



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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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.

YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY

Katrina Fanning AO and the late Peter McDonald AOM are among six members of the NSW Rugby League community recognised for Australia Day honours.

The NSW Koori Under 16s lose to Queensland Murri at Beenleigh in Brisbane after the interstate clash returns to the Rugby League calendar for the first time in three years.

FEBRUARY

The seasons kick off for the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership and five Junior Representatives competitions.

Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder travel more than 5700km, host 11 free football clinics and hand out more than 1000 footballs around regional NSW to promote Rugby League registrations.

Sydney Roosters Chief Executive Joe Kelly and Scouts NSW Chief Executive Carolyn Campbell are elected as directors to the NSWRL Board, while Acting District Court Judge Paul Conlon is appointed Chair.

The NSWRL launches the 2024 season for its Major Competitions including The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup on an imitation football field inside the NSWRL Centre of Excellence.

MARCH

The NSWRL holds the Regional Representatives Grand Final Day at Woy Woy Oval with the Central Coast Roosters claiming a maiden title in the SLE Andrew Johns Cup, the Illawarra South Coast Dragons going back-to-back in the SLE Laurie Daley Cup, and the Newcastle Rebels proving too strong in the Men's Country Championships.

The NSWRL announces a new partnership with disability support service What Ability.

The NSWRL honours NSW Wheelchair Rugby League players at the 2023 season launch after presenting them with an official number and medals for the year they made their debuts and unveiling an Honour Wall with their names inside the NSWRL Centre of Excellence.

Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder, True Blue Craig Wing and NSW and Australian Wheelchair Rugby League player Liam Luff join 120 participants of all abilities and cultural backgrounds for a Gala Day at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence to promote inclusion and reflect the diversity of the Rugby League community.

APRIL

Mounties claim the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership after a 1-0 win over Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs – the first time in history a Grand Final has been won by a solitary field goal.

The NSWRL and Wests Group Macarthur announce the continuation of a funding deal that will benefit more than 7000 participants, 500 teams and 23 clubs in the Macarthur Conference Competition.

MAY

City take out the annual representative fixtures 5-3 against Country after a thrilling three days of action which includes Fox Sports broadcasting the Women's Open Age match that acted as a selection trial for the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues.

The NSWRL celebrates Indigenous Round with an First Nations-themed State of Origin PUMA training jersey created with input from True Blues Latrell Mitchell, Josh Addo-Carr and Jack Wighton, and an Acknowledgment of Country video with First Nations personality Stan Grant.

JUNE

The Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues win Game Two of the Ampol State of Origin series in Townsville to level the series at 1-all but lose the Shield to Queensland on an aggregate scoreline based on both games.

NSWRL Director The Hon. Kevin Greene AM is one of three Rugby League administrators among 1192 Australians recognised in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List.

YEAR IN REVIEW



JULY

The Westpac NSW Blues turn on an inspired performance at Accor Stadium to claim Game Three of the Ampol State of Origin series to deny Queensland a rare clean sweep.

The CABE Men's Under 19s Origin team successfully defends the Origin Shield while the Harvey Norman Women's Under 19s team surrenders it for the first time since 2019, with both games played at Redcliffe.

Moree Junior Rugby League Club (Community Club of the Year), Christopher Hollis (Volunteer of the Year), Bryce Crane (Inclusive Volunteer of the Year) and Candita Collins (Indigenous Volunteer of the Year) are among the 19 major award winners in the NSWRL Community Awards.

The NSWRL celebrates Licensed Clubs Round with several activations to acknowledge the valuable contribution licensed clubs make to community Rugby League every season, including providing more than \$50 million in funding in 2022.

AUGUST

The NSWRL sets a new record for participation with 112,767 men, women, boys and girls signing up to play which represents a rise of almost seven per cent on 2022 figures.

SEPTEMBER

St Marys Saints club has a mixed day of success at the NSWRL Major Competitions Grand Finals at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium after losing 34-30 to Hill Bulls in the Sydney Shield decider, but claiming the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup premiership with a 40-12 win over Wentworthville Magpies.

The NSWRL teams up with the NSW Government and one of the leading suicide prevention training providers in the world, LivingWorks, to deliver a suicide prevention program to 700 Rugby League clubs across the state.

Westpac NSW Blues winger Brian To'o claims the Brad Fittler Medal and Emma Tonegato the NSW Women's Origin Player of the Year with more than 20 awards handed out across Representative Competitions, Major Competitions, Junior Representatives Competitions, and community at the Brad Fittler Medal awards night.

South Sydney Rabbitohs claim The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup on NSWRL Grand Final Day attended by more than 10,000 fans at CommBank Stadium with premierships also decided for the Jersey Flegg Cup (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs) and Presidents Cup (Maitland Pickers).

OCTOBER

The NSWRL holds a Blues Tag representative Gala Day in three different regions across the state – metropolitan, northern and southern NSW.

True Blues Andrew Ryan and Trent Hodgkinson spearhead the NSW Rugby League's 2023 Regional Roadshow campaign with clinics held in Armidale, Guyra, Glen Innes and Inverell to deliver positive message about road safety to teenagers for Transport for NSW.

The NSWRL celebrates the growing diversity and inclusiveness of the game when 27 heritage groups, 80 teams and 1200 players come together for the annual Harmony Nines tournament at Albion Park.

NOVEMBER

Former NRL premiership-winning and New Zealand Kiwis coach Michael Maguire is announced as the new coach of the Westpac NSW Blues on a multi-year deal. Maguire's Origin High Performance Team includes True Blues John Cartwright, Matt King and Brett White.

DECEMBER

Westpac NSW Blues coach Michael Maguire visits the TAAP (Talented Aboriginal Athlete Program) camp at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. The three-day camp includes a trial match on the final day to select an Under 17s Koori team to face a Queensland Under 17s Murri team in 2024.

The NSWRL's Women in Sport Leadership program, run in conjunction with the University of New England (UNE), concludes for 2023. The program is now into its third year and the 2023 intake involved 18 women representing 12 different sports.

The NSWRL releases the draws for 2024 featuring 169 teams, the most in the organisation's 115-year history. The record number of teams will be involved in seven Junior Representatives Competitions and eight NSWRL Major Competitions across metropolitan Sydney and regional NSW.

HIGHLIGHTS



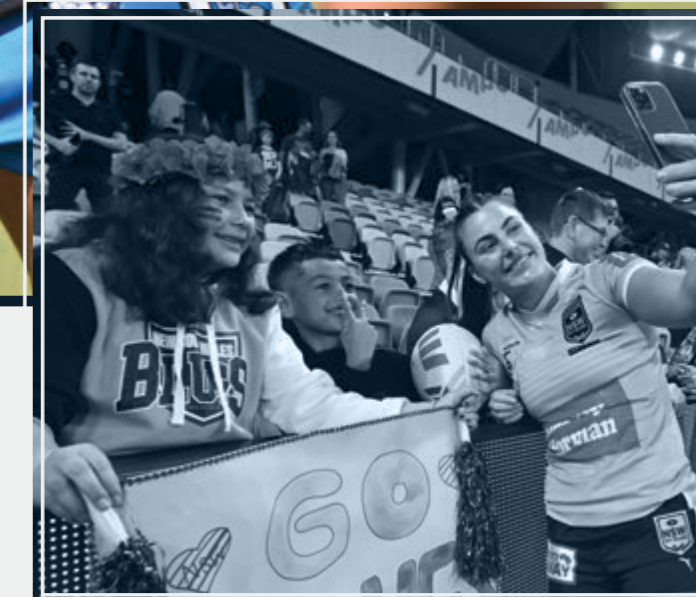
More than
112,000
participants registered to play
across all competitions in NSW



More than
26,000
female participants signed up
to play in 2023



A record
18,275
fans attended Game Two of
the Women's State of Origin
series



HIGHLIGHTS



594,000
viewers tuned in to The Knock-
On Effect NSW Cup season



More than
10 PER CENT
growth across all NSWRL social
media channels



207
live stream events shown on
NSWRL TV





NSWRL Major Awards

Brad Fittler Medal
BRIAN TO'O

True Blue Award
LIAM MARTIN

NSW Sky Blues Player of the Year
EMMA TONEGATO

Sky Blues Award
KEZIE APPS

**The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup
Player of the Year**
DEAN HAWKINS

**Harvey Norman NSW Women's
Premiership Player of the Year**
HOLLI WHEELER



CHAIR'S REPORT

PAUL CONLON, NSWRL CHAIR

The 2023 NSWRL season was a successful one in many respects as is testament to the unwavering commitment and passion of staff right across the organisation. Of course there have been challenges, including ongoing funding issues, which have not yet been resolved with the ARLC. This difficulty is reflected in the Statutory Accounts which are contained in this report. It shows a deficit for the year. However I am hopeful that a mutual agreement will be arrived at in the near future.

One State to New State

The NSWRL announced in 2020 the 'One State' NSWRL Strategic Plan which was a blueprint for Rugby League across the state. The objectives included increasing recruitment and retention, increasing the number of officials at grassroots levels and restructuring the state into six zones and associated regions which preserved historical structures while creating more efficient competition possibilities. It led to the creation of the Peter McDonald Premiership, which brought together Group 10 and Group 11 in a crossover competition; the Macarthur Conference Competition, which included clubs from Wests Tigers Macarthur Junior Rugby League and Group 6 Juniors, and Group 6 Rugby League; and a state-wide Player Points Index System (PPIS) to reward junior development and player loyalty, and improve talent equalisation across competitions in NSW.

In 2024 the next phase of the strategic plan, 'New State', will start which will carry through to 2026. It will focus on nurturing and growing pathways to build a stronger community and game, creating a sense of belonging to the 'Blues' family and being true to NSWRL's Pillars – Inheritance, Professional, United, Courageous, Innovative and Legacy. The strategic priorities will focus on the pillars of Community, Competitions and High Performance and be achieved through areas including commercial, communications and government relations.

Origin

The 2023 State of Origin series lived up to the Origin reputation as one of the world's toughest and most brutal contests within a sporting arena. The Westpac NSW Blues bounced back in Game Three with an outstanding performance demonstrating a brilliant attacking brand of football. However it was too late with Queensland successful in Games One and Two. The Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues, after our loss in Game One, went to Townsville and were able to show their true potential with a courageous win in Game Two. The brand of the NSW Blues and Sky Blues continues to be one of the most powerful in the Australian sporting landscape. This year marked the first time Westpac, the country's first and oldest banking institution, has come on board as our naming rights partner. They have shown a genuine passion

and dedication for Rugby League and want to invest in pathways, particularly in Women's Rugby League, as we have already seen with the Westpac Junior Sky Blues Academy for teenage girls. In 2024 they will extend their naming rights partnership to our women's Origin team, the NSW Sky Blues, as well as the Tarsha Gale Cup (Under 19s women), and the Lisa Fiaola Cup (Under 17s women). We also farewelled True Blue Brad Fittler as the Westpac NSW Blues coach after six years at the helm. The calibre of applicants to replace him reflected the prestige associated with the NSW coaching position, with the NSWRL Board eventually opting for Michael Maguire. I am looking forward to the way Michael and his coaching staff prepare the team for season 2024 and I am confident success is just around the corner. The 2023 Origin series also proved itself again to be the premier sporting activity in Australia with a combined national audience of 9.1 million tuning in to watch all three games.

Women's Rugby League

Women's Rugby League continues to go from strength to strength in NSW, largely thanks to the work being done by our NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder. Kylie is a former True Blue who not only coaches at the elite level but also acts as our pathways manager and identifies the rising stars of the game that are coming through the system. She will be at the helm as the coach of the NSW Sky Blues again in 2024 and I am confident they will give a good account of themselves as they look to wrestle the Shield away from Queensland with the series now moving to three games.

Partners

The NSWRL brand is not only in a strong position commercially in the Origin arena, but the brand is proving extremely popular with our other competitions across the state. Our premier competition in the state for men, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, continued our long-standing association with Transport for NSW. Harvey Norman has also been a long-standing supporter of women's Rugby League and will continue to be the naming rights partner for the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership in 2024. Other partners include the University of New England (UNE) and SLE, who are associated with our Junior Representatives competitions, and Leagues Clubs Australia who have come on board for the Ron Massey Cup.

NSWRL TV and Social Media success

NSWRL TV, the dedicated channel for all NSWRL matches and content which is housed on the NSWRL Facebook page, continued to perform strongly with more than 200 matches live streamed and a 42 per cent increase in average watch time from 2022. There was a wide variety of matches

shown from NSWRL Major Competitions and Junior Representatives Competitions, as well as community events such as the Harmony Nines multicultural Rugby League tournament. In an exciting development, NSWRL TV will expand to have its own app in 2024 which fans across the state will be able to download directly on their phones and keep up to date with all the great action from Rugby League games across the state.

Our social media pages also enjoyed further growth in 2023 with the number of followers increasing nine per cent from 1,730,695 in 2022 to 1,885,270 in 2023. There was a 48 per cent increase in the number of followers on the Westpac NSW Blues TikTok channel and a 15 per cent increase on the NSWRL Instagram page.

Vales

The end of 2023 always provides a time to reflect on the wonderful people we lost during the season who have contributed so much to the game. In 2023 we mourned some giants of Rugby League including John Sattler, who went down in folklore after playing on with a broken jaw in the 1970 premiership win over Manly Warringah, and John 'Chow' Hayes, a NSWRL Life Member who achieved success as both a player with Western Suburbs and a coach for North Sydney.

Thank You

I congratulate NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden and his staff for all their hard work this season. The NSWRL is a small but dedicated team that is focused on promoting Rugby League in a positive fashion across the state. I am confident this trend will continue in 2024 and we will enjoy another successful season.



CEO'S REPORT

DAVID TRODDEN, NSWRL CEO

It is great to be able to report on another successful season for the NSWRL. The core element of our business has always been about participation and bearing that in mind, the 2023 NSWRL season will be remembered as one of our most prosperous with record numbers signing up to play the game for all across our great state.

The 2023 season was the first full Rugby League season that had not been disrupted by the COVID pandemic, which affected registrations in 2021-22, or catastrophic weather conditions, with the severe wet weather and flooding impacting on 2022. NSWRL took a proactive stance after undertaking a registration drive in regional areas throughout NSW in February which was embraced by the communities that were visited. These also created special memories along the way with one of the stops including the small town of Harden in south-west of NSW, who were celebrating their centenary year. The tour was supported by True Blues including Brad Fittler, Kylie Hilder, Craig Wing, Steve Menzies, Boyd Cordner, Nathan Hindmarsh and our current NSW Sky Blues co-captain Kezie Apps. I am always impressed with the time that our former and current players invest into ensuring that Rugby League continues to thrive and prosper around the state.

By the end of the season, 112,767 participants had signed up to play Rugby League. That figure smashed the previous record established two years ago when 107,528 players registered to play. It represented a seven per cent increase on 2022, men's participation was up almost five per cent while the women's game continued to grow at an exponential rate after registering a 14 per cent increase on 2022. We refer to Rugby League as the game for all and the participation figures for this season reflect that with so many formats available to play the game including traditional (tackle), Blues Tag, Wheelchair Rugby League, Physical Disability Rugby League, and Try League for CALD (Culturally Linguistically and Diverse) communities.

Origin

It was a challenging season for both the NSW men's and women's Origin teams, who put in worthy performances but were unable to recapture their respective Shields from Queensland. The men's team looked on track for a hard-fought win in Game One in Adelaide before Queensland wrestled the momentum away in the final seven minutes. We lost the series after being outplayed in Game Two but we showed there was plenty for our fans to look forward to in 2024 with a determined victory in Game Three in Sydney. We farewelled Brad Fittler as Westpac NSW Blues coach, after six years in the job and three series wins. His legacy to our game in this state is profound and he deserves our gratitude. The Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues also finished their Origin campaign against Queensland on a high note after winning Game Two to tie the series at 1-all. Unfortunately

they were unable to claim the Shield as the Maroons had a better aggregate. It was a difficult result for the Sky Blues to accept and they were keen for a decider to determine the winner. The decision has now been made to extend the 2024 Women's Origin series to three games and I am confident the Sky Blues will do everything they can to bring the Shield back home to NSW.

Grand Final glory

One of the highlights of any Rugby League season is the Grand Final and the NSWRL produced some deciders this season that were truly memorable. The Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership Grand Final between Mounties and Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs had historians clamouring for the record books. Mounties won the match 1-0 in an epic contest that was dominated by end-to-end action and brutal defence. It is the only time in Rugby League history that a Grand Final has been won 1-0. It was also the first tryless Grand Final since Parramatta Eels beat the Bulldogs in the 1984 NSWRL decider, and the first 1-0 score-line since Newtown beat St George in a NSWRL match in 1973. The decider of The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup was just as intense between two of the game's foundation clubs, South Sydney Rabbitohs and the North Sydney Bears. It was the first time the two clubs had met in a decider since 1926 and more than 10,000 fans turned out to CommBank Stadium to watch the enthralling contest. In the end, the Rabbitohs triumphed 22-18 in a thriller that went down to the wire to hand the club its first NSW Cup premiership in 40 years.

Community Programs

The NSWRL understands the importance of community programs and continued to invest heavily in them in 2023 across the core engagement pillars of First Nations people, All Abilities, LGBTQ+, Gender, Equity and Cultural Diversity. The programs throughout the season included:

- a free Inclusion Gala Day at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence that included a series of fun Rugby League activities with 120 participants of all abilities and cultural backgrounds;
- an Acknowledgment of Country video with media personality Stan Grant to acknowledge the NSWRL's strong connection to the First Nations community that could be used by all clubs around the state;
- other First Nations partnerships and initiatives including the KARI Foundation, the Deadly Choices campaign, the Clontarf Academy, the TAAP (Talented Aboriginal Athlete Program) camp, and First Nations tournaments and gala days including the Nations of Origin tournament and the Outback Rugby League challenge;

- the NSWRL's Mental Fitness Changing Rooms program, spearheaded by True Blue and NSWRL Mental Fitness and Wellbeing Manager Paul Langmack, was delivered to more than 5000 teenagers. In 2024 a NSW Government Initiative, the LivingWorks safeTalk program aimed at suicide prevention, will be offered to 700 Rugby League clubs around NSW;
- the NSWRL and Transport for NSW Regional Roadshow programs, which was delivered in November in areas around the state including the Northern Tablelands, the Orana Region, and the Sapphire Coast. Since the program started in 2017, it has helped deliver positive messages about road safety to more than 4000 teenagers at 40 regional areas.

Partners

The success we have achieved at the NSWRL in 2023 would not be possible without the ongoing support and contribution from our partners, who are also acknowledged elsewhere in this report. I thank our naming rights partner Westpac for their dedication in wanting to invest in our game, as well as The Star, Lion, PUMA, Transport for NSW, Harvey Norman, Jim Beam, McDonald's, Steeden, Athelite, KARI Foundation, University of New England, SLE, Rich Digital, Gatorade, Compass Corp, CABA Investments, I Want 2 Work, Command 51, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, My Sports Tape, Murrays Coaches, Sydney Markets, Arthur J. Gallagher, Accor, and Leagues Clubs Australia.

Thank You

Finally, I thank NSWRL Chairman Paul Conlon and the Board for their support in 2023 as well as the talented and dedicated NSWRL staff who work hard around the state to make our great game greater. We should be proud of the success we have achieved this season and I look forward to building on that again in 2024.





TERRY BRADY

Director: Since October 2019
Chairman: Bidgee Region

JOHN ANDERSON OAM

Deputy Chairman: Since February 2022
Director: Since October 2019
Life Member: NSWRL; South Newcastle;
Newcastle Rugby League
Member: Australian Rugby League
Indigenous Council

JOE KELLY

Director: Since February 2023
CEO: Sydney Roosters

PAUL CONLON

Chair: Since February 2023
Acting Judge: District Court of
New South Wales

CAROLYN CAMPBELL

Director: Since February 2023
Chair: Hockey One
Director: Volleyball Australia;
Bankstown Sports Club

BOB WALSH

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

HON. KEVIN GREENE AM

Director: Since 6 June 2022
Chairman: NSW Referees Association
Director: Cricket NSW; Club Central
Hurstville

MEDIA COVERAGE

The NSWRL continued to enjoy strong coverage from media stakeholders throughout the season while its own social media channels and dedicated channel for NSWRL content, NSWRL TV, experienced another season of sustained growth.

The Ampol State of Origin series is always in the Top 10 for most-watched programs of the year and the 2023 figures from Channel Nine demonstrated that. The opening game of the series in Adelaide was watched by 3.4 million, Game Two in Brisbane saw 3.1 million viewers tune in, while the final game with the series already decided was watched by 2.6 million. The growing interest in women's Rugby League was also reflected in the ratings on Channel Nine with almost 650,000 watching the first game in Sydney, and 573,000 viewers for the second game in Townsville. Channel Nine also televised the Under 19s Origin matches, which showcased the rising young stars of the game, with 297,000 tuning in for the men's game and 58,000 for the women's match. Fox League on FOX Sports televised the women's Open Age Country v City match in May, which acted as a genuine selection trial for the NSW Sky Blues. Channel Nine's The Sunday Footy Show also covered a funding announcement with Wests Group Macarthur, which saw 7000 participants, 500 teams and 23 clubs in the Macarthur Conference Competition benefit from a \$330,000 grant.

Select The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup matches were also televised by Fox League on FOX SPORTS in 2023 and recorded a 10 per cent increase in viewers with almost 600,000 fans tuning in during the season. The highlights included more than 55,000 people watching the Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles score a thrilling 26-24 win over the Penrith Panthers in Round Six, and more than 53,000 tuning in for the South Sydney Rabbitohs 26-12 win over Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles in Round Four.

The NSWRL's social media channels enjoyed another successful year with the total number of followers increasing by more than nine per cent. There were 1,885,270 followers across all social media channels in 2024, which represented an increase of 154,575 from the 2023 figure of 1,730,695. The highlights included 48 per cent growth on the Westpac NSW Blues TikTok account and a 15 per cent increase in followers on the NSWRL Instagram page.

The best performing posts included a repost of the Bradman Best try from the NSW Under 16s team in 2017 that received more than 3.3 million impressions; a spectacular try from the Western Suburbs Magpies in the UNE SG Ball Cup that generated more than 3 million impressions; behind

the scenes footage of a Channel Nine shoot combined with a training session on the Westpac NSW Blues Instagram page that was viewed more than 1 million times; a full-time graphic of a Warriors win on The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Facebook page that received more than 300,000 impressions; and a try by Illawarra Steelers' Hayden Buchanan in the UNE Harold Matthews Cup on the NSWRL Twitter page that was viewed more than 57,000 times.

It was also a successful year for NSWRL TV with a 42 per cent increase in average watch time from 2022. A total of 207 events were live streamed across the season – all games from the SLE Laurie Daley Cup, SLE Andrew Johns Cup, and the Men's and Women's Country Championships; select matches from the UNE Harold Matthews Cup, UNE SG Ball Cup, Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership, and The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup; all finals of the Sydney Shield and Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup; Country v City representative weekend; the Harmony Nines tournament, and the NSWRL Grand Final Day.

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Grand Final between foundation clubs South Sydney Rabbitohs and North Sydney Bears at CommBank Stadium in September was live streamed by both 9Now and NSWRL TV. More than 94,000 viewers on 9Now and a further 69,749 on NSWRL TV watched the Rabbitohs triumph 22-18, taking the combined total viewers to 164,492. This represented an increase of 54 per cent after 107,120 watched the 2022 decider.



Bradman Best NSW Under 16s try
Followers: 1,042,911
Views: 3,318,059



You're gonna wanna replay this
Followers: 511,441
Views: 1,046,659



NSW Sky Blues squad shot
Followers: 112,100
Views: 635,500

PARTNERS

THE TEDESCO INN

The NSWRL confirmed its reputation as one of the premier sporting brands in Australia after a strong season commercially that was highlighted by Westpac assuming naming rights for the NSW Blues.

The partnership, which provided equal financial support for programs promoting the men's and women's game, was initially announced in October 2022. Westpac undertook several initiatives in 2023 to usher in the new deal, including donating \$5000 for every try scored by the Westpac NSW Blues and Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues to assist the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service. By the end of the respective State of Origin series for both the men's and women's teams, \$65,000 was raised from a combined 13 tries across all games.

Westpac also threw their support behind another promotion involving Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues prop Millie Boyle and the Southport Sharks Under 13s girls. Boyle turned up for a surprise training session, with the girls also receiving a game-day experience which included transport and tickets to Game One of the Women's Origin series. Westpac also provided free tickets to other fans so they could attend the game.

Harvey Norman continued their support of women's Rugby League which included the naming rights for the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues, Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership, and the Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup. The Sky Blues took part in a clinic at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence in the lead-up to the opening Women's State of Origin game that was attended by 150 schoolgirls. Sky Blues players Boyle, Kennedy Cherrington and Keeley Davis were later involved in a 'Sky's the Limit' promotion where all three players attended a lunch with the winners at The Sydney Tower Eye. The prizes also included tickets to the opening game at CommBank Stadium, and a signed jersey. The Sky Blues also produced content for the NSWRL's social media pages to promote Dyson hair dryers before the True Blues dinner at The Star Event Centre in Pymont.

The Star Event Centre continued their long association with the NSWRL hosting the True Blues dinner in May, which saw the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues team introduced for the first time alongside the Westpac NSW Blues, and the Brad Fittler Medal in September. The Star also continued their support of the Westpac NSW Blues passionate supporter base, Blatchys Blues, with fans receiving the famous blue T-shirt and iconic Blue wig to cheer the team home. More than 75,000 supporters turned up for the final game of the Origin series at Accor Stadium in Sydney.

Tooheys donated \$10,000 to the junior club of James Tedesco following a successful promotion at the local pub of the Westpac NSW Blues captain. The 'Plough and Harrow' hotel in Camden was rebranded 'The

Tedesco Inn' for the duration of the State of Origin series with Tooheys donating 50 cents for every schooner sold to the Camden Rams. The promotion included 'Tedesco Inn' schooner glasses and a 'Teddy parmigiana' dish on the bistro menu, with the pub attracting media attention in The Daily Telegraph and on Channel Nine.

PUMA unveiled a first-ever First Nations training jersey for the State of Origin series which was worn by the players for one training session in all three camps. True Blues Latrell Mitchell, Josh Addo-Carr and Jack Wighton played a key role in the design of the jersey by First Nations artist Daren Dunn. It featured the specially-dedicated NSWRL "Home Country" painting which celebrates the peoples, languages, innovations, cultures and diversity of Koori nations and their connections to country. PUMA also produced a navy jersey to commemorate the opening game of the Origin series being played at a neutral venue, which was worn by the Westpac NSW Blues at Adelaide Oval.

McDonald's produced a campaign which featured Westpac NSW Blues trio Nathan Cleary, Brian To'o and Isaah Yeo, Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues prop Boyle and True Blue Boyd Cordner with the central theme being to always put the team first. McDonald's also initiated a 'Macca's Mic' video for the Westpac NSW Blues social media channels, which saw Westpac NSW Blues Damien Cook and Clint Gutherson, and Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues' Keeley Davis interview their teammates on a range of topics including their favourite McDonald's order.

Transport for NSW continued to cover the state's premier Rugby League competition, The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, and actively engage with the community to promote positive messages about road safety. True Blues Andrew Ryan, Trent Hodkinson, Brett Kimmorley, Luke Bailey and Ruan Sims took part in a Regional Roadshow campaign which took in 14 regional NSW towns, 18 high schools and 2600 students across October and November.

The campaign, which is done in conjunction with Transport for NSW's The Knock-on Effect initiative, also featured a video with Westpac NSW Blues skipper James Tedesco and teammates Josh Addo-Carr and Cameron Murray encouraging road users to make smart choices. It included a video called 'Decision Time' with Tedesco, Addo-Carr and Murray choosing between categories like 'Do dishes' or 'Cook dinner', or 'Ice Bath' and 'Sauna' before the choices turn more serious to 'Drive tired' or 'Take a break', or 'Look at your phone' to 'Focus on the road'. The program has delivered road safety messages to more than 4000 teenagers at 40 regional areas around the state since it first started in 2017.

Leagues Clubs Australia assumed naming rights for the Ron Massey Cup, which is a NSW-based, semi-professional competition and acts as a pathway to The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, in 2022. The partnership was celebrated in July with Licensed Clubs Round which featured the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup match between Ryde-Eastwood Hawks and Hills Bulls at TG Milner Field on 3pm being live streamed on NSWRL TV, and a junior Rugby League activation.

The NSWRL thanks all its partners for their ongoing support and looks forward to working with them again in 2024 to achieve further success.



1

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL



STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME ONE

The opening game of the Ampol State of Origin series was played at Adelaide Oval in Adelaide. It was only the second time an Origin match had been taken to the iconic venue after Adelaide Oval hosted the opening game of the 2020 series.

Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler selected five players from the premiership-winning Penrith Panthers while James Tedesco was named to captain the team for the third consecutive year. The team included three debutants – Nicho Hynes, Hudson Young and Tevita Pangai Junior – while Stefano Utoikamanu and Stephen Crichton were part of the extended squad. Young and Pangai Junior started the match in Game One, while Hynes was named on the bench.

The Blues were based at Coogee and held training sessions at Coogee Oval and the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. The team attended the Plough and Harrow Hotel in Camden in the lead-up to Game One, which was renamed 'The Tedesco Inn' for the duration of the series in honour of the Blues skipper who played his junior football in the area. The team also attended the annual True Blues dinner, where they were presented to the almost 500 guests that included former players, who had donned the sky blue jersey.

The team shifted camp to Adelaide on Monday before the match kicked off on Wednesday to put the finishing touches on their preparations. The team suffered a slight hiccup days before the game after Latrell Mitchell injured his calf during a training session at Accor Stadium. He was ruled out of the side the following morning allowing Crichton to take his place and start at centre.

The Blues started the match on the back foot after Queensland scored twice through Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow and Selwyn Cobbo. The Blues pegged one back just before half-time after Nathan Cleary and Jarome Luai combined to put Liam Martin through a hole and reduce the deficit to 10-6.

The Blues maintained their momentum in the second half when Apisai Koroisau scooped up a loose pass from Valentine Holmes and left the Maroons defence in his wake to score for a 12-10 lead. The two sides traded tries with Cobbo scoring his second for the Maroons before the Blues grabbed a kick from Cleary and spun it wide for Crichton to dive over the line and put themselves back in front 18-12.

NSW looked to be in the box seat when Queensland prop Tom Flegler was sin binned for a dangerous tackle on Tom Trbojevic with just over 10 minutes to go. Trbojevic left the field for an HIA (Head Injury Assessment) and took no further part in the game. Despite the advantage of having an extra man on the field, the Blues were unable to capitalise and the Maroons scored twice through Tabuai-Fidow and Cameron Munster to secure a 26-18 win and take a 1-0 lead in the series.

Queensland 26 (Selwyn Cobbo 2, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow 2, Cameron Munster tries; Valentine Holmes 3 goals) **NSW 18** (Liam Martin, Apisai Koroisau, Stephen Crichton tries; Nathan Cleary 3 goals) at Adelaide Oval, Adelaide on Wednesday 31 May.

Westpac NSW Blues: 1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Stephen Crichton (Penrith Panthers), 4. Tom Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 5. Josh Addo-Carr (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers), 8. Tevita Pangai Junior (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 9. Apisai Koroisau (Wests Tigers), 10. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 11. Tyson Frizell (Newcastle Knights), 12. Hudson Young (Canberra Raiders), 13. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 14. Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels), 15. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 16. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 17. Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 18. Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 19. Stefano Utoikamanu (Wests Tigers). Coach: Brad Fittler.



STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME TWO

The Westpac NSW Blues headed into Game Two of the Ampol State of Origin series at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane needing to win to keep the series alive. It was an opportunity to make a statement as no NSW side had ever levelled the series on Queensland soil before going on to claim the Shield.

The Blues plans got off to a tough start with halfback Nathan Cleary ruled out of contention with a hamstring injury he had suffered after backing up for Penrith following Game One. Cleary had been a stalwart for the Blues having played 15 games since making his debut in 2018. The team also were without hooker Apisai Koroisau, who was ruled out with a broken jaw he sustained playing for Wests Tigers against the Gold Coast Titans. Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler named Mitchell Moses and Damien Cook as replacements, Stefano Utoikamanu and Reece Robson were selected to make their debuts, while Stephen Crichton and Keon Koloamatangi were part of the extended squad.

There were also question marks over some of the players coming into camp including Latrell Mitchell, who was still battling a calf injury, Liam Martin, who needed a medical clearance to play after sustaining a concussion in the final NRL round before the team was announced, and Cameron Murray, who was being plagued by a groin problem. Mitchell succumbed to his injury and was ruled out early on in camp with Crichton stepping in to replace him and Matt Burton joining the squad.

The team divided their training sessions between Coogee Oval and the NSWRL Centre of Excellence before heading to Brisbane to complete their build-up. The bad luck that had plagued the team in the lead-up continued when Game Two kicked off after Tom Trbojevic tore his pectoral muscle in the third minute while attempting a tackle on Maroons fullback Reece Walsh. Cook was injected into the match early to play in the unfamiliar role of centre and it didn't take Queensland long to seize the advantage.

The Maroons took a 10-0 lead into the half-time break following tries to Valentine Holmes and Murray Taulagi. They kept the momentum going when play resumed after Walsh made a bust paving the way for Holmes to grab his second try, while a Taulagi chip kick took a favourable bounce for Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow to score. The Blues were 20-0 down but refused to give in and Cook gave them some hope when he beat the Maroons defence with an angled run to score.

At 20-6 down and with more than 20 minutes still left on the clock, the Blues were still a chance but the Maroons scored again through Xavier Coates and then Jeremiah Nanai to secure the win 32-6 and retain the Shield for another year. The match finished on a fiery note after Walsh, Jarome Luai and Josh Addo-Carr were all sent to the sin bin for fighting.

Queensland 32 (Valentine Holmes 2, Murray Taulagi, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Xavier Coates, Jeremiah Nanai tries; Valentine Holmes 4 goals) **NSW 6** (Damien Cook try; Stephen Crichton goal) at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane on Wednesday 21 June.

Westpac NSW Blues: 1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Stephen Crichton (Penrith Panthers), 4. Tom Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 5. Josh Addo-Carr (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Mitchell Moses (Parramatta Eels), 8. Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels), Damien Cook (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 10. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 11. Tyson Frizell (Newcastle Knights), 12. Hudson Young (Canberra Raiders), 13. Isiah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 14. Stefano Utoikamanu (Wests Tigers), 15. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 16. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 17. Reece Robson (North Queensland Cowboys), 18. Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 19. Keon Koloamatangi (South Sydney Rabbitohs). Coach: Brad Fittler.



STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME THREE

The Westpac NSW Blues returned home to Accor Stadium in Sydney for Game Three of the Ampol State of Origin series determined to avoid a clean sweep by Queensland. Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler reacted accordingly and made several changes.

Keaon Koloamatangi, who had been in the extended squad for Game Two, and Bradman Best were both named to make their debuts, while Scott Drinkwater and Spencer Leniu were selected on an extended bench. Other changes included Cody Walker recalled at five-eighth, Reagan Campbell-Gillard and Jake Trbojevic at prop, and Jacob Saifiti and Clint Gutherson on the bench. The Blues were once again based at Coogee and divided their training sessions between Coogee Oval and the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. With all players fit and healthy heading into camp, Fittler was able to train the team without any disruptions.

Despite the series already being decided, 75,342 fans turned up to cheer NSW home, but it was Queensland who got off to the perfect start after David Fifita scored off a Cameron Munster kick. The Blues responded on the back of a Josh Addo-Carr break down the sideline before swinging the ball back the other way for Brian To'o to score in the corner.

Addo-Carr then produced a memorable moment after making another break down the sideline, chipping a kick over the head of fullback AJ Brimson, and then regathering to score. Best then scored a try on debut after charging on to a nice pass from Walker before dragging Xavier Coates across the line. NSW was on top at 16-6 but Queensland pegged one back after Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow kicked ahead for himself and then beat the defence to score. The Blues gained themselves a buffer just before half-time when Stephen Crichton landed a penalty goal to extend the lead to 18-10.

The second half was a genuine arm wrestle for the first 20 minutes with neither side able to seize the advantage until NSW skipper James Tedesco made a telling break before picking up Best in support to grab his second try of the night. The Blues kept Queensland scoreless for the rest of the half to run out 24-10 winners and finish the series on a high. Walker was named Player of the Match while Tedesco broke the record of True Blue Danny Buderus for most consecutive games for NSW with his 22nd appearance.

NSW 24 (Bradman Best 2, Brian To'o, Josh Addo-Carr tries; Stephen Crichton 4 goals) **Queensland 10** (David Fifita, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow tries; Valentine Holmes goal) at Accor Stadium, Sydney on Wednesday 12 July.

Westpac NSW Blues: 1. James Tedesco (c) (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Stephen Crichton (Penrith Panthers), 4. Bradman Best (Newcastle Knights), 5. Josh Addo-Carr (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 6. Cody Walker (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 7. Mitchell Moses (Parramatta Eels), 8. Jake Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), Damien Cook (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 10. Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Parramatta Eels), 11. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 12. Keaon Koloamatangi (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 13. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 14. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 15. Jacob Saifiti (Newcastle Knights), 16. Reece Robson (North Queensland Cowboys), 17. Clint Gutherson (Parramatta Eels), 18. Scott Drinkwater (North Queensland Cowboys), 19. Spencer Leniu (Penrith Panthers). Coach: Brad Fittler.



WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME ONE

The 2023 Ampol Women's State of Origin moved to a two-game series for the first time, and the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues were confident they could defend the Shield. It was decided the Shield would be awarded to the state which had the best aggregate after both matches with Game One to be played at Sydney's CommBank Stadium.

With the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership ending in April, Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder assembled a preliminary training squad to maintain their fitness before the match on 1 June. Other players were also named to play in the Country v City match at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium in Kogarah on 4 May which acted as a selection trial for the team.

The Sky Blues were based at Sydney Olympic Park for Game One which allowed them to train at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. Hilder was unable to select key forwards Simaima Taufa (shoulder) and Caitlan Johnston (knee) who were both injured but named four players to make their debuts – Jesse Southwell, Jaime Chapman, Taliah Fuimaono and Brooke Anderson, while another newcomer Ellie Johnston was part of the extended bench.

The camp included a clinic for 150 schoolgirls at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence, where the Sky Blues participated in drills before taking part in a question-and-answer session. The Sky Blues suffered a setback on the eve of the match when winger Tiana Penitani was ruled out after being unable to complete the Captain's Run due to a hamstring injury. The reshuffle saw Jess Sergis switch to the wing, Fuimaono start at centre, and Quincy Dodd join the bench.

The Sky Blues were starved of possession for the opening 10 minutes of the match and although they defended stoutly, Queensland eventually found a way through when Julia Robinson scored. The Maroons had a 4-0 lead but the Sky Blues pegged one back when Rachael Pearson dropped Sergis back inside and she hustled her way past five defenders to plant the ball over the line. Southwell landed the conversion to put the Sky Blues in front 6-4. Sky Blues co-captain Isabelle Kelly suffered a nasty injury after copping an elbow to the throat. She was assisted from the field and taken to hospital as a precaution. Shortly afterwards the Maroons crashed over the line through Tazmin Gray to establish a 10-6 lead at half-time.

The Maroons maintained their momentum in the second half after Emily Bass and Robinson both scored tries to extend the margin to 18-6. The Sky Blues refused to give up and gave themselves some hope when Southwell and Emma Tonegato combined to put Chapman over in the corner. Southwell missed the conversion, but the Sky Blues had reduced the deficit to 18-10 with more than 20 minutes still left in the match.

Unfortunately, they were unable to score again and paid the price for a poor completion rate (60 per cent) as well as finishing on the wrong side of the possession count (45 per cent). The match was well attended with a record crowd of 12,972. The final score remained at 18-10 leaving the Sky Blues with the challenge of needing to win in Townsville.

Queensland 18 (Julia Robinson 2, Tazmin Gray, Emily Bass tries; Zahara Temara goal) **NSW 10** (Jessica Sergis, Jaime Chapman tries; Jesse Southwell goal) at CommBank Stadium, Sydney on Thursday 1 June.

Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues: 1. Emma Tonegato (Illawarra Steelers), 2. Jaime Chapman (Tweed Heads Seagulls)*, 3. Jessica Sergis (North Sydney Bears), 4. Isabelle Kelly (c) (Central Coast Roosters), 5. Tiana Penitani (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 6. Jesse Southwell (Newcastle Knights), 7. Rachael Pearson (Illawarra Steelers), 8. Kezie Apps (c) (Illawarra Steelers), 9. Keeley Davis (Illawarra Steelers), 10. Millie Boyle (Central Coast Roosters), 11. Olivia Kernick (Central Coast Roosters), 12. Yasmin Clydsdale (Newcastle Knights), 13. Kennedy Cherrington (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 14. Taliah Fuimaono (Illawarra Steelers), 15. Sarah Togatuki (North Sydney Bears), 16. Brooke Anderson (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 17. Shaylee Bent (Wynnum Manly Seagulls)*, 18. Ellie Johnston (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 19. Quincy Dodd (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks). Coach: Kylie Hilder.

* Denotes Queensland Cup teams

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WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME TWO

The second game of the Ampol Women's State of Origin series was played at Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville. The Sky Blues headed into enemy territory knowing they would need to win the match by nine points or more under the aggregate system after losing the opening game in Sydney.

Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder made four changes to the team that had lost Game One with Jesse Southwell shifting to halfback and Taliah Fuimaono starting at five-eighth, while Simaima Taufa (shoulder) and Tiana Penitani (hamstring) returned from injury. Co-captain Isabelle Kelly, who had been hospitalised with a throat injury in the opener, was also selected with Hilder giving her every chance to prove her fitness.

The squad elected to spend the bulk of their preparation in Townsville and used the training facilities of NRL club North Queensland Cowboys at Queensland Country Bank Stadium. Officials were confident the match would be well supported, and 18,275 fans turned up, shattering the previous record of 12,972 that had been established in Game One.

The Sky Blues started the match in strong fashion with Keeley Davis putting a well-timed grubber kick through for Penitani to grab and place down before going into touch for a 4-0 lead. Southwell missed the conversion but had no problems with a penalty goal attempt a short time later to extend the Sky Blues lead to 6-0.

Queensland then seized the advantage after scoring three tries through Tamika Upton, Emily Bass and Tarryn Aiken to take a 14-6 lead into half-time. The Sky Blues needed points in the second half and Emma Tonegato and Kelly combined to put Penitani over for her second try of the night. A Southwell penalty goal cut the margin to 14-12 and set up a thrilling finish with 25 minutes still left on the clock.

NSW co-captain Kezie Apps came close to scoring before being pushed back by the goal-line defence but it didn't take long for the Sky Blues to receive another opportunity. Back-rower Yasmin Clydsdale was awarded a penalty try with just over two minutes to go after Queensland's Shenae Ciesiolka had kicked at the ball to stop her from scoring. Southwell landed the conversion to put the Sky Blues in front 18-14 and they held on for the win. The series had finished at 1-all, but Queensland claimed the Shield after finishing with a better aggregate. The margin of four

points showed just how little there had been between the two sides across two games and prompted calls from both coaches and captains to move to a three-game series.

NSW 18 (Tiana Penitani 2, Yasmin Clydsdale tries; Jesse Southwell 3 goals) **Queensland 14** (Tamika Upton, Emily Bass, Tarryn Aiken tries; Zahara Temara goal) at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, Townsville on Thursday 22 June.

Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues: 1. Emma Tonegato (Illawarra Steelers), 2. Jaime Chapman (Tweed Heads Seagulls)*, 3. Jessica Sergis (North Sydney Bears), 4. Isabelle Kelly (c) (Central Coast Roosters), 5. Tiana Penitani (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 6. Taliah Fuimaono (Illawarra Steelers), 7. Jesse Southwell (Newcastle Knights), 8. Kezie Apps (c) (Illawarra Steelers), 9. Keeley Davis (Illawarra Steelers), 10. Millie Boyle (Central Coast Roosters), 11. Olivia Kernick (Central Coast Roosters), 12. Yasmin Clydsdale (Newcastle Knights), 13. Simaima Taufa (Mounties), 14. Quincy Dodd (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 15. Kennedy Cherrington (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 16. Sarah Togatuki (North Sydney Bears), 17. Shaylee Bent (Wynnum Manly Seagulls)*, 18. Cassey Tohi-Hiku (North Sydney Bears), 19. Brooke Anderson (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks). Coach: Kylie Hilder.

* Denotes Queensland Cup teams



UNDER 19s MEN'S ORIGIN

The CAFE NSW Under 19s Men were aiming to defend the Origin Shield they had claimed in 2022, after the representative pathways fixture made a return to the calendar following an absence due to the COVID pandemic. The team was coached again by True Blue Andrew Ryan, with his assistants including True Blues Mark O'Meley, Shaun Timmins, and Josh Jackson.

The team included Manly Warringah Sea Eagles back-rower Samuela Fainu, who was named captain and made his NRL debut in 2023, and his younger brother, Latu Fainu, who had played six games for the Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles in The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup.

Penrith Panthers had four players, including Harrison Hassett, Jesse McLean, Billy Scott and Luron Patea. Hassett, McLean and Scott played in the premiership-winning SG Ball Cup team from 2022 with Hassett (four games) and McLean (13 games) both graduating to play in The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup in 2023.

The Under 19s were based at Sydney Olympic Park and had an opposed session with the Westpac NSW Blues at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence as part of their build-up to the match. The team relocated to Redcliffe to put the finishing touches on their preparations for the game at Redcliffe Stadium.

NSW started the match strongly after a Queensland knock-on with Latu Fainu sending Ethan Strange over in the first minute of the match. Ethan Ferguson was unable to convert to leave the lead at 4-0.

Queensland were reduced to 12 men after Mitchell Jennings was sent to the sin bin and another mistake from them paved the way for NSW to score again through Ferguson to take the lead to 8-0.

A lost ball from NSW paved the way for Queensland to open their account through winger Timothy Sielaff-Burns and they backed that up with another try to back-rower Will Sullivan to level the scores at 8-all. Sielaff-Burns landed the conversion to put Queensland in front for the first time 10-8. A spectacular team effort from NSW, which saw the ball pass through several sets of hands before halfback Ethan Sanders sprinted away to score, had them re-take the lead 14-10 at half-time.

Queensland levelled the scores at 14-all after Caleb Jackson scored when play resumed but from that point on it was all NSW. They piled on 18 unanswered points with Strange grabbing two more tries to take his tally for the game to three and Savielo Tamale catching the defence napping from dummy-half, to power away for a 32-14 win and keep the Shield in NSW. Strange was named Player of the Match after a dominant performance. His combination with Ferguson – who grabbed a try and landed four goals – on the right edge proved too much for Queensland.

NSW 32 (Ethan Strange 3, Ethan Ferguson, Ethan Sanders, Savelio Tamale tries; Ethan Ferguson 4 goals)
Queensland 14 (Timothy Sielaff-Burns, Wil Sullivan, Caleb Jackson tries; Timothy Sielaff-Burns goal) at Kayo Stadium, Redcliffe.

CAFE Under 19s Men: 1. Chevy Stewart (Canberra Raiders), 2. Savelio Tamale (St George Illawarra Dragons), 3. Ethan Strange (Canberra Raiders), 4. Joshua Feledy (Wests Tigers), 5. Ethan Ferguson (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 6. Latu Fainu (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 7. Ethan Sanders (Parramatta Eels), 8. Jake Clydsdale (Canberra Raiders), 9. Billy Scott (Penrith Panthers), 10. Samuela Fainu (c) (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 11. Charlie Guymer (Parramatta Eels), 12. Harrison Hassett (Penrith Panthers), 13. Myles Martin (Newcastle Knights), 14. Joash Papalii (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 15. Nicholas Tsougranis (St George Illawarra Dragons), 16. Sam Tuivaiti (Parramatta Eels), 17. Luron Patea (Penrith Panthers), 18. Kyle McCarthy (Newcastle Knights), 19. Jermaine McEwen (Newcastle Knights).
Coach: Andrew Ryan.



UNDER 19s WOMEN'S ORIGIN

The NSW Under 19s Women's team were looking to maintain their dominance in the Origin arena, having never been beaten since the concept started in 2019 (the match was not played in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic).

The squad was coached by Kate Mullaly, who was also an assistant coach for the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues, and featured players from the 2023 Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup. They included Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs forward Monalisa Soliola, who had played in the 2022 Harvey Norman NSW Women's Under 19s team, Tarsha Gale Cup premiership-winners Ally Bullman and Brooke Talataina from the Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters, and Tarsha Gale Cup Grand Finalists Litia Fusi, Chelsea Makira and Latisha Smythe from the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs.

The squad went into camp at Sydney Olympic Park and trained at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence before relocating to Redcliffe for the match at Kayo Stadium.

Queensland opened the scoring early after centre Skyla Adams dived on a loose ball, but they were unable to convert their lead to leave the score at 4-0. NSW hit back after hooker Chelsea Makira fooled the goal-line defence before diving through a gap to score with Soliola landing the conversion for a 6-4 lead.

NSW extended their lead to 10-4 at half-time after finding space out wide for winger Grace-Lee Weekes to cross over in the corner. Queensland scored when play resumed after fullback Destiny Mino-Sinapati powered her way over the line with three defenders on her back. The home team made it back-to-back tries after utility Emily Bella dived over from dummy-half. They extended their lead to 20-10 after five-eighth Chantay Kiria-Ratu fired a cut-out pass for centre Libby Surha to shoot through a hole in the defensive line to score.

With only nine minutes remaining, Makira burrowed her way over the line from dummy-half to grab her second try of the night, reduce the margin to 20-14 and set up a grandstand finish. NSW tried hard but were unable to find another try to surrender the Shield to Queensland for the first time in four years. Makira was one of NSW's best players as was lock Losana Lutu, who played out of her normal position of five-eighth but looked threatening in both attack and defence while her kicking game put Queensland under pressure for most of the night.

Queensland 20 (Skyla Adams, Destiny Mino-Sinapati, Emily Bella, Libby Surha tries; Emily Bella 2 goals)

NSW 14 (Chelsea Makira 2, Grace-Lee Weekes tries, Monalisa Soliola goal) at Kayo Stadium, Redcliffe on Thursday 13 July.

Harvey Norman Under 19s Women: 1. Sienna Williams (North Sydney Bears), 2. Grace-Lee Weekes (North Sydney Bears), 3. Litia Fusi (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 4. Lindsay Tui (Parramatta Eels), 5. Georgia Willey (Canberra Raiders), 6. Brooke Talataina (Sydney Roosters), 7. Evie Jones (Newcastle Knights), 8. Kalosipani Hopoate (North Sydney Bears), 9. Chelsea Makira (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 10. Latisha Smythe (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 11. Chloe Jackson (c) (North Sydney Bears), 12. Monalisa Soliola (c) (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 13. Losana Lutu (Wests Tigers), 14. Leah Ollerton (Newcastle Knights), 15. Mercydes Faeteete-Metcalf (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 16. Marley Cardwell (Penrith Panthers), 17. Kate Fallon (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 18. Charlotte Barwick (Newcastle Knights), 19. Ally Bullman (Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy). Coach: Kate Mullaly.



COUNTRY V CITY

The Country v City representative matches involved eight matches and 16 teams staged across three days and two different venues. The concept was expanded in 2023 to include matches for Under 17s Girls and Under 19s Women with all matches played at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium in Kogarah, apart from Wheelchair Rugby League which was held in Queanbeyan PCYC. The full list of matches included Under 16s Boys, Under 17s Girls, Under 18s Boys, Under 19s Women, Women's Open Age, Men's Open Age, Physical Disability Rugby League and Wheelchair Rugby League.

In a sign of the increasing popularity of the event, the Women's Open Age match, which acted as a selection trial for the Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues and was the opening match for Country v City, was broadcast by Fox League on FOX SPORTS. The game was played on Thursday night with Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder in attendance, while Country was coached by her assistant Ruan Sims and City by her other assistant Kate Mullaly. City started the match in blistering fashion after scoring the opening three tries through Cassie Staples, Tayla Preston and Monalisa Soliola.

Country winger Teagan Berry changed the momentum when she intercepted a pass and raced 95m to score. Five-eighth Kirra Dibb then laid on two more tries in a Player of the Match performance to set up an 18-12 win and put Country up 1-0.

The honours were shared on Saturday with City winning both pathway games for Under 16s Boys and Under 18s Boys while Country triumphed in the Men's Open Age match and Wheelchair Rugby League. The Men's Open Age match was another close affair with Country shooting out to a 20-4 half-time lead before City staged a fightback. The scene was set for a thrilling final 10 minutes after Country fullback Cameron Anderson was sent to the sin bin for a professional foul, but their defence was up to the challenge and they held on for a 26-20 win.

Country held a 3-2 win heading into the final day on Sunday but City made a remarkable comeback to win games for Physical Disability Rugby League, Under 17s Girls and Under 19s Women to claim honours 5-3. The Country v City concept started in 1911 and featured the best players from the NSWRL Premiership against the best players from regional NSW. The fixture was based on residency rules from 1928 and 1986 and was used as an Origin selection trial from 1987-2017. The concept was then shelved before returning to the NSWRL calendar in 2021.

Country v City Under 16s Boys
City 30 (Heinz Lemoto 3, Heamasi Makasini 2, Onitoni Large, Diesel Hagan tries; Kyran Blair goal) def **Country 0** at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Saturday 6 May.

Country v City Under 17s Girls
City 16 (Alaianne Toia, Mariah Fasavalu-Faamausili, Lile Fifita, Bethany To'o tries) **Country 4** (Sienna Thomas try) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Sunday 7 May.

Country v City Under 18s Boys
City 30 (Casey McLean 2, Lachlan Galvin, Ethan Roberts, Siamani Leuluai, Latu Fainu tries; Richard Penisini 3 goals) **Country 10** (Jarrah Treweek, Xavier Cacciotti tries; Clay Baldock goal) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Saturday 6 May.

Country v City Under 19s Women
City 26 (Lindsay Tui 2, Lilia Fusi 2, Chloe Jackson, Latisha Smythe tries; Tatiana Finau goal) **Country 8** (Charlotte Eather, Georgia Willey tries) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Sunday 7 May.

Country v City Women Open Age
Country 18 (Teagan Berry 2, Ellie Johnston tries; Kirra Dibb 3 goals) **City 12** (Monalisa Soliola, Tayla Preston, Cassie Staples tries) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Thursday 4 May.

Country v City Men Open Age
Country 26 (Gary Anderson, Tom Warner, Lincoln Smith, Cameron Anderson, Levi Pascoe tries; Chad O'Donnell 3 goals) **City 20** (Alfred Smalley, Todd Sapienza, Jake Tago, Denzal Tonise tries; Kamren Cryer 2 goals) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Saturday 6 May.

Country v City Wheelchair Rugby League
NSW Country 70 (Toby Popple 3, Jason Attard 3, Zac Carl 2, Brad Grove 2, Rick Engles 2, Diab Karim tries; Diab Karim 5, Toby Popple 3, Brett Henman goals) **NSW City 15** (Wessam Bakkour, William Derederenalagi tries; Derederenalagi 3 goals; Derederenalagi field goal) at Queanbeyan PCYC on Saturday 6 May.

Country v City Physical Disability Rugby League
City 16 (Bryce Crane 3 tries; 2 goals) **Country 10** (Rylan Gaudron 2 tries; goal) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Sunday 7 May.



2

NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS



THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup welcomed the Sydney Roosters and the Warriors into the state's premier competition in 2023 to take the number of teams to 13 – Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles, Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Newcastle Knights, Newtown Jets, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Illawarra Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Sydney Roosters, Warriors, and Western Suburbs Magpies. The competition was played over 26 rounds followed by a top-five finals series.

The regular season was fiercely contested with eight teams still in contention for a spot in the top five heading into the final round. The Bears secured the Minor Premiership in Round 24 after moving five points clear of their nearest opponent, finishing ahead of the Rabbitohs (2), Warriors (3), Raiders (4) and Sea Eagles (5). The Jets (6) were unlucky to miss out on a position after winning their final match in emphatic fashion 48-10 over the Knights, but the Bulldogs 32-22 loss to the Sea Eagles and the Bears 36-14 loss to the Raiders counted against them.

The Bears earned the first week off from the finals with the Rabbitohs progressing to the Major Semi-final after beating the Warriors 26-12 while the Raiders edged past the Sea Eagles 24-22 to end their season. The Rabbitohs maintained their momentum and were the first team through to the Grand Final, after beating the Bears 30-24 with both teams scoring five tries but goalkicking proving to be the difference with Souths halfback Dean Hawkins landing all five conversions. The Minor Semi-final saw the Warriors rebound from their loss to the Rabbitohs to score a huge 49-6 win over the Raiders. In the Preliminary Final at Leichhardt Oval, the Bears finally ended a worrying form slump that had seen them lose their past three games to hang on for a 28-24 win over the Warriors and set up a Grand Final showdown with the Rabbitohs.

The decider between the two foundation clubs was played at CommBank Stadium on 24 September and attracted more than 10,000 fans. Souths were chasing their first NSW Cup title in 40 years after claiming their last title in 1983, while the Bears' drought stretched three decades with their last premiership coming in 1993. The Rabbitohs boasted the most attacking runs (4967) of any team in the competition during the regular season, while the Bears had scored the most tries (133). Souths welcomed back NRL players Blake Taaffe and Shaquai Mitchell, while Norths had Fetalaiga Pauga, Terrell May and Fletcher Baker.

The Bears got off to a flying start after winger Alfred Smalley tip-toed down the sideline to score in the corner, before Mitchell used his size and strength to power his way over the line to put Souths in front 6-4. Bears five-eighth Jesse Marschke then scored arguably the try of the Grand Final after dancing his way through the defence from 30m out, but the Rabbitohs hit back when Dean Hawkins kicked ahead for Ethan O'Neill to score for a 12-10 lead. The Bears landed a penalty goal through Kieran Hayman right on half-time to lock the scores up at 12-11.

The second half was just as entertaining as the first 40 minutes with the Rabbitohs taking the lead again at 16-12 after winger Tom Carr scored in the corner. Marshke dropped Bears back-rower Reuben Porter back inside to crash over next to the posts with Hayman landing the conversion for an 18-16 lead. The scene was set for a grandstand finish with less than 10 minutes left on the clock. Taaffe, who was later named Player of the Match, put winger Tyrone Munro over in the corner. Hawkins then converted from the sideline to put Souths back in front 22-18 and they hung on for the club's first NSW Cup premiership in 40 years.

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup also continued to provide an important pathway to higher honours, with 44 players from this year's competition going on to make their NRL debuts.

South Sydney Rabbitohs 22 (Shaquai Mitchell, Ethan O'Neill, Tom Carr, Tyrone Munro tries; Dean Hawkins 3 goals) **North Sydney Bears 18** (Alfred Smalley, Jesse Marschke, Reuben Porter 3 tries; Kieran Hayman 3 goals) at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 24 September.

Standings: North Sydney Bears 36, South Sydney Rabbitohs 34, Warriors 33, Canberra Raiders 33, Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles 32, Newtown Jets 31, Penrith Panthers 30, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 29, Parramatta Eels 27, St George Illawarra Dragons 23, Western Suburbs Magpies 22, Newcastle Knights 20, Sydney Roosters 14.



HARVEY NORMAN NSW WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

The Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership, the state's premier competition for women, featured 11 teams – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Central Coast Roosters, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Mounties, Newcastle Knights, North Sydney Bears, St George Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Wentworthville Magpies, and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over 11 rounds followed by a top four finals series.

North Sydney Bears finished the season as the Minor Premiers and were the best attacking team in the competition (362) – the next best being Mounties (254) – as well as having the best defence (120). The remaining teams in the top four were the Steelers (2), Bulldogs (3) and Mounties (4). The Central Coast Roosters (6) had been in fourth position heading into the final round but had a bye, which allowed Mounties to leapfrog them after they beat the Bulldogs 36-4. The Knights (5) also went past them after beating the Sharks 30-4.

The Semi-finals were both played at Leichhardt Oval on 23 April. The Bears were looking to erase the bitter memories of the previous season after they finished on top of the table but lost their Semi-final to eventual premiers Wests Tigers. The Bears boasted plenty of firepower, including internationals Raecene McGregor, Kirra Dibb, Sarah Togatuki and Jess Sergis, but it was Mounties who seized the early advantage with Serena Naitokotoka and Haylee Hifo scoring tries to help establish a 12-4 half-time lead. Mounties extended their lead to 18-4 when hooker Janaya Bent scored before the Bears crossed twice through McGregor and Rikaya Horne to set up a thrilling finish with eight minutes remaining in the match. Mounties had defended well during the game and held their nerve to win 18-16.

The Bulldogs capitalised on a double to back-rower Monalisa Soliola in the other Semi-final to end the Steelers season. The Steelers also had plenty of strike weapons, including Sky Blues co-captain Kezie Apps, and Sky Blues Emma Tonegato, Keeley Davis, Taliah Fuimaono and Rachael Pearson, while the Bulldogs boasted NSW Origin players in Holli Wheeler and Kennedy Cherrington. There was little between the two sides in the first half with the score locked at 4-all at half-time before Soliola scored her first try to put the Bulldogs in front 10-4. The Steelers reduced the margin to 10-8 after winger Olivia Vale scored but Soliola crashed through defenders from short range to score again and set up the 16-8 win.

The Grand Final was played at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April and was one of the most memorable Rugby League deciders ever played. There was end-to-end action from both teams, brutal hits, and try-saving tackles but neither side could find the tryline. The action was ferocious with Mounties captain Simaima Taufa forced off the field twice for treatment on a shoulder injury, while Bulldogs five-eighth Gayle Broughton had to pass a HIA to remain on the field. The two sides went to half-time still locked up at nil-all and the deadlock wasn't broken until the 68th minute when Mounties halfback Matilda Power landed a field goal for a 1-0 lead. Power was named Player of the Match with the game going down in the history books as the only Grand Final to be decided by a 1-0 scoreline.

Mounties 1 (Matilda Power field goal) Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 0 at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April.

Standings: North Sydney Bears 18, Illawarra Steelers 16, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 16, Mounties 14, Newcastle Knights 14, Central Coast Roosters 14, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 10, Wentworthville Magpies 10, Wests Tigers 10, South Sydney Rabbitohs 8, St George Dragons 2.



JERSEY FLEGG CUP

The Jersey Flegg Cup for Under 21s was played over 26 rounds and featured 12 teams – Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Melbourne Storm, Newcastle Knights, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Illawarra Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Sydney Roosters, and Wests Tigers. The competition culminated with a top-five finals series.

The Roosters finished the season as Minor Premiers with the best (650) attack and defence (272) of any team. They took top spot on the competition ladder in Round 8 and were never headed. The remaining teams in the top five were Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (2), Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (3), Penrith Panthers (4), and Parramatta Eels (5). The Storm (6) just missed out on a spot after losing their final round match to Canberra Raiders 20-16, which allowed the Eels to leapfrog them on the ladder after they beat the Panthers 26-14.

The Roosters earned the opening week off from the finals, with the Bulldogs scoring a convincing 44-22 win over the Sharks in the Qualifying Final. The Eels beat the 2022 premiers Panthers 30-20 to end their season, with Eels hooker Matthew Arthur, the son of Parramatta NRL coach Brad Arthur, having a hand in four tries. The Eels maintained their momentum in the Minor Semi-final after eliminating the Sharks 20-6, while the Bulldogs were the first team to book their place in the decider after a convincing 26-6 win over the Roosters in the Major Semi-final. The Bulldogs were well in control of the match after taking a 16-6 lead at half-time with winger Jordi Mazzone – who had represented NSW Under 19s in the win over Queensland in July – bagging a hat-trick.

The Roosters had to dig deep in the Preliminary Final after prop Corey Ross was sent to the sin bin and the Eels took advantage to surge to a 18-10 lead at half-time. They responded in the second half by scoring 21 unanswered points, with Vaiala Tamati, Salesi Foketi, Xavier Chatfield-Mooka and Owen Flaherty all scoring tries and Cassius Tia landing a field goal for a 31-18 victory.

The decider between the Bulldogs and the Roosters was played at CommBank Stadium on 24 September with the Roosters keen to exact revenge on the Bulldogs after losing to them in the Major Semi-final. They started the match strongly after Flaherty fired a cut-out pass for Chatfield-Mooka to score in the corner. The Bulldogs hit back with tries to Harry Hayes and Mazzone to establish a 10-4 lead, but the see-sawing battle continued after Chatfield-Mooka grabbed his second try for the day followed by Tayson Fakosi crashing over next to the posts for a 14-10 half-time lead.

The Bulldogs regrouped and came out firing in the second half with Danny Gabrael scoring before Mazzone crossed the line for his double. The Roosters closed the gap to 22-20 after Foketi scored to set up a thrilling finish with seven minutes remaining but the Bulldogs defence held firm to secure the club's first Jersey Flegg Cup premiership in 20 years. It was also the Bulldogs 10th title since the competition started in 1961 – the most by any club – with halfback Joseph O'Neill named Player of the Match.

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 22 (Jordi Mazzone 2, Harry Hayes, Danny Gabrael tries; Joash Papalii 3 goals) **Sydney Roosters 20** (Xavier Chatfield-Mooka 2, Tayson Fakaosi, Salesi Foketi tries; Cassius Tia 2 goals) at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 24 September.

Standings: Sydney Roosters 43, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 39, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 36, Penrith Panthers 33, Parramatta Eels 30, Melbourne Storm 30, Canberra Raiders 28, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 26, St George Illawarra Dragons 26, South Sydney Rabbitohs 25, Newcastle Knights 22, Wests Tigers 22.



LEAGUES CLUBS AUSTRALIA RON MASSEY CUP

The Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup featured nine teams – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Glebe Dirty Reds, Hills Bulls, Kaiviti Silktails, Mounties, Penrith Brothers, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, St Marys Saints, and Wentworthville Magpies. The competition was played over 18 rounds followed by a top-five finals series.

St Marys claimed the Minor Premiership after going through the regular season unbeaten to finish with 36 competition points. They also had the best attack (488) and defence (220) of any team. The remaining teams in the top five were Glebe (24), Wentworthville (23), Ryde-Eastwood (20), and Hills Bulls (20).

St Marys earned the first week off from the finals, with Wentworthville registering a huge 32-6 win over Glebe in the Qualifying Final. Ryde-Eastwood ended the season of Hills Bulls 26-18 in the Elimination Final after a dominant first half where they led 26-0. Wentworthville sprung an upset 18-12 win over St Marys in the Major Semi-final to end their winning streak of 16 games, while Glebe bounced back from their disappointing loss to score a convincing 28-10 win over Ryde-Eastwood. The Preliminary Final saw St Marys return to their devastating best after scoring a runaway 52-0 win over Glebe. They had a 24-0 lead by half-time and didn't let up in the second half with eight different try-scorers including Jake Tago, who bagged a double.

The Grand Final between Wentworthville and St Marys was played at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on 3 September. St Marys was hoping to claim its first Ron Massey Cup premiership, having lost to Wentworthville in the 2018-19 deciders, while the Magpies were looking to add to their reputation as the most successful club in the competition's history having already won seven titles. Saints had beaten Wentworthville twice during the regular season, but the Magpies had bragging rights after winning their most recent encounter.

Saints picked up from where they left off against Glebe after Wentworthville lost possession and back-rower Joe Vaegaau picked up the ball to score. The Magpies stayed in touch after hooker Meni Luke kicked ahead to the in-goal area for back-rower Nicholas Walker to regather and level the scores at 6-all. That was as close as the Magpies got in the opening 40 minutes with Saints scoring four unanswered tries to race away to a 28-6 lead.

The opening exchanges of the second half were fiercely contested before Saints extended their lead through a penalty goal followed by a try to fullback Masi Fidow. The Magpies reduced the margin to 34-12 after Keaton Walkington-Meads scored but Saints finished the decider on top after Anthony Layoun kicked ahead for David Fale to score. Saints had the win at 40-12 and the club's first premiership in the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup, while lock Jake Butfield was named Player of the Match after having a hand in almost everything.

St Marys Saints 40 (Christian Crichton, David Fale, Tony Satini, Stuart Mason, Masi Fidow, Steven Tavita, Joe Vaegaau tries; Zac Greene 5, Jake Rafferty-Butfield goals) **Wentworthville Magpies 12** (Nicholas Walker, Dylan Smith tries; Liam O'Brien, Dylan White goals) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Sunday 3 September.

Standings: St Marys Saints 36, Glebe Dirty Reds 24, Wentworthville Magpies 23, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 20, Hills Bulls 20, Kaiviti Silktails 18, Penrith Brothers 15, Mounties 12, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 12.



SYDNEY SHIELD

The Sydney Shield featured nine teams – Cabramatta Two Blues, Glebe Dirty Reds, Hills Bulls, Moorebank Rams, Mounties, Penrith Brothers, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, St Marys Saints, and Wentworthville United. The competition was played over 18 rounds followed by a top-five finals series.

St Marys dominated the regular season with the best attack (602) and defence (250). They lost only one game during the regular season against Penrith Brothers in Round Three and finished the season eight points clear of their nearest rival to claim the Minor Premiership. The top five was rounded out by Brothers (2), Hills Bulls (3), Cabramatta (4), and Ryde-Eastwood (5).

St Marys was aiming to go back-to-back after claiming the premiership in 2022 and earned the opening week off from the finals. Penrith scored a convincing 34-16 win over Hills Bulls in the Qualifying Final, while Ryde-Eastwood edged out Cabramatta 16-12. St Marys stamped their premiership credentials in the Major Semi-final with a convincing 28-10 win over Brothers, with centre Michael Tuavao bagging a double.

The Minor Semi-final saw Hills Bulls race out to a 20-6 lead before surviving a second-half fightback from Ryde-Eastwood to hang on for a 26-22 win and end the Hawks season. The Preliminary Final was also hard-fought with Brothers looking to be in control after racing to an 18-0 lead in the first half. Hills Bulls exacted revenge for their defeat in the Qualifying Final after keeping Brothers scoreless for the rest of the match and five-eighth Dylan Marshall scored a try with three minutes to go to secure a memorable 22-18 win.

The decider between St Marys and Hills Bulls was played at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on 3 September. Saints started the match strongly after scoring the opening try through halfback Sadee Sub Laban but Hills Bulls responded strongly laying on four unanswered tries. Three tries were scored by the Bulls spine – Marshall, halfback Ceiza James and hooker Kruz Niutili-Schmidt – while back-rower Damon Smith also barged over. St Marys grabbed a try just before the break to reduce the deficit to 22-10 after centre Michael Tuavao ran 75m up the sideline to score. They continued to trade tries after the break, with utility hooker Thomas Watson grabbing a double for the Bulls and Tuavao adding two more to make it a hat-trick for the match. Saints back-rower Daniel Sykes grabbed a try to reduce the margin to 34-30 but the Bulls defence held. It was the Bulls first Sydney Shield premiership while Marshall was named Player of the Match after steering his side to victory.

Hills Bulls 34 (Thomas Watson 2, Ceiza James, Dylan Marshall, Kruz Niutili-Schmidt, Damon Smith tries; Bradley Avery 5 goals) **St Marys Saints 30** (Michael Tuavao 3, Daniel Sykes, Jedd Gordon, Sadee Sub Laban tries; Riley Stokes 3 goals) at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Sunday 3 September.

Standings: St Marys Saints 34, Penrith Brothers 26, Hills Bulls 26, Cabramatta Two Blues 19, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 19, Mounties 16, Glebe Dirty Reds 15, Wentworthville United 15, Moorebank Rams 10.



OTHER COMPETITIONS

Presidents Cup

Maitland Pickers added another trophy to their cabinet after taking out a third straight Presidents Cup in the opening match of NSWRL Grand Final Day at CommBank Stadium on 24 September. The Denton Engineering Cup champions (Northern Conference) proved too strong for the Leagues Clubs Australia champions St Marys Saints (Central Conference) in the final of the state-wide knockout competition.

Maitland signalled their intentions from the outset after St Marys allowed a kick to bounce in the first set and Pickers centre Matt Soper-Lawler was on hand to grab the bouncing ball before racing away to score. Ex-NRL player and halfback Brock Lamb set up the next two tries for Gary Anderson and Lincoln Smith to help take a 20-0 lead into the break.

Saints scored after play resumed but any hope of a comeback quickly evaporated when James Bradley bagged a double and Lamb converted to extend the lead to 32-4 and secure the result. Fullback Daniel Langbridge was named Player of the Match after a strong performance which saw the Pickers retain the Presidents Cup after winning titles in 2020 and 2022 (the competition was not played in 2021 because of the COVID pandemic).

Maitland Pickers 32 (James Bradley 2, Lincoln Smith, Gary Anderson, Matthew Soper-Lawler tries; Brock Lamb 6 goals) **St Marys Saints 10** (Todd Sapienza, Christian Crichton tries, Jake Butfield goal) at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 24 September.

Denton Engineering Cup

The Denton Engineering Cup featured 11 teams – Central Newcastle Butcher Boys, Cessnock Goannas, Kurri Kurri Bulldogs, Lakes United Seagulls, Macquarie Scorpions, Maitland Pickers, South Newcastle Lions, Northern Hawks, The Entrance Tigers, Western Suburbs 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 having lost only one game against Cessnock in Round Six. The Pickers also boasted the best attack (508) and defence (197) in the competition with former NRL player and halfback Brock Lamb finishing the season as the top point-scorer (171). They earned the first week off of the finals and were the first team to book their place in the Grand Final after a narrow 24-22 win over South Newcastle Lions in the Major Semi-final.

The Lions, who had finished the regular season in second position, earned their spot in the decider after beating Cessnock 28-22 in the Preliminary Final. Although the Lions had tested the Pickers in the Major Semi-final, they proved no match for them in the Grand Final with Maitland surging to a 38-0 lead at half-time. The Lions scored a couple of consolation tries at the end before Lamb put a grubber kick through for Luke Knight to score and put an exclamation mark on the victory.

Maitland Pickers 46 (Daniel Langbridge 2, Lincoln Smith 2, Gary Anderson, Matthew Soper-Lawler, Luke Knight, Brock Lamb tries; Lamb 6, Chad O'Donnell goals) **South Newcastle Lions 10** (Jhett Butler, Jarom Haines tries; Mitchell Black goal) at McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle on Saturday 2 September.

Standings: Maitland Pickers 34, South Newcastle Lions 28, Cessnock Goannas 27, Wyong Roos 26, The Entrance Tigers 24, Western Suburbs Rosellas 21, Macquarie Scorpions 16, Lakes United Seagulls 16, Central Newcastle Butcher Boys 16, Northern Hawks 8, Kurri Kurri Bulldogs 4.

Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup

The Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup featured six teams – Collegians, Corrimal Cougars, Dapto Canaries, De La Salle, Thirroul Butchers, and Western Suburbs Red Devils. The competition was played over 15 rounds followed by a top-four finals series.

De La Salle finished the season as Minor Premiers and boasted the best attack (439) in the competition. They went down in the opening week of the finals 24-6 to Collegians, who finished the regular season as the best defensive team (238).

Thirroul Butchers were the last team into the finals after finishing the season in fourth position and made it through to the Preliminary Final, beating Western Suburbs Devils 18-16 in the Minor Semi-final. They then beat De La Salle 26-16 to book their spot in the decider against Collegians.

The Grand Final went down to the wire with both sides trading tries early on before Collegians scored through Callum Gromek to take an 18-12 lead into the break. Thirroul levelled the scores in the second half after Monty Raper chased down a grubber kick, and then took the lead at 24-18 when Cooper Bowen kicked ahead for himself. Collegians had a final play but Steven Marsters defused the situation with an intercept to hand the Butchers their first title in nine years.

Thirroul Butchers 24 (Iye Patterson 2, Monty Raper, Bradley Deitz tries; Joshua Martin 4 goals) **Collegians 18** (Callum Gromek 2, Zeik Foster tries; Max Devlin 3 goals) at WIN Stadium, Wollongong on Saturday 2 September.

Standings: De La Salle 23, Collegians 22, Western Suburbs Red Devils 19, Thirroul Butchers 14, Dapto Canaries 10, Corrimal Cougars 2.



OTHER COMPETITIONS

Peter McDonald Premiership

The Peter McDonald Premiership in western NSW was split into two pools for Group 10 and Group 11 and featured a crossover system and conference games. Group 10 comprised Bathurst Panthers, Bathurst St Pats, Lithgow Wolves, Orange CYMS, Orange Hawks, and Mudgee Dragons, while Group 11 featured Dubbo CYMS, Dubbo Macquarie Raiders, Forbes Magpies, Nyngan Tigers, Parkes Spacemen, and Wellington Cowboys. The competition was played over 15 rounds with the top four teams from each group progressing to a top-eight finals series.

Mudgee Dragons finished as Minor Premiers in Group 10 and boasted the second-best attack (376) and best defence (254) of their group, while Dubbo CYMS were top in Group 11 and had the best attack (488) and defence (176). Both Mudgee and Dubbo earned a week off after winning their Qualifying Finals and then set up a Grand Final showdown after winning their Preliminary Finals.

Dubbo was keen to go one better after losing the 2022 Grand Final to Forbes and started strongly, establishing a 14-0 lead at half-time. Mudgee scored first in the second half to reduce the margin to 14-4 but Dubbo scored two tries in a telling five-minute period to secure the result. The Dragons scored two consolation tries at the end but fullback Jeremy Thurston put an exclamation point on the win with a field goal with only two minutes left on the clock.

Dubbo CYMS 25 (Jarryn Powyer, Jeremy Thurston, Thomas Hughes, Ratu Peceli Roko tries; Thurston 4 goals; Thurston field goal) **Mudgee Dragons 12** (Joshua Wilson-Tuckey, Jake Durrant, David West tries) at Apex Oval, Dubbo on Sunday 10 September.

Standings – Group 10: Mudgee Dragons 24, Orange Hawks 20, Bathurst Panthers 18, Bathurst St Patricks 16, Lithgow Workies Wolves 8, Orange CYMS 4.
Group 11: Dubbo CYMS 24, Parkes Spacemen 20, Wellington Cowboys 20, Nyngan Tigers 17, Dubbo Macquarie Raiders 11, Forbes Magpies 10.

Men's Country Championships

The Men's Country Championships featured 10 teams and was split into a northern conference featuring the Central Coast Roosters, Newcastle Rebels, North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans, and Northern Tigers, and a southern conference with the Illawarra South Coast Dragons, Macarthur Wests Tigers, Monaro Colts, Riverina Bulls, and Western Rams. The competition was played in a knockout format followed by two weeks of finals.

Newcastle Rebels and Riverina Bulls made it through to the final after winning their Semi-finals. The Rebels proved too strong for the Bulls in the decider after setting up a 30-6 lead at half-time. They continued to dominate in the second half with wingers James Bradley and Joe Woodbury, and centre Timanu Alexander, all grabbing doubles while prop Jayden Butterfield landed a rare field goal at the end.

Newcastle Rebels 49 (Joe Woodbury 2, Timanu Alexander 2, James Bradley 2, Jayden Butterfield, Cameron Anderson tries; Chad O'Donnell 8 goals; Butterfield field goal) **Riverina Bulls 16** (Zane Bijorac, Latrell Siegwalt, Brayden Draber tries; Siegwalt 2 goals) at Woy Woy Oval on Saturday 25 March.

Women's Country Championships

The Women's Country Championships featured 10 teams and was split into a northern conference featuring the Central Coast Roosters, Newcastle Maitland Region Knights, North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans, and Northern Tigers, and a southern conference comprising Illawarra South Coast Dragons, Macarthur Wests Tigers, Monaro Colts, Riverina Bulls, and Western Rams. The teams took part in a knockout gala day that was split between Coffs Harbour and Canberra. There were four pool games with the top teams progressing to the final.

Monaro took on Newcastle Maitland Region Knights in the decider at Leichhardt Oval, which was part of the NSWRL Grand Finals Day. The Colts were always in control of the match and scored five tries in the first half to set up a 24-0 lead at half-time. They didn't let up in the second half with winger Tijana Zdravevska bagging a double to make it three tries for the match.

Monaro Colts 34 (Tijana Zdravevska 3, Krystal Blackwell 2, Madyson Tooth, Lily Crocker tries; Mikayla Morris 3 goals) **Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 0** at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April.



3

NSWRL JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES



UNE SG BALL CUP

The UNE SG Ball Cup for Under 19s featured 16 teams – Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Melbourne Storm, Newcastle Knights, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Illawarra Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Sydney Roosters, Warriors, Western Suburbs Magpies, and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over nine rounds followed by a top six finals series.

The Raiders finished the season as Minor Premiers with the second-best attack (326) and best defence (130) of all teams. The Panthers were level with the Raiders on 16 points – both teams only lost one game all season – but had to settle for second position with an inferior for (276) and against (146). The Knights (3), Eels (4), Magpies (5) and Roosters (6) rounded out the top six but the make-up of the finals went down to the very last round with the Bulldogs (8) and Steelers (7) still in contention. The Panthers scored a comfortable 42-10 win over the Bulldogs to end their season, while the Steelers scored a decisive 30-8 win over the Sharks but just missed out after the Roosters and Magpies won their final round matches.

The Raiders and Panthers had the first week off from the finals with the Eels beating the Magpies 18-10, and the Knights proving too strong for the Roosters 35-10 to move through to Week Two. The Semi-finals sprung two surprise results with the Eels muscling their way to a 14-6 win over the Raiders, while the Knights fought back from a half-time deficit to beat the Panthers 10-8.

The Grand Final between the Knights and the Eels was played at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April and was a spirited affair. The Eels team included hooker Matthew Arthur, the son of NRL Eels coach Brad Arthur, and Richard Penisini, the young brother of NRL Eels centre, Will Penisini. The Knights had been undefeated since Round Three in mid-February while the Eels had lost two games, including a 42-14 defeat to the Panthers a month before the Grand Final.

The Eels raced out to a 12-0 lead courtesy of tries to Devonte Vaivela and Ethan Sanders, who went on to represent NSW in the Under 19s Origin match in July. The Knights hit back through tries to Beau Slade and Ethan Ferguson – who also represented the NSW Under 19s – to head into break locked up at 12-all.

The Eels again took the lead at 22-12 following tries to Charlie Guymer and Penisini but the Knights set up a nail-biting finish after Mayson Metcalf scored to reduce the deficit to 22-18. Vaivela scored his second try of the game to give the Eels some breathing space at 28-18 and it proved to be the difference with the Knights only able to score once more through Taj Blackman to leave the scoreline at 28-22. The Eels claimed their 14th SG Ball Cup title to reinforce their reputation as the most successful club in the competition's history since it started in 1965, while Sanders was named Player of the Match.

Parramatta Eels 28 (Devonte Vaivela 2, Ethan Sanders, Charlie Guymer, Richard Penisini tries; Ethan Sanders 4 goals) **Newcastle Knights 22** (Beau Slade, Ethan Ferguson, Mayson Metcalf, Taj Blackman tries; Ferguson 3 goals) at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April.

Standings: Canberra Raiders 16, Penrith Panthers 16, Newcastle Knights 14, Parramatta Eels 14, Western Suburbs Magpies 13, Sydney Roosters 12, Illawarra Steelers 11, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 10, Warriors 8, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 6, St George Dragons 6, Balmain Tigers 6, South Sydney Rabbitohs 4, North Sydney Bears 4, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 2, Melbourne Storm 2.

UNE
University of
New England



HARVEY NORMAN TARSHA GALE CUP

The Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup for Under 19s women featured 13 teams – Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Newcastle Knights, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy, St George Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over nine rounds followed by a top-six finals series.

The Bulldogs went through the regular season undefeated with the best attack (284) and second-best defence (52), while the Roosters were also unbeaten with the second-best attack (262) and best defence (38). The top six was rounded out by the Knights (3), Steelers (4), Eels (5) and Raiders (6). The final spot in the top six was only decided in the final round when the Panthers (7) suffered a loss to the Bears, allowing the Raiders to leapfrog them on the table after they beat the Rabbitohs.

The Bulldogs and the Roosters had the first week off from the finals with the Knights proving too strong for the Raiders 16-6, while the Steelers accounted for the Eels 20-4. In the Semi-finals the following week, the Bulldogs and the Roosters returned and were quick to reassert their reputations as premiership heavyweights. The Bulldogs scored a 28-0 shutout over the Steelers with winger Charlotte Eather grabbing a double. The Roosters were equally as impressive after scoring a runaway 40-4 win over the Knights with five-eighth Brooke Talataina also bagging two tries.

The Grand Final at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April was highly anticipated as both teams had not played each other during the season due to the format of nine rounds for the 13-team competition. It was also going to be an absorbing battle between the team with the best attack (Bulldogs), against the team with the best defence (Roosters).

The Roosters got off to a perfect start when winger Paige Lowe scored the opening try to set up a 6-0 lead. The Bulldogs fired back, scoring the next three tries through Tatiana Finau, Tarli Dennis and Noaria Kapua to surge to an 18-6 lead. The Roosters pegged one try back after halfback Skyla Adams picked up forward Jaydah Tofae with a short ball, but the Bulldogs responded again when fullback Abby Aros scored to extend the lead to 22-12. The Roosters crossed just before half-time through Krystal Bulmer to leave them trailing 22-16 at the break.

The second half was equally as absorbing as the first 30 minutes with Laila Montgomery scoring in the corner to reduce the deficit to 22-20 and set up a frantic finish. Both sides had their chances but it was the Roosters who seized the advantage after Brooke Talataina took off from a scrum and accelerated through a gap to score and put the Tricolours in front 26-22. They managed to hang on in the final five minutes to become the first club in history to win back-to-back Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cups, with Roosters lock Tavarua Papalii named Player of the Match.

Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy 26 (Paige Lowe, Jaydah Tofae, Krystal Bulmer, Lailani Montgomery, Brooke Talataina tries; Mia Barber 3 goals) **Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 22** (Tatiana Finau, Tarli Dennis, Noaria Kapua, Abby Aros tries; Finau 3 goals) at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April.

Standings: Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 18, Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy 18, Newcastle Knights 14, Illawarra Steelers 11, Parramatta Eels 11, Canberra Raiders 11, Penrith Panthers 9, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 9, North Sydney Bears 8, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 6, South Sydney Rabbitohs 6, St George Dragons 5, Wests Tigers 4.



SLE LAURIE DALEY CUP

The SLE Laurie Daley Cup for Under 18s featured 10 teams from regional NSW and was split into two conferences. The Northern Conference involved the Central Coast Roosters, Newcastle Maitland Region Knights, North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans, and the Northern Tigers, while the Southern Conference featured Illawarra South Coast Dragons, Macarthur Wests Tigers, Monaro Colts, Riverina Bulls, and Western Rams. The regular season was played over five rounds with the top two teams from each conference progressing to a top four finals series.

The Knights finished on top of the Northern Conference with the best attack (184) and best defence (76) followed by the Northern Tigers. The Dragons topped the Southern Conference with the best attack (190) and second-best defence followed by the Colts. The Colts came out firing in the Semi-final, racing to a 22-6 lead over the Knights just before half-time. Newcastle rallied after the break to close the deficit to 22-12 with both sides trading tries after that. The Knights scored late through Khyran Butler to set up a thrilling final three minutes, but they couldn't find another and the Colts held on for a 34-30 win. The other Semi-final was just as gripping with the Dragons racing to a 12-0 lead before the Tigers rallied to lock the scores up at 12-all. Dragons back-rower Jarrah Gaia Treweek scored to put his team in front 16-12 and they hung on for the win.

The decider between the Colts and the Dragons was played at Woy Woy Oval on Saturday 25 March. The two sides had played during the regular season in Round Two with Colts hooker Xavier Cacciotti scoring four tries in their runaway 40-16 victory. The Dragons started the match strongly after scoring the opening two tries before Cacciotti pegged one back to reduce the margin to 10-6. Treweek ensured his side had the ascendancy heading into the break after grabbing his second try for a 14-6 lead.

Cacciotti started the second half in blistering fashion after grabbing two more tries to put the Colts in front 18-14. The Dragons rallied adding tries to Darnell Te Ahuru and a third for Treweek to regain the lead at 26-18 before Cacciotti dived over for his fourth try of the day – the second time he had scored four tries against the Dragons. That set up a memorable end, with the Dragons holding on for the win to make it back-to-back titles. Treweek was named Player of the Match for his hat-trick.

Illawarra South Coast Dragons 26 (Jarrah Gaia Treweek 3, Toby Rumble, Darnell Te Ahuru tries; Jackson Rieck 3 goals) **Monaro Colts 24** (Xavier Cacciotti 4 tries; Blake Hovi 4 goals) at Woy Woy Oval on Saturday 25 March.

Standings – Northern Conference: Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 8, Northern Tigers 8, Northern Rivers Titans 6, Central Coast Roosters 4, North Coast Bulldogs 1. **Southern Conference:** Illawarra South Coast Dragons 8, Monaro Colts 6, Macarthur Wests Tigers 5, Western Rams 4, Riverina Bulls 0.



UNE HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

The UNE Harold Matthews Cup for Under 17s featured 15 teams – 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 Illawarra Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Sydney Roosters, and Western Suburbs Magpies. The competition was played over nine rounds followed by a top-six finals series.

Penrith finished the regular season as Minor Premiers and had the best attack (244) of any team in the competition. The Panthers lost only one game all season and were followed by the Knights (2), Eels (3), Bulldogs (4), Raiders (5) and Sharks (6). The make-up of the finals wasn't decided until the final round with the Panthers beating the Bulldogs 52-6 to leapfrog them on the ladder. The Steelers had been in fourth position heading into the last round but missed the finals altogether after losing to the Sharks, with the Knights and Raiders also winning to move past them on the ladder.

The Panthers and the Knights had the opening week off from the finals, with the Bulldogs beating the Raiders 25-18 and the Eels overcoming the Sharks 18-4 to progress. The Bulldogs exacted revenge on the Panthers for their final round loss, beating them 30-16 in the Semi-final to book their place in the decider, with back-rower Sosaia Alatini bagging a double. The other Semi-final was a much tighter affair, with the Knights surviving a late barrage from the Eels for an 18-16 victory.

The Grand Final at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April was attended by players from the Bulldogs NRL squad. The first half was a tight tussle with the Knights scoring first through fullback Connor Votano before the Bulldogs locked the scores up at 6-all after No.1 Tallis McEwen-Welsh sprinted out of dummy-half to plant the ball over the line. The Bulldogs added a penalty goal just before half-time to take a slender 8-6 lead.

The second half was a different story with the Bulldogs piling on four unanswered tries to take control of the decider. Replacement forward David Leota popped a pass for Mohamed Hadid to score before Christopher Makhlouf bumped off would-be defenders to power his way over the line. Two more tries followed to Jope Rauqe and Mitchell Woods to put an exclamation mark on the 32-6 win. It was the Bulldogs' fourth Harold Matthews Cup title and their first since 2011, with halfback Woods named Player of the Match after an impressive performance which included a try assist and a try just before full-time.

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 32 (Tallis McEwen-Welsh, Mohamed Hadid, Christopher Makhlouf, Jope Rauqe, Mitchell Woods tries; Bronson Reuben 6 goals) **Newcastle Knights 6** (Connor Votano try; Votano goal) at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 April.

Standings: Penrith Panthers 15, Newcastle Knights 14, Parramatta Eels 14, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 14, Canberra Raiders 14, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 13, Illawarra Steelers 12, Western Suburbs Magpies 10, Balmain Tigers 10, South Sydney Rabbitohs 10, Sydney Roosters 8, St George Dragons 6, Central Coast Roosters 4, North Sydney Bears 4, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 2.



SLE ANDREW JOHNS CUP

The SLE Andrew Johns Cup for Under 16s featured 10 teams from regional NSW and was split into two conferences. The Northern Conference had the Central Coast Roosters, Newcastle Maitland Region Knights, North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans, and the Northern Tigers, while the Southern Conference featured Illawarra South Coast Dragons, Macarthur Wests Tigers, Monaro Colts, Riverina Bulls, and Western Rams. The regular season was played over five rounds followed with the top two teams from each conference progressing to a top-four finals series.

The Knights finished on top of the Northern Conference with the best attack (140) and defence (62), while Macarthur Wests Tigers had the second-best attack (132) and best defence (76) to take out the Southern Conference. The Knights took an early lead in their Semi-final against the Colts after a try to Mitchell Balzer before the opposition staged a fightback. Monaro laid on tries to Byron Cahill, Jet Millard, and Malachi Tomlinson before half-time to take a 16-4 lead into the break. The Knights came out firing in the second half and scored four unanswered tries – including a double to five-eighth Jaylan Bishop – to run out 24-16 winners.

The other Semi-final saw the Tigers score first through Peter French before the Roosters took control of the game. Tries followed to Jai Callaghan and Darcy Smith for the Roosters to take a 10-6 lead into the break. They added two more tries in the second half through Isaac Fotu-Moala and Tayte Bayley to extend the lead to 18-6 before the Tigers cut the margin to 18-12 after Glassie Glassie scored. The Roosters clicked into gear again to score through Kaidyn Peckham and Callaghan and although Glassie scored a second try, the margin was too great. Bayley added a penalty goal just before full-time to secure a convincing 28-16 win.

The Grand Final was played at Woy Woy Oval on Saturday 25 March with the Roosters chasing their second title while the Knights were seeking their first. The first half was hard-fought with the Roosters taking a 6-0 lead into the break after a try to Jai Callaghan. The Roosters extended their lead to 12-0 after Callaghan grabbed his second try shortly after play resumed before the Knights gave themselves a hope with tries to Matthew McEwen and Darcy Mitchell to reduce the deficit to 12-10. That set up a thrilling finish with the Roosters sealing the result with in the final two minutes after back-rower Darcy Smith – who was named Player of the Match – made a dash down the left edge to score.

Central Coast Roosters 18 (Jai Callaghan 2, Darcy Smith tries; Tayte Bailey 3 goals) **Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 10** (Matthew McEwen, Darcy Mitchell tries; Mitchell goal) at Woy Woy Oval on Saturday 25 March.

Standings – Northern Conference: Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 6, Central Coast Roosters 6, Northern Tigers 6, North Coast Bulldogs 4, Northern Rivers Titans 2.

Southern Conference: Macarthur Wests Tigers 10, Monaro Colts 7, Illawarra South Coast Dragons 5, Western Rams 4, Riverina Bulls 0.



4

NSWRL COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

Community Football Participation

The NSWRL enjoyed a record-breaking season for participation in 2023 with 112,767 players signing up for the game for all. The new benchmark was established after a recruitment drive led by Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder co-captain, Kezie Apps, Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler, and True Blues Boyd Cordner and Craig Wing. It was an increase on the almost 106,000 participants who registered in 2022 to play in a season that was severely affected by rain and floods and surpassed the previous record-breaking year of 107,528 in 2021. The overall participation figures were up almost seven per cent on 2022, while the men's game recorded an almost five per cent increase (86,580) and women more than 14 per cent (26,187). It was the third consecutive season a new benchmark had been set for women's Rugby League after female participation broke the 20,000 mark for the first time in 2021 (22,810) and again in 2022 (23,203). The results were a testament to the hard work of volunteers, who were supported by players, club officials and NSWRL and NRL Development staff.

NSW Community Football Conference

The annual NSWRL Community Rugby League Conference was held at Sydney Olympic Park over two days on 18-19 November and was attended by 120 NSWRL and club officials. The theme for the conference was retention, with other topics including child safety, infrastructure, sponsorship, and marketing. The speakers included Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder and NSWRL Head of Communications and Community Engagement Dr Tracie Edmondson, who focussed on Women in Sport leadership; NSWRL RISE Academy Manager Adam Perry and NRL Pathways Strategy Manager Jessica Skinner, who looked at Player and Volunteer Retention; and Penrith Panthers District CEO Matt Cameron, who addressed retention in the Penrith region.

Active Kids Vouchers

The NSW Government's Active Kids program for school-enrolled children aged four-and-a-half to 18 was reduced from \$100 to \$50 from 1 July but continued to play a key role in helping participants play Rugby League. From January to November 2023, 75,057 Active Kids vouchers had been redeemed for Rugby League representing a value of \$6.66 million.

Harmony Nines

The NSWRL celebrated the growing diversity and inclusiveness of the game, when it brought together 27 heritage groups, 80 teams and 1200 players for the annual Harmony Nines tournament at Albion Park in October. The two-day event at Croom Regional Sporting Complex showcased 134 games including Under 16s and Under 18s boys and girls, Open Age Men's and Women's, Emerging Nation Open Men, Mixed League Tag, and a Physical Disability Exhibition Match.

The heritage teams were split into two pools and played nine-a-side matches and 16-minute halves, with the top-seeded teams at the end of the pool games progressing to the finals. The event was also live-streamed on NSWRL TV. The heritage groups involved included Africa United Lions, Cambodia, Chile, Fiji-Australia, Italy, Ireland Australia, Latin Heat, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malta, Mediterranean Rugby League, NSW First Nations Indigenous, NSW Maori, NSW Niue, NSW Tonga, Ozzy Cooks, Pasifika, Philippines, Poland-Australia, NSW Samoa, Sudanese Buffaloes, Syria, Thailand Naga, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

Harmony Nines began in 2009 with the aim of increasing Rugby League participation in multicultural communities across the state, as well as encouraging stronger understanding and harmony through Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups. The tournament was suspended from 2019-2021, largely because of the disruptions caused to community sport by the COVID pandemic, but returned to the NSWRL calendar in 2022.

RISE Academy

The RISE Academy continued to enjoy success in 2023 after the number of participants topped 1000 for the first time. The holistic Rugby League program, which is run by former Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs premiership-winner Adam Perry and teaches participants the traits of a professional Rugby League player including diet, training, health, and mental fitness, expanded from 520 teenagers in 2022 to around 1200 this year. Increases were recorded in both boys (Under 13s to Under 15s) and girls (Under 13s to Under 16s) with programs run across NSW at almost 20 locations including the Tweed, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Central Coast, Wagga Wagga and Western Sydney.

#RESPECT Round

The 2023 #RESPECT Round focused on developing and implementing positive cultures within community Rugby League clubs. The theme for the 2023 season was, 'Our club, our people, our culture' to remind the more than 130,000 players and officials, involved in Community Rugby League, as well as spectators, to promote a positive environment.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Regional Roadshows

The NSWRL and Transport for NSW delivered three Regional Roadshow programs in November in areas around the state including the Northern Tablelands, the Orana Region, and the Sapphire Coast. The campaign, which is run in conjunction with Transport for NSW's The Knock-on Effect initiative, featured a video with Westpac NSW Blues skipper James Tedesco and teammates Josh Addo-Carr and Cameron Murray encouraging road users to make smart choices. Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder, True Blues Andrew Ryan, Brett Kimmorley, Trent Hodgkinson and Luke Bailey, and former NSW captain Ruan Sims helped deliver the program to Armidale, Guyra, Glen Innes, Inverell, Dubbo, Wellington, Gilgandra, Gulargambone, Coonamble, Warren, Narromine, Eden, Pambula, Bega, Narooma, Broulee, and Bateman's Bay. The Regional Roadshow program has already helped deliver positive messages about road safety to more than 4000 teenagers at 40 regional areas around the state since 2017.

CALD Try League

This year marked the final year of a four-year agreement with Multicultural NSW, funded by the NSW Government, to run the NSWRL's multicultural Try League Program, aimed at Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. Try League, which aims to break down barriers and social isolation for people from diverse communities, is based on a pilot program run by the NSWRL in 2018 in Blacktown, where 30 per cent of participants were of Indian descent. This year, the NSWRL ran Try League in conjunction with the Australian International Sports Organisation (AISO), reaching more than 2500 participants who were taught how to play the game in a fun, non-competitive format. The programs were predominantly held across metropolitan Sydney including Enfield, Winston Hills, Stanhope, North Ryde, Miller, Strathfield, Lugarno, Macquarie Fields, Parramatta, Lidcombe, Dundas Valley, Liverpool, Croydon, Homebush, Sydney Olympic Park, and Wollongong.

NSWRL Inclusive Gala Day

The season started with a campaign throughout March to promote inclusion and diversity culminating with a free Inclusion Gala Day at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. The day was attended by Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder, True Blue Craig Wing and Australian Rugby League Wheelchair player Liam Luff, who enjoyed a series of fun Rugby League activities with 120 participants of all abilities and cultural backgrounds. The events and activities included an Official Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, followed by exhibition games for Physical Disability Rugby League, TryTime and League Tag, face painting and pass the ball.

Changing Rooms

The NSWRL's Mental Fitness Changing Rooms program, spearheaded by True Blue and NSWRL Mental Fitness and Wellbeing Manager Paul Langmack, continued to make a difference to the lives of young people around the state. Langmack delivered the program, which tackles issues including mental fitness, suicide prevention and bullying, with the support of a qualified social worker to 5,084 young people aged 11-20 this year compared with 2,139 in 2022. All up 22 clubs and 14 high schools were visited in areas including south-west and metropolitan Sydney, Moree, Armidale, Griffith, South Coast, Nowra, Kiama, St Georges Basin and Grafton. Langmack was joined at Kogarah Oval in September by the NSW Minister for Mental Health Rose Jackson and LivingWorks Australia CEO Shayne Connell to announce the LivingWorks safeTalk program aimed at suicide-prevention that will be offered to 700 Rugby League clubs across NSW in 2024.

First Nations Participation

The NSWRL acknowledged its strong connection to the First Nations community during the season, including releasing an Acknowledgment of Country video with media personality Stan Grant that could be used by all clubs. The Westpac NSW Blues also released a First Nations-themed training jersey for the first time, which was designed by First Nations artist Daren Dunn and included a consultation process with True Blues First Nations stars Latrell Mitchell, Josh Addo-Carr and Jack Wighton. Other partnerships and initiatives to cement that bond included the KARI Foundation, the Deadly Choices campaign to promote healthy living choices for First Nations people, the Clontarf Academy, the TAAP (Talented Aboriginal Athlete Program) camp. Tournaments and gala days were also held, including the four-day Nations of Origin which featured 45 teams and 1000 young people from around the state, and the Outback Rugby League challenge. The participation numbers from the First Nations community around NSW remains strong with a combined total of 26,590 for players, coaches, trainers and volunteers.

Women in Sport Leadership program

The NSWRL's Women in Sport Leadership program, run in conjunction with the University of New England (UNE), entered its third year in 2023. This year's intake involved 18 women representing 12 sports – Rugby League, athletics, sailing, dragon boats, football, gymnastics, motor cycling, touch football, rowing, surf life saving, tennis, and volleyball. The 20-week course, which included workshops at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence, provides participants with nationally-recognised credits towards a Diploma or Certificate IV in leadership and management. The program was fully funded by the NSWRL in 2023.



COMMUNITY AWARDS

The NSWRL acknowledges the invaluable work of 35,000 volunteers, coaches, officials and referees at 680 clubs across the state every season with the annual NSWRL Community Awards. In 2023, there were 19 award winners, including 12 Regional Volunteer of the Year winners, who were acknowledged for the contribution they make to the game in their local communities.

The winners were invited to the Brad Fittler Medal at The Star Event Centre at Pyrmont, where the NSWRL 'Gordon Lowrie' Community Volunteer of the Year was announced.

NSWRL 'Gordon Lowrie' Community Volunteer of the Year (supported by Ignite HQ) – Christopher Hollis (Taree Red Rovers)

Hollis, a volunteer for 25 years, holds roles as President, referee, ground manager and coach at Taree Red Rovers and provides Rugby League opportunities to First Nations and socially disadvantaged children, giving everyone a chance to play football. He led a group of volunteers in helping mow the footy fields, and refereed to ensure children could play a game. He is a positive role model for young players coming through the ranks, promoting correct behaviour both on and off the field.

NSWRL Community Club of the Year (supported by Steeden) – Moree Junior Rugby League

Moree Junior Rugby League worked hard to create many initiatives to increase the recruitment and retention of players and volunteers in the area, including rebranding the club to promote respect, positivity, unity, discipline, and inclusivity. The Boars and the Boomerangs, who had been fierce adversaries, were brought together to ease community tension with the colours and logos of both clubs incorporated to create a neutral environment for all participants. For the first time in 2023, the club had every grade from Under 6s to Under 16s, including all available League Tag age groups.

NSWRL Indigenous Volunteer of the Year (supported by KARI Foundation) – Candita Collins (Narwan Rugby League and Sporting Club)

A well-known and loved figure at the Narwan Rugby League and Sporting Club, Collins has played an instrumental role in turning the club's fortunes around in her 10 years of service. She has played a vital role in fixing the club's relationship with the community, hitting record participation numbers for the 2023 season, and creating a strong family culture around the wider community. She is the Treasurer at the Eels but also holds roles as Secretary, trainer, grants officer and ground manager. Collins also won the NRL Community Award for Indigenous Volunteer of the Year.

NSWRL Male Coach of the Year (supported by Ignite HQ) – Dave Turner (Ballina Seagulls)

Turner manages a huge group of 32 children in his role as coach at the Ballina Seagulls. He lost his house to a fire in 2021, and after it was rebuilt and he was two weeks away from moving back in, lost it again to floods. Despite the personal hardship, Turner continued to coach, and the team remained undefeated on its way to winning the premiership. He does not tolerate poor behaviour, bullying or a lack of commitment to the team, and ensures a positive environment for the children.

NSWRL Female Coach of the Year (supported by Harvey Norman) – Trish Bell (Penshurst RSL Kookaburras)

Bell is a driving force for women's Rugby League in the St George district and is involved with the Dragons' Harvey Norman Tarsha Gale Cup team. She also coaches the Kookaburras women's Open Age team and played an integral role in getting an Under 16s girls' team on the field. In her first year of coaching, the women's Open Age team finished runners-up in the premiership and dominated the awards at the club's presentation night.

NSWRL Inclusive Volunteer of the Year (supported by What Ability) – Bryce Crane (Sydney Roosters)

Crane played for the Narellan Jets and Western Suburbs Magpies SG Ball squad in 2020 before a nerve injury left him with paralysis of his right arm. He now plays in the Physical Disability Rugby League competition and has represented the Sydney Roosters in the Sydney competition, NSW City in the annual Country v City game, and Australia in the Physical Disability Rugby League World Cup. He is also a positive role model for other players with physical disabilities by providing a supportive and inclusive environment for them to develop their own games.

'Dennis Braybrook' NSWRL Referees Association Award (supported by McDonald's) – Damian Brady

Brady was graded into the NSWRL High Performance Squad in 2017 and made his NRL debut in 2023 after being selected as a touch judge for the Round Five match between Manly Warringah Sea Eagles and Newcastle Knights at Glen Willow Oval in Mudgee. He juggles a career with Macquarie Bank with his officiating duties and also handled matches in The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup and Jersey Flegg Cup this season.

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year Regional Winners (supported by Ignite HQ)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Broken Bay Region) – Stanley Watson (North Sydney District Rugby League Referees Association)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Central Sydney Region) – Noella Merrick (Leichhardt Wanderers JRLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (East Coast Region) – Christopher Hollis (Taree Red Rovers JRLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Newcastle and Maitland Region) – Jack O'Neill (Mallabula Panthers JRLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Macarthur Region) – Melody Sekene (Liverpool Catholic Club JRLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Monaro Region) – Rick Porreca (North Canberra Bears RLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Northern Region) – William (Billy) Hamilton (Inverell Minor League Hawks)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Riverina Region) – Sam Panarello (Yenda Bluehealers RLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (South Coast Region) – Kristie Ruprecht (Dapto Canaries JRLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Southern Sydney Region) – Angela Ndaira (Kingsgrove Colts JRLFC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Western Sydney Region) – Wayne Bartle (Colyton Colts JRLC)

NSWRL Volunteer of the Year (Western Region) – Peter Morris (Lithgow Storm JRLFC and Workies Wolves RLFC)



5

NSWRL EVENTS



TRUE BLUES

True Blues Danny Buderus and Michael Cronin, and Rugby League Immortals Dally Messenger, Frank Burge and Dave Brown, were all inducted into the NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame at The Star Event Centre in Pyrmont in May.

The True Blues dinner, which pays homage to the players who have pulled on the sky blue jumper and celebrates both past and present representative teams, also included the Westpac NSW Blues and Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues being presented to more than 500 guests.

Buderus, who was an assistant to Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler, and Cronin both attended the dinner to receive their honours and take part in a panel discussion on stage to recall their memories of playing for NSW.

Fittler and Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder also appeared on stage to discuss their respective representative campaigns for 2023.

Buderus made his State of Origin debut for NSW in 2002 and was unchallenged as Blues hooker for seven consecutive series. He was a pillar of the Blues' triple series triumph from 2003-05 and captained the team in 15 games (2004-08).

The record holder for most appearances for the Newcastle Knights (257), Buderus played 21 games for the Blues (consecutively) and 24 Test matches for Australia (2001-06).

Cronin pulled on his first NSW jersey in 1973, the same year he was chosen to tour with the Kangaroos and for the next decade he was a fixture in leading representative teams.

He helped ensure that the Blues kept the Maroons at bay in interstate football during the 1970s, winning 17 and drawing two of his 19 games played under interstate residency rules. Cronin appeared 27 times for the Blues and scored 192 points.

Burge was one of the greatest try-scoring forwards to play Rugby League and he still holds the record for most tries in a match after scoring eight for Glebe against University in 1920.

He was playing first grade for Glebe at age 16 and was selected to play his first game for NSW at 18. He represented his state 26 times from 1912-26.

Burge scored tries at a phenomenal rate for a forward and maintained an average of better than a try per game in a career that lasted 17 seasons. His career tally of 146 first grade tries stood for 80 years as the most for a forward until True Blue and former Manly Warringah Sea Eagles premiership-winner Steve Menzies broke it in 2004.

Brown was regarded as the 'Bradman of League' after winning two premierships with Eastern Suburbs and setting several records for tries and points. He was selected to play his first game for NSW at the age of 18 and represented his state 19 times.

He scored 45 points from five tries and 15 goals (when tries were worth three points) against Canterbury in 1935 in a record that stands to this day. He also holds the record for most tries in a season with 38 which he also set in 1935.

Messenger, known as 'Dally' and 'The Master', was one of the game's first stars and his defection from rugby union to Rugby League in 1907 is considered a pivotal moment in the game's history.

He played his first interstate match for NSW in 1908 and kicked a goal in the 43-0 win over Queensland. Messenger helped steer Eastern Suburbs to three premierships from 1911-13 and his 1911 season is regarded as his greatest after scoring a record 270 points.

He played 26 games all up for NSW and retired at the end of the 1913 season where Easts presented him with the Royal Agricultural Society Shield in appreciation.

The NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame now features 29 players, including the Rugby League Immortals who represented NSW. Messenger, Burge and Brown achieved Immortal status in 2018 with the NRL and have subsequently been included with the original inductees.



BRAD FITTLER MEDAL

Westpac NSW Blues winger Brian To'o claimed his first Brad Fittler Medal in September after a standout State of Origin series where he averaged more than 200 running metres per match, while Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues fullback Emma Tonegato was named the NSW Women's Origin Player of the Year after stellar performances in both Women's State of Origin matches.

To'o was presented with his medal by Westpac NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler, and Tonegato by Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder, at The Star Event centre in front of more than 500 guests which saw 20 awards handed out across Representative Competitions, Major Competitions, Junior Representatives Competitions, and community.

Westpac NSW Blues back-rower Liam Martin won the True Blue Award, NSW Women's Origin co-captain Kezie Apps took out the Sky Blues Award, while Cody Walker won The Daily Telegraph People's Choice Award.

To'o, who has played nine games for the Blues since making his debut in 2021, played a key role in the Game Three win in Sydney after running for 258m, including 102m post-contact, and scoring the opening try of the game.

Martin overcame injury to play all three games, including a well-worked try in Game One in Adelaide, while Walker was recalled for Game Three in Sydney and turned in a starring performance to ensure the Blues finished the series on a high.

Tonegato had an equally impressive series for the NSW Sky Blues, including Game Two in Townsville where she ran for 238m, had 11 tackle busts and two offloads.

Apps overcame injury to help lead the Sky Blues and celebrated a record 11th appearance for her state. She averaged 79 run metres per game, making five tackle busts and 37 tackles with an efficiency of 97 per cent.

Canberra Raiders young gun Ethan Strange was named NSW Under 19s Men's Origin Player of the Year after scoring a hat-trick in the win against Queensland; while Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs hooker Chelsea Makira, who scored two of NSW's three tries against Queensland, took out the NSW Under 19s Women's Origin Player of the Year.

South Sydney Rabbitohs halfback Dean Hawkins was named The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Player of the Year after steering his club to a second-placed finish during the regular season and helping the club to go on and win the title. He scored six tries, landed 48 goals, had 17 try assists, 15 line break assists, and an average of 340 kicking metres per game.

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs forward Holli Wheeler was named Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership Player of the Year after leading her club to a third-placed finish. Wheeler missed out on playing in the historic 1-0 Grand Final loss to Mounties after suffering a knee injury in the Semi-final.

The 'Gordon Lowrie' Memorial Community Volunteer of the Year Award winner was also announced with the honour going to Taree Red Rovers Junior Rugby League Club President Christopher Hollis. Hollis, who also holds roles at the club as referee, ground manager and coach, has been providing Rugby League opportunities to First Nations and socially disadvantaged children for the past 25 years.

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, 22), Nathan Cleary (2020), and Tom Trbojevic (2021).

Other award winners on the night included Max McCathie (Jersey Flegg Cup Player of the Year), Jake Butfield (Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup Player of the Year), Ryan Joynes (Sydney Shield Player of the Year), Chad O'Donnell (Men's Country Championship Player of the Year), and Krystal Blackwell (Women's Country Championship Player of the Year).

The Junior Representatives Awards included Xavier Cacciotti (Tom Nelson Medal SLE Laurie Daley Cup Player of the Year) and Jack Talbott (Ron Lanesbury Medal SLE Andrew Johns Cup Player of the Year); the Referees Awards included Damian Brady (Grade Referee of the Year) and Brayden Hunt (Junior Representative Referee of the Year); while a Community Award was presented to Ian Boardman (Ray Stellar Club Person of the Year).





VALES



VALES

Billy Bischoff Jr

Bischoff hailed from a Rugby League family, with his father, Billy 'Bok' Bischoff, playing for the Tigers from 1937-40, including being part of the 1939 premiership-winning team.

Bischoff Jr made his first-grade debut for Balmain in 1957 and the following season started at five-eighth for the club's Preliminary Final loss to the St George Dragons.

He went on to play 151 games for the Tigers from 1957-65 with the club regularly contesting finals series during his time there. He was selected to play for NSW in 1961 after replacing John Kelly at centre with Queensland just hanging on for a 20-17 win.

In 1964 he started at halfback in the Grand Final against the indomitable St George team, with the Tigers taking a shock half-time lead before the Dragons fought back to win 11-6.

He left Balmain at the end of 1965 and the following season joined West Tamworth as captain-coach in the NSW country competition. He also represented the NSW Country team in 1967-68 before hanging up the boots at the end of 1968.

Bob Bugden

Bugden was a former halfback for St George Dragons, who claimed six premierships during the club's historic run of 11 straight titles from 1956-66.

Born in Murwillumbah on NSW's far north coast, Bugden made his first grade debut at aged 18 in the 1954 finals series after playing B Grade for Sutherland in the St George Juniors, as well as the Dragons Presidents Cup (Under 21s) team.

He played 135 first grade games for the Dragons, scoring 57 tries, and was halfback for the first six (1956-61) of the club's 11-year premiership-winning streak in the NSWRL. In 1962 he followed his coach, Ken Kearney, to Parramatta where he played a further 74 games until hanging up the boots.

Bugden represented NSW in 1959-60 during his time at the Dragons, and again in 1964 while he was at the Eels, and also played two Tests for Australia against France in 1960.

Upon his retirement, he worked in real estate in Australia and overseas and lived for many years on the Gold Coast.

Phil Cooley

Cooley was a referee who well and truly left his mark amongst his peers in the NSW Rugby League Referees Association (NSWRLRA). He was universally admired for his grace as well as refereeing ability.

Cooley began his refereeing career in Newtown District Junior Rugby League and was graded by the NSWRL Referees Association in 1982. NSWRLRA boss Dennis Braybrook appointed Cooley to debut as a Winfield Cup competition referee in 1986 - he went on to referee 30 top-level games.

He was part of the officiating team for the last ARL Grand Final in the split competition with Super League, played at the Sydney Football Stadium in 1997 when Newcastle beat Manly Warringah 22-16. He was also touch judge for the 1996 and 2000 first grade grand finals.

Cooley became the 29th person to officiate a NRL match, handling the opening round of the new competition in 1998. In total, he officiated 516 NRL games - including eight State of Origins. He was a video referee for 279 games including the 2003 and 2007 Grand Finals. Cooley became a Life Member of the NSWRLRA in 1994 and was High Performance squad coach for NSWRL up until 2016.

Phil Elliss

Elliss began his career as an official with the Public Services Referees and joined the Manly Warringah Referees Association before being graded as referee number 580 by the NSWRLRA.

He controlled five first-grade games during the 1967 season and pursued a successful career as a touch judge after that.

After Elliss made the decision to hang up the whistle, he became a successful administrator. He was first appointed to the NSWRL Referees Advisory Board where he assessed graded referees.

He later became involved with the NSWRL Referees Coaching Panel where he helped coach touch judges and helped manage Rugby League Schoolboys Carnivals. He was made a Life Member of the NSWRL Referees Association in 1978 and a NSWRL Life Member in 2004.



BILLY BISCHOFF JR



PHIL COOLEY



PHIL ELLISS

VALES

John 'Chow' Hayes

Hayes was born in Marrickville and left school at age 14 to pursue a career as a professional Rugby League player and panel beater. He played his junior Rugby League with clubs including South Strathfield, Haberfield and Granville before capturing the attention of Western Suburbs Magpies.

A forward who could play prop, hooker or second row, Hayes made his debut for the Magpies in 1961 and went on to play in the Grand Final loss to St George Dragons that year. He was also selected to play for NSW on two occasions in 1961.

Hayes played 160 games for the Magpies before retiring in 1970 to pursue a coaching career. He was in charge of the Magpies reserve grade side from 1971-73 taking them to the Semi-finals in his first year, before going on to coach the Bears in 1983-84.

Hayes later became a Chief Inspector in the NSW Police Force and was inducted as a Life Member of both Western Suburbs and North Sydney.

John McDonald

McDonald was part of some of the greatest Rugby League moments both as a player, coach and official. Although a dyed-in-the-wool Queenslander, he played for the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles for three seasons (1969-71) in the era when players at Sydney clubs were eligible to represent NSW. He subsequently played three games for NSW across the series wins in 1969-70.

McDonald made his Test debut for Australia against Great Britain in June 1966 playing in the centres with Immortal Graeme Langlands. As Sea Eagles captain he led the club to the 1970 Grand Final against South Sydney.

As coach he is remembered for steering Queensland to a 20-10 win in the first State of Origin game in 1980 – it was the one and only time he coached the Maroons. McDonald, known as 'Cracker', also represented Queensland 10 times from 1965-68.

He later served as chairman of the Queensland Rugby League for 20 years from 1992-2012 and was the first Queenslander to be elected Chairman of the Australian Rugby League (1998-99).

Mick Rudd

Rudd was a Life Member of Turvey Park Junior Rugby League (JRL) Club, Group 9 JRL, Wagga JRL Referees Association, and Group 9 Referees Association.

His lifelong involvement with Rugby League began when his own children started to play. Rudd was instrumental in coordinating local matches at Spring Street Oval when there were only two junior teams in Wagga Wagga, but there was an overflow of players looking to play outside of school.

This led to the formation of the Turvey Park JRLC. Rudd remained a strong committee man until his boys finished their junior years and then served as a Group 9 referee and coach before hanging up his officials badge and becoming a Judiciary member.

John Sattler

Sattler was a former South Sydney Rabbitohs captain who was regarded as one of the toughest forwards to play the game. He went down in Rugby League folklore after playing on with a broken jaw to lead the club to a premiership victory in 1970.

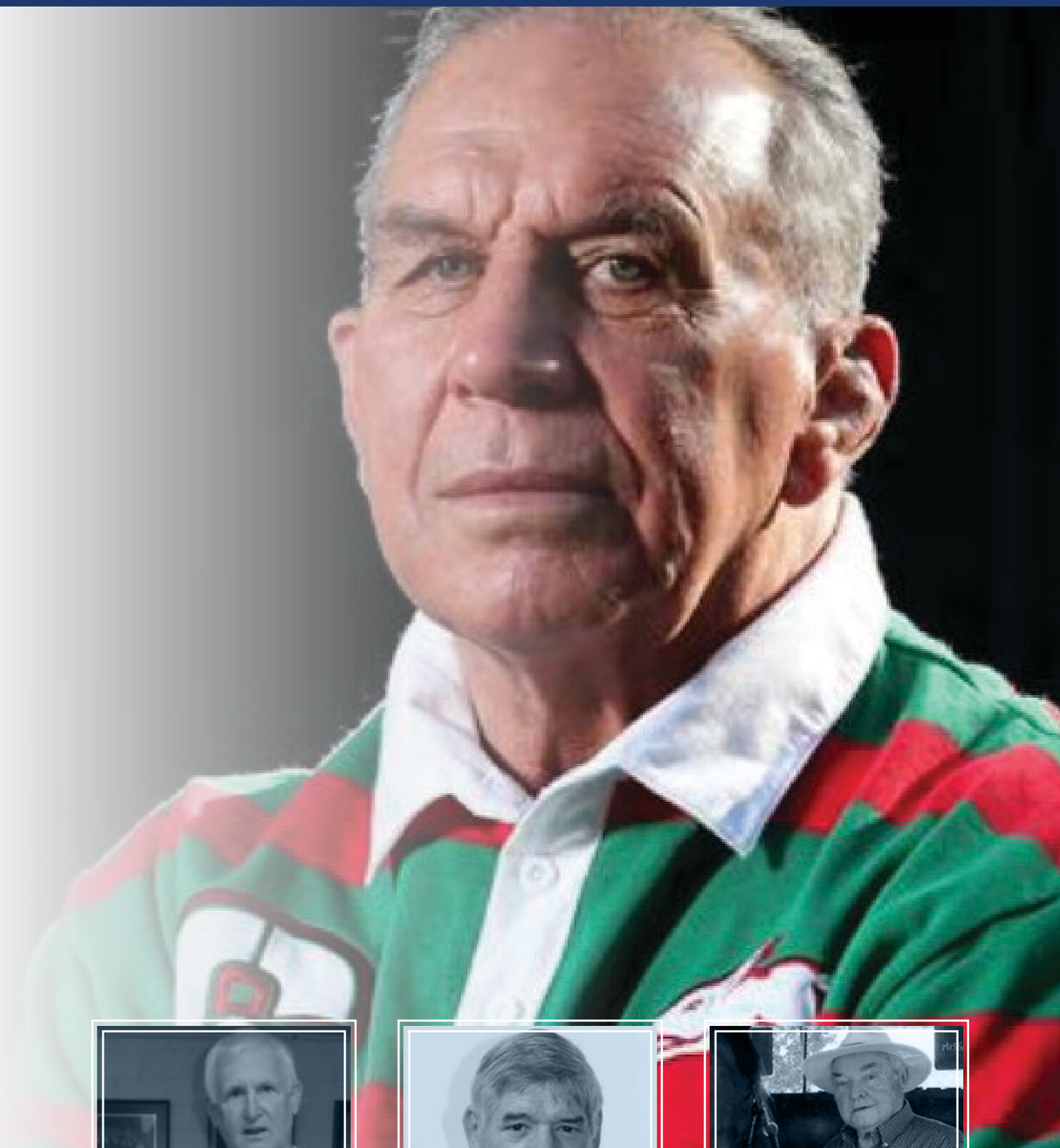
Born in Telarah in Maitland in 1942, Sattler moved with his family to Kurri Kurri when he was 12 and started playing for the region when he was 16, earning him representative honours for Newcastle against Great Britain in 1962.

After moving to Souths in 1963, he quickly earned a reputation as a hardman and played in the club's losing Grand Final to St George Dragons in 1965. The club's fortunes changed when he was appointed captain in 1967 and the Rabbitohs went on to win four of five Grand Finals under his leadership (1967-68, 1970-71).

He played four games for NSW against Queensland in 1969, where he captained the team to a 4-0 clean sweep against Queensland, and also played four Tests for Australia from 1967-71.

His effort to play with a broken jaw in the 1970 premiership win over Manly Warringah is regarded as one of the most courageous acts on a Rugby League field. Sattler kept the injury hidden from most of his teammates until half-time, refused treatment, insisted on still playing and only went to hospital after receiving the JJ Giltinan Shield and making an acceptance speech.

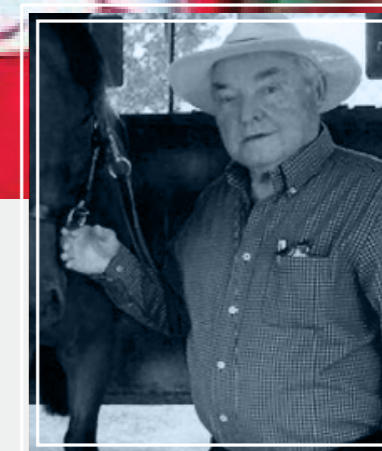
After playing 197 games for Souths, he retired from professional Rugby League in 1973. He was later named as captain for Kurri Kurri Rugby League club's Team of the Century, was also included in the list of Australia's 100 Greatest Players as well as being inducted into the NRL Hall of Fame.



JOHN 'CHOW' HAYES



JOHN MCDONALD



MICK RUDD



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 (Inr) 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 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
 Carr, G 2023
 Mieni, S 2023

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

RECORDS

STATE OF ORIGIN

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

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

Year, Winners

1980 Queensland 1-0	2003 NSW 2-1
1981 Queensland 1-0	2004 NSW 2-1
1982 Queensland 2-1	2005 NSW 2-1
1983 Queensland 2-1	2006 Queensland 2-1
1984 Queensland 2-1	2007 Queensland 2-1
1985 NSW 2-1	2008 Queensland 2-1
1986 NSW 3-0	2009 Queensland 2-1
1987 Queensland 2-1*	2010 Queensland 3-0
1988 Queensland 3-0	2011 Queensland 2-1
1989 Queensland 3-0	2012 Queensland 2-1
1990 NSW 2-1	2013 Queensland 2-1
1991 Queensland 2-1	2014 NSW 2-1
1992 NSW 2-1	2015 Queensland 2-1
1993 NSW 2-1	2016 Queensland 2-1
1994 NSW 2-1	2017 Queensland 2-1
1995 Queensland 3-0	2018 NSW 2-1
1996 NSW 3-0	2019 NSW 2-1
1997 NSW 2-1	2020 Queensland 2-1
1998 Queensland 2-1	2021 NSW 2-1
1999 1-all**	2022 Queensland 2-1
2000 NSW 3-0	2023 Queensland 2-1
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	2023 Queensland 1-1*
2009 Queensland	
2010 Queensland	
2011 Queensland	
2012 Queensland	
2013 Queensland	

* Series decided on two-game aggregate

STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 19s MEN)

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
2023 NSW

STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 19s WOMEN)

Under 18s 2019. Under 19s 2020-present

2019 NSW
2020 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 NSW
2022 NSW
2023 Queensland

STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 18s BOYS)

2014-19. 2020-present (not contested)

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

STATE OF ORIGIN (UNDER 16s BOYS)

2013-18. 2019-present (not contested)

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

RECORDS

COUNTRY V CITY MEN

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	2023 Country

COUNTRY V CITY WOMEN

2017 City
2018 Not held
2019 Not held
2020 Not held
2021 City
2022 Country
2023 Country

COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 19s WOMEN

2023 City

COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 17s GIRLS

2023 City

COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 18s BOYS

2021 City
2022 City
2023 City

COUNTRY V CITY UNDER 16s BOYS

2021 City
2022 City
2023 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	1966 St George, Balmain
1909 South Sydney, Balmain	1967 South Sydney, Canterbury-Bankstown
1910 Newtown, South Sydney	1968 South Sydney, Manly Warringah
1911 Eastern Suburbs, Glebe	1969 Balmain, South Sydney
1912 Eastern Suburbs, Glebe	1970 South Sydney, Manly Warringah
1913 Eastern Suburbs, Newtown	1971 South Sydney, St George
1914 South Sydney, Newtown	1972 Manly Warringah, Eastern Suburbs
1915 Balmain, Glebe	1973 Manly Warringah, Cronulla-Sutherland
1916 Balmain, South Sydney	1974 Eastern Suburbs, Canterbury-Bankstown
1917 Balmain, South Sydney	1975 Eastern Suburbs, St George
1918 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1976 Manly Warringah, Parramatta
1919 Balmain, Eastern Suburbs	1977 St George, Parramatta
1920 Balmain, South Sydney	1978 Manly Warringah, Cronulla-Sutherland
1921 North Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1979 St George, Canterbury-Bankstown
1922 North Sydney, Glebe	1980 Canterbury-Bankstown, Eastern Suburbs
1923 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1981 Parramatta, Newtown
1924 Balmain, South Sydney	1982 Parramatta, Manly-Warringah
1925 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1983 Parramatta, Manly-Warringah
1926 South Sydney, University	1984 Canterbury-Bankstown, Parramatta
1927 South Sydney, St George	1985 Canterbury-Bankstown, St George
1928 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1986 Parramatta, Canterbury-Bankstown
1929 South Sydney, Newtown	1987 Manly Warringah, Canberra
1930 Western Suburbs, St George	1988 Canterbury-Bankstown, Balmain
1931 South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs	1989 Canberra, Balmain
1932 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	1990 Canberra, Penrith
1933 Newtown, St George	1991 Penrith, Canberra
1934 Western Suburbs, Eastern Suburbs	1992 Brisbane, St George
1935 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1993 Brisbane, St George
1936 Eastern Suburbs, Balmain	1994 Canberra, Canterbury-Bankstown
1937 Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney	1995 Sydney Bulldogs, Manly Warringah
1938 Canterbury, Eastern Suburbs	1996 Manly Warringah, St George
1939 Balmain, South Sydney	1997 Newcastle, Manly Warringah
1940 Eastern Suburbs, Canterbury-Bankstown	1998 Brisbane, Canterbury
1941 St George, Eastern Suburbs	1999 Melbourne, St George Illawarra
1942 Canterbury-Bankstown, St George	2000 Brisbane, Sydney Roosters
1943 Newtown, North Sydney	2001 Newcastle, Parramatta
1944 Balmain, Newtown	2002 Sydney Roosters, New Zealand
1945 Eastern Suburbs, Balmain	2003 Penrith, Sydney Roosters
1946 Balmain, St George	2004 Canterbury-Bankstown, Sydney Roosters
1947 Balmain, Canterbury-Bankstown	2005, Wests Tigers, North Queensland
1948 Western Suburbs, Balmain	2006 Brisbane, Melbourne
1949 St George, South Sydney	2007 No premier, Manly Warringah
1950 South Sydney, Western Suburbs	2008 Manly Warringah, Melbourne
1951 South Sydney, Manly Warringah	2009 No premier, Parramatta
1952 Western Suburbs, South Sydney	2010 St George Illawarra, Sydney Roosters
1953 South Sydney, St George	2011 Manly Warringah, New Zealand
1954 South Sydney, Newtown	2012 Melbourne, Canterbury-Bankstown
1955 South Sydney, Newtown	2013 Sydney Roosters, Manly Warringah
1956 St George, Balmain	2014 South Sydney, Canterbury-Bankstown
1957 St George, Manly Warringah	2015 North Queensland, Brisbane
1958 St George, Western Suburbs	2016 Cronulla-Sutherland, Melbourne
1959 St George, Manly Warringah	2017 Melbourne, North Queensland
1960 St George, Eastern Suburbs	2018 Sydney Roosters, Melbourne
1961 St George, Western Suburbs	2019 Sydney Roosters, Canberra
1962 St George, Western Suburbs	2020 Melbourne, Penrith
1963 St George, Western Suburbs	2021 Penrith, South Sydney
1964 St George, Balmain	2022 Penrith, Parramatta
1965 St George, South Sydney	2023 Penrith, Brisbane

NSW CUP

Reserve Grade 1908-96. Presidents Cup 1997-98. NSWRL First Division 1999-2002. NSWRL Premier League 2003. NSWRL NSW Cup 2008-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	2023 South Sydney
1946 Balmain	1985 St George	

RECORDS

NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE WOMEN

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
2023 Newcastle, Gold Coast

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
	2023 Canterbury-Bankstown

SYDNEY SHIELD

Year, Premiers

2012 Wentworthville	2020 Cronulla-Caringbah
2013 Belrose	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2014 East Campbelltown	2022 St MarysYear, Premiers
2015 Wentworthville	2023 Hills Bulls
2016 East Campbelltown	
2017 St Marys	
2018 East Campbelltown	
2019 Ryde-Easwood	

NSW WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

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
2023 Mounties

RON MASSEY CUP

Jim Beam Cup 2003-2008. Bundaberg Red Cup 2009-2012. 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
2023 St Marys

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
2023 Maitland

ILLAWARRA CUP

Year, Premiers

2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2022 Collegians
2023 Thirroul

PETER MCDONALD PREMIERSHIP

Year, Premiers

2022 Forbes
2023 Dubbo CYMS

MEN'S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Monaro
2022 Illawarra South Coast
2023 Newcastle

WOMEN'S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Newcastle-Maitland Region
2022 Central Coast
2023 Monaro

RECORDS

SG BALL CUP

Year, Premiers

1965 South Sydney	1995 Canberra
1966 Parramatta	1996 Illawarra
1967 Parramatta	1997 Sydney City
1968 Parramatta	1998 South Sydney
1969 South Sydney	1999 Parramatta
1970 St George	2000 Penrith
1971 Western Suburbs	2001 Newcastle
1972 Canterbury-Bankstown	2002 Western Suburbs
1973 Parramatta	2003 Canberra
1974 South Sydney	2004 Newcastle
1975 South Sydney	2005 Canberra
1976 South Sydney	2006 Penrith
1977 Penrith	2007 Parramatta
1978 Canterbury-Bankstown	2008 Sydney Roosters
1979 South Sydney	2009 Bulldogs
1980 South Sydney	2010 Sydney Roosters
1981 Penrith	2011 Newcastle
1982 Balmain	2012 Balmain
1983 Parramatta	2013 Balmain
1984 St George	2014 Sydney Roosters
1985 Parramatta	2015 Cronulla-Sutherland
1986 South Sydney	2016 Penrith
1987 Parramatta	2017 Parramatta
1988 Parramatta	2018 Penrith
1989 Illawarra	2019 Illawarra
1990 Newcastle	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1991 Parramatta	2021 Canberra
1992 St George	2022 Penrith
1993 Parramatta	2023 Parramatta
1994 South Sydney	

TARSHA GALE CUP

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
2023 Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters

LAURIE DALEY CUP

Laurie Daley Cup 2018-present.

Year, Premiers

2018 Newcastle
2019 Illawarra South Coast
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Central Coast
2022 Illawarra South Coast
2023 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	2023 Canterbury-Bankstown

ANDREW JOHNS CUP

Andrew Johns Cup 2018-present.

Year, Premiers

2018 Western Rams
2019 Northern Rivers
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2021 Central Coast
2022 Northern Rivers
2023 Central Coast Roosters

PRESIDENTS CUP

Statewide third-tier competition 2020-present.

Year, Premiers	1950 Newtown	1991 Canterbury-Bankstown
1910 Eastern Suburbs	1951 South Sydney	1992 Western Suburbs
1911 Eastern Suburbs	1952 Balmain	1993 Eastern Suburbs
1912 Balmain	1953 South Sydney	1994 Cronulla-Sutherland
1913 Eastern Suburbs	1954 Balmain	1995 Canberra
1914 Balmain	1955 Eastern Suburbs	1996 South Queensland
1915 Eastern Suburbs	1956 Newtown	1997 Parramatta
1916 No Competition	1957 St George	1998 Canterbury-Bankstown
1917 No Competition	1958 Western Suburbs	1999 Parramatta
1918 North Sydney	1959 Balmain	2000 Bulldogs
1919 Newtown	1960 South Sydney	2001 St George Illawarra
1920 Eastern Suburbs	1961 South Sydney	2002 Bulldogs
1921 Newtown	1962 South Sydney	2003 Canberra
1922 Eastern Suburbs	1963 South Sydney	2004 Sydney Roosters
1923 Eastern Suburbs	1964 South Sydney	2005 Parramatta
1924 Eastern Suburbs	1965 South Sydney	2006 Parramatta
1925 Western Suburbs	1966 Balmain	2020 Maitland
1926 Balmain	1967 Balmain	2021 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)
1927 Eastern Suburbs	1968 South Sydney	2022 Maitland
1928 Newtown	1969 South Sydney	2023 Maitland
1929 Balmain	1970 Manly Warringah	
1930 Balmain	1971 South Sydney	
1931 Canterbury-Bankstown	1972 South Sydney	
1932 Balmain	1973 Balmain	
1933 North Sydney	1974 South Sydney	
1934 Southern Districts	1975 Parramatta	
1935 St George	1976 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1936 South Sydney	1977 South Sydney	
1937 Northern Suburbs	1978 Eastern Suburbs	
1938 Eastern Suburbs	1979 Parramatta	
1939 Balmain	1980 South Sydney	
1940 Balmain	1981 St George	
1941 St George	1982 South Sydney	
1942 South Sydney	1983 South Sydney	
1943 South Sydney	1984 Illawarra	
1944 Newtown	1985 Penrith	
1945 Western Suburbs	1986 Penrith	
1946 Manly Warringah	1987 Eastern Suburbs	
1947 Western Suburbs	1988 Parramatta	
1948 Eastern Suburbs	1989 South Sydney	
1949 Eastern Suburbs	1990 Canberra	

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Flowers Memorial Pennant

Year, Premiers	1968 South Sydney	2004 Sydney Roosters
1930 Eastern Suburbs	1969 South Sydney	2005 Parramatta
1931 Eastern Suburbs	1970 Eastern Suburbs	2006 Sydney Roosters
1932 South Sydney	1971 St George	2007 Penrith
1933 South Sydney	1972 Manly Warringah	2008 Parramatta
1934 Eastern Suburbs	1973 Newtown	2009 Bulldogs
1935 Eastern Suburbs	1974 Eastern Suburbs	2010 Cronulla-Sutherland
1936 Eastern Suburbs	1975 Eastern Suburbs	2011 Cronulla-Sutherland
1937 Eastern Suburbs	1976 Parramatta	2012 Balmain
1938 Canterbury-Bankstown	1977 Parramatta	2013 Cronulla-Sutherland
1939 Canterbury-Bankstown	1978 Parramatta	2014 Penrith
1940 St George	1979 Parramatta	2015 Penrith
1941 Balmain	1980 Parramatta	2016 Mounties
1942 St George	1981 Parramatta	2017 Mounties
1943 Balmain	1982 Parramatta	2018 Penrith
1944 Balmain	1983 Manly Warringah	2019 Wentworthville
1945 Eastern Suburbs	1984 St George	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1946 St George	1985 St George	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1947 Balmain	1986 Parramatta	2022 Penrith
1948 Western Suburbs	1987 Manly Warringah	2023 Canterbury-Bankstown
1949 St George	1988 Manly Warringah	
1950 Balmain	1989 South Sydney	
1951 St George	1990 Canberra	
1952 South Sydney	1991 Western Suburbs	
1953 South Sydney	1992 Brisbane/Newcastle	
1954 South Sydney	1993 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1955 St George	1994 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1956 St George	1995 Cronulla-Sutherland	
1957 St George	1996 Brisbane	
1958 St George	1997 Parramatta	
1959 St George	1998 Parramatta	
1960 Western Suburbs	1999 Parramatta	
1961 Western Suburbs	2000 Parramatta	
1962 St George	2001 Parramatta	
1963 St George	2002 Parramatta	
1964 St George	2003 Parramatta	
1965 St George		
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
2023 Brian To'o

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
2023 Liam Martin

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
2023 Dave Brown
2023 Danny Buderus
2023 Frank Burge
2023 Michael Cronin
2023 Dally Messenger

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
2023 Emma Tonegato

SKY BLUES AWARD

2022 Caitlan Johnston
2023 Kezie Apps

COUNTRY RUGBY LEAGUE

PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONOUR ROLL

1965 Laurie Moraschi (Griffith)
1966 Terry Pannowitz (Maitland)
1967 Allan Thompson (Newcastle)
1968 Allan Thompson (Newcastle)
1969 John Cootes (Newcastle)
1970 Les Hutchings (Condobolin)
1971 Dick Jefferey (Glen Innes)
1972 Brian Burke (Maitland)
1973 John Donnelly (Gunnedah)
1974 Michael Cronin (Gerringong)
1975 Steve Hewson (Queanbeyan United)
1976 Peter Kennedy (Forbes)
1977 Barry Pearson (Illawarra Western Suburbs)
1978 Ray Brown (Griffith Waratahs)
1979 Pat Smith (Maitland)
1980 Perry Haddock (Erina)
1981 Terry Regan (Cessnock)
1982 Willie Tarry (Cessnock)
1983 Paul Field (Cootamundra)
1984 Ross Gibson (Wyong)
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 (Wyong) and Darren Jackson (Cobar)
2007 David McLean (Berkeley)
2008 Grant Wooden (Wagga Kangaroos)
2009 Grant Wooden (Wagga Kangaroos)
2010 Mitch Williams (Wyong 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

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	Since 3 December 2010 Resigned 17 February 2023
William Johnstone	Managing Director, Kimaka Holdings Australia. Director, KMK Consulting.	Director	Since 8 March 2011 Resigned 17 February 2023
John Anderson OAM	Director, NSW Leagues Club Limited. Former Chairman, Country Rugby League of NSW. Former Chairman/ Director, Newcastle Rugby League. Member, Australian Rugby League Indigenous Council Life Member: NSWRL, South Newcastle, Newcastle Rugby League.	Director	Since 18 October 2019
Robert Walsh	Chairman, NSW Leagues Club Limited. Former Deputy Chair, Country Rugby League of NSW. Chairman, Central West Region of Clubs NSW. Former CEO, Narromine United Services Memorial Club. Member, Club Directors Institute and Club Managers Association	Director	Since 18 October 2019

Terence Brady	Former Board Member, Country Rugby League of NSW. Former Chairman, Bidgee Region. Former President, Group 20 Rugby League. Former Club President. Proprietor, Brady Paint and Texture.	Director	Since 18 October 2019
The Hon. Kevin Greene AM	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	Since 27 May 2022
Joe Kelly B.Comm CPA	Group CEO and Company Secretary, Eastern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club Limited and Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club Ltd. Director, NSW Leagues Club Limited	Director	Since 17 February 2023
Carolyn Campbell	CEO, Scouts NSW. Director, Volleyball Australia. Chair, Hockey One Pty Ltd. Director, Bankstown Sports Club Inc. Former Chair and Director, Sport NSW.	Director	Since 20 February 2023
Paul Conlon	District Court Judge (Acting). Former Crown Prosecutor and Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor. Former Chairman, NRL Judiciary.	Chairman	Since 22 February 2023

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.

There were no other significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Company during the year.

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 net deficit of the Company from operations is \$720,741 (2022: surplus of \$706,937). The Directors are satisfied with the performance and operations of the Company during the financial year.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company that occurred during the financial year under review.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS

Information about likely developments in the operations of the Company and the expected results of those operations in future financial years has not been included in this report because disclosure of the information would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

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
Geoffrey Gerard	5	5
William Johnstone	5	4
John Anderson OAM	19	19
Robert Walsh	19	19
Terence Brady	19	19
The Hon. Kevin Greene AM	19	19
Joe Kelly B.Comm CPA	14	14
Carolyn Campbell	14	14
Paul Conlon	13	13

John Anderson OAM has served as Acting Chairman of the Board since 26 February 2022 till 22 February 2023. Paul Conlon has been appointed as Chairman of the Board from 22 February 2023.

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:



Paul Conlon

Chairman

Dated at Sydney this 15th December 2023

FINANCIALS

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

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Revenue	40,875,916	38,958,069
Cost of sales	(434,181)	(295,589)
GROSS SURPLUS	40,441,735	38,662,480
Centre of Excellence - tenants	380,873	380,873
Centre of Excellence - field hire	140,048	76,700
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(794,551)	(798,404)
Development project expenses	(7,621,622)	(7,612,070)
Employee expenses	(10,963,729)	(10,524,139)
Equipment maintenance expenses	(696,813)	(540,819)
General expenses	(1,186,880)	(1,077,398)
Corporate events expenses	(414,762)	(303,497)
Occupancy expenses	(1,387,618)	(1,633,432)
Professional services expenses	(704,639)	(1,300,495)
Referee and game expenses	(16,478,284)	(12,796,955)
Sponsorship expenses	(1,543,037)	(1,353,644)
Telecommunications expenses	(675,145)	(567,059)
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS	(1,504,424)	612,141
Financing income	818,010	128,701
Financing expenses	(34,327)	(33,905)
NET FINANCE INCOME	783,683	94,796
(Deficit)/Surplus For The Year	(720,741)	706,937
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(720,741)	706,937

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & cash equivalents	9,946,905	10,295,042
Trade & other receivables	2,913,867	1,205,842
Inventories	68,417	105,925
Other assets	801,364	793,321
Accrued revenue	429,502	313,868
Financial assets	11,420,229	11,667,051
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	25,580,284	24,381,049
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	22,311,028	22,777,356
Intangibles	4	4
Accrued revenue	150,000	300,000
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	22,461,032	23,077,360
TOTAL ASSETS	48,041,316	47,458,409
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & other payables	5,618,166	4,904,119
Deferred Centre of Excellence funding	300,000	300,000
Deferred Revenue	2,866,169	2,599,013
Employee benefits	1,829,611	1,919,466
Lease liability	292,134	223,747
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,906,080	9,946,345
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	2,649,614	2,265,287
Deferred Centre of Excellence funding	1,275,000	1,575,000
Employee benefits	421,451	376,272
Lease liability	505,424	291,017
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,851,489	4,507,576
TOTAL LIABILITIES	15,757,569	14,453,921
NET ASSETS	32,283,747	33,004,488
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	26,635,801	27,356,542
Reserve	5,647,946	5,647,946
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	32,283,747	33,004,488

FINANCIALS

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from customers, sponsors and funders (inclusive of GST)	43,997,438	44,360,729
Cash paid to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(44,915,926)	(43,106,855)
NET CASH (USED IN) / FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(918,488)	1,253,874
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	637,693	66,891
Transfer of term deposit to/(from) cash and cash equivalents	246,822	(4,562,051)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(63,292)	(32,394)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	4,850	200
NET CASH FROM / (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	826,073	(4,527,354)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Lease payments	(255,722)	(278,762)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(255,722)	(278,762)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(348,137)	(3,552,242)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 NOVEMBER	10,295,042	13,847,284
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 OCTOBER	9,946,905	10,295,042

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS

	Reserve	Accumulated Funds (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 November 2021	5,647,946	26,649,605	32,297,551
Surplus for the year	-	706,937	706,937
BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2022	5,647,946	27,356,542	33,004,488
Balance at 1 November 2022	5,647,946	27,356,542	33,004,488
Deficit for the year	-	(720,741)	(720,741)
BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2023	5,647,946	26,635,801	32,283,747

REPORTING ENTITY

New South Wales Rugby League Limited (the 'Company') is domiciled in Australia. The Company is a not-for-profit entity and is primarily involved in the fostering and propagation of Rugby League in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

The full financial statements of the Company as at and for the year ended 31 October 2023 are available upon request, free of charge from the Company's registered office at 12-14 Dawn Fraser Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW, 2127.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The summary financial statements are prepared from the full financial statements of the Company. The full financial statements are general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures made by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001. The summary financial statements do not include all of the information required for a complete set of annual financial statements. However, certain explanatory notes are included to explain events and transactions that are significant to an understanding of the Company's financial position and performance for the year ended 31 October 2023.

The full financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors as of the date of the Directors Declaration.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Sponsorship and marketing revenue	8,574,814	8,571,078
ARLC Funding - NSWRL	14,351,017	15,123,983
NRL Funding - Elite Pathways	4,440,000	4,000,000
Recovered costs - football games	4,269,673	2,710,035
Other grant and subsidies	1,280,853	1,077,518
Corporate events revenue	142,465	210,526
Blatchys Blues & related revenue	996,527	1,125,009
Royalties revenue	1,328,342	1,153,774
Recovered insurance costs	3,884,299	3,527,428
Other revenue	1,607,926	1,458,718
TOTAL REVENUE	40,875,916	38,958,069

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	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
The company has guaranteed the repayment of the following bank facilities should they be called upon:		
Elobay Pty Limited	17,421	17,421
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There are no further contingent assets or liabilities at 31 October 2023.</p>		

ECONOMIC DEPENDANCY

The Company is funded annually by the Australian Rugby League Commission to administer the game in New South Wales in accordance with the New Members Agreement dated 10 February 2012. The Australian Rugby League Commission is required to provide the company with adequate funding to administer the game in New South Wales and also to provide budgeted operating costs for State of Origin expenses in accordance with the Services Agreement dated 10 February 2012. The adequacy of the Australian Rugby League Commission funding for the 2023 season, as required by the New Members Agreement, is subject to an ongoing dispute.

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 Company is not publicly accountable;
- b) The financial statements and notes that as set out on pages 8 to 29 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
 - i. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 October 2023 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
- c) 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:

Dated at Sydney this 15th day of December 2023.



Paul Conlon
Chairman



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 2023. 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 2023
- 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 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 15 December 2023.



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 15 December 2023.

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 2023.



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 2024

PARTNERS



PROUD SUPPORTERS





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