



# » 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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**YEAR IN REVIEW**  
[November 2023 - October 2024]



NOVEMBER

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

A NSW Invitational Under 17s scores a comprehensive 52-10 over an English Super League Warrington Under 17s side at HE Laybutt Stadium. The team is coached by True Blue Geoff Toovey and includes the rising stars of the SLE Andrew Johns Cup and UNE Harold Matthews Cup.

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 20 women representing 12 different sports.

The NSWRL releases its draws for 2024 featuring 169 teams - the most in the organisation's history since its formation in 1907. The record number of teams will be involved in seven Junior Representatives Competitions and eight NSWRL Major Competitions across metropolitan Sydney and regional NSW.

JANUARY

The NSWRL community is acknowledged in Australia Day honours with three recipients including Steve Hewson, a True Blue who now coaches and assists with Wheelchair Rugby League.

Westpac is announced as the new naming rights partner for the Westpac NSW Women's Origin team in the Royal Botanic Gardens in a partnership that includes further investment in women's Rugby League from pathways to elite competitions.

FEBRUARY

NSWRL TV launches a dedicated app with a schedule of more than 250 games for the season from NSWRL Major and Junior Representatives competitions.

The NSWRL Junior Representatives season kicks off with the Westpac Lisa Fiaola Cup (Under 17s girls) progressing from a gala day to competition status in 2024.

The achievements of 17 women from diverse sports and roles, including two NSWRL Community Award winners, are celebrated at a graduation ceremony for the NSWRL's Women in Sport Leadership program.

NSWRL announces that Transport for NSW has extended its partnership for The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup for another three years at its 2024 season launch.

NSWRL director and former Group 20 President Terry Brady and former Group 3 President Wayne Bridge are awarded Life Membership of the NSWRL for their decades of service to the game.

NSW Koori Under 17s reclaim the Steve 'Bear' Hall Shield against Queensland Murri after a strong 36-22 win.

MARCH

The NSWRL celebrates the Game for All Round culminating with Inclusion Day at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence which brings together people of all abilities, genders and cultural backgrounds to showcase the different formats of Rugby League.

The NSWRL hosts the Regional Representatives Grand Finals over two weekends at Woy Woy Oval and Cessnock Sportsground.

APRIL

The NSWRL and Wests Group Macarthur announce the continuation of a \$350,000 investment package from Wests Group Macarthur which will help families save an average of \$60 per Junior Rugby League participant.

The NSWRL and the Federal Government announce an extended four-year partnership to help develop Rugby League in Fiji through the Kaiviti Silktails who will compete in the Jersey Flegg Cup in 2024.

A 'Magic Round' involving all nine matches for the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup and Sydney Shield is held at St Marys Leagues Stadium to acknowledge the valuable contribution licensed clubs across NSW make to the game every season.

The Grand Finals are held for Junior Representative Competitions at CommBank Stadium with one of the storylines being St George Illawarra Dragons ending a 32-year premiership drought to claim the UNE SG Ball Cup.







**YEAR IN REVIEW**  
[November 2023 - October 2024]



MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
<p>The Group 20-based West Wyalong Rugby League Football Club is named the winner for the 2024 #RESPECT Round after returning the most pledges (based on percentage of membership). Across the state 9,386 pledges are taken from 292 clubs with the theme ‘Words Have Power’ focussing on the importance of promoting a positive Rugby League environment.</p> <p>City claim a 5-2 win for the annual Country v City representative weekend that features 14 teams in seven games across two days at two different Sydney venues, Leichhardt Oval and the Whitlam Leisure Centre.</p>	<p>The NSW Under 19s teams for men and women win their respective matches against Queensland at Leichhardt Oval.</p> <p>The Westpac NSW Blues Women’s Origin team lose the Ampol Women’s State of Origin series 2-1 to Queensland. It is the first time a three-game series is held for women’s Origin with NSW starting strongly winning the first game in Brisbane before losing the next two in Newcastle and Townsville.</p> <p>True Blues Mark O’Meley and Tim Brasher visit Wingham, Gloucester, Bulahdelah and Taree for the NSWRL’s 2024 Regional Roadshow road safety campaign.</p>	<p>The NSWRL announces its 2024 Community Award winners including Community Club of the Year, NSWRL Coach of the Year (Male and Female), First Nations Volunteer of the Year, Inclusive Volunteer of the Year, Young Person of the Year, and 12 Regional Volunteers of the Year.</p> <p>The NSWRL celebrates First Nations Round with a specially-designed, First Nations-themed jersey that is worn by match officials in all NSWRL Major Competitions.</p> <p>The Westpac NSW Blues win the Ampol Men’s State of Origin series 2-1 after scoring a historic victory in the final game at Brisbane’s Suncorp Stadium. It is only the third time in more than 40 years of Origin history that NSW claims a series after winning the decider in Queensland.</p>	<p>The total number of participants for the NSWRL season is released with participation rising by almost five per cent to top 117,000. The number of male participants surpasses 87,000 (87,489) for the first time, while the women’s game records growth of more than 14 per cent to reach almost 30,000 (29,686).</p> <p>True Blue Royce Simmons visits the NSWRL Centre of Excellence for ‘Royce’s Big Walk’ around Sydney to raise funding for dementia research.</p> <p>The Minns Labor Government delivers on an election promise and invests \$500,000 to help deliver community Rugby League competitions in Far West NSW.</p>	<p>The Brad Fittler Medal is held at The Star Event Centre in Sydney with the winners including Westpac NSW Blues players Angus Crichton (Brad Fittler Medal) and Jaime Chapman (NSW Women’s State of Origin Player of the Year). Twenty awards were presented across all NSWRL competitions including Representative, Major, Junior Representatives, as well as community honours.</p> <p>The Grand Finals for the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup and Sydney Shield are held at Leichhardt Oval. Glebe Dirty Reds win their first piece of silverware since 1927 after taking out the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup, while Penrith Brothers claim the Sydney Shield.</p> <p>The NSWRL Grand Final Day is held at Parramatta’s CommBank Stadium highlighted by Newtown Jets beating North Sydney Bears 28-22 to win The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Grand Final.</p> <p>The NSWRL’s Women in Sport Leadership program, run in conjunction with the University of New England (UNE), enters its fourth year in 2024, with Australian Olympic women’s water polo coach Bec Rippon sharing her insights after the team claimed the silver medal at the Paris Olympic Games.</p>	<p>The annual Harmony Nines tournament welcomes two new heritage nations, Greece and South Sudan, to the cultural and Rugby League celebration at Shellharbour. The event, run by the NSWRL in conjunction with Heritage Rugby League, features 22 heritage groups, 133 games, 79 teams and almost 1200 players.</p>







NSW beats Queensland in  
**THREE**  
Origin contests  
(men, U19s men, U19s women)



A record  
**25,782**  
attend Game Two of the  
Women's State of Origin series



More than  
**10 MILLION**  
viewers tune in to watch the  
State of Origin series



More than  
**117,000**  
participants register to play  
across all competitions in NSW







Female participation up  
**14 PER CENT**  
(with 29,686 girls and women registering)



More than  
**27,000**  
customers sign up to NSWRL TV



More than  
**527,000**  
viewers tune into  
The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup season



Almost  
**15 PER CENT**  
growth across all NSWRL social  
media channels







## NSWRL MAJOR AWARDS

Brad Fittler Medal  
**Angus Crichton**

True Blue Award  
**Jake Trbojevic**

NSW Blues Women's Player of the Year  
**Jaime Chapman**

NSW Blues Women's Award  
**Yasmin Clydsdale**

The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup  
Player of the Year  
**Adam Cook**

Harvey Norman NSW Women's  
Premiership Player of the Year  
**Leilani Wilson**







## CHAIR'S REPORT

PAUL CONLON, NSWRL CHAIR

The 2024 season was highly successful for NSWRL with participation increasing, victory for our men's and pathways teams in State of Origin, and a record number of teams (169) competing in Major and Junior Representatives competitions – the most in the organisation's 117-year history. I am also pleased to report we have secured funding from the Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) until 2027 following the challenges of the past few seasons. The NSWRL continues to hold talks with the ARLC and looks forward to working together to achieve goals that will benefit the game across NSW.

### Origin

The success of the Westpac NSW Blues in coming from a game down to claim the 2024 Ampol Men's State of Origin series can be traced back to their meticulous preparation. The Blues started the season with a new coach Michael 'Madge' Maguire, who had won premierships in both the Super League and the NRL as well as steering New Zealand to a Pacific Championship title. Michael tapped into the rich history of the NSW Origin team and made Steve 'Turvey' Mortimer, who captained the Blues to their first series win, a focus of their preparation. The players also enjoyed the opportunity to swap war stories with True Blues at the annual True Blues dinner, dined at the SCG with Steve, other True Blues, former Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh and fast bowler Mike Whitney, and swapped their traditional base of Coogee in Sydney's eastern suburbs for the Blue Mountains to prepare for the series. Back-rower Angus Crichton commented at the Brad Fittler Medal when he accepted the top award, that he had never felt more connected to his teammates than he did during this year's series. Michael elected to move on at the end of the series to pursue another career opportunity and we welcome True Blue Laurie Daley into the role. Laurie was the first player to captain NSW to a three-peat (1992-94) and also steered the Blues to a memorable series win as coach in 2014. The professional infrastructure that was put in place for the 2024 series will remain, with NRL premiership-winning coach Craig Bellamy also coming on board as an advisor. I am confident we will achieve further success in 2025.

NSW Women's Origin coach Kylie Hilder decided to step down after four years in the role. Kylie made history in 2021 after becoming the first female to be appointed as women's coach in the Origin era. She won in 2022 when it was still only one match, tied 1-all in 2023 but lost on points scored over the two games, and was only a field goal away in Game Two from claiming the three-game series in 2024. Thankfully, Kylie will not be lost to the NSWRL as she will remain as our Female Pathways Manager

which will allow her to bring on the next generation of players. NRLW premiership-winning coach John Strange, who won titles in 2021 and 2024 with the Sydney Roosters, takes over as NSW Blues Women's Origin coach. John is looking forward to the opportunity and we are confident he will also serve NSW well.

### Partners

The NSWRL brand continues to resonate with our partners with 2024 being one of our strongest seasons yet. The year kicked off with Westpac extending their involvement to include the Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin team as well as other female pathways representative teams and competitions. It is always pleasing to see a partner genuinely passionate about the space they operate in, and Westpac are not only heavily invested with our NSW Origin teams but have a genuine interest in seeing women's Rugby League succeed. The season also finished strongly with leading global sportswear manufacturer adidas joining the NSWRL family on a five-year deal. The agreement will see the adidas brand extend across the playing kits for both the men's and women's NSW Blues Origin teams until the end of 2029.

### Silktales

I was fortunate to attend the launch of the Kaiviti Silktales in Fiji in April following their decision to switch from the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup (Open Age) to the Jersey Flegg Cup (Under 21s) in order to focus on youth development. The event was attended by high-ranking officials including the Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and Australia's Minister for International Development and the Pacific Pat Conroy. The NSWRL has partnered with PacificAus Sports, an initiative of the Australian Government, to help develop Rugby League talent in Fiji. The Pacific already provides a host of players who have gone on to pursue professional Rugby League careers and programs like the Silktales will help expand the game and usher in future stars from other countries.

### NSWRL TV and Social Media

The NSWRL extended its commitment to NSWRL TV this season with the launch of a dedicated app that is available on the Apple App and Google Play stores. The subscription-based service exceeded expectations in its first year of operation with 304 matches live streamed and more than 27,500 fans tuning in. Matches were shown from NSWRL Junior Representatives and Major Competitions, as well as community events including the Harmony Nines tournament in Shellharbour. The matches were complemented by commentators and replays, and we are expecting further benchmarks to be achieved in 2025. It was also another great year

for NSWRL's social media channels which rose 14 per cent on a year-to-year basis to break through the two million mark (2,149,246) for followers. The success of women's Rugby League led to the creation of specific social media pages for the Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin team and Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership.

### Vales

It is always sad to farewell NSW Rugby League luminaries who have contributed so much as players, coaches, administrators or officials and our game is poorer for their loss. In 2025, we lost Balmain legend Keith Barnes AM, who was nicknamed 'Golden Boots' and represented the Tigers as both a player and a General Manager, South Sydney hooker Darrell Bampton OAM, who was also a former NSW Blues Team Manager and later awarded NSWRL Life Membership, and Vic Byrnes OAM, a giant of Country Rugby League and Orange CYMS, who also became a NSWRL Life Member.

### Thank you

I congratulate NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden and his staff for all their hard work this season. The game across our state is enjoying a period of sustained growth which is testament to the small and dedicated team that work there. I am confident that commitment will lead the NSWRL to achieve further success in 2025.







## CEO'S REPORT

DAVID TRODDEN, NSWRL CEO

Participation is the cornerstone for success in any sport and I am pleased to report the figures show that Rugby League is thriving in NSW. After recent seasons were disrupted by COVID and extreme weather conditions, the game has rebounded with significant growth over the past two years. The NSWRL achieved record growth in 2023 and surpassed that figure again in 2024 in a reflection of all the hard work put in by all stakeholders across our great state. The numbers are impressive. A total of 117,566 participants signed up to play Rugby League in 2024, which is an increase of 4.6 per cent on a year-to-year basis. Male participation climbed past 87,000 (87,489) for the first time while female participation recorded 14 per cent growth to almost reach 30,000 (29,686). These figures even more pleasing as they occurred despite changes by the NSW State Government to means-test Active Kids vouchers in 2024. These vouchers have helped many families who might be struggling to still sign up and play Rugby League since they were first introduced in 2018, and the move to restrict eligible participants based on family income did not affect our playing numbers.

