for a 6-0 lead. The Dragons struck again from the kick-off with hooker Kyal Hjaltason and Pring combining to help set up a 12-0 lead. The Bulldogs rallied with a try to halfback Mhalikai Mercy but the Dragons pushed the lead out again to 18-4 after Wil Paterson scored on the stroke of half-time.

The Bulldogs started the second half strongly after tries to Shane Davis-Caldwell, Jack Margett and Tyrese Dungay to set up a 20-18 lead. That seemed to spring the Dragons into life who scored four unanswered tries to take the match away from their opponents and secure the premiership. Ford finished the day with a personal haul of 18 points from two tries and five goals while Hjaltason was named Player of the Match after keeping his side on the front foot with his speed and footwork from dummy-half. The two teams dominated the Country Under 18s line-up for the representative fixture against City Under 18s in May with six Dragons and four Bulldogs making the squad.

Western Rams star Nick Murphy was presented with the Ron Nelson Medal for Player of the Year after steering the Rams to their first-ever win in the Laurie Daley Cup.

Illawarra South Coast Dragons 38 (Taj Ford 2, Kane Graham, Wil Patison, Kyle McCarthy, Jack Piccirilli, Zakariya Maarbani tries; Ford 5 goals) **def North Coast Bulldogs 20** (Mhalikai Mercy, Shane Davis-Caldwell, Jack Margetts, Tyrese Dungay tries; Davis-Caldwell 2 goals) at St Marys Leagues Stadium on Sunday 3 April.

Standings: North Coast Bulldogs 9, Central Coast Roosters 8, Illawarra South Coast Dragons 8, Macarthur Wests Tigers 8, Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 7, Western Rams 6, Northern Rivers Titans, Monaro Colts 2, Riverina Bulls 0, Northern Tigers 0.



UNE HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

The Harold Matthews Cup for Under 17s featured 15 teams including the 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, St George Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Sydney Roosters and Western Suburbs Magpies. The competition was played over eight rounds followed by a top six finals series. The Magpies finished the season as Minor Premiers after going through undefeated. They had the second-best attack (194 points) and defence (86) of the competition. The Roosters boasted the best attack (232) to finish second, followed by the Panthers, the Sharks - who had the best defence (70) - the Eels and the Raiders.

The Sharks scored a comprehensive 28-4 win over the Eels to progress to the second week of the finals, as did the Raiders after they upset the Panthers 24-18. The Sharks hung on for a hard-fought 14-12 win over the Roosters - it was only the Tricolours second loss for the season - to make the decider, while the Magpies secured their spot after scoring a try with only three minutes to go to down the Raiders 20-16. The Grand Final was played at CommBank Stadium on Saturday 30 April with the Magpies banking on their attack to test the defensive mettle of the Sharks. Both teams got off to a shaky start before the Magpies opened the scoring through a penalty goal to winger Tajh Colquhoun for a 2-0 lead. The Sharks took the lead after Magpies fullback Luke Lualilii spilled a bomb paving the way for winger Kurt Montgomery to pounce on the loose ball and race away untouched to score. Sharks captain and fullback Chevy Stewart landed the conversion for a 6-2 lead.

The try spurred the Magpies into action and they responded with a try to Colquhoun to level the scores at 6-all. Tries followed to Magpies skipper Kiti Lualilii and Nathaniel Gallagher to put the Minor Premiers well in control at 18-6 at half-time.

The situation got tougher for the Sharks in the second half after the Magpies extended their lead to 20-6 from an early penalty goal. The turning point of the match came shortly afterwards when Stewart was sent off for dissent. Colquhoun grabbed his second try to extend the lead to 24-6 before the Sharks pegged one back through Ashton Simmonds to keep their faint hopes alive at 24-10.

The Magpies responded with three converted tries within the space of 10 minutes to put the game out of the Sharks reach. Miller was named Player of the Match after a barnstorming performance up front while a decision was made not to award a Player of the Series.

Western Suburbs Magpies 42 (Tajh Colquhoun 3 tries, Nathaniel Gallagher 2, Kit Lualilii, Lachlan Galvin tries; Colquhoun 7 goals) **def Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 16** (Ashton Simmonds 2, Kurt Montgomery tries; Chevy Stewart, Bryce Sait goals) at CommBank Stadium on Saturday 30 April.

Standings: Western Suburbs Magpies 17, Sydney Roosters 15, Penrith Panthers 15, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 13, Parramatta Eels 13, Canberra Raiders 11, Balmain Tigers 9, Illawarra Steelers 8, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 8, St George Dragons 8, South Sydney Rabbitohs 8, Newcastle Knights 7, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 7, North Sydney Bears 6, Central Coast Roosters 5.



SLE ANDREW JOHNS CUP

The SLE Andrew Johns Cup for Under 16s 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. The competition was split into two different pools and was played over five rounds. The top two teams from each pool progressed to a finals series which was held over two weeks.

The Dragons finished on top of the table followed by the Northern Tigers, Macarthur Wests Tigers and the Titans. The Titans had endured a tough season due to the severe wet weather which had caused flooding in the region. They lost their playing gear after the team bus had to be abandoned and was later flooded, and finished the season using 'Future Titans' jerseys which had to be provided to them from the Gold Coast Titans NRL club.

The first Semi-final saw the Titans surge to a 14-0 lead before the Dragons rallied to lock the scores up at 16-all. With time running out, fullback Harry Chadburn crashed over for his second try of the afternoon to secure a 20-16 win to book their place in the decider. The other Semi-final saw Macarthur Wests Tigers take a 16-0 lead before the Northern Rivers Titans fought back to reduce the margin to 16-12. Macarthur scored through Amazon-Paul Pua'Avase to gain some breathing space at 22-12 before Northern Rivers scored again to make it 22-16. That set up a frantic final five minutes but Northern could not crack Macarthur's defence again and they hung on for the win.

The Grand Final was played at St Marys Leagues Stadium on Sunday 3 April. The Tigers started the match in blistering fashion after halfback Sonny Edwards-Moeke pushed his way past three defenders to score in the opening minutes. Fullback Noah McKenzie landed the conversion for a 6-0 lead. The Titans hit back after five-eighth Callum Bowles launched a cross-field kick with the bounce landing perfectly for centre Jackson Bennett to score and reduce the margin to 6-4.

Macarthur scored again through Levi McGuinness – the son of former Wests Tigers NRL player Kevin McGuinness – before the Titans capitalised on a Tigers handling error which paved the way for Chadburn to score to stay in touch at 10-8. The Titans then scored again through hooker Hudson Towell to take a 14-8 lead into the break.

Both sides dug in for the fight in the second half before the Titans gained some breathing space when back-rower Billy Kilduff touched down to extend the lead to 18-10. The Tigers hit back with tries to back-rower Byronn Laupepa and winger Riley Oitmann to re-take the lead at 22-18 with time fast running out. The Titans launched raid after raid with the final charge in the final minute paying off after Ricco Waititi made a break from 60 metres out before picking up halfback Zane Harrison in support. Bowles made no mistake with the conversion after the siren to secure a 24-22 win and spark scenes of jubilation amongst the players.

Harrison was later named Player of the Match and also claimed the Ron Lanesbury Medal for Player of the Year. There were three players from the Titans and five players from the Dragons selected to represent the Country Under 16s team against Under 16s City in May.

Northern Rivers Titans 24 (Jackson Bennett, Harry Chadburn, Hudson Towell, Billy Kilduff, Ricco Waititi tries; Callum Bowles 2 goals) **def Macarthur Wests Tigers 22** (Sonny Edwards-Moeke, Levi McGuinness, Byronn Laupepa, Riley Oitmann tries; Levi McGuinness 2, Noah McKenzie goals) at St Mary Leagues Stadium on Sunday 3 April.

Standings: Illawarra South Coast Dragons 8, Northern Rivers Titans 8, Macarthur Wests Tigers 6, Northern Rivers Titans 6, Central Coast Roosters 5, Monaro Colts 5, North Coast Bulldogs 5, Riverina Bulls 4, Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 3, Western Rams 0.





4

NSWRL COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

While the COVID-19 pandemic had far less of an impact in 2022 compared with the previous two seasons, the ongoing threat from drenching rains and floodwaters played havoc with competitions schedules and club facilities once again.

Despite Mother Nature's efforts, total participation in 2022 was almost 106,000. While this represented a slight drop on the 2021 registration figure (107,528), overall participation for females continued to climb (23,203). This was the second time in the game's history the 20,000-mark had been surpassed. The 2021 participation figure for women and girls was 22,810 meaning that since 2019 there has been a growth rate of nearly 24 per cent.

The results are testament to the work of our avid and dedicated volunteers, combined with the support of players, club officials, NSWRL and NRL Development staff.

In 2022, the Rugby League Ready Program was launched, teaching Under 6s boys and girls the footy fundamentals such as running, passing, stepping, tackling and scoring tries. The program started with tag but then progressed to tackle after June.

NSW Community Football Conference

The year wrapped up with a Community Football Conference attended by more than 110 administrators from NSWRL regional and metropolitan areas at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence, at Sydney Olympic Park.

Grassroots Support

After helping bushfire victims in the Taree-Kempsey areas in 2019, in March 2022 the NSWRL announced a Flood Relief Package worth more than \$600,000 to assist Rugby League communities across NSW, particularly in northern NSW, which were devastated by severe wet weather in February-March.

The package covered competitions in Group 1, which is held in the Northern Rivers Region, and Group 18, which is a Junior Rugby League competition held on the far north coast of NSW. A total of 30 clubs and 4700 players benefitted from the initiative which included replacing gear from jerseys and boots to tackle pads and goal posts.

Also in March, True Blues Boyd Cordner, Nathan Hindmarsh and Steve Menzies, former Wests Tigers premiership winner Pat Richards and former South Sydney backrower Ethan Lowe visited the Lismore area for a BBQ and the distribution of essential items.

This was followed in July with a visit by the NSW Blues who held an open training session and fundraising function, supported by NSWRL partners, as the team prepared for the final State of Origin game at Suncorp Stadium on Wednesday 13 July.

About 1,000 local teenagers from high schools and Junior Rugby League Clubs across northern NSW were invited, with the players literally giving the clothes off their back to fans, including captain James Tedesco giving away his training shirt and jacket, halfback Nathan Cleary his shorts, and hooker Damien Cook his training shirt and jacket.

Active Kids Vouchers

The NSW Government's Active Kids initiative continued to prove popular with families and Rugby League fans. Ruby League remains No.1 among both remote and Indigenous communities, and No.3 overall behind football (soccer) and swimming.

From 76,200 Active Kids vouchers redeemed for Rugby League in 2021, the figure jumped to 116,563 (between January and August) in 2022. That represented approximately \$10.8 million in value.

Festival of Football - Tuggerah

Tuggerah's Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreational Complex hosted the inaugural NSWRL Festival of Football which included a series of community and school showpiece events. The Katrina Fanning Cup Schoolgirls State Final, All Schools Boys State Finals, 13s to 15s Northern Corridor Development cluster and Lisa Fiaola Carnival brought 5000 people to Regional NSW, with four events over seven days in September. Flooding and wet weather forced the cancellation of the Blues Tag State Carnival and Primary All Schools Gala Day.

Harmony 9s - Albion Park

The Harmony Nines made a welcome return to the Rugby League calendar in October at Albion Park with the Department of Regional NSW contributing a \$100,000 grant in support of the multicultural event. Staged in Regional NSW for the first time, more than 675 participants across 44 teams, representing 18 nations and other cultures converged at Croome Road Sporting Complex.

Rise Academy

Guided by RISE Academy Manager Adam Perry, NSWRL introduced RISE Academies across Regional NSW with 525 boys and girls benefitting from the holistic development program. The program is a key initiative of the National Player Development Framework aimed at retention of teenage participants. The program also encourages the attainment of accreditation in refereeing, coaching and League Safe. As a direct result of RISE, more than 100 new referees helped officiate at community leagues across the state.

#Respect Round

A total of 250 clubs took the pledge during the 2022 #RESPECT Round which focused on game-day behaviour toward referees and serves as a reminder for more than 130,000 players, spectators and officials involved in Community Rugby League to promote a positive environment. The Minto Cobras JRLFC were crowned the 2022 #RESPECT Club of the Year after successfully promoting the NSWRL initiative in May and received a prize to the value of \$2000 thanks to the support of McDonald's.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The NSWRL's community engagement program, spearheaded by Blues and Sky Blues coaches Brad Fittler and Kylie Hilder, and True Blues and Sky Blues Ambassadors and current players, and NSWRL and NRL staff, reached more than 9000 children across the state in 2022 with several new initiatives and partnerships.

Among the new initiatives was a Blues Youth Leadership Program for high school students, the backing of a major multicultural youth award at the NSW Premier's Harmony Awards, and a new partnership with the What Ability Foundation. While extending its community support in these areas, the organisation continued to deliver on NSWRL's core community engagement pillars – Indigenous, All Abilities, Pride, Gender Equity, and Cultural Diversity - reaching greater numbers than in 2021, through a variety of programs and activities. The NSWRL is grateful to all its community partners for the support of these important programs which use the power and profile of Rugby League to drive social change, by changing lives and growing participation.

Blues Youth Leadership Program

NSW Origin Blues and Sky Blues head coaches – Brad Fittler and Kylie Hilder – hosted more than 2,500 high school students across four Universities, at Armidale, Wollongong, Canberra and Western Sydney from March to May as part of the inaugural Blues Youth Leadership Program.

They were joined by speakers Gus Worland, John Maclean, Shane Britten, Danny Abdullah and Nam Baldwin with special guests including NSW Blues winger Brian To'o and Sky Blues Kezie Apps, Millie Boyle and Simaima Taufa.

Fittler and Hilder, along with the specialist speakers, covered topics including mental wellbeing, breathing, the dangers of modern technology, resilience and forgiveness. Every student left with a boots bag full of items that would allow them to practise what they learned, including a pen, notebook, alarm clock, water bottle and book by John Maclean on change and perseverance.

Regional Visits

The NSWRL and Transport for NSW delivered Regional Roadshows in August and September, with True Blue legends talking about road safety to more than 1000 high school students in the state's regional areas.

Origin stars Mark O'Meley, Willie Mason, Tim Brasher, Steve Menzies, Matt Cooper and Andrew Ryan, who played a combined 89 games for NSW between them, were the guest speakers, using their high profiles to underline the lasting impact of road accidents.

The areas visited by the Regional Roadshows took in Macksville, Forster, Taree, Wagga Wagga, Lake Macquarie, and Kurri Kurri, while the schools included Macksville High School, St Clare High School, Great Lakes College, Kildare Catholic College, Mount Austin High School, Koorringal High School, All Saints College Maitland, and Kurri Kurri High School.

The True Blues also went to local Rugby League Clubs including the Macksville Sea Eagles, Wingham Tigers, Southcity Bulls and Kurri Kurri Bulldogs.

CALD Try League

The NSWRL's multicultural Try League program for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities reached more than 1200 children in 2022.

Since Try League began in mid-2018, 2638 young people (aged 12 to 24) have participated in the program, with some graduates continuing to play in Community Football competitions.

The Try League program is supported 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.

The NSWRL extended its support and acknowledgement of multicultural communities in 2022, with the backing of a major award at the NSW Premier's Harmony Awards in March. Ms Khadijah Habbouche received the NSWRL Youth Medal which recognises a person under 25 years who has helped create, welcome and support inter-cultural connection and understanding between people from diverse backgrounds.

All Abilities Gala Days

NSWRL staff also ran Activate Inclusion Sports Days for people of all abilities, with almost 500 participants in 2022.

In addition, NSW Origin Blues and Sky Blues squad members Tom Trbojevic and Corban Baxter were among a host of first graders who came to the NSWRL Centre of Excellence at Sydney Olympic Park in mid-July for a Rugby League activities day hosted by the What Ability Foundation, the NRL, and NSWRL.

More than 120 participants (and their carers) took part in drills, games, goal-kicking practice, and other activities around a Rugby League experience.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Changing Rooms

The NSWRL's Changing Rooms Program continued to expand in 2022 reaching more than 2100 young people, with extra funding provided by the NSW Government's Department of Health to take the face-to-face well-being initiative to regional areas. For the past three years, True Blue and Changing Rooms Program Manager Paul Langmack, with the support of a qualified social worker, has talked frankly with young players – aged from 11 through to 20 years – on the issues around mental fitness, suicide prevention, and bullying.

Predominantly the program has been rolled out at Sydney metropolitan Junior Rugby League Clubs and high schools. However, in the second half of 2022, Langmack went to the regional areas of Griffith, Kempsey and Nambucca Heads.

In total 2,139 boys and girls completed the Changing Rooms program this year, delivered at Junior League Clubs including Milperra Colts, Dundas Shamrocks, Rouse Hill Rhinos, Chester Hill Hornets, Wentworthville United, Greystanes Devils and Forestville Ferrets. School programs were delivered at Greystanes, Griffith, Bankstown, Waterloo, Kempsey and Nambucca Heads.

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 hosted various Clontarf Academies across the 2022 season involving 350 children from as far away as Bourke. The boys trained at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence at Sydney Olympic Park and had visits from Brad Fittler, Willie Mason, Reni Maitua, Nathan Blacklock and Jeff Hardy to help them work on skills, drills and leadership.

NSWRL officials also visited Bourke for the 25th year of the Ronny Gibbs 7s with Nathan Blacklock, Jeff Hardy and Willie Mason. The event is for local high schools and is played across one day and includes netball as well as Rugby league.

The NSWRL expanded its Deadly Blues campaign to help improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the state in 2022, continuing the healthy cooking and eating program to complement the ongoing health checks preventative care initiative.

The partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) Deadly Choices program aimed 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.

In 2022, 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 ambassadors Nathan Blacklock, Reni Maitua, Willie Mason, Sonny Bill Williams and Jeff Hardy headed out to spread the Deadly Blues message and visited communities as far west as Broken Hill, as well as in Brisbane during the State of Origin series, working alongside the Deadly Maroons.

NSWRL hosted the Far West Academy with almost 70 female and male Rugby League players coming to the NSWRL Centre of Excellence to undergo training and skills. Willie Mason, Reni Maitua and Dean Widders spoke with the group around leadership, discipline and focus.

NSWRL Foundation

The NSWRL Foundation, in partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation, Madison Sports and Leagues Clubs Australia, provided support valued at more than \$155,000 to be used for padding and protective products for 59 Rugby League teams from 11 clubs in the Northern Rivers community, which was devastated by heavy rainfalls and flooding early in the year.

The NSWRL Foundation also donated \$10,000 to support the family of a former Rugby League player with a serious neck injury.

Pride In Sport

The NSWRL continued its commitment to further develop and enhance Rugby League as an inclusive sport as a member of the Australian Pride in Sport program. Being a Pride In Sport member means changing practices and working towards a more inclusive, safe, and healthy sporting environment for our people - employees, athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials and spectators - with diverse genders and sexualities. In 2022, the NSWRL worked closely with Pride in Sport, and other organisations, to develop its Inclusion and Diversity strategy, as well conducting awareness



COMMUNITY AWARDS

The NSWRL acknowledges the invaluable work by more than 35,000 people who gave up their time as volunteers, officials, coaches and referees to ensure players at more than 800 clubs across the state could enjoy the game each week in 2022, and every season. The annual NSWRL Community Awards are an opportunity to recognise those volunteers who go above and beyond for the game. In 2022, Volunteer of the Year awards were presented in 11 regions, with the prestigious Gordon Lowrie Memorial Award for the NSWRL Volunteer of the Year chosen from that group. The winners of each region were invited to the Brad Fittler Medal dinner in September.

NSWRL "Gordon Lowrie" Community Volunteer of the Year Award (supported by Ignite HQ) – Wendy Povey (Morpeth Bulls, Maitland and Newcastle Region)

Povey is the Treasurer and canteen supervisor, ordering all the stock. She also orders and purchases all the merchandise, jerseys, balls and other football equipment. She is the first one to arrive at the ground each week to set up the gear and put the pies-sausage rolls in the oven and the last to leave.

Povey, alongside fellow NSWRL winners Victor Wright (Indigenous Volunteer of the Year) and the Narromine Jets (Community Club of the Year) earned further honours in 2022 being selected for prestigious national awards announced by the NRL in the lead-up to the Telstra Premiership Grand Final.

Volunteer of the Year Regional Winners

Bidgee Region: Geoff Hale (Goolgowi Rabbitohs)
Broken Bay Region: Ben Spackman (Berkley Vale)
Central Sydney Region: Scott Bolton (Alexandria Rovers)
East Coast Region: Belinda Martyn (Northern Rivers)
Macarthur Region: Greg Copeland (Camden Rams)
Newcastle and Maitland Region: Wendy Povey (Morpeth JRL)
Northern Region: Kevin Lomax (Group 21)
South Coast Region: Shannon Couley (Group 7)
Southern Sydney Region: Bruce Hartley (Brighton Seagulls)
Western Region: James O'Loughlin (Grenfell JRL)
Western Sydney Region: Jared Anderson (Wentworthville Magpies)

NSWRL Community Club of the Year (supported by Steeden): Narromine Jets

The Jets were recognised for the work they do in supporting their community, as well as for fundraising initiatives to provide training for their volunteers, overcoming the challenges around staging home games caused by delays to the redevelopment of their ground, and an executive decision to change groups to protect the club's viability in the community.

"Dennis Braybrook" NSWRL Referees Association Award (supported by McDonald's): Kim Archer

Archer has made a 30-year contribution to the game. An active member of the Canterbury-Bankstown Referees Association since 1992, Archer regularly attends grounds within the district to coach and develop junior referees.

NSWRL Indigenous Volunteer of the Year (supported by KARI Foundation): Victor Wright (Campbelltown Ghost Rugby League Club)

Wright was recognised as a founding member of the annual NSW Aboriginal Rugby League carnival, the Koori Knockout, which is seen as a vehicle for the continuation and renewal of cultural traditions. Wright played a key role in the development of the NSW State Library exhibition celebrating 50 years of the Koori Knockout in 2022.

NSWRL Inclusive Volunteer of the Year (supported by Multicultural NSW): Ralph Hasna

Hasna was recognised for his work for the Push and Power Rugby League organisation, which provides opportunities for people with a physical disability who are not part of other existing disabled sporting associations in NSW.

NSWRL Male Coach of the Year: Jai Midolo (Riverstone Razorbacks)

Midolo coaches Riverstone's three Under 6s teams and has had a long family involvement with the Razorbacks. He creates training drills for each of his teams to teach them the Rugby League Ready program and initiated a 'Player of the Match' award.

NSWRL Female Coach of the Year (supported by Harvey Norman): Cindy Brookfield (Kiama JRLFC)

Brookfield, who has two teenagers at Kiama JRLC and coaches the Under 16s girls tackle and Under 15s girls League Tag teams, answered a call to arms for club volunteers. She is also Club Registrar for Kiama. The club praised Brookfield for being such a positive role model for females.





5

NSWRL EVENTS



TRUE BLUES

The NSWRL inducted three new members into the NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame in front of almost 500 guests during the annual True Blues dinner at The Star Event Centre in Pyrmont.

Ken Kearney, Ricky Stuart and Harry Wells were all welcomed into the elite club to take the total number of players to 24, including the Rugby League Immortals who represented NSW.

The night also saw the NSW Blues squad for Game One of the Ampol State of Origin series presented to the crowd. Coach Brad Fittler, captain James Tedesco, advisor Greg Alexander, and assistants Danny Buderus and Paul McGregor were all interviewed on stage.

Kearney is credited for being the brains behind the historic run of 11 consecutive premierships for St George Dragons from 1956-66. Originally starting his career in rugby union, Kearney switched codes in England before heading home to Australia.

He brought with him a ruthless professionalism he learned overseas and then led the Dragons to six consecutive premierships from 1956-61 (1956 as captain; 1957-61 as captain-coach). He also played 17 games for NSW and represented Australia in 31 Tests from 1952-58.

Stuart was a mercurial halfback who helped turn the Canberra Raiders into a premiership force after winning titles in 1989-90 and 1994. His torpedo passes and pinpoint kicking game were a nightmare for opponents, and he was also an influential player at representative level.

He played nine Tests for Australia (1990-94), including a memorable moment in the second Test in 1990 where he dummied past the defence and threw the match-winning pass for Mal Meninga to race away and score to keep the series alive. He also played 14 games for NSW and was part of the first NSW Blues team which won three consecutive series from 1992-94.

Stuart turned to coaching after a recurring knee injury ended his career and won a premiership in his first year with the Sydney Roosters (2002). He also coached the Blues three times (2005, 2011-12), winning a series in his first year.

Wells was a robust centre who used his speed, bulk and power to devastating effect. He came from Wollongong to play for South Sydney in 1951 and tasted immediate success after playing on the wing in the Grand Final win over Manly Warringah Sea Eagles.

He returned home to Wollongong where he made his state and national representative debuts before returning to Sydney to play six seasons with Western Suburbs Magpies from 1956.

He represented NSW on 35 occasions from 1952-61 and formed a formidable centre pairing for Australia with Reg Gasnier. Wells played out the remainder of his career in the country, eventually retiring in 1972 at the age of 40.



BRAD FITTLER MEDAL

Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues captain James Tedesco became the first player in NSWRL history to win all three major State of Origin awards in the same season after claiming his third Brad Fittler Medal, as well as the True Blue Award and The Daily Telegraph People's Choice Award.

Tedesco was presented with his medal by Brydens Lawyers NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler at The Star Event Centre in front of more than 500 guests, while Isabelle Kelly was named the Harvey Norman NSW Women's State of Origin Player of the Year and received her medal from NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder.

Tedesco, who took over the captaincy full-time for the Blues in 2021, led from the front for the Blues this season after running for an average of 281 metres per game, making 25 tackle busts and two line breaks in the 2-1 Ampol State of Origin series loss to Queensland.

The Brad Fittler Medal is chosen by the players, the True Blue award is selected by the coaching staff and awarded to the player who displays the qualities on which the team ethos is built, and The Daily Telegraph People's Choice is voted on by fans with Tedesco securing more than 50 per cent of votes. Tedesco won back-to-back Brad Fittler Medals in 2018-19 but this was the first time he has won the True Blue Award.

Kelly became the first Sky Blues player to claim back-to-back medals for NSW Women's State of Origin Player of the Year after a starring role in the win over Queensland which included 190 running metres, 13 tackle breaks and scoring the match-winning try. The medal is awarded by the coaching staff and Kelly became only the second player to win three medals (2018, 2021-22) alongside Simaima Taufua (2015, 17, 19).

The awards night also included the inaugural Sky Blues Award, which is chosen by the players, and went to Caitlan Johnston after her barnstorming performance against Queensland.

The Under 19s Women's State of Origin Player of the Match Award went to Andie Robinson after she scored a hat-trick to maintain NSW's unbeaten record against Queensland.

Oryn Keeley claimed the Under 19s Men's State of Origin Player of the Match award after the men's pathways match returned this season after being shelved since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Player of the Year went to Newtown Jets centre Kayal Iro, the son of New

Zealand international Kevin Iro and nephew of fellow Kiwis Test player Tony Iro, following an impressive season where he topped the competition for post-contact metres, scored 12 tries, made 14 line breaks and 97 tackle busts.

The Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership Player of the Year went to North Sydney Bears lock/five-eighth Kirra Dibb, who played a crucial role in helping steer the club to the Minor Premiership this season.

The Brad Fittler Medal night 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), Nathan Cleary (2020) and Tom Trbojevic (2021).

The other awards presented on the night included Jessica Gentle (Country Women's Player of the Year), Jake Brisbane (Country Men's Player of the Year), Frank Toomalatai (Sydney Shield Player of the Year), Brad Keighran (Ron Massey Cup Player of the Year) and Jack Cole (Jersey Flegg Cup Player of the Year).

The Junior Representative Awards included Zane Harrison (Ron Lanesbury Medal for SLE Andrew Johns Cup) and Nick Murphy (Tom Nelson Medal for SLE Laurie Daley Cup). There were also Community Awards for Wendy Povey (Gordon Lowrie Memorial Community Volunteer of the Year Award) and Wayne Neville (Ray Stellar Club Person of the Year), while the Referees Awards went to Ethan Klein (Junior Representative Referee of the Year) and Cameron Paddy (Grade Referee of the Year).





VALES



VALES

Paul Broughton OAM

Broughton had a distinguished career as a player, coach and administrator; was a life member of the NSW Rugby League; a mentor to many and a true Rugby League visionary.

He played first grade for the St George Dragons and Balmain Tigers, as well as for multiple clubs in regional New South Wales and regional Queensland. He captained the Dragons' third grade team to a premiership in 1953 and when injury forced him into retirement, he moved into coaching. He tasted success after coaching the Dragons' third and reserve grade teams to titles from 1962-64.

In the 1970s, he progressed to become an innovative and highly regarded first grade coach with Brisbane Brothers, Balmain Tigers and Newtown Jets.

The pivotal role which he played in the establishment of the Gold Coast Titans - and his involvement with previous Gold Coast franchises - led to him being regarded as the Godfather of Rugby League on the Gold Coast. Such is the respect with which he is held in the area, the Titans' Player of the Year award was named the Paul Broughton Medal.

Broughton also had a crucial involvement and impact on NSWRL development programs, including running camps for aspiring coaches and junior Rugby League players in Armidale in northern NSW. He influenced future coaches including Wayne Bennett, Des Hasler and Geoff Toovey, and the rising stars of the game including Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and True Blue Andrew Johns.

Tony Brown

A former Newtown Jets five-eighth, Brown rose to play on Kangaroo Tours and in a World Cup and was considered so influential for the club that he was named in their "Team of the Century" in 2008. He was a product of the St Peters JRLFC before being graded with the Newtown senior club in 1953. He was in first grade three years later and was later named captain for six seasons.

In 1958, Brown's sterling representative career began with selection in the City Firsts in May and then the NSW Firsts for the interstate series two weeks later - all at No.6. He played nine times (1958-62) for the NSW Firsts, scoring two tries.

In June 1958 he earned selection in the Australian side that hosted the Lions Tour. Following that series, Brown was the five-eighth in the 1959 Test Series against New Zealand and again for the Australian Kangaroos tour of Great Britain, France and Italy in that same year.

He was named again in the 1960 Test Series against France, and then as a member of the 1960 Australian squad that played in the 1960 Rugby League World Cup in England.

Brown played with the Newtown club from 1953 to 1964 before transferring to the Penrith club in the NSWRL Second Division competition. He captained Penrith in that club's inaugural season in the NSWRL First Grade competition in 1967.

Doug Cameron

Cameron was a former NSW halfback and South Sydney junior who enjoyed a long and distinguished association with Group 9, where he forged his reputation as one of the greatest halfbacks the region has ever seen.

He burst onto the scene with the Young Cherrypickers in 1954, which earned him representative honours for the Country Firsts team against City. He was unable to trial with Souths in 1954 due to two weeks of national service prompting him to return to Young where he accepted a three-year deal to represent them in the Maher Cup competition.

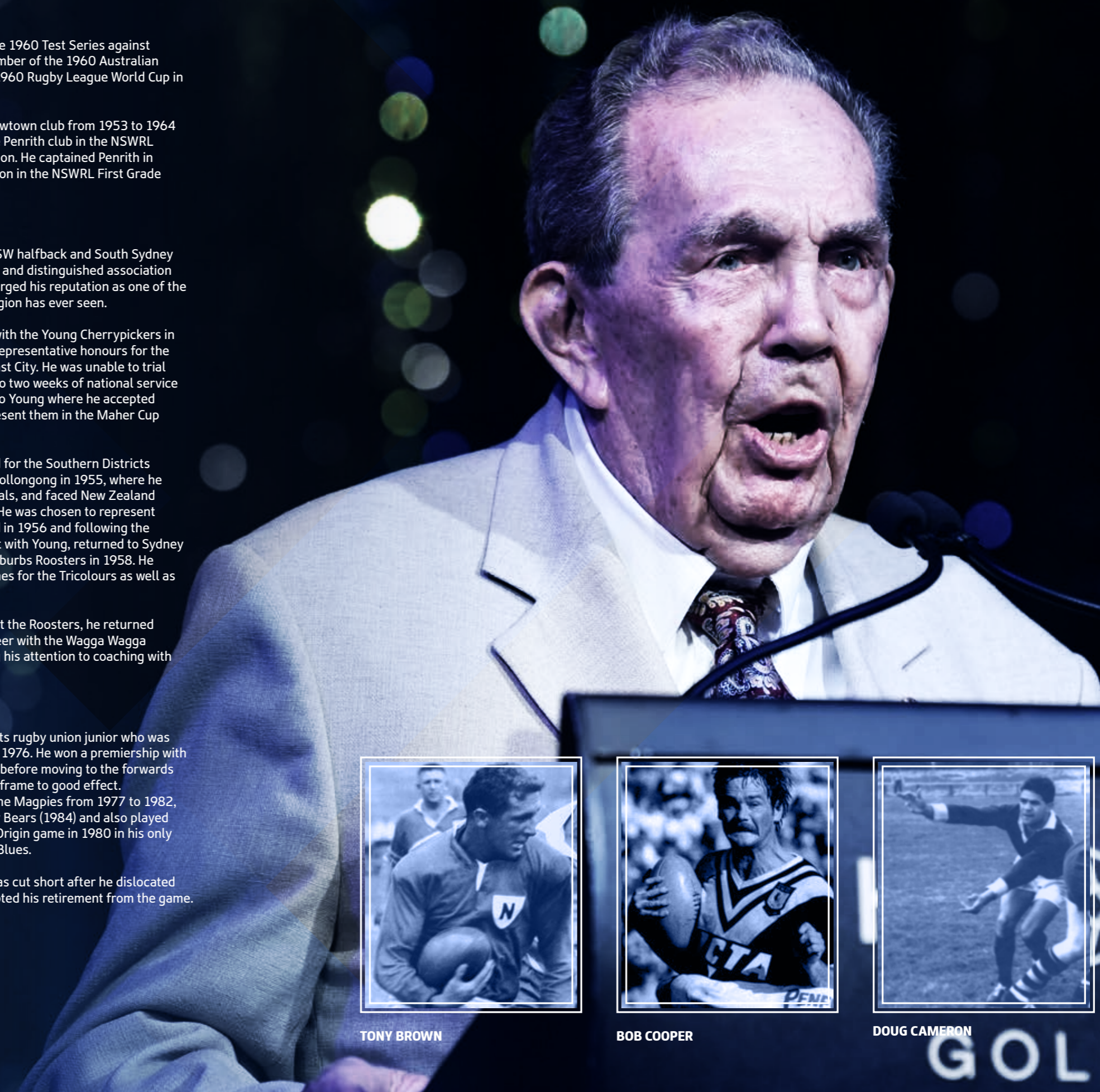
Cameron was later picked for the Southern Districts side against England in Wollongong in 1955, where he landed six out of eight goals, and faced New Zealand in Cootamundra in 1956. He was chosen to represent Australia against England in 1956 and following the conclusion of his contract with Young, returned to Sydney to play for the Eastern Suburbs Roosters in 1958. He played 18 first grade games for the Tricolours as well as representing NSW.

When Cameron finished at the Roosters, he returned to Young to finish his career with the Wagga Wagga Kangaroos before turning his attention to coaching with Tumut.

Bob Cooper

Cooper was a former Wests rugby union junior who was graded by the Magpies in 1976. He won a premiership with Wests Under 23s in 1977 before moving to the forwards where he used his 1.96m frame to good effect. He played 76 games for the Magpies from 1977 to 1982, four for the North Sydney Bears (1984) and also played in the inaugural State of Origin game in 1980 in his only appearance for the NSW Blues.

His career at the Bears was cut short after he dislocated his shoulder which prompted his retirement from the game.



TONY BROWN



BOB COOPER



DOUG CAMERON

GOLD

VALES

Bob Keyes

Regarded as one of the finest NSW centres to never play for Australia, Newtown Jets Bob Keyes has passed away after a short illness. He was 79. Newtown's Bob Keyes played four games for NSW in 1964 and was regarded one of the finest centres to never play for Australia.

He was an Easts Junior who played five first grade games with Eastern Suburbs from 1960-61 before switching to Newtown.

Keyes started his career on the wing but went on to form a lethal centre partnership with Brian 'Chicka' Moore. He captained the club during his career and steered the reserve grade team to a premiership in 1970.

He played his final years as captain-coach of Ryde-Eastwood Hawks and later became a publican at the Fortune of War Hotel at The Rocks.

Robert 'Rocky' Laurie

Laurie won the inaugural Dally M award in 1980 and remains the only South Sydney player to earn the prestigious award.

He left Wauchope as a wide-eyed 19-year-old heading to the 'big smoke' in 1975 where his playing skills and leadership qualities earned him the role of skipper of Eastern Suburbs' Presidents Cup side. He moved up into first grade in 1976 playing two seasons before shifting to arch-rivals the Rabbitohs for three years. Laurie returned to Easts in 1981-82 before moving back north after a career that included 122 first grade games and 28 tries.

A talented centre and five-eighth, he played State of Origin in 1981 for NSW but had another career highlight that few players share. Laurie had the distinction of playing for both NSW City – in 1981 in his second last year with Eastern Suburbs – and for NSW Country, when he returned to his hometown of Wauchope in the state's mid-north coast hinterland, to play for the local team.

Laurie was captain-coach of Wauchope when they won the Group 3 Premiership in 1983 and also captained an NSW Northern Division team which beat the touring British Lions side in 1988.

Ron Powell

Powell started his career as a referee before moving on to a decorated career as an administrator for the Western Suburbs District Referees Association, Wests Ashfield Leagues, Western Suburbs Magpies and one of the founding directors of Wests Tigers.

He juggled his role as an official with taking on administrative roles for the Western Suburbs District Referees Association. He was made a Life Member in 1975, was President from 1975-78 and was Vice-President from 1979-83.

He also held various positions with Wests Ashfield Leagues, Western Suburbs Magpies and Wests Tigers from 1980-2011, and was made a life member of the NSWRL in 2009.

Terry Quinn

Quinn was a former player for the Penrith Panthers who went on to have a distinguished career as an administrator, including stints on the board of the New South Wales Rugby League and the board of the Australian Rugby League.

He played 62 games for the Panthers in the 1970's and was a hard-running, aggressive attacking centre. He is listed as Panthers player number 110 in the foyer of Penrith Panthers Leagues Club.

Quinn played for Penrith in the 1974 Amco Cup final, one of the most famous games in Australian Rugby League history and a game which turned out to be one of the greatest days for Country Rugby League following a 6-2 win to Western Division. He also played for Lakes United in the Newcastle competition.

Quinn went on to have a distinguished administrative career as Chief Executive of the West Australian Rugby League, boss of the Newcastle Rugby League and more recently Chief Executive of the Country Rugby League, a role he held since 2002.



BOB KEYES



ROBERT 'ROCKY' LAURIE



RON POWELL

VALES

John “Chook” Raper

Raper was one of the original Rugby League Immortals and one of the best lock forwards to ever play the game. He was a Clive Churchill Medallist (1966), an Immortal (1981), an ARL Hall of Fame (2008) inductee, a two-time winner of the NSWRL Player of the Year (1961, 1965), and an inaugural inductee into the NSWRL Hall of Fame (2017). Alongside his 39 Tests for Australia, in which he was named captain eight times, Raper also played 24 games for NSW from 1959 through to 1970. His appearances for NSW included a memorable match in 1963 when he scored four tries to help clean up Queensland 53-7.

Raper, who toured with the Kangaroos three times and played in two World Cups (1960, 1968), was a classic tackler and cover defender. His football brain meant he knew how the opposition's play would turn out, so he was there every time to stop it. He had a magnificent set of lungs, which allowed him to constantly take the ball up the middle often running over the top of tired defenders. Legendary Rugby League broadcaster, the late Frank Hyde, rated his performance in the Second Test against Great Britain on the 1963-64 Kangaroo Tour – that secured the Ashes for Australia for the first time in England for over 50 years – as the greatest 80 minutes of football by any player. Raper made his first grade debut for Newtown in 1957 before moving to St George in 1959. He played in eight Grand Final wins for the Dragons from 1959-66 played 215 premierships games in total. He also coached both clubs – St George in 1969 and Newton in 1978 – along with two seasons at the Sharks (1975-76).

Dave Sheldrick

Sheldrick was known as the heart and soul of the game in the Leeton-Griffith area and left a firm mark on the Yanco Wamoon Hawks.

He served two terms as President of NSWRL's Group 20 Rugby League, spanning almost two decades, and was made a Life Member of the association. Sheldrick also took up a position with the Country Rugby League (CRL) and served on their board for five years.

Sheldrick was made a Life Member of the Hawks, who won three premierships (1992, 1993 and 1994) under his tenure. The Under 16s and Under 18s sides also won several titles in his time as President from 1987-1994. Students from Yanco Agricultural High School, Leeton High School and St Francis College play a tri-series each year for the Dave Sheldrick Shield.

Dennis Spagarino

Spagarino, 70, was graded from Western Suburbs and progressed to become a highly successful first grade referee where he controlled 22 matches from 1984-88. He went on to take on the role of NSWRL Referees Coach

and played a crucial role in assisting the development of officials who would go on to NRL careers. He also held the position of Chairperson of the New South Wales Rugby League Referees Association (NSWRLRA).

As well as NSWRL Life Membership, Spagarino was also awarded Life Membership of the Western Suburbs Referees Association. He was also one of the first recipients of the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 after it was brought in by former Prime Minister John Howard.

Bob Weir

Weir was a tough as nails centre who represented NSW Country before progressing to pull on the sky blue jumper for his state.

He made his debut for Narromine as an 18-year-old centre in 1955 and was involved with the club until 1981, spanning 26 years with the Jets. He was captain-coach of Narromine when they won the Group 11 premiership in 1968. Since 2003 the Player of the Match in the Group 11 Grand Final has been awarded the Bob Weir Medal.

Following his time with the Jets, Weir had two seasons (1970-71) as captain-coach of the Young Cherrypickers in Group Nine. He was part of the Western division team that drew 24-all against England at Wade Park, Orange, in 1958 when the Lions toured New Zealand-Australia. After his playing and coaching career finished Weir was made a NSW Country selector, a position he held for nine years until 1998. He is also a Group 11 and Western Division Life Member.



DAVE SHELDRICK



DENNIS SPAGARINO



BOB WEIR



RECORDS

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
 Holloway, 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 OAM 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

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**	2022 Queensland 2-1
2000 NSW 3-0	
2001 Queensland 2-1	
2002 1-all**	

WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

Women's Interstate Challenge 1999-2017. 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	2022 NSW
2008 Queensland	
2009 Queensland	
2010 Queensland	
2011 Queensland	
2012 Queensland	
2013 Queensland	

STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 19s)

Under 20s 2012-2019. Under 19s 2020-present.

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)
2022 NSW

WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 19s)

Under 18s 2019. Under 19s 2020-present

2019 NSW
2020 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 NSW
2022 NSW

STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 18s)

2014-19. 2020-present (not contested)

2014 NSW
2015 Queensland
2016 NSW
2017 NSW
2018 NSW
2019 Queensland

STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 16s)

2013-18. 2019-present (not contested)

2013 NSW
2014 Queensland
2015 Queensland
2016 NSW
2017 NSW
2018 NSW

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	2022 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
2022 Country

COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 18s

2021 City
2022 City

COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 16s

2021 City
2022 City

RECORDS

NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

NSWRL 1908-1994. Australian Rugby League 1995-97. NRL 1998-present.

Year, Premiers, Runners Up

1908 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1965 St George, South Sydney
1909 South Sydney, Balmain	1966 St George, Balmain
1910 Newtown, South Sydney	1967 South Sydney, Canterbury-Bankstown
1911 Eastern Suburbs, Glebe	1968 South Sydney, Manly Warringah
1912 Eastern Suburbs, Glebe	1969 Balmain, South Sydney
1913 Eastern Suburbs, Newtown	1970 South Sydney, Manly Warringah
1914 South Sydney, Newtown	1971 South Sydney, St George
1915 Balmain, Glebe	1972 Manly Warringah, Eastern Suburbs
1916 Balmain, South Sydney	1973 Manly Warringah, Cronulla-Sutherland
1917 Balmain, South Sydney	1974 Eastern Suburbs, Canterbury-Bankstown
1918 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1975 Eastern Suburbs, St George
1919 Balmain, Eastern Suburbs	1976 Manly Warringah, Parramatta
1920 Balmain, South Sydney	1977 St George, Parramatta
1921 North Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1978 Manly Warringah, Cronulla-Sutherland
1922 North Sydney, Glebe	1979 St George, Canterbury-Bankstown
1923 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1980 Canterbury-Bankstown, Eastern Suburbs
1924 Balmain, South Sydney	1981 Parramatta, Newtown
1925 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1982 Parramatta, Manly-Warringah
1926 South Sydney, University	1983 Parramatta, Manly-Warringah
1927 South Sydney, St George	1984 Canterbury-Bankstown, Parramatta
1928 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1985 Canterbury-Bankstown, St George
1929 South Sydney, Newtown	1986 Parramatta, Canterbury-Bankstown
1930 Western Suburbs, St George	1987 Manly Warringah, Canberra
1931 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1988 Canterbury-Bankstown, Balmain
1932 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1989 Canberra, Balmain
1933 Newtown, St George	1990 Canberra, Penrith
1934 Western Suburbs, Eastern Suburbs	1991 Penrith, Canberra
1935 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1992 Brisbane, St George
1936 Eastern Suburbs, Balmain	1993 Brisbane, St George
1937 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1994 Canberra, Canterbury-Bankstown
1938 Canterbury, Eastern Suburbs	1995 Sydney Bulldogs, Manly Warringah
1939 Balmain, South Sydney	1996 Manly Warringah, St George
1940 Eastern Suburbs, Canterbury-Bankstown	1997 Newcastle, Manly Warringah
1941 St George, Eastern Suburbs	1998 Brisbane, Canterbury
1942 Canterbury-Bankstown, St George	1999 Melbourne, St George Illawarra
1943 Newtown, North Sydney	2000 Brisbane, Sydney Roosters
1944 Balmain, Newtown	2001 Newcastle, Parramatta
1945 Eastern Suburbs, Balmain	2002 Sydney Roosters, New Zealand
1946 Balmain, St George	2003 Penrith, Sydney Roosters
1947 Balmain, Canterbury-Bankstown	2004 Canterbury-Bankstown, Sydney Roosters
1948 Western Suburbs, Balmain	2005, Wests Tigers, North Queensland
1949 St George, South Sydney	2006 Brisbane, Melbourne
1950 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	2007 No premier, Manly Warringah
1951 South Sydney, Manly Warringah	2008 Manly Warringah, Melbourne
1952 Western Suburbs, South Sydney	2009 No premier, Parramatta
1953 South Sydney, St George	2010 St George Illawarra, Sydney Roosters
1954 South Sydney, Newtown	2011 Manly Warringah, New Zealand
1955 South Sydney, Newtown	2012 Melbourne, Canterbury-Bankstown
1956 St George, Balmain	2013 Sydney Roosters, Manly Warringah
1957 St George, Manly Warringah	2014 South Sydney, Canterbury-Bankstown
1958 St George, Western Suburbs	2015 North Queensland, Brisbane
1959 St George, Manly Warringah	2016 Cronulla-Sutherland, Melbourne
1960 St George, Eastern Suburbs	2017 Melbourne, North Queensland
1961 St George, Western Suburbs	2018 Sydney Roosters, Melbourne
1962 St George, Western Suburbs	2019 Sydney Roosters, Canberra
1963 St George, Western Suburbs	2020 Melbourne, Penrith
1964 St George, Balmain	2021 Penrith, South Sydney
	2022 Penrith, Parramatta

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. The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup 2021-present.

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 Warringah
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 Warringah	1993 North Sydney
1916 Balmain	1955 North Sydney	1994 Cronulla-Sutherland
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 Canterbury
1921 Glebe	1960 Manly Warringah	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 Warringah	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 Warringah	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	2022 Penrith
1945 South Sydney	1984 Balmain	
1946 Balmain	1985 St George	

RECORDS

NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE WOMEN'S

Year, Premiers, Runners Up

2018 Brisbane, Sydney Roosters
2019 Brisbane, St George Illawarra
2020 Brisbane, Sydney Roosters
2021 Sydney Roosters, St George Illawarra
2022 Newcastle, Parramatta

JERSEY FLEGG CUP

Jersey Flegg Cup 1961-2007. Not contested 2018-2017. Jersey Flegg Cup 2018-present.

Year, Premiers

1961 Manly Warringah	1987 Manly Warringah
1962 South Sydney	1988 Manly Warringah
1963 Canterbury-Bankstown	1989 Canberra
1964 South Sydney	1990 Parramatta
1965 Western Suburbs	1991 Newcastle
1966 South Sydney	1992 Newcastle
1967 South Sydney	1993 Canberra
1968 South Sydney	1994 Balmain
1969 South Sydney	1995 Sydney City
1970 Parramatta	1996 St George
1971 Canterbury-Bankstown	1997 Balmain
1972 South Sydney	1998 North Sydney
1973 Balmain	1999 Canterbury
1974 Manly Warringah	2000 Bulldogs
1975 St George	2001 Bulldogs
1976 Canterbury-Bankstown	2002 Sydney Roosters
1977 Penrith	2003 Bulldogs
1978 South Sydney	2004 Sydney Roosters
1979 Canterbury-Bankstown	2005 St George Illawarra
1980 Balmain	2006 Penrith
1981 Western Suburbs	2007 Penrith
1982 Balmain	2018 Cronulla-Sutherland
1983 Canterbury-Bankstown	2019 South Sydney
1984 Balmain	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1985 Parramatta	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1986 Penrith	2022 Penrith

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)
2022 St Marys

NSW WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership 2017-present.

Year, Premiers

2017 Redfern All Blacks
2018 Mounties
2019 CRL Newcastle
2020 Central Coast
2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2022 Wests Tigers

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)
2022 Hills Bulls

NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE

Year, Premiers

2018 South Newcastle
2019 Western Suburbs
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2022 Maitland

ILLAWARRA CUP

Year, Premiers

2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2022 Collegians

PETER MCDONALD PREMIERSHIP

Year, Premiers

2022 Forbes

MEN'S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Monaro
2022 Illawarra South Coast

WOMEN'S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Newcastle-Maitland Region
2022 Central Coast

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-Bankstown	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	2022 Penrith

TARSHA GALE CUP

Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup 2017-present.

Year, Premiers

2017 Penrith
2018 Cronulla-Sutherland
2019 Illawarra
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 St George
2022 Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters

LAURIE DALEY CUP

Laurie Daley Cup 2018-2020. SLE Laurie Daley Cup 2021-present.

Year, Premiers

2018 Newcastle
2019 Illawarra South Coast
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Central Coast
2022 Illawarra South Coast

HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

Year, Premiers

1970 Parramatta	1987 Illawarra	2006 Penrith
1971 Parramatta	1988 Parramatta	2007 Bulldogs
1972 Parramatta	1989 Penrith	2008 Parramatta
1973 Cronulla-Sutherland	1990 Parramatta	2009 Bulldogs
1974 South Sydney	1991 Gold Coast	2010 Penrith
1975 Parramatta	1992 Newcastle	2011 Canterbury-Bankstown
1976 Parramatta	1993 Canberra	2012 Parramatta
1977 Cronulla-Sutherland	1994 Parramatta	2013 Parramatta
1978 Canberra	1995 Canberra	2014 Newcastle
1979 Penrith	1996 Illawarra	2015 Cronulla-Sutherland
1980 Group 12	1997 Parramatta	2016 Parramatta
1981 Parramatta	1998 Parramatta	2017 Newcastle
1982 Parramatta	1999 Parramatta	2018 Manly Warringah
1983 Group 6	2000 Newcastle	2019 Newcastle
1984 Canberra	2001 Cronulla-Sutherland	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1985 Penrith	2002 Penrith	2021 Manly Warringah
1986 Parramatta	2003 Parramatta	2001 Cronulla-Sutherland
	2004 Parramatta	2022 Western Suburbs Magpies
	2005 Penrith	

ANDREW JOHNS CUP

Andrew Johns Cup 2018-2020. SLE Andrew Johns Cup 2021-present.

Year, Premiers

2018 Western Rams
2019 Northern Rivers
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Central Coast
2022 Northern Rivers

PRESIDENTS CUP

Statewide third-tier competition 2020-present.

Year, Premiers	Year, Premiers	Year, Premiers
1910 Eastern Suburbs	1950 Newtown	1991 Canterbury-Bankstown
1911 Eastern Suburbs	1951 South Sydney	1992 Western Suburbs
1912 Balmain	1952 Balmain	1993 Eastern Suburbs
1913 Eastern Suburbs	1953 South Sydney	1994 Cronulla-Sutherland
1914 Balmain	1954 Balmain	1995 Canberra
1915 Eastern Suburbs	1955 Eastern Suburbs	1996 South Queensland
1916 No Competition	1956 Newtown	1997 Parramatta
1917 No Competition	1957 St George	1998 Canterbury-Bankstown
1918 North Sydney	1958 Western Suburbs	1999 Parramatta
1919 Newtown	1959 Balmain	2000 Bulldogs
1920 Eastern Suburbs	1960 South Sydney	2001 St George Illawarra
1921 Newtown	1961 South Sydney	2002 Bulldogs
1922 Eastern Suburbs	1962 South Sydney	2003 Canberra
1923 Eastern Suburbs	1963 South Sydney	2004 Sydney Roosters
1924 Eastern Suburbs	1964 South Sydney	2005 Parramatta
1925 Western Suburbs	1965 South Sydney	2006 Parramatta
1926 Balmain	1966 Balmain	2020 Maitland
1927 Eastern Suburbs	1967 Balmain	2021 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)
1928 Newtown	1968 South Sydney	2022 Maitland
1929 Balmain	1969 South Sydney	
1930 Balmain	1970 Manly Warringah	
1931 Canterbury-Bankstown	1971 South Sydney	
1932 Balmain	1972 South Sydney	
1933 North Sydney	1973 Balmain	
1934 Southern Districts	1974 South Sydney	
1935 St George	1975 Parramatta	
1936 South Sydney	1976 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1937 Northern Suburbs	1977 South Sydney	
1938 Eastern Suburbs	1978 Eastern Suburbs	
1939 Balmain	1979 Parramatta	
1940 Balmain	1980 South Sydney	
1941 St George	1981 St George	
1942 South Sydney	1982 South Sydney	
1943 South Sydney	1983 South Sydney	
1944 Newtown	1984 Illawarra	
1945 Western Suburbs	1985 Penrith	
1946 Manly Warringah	1986 Penrith	
1947 Western Suburbs	1987 Eastern Suburbs	
1948 Eastern Suburbs	1988 Parramatta	
1949 Eastern Suburbs	1989 South Sydney	
	1990 Canberra	

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Flowers Memorial Pennant

Year, Premiers

1930 Eastern Suburbs	1968 South Sydney	2004 Sydney Roosters
1931 Eastern Suburbs	1969 South Sydney	2005 Parramatta
1932 South Sydney	1970 Eastern Suburbs	2006 Sydney Roosters
1933 South Sydney	1971 St George	2007 Penrith
1934 Eastern Suburbs	1972 Manly Warringah	2008 Parramatta
1935 Eastern Suburbs	1973 Newtown	2009 Bulldogs
1936 Eastern Suburbs	1974 Eastern Suburbs	2010 Cronulla-Sutherland
1937 Eastern Suburbs	1975 Eastern Suburbs	2011 Cronulla-Sutherland
1938 Canterbury-Bankstown	1976 Parramatta	2012 Balmain
1939 Canterbury-Bankstown	1977 Parramatta	2013 Cronulla-Sutherland
1940 St George	1978 Parramatta	2014 Penrith
1941 Balmain	1979 Parramatta	2015 Penrith
1942 St George	1980 Parramatta	2016 Mounties
1943 Balmain	1981 Parramatta	2017 Mounties
1944 Balmain	1982 Parramatta	2018 Penrith
1945 Eastern Suburbs	1983 Manly Warringah	2019 Wentworthville
1946 St George	1984 St George	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1947 Balmain	1985 St George	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1948 Western Suburbs	1986 Parramatta	2022 Penrith
1949 St George	1987 Manly Warringah	
1950 Balmain	1988 Manly Warringah	
1951 St George	1989 South Sydney	
1952 South Sydney	1990 Canberra	
1953 South Sydney	1991 Western Suburbs	
1954 South Sydney	1992 Brisbane/Newcastle	
1955 St George	1993 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1956 St George	1994 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1957 St George	1995 Cronulla-Sutherland	
1958 St George	1996 Brisbane	
1959 St George	1997 Parramatta	
1960 Western Suburbs	1998 Parramatta	
1961 Western Suburbs	1999 Parramatta	
1962 St George	2000 Parramatta	
1963 St George	2001 Parramatta	
1964 St George	2002 Parramatta	
1965 St George	2003 Parramatta	
1966 St George		
1967 South Sydney		

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
2022 James Tedesco

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
2022 James Tedesco

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
2022 Ken Kearney
2022 Harry Wells
2022 Ricky Stuart

NSW SKY BLUES PLAYER OF THE YEAR

* Previously NSW Women's Player of the Year

2015 Simaima Taufa *
2016 Kezie Apps *
2017 Simaima Taufa *
2018 Isabelle Kelly
2019 Simaima Taufa
2020 Hannah Southwell
2021 Isabelle Kelly
2022 Isabelle Kelly

SKY BLUES AWARD

2022 Caitlan Johnston

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 (Gerrigong)
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

FINANCIALS

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
Geoffrey Gerard	Past player; Parramatta Eels, Manly Sea Eagles, Penrith Panthers, NSW Blues and Australian Kangaroos Director; NSWRL Foundation Pty Ltd	Director	Appointed 3 December 2010
William Johnstone	Director; NSW Leagues Club Limited; Managing Director, Kimaka Holdings Australia; Director; KMK Consulting	Director	Appointed 8 March 2011
Dr George Peponis OAM Member RACGP, AMA, GAICD	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 Chairman	Appointed 2 December 2011 Resigned 25 February 2022 Appointed 1 May 2013 Resigned 25 February 202
Nick Politis AM B.Comm & Ec.	Executive Chairman of WFM & NGP Group of Companies, Chairman of the Sydney Roosters' Board of Directors, Chairman of the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club Ltd	Director	Appointed 6 June 2013 Resigned 25 February 2022
Deborah Healey LLB LLM (Hons) Syd Solicitor	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	Appointed 6 June 2013 Resigned 25 February 2022

John Anderson OAM	Director; NSW Leagues Club Limited; 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	Appointed 18 October 2019
Douglas Harrison	Rugby League Administrator; Real Estate Rural Specialist Sales	Director	Appointed 18 October 2019 Resigned 25 February 2022
Robert Walsh	Chairman; NSW Leagues Club Limited; Rugby League Administrator; Chairman, Group 11, Chairman; Central West Region of Clubs NSW; Club Directors Institute and Club Managers Association	Director	Appointed 18 October 2019
Terence Brady	Director; NSW Leagues Club Limited; Rugby League Administrator; Former Club President, Former Group President, Chairman Bidgee Region and Board Member CRL; Proprietor, Brady Paint and Texture.	Director	Appointed 18 October 2019
The Hon. Kevin Greene	Director/Deputy Chair, Cricket NSW; Chair, NSW Rugby League Referees Association; President, St George District Cricket Club; Director, Club Central Hurstville & Menai; Life Member, Australian Turf Club	Director	Appointed 27 May 2022

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 2022 amounted to \$706,937 (2021: \$2,281,257).

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.

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' REPORT

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	
	ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	ATTENDED
Dr George Peponis OAM	5	5
Geoffrey Gerard	43	35
William Johnstone	43	38
Deborah Healey	5	4
Nick Politis AM	5	4
John Anderson OAM	43	42
Douglas Harrison	5	5
Robert Walsh	43	43
Terence Brady	43	42
The Hon. Kevin Greene	19	17

John Anderson OAM has served as Acting Chairman of the Board since 25 February 2022.

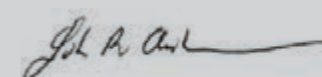
REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered office of the New South Wales Rugby League Limited is located at: 12-14 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:



John Anderson OAM

Acting Chairman

Dated at Sydney this 14th December 2022

FINANCIALS

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Revenue	38,958,069	35,684,341
Cost of sales	-295,589	-183,015
GROSS SURPLUS	38,662,480	35,501,326
Centre of Excellence - tenants	380,873	349,309
Centre of Excellence - field hire	76,700	37,050
Depreciation and amortisation expense	-798,404	-862,483
Development project expenses	-7,612,070	-5,023,102
Employee expenses	-10,524,139	-10,145,502
Equipment maintenance expenses	-540,819	-459,907
General expenses	-1,077,398	-543,098
Corporate events expenses	-303,497	-387,212
Occupancy expenses	-1,633,432	-1,238,472
Professional services expenses	-1,300,495	-944,441
Referee and game expenses	-12,796,955	-11,774,989
Sponsorship expenses	-1,353,644	-1,619,494
Telecommunications expenses	-567,059	-605,412
RESULTS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	612,141	2,283,573
Financing income	128,701	34,902
Financing expenses	-33,905	-37,218
NET FINANCING INCOME	94,796	-2,316
Surplus for the period	706,937	2,281,257
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	706,937	2,281,257

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2022	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & cash equivalents	10,295,042	13,847,284
Trade & other receivables	1,205,842	1,463,584
Inventories	105,925	37,896
Other assets	793,321	860,379
Accrued revenue	313,868	1,051,797
Financial assets	11,667,051	7,105,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	24,381,049	24,365,940
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	22,777,356	23,706,694
Intangibles	4	4,694
Accrued revenue	300,000	450,000
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	23,077,360	24,161,388
TOTAL ASSETS	47,458,409	48,527,328
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & other payables	8,058,132	9,901,938
Deferred Centre of Excellence funding	300,000	300,000
Employee benefits	1,574,233	1,220,488
Current lease liability	223,747	239,050
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,156,112	11,661,476
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	1,710,287	1,596,151
Deferred Centre of Excellence funding	1,575,000	1,875,000
Employee benefits	721,505	668,139
Non-Current lease liability	291,017	429,011
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,297,809	4,568,301
TOTAL LIABILITIES	14,453,921	16,229,777
NET ASSETS	33,004,488	32,297,551
MEMBERS FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	27,356,542	26,649,605
Reserve	5,647,946	5,647,946
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	33,004,488	32,297,551

FINANCIALS

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from customers, sponsors and funders (inclusive of GST)	44,360,729	40,209,150
Cash paid to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(43,106,855)	(37,149,955)
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1,253,874	3,059,195
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	66,891	29,141
Transfer of term deposit (from)/to cash and cash equivalents	(4,562,051)	4,680,513
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(32,394)	(209,662)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	200	10,000
Cash receipts from liquidation of CRL	-	2,067,587
NET CASH (USED)/FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(4,527,354)	6,577,579
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Loan interest payments	(278,762)	(260,950)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(278,762)	(260,950)
NET (DECREASE)/NCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(3,552,242)	9,375,824
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 NOVEMBER	13,847,284	4,471,460
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 OCTOBER	10,295,042	13,847,284

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS

	Reserve	Accumulated Funds (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 November 2020	5,647,946	24,368,348	30,016,294
Surplus for the year	-	2,281,257	2,281,257
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2021	5,647,946	26,649,605	32,297,551
Balance at 1 November 2021	5,647,946	26,649,605	32,297,551
Surplus for the year	-	706,937	706,937
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2022	5,647,946	27,356,542	33,004,488

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 financial statements are the first general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosures. In the prior year the financial statements were general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements. There was no impact on the recognition and measurement of amounts recognised in the statements of financial position, profit and loss and other comprehensive income and cash flows as a result of the change in the basis of preparation. The financial statements do not comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The full financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 14 December 2022.

BASIS OF MEASUREMENT

The full financial statements were prepared on the historical cost basis, unless otherwise stated.

FUNCTIONAL AND PRESENTATION CURRENCY

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

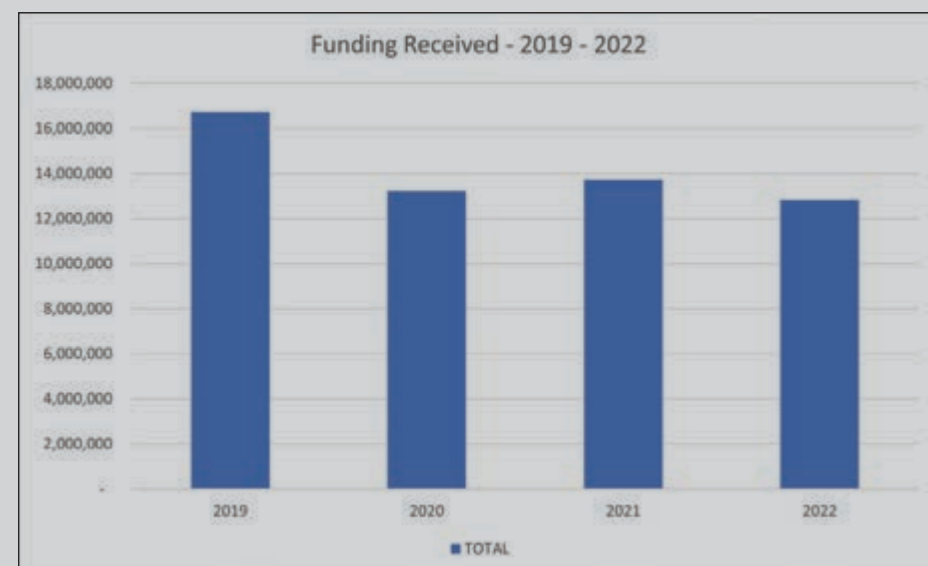
FINANCIALS

REVENUE

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Sponsorship and marketing revenue	8,571,078	7,736,607
ARLC Funding - NSWRL	15,123,983	11,444,917
ARLC Funding - Elite Pathways	4,000,000	3,232,500
Recovered costs - football games	2,710,035	5,687,558
Other grant and subsidies	1,077,518	1,316,154
JobKeeper grants	-	772,600
Corporate events revenue	210,526	75,074
Blatchys Blues & related revenue	1,125,009	861,578
Royalties revenue	1,153,774	1,133,010
Recovered insurance costs	3,527,428	2,760,286
Other revenue	1,458,718	664,057
TOTAL REVENUE	38,958,069	35,684,341

2022 revenue includes recognition of deferred revenue of \$3,727,182. This is reflected in the accounts of New South Wales Rugby League in the labels below:

ARLC Funding - NSWRL	2,788,983
Sponsorship and marketing revenue	938,199
	3,727,182



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	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
The company has guaranteed the repayment of the following bank facilities should they be called upon: Elobay Pty Limited	17,421	-
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 going 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 2022.		

ECONOMIC DEPENDANCY

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.

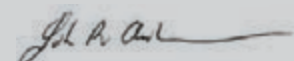
THE FOLLOWING DIRECTORS' DECLARATION HAS BEEN EXTRACTED FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT FROM WHICH THESE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE DERIVED FROM

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 7 to 30, 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 2022 and of its performance, for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified 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:



John Anderson OAM
Acting Chairman

Dated at Sydney this 14th December 2022



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 2022. 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 2022
- 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.

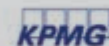
Scope of the Summary Financial Statements

The Summary Financial Statements do not contain all the disclosures required by *Australian Accounting Standards Simplified 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 14 December 2022.



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 14 December 2022.

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 2022.



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

Sydney

24 January 2023



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