### Infrastructure Strategy

With more and more people wanting to play Rugby League, there is an urgent need for ground infrastructure to support that growth. This was the catalyst for the NSWRL announcing details of an important new initiative at the annual Community Conference which will benefit community clubs across NSW. The Infrastructure Strategy is backed by a seven-figure investment in projects to assist community clubs with upgrades and improvements to club facilities and infrastructure. The Infrastructure Strategy forms part of the broader New State NSWRL Strategic Plan for 2024-26 and also addresses impacts from the severe wet weather of the past season which placed additional pressures on community facilities and ground surfaces. NSWRL will seek co-contributions from other parties to supplement the fund which will be administered by an Investment Infrastructure Fund Committee. Select priority projects will be chosen to receive funding support based on key selection criteria aligned with NSWRL's Infrastructure Strategy.

### Origin

The State of Origin arena is widely regarded as one of the toughest of any sport. That's why the performance of the Westpac NSW Blues in 2024 was so special after they became only the third NSW team since Origin moved to a three-game series in 1982 to win a decider in Brisbane. They responded to their Game One loss by convincingly winning Game Two 38-14 in Melbourne – the 34-0 score at half-time was the biggest in Origin history – and then dug deep to

win Game Three in Brisbane 14-4. The decider at Suncorp Stadium was an Origin classic, with both teams locked in a genuine arm wrestle before NSW broke the game open late in the second half, to finish with a thoroughly deserved victory. Unfortunately, our Westpac NSW Women's Origin team was unable to reclaim the Shield. They started the series strongly with a Game One victory in Brisbane before the NRL's Magic Round, lost Game Two in the dying minutes by a field goal in Newcastle, but succumbed to a dominant Queensland in Game Three in Townsville.

Our NSW pathways teams had better fortunes, with the CAFE NSW Under 19s Men and the Westpac NSW Under 19s Women winning their respective matches. The NSW Under 19s Men have not lost a game since it was rejigged from Under 20s in 2022, while the NSW Under 19s Women scored a commanding 46-4 win, to suggest the future for our state is in good hands.

### Grand Finals

The NSWRL Grand Finals for our Junior Representatives Competitions and Major Competitions are always memorable occasions with great storylines. The 2024 season was the first time our Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership was shifted to the NSWRL Grand Final Day at Parramatta's CommBank Stadium alongside The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup and the Jersey Flegg Cup (Under 21s). All three games were played in a tremendous spirit and were fiercely contested with Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs producing some great defence to clinch a 14-12 win over Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks in the Jersey Flegg Cup, while the Illawarra Steelers held on for a 10-6 win over the Newcastle Knights in the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership. The final match saw foundation clubs Newtown Jets and North Sydney Bears battle it out for The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup. It was the first time the two clubs had met in a decider since 1943 and the atmosphere was tremendous with more than 10,000 fans turning up to watch the decider. Newtown beat North Sydney more than 80 years ago and it was a case of history repeating itself with the Jets claiming the premiership with a 28-22 victory in a match that lived up to the hype.

### Community

Rugby League is more than just a sport. It is also a powerful tool that allows the NSWRL to deliver important programs throughout the community. These range from True Blue Paul Langmack, a triple-premiership winner with the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, delivering messages about mental fitness around NSW, to True Blues Mark O'Meley and Tim Brasher visiting country areas for the Regional Roadshow to warn of the dangers of speeding and drink-driving. The NSWRL delivered other important community initiatives in 2024 including an Inclusion Day at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence

to bring together people of all abilities, genders and cultural backgrounds, and our nationally recognised Women in Sport Leadership program entered its fourth year, while we celebrated Rugby League's special connection with the First Nations community by commissioning a specially-designed jersey for First Nations round.

### Partners

The success we have achieved at the NSWRL in 2024 would not be possible without the ongoing support and contribution from our partners, who are also acknowledged elsewhere in this report. I thank our State of Origin naming rights partner Westpac for their ongoing commitment to invest in our game, as well as The Star, Lion, McDonald's, PUMA, Transport for NSW, Jim Beam, Athelite, BSc Energy, Steeden, University of New England, SLE, Accor Hotels, CAFE, Compass Corp, I Want 2 Work, My Sports Tape, Command 51, Leagues Club Australia, Murrays Coaches, Sydney Markets, and KARI Foundation.

### Thank You

Finally, I thank NSWRL Chair Paul Conlon and the Board for their support in 2024, as well as NSWRL staff around our great state who work tirelessly to ensure that Rugby League continues to prosper. That dedication and commitment will always endure, and I look forward to building on it again in 2025 as we work towards another successful season. I am proud to work with all of them.





**HON. KEVIN GREENE AM**

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

**JOE KELLY**

Director: Since February 2023  
CEO: Sydney Roosters

**JOHN ANDERSON OAM**

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

**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

**TERRY BRADY**

Director: Since October 2019  
Chair: Bidgee Region

**BOB WALSH**

Director: Since October 2019  
CEO: Club Directors Institute; Club  
Managers Association





## MEDIA COVERAGE

NSWRL experienced another strong season of media coverage, highlighted by record ratings for the Ampol State of Origin series for both men and women, the launch of a dedicated app for NSWRL TV with impressive subscription numbers, and further growth on social media channels.

The Men's Origin series was fiercely contested and the Channel Nine ratings demonstrated just how popular the concept continues to be with fans. Game One in Sydney had a total national audience of 3.436 million which was the highest-rating series opener since 2016. Game Two in Melbourne had a total national audience of 3.263 million and was the highest-rating second game of the series since 2017. The deciding Game Three attracted a total national audience of 3.652 million which was the highest-rating match since Game One in 2016, and the highest-rating Game Three since 2013. The combined audience over three games was 10.351 million, which represented an increase of 12 per cent on the approximately 9.1 million viewers who had tuned in to the 2023 series.

Women's Origin moved to a three-game series for the first time in 2024 which reflects the growing interest in women's Rugby League. The opening game of the series to kick-off the NRL's Magic Round in Brisbane had a total national audience of 941,000 fans, which represented a 44 per cent increase on the 650,000 audience for the corresponding game in 2023. The second game of the series in Newcastle had a total national audience of 1.068 million, which was a 78 per cent increase on the 573,000 fans who watched Game Two in 2023. It was also a nine per cent increase on the viewers who had tuned in for Game One. The deciding Game Three in Townsville was a dominant timeslot winner across Australia with a total national audience of 1.074 million. The series averaged more than one million viewers across all three games which was a 68 per cent increase on the 2023 series (which was only played over two matches).

The Under 19s Origin matches for both men and women were also broadcast by the Nine Network and Fox League. The women's match was shown first and attracted 58,000 viewers, while the men's match recorded an increase of 55 per cent on last year with 493,000 viewers.

Fox League on FOX SPORTS broadcast 21 matches from The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup in 2024 with a total number of 527,958 viewers tuning in. The average audience was 25,141 which was up on the 2023 figure of 24,783. The most-watched program was the Round 8 match between the Western Suburbs Magpies and North Sydney Bears with 39,938 viewers.

NSWRL stepped up its commitment to NSWRL TV with a dedicated app being made available on the Apple App and Google Play stores. The subscription-based service offered a variety of packages with 27,550 fans tuning in during the season. There were 304 matches live streamed across all NSWRL competitions, as well as the Harmony Nines and Blues Tag Gala Days, for a combined 325,893 views. 9Now broadcast the NSWRL TV live stream from the NSWRL Grand Final Day, with the decider between foundation clubs North Sydney Bears and Newtown Jets capturing a live audience of 23,000 which represented an 8.5 per cent increase from the previous season.

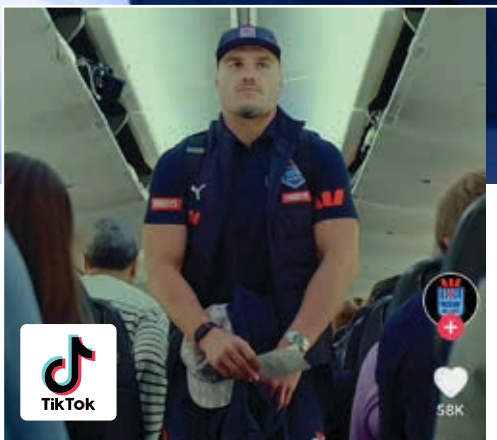
It was another successful season for NSWRL social media channels with the number of followers increasing 14 per cent from 1,885,270 in 2023 to 2,149,246 in 2024. This included the launch of the NSW Blues Women's Origin and NSW Women's Premiership pages, with the former attracting 17,504 followers in its first year. Other notable milestones include the NSWRL Instagram page surpassing 100,000 followers and the NSW Blues thread now at 64,000. Some of the best-performing posts included '2024 series winners' (NSW Blues Instagram, 3.8 million views), 'Welcome to Rugby League Mark Nawaqanitawase' (The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Facebook, 769,000 views) and 'Sydney to Melbourne' (NSW Blues TikTok, 448,000).



**2024 series winners  
NSW Blues**  
Instagram: 3.8 million views



**Welcome to Rugby League  
Mark Nawaqanitawase**  
The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup  
Facebook: 769,000 views



**Sydney to Melbourne**  
TikTok: 448,000







## PARTNERS

The NSWRL remains one of the strongest brands on the Australian sporting landscape as evidenced in a season where partners reaffirmed or extended their commitments, while new partners were welcomed into the NSW Blues family.

Westpac assumed naming rights of the Westpac NSW Blues in 2023 and diversified into the women's game in 2024 after also taking on the naming rights of the Westpac NSW Women's Origin team, as well as investing in female pathways from the grassroots through to elite competitions. The announcement was made at the Westpac Open Air Cinema at Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Royal Botanic Gardens by NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden and Westpac Head of Sponsorship Patrick Cunningham, with Westpac NSW Women's Origin coach Kylie Hilder and player representatives Kezie Apps and Millie Elliott also in attendance. The extended partnership with Australia's oldest financial institution also included naming rights for the Junior Representatives Competitions Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup (Under 19s Women) and the Westpac Lisa Fiaola Cup (Under 17s Girls), as well as female representative teams in the annual Country v City fixture, and investment in the Westpac NSW Emerging Girls clinics. Westpac also ran a clinic for the Westpac NSW Blues at the start of camp for Game Two, which enabled players to reunite with their junior clubs from around the state with more than 200 children attending a skills and drills clinic at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence.

The world's number one bourbon, Jim Beam, increased their commitment to the Westpac NSW Blues and Westpac NSW Women's Origin team by appearing on the lower back of the iconic sky blue jersey. Jim Beam returned to the NSWRL family in 2022, having previously sponsored the Jim Beam Cup (now known as the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup) from 2003-08. They were heavily involved in match-day promotions, digital and social media campaigns, media integration and promotional opportunities, and in-store and online activities to engage with NSW's passionate base of supporters including Blatchys Blues fans.

A new partnership was announced with leading sports nutrition company BSc who provided players from both the Westpac NSW Blues and NSW Women's Origin team with energy, hydration and nutrition products for the State of Origin series. The Australian-made manufacturer of health and wellness solutions boasts 25 years experience in the industry and is committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality with HASTA-certified (Human and Supplement Testing Australia), athlete-approved supplements.

The Star recruited True Blue Bryan Fletcher to take on the role of 'Chief Blatchys Officer' for the Westpac NSW Blues for the 2024 Origin series. As well as attending Game One at Sydney's Accor Stadium to interact and entertain Blatchys Blues supporters, Fletcher also hosted Blatchys Blues fans at the Sports Bar at The Star for Game Two in Melbourne and again for Game Three in Brisbane. All Blatchys Blues

fans who joined him for the festivities received an iconic blue wig, a Blatchys Blues t-shirt, and a rally towel. The Star also combined with the NSWRL to provide a unique program for the Westpac NSW Women's Origin team focusing on brand education, employment and mentorship. The players learned tools to identify, communicate and activate their personal brand in and beyond sport, followed by other stages providing potential employment opportunities and mentorship.

Compass, the leading company in replacement vehicle services and accident management in Australia, extended its partnership with the NSWRL for another three years until 2026. They joined forces with the NSWRL in 2017 and will continue to support the NSWRL and Westpac NSW Blues.

Tooheys beat 100 other sports in 2024 to be crowned the most iconic sports partnership of all time with their 'I Feel Like a Tooheys' campaign. The 'Sports Sponsorship Draft' was run by B&T, Australia's leading publication for the advertising, marketing, media and PR industries, and was held over five rounds before a top ten shortlist was determined. The Westpac NSW Blues beat other contenders which included KFC and the Big Bash League, Kia and the Australian Open, and NBA legend Michael Jordan and Nike.

McDonald's revisited the 'Macca's Mic' during the Origin series, which featured players from both the Westpac NSW Blues and Westpac NSW Women's Origin team conducting humorous interviews with their teammates while in camp. True Blues Steve Menzies also pitched in for the annual McHappy Day after heading to Forestville McDonald's to serve and greet customers and help raise funds and awareness for Ronald McDonald House Charities Australia. This annual contribution assists Ronald McDonald House Charities to support more families with seriously ill children.

Away from the Origin arena, Transport for NSW extended its partnership for The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, the state's premier men's competition, for another three seasons. The announcement was made at the NSWRL season launch with Transport for NSW coming on board as a partner in 2017. The extended partnership has now delivered positive messages about road safety to more than 4000 teenagers at 40 regional areas around the state with True Blues Mark O'Meley and Tim Brasher delivering the Regional Roadshow to Wingham, Gloucester, Bulahdelah and Taree in 2024.

SLE extended their partnership of the SLE Laurie Daley Cup (Under 18s Boys) and SLE Andrew Johns Cup (Under 16s Boys), as well as assuming the front of shorts sponsorship for the female Country and City teams. The leading Australian-based underwriting agency took on naming rights of regional the SLE Laurie Daley Cup and SLE Andrew Johns Cup, which has more than 400 players and 20 teams from both competitions around regional NSW, in 2021.

The NSWRL thanks all its partners for their ongoing support and looks forward to working with them on campaigns for 2025 to achieve further success.





# 1

## REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL





The Westpac NSW Blues started the season with a new coach, Michael Maguire, who had enjoyed premiership success with Wigan in the English Super League and South Sydney Rabbitohs in the NRL, as well as steering New Zealand to a surprise win over Australia in the Pacific Championships. Maguire was keen to tap into the history of the NSW Blues, particularly around the state's first series-winning captain Steve Mortimer, to forge a strong culture.

Maguire named six debutants for the opening game of the Ampol Men's State of Origin series at Sydney's Accor Stadium, Sydney, on Wednesday 5 June. They were Dylan Edwards (Penrith Panthers), Spencer Leniu (Sydney Roosters), Zac Lomax (St George Illawarra Dragons), Cameron McInnes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), Haumole Olakau'atu (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles) and Joseph Aukuso-Suaalii (Sydney Roosters). Jake Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles) was named captain, with Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), Luke Keary (Sydney Roosters) and Mitch Barnett (Warriors) part of an extended bench.

The team started camp at Sydney Olympic Park and fulfilled their media obligations at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence before they shifted to the Blue Mountains to continue their preparation. Before relocating, they also attended the True Blues dinner at The Star Event Centre and took part in a pre-match function where Maguire assembled a contingent of former NSW players to mingle with the team. The pre-match function also included an address from True Blues Steve Roach and Ben Elias and former coach turned journalist Roy Masters.

Maguire decided to move camp away from the hustle and bustle of their traditional base at Coogee in Sydney's east to the Blue Mountains to capitalise on a quieter atmosphere. The team trained at the Blue Mountains Grammar School in Wentworth Falls on a field that had been purpose-built to accommodate them and stayed at the Fairmont Blue Mountains Resort in Leura which also had a purpose-built gym.

The team suffered a minor setback when Edwards strained his quadriceps muscle at the final training session in the Blue Mountains before the team returned to Sydney to put the finishing touches on their preparation. Edwards was ruled out with former captain James Tedesco joining the squad when they returned to Sydney Olympic Park for a Captain's Run at Accor Stadium.

The match got off to a shaky start for NSW when Queensland halfback Daly Cherry-Evans put Ben Hunt over the line within the first five minutes to help set up a 6-0 lead. The situation got even worse for the Blues in the seventh minute when Suaalii was sent off for making dangerous contact to the head of Queensland fullback Reece Walsh. Walsh was assisted from the field for an HIA and took no further part in the match with Valentine Holmes landing the penalty goal to extend Queensland's lead to 8-0. Being reduced to 12 men with more than 70 minutes to go was always going to be a tough challenge for the Blues but to their credit they never gave up. They cut the deficit back to 8-6 when five-eighth Jarome Luai put a well-weighted grubber kick through for Tedesco to score, but two tries to the Maroons in the space of five minutes saw them with a 20-6 lead at half-time.

The Blues pegged one back when play resumed after Lomax climbed high to snatch a Nicho Hynes bomb to reduce the margin to 20-10. They hung tough with Queensland until late in the second half when the amount of extra defence they had been forced to do eventually caught up with them. The Maroons ran in three more tries to secure a 38-10 win and take a 1-0 lead in the series.

**Queensland 38** (Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow 3, Ben Hunt 2, Xavier Coates tries; Valentine Holmes 7 goals) **NSW 10** (James Tedesco, Zac Lomax tries; Nicho Hynes goal) at Accor Stadium, Sydney, on Wednesday 5 June.

**Westpac NSW Blues:** 1. James Tedesco (Sydney Roosters), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Stephen Crichton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 4. Joseph-Aukuso Suaalii (Sydney Roosters)\*, 5. Zac Lomax (St George Illawarra Dragons)\*, 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 8. Jake Trbojevic (c) (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 9. Reece Robson (North Queensland Cowboys), 10. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 11. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 12. Angus Crichton (Sydney Roosters), 13. Cameron McInnes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks)\*, 14. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 15. Haumole Olakau'atu (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)\*, 16. Spencer Leniu (Sydney Roosters)\*, 17. Hudson Young (Canberra Raiders), 18. Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 19. Luke Keary (Sydney Roosters), 20. Mitch Barnett (Warriors). Coach: Michael Maguire.

\*Denotes debutant





The Westpac NSW Blues headed to Game Two of the Ampol Men's State of Origin series at Melbourne's MCG with the knowledge that history was behind them. Of the nine previous games that had been played in Melbourne, NSW held a slim 5-4 advantage over Queensland but their record at the MCG was more impressive with the Blues 4-1 ahead.

Westpac NSW Blues coach Michael Maguire made five changes to the team that lost the opening game in Sydney. Latrell Mitchell (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Mitch Moses (Parramatta Eels) and Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), and debutants Dylan Edwards (Penrith Panthers) and Connor Watson (Sydney Roosters) joined the squad which also included emergencies Mitch Barnett (Warriors), Cameron McInnes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks) and Luke Keary (Sydney Roosters).

The camp started again at Sydney Olympic Park with players taking part in a clinic with junior Rugby League players from their former clubs. The clinic brought more than 200 children together from around NSW, including from Bellingen on the mid-north coast to Temora in the Riverina. The squad then returned to their base at the Blue Mountains before relocating to Melbourne to complete their preparations, which included a Captain's Run at the MCG.

NSW had to win Game Two to keep the series alive and they needed only 10 minutes to start off on the right foot after Moses put Liam Martin through a gap and over the line with a well-timed short ball. Zac Lomax landed the conversion for a 6-0 lead. The Blues backed that effort up when a backline movement ended with Mitchell flicking a pass for winger Brian To'o to score in the corner with Lomax landing the conversion from out wide for a 12-0 lead. Moses stepped up again with a cross-field bomb that Lomax leapt high in the air to grab before planting it down to extend the lead to 16-0. Moses's kicking game was on song and To'o grabbed his second try after chasing down a grubber kick from the NSW halfback, before back-rower Angus Crichton and Edwards combined to put Mitchell over the line. The Blues were well in control at 28-0 but they weren't finished yet with Lomax grabbing his second try just before half-time for a 34-0 lead. It was also a record for the most points scored in the opening 40 minutes since Origin first started in 1980.

The Blues momentum stalled when Martin and Queensland lock Patrick Carrigan were sin binned following a melee, and the Maroons responded with two quick tries to reduce their margin to 34-12 with more than 20 minutes remaining. Any hopes of a miracle comeback evaporated when Moses put Edwards over the line to make it 38-12 before the Maroons scored again through Murray Taulagi. The final score was 38-18, giving the Blues a confidence-boosting win to keep the series alive with the decider to be played in Brisbane. Moses was named a deserved Player of the Match for a dominant performance which included four try assists and two line-break assists.

**NSW 38** (Brian To'o 2, Zac Lomax 2, Liam Martin, Latrell Mitchell, Dylan Edwards tries; Lomax 5 goals)  
**Queensland 18** (Jeremiah Nanai, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Murray Taulagi tries; Valentine Holmes 3 goals) at the MCG, Melbourne, on Wednesday 26 June.

**Westpac NSW Blues:** 1. Dylan Edwards (Penrith Panthers)\*, 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Latrell Mitchell (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 4. Stephen Crichton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 5. Zac Lomax (St George Illawarra Dragons), 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Mitch Moses (Parramatta Eels), 8. Jake Trbojevic (c) (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 9. Reece Robson (North Queensland Cowboys), 10. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 11. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 12. Angus Crichton (Sydney Roosters), 13. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 14. Connor Watson (Sydney Roosters)\*, 15. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 16. Haumole Olakau'atu (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 17. Spencer Leniu (Sydney Roosters), 18. Mitch Barnett (Warriors), 19. Cameron McInnes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 20. Luke Keary (Sydney Roosters). Coach: Michael Maguire.

*\*Denotes debutant*





The Westpac NSW Blues headed into Game Three at Suncorp Stadium facing an enormous challenge. Since the State of Origin concept moved to a three-game series in 1982, there had been only two NSW sides that have won a deciding game in Brisbane – in 1994 and 2005.

Westpac NSW Blues coach Michael Maguire made two changes to the team that won Game Two convincingly in Melbourne. Bradman Best (Newcastle Knights) was called in to replace the injured Latrell Mitchell at centre, while Mitch Barnett (Warriors) was named to make his debut off the bench. The squad also had three emergencies in Haumole Olakau'atu (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs) and Joseph Aukuso-Suaalii (Sydney Roosters).

The camp commenced at Sydney Olympic Park before the players attended a dinner at the SCG for a special address from former Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh and fast bowler Mike Whitney. The event was also attended by True Blues, including the inaugural series-winning captain from 1985 Steve Mortimer. His former teammates recreated the scene from almost 40 years ago of lifting him up on to their shoulders to celebrate winning their first Shield. The team also enjoyed a visit to URBNSURF, a man-made surf park at Sydney Olympic Park. They returned to the Blue Mountains to continue their preparation and also held an open training session to thank the local public for their support during the campaign. The squad moved to Brisbane on Sunday to complete their build-up with a training session at Ballymore Stadium, and a Captain's Run at Suncorp Stadium.

The final game lived up to the hype. There was nothing between the two sides with the defence willing and full of big hits, and the action going from end-to-end. NSW enjoyed 60 per cent possession in the opening 40 minutes but were unable to find a way through the Maroons wall. The first half was also impacted by a push-and-shove contest between Queensland captain Daly Cherry-Evans and NSW five-eighth Jarome Luai that degenerated into an all-in melee. The upshot saw both teams reduced to 12 men after referee Ashley Klein sent Queensland back-rower Jeremiah Nanai and NSW lock Cameron Murray to the sin bin for being third man in and escalating the fight. When play resumed NSW centre Stephen Crichton came close to scoring but lost the ball as he was sliding over the line. Queensland eventually broke the deadlock just before half-time when Valentine Holmes landed a penalty goal to take a 2-0 lead into the break.

NSW levelled the scores at 2-all five minutes after play resumed when Zac Lomax landed a penalty goal from the sidelines but Queensland regained the lead 4-2 following another penalty goal to Holmes. The match was evenly poised with more than 15 minutes to go when NSW finally found a way through the Queensland defence. Replacement hooker Connor Watson flicked a pass along the ground that was picked up by Luai who dummied his way past Nanai and Dane Gagai to make a break. With the defence converging, Luai slowed up just enough before releasing Bradman Best down the sideline who palmed off Gagai and Kalyn Ponga to score. Lomax converted from out wide to put NSW in front for the first time 8-4.

The Blues went further in front within the next five minutes after halfback Mitch Moses stepped his way through Queensland hooker Harry Grant and centre Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow before accelerating away to score. Lomax converted for a 14-4 lead and the Blues defence held firm in the final exchanges to seal a memorable win.

The result broke Queensland's stranglehold of winning the past nine deciders in Brisbane and the Blues had their hands on the Shield for the first time since 2021. Dylan Edwards was named Player of the Match after a strong performance which included 247 run metres, while Angus Crichton was named winner of the Wally Lewis Medal for Player of the Series.

**NSW 14** (Bradman Best, Mitchell Moses tries; Zac Lomax 3 goals) **Queensland 4** (Valentine Holmes 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, on 17 July.

**Westpac NSW Blues:** 1. Dylan Edwards (Penrith Panthers), 2. Brian To'o (Penrith Panthers), 3. Bradman Best (Newcastle Knights), 4. Stephen Crichton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 5. Zac Lomax (St George Illawarra Dragons), 6. Jarome Luai (Penrith Panthers), 7. Mitch Moses (Parramatta Eels), 8. Jake Trbojevic (c) (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 9. Reece Robson (North Queensland Cowboys), 10. Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos), 11. Liam Martin (Penrith Panthers), 12. Angus Crichton (Sydney Roosters), 13. Cameron Murray (South Sydney Rabbitohs), 14. Connor Watson (Sydney Roosters), 15. Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers), 16. Mitch Barnett (Warriors)\*, 17. Spencer Leniu (Sydney Roosters), 18. Matt Burton (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 19. Haumole Olakau'atu (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles), 20. Joseph Aukuso Suaalii (Sydney Roosters). Coach: Michael Maguire.

\*Denotes debutant







## WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME ONE

The Ampol Women's State of Origin moved to a three-game series for the first time since the concept was rebranded from an interstate contest to Origin status in 2018. The Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin team was determined to win the Shield after the 2023 contest had gone the way of Queensland based on which state had a better aggregate over two games. Although NSW won the second game in Townsville 18-14, they were denied the Shield by four points after losing the opening game in Sydney 18-10.

Following the decision to shift the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership to later in the season to align with the NRLW competition and increase opportunities for female Rugby League players, NSW coach Kylie Hilder conducted a pre-Origin camp. With no club competition in NSW for players to build their match fitness, training sessions started seven weeks before the opening game of the series at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on Thursday 16 May. A 36-player squad trained twice a week at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence or at Leichhardt Oval. A handful of players including NSW co-captain Kezie Apps also elected to play in the Queensland domestic competition to ensure they would be Origin-ready.

The 20-player squad for Game One was officially presented at The Star in Pyrmont on Wednesday 8 May at a special event for players and their families. Hooker Olivia Higgins (Newcastle Knights) and prop Grace Kemp (Canberra Raiders) were both named to make their debuts, with the extended squad also including the uncapped Jakiya Whitfeld and Ellie Johnston, and Kirra Dibb who last represented NSW in 2022. Eight clubs were represented in the squad, with the Sydney Roosters having the most players (eight). Apps and Isabelle Kelly were named again as co-captains, with five-eighth Corban Baxter and halfback Rachael Pearson named as the new-look halves combination. The squad came into camp on Thursday 9 May and trained three times at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence before relocating to Brisbane where a Captain's Run was held at Langlands Park.

NSW were confident with their preparation and they got off to a fast start after lock Olivia Kernick put prop Caitlan Johnston-Green into space before she found fullback Emma Tonegato backing up to score underneath the posts. Pearson landed the conversion to put NSW in front 6-0 after only five minutes. Pearson then picked up a loose ball in her own end before passing to Jaime Chapman, with the NSW winger busting through a couple of tackles before setting sail up field and standing up Queensland fullback Tamika Upton on her way to the tryline. Pearson converted and added a penalty goal before half-time to have NSW well in control at 14-0 at the break.

Queensland needed to be first to score next and they finally cracked the NSW defence when Upton went over from close range. Any hopes of a fightback were quickly extinguished when Johnston-Green barged her way over for the line to extend the lead to 22-6. Queensland grabbed a consolation try to Emily Bass with just under two minutes remaining before NSW ran out deserved 22-12 winners. They had taken a 1-0 lead in the series after upsetting Queensland on their home ground with NSW back-rower Yasmin Clydsdale named Player of the Match. The match, which preceded the NRL's Magic Round in Brisbane, also set a record for crowd attendance at a women's Origin with 25,492 fans turning up.

**NSW 22** (Emma Tonegato, Jaime Chapman, Caitlan Johnston-Green tries; Rachael Pearson 5 goals)  
**Queensland 12** (Tamika Upton, Emily Bass tries; Zahara Temara 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, on Thursday 16 May.

**Westpac NSW Women's Origin:** 1. Emma Tonegato (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 2. Jaime Chapman (Gold Coast Titans), 3. Jess Sergis (Sydney Roosters), 4. Isabelle Kelly (Sydney Roosters), 5. Tiana Penitani (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 6. Corban Baxter (Sydney Roosters), 7. Rachael Pearson (Parramatta Eels), 8. Millie Elliott (Sydney Roosters), 9. Olivia Higgins (Newcastle Knights)\*, 10. Caitlan Johnston-Green (Newcastle Knights), 11. Kezie Apps (Wests Tigers), 12. Yasmin Clydsdale (Newcastle Knights), 13. Keeley Davis (Sydney Roosters), 14. Taliah Fuimaono (Gold Coast Titans), 15. Olivia Kernick (Sydney Roosters), 16. Grace Kemp (Canberra Raiders)\*, 17. Sarah Togatuki (Wests Tigers), 18. Kirra Dibb (North Queensland Cowboys), 19. Jakiya Whitfeld (North Queensland Cowboys), 20. Ellie Johnston (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks). Coach: Kylie Hilder.

*\*Denotes debutant*







## WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME TWO

The Westpac NSW Women's Origin team was in a strong position heading into Game Two of the Women's State of Origin series at McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle. They had won the opening game of the series convincingly at Suncorp Stadium and would now have the home crowd on their side as they looked to wrap the series up in NSW.

Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin coach Kylie Hilder named an unchanged team with the camp starting at Sydney Olympic Park. The team had several training sessions at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence before moving to Newcastle. NSW had an opposed session against the Newcastle Knights Jersey Flegg Cup team (Under 21s) at Broadmeadow before completing their build-up with a Captain's Run at McDonald Jones Stadium.

Heavy rain started to fall when the players left the team hotel for the ground and did not let up for the entire match. Despite the wet conditions, another crowd record of 25,782 was established, eclipsing the mark that was set for Game One in Brisbane (25,492). NSW signalled their intentions early with prop Caitlan Johnston-Green flattening Queensland back-rower Romy Teitzel with a solid front-on tackle.

NSW looked to be on top in the first half but couldn't convert their chances into points with the conditions reducing the opportunities to score. Winger Jaime Chapman, who had scored a memorable long range try in Game One, looked to make a half break down the sideline before the defence caught up and collared her. Prop Millie Elliott charged at the line but had the ball knocked out as she was looking to play it. Halfback Rachael Pearson put a kick over to Chapman in the corner, but it bounced away from her. Hooker Olivia Higgins came close to sneaking over from dummy-half but was denied by some desperate goal-line defence.

Some strong lead-up work from centre Jess Sergis and co-captain Kezie Apps eventually paved the way for replacement hooker Keeley Davis to burrow her way over the line from dummy-half. Pearson converted to put NSW in front 6-0. Queensland came close to scoring after five-eighth Tarryn Aiken picked up centre Evania Pelite close to the line but the Blues defence denied her to take a 6-0 lead into half-time.

The NSW defence was equally as desperate in the second half as Queensland tried everything they could to get back into the match and keep the series alive. The Maroons eventually found a way through when halfback Ali Briginshaw threw a well-timed cut-out pass for centre Shenae Ciesiolka to dive over out wide and reduce the deficit to 6-4. NSW wrestled back the advantage when Sergis showed great awareness to strip Queensland winger Julia Robinson of the ball. NSW shifted the ball to the left before Corban Baxter threw a looping pass over the top for winger Tiana Penitani to score in the corner.

The celebrations were short-lived after Queensland got the ball back from the kick-off and Aiken slid through a hole in the defence to score next to the posts. Brown landed the shot at goal to level the scores at 10-all and set up a grandstand finish with under 10 minutes to go. NSW had opportunities to land a field goal in the dying minutes but the wet conditions made it difficult and things went from bad to worse for NSW when Brown landed one with only minutes remaining to seal an 11-10 win and send the series to a decider in Townsville.

**Queensland 11** (Shenae Ciesiolka, Tarryn Aiken tries; Lauren Brown goal, field goal) **NSW 10** (Keeley Davis, Tiana Penitani tries; Rachael Pearson goal) at McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle, on Thursday 6 June.

**Westpac NSW Women's Origin:** 1. Emma Tonegato (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 2. Jaime Chapman (Gold Coast Titans), 3. Jess Sergis (Sydney Roosters), 4. Isabelle Kelly (Sydney Roosters), 5. Tiana Penitani (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 6. Corban Baxter (Sydney Roosters), 7. Rachael Pearson (Parramatta Eels), 8. Millie Elliott (Sydney Roosters), 9. Olivia Higgins (Newcastle Knights), 10. Caitlan Johnston-Green (Newcastle Knights), 11. Kezie Apps (Wests Tigers), 12. Yasmin Clydsdale (Newcastle Knights), 13. Keeley Davis (Sydney Roosters), 14. Taliah Fuimaono (Gold Coast Titans), 15. Olivia Kernick (Sydney Roosters), 16. Grace Kemp (Canberra Raiders), 17. Sarah Togatuki (Wests Tigers), 18. Kirra Dibb (North Queensland Cowboys), 19. Jakiya Whitfeld (North Queensland Cowboys), 20. Ellie Johnston (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks). Coach: Kylie Hilder.





The Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin team remained confident heading into the Ampol Women's State of Origin decider after winning the first game convincingly 22-12 in Brisbane, and falling agonisingly short 11-10 in Newcastle. The final game was to be played at Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville where NSW had won 18-14 in 2023 to finish with a drawn series.

Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin coach Kylie Hilder again made no changes to the squad she had selected at the start of the series. NSW left for Townsville immediately after coming into camp to give themselves every chance of winning Game Three, training at the North Queensland Cowboys Centre of Excellence followed by a Captain's Run at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

The rain arrived again for Game Three and NSW could not have got off to a worse start after fullback Emma Toney lost the ball running into some strong Queensland defence on a kick return. Queensland quickly capitalised on the error with five-eighth Tarryn Aiken putting centre Evania Pelite through a hole to grab the opening try. Lauren Brown converted for a 6-0 lead. Queensland went further in front 8-0 after an attempted short drop out from halfback Rachael Pearson went over the sideline and Brown landed the penalty goal from directly in front. Queensland added one more try before the break after Toney failed to clean up a grubber kick from Aiken in the in-goal area and winger Julia Robinson pounced on the loose ball to score. Brown added the conversion to put Queensland well in control at 14-0.

NSW needed to be first to score when play resumed after the half-time break, but Queensland extended their lead to 16-0 following a penalty goal to Brown. NSW finally had something to cheer about when winger Jaime Chapman intercepted a pass 10m out and raced up field to score with Pearson landing the conversion to reduce the margin to 16-6. However, with time running out they were unable to capitalise on any further chances and Queensland ensured it would be their night and the Shield would be staying put when Tazmin Rapana charged through a gap to seal a 22-6 win. NSW finished the night with only 44 per cent possession, completed at 61 per cent and topped the error count with 11.

**Queensland 22** (Evania Pelite, Julia Robinson, Tazmin Rapana tries; Lauren Brown 4 goals, Romy Teitzel goal) **NSW 6** (Jaime Chapman try; Rachael Pearson goal) at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, Townsville, on Thursday 27 June.

**Westpac NSW Women's Origin:** 1. Emma Toney (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 2. Jaime Chapman (Gold Coast Titans), 3. Jess Sergis (Sydney Roosters), 4. Isabelle Kelly (Sydney Roosters), 5. Tiana Penitani (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 6. Corban Baxter (Sydney Roosters), 7. Rachael Pearson (Parramatta Eels), 8. Millie Elliott (Sydney Roosters), 9. Olivia Higgins (Newcastle Knights), 10. Caitlan Johnston-Green (Newcastle Knights), 11. Kezie Apps (Wests Tigers), 12. Yasmin Clydsdale (Newcastle Knights), 13. Keeley Davis (Sydney Roosters), 14. Taliah Fuimaono (Gold Coast Titans), 15. Olivia Kernick (Sydney Roosters), 16. Grace Kemp (Canberra Raiders), 17. Sarah Togatuki (Wests Tigers), 18. Kirra Dibb (North Queensland Cowboys), 19. Jakiya Whitfeld (North Queensland Cowboys), 20. Ellie Johnston (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks). Coach: Kylie Hilder.







## UNDER 19s MEN'S ORIGIN

The CAFE NSW Men's Under 19s team was looking to maintain their grip on the Shield having dominated the interstate contest with back-to-back wins after it returned to the representative calendar in 2022. The squad was coached again by True Blue Andrew Ryan with True Blues Shaun Timmins, Luke Bailey and Steve Turner all part of his coaching staff.

Canberra Raiders fullback Chevy Stewart, 18, and Penrith Panthers winger Jesse McLean, 19, who had already made their NRL debuts, were part of the squad.

Stewart played three games for the Green Machine in 2024, making his NRL debut in the 21-20 win over the Gold Coast Titans in Round 6. McLean made his NRL debut for the Panthers in the Round 23 against the Parramatta Eels in 2023 and played two more games in 2024, including Round 13 against St George Illawarra where he scored a memorable try.

The team also included Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs halfback Mitchell Woods, 18, who captained the UNE Harold Matthews Cup to a premiership win in 2023 and was named the UNE SG Ball Cup Player of the Series in 2024.

The squad went into camp at Darling Harbour on Friday 14 June to prepare for the game at Leichhardt Oval on Thursday 20 June. The players had three training sessions at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence and a Captain's Run at Leichhardt Oval.

NSW got off to a tough start when a pass from Woods was intercepted 10m out from the goal line by Queensland winger Tyreece Tait, who streaked away upfield. The NSW defence eventually converged to claim him 30m out from their own line, but it came at a cost with McLean knocked out while making a tackle. He was taken from the field for an HIA and played no further part in the match.

NSW regrouped and Stewart displayed all his class when a missed tackle allowed him to straighten up and power his way over the top of the Queensland goal line defence to score the opening try of the game. Five-eighth Jake Elliott landed the conversion for a 6-0 lead.

A 40/20 kick from Queensland halfback Coby Black put his team on the attack but the NSW defence was up to the challenge when winger Michael Gabrael took Tait into touch to deny them a certain try.

Queensland didn't squander their next opportunity when Harry Armstrong strolled through a yawning gap and Black converted to level the score at 6-all.

NSW hit back after a clever cross field kick from Elliott landed in the arms of replacement winger Connor Votano who spun around to plant the ball in the corner and give NSW a slender 10-6 lead at the half-time break.

Queensland only took 10 minutes when play resumed to lock scores up again when a backline movement ended with Tait diving over out wide. The scene was set for a thrilling finish and NSW poked their noses back in front when another cross field kick from Elliott sat up and was tapped back infield by Votano before it went into touch. The ball landed in the arms of Stewart who in turn found hooker Matt Arthur in support to cross the line untouched for a 14-10 lead. Queensland threatened in the final 10 minutes but the NSW defence held strong for a gritty win. It was the third consecutive season the NSW Men's Under 19s had claimed the Shield and Stewart was named Player of the Match for an outstanding game in both attack and defence.

**NSW 14** (Chevy Stewart, Connor Votano, Matthew Arthur tries; Jake Elliott goal) **Queensland 10** (Harry Armstrong, Tyreece Tait tries; Coby Black goal) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Thursday 20 June.

**CAFE NSW Men's Under 19s:** 1. Chevy Stewart (Canberra Raiders), 2. Jesse McLean (Penrith Panthers), 3. Casey McLean (Penrith Panthers), 4. Hayden Buchanan (St George Dragons), 5. Michael Gabrael (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 6. Jake Elliott (Sydney Roosters), 7. Mitchell Woods (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 8. Loko Pasifiki Tonga (St George Dragons), 9. Matthew Arthur (Parramatta Eels), 10. Fanafou Seve (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 11. Jermaine McEwen (Newcastle Knights), 12. Noah Martin (Canberra Raiders), 13. Blake Steep (Sydney Roosters), 14. Zane Harrison (Tweed Seagulls), 15. Jacob Halangahu (St George Dragons), 16. Kaiden Lahrs (North Queensland Cowboys), 17. Sam Tuivaiti (Parramatta Eels), 18. Connor Votano (Newcastle Knights), 19. Cody Hopwood (Newcastle Knights). Coach: Andrew Ryan.







## UNDER 19s WOMEN'S ORIGIN

The Westpac NSW Women's Under 19s team was looking to bounce back after suffering a heartbreaking 20-14 loss to Queensland in 2023. Until that result, NSW had dominated the contest having won in 2019, 2021 and 2022 (the match was not played in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic). The squad was coached again by Kate Mullaly, who was also an assistant coach to the Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin team in 2022-23.

The squad included nine players from the Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup premiership-winning Illawarra Steelers, and three players from Grand Finalists Newcastle Knights. The Steelers players included Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup Player of the Series and halfback Kasey Reh, the niece of True Blues Brett and Glenn Stewart, Indie Bostock, the sister of NRL Dolphins winger Jack Bostock, and Hope Millard, the daughter of former NRL player Shane Millard.

The squad went into camp at Sydney Olympic Park on Sunday 16 June to prepare for the game at Leichhardt Oval on Thursday 20 June. They had two training sessions at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence and a Captain's Run at Leichhardt Oval.

NSW scored after only six minutes when Reh dummied to Bostock on her outside before slipping through two defenders to score. Queensland hit back less than 10 minutes later when winger Ebony Raftstrand-Smith bumped off an attempted tackle before scoring in the corner but from that point on it was all NSW. An attempted short line drop-out from Queensland backfired when it landed in the arms of centre Lindsay Tui who raced over untouched to score, before hooker Chelsea Savill found some loose goal line defence to stretch out and score and extend the lead to 14-4. Back-rower Evah McEwen then showed great footwork from 20m out to score and extend the lead to 20-4 at half-time.

NSW was even more impressive when play resumed. Reh put a deft kick into the in-goal area for replacement prop Bronte Wilson to score, and then backed that play up when she threw a cut-out pass for winger Maria Paseka to score in the corner. Five-eighth Evie McGrath was next to score after backing up a break from Evie Jones, before Reh put lock Ryvrr-Lee Alo over from close range. Fittingly, Reh was involved in the final try after she threw another cut-out pass for Bostock to speed her way down the sideline before running back in-goal to improve her position and help seal a 46-4 win. The nine-try victory was the largest win since the concept started in 2019, with NSW finishing well on top after making 10 line-breaks to four and 43 tackle busts to 13. Reh was named Player of the Match after a dominant display which included a try and four try assists.

**NSW 46** (Kasey Reh, Lindsay Tui, Chelsea Savill, Evah McEwen, Bronte Wilson, Maria Paseka, Evie McGrath, Ryvrr-Lee Alo, Indie Bostock tries; Chelsea Savill 3, Charlotte Basham 2 goals) **Queensland 4** (Ebony Raftstrand-Smith) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Thursday 20 June.

**Westpac NSW Women's under 19s:** 1. Lilly-Ann White (Newcastle Knights), 2. Tia-Jordyn Vasilovski (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 3. Indie Bostock (Illawarra Steelers), 4. Lindsay Tui (Parramatta Eels), 5. Maria Paseka (Illawarra Steelers), 6. Evie McGrath (Illawarra Steelers), 7. Kasey Reh (Illawarra Steelers), 8. Manilita Takapautolo (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), 9. Chelsea Savill (Illawarra Steelers), 10. Hope Millard (Illawarra Steelers), 11. Evah McEwen (Newcastle Knights), 12. Charlotte Basham (Illawarra Steelers), 13. Ryvrr-Lee Alo (Parramatta Eels), 14. Evie Jones (Newcastle Knights), 15. Ella Koster (Illawarra Steelers), 16. Claudia Brown (Wests Tigers), 17. Bronte Wilson (Illawarra Steelers), 18. Abby Aros (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), 19. Waimarie Martin (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs).  
Coach: Kate Mullaly.





The Country v City representative weekend was played on 18-19 May, and featured 14 teams in seven games spread across two days at two different venues, Leichhardt Oval and the Whitlam Leisure Centre. The matches played on Saturday 18 May were Under 16s Boys, Under 18s Boys, Men's Open Age and NSW Wheelchair Rugby League, while the games played on Sunday 19 May were Physical Disability Rugby League, Under 17s Girls and Under 19s Women. No Women's Open Age match was played in 2024 due to players being selected in the NSW Blues Women's Origin team for the opening game of the series in Brisbane on Thursday 16 May.

The CABA Under 16s Country team was made up of players from the SLE Andrew Johns Cup and the City team from the UNE Harold Matthews Cup, while the CABA Under 18s Country team was from the SLE Laurie Daley Cup and the City team from the UNE SG Ball Cup. The Westpac Under 17s Country and City Girls teams consisted of players from the Westpac Lisa Fiaola Cup, while the Westpac Under 19s Country and City Women's teams were made up of players from the Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup. The CABA Men's Open Age Country team was made up of players from the Men's Country Championships, and the City team from the Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup. The representative fixture is an important pathway with players from both the Under 18s match and Under 19s Women's match going on to represent NSW in the Under 19s State of Origin men's and women's games in June.

City took the honours on Saturday after winning all four matches. While City has been strong in the Under 16s and Under 18s boys for the past three seasons, it was the first time since 2021 that City had won the Men's Open Age match with former NRL player Craig Garvey grabbing two tries in the 30-28 victory. City also fought hard in the Wheelchair Rugby League match with the two sides locked together at 10-all at half-time before City grafted out a 22-14 win to erase the memories of the 70-15 defeat they had suffered the previous year to Country.

Country rebounded on Sunday to grab the opening win in Physical Disability Rugby League 30-20 before City claimed a 20-12 win in the Under 17s Girls. The representative fixture finished on a high for Country after they scored a 26-18 win over City in the Under 19s Women, with players from the premiership-winning Illawarra Steelers in the Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup including Kasey Reh and Indie Bostock turning in strong games, but City claimed the weekend 5-2.

Country v City matches started in 1911 with the best players from Country Rugby League taking on the best players from the NSWRL premiership. The concept was then shelved before returning in 1928, and from 1987-2017 was played under Origin selection rules. The representative fixture returned to the NSWRL calendar in 2021.

CABA Under 16s Boys

**City 54** (Cyrus Bloomfield 3, Jeziah Papa 2, Braith Sloane 2, Samuel Polley, Cruz Death, Talmage Brown tries; Lachlan Metcalf 7 goals) **Country 10** (Chip Valentish, Mitchell Sleight tries; Chase Butler goal) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Saturday 18 May.

CABA Under 18s Boys

**City 48** (Finau Latu 2, Ratu Rinakama 2, Jezaiah Funa-Luta, Luke Laulili, Connor Votano, Hayden Buchanan, Mitchell Woods tries; Votano 6 goals) **Country 18** (Mitchell Brophy, Saint Fuatimau, Harry Hudson, Archie Duncombe tries; Cooper Black goal) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Saturday 18 May.

CABA Men's Open Age

**City 30** (Craig Garvey 2, Joshua Finau, Anan Iaria, Jade Anderson tries; Zac Greene 5 goals) **Country 28** (Honeti Tuha 3, Cameron Anderson, James Morgan, Joshua Ayres tries; Chad O'Donnell 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Saturday 18 May.

CABA Wheelchair Rugby League

**City 22** (Cory Cannane 2, Mohammed Chemaisssem, Edge Iole, Liam Luff tries; Chemaisssem goal) **Country 14** (Brad Grove 2, Richard Engles tries; Diab Karim goal) at Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool, on Saturday 18 May.

CABA Physical Disability Rugby League

**Country 30** (Rylan Gaudron 2, Mark McCoy 2, Alex Smith, Mark Keaton tries; Rylan Gaudron 3 goals) **City 20** (Bryce Crane 2, Edward Lennon, Jaylen Martin tries; Bryce Crane 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Sunday 19 May.

Westpac Under 17s Girls

**City 20** (Logan Lemusu 2, Danielle Seckold, Fontayne Tufuga tries; Anastasia Leatupue 2 goals) **Country 12** (Mia Vaotuua 2, Ella Knowles tries) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Sunday 19 May.

Westpac Under 19s Women

**Country 26** (Indie Bostock 2, Tess McWilliams, Lilly-Ann White, Hope Millard tries; Chelsea Savill 3 goals) **City 18** (Audrey Nadaya-Harb 2, Abby Aros, Bella McEachern tries; Audrey Nadaya-Harb goal) at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday 19 May.







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## NSWRL MAJOR COMPETITIONS







## THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP

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

The competition continues to go from strength-to-strength every season as a valuable pathway with 60 players graduating from the NSW Cup to play NRL in 2024, which is the highest number in four years. There were 44 graduates in 2023, 46 in 2022, and 52 in 2021. The regular season also included a Magic Round in May, with all six games played over two days at North Sydney Oval.

The Bears finished as Minor Premiers for the second consecutive season but only after a thrilling final round. Newtown Jets momentarily had top spot after edging out the Warriors 39-36 before the Bears leapfrogged them after beating Newcastle Knights 30-24. Canberra Raiders still had an opportunity to go past both the Jets and the Bears in the final match of Round 26 but suffered a surprise 34-21 loss to the Sydney Roosters. The battle for fifth position was just as intense with the Penrith Panthers clinching the final spot after a narrow 32-28 win over the South Sydney Rabbitohs. That ended the hope of the Dragons, who beat Parramatta Eels 38-12 to finish in sixth position, and the Bulldogs, who beat Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles to claim seventh. The final make-up of the top five after the Bears was the Jets (2), Raiders (3), Warriors (4) and Panthers (5).

The Bears had the first week off from the finals with the Jets comfortably beating the Raiders 38-16 while the Panthers ended the Warriors season 24-12. Canberra bounced back in the second week of the finals to send the Panthers packing 30-14, while the Bears were the first team through to the decider after scoring a narrow 18-16 win over the Jets. The Preliminary Final was a hard-fought affair with the Raiders taking a 12-6 lead into half-time, before the Jets fought back in the second half to win 18-16. The boot of Jets halfback Niwhai Puru proved to be the difference after he landed a perfect five goals from as many attempts to seal the result, including a penalty goal in the 73rd minute to take the lead.

The Grand Final between the Bears and the Jets was played at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 29 September before a crowd of 10,385. The Bears were looking to go one better after finishing runners-up in 2023 after a 22-18 loss to the Rabbitohs and were also looking for their first NSW Cup premiership since achieving a threepeat in 1991-93. The Jets had

more recent success after claiming their last title in 2019. The match also marked the first time the two foundation clubs (1908) had met in a NSWRL decider since 1943, with Newtown winning 34-7 before a crowd of 60,992 at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Both teams had last-minute changes with livewire NRL Melbourne Storm fullback Sualauvi Faalogo joining the Bears line-up, and NRL Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks prop Braden Hamlin-Uele the Jets (Note: the Bears act as a feeder club for the Storm, and the Jets for the Sharks). There had been little between the two teams when they met in the Major Semi-final and it was the same again for the decider. The Jets took an early 6-0 lead after winger Tom Rodwell dived over out wide, before the Bears levelled at 6-all following a try to Bronson Garlick. The Jets broke the deadlock when centre Chris Ve'a'ila skipped out of a tackle to crash over the line, but the Bears squared it up again at 10-all when back-rower Joe Chan got a good ball away for Faalogo to score in the corner. The Jets poked their noses in front 16-10 just before half-time when centre Mawene Hiroti steamrolled his way over the line and Puru landed the conversion.

The Bears hit back when play resumed after winger Allan Fitzgibbon finished off a sweeping backline movement to score out wide with five-eighth Kieran Hayman landing the difficult conversion from the sideline to lock the scores again at 16-all. The Jets regained the lead 22-16 after Jordan Leiu spun out of a tackle to muscle his way over the line, before Bears halfback Harradyn Wilson found some tired goal-line defence to set up a grandstand finish at 22-all with 20 minutes to go. Hamline-Uele then showed all his experience to charge through the defence before stretching out to plant the ball down with Puru landing the conversion for a 28-22 lead. The Bears had opportunities to hit back but the Jets defence held firm to hand them a ninth premiership in the NSW Cup, with Puru named Player of the Match after a strong performance.

**Newtown Jets 28** (Tom Rodwell, Chris Ve'a'ila, Mawene Hiroti, Jordan Lieu, Braden Hamlin-Uele tries; Niwhai Puru 4 goals) **North Sydney Bears 22** (Bronson Garlick, Sualauvi Faalogo, Allan Fitzgibbon, Harradyn Wilson tries; Kieran Hayman 3 goals) at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta, on Sunday 29 September.

**Standings:** North Sydney Bears 36, Newtown Jets 35, Canberra Raiders 34, Warriors 33, Penrith Panthers 33, St George Illawarra Dragons 32, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 32, Newcastle Knights 26, Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles 24, Sydney Roosters 23, Parramatta Eels 23, South Sydney Rabbitohs 17, Western Suburbs Magpies 16.







## HARVEY NORMAN NSW WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

The Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership is the state's premier competition for women and featured 12 teams – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Central Coast Roosters, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Mounties, Newcastle Knights, Parramatta Eels, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George Dragons, Wests Tigers, and Wentworthville Magpies. The competition was moved to the second half of the season to align with the NRLW competition and increase the pathway opportunities for female players. It was played over 11 rounds followed by two weeks of finals.

Wentworthville finished the season as Minor Premiers after losing only one game during the regular season. The top four was rounded out by Illawarra (2), Mounties (3) and Newcastle (4). The make-up of the top four went down to the final round with the Knights securing the final spot after beating the Rabbitohs 40-4, while any hopes the Bulldogs had ended after they lost 34-14 to Mounties.

The Knights capitalised on a hat-trick to winger Isabella Waterman to upset the Magpies 20-18 and secure their place in the decider, while the Steelers were too strong for Mounties after setting up a 30-16 win with a 22-0 half-time lead.

The Grand Final between the Steelers and the Knights was played at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 29 September. It was the second time that season the two clubs had met in a Grand Final after the Steelers beat the Knights 24-12 in the Junior Representatives decider for the Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup (Under 19s Women) in April. In a clear sign the pathway was successful, the Grand Final teams for the Knights and the Steelers had players from the Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup teams graduate to play in the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership.

The Steelers had players with a Rugby League pedigree including centre Indie Bostock, the sister of NRL Dolphins winger Jack Bostock, and Sienna Yeo, the cousin of True Blue Isaah Yeo. Bostock, Yeo and forward Bronte Wilson, and Knights fullback Lilly-Ann White, had also been part of the NSW Under 19s Women's Origin team that had scored a decisive 46-4 win over Queensland in June.

The first half conjured memories of the historic decider in the competition last year which Mounties won 1-0 after both teams headed into the break locked together at 0-all. The deadlock was finally broken in the second half when a bomb from Steelers five-eighth Caitlin Moran took a saloon bounce into the arms of replacement forward Shae Muhleisen to score for a 4-0 lead. The Knights hit back through hooker Leah Ollerton with winger Jessica Gentle landing the conversion to put her team in front 6-4. That set the scene for a thrilling finish and the Steelers reclaimed the lead when hooker Kaarla Cowan shot out of dummy-half and picked up a rampaging Wilson to score underneath the posts.

Fullback Tayleah Handcock landed the conversion for a 10-6 lead and the Steelers hung on for the final few minutes to claim their maiden Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership.

**Illawarra Steelers 10** (Shae Muhleisen, Bronte Wilson tries; Tayleah Handcock goal) **Newcastle Knights 6** (Leah Ollerton try; Jessica Gentle goal) at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta, on Sunday 29 September.

**Standings:** Wentworthville Magpies 20, Illawarra Steelers 18, Mounties 15, Newcastle Knights 14, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 12, Parramatta Eels 8, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 8, St George Dragons 8, South Sydney Rabbitohs 8, Wests Tigers 7, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 7, Central Coast Roosters 7.







## JERSEY FLEGG CUP

The Jersey Flegg Cup (Under 21s Men) welcomed Fiji's Kaiviti Silktails and the Warriors into the competition in 2024 to take the total number of teams to 14 – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Canberra Raiders, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Kaiviti Silktails, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Melbourne Storm, Newcastle Knights, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George Illawarra Dragons, Sydney Roosters, Warriors and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over 26 rounds followed by a top-five finals series.

The Raiders finished the season as Minor Premiers followed by Penrith Panthers (2), Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (3), Newcastle Knights (4) and Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (5). The Raiders had tied with the Sharks for the best attack (678) and had the second-best defence (408) of all teams.

Canberra had the first week off from the finals, with the Bulldogs scoring a comfortable 32-6 win over the Panthers while the Sharks ended the Knights season 22-6. In the second week of the finals, the Bulldogs needed extra time to defeat the Raiders 15-14 while the Sharks continued to build momentum with a 40-26 win over the Panthers. Cronulla-Sutherland took charge of the Preliminary Final against Canberra after taking an 18-6 lead at half-time and went on with the job in the second half on their way to a 38-18 win.

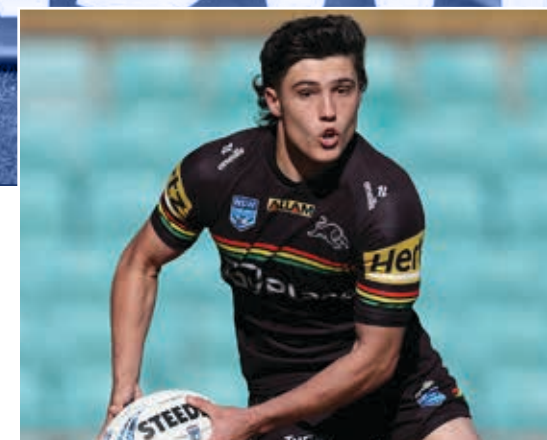
The Grand Final between the Bulldogs and the Sharks was played at CommBank Stadium on Sunday 29 September. The Bulldogs had a strong record in Jersey Flegg Cup after winning 10 premierships since the competition started in 1963 and were looking to go back-to-back after beating the Sydney Roosters in the 2023 decider. The Sharks had only one premiership to their credit in 2018 but were taking plenty of confidence into the match after winning their final six games of the regular season to force their way into the top five.

The Bulldogs were coached by True Blue Josh Jackson and showed plenty of defensive grit during the match. They scored first after halfback Cassius Tia fired a cut-out pass for winger William Afualo to dive over in the corner. Tia showed plenty of individual brilliance to step the defence from 10m out for the Bulldogs second try, before winger Ratu Rinakama crossed to make it a 14-0 shutout at half-time. The Sharks needed to score when play resumed and five-eighth Taj Ford answered the call when he scored from 45m out. Ford then stepped up again after making a break before kicking across field for his winger Kristian Dixon to score. Pollard landed the conversion to reduce the margin to 14-12 and set up a grandstand finish with more than seven minutes remaining.

The Sharks were coming home strong but the Bulldogs defence held firm to make it back-to-back premierships with prop Jack Underhill named Player of the Match after leading from the front.

**Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 14** (William Afualo, Cassius Tia, Ratu Rinakama tries; Cassius Tia goal) **Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 12** (Taj Ford, Kristian Dixon tries; Riley Pollard 2 goals) at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta, on Sunday 29 September.

**Standings:** Canberra Raiders 40, Penrith Panthers 36, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 36, Newcastle Knights 35, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 33, Parramatta Eels 32, Wests Tigers 32, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 30, Sydney Roosters 28, St George Illawarra Dragons 26, Warriors 21, Melbourne Storm 20, South Sydney Rabbitohs 19, Kaiviti Silktails 4.







## LEAGUES CLUBS AUSTRALIA RON MASSEY CUP

The Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup featured eight teams – Brothers Penrith, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Glebe Dirty Reds, Hills Bulls, Mounties, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, St Marys Saints and Wentworthville Magpies. The competition was played over 20 rounds followed by a top-five finals series.

The regular season also included an inaugural Magic Round in April, to acknowledge the vital contribution licensed clubs make to the game. All four matches were played at St Marys Leagues Stadium including the 2023 Grand Final rematch between St Marys and Wentworthville.

St Marys finished the season as Minor Premiers and were seven points clear of their nearest rival, Mounties (2). They had the second-best attack (526) and defence (321) in the competition, with the top five rounded out by Wentworthville (3), Glebe (4) and Ryde-Eastwood (5).

St Marys had the opening week off from the finals Glebe ending the season of Ryde-Eastwood with a 32-16 win, while Wentworthville accounted for Mounties 22-12. The Magpies continued their good form in the second week of the finals after upsetting the Saints 32-10, while the Dirty Reds survived another sudden death match beating Mounties 36-18. Glebe booked their place in the decider after stunning St Marys 24-10 in the Preliminary Final.

The Grand Final between Wentworthville and Glebe was played at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 14 September. Wentworthville was the most successful team in the competition having already won seven premierships while Glebe, one of the original foundation clubs when the NSWRL held its first season in 1908, was still searching for their first title. In the Dirty Reds favour was the inclusion of players with NRL experience including former Wests Tigers winger David Nofoaluma, halfback Dean Whare and hooker and captain Craig Garvey.

The Magpies were looking to go one better after falling to St Marys in the 2023 decider but found it tough going in the first half after being forced to repel raid after raid from the Dirty Reds. Glebe scored first through centre Vito Tevaga and took an 8-0 lead into the half-time break after Daniel Arahua landed a penalty goal. The Dirty Reds extended their lead to 14-0 when Nofoaluma scored shortly after play resumed, before Wentworthville finally pegged one back through Kyle Cassel to reduce the margin to 14-6 with more than 20 minutes still to play. The match wasn't decided until Nofoaluma grabbed his second try with under five minutes remaining and Whare landed a field goal in the final minute to secure a memorable 19-6 win. There were jubilant scenes on the field as players celebrated the Dirty Reds first piece of silverware since 1927 with fullback Jade Anderson later named Player of the Match for his tireless work in both attack and defence.

**Glebe Dirty Reds 19** (David Nofoaluma 2, Vito Tevaga tries; Daniel Arahua 2, Joseph Whitikama Temara Taipari goals; Dean Whare field goal) **Wentworthville Magpies 6** (Kyle Cassel try; Liam O'Brien goal) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on Saturday 14 September.

**Standings:** St Marys Saints 34, Mounties 27, Wentworthville Magpies 26, Glebe Dirty Reds, 26, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 21, Brothers Penrith 17, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 15, Hills Bulls 10.







## SYDNEY SHIELD

The Sydney Shield featured 10 teams – Brothers Penrith, Cabramatta Two Blues, Glebe Dirty Reds, Hills Bulls, Manly Leagues, Moorebank Rams, Mounties, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks, St Marys Saints and Wentworthville United. The competition was played over 20 rounds followed by a top-five finals series.

Wentworthville finished the season as Minor Premiers and were six points clear of their nearest rival, Ryde-Eastwood (2). Wentworthville had the second-best attack in the competition (554) and best defence (323) with the top five rounded out by Mounties (3), St Marys (4) and Brothers (5). The make-up of the top five went down to the final round with Brothers only securing their place after beating Mounties 50-6 and relying on St Marys to down Glebe, which they managed 44-12.

Wentworthville had the first week off from the finals with Brothers coming back from a 28-24 half-time deficit to end the season of St Marys 58-32, while the Hawks beat Mounties 44-30. In the second week of the finals, United booked their spot in the decider with a 38-22 win over the Hawks, while Brothers maintained their run with a 25-22 win over Mounties. Brothers turned in another dominant performance in the Preliminary Final after surging to a 24-0 half-time lead over the Hawks before powering away to a 38-16 win.

The Grand Final between Wentworthville and Brothers was played at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 14 September. Wentworthville had already claimed two premierships in 2012 and 2015 while Brothers were still searching for their first title. United opened the scoring through five-eighth Jaydyn Field before Brothers prop Eddie Ene showed great strength to drag a handful of defenders with him over the line to score. The two sides traded tries again before Dean Kammel scored just before half-time to give Brothers an 18-12 lead at the break.

Brothers maintained their momentum when play resumed after scoring four unanswered tries to take control of the decider 42-12. United pegged one back through hooker Ayden Carling before retiring Brothers captain Sia Sisifa finished his career on a high note after landing a field goal in the final minute to secure a 43-18 win and the club's first premiership. Brothers five-eighth and goalkicker Donovan Boney was named Player of the Match. As well as providing a threat in attack, he turned in a flawless display with the boot after landing six goals.

**Brothers Penrith 43** (Eddie Ene, Luke Philp, Dean Kammel, Kye Raven, Wayne Baxter, Soakimi Fakaua, Noah Nailagoliva tries; Donovan Boney 6, Luke Philp goals; Sia Sisifa field goal) **Wentworthville United 18** (Jaydn Field, Josh Delailoa, Ayden Carling tries; Ayden Carling 3 goals) at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, at Saturday 14 September.

**Standings:** Wentworthville United 33, Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 27, Mounties 26, S Marys Saints 25, Brothers Penrith 23, Glebe Dirty Reds 21, Manly Leagues 20, Cabramatta Two Blues 18, Hills Bulls 17, Moorebank Rams 10.







## OTHER COMPETITIONS

### Newcastle Rugby League

The Denton Engineering Cup is the premier competition for Newcastle Rugby League and featured 11 teams – Central Newcastle Butcher Boys, Cessnock Goannas, Kurri Kurri Bulldogs, Lakes United Seagulls, Macquarie Scorpions, Maitland Pickers, Northern Hawks, South Newcastle Lions, The Entrance Tigers, Western Suburbs Rosellas and Wyong Roos. The competition was played over 18 rounds followed by a top-five finals series.

Maitland was the reigning premier, having won consecutive premierships in 2022-23, and dominated the competition again in 2024. The Pickers finished the season as Minor Premiers and were five points clear of South Newcastle (2). The top five was rounded out by Central Newcastle (3), The Entrance (4) and Cessnock (5). Central Newcastle winger Ty Fletcher finished the season as top try scorer (15), while South Newcastle hooker Mitch Black was the top point scorer (174).

The Pickers had the first week off of the finals with Central Newcastle scoring a 26-10 win over South Newcastle, while The Entrance edged out Cessnock 16-6. The Pickers booked their place in the Grand Final with a comfortable 40-12 win over the Butcher Boys in the Major Semi-final, while the Tigers ended the season of the Lions 28-10. Central Newcastle regrouped to beat The Entrance 30-20 to book their place in the decider.

The Grand Final between the Pickers and the Butcher Boys was played at McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle on Sunday 29 September. Central Newcastle, who were contesting their first Grand Final in 61 years, showed great resolve to hang tough with Maitland in the first half. The Pickers scored first through winger Will Nieuwenhuise but the Butcher Boys responded through a try to Travhon Lemalama to be trailing only 6-4 at the half-time break. Maitland lifted their intensity in the second half, piling on three more tries to power away with a 24-4 win, and become only the seventh team in the competition's 115-year history to win a hat-trick of titles.

**Maitland Pickers 24** (Connor O'Beirne, Jayden Butterfield, Will Nieuwenhuise, Matthew Soper-Lawler tries; Chad O'Donnell 4 goals) **Central Newcastle Butcher Boys 4** (Travhon Lemalama try) at McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle, on Sunday 29 September.

**Standings:** Maitland Pickers 33, South Newcastle Lions 28, Central Newcastle Butcher Boys 26, The Entrance Tigers 26, Cessnock Goannas 25, Wyong Roos 22, Western Suburbs Rosellas 19, Lakes United Seagulls 15, Northern Hawks 13, Macquarie Scorpions 8, Kurri Kurri Bulldogs 5.

### 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 took on Monaro in the decider at Cessnock Sports Ground, Cessnock, on Sunday 24 March with the Rebels team featuring True Blue Blake Ferguson and former NRL player Will Smith, while the Colts team had another former NRL player in Sam Williams. The Rebels were defending their title from 2023 and were strongly fancied to go back-to-back but the Colts were gritty and were still in the match at 14-4. The game wasn't decided until fullback Cameron Anderson, who was later named Player of the Match, scored the only try of the second half to secure another title for the Rebels.

**Newcastle Rebels 20** (William Nieuwenhuise, Cameron Anderson, Honeti Tuha, James Taylor tries; Chad O'Donnell 2 goals) **Monaro Colts 4** (Brandon Withers try) at Baddeley Park, Cessnock Sports Ground, on Sunday 24 March.

**Standings – Northern Conference:** Northern Rivers 2, Newcastle Rebels 2, Northern Tigers, 2, Central Coast Roosters 0, North Coast Bulldogs 0. **Southern Conference:** Macarthur Wests Tigers 2, Monaro Colts 2, Western Rams 0, Riverina Bulls 0, St George Illawarra Dragons 0.

### Women's Country Championships

The Women's Country Championships featured six teams and was split into a Northern Conference featuring the North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans and Northern Tigers, and a Southern Conference comprising Monaro Colts, Riverina Bulls and Western Rams. There were three pool games in each conference with the top teams from each pool progressing to the final.

Western Rams took on the North Coast Bulldogs in the decider at Woy Woy Oval, Woy Woy, on Saturday 16 March and were quick to stamp their authority after taking a 14-0 lead into half-time. The Bulldogs rallied in the second half to reduce the deficit to 18-12 but the Rams held their nerve to close out the match. Rams front rower Alicia Earsman was named Player of the Match after scoring a second-half double to seal the win.

**Western Rams 28** (Alicia Earsman 2, Kiara Sullivan, Alahna Ryan, Emilie Browne, Xanthe Booth tries; Sarah Colman 2 goals) **North Coast Bulldogs 12** (Georgia Dent, Belinda Andersen tries; Tina McRae 2 goals) at Woy Woy Oval, Woy Woy, on Saturday 16 March.

**Standings – Northern Conference:** North Coast Bulldogs 4, Northern Tigers 2, Northern Rivers Titans 0. **Southern Conference:** Western Rams 4, Monaro Colts 2, Riverina Bulls 0.





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**NSWRL JUNIOR  
REPRESENTATIVES**







## UNE SG BALL CUP

The UNE SG Ball Cup (Under 19s Men) featured 16 teams – Balmain Tigers, 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, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George Dragons, Sydney Roosters, Warriors and the Western Suburbs Magpies. The competition was played over nine rounds followed by a top-six finals series.

The Roosters finished the season on top of the table after going through the regular season unbeaten. They had the fourth-best attack (299) of all teams and were equal best in defence (154) with the second-placed Dragons. The top six was rounded out by the Knights (3), who had the best attack (314) of any team in the competition, the Bulldogs (4), the Eels (5) and the Steelers (6).

The Roosters and the Dragons had the first week off from the finals, with the Knights comfortably beating the Steelers 44-16, while the Bulldogs also made short work of the Eels 42-10. The Bulldogs maintained their momentum after upsetting the Roosters 28-22 in week two of the finals, while the Dragons sounded an ominous warning after disposing of the Knights 36-4.

The Grand Final between the Dragons and the Bulldogs was played at Parramatta's CommBank Stadium on Saturday 27 April. While the Bulldogs last hoisted the trophy in 2009, the Dragons were chasing their first SG Ball title since 1992. Former NRL player turned champion boxer Antony Mundine, who was part of that Dragons team, attended the game. NRL Dragons coach Shane Flanagan and NRL Bulldogs captain Stephen Crichton also showed their support from the stands.

The Bulldogs started the match strongly with winger Hamish Wilson scoring early for a 4-0 lead before the Dragons roared into life. They scored five unanswered tries to take a commanding 26-4 lead into half-time. They maintained their momentum when play resumed and at one stage led the game 40-8 before the Bulldogs scored two late tries to cut the margin to 40-18. Dragons five-eighth Shadi Hammoud tormented the Bulldogs with his kicking game while wingers Jesse Williams and Zachariah Nachar both bagged doubles.

Dragons back-rower Jacob Halangahu was named Player of the Match while there was some consolation for the Bulldogs with halfback Mitchell Woods crowned Player of the Series.

**St George Dragons 40** (Zachariah Nachar 2, Jesse Williams 2, Ryan Hutchinson, Corey Ackers, Lyric Craft-Te Moananui, David Afu tries; Shadi Hammoud 4 goals) **Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 18** (Hamish Wilson, Ratu Rinakama, Sosaia Alatini, Sosaia Kaufusi tries; Alex Conti goal) at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta, on Saturday 27 April.

**Standings:** Sydney Roosters 18, St George Dragons 14, Newcastle Knights 14, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 13, Parramatta Eels 12, Illawarra Steelers 12, Penrith Panthers 9, Western Suburbs Magpies 9, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 9, South Sydney Rabbitohs 8, Canberra Raiders 8, Warriors 7, Melbourne Storm 5, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 4, North Sydney Bears 2, Balmain Tigers 0.







## WESTPAC TARSHA GALE CUP

The Westpac Tarsha Gale Cup (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, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy, St George Dragons and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over nine rounds followed by a top-six finals series.

The Steelers were unbeaten during the regular season and claimed top spot on the ladder. They had the best attack (344) and defence (28) and plenty of players with a strong Rugby League pedigree. Forwards Rhian and Siena Yeo are the cousins of Penrith premiership-winner Isaah Yeo; centre Indie Bostock is the sister of Dolphins winger Jack Bostock; halfback Kasey Reh is the niece of Manly premiership-winners Brett and Glenn Stewart; and prop Hope Millard is the daughter of Shane Millard. The other teams in the top six were Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (2), Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy (3), Manly Warringah Sea Eagles (4), Newcastle Knights (5) and Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks (6).

The Steelers and the Bulldogs earned a break from the first week of the finals with the Knights rallying from a 10-8 half-time deficit to inch past the Sea Eagles 18-16, while the Sharks proved too strong for Sydney Roosters Indigenous Academy 24-6. The Knights continued their run in the second week of the finals after scoring a surprise 28-0 win to end the Bulldogs season, while the Steelers were equally as impressive after powering past the Sharks 26-4.

The Grand Final between the Steeler and the Knights was played at Parramatta's CommBank Stadium on Saturday 27 April. The Knights got off to a flying start after winger Lilly McNamara forced a knock-on from the kick-off and scored shortly afterwards for a 4-0 lead. The Steelers machine then roared into life and scored the next three tries to take an 18-4 lead. The Knights had shown plenty of heart throughout the finals series and scored twice before the break to reduce the margin to 18-12. Both sides had scored three tries in the first half with goalkicking proving the difference – Steelers hooker Chelsea Savill had been perfect with the boot while McNamara was having an off day.

The match remained in the balance until replacement forward Bronte Wilson was put into a yawning gap by Reh. Savill maintained her unblemished record to land the conversion and help secure a 24-12 win – the Steelers second title since 2019. Bostock was named Player of the Match after scoring two tries – including a spectacular 85m effort to put the Steelers on top 18-4 in the first half – while Reh was named Player of the Series.

**Illawarra Steelers 24** (Indie Bostock 2, Maria Paseka, Bronte Wilson tries; Chelsea Savill 4 goals)  
**Newcastle Knights 12** (Lilly McNamara, Aylah McCulloch, Malaki Poa tries) at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta, on Saturday 27 April.

**Standings:** Illawarra Steelers 18, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 16, Indigenous Academy Sydney Roosters 16, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 14, Newcastle Knights 13, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 11, Canberra Raiders 10, Parramatta Eels 10, Wests Tigers 8, Penrith Panthers 6, South Sydney Rabbitohs 4, North Sydney Bears 2, St George Dragons 2.







## SLE LAURIE DALEY CUP

The SLE Laurie Daley Cup (Under 18s Boys) 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 Northern Tigers and Central Coast Roosters finished top two of the Northern Conference after winning four games and drawing one – against each other. The Tigers took top spot courtesy of a better points differential after finishing the regular season with the best attack (162) and second-best defence (76). The Roosters boasted the best defence (62) and had the third-best attack (108).

In the Southern Conference, Monaro Colts and Macarthur Tigers took out the top two spots after both winning four of the five game. The Colts took out top spot with the best attack (172) and defence (66) of all teams, while the Tigers were second-best (144 and 96 respectively).

The Semi-finals pitted the Colts against the Roosters and the Northern Tigers against Macarthur Wests Tigers. The Colts turned in a strong first half to lead 20-6 and did enough in the second half to hang on for a 26-18 win. The Northern Tigers and Macarthur Wests Tigers went try-for-try until the former broke away at the end of the first half to set up a 28-16 win.

The Grand Final between the Colts and Northern Tigers was played at Cessnock Sportsground on Sunday 24 March. Monaro was hoping for better fortunes this time around after making the Grand Final of the SLE Laurie Daley Cup in 2023 only to fall just short 26-24 to Illawarra South Coast Dragons.

The Colts started the match strongly with hooker Mitchell Brophy and halfback Jonah Anderson combining to crack the Tigers defence before Brophy scooted out of dummy-half to set up a 6-0 lead. The Tigers hit back through winger Keandre Johnson-Vale before the Colts laid on two tries to take a 16-4 lead. The Tigers pegged one back just before the break when halfback Jordan Hamlin fired a long cut-out pass for winger Oscar Atkin to score and keep them in the contest at 16-8.

The Colts regained the advantage when back-rower Joey Elton grabbed his second try of the day before the Tigers scored twice to reduce the deficit to 22-18 and set up a thrilling finish with 20 minutes remaining. Brophy ensured the Colts claimed the premiership when he threw a dummy before accelerating through a gap to crash over the line. He converted his try to help secure the 28-18 win with Anderson named the John ‘Choc’ Anderson Player of the Match.

**Monaro Colts 28** (Mitchell Brophy 2, Joseph Elton 2, JJ Mau Pohiva tries; Mitchell Brophy 4 goals)  
**Northern Tigers 18** (Keandre Johnson-Vale 2, Oscar Atkin, Cooper Meldrum tries; Dylan Keane goal) at Cessnock Sports Ground, Cessnock, on Sunday 24 March.

**Standings – Northern Conference:** Northern Tigers 9, Central Coast Roosters 9, Northern Rivers Titans 4, North Coast Bulldogs 2, Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 2. **Southern Conference:** Monaro Colts 8, Macarthur Wests Tigers 8, Illawarra South Coast Dragons 4, Western Rams 4, Riverina Bulls 0.







## UNE HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

The UNE Harold Matthews Cup (Under 17s Boys) welcomed the Warriors and Melbourne Storm into the competition for 2024 to take the total number of teams to 17 – Balmain Tigers, Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Central Coast Roosters, Illawarra Steelers, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Melbourne Storm, Newcastle Knights, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George Dragons, Sydney Roosters, Warriors and Western Suburbs Magpies. The competition was played over nine rounds followed by a top-six finals series.

There was little separating the Bulldogs and the Magpies for the regular season. Both clubs had seven wins and one draw (not against each other) but the Bulldogs took out top spot with a better points differential. They had the best attack (298) and third-best defence (118), while the Magpies (2) had the second-best attack (250) and second-best defence (114). The top six was rounded out by the Eels (3), Sharks (4), Roosters (5) and Warriors (6).

The Bulldogs and the Magpies had the first week off from the finals with the Warriors beating the Eels 30-20, while the Sharks ended the Roosters season 30-22. The Warriors scored a surprise 12-10 win over the Bulldogs in the second week of the finals, while the Magpies had to dig just as deep to beat the Sharks 8-6.

The Grand Final between the Magpies and the Warriors was played at Parramatta's CommBank Stadium on Saturday 27 April. The Warriors were chasing history after becoming the first team in the history of the Harold Matthews Cup (which started in 1970) to make the Grand Final in their maiden year. They had to do it the hard way after needing to win the final match of their regular season to make the finals and then their sudden-death finals against the Eels and the Bulldogs.

The Magpies started the match strongly after grabbing two tries to take a 10-0 lead before the Warriors took control. They scored four unanswered tries to take charge of the decider and a 24-10 lead into half-time.

The second half was an arm wrestle early with both teams going set-to-set for the first 12 minutes. The Warriors eventually broke the deadlock when winger Ezekiel Davidson-Faaiuso scored to extend the lead to 28-10 before the Magpies scored twice to reduce the deficit to 28-16 and give themselves a chance with 10 minutes remaining. The Warriors sealed the result and a historic premiership when lock Lennox Tuiloma powered his way over the line for a 34-16 win.

Tuiloma was named Player of the Match after a strong performance while the Magpies received some consolation after centre Heamasi Makasini was named Player of the Series.

**Warriors 34** (Jack Thompson 2, Militonimolela Sikuvea, Ezekiel Davidson-Faaiuso, Boston Krone, Lennox Tuiloma tries; Kairus Booth 5 goals) **Western Suburbs Magpies 16** (Pheonix Godinet, Jhevon Lele, Christian Taupau-Moors tries; Heamasi Makasini 2 goals) at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta, on Saturday 27 April.

**Standings** – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 27, Western Suburbs Magpies 27, Parramatta Eels 16, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 14, Sydney Roosters 12, Warriors 12, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 11, Newcastle Knights 10, Penrith Panthers 10, Central Coast Roosters 10, South Sydney Rabbitohs 8, Melbourne Storm 8, Illawarra Steelers 8, Canberra Raiders 6, St George Dragons 6, North Sydney Bears 3, Balmain Tigers 2.







## WESTPAC LISA FIAOLA CUP

The Westpac Lisa Fiaola Cup (Under 17s Girls) had its inaugural season in 2024 and featured 19 teams spread across metropolitan Sydney and regional NSW. The competition formed an important pathway for female Rugby League players and will continue to play a significant role in their development.

### Metropolitan

The metropolitan Sydney competition featured 13 teams – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Central Coast Roosters, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Illawarra Steelers, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Newcastle Knights, North Sydney Bears, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers. The competition was played over nine rounds followed by a top six finals series.

The Bulldogs were a clear standout during the regular season. They finished on top of the table with the best attack (468) and defence (48) of all teams in the competition. The next best team was the Steelers (238) – 230 points behind the Bulldogs. The top six was rounded out by the Eels (3), Central Coast Roosters (4), Tigers (5) and Knights (6).

The Bulldogs and the Steelers had the first week off from the finals with the Tigers scoring a narrow 24-22 win over the Roosters, while the Knights accounted for the Eels 22-10. The Tigers continued their run after ending the Steelers season with a 32-14 win in the second week of the finals, while the Bulldogs reinforced their premiership credentials with a 22-4 win over the Knights.

The Grand Final between the Bulldogs and the Tigers was played at Parramatta's CommBank Stadium on Saturday 27 April. The Bulldogs scored a try in the opening minute through winger Asha Taumoepeau-Williams and added three more tries in a six-minute period midway through the first half, to take a commanding 18-0 lead into the break. The Tigers tried hard but were starved of possession in the first half.

The Bulldogs maintained their momentum in the second half and added another four tries – Taumoepeau-Williams finished the day with four for the match – to win the decider 36-0. Hooker Mary-Jane Taito was named Player of the Match while five-eighth Evelyn Roberts – who finished the game with two tries – was awarded Player of the Series.

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 36 (Asha Taumoepeau-Williams 4, Evelyn Roberts 2, Aliahana Fuimaono, Lahnayah Daniel tries; Olivia Vaalele 2 goals) Wests Tigers 0 at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta, on Saturday 27 April.

**Standings** – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 18, Illawarra Steelers 16, Parramatta Eels 14, Central Coast Roosters 14, Wests Tigers 14, Newcastle Knights 12, Sydney Roosters 12, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks 6, Penrith Panthers 6, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 6, South Sydney Rabbitohs 5, North Sydney Bears 5, St George Dragons 2.

### Regional

The regional competition featured six teams divided into a Northern and Southern Conference. The Northern Conference involved the North Coast Bulldogs, Northern Rivers Titans and Northern Tigers while the Southern Conference had the Monaro Colts, Riverina Bulls and Western Rams. There were three rounds of competition between the teams in each conference, with the top teams progressing to face each other in the Grand Final.

The Northern Tigers finished first in the Northern Conference following a 24-18 win over the Titans, and a 20-0 win over the Bulldogs, while the Rams claimed top spot in the Southern Conference with a decisive 74-6 win over the Bulls and 22-16 win over Monaro.

The Grand Final between the Tigers and the Rams was played at Woy Woy Oval on Saturday 16 March. The two teams could not be separated in the opening 10 minutes until the Rams opened the scoring through lock Grace MacGregor. They extended their lead to 10-0 when back-rower Na'shaeya Dickinson crossed over for a four pointer before the Tigers pegged one back through winger Marlee Stewart to reduce the margin to 10-4 at half-time.

The Rams extended their lead to 16-4 when prop Alana O'Loughlin spun past defenders to score, but the Tigers hung in there with fullback Emily Dietrich scoring to keep them in touch at 16-8. The Rams finally sealed the match with a 22-8 win, when hooker Zakiah Jenkins scored with seven minutes remaining. O'Loughlin was later named Player of the Match.

**Western Rams 22** (Zakiah Jenkins, Na'shaeya Dickinson, Grace MacGregor, Alana O'Loughlin tries; Lara Edwards 3 goals) **Northern Tigers 8** (Marlee Stewart, Emily Dietrich tries) at Woy Woy Oval, Woy Woy, on Saturday 16 March.

**Standings – Northern Conference:** Northern Tigers, 4, Northern Rivers Titans 1, North Coast Bulldogs 1. **Southern Conference:** Western Rams 4, Monaro Colts 2, Riverina Bulls 0.







## SLE ANDREW JOHNS CUP

The SLE Andrew Johns Cup (Under 16s Boys) featured 10 teams from regional NSW and was split into two conferences. The Northern Conference included 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.

Newcastle Maitland Region Knights and Central Coast Roosters finished top two of the Northern Conference after winning four games and drawing against each other before the start of the Semi-finals. It was a similar story in the Southern Conference with the Western Rams and Macarthur Wests Tigers finishing top two after they both won four games and lost one during the regular season.

The Semi-finals featured the Central Coast Roosters against the Western Rams and Newcastle Maitland Region Knights against Macarthur Wests Tigers. The Roosters led the Rams 12-0 at half-time on their way to an 18-10 win, while the Tigers held an 8-0 half-time lead against the Knights before finishing with a 14-6 win.

The Grand Final between the Roosters and the Tigers was played at Cessnock Sportsground on Sunday 24 March. The Roosters were aiming to become the first club in the history of the competition to win consecutive premierships after beating the Knights 18-10 in the 2023 decider. The Tigers had been the best defensive team of both conferences, after only leaking 58 points across five games in the regular season, but the Roosters found a way through that in the second minute of the decider after winger Semi Keweniqila crossed out wide. Another try to replacement forward Blessing Foini helped the Roosters take a 12-0 lead into the half-time break.

The Roosters scored two more tries when play resumed to extend their lead to 20-0, before the Tigers scored two late tries to set up a frantic finish with five minutes remaining. The Roosters held their nerve with Roosters captain and lock Alexander Stephenson named the Robert 'Bert' Lowrie Player of the Match.

**Central Coast Roosters 20** (Semi Leweniqila, Blessing Foini, Jack Dean-Potaka, Koby Houghton tries; Owen Knowles 2 goals) **Macarthur Wests Tigers 12** (Ronel Ribucan, Joshua Vella tries; Joshua Vella 2 goals) at Cessnock Sports Ground, Cessnock, on Sunday 24 March.

**Standings – Northern Conference:** Newcastle Maitland Region Knights 9, Central Coast Roosters 9, Northern Rivers Titans 4, North Coast Bulldogs 2, Northern Tigers 0. **Southern Conference:** Western Rams 8, Macarthur Wests Tigers 8, Monaro Colts 4, Illawarra South Coast Dragons 4, Riverina Bulls 2.





# 4

## NSWRL COMMUNITY







## COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

The NSWRL enjoyed another record season for participation, with the total number of registered players rising by almost five per cent to top 117,000. The number of male participants surpassed 87,000 for the first time, while the women's game continued to surge in popularity after recording a growth of more than 14 per cent to reach almost 30,000 participants. The total number of participants for the 2024 season was 117,566 (a 4.6 per cent increase from 112,767 in 2023), male participants reached 87,489 (a 1.7 per cent increase from 86,580 in 2023), while female participants finished at 29,686 (a 14 per cent increase from 26,187 in 2023). The figures were also pleasing after the NSW Government elected to means-test Active Kids vouchers in 2024.

### Community Football Conference

The annual NSWRL Community Conference was held at Sydney Olympic Park on the weekend of November 16-17 and was attended by 125 NSWRL and club officials. The topics addressed included retention, with NSWRL Director Carolyn Campbell, who is also the Chair of Hockey One and a Director of Volleyball Australia and Bankstown Sports Club, joined by NSWRL Far West Junior Coordinator and former Jillaroo Poi Birtles to share their leadership stories. Other topics covered included an overview of the recently completed infrastructure strategy, RISE development programs, community Rugby League initiatives and the Changing Rooms program. The day concluded with a special address from Westpac NSW Blues High Performance Manager Frank Ponissi, who shared insights into the successful 2024 Ampol State of Origin series campaign.

### Harmony Nines

The annual Harmony Nines tournament welcomed two new heritage nations in a sign of the increasing popularity of the cultural and Rugby League tournament held in Shellharbour on the weekend of October 19-20. The event, run by the NSWRL in conjunction with Heritage Rugby League, featured 22 heritage groups, 79 teams and almost 1200 players with Greece and South Sudan both making their debuts in 2024.

The tournament featured 133 games, including Under 16s and Under 18s Boys and Girls, Open Age Men and Women, Emerging Nations Open Age Men and Open Age Women, and a Physical Disability showcase. The heritage teams were allocated into two pools and played nine-a-side matches over 8-minute halves, with the top-seeded teams at the end of the pool games progressing to the finals.

The heritage groups included Africa United, Cambodia, Fiji-Australia, FIRLA (Italy), First Nations Indigenous, Greece, Latin Heat, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malta, Mediterranean, Niue, NSW Maori, NSW Pasifika, NSW Samoa, NSW Tonga, Ozzy Cooks, Philippines, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand and Turkey.

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.

### RISE Academy

The RISE Academy enjoyed another strong season with almost 40 per cent growth in the number of participants for the holistic Rugby League program. There were 1787 participants in 2024 compared with 1279 in 2023, which represented an increase of 39.7 per cent. Run by former Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs premiership-winner Adam Perry, the program teaches participants the traits of a professional Rugby League player including diet, training, health and mental fitness. New programs were held in the Canterbury and Parramatta districts, while other locations opened up to more age groups including Canberra, Central Coast, Group 20 and Group 9.

### #RESPECT Round

The theme for the 2024 #RESPECT Round was 'Words have Power' to remind around 700 clubs and more than 150,000 players, officials and volunteers, as well as spectators, of the impact positive and negative comments can have on the enjoyment of participants. The response was extremely positive with almost 10,000 pledges (9,386) taken during the course of the campaign. West Wyalong, whose area in the Riverina has a population of almost 2700 people, returned the most pledges to claim the 2024 Danielle Kifooti #RESPECT Award. #RESPECT Round started in 2016 and continues to grow each year aligning with the NSWRL's vision to eliminate poor behaviour and promote a positive environment for all players, coaches, referees, volunteers, families, and spectators.







## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Regional Roadshows

True Blues Mark O’Meley and Tim Brasher embarked on a three-day tour in June to help deliver the 2024 NSWRL Regional Roadshow. The campaign is run in conjunction with Transport for NSW and has already spread messages about road safety to more than 7000 teenagers at 50 regional areas around the state since 2017. The 2024 tour included visits to Wingham, Gloucester, Bulahdelah and Taree, and addressed serious crashes involving local youth in the area in the past seven months which had impacted on the communities.

The Regional Roadshow started in 2017 and True Blues who have been involved in previous campaigns include Andrew Ryan, Willie Mason, Matt Cooper, Steve Menzies, Ben Elias, Jamie Soward, Ruan Sims, Trent Hodkinson, Mark Hughes, Beau Scott and Luke Bailey. The areas around the state that have been visited to date include Albury, Bathurst, Mudgee, Oberon, Wauchope, Blayney, Forbes, Leeton, Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Tamworth, Narromine, Griffith, Shellharbour, Maitland, Wyong, Taree, Tamworth, Lismore, Macksville, Taree, Queanbeyan, Kurri Kurri and Sydney.

### NSWRL Inclusion Day

The NSWRL held its second Inclusion Day in March, which brings together people of all abilities, genders and cultural backgrounds to showcase the different formats of Rugby League. The day was also the culmination of the ‘Game for All’ round, which coincided with Harmony Week and Harmony Day (Wednesday 21 March) to celebrate the diversity of Australians from different backgrounds, and Close the Gap Day (Wednesday 21 March), which focuses on health equality for First Nations people.

Inclusion Day was attended by 120 participants and opened with a Smoking Ceremony by a First Nations Elder. This was followed by a series of fun Rugby League activities and activations and an exhibition game for the NSW Physical Disability Rugby League Association. The day concluded with participants experiencing the thrill of walking through the tunnel the Westpac NSW Blues use for State of Origin games at Accor Stadium, as well as receiving tickets to the Under 19s Men’s and Women’s State of Origin matches at Leichhardt Oval on Thursday 20 June, and a NRL match.

### Changing Rooms

The NSWRL’s Changing Rooms program, spearheaded by True Blue and NSWRL Community and Welfare Officer Paul Langmack, experienced another season of strong growth after reaching more than 2,500 (2,575) recipients in 2024. In a first for the program, it was delivered to the Australian Navy, USA College students, a hockey club and the Parramatta and Panthers Junior Referees Association this year. The program, which is delivered with a qualified social worker and focuses on mental fitness, suicide prevention and bullying, was also held in other areas including Albury, Emu Plains, Milperra, Minto, Greta Branxton, Appin, Narellan, Woonona, Corrimall and Brighton.

### First Nations Participation

The NSWRL celebrated its strong connection to the First Nations Community, with more than 28,000 First Nations people involved with Rugby League in NSW as players, coaches, trainers, referees or volunteers, by commissioning a specially-designed, First Nations-themed jersey that was worn by all match officials for NSWRL Major Competitions in the round (4-7 July). The NSWRL’s First Nations Round coincided with NAIDOC Week (7-14 July), which is held in July every year to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of First Nations people. The jersey was designed by NSWRL Community Football Referees Development Officer and former NRL referee Gavin Badger, a proud Gadigal man, based on the artwork of First Nations artist Daren Dunn. It was worn by officials for all games in The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, Harvey Norman NSW Women’s Premiership, Jersey Flegg Cup, Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup and Sydney Shield.

The PCYC Nations of Origin celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024, with 47 teams and 600 players taking part in a round-robin tournament in western Sydney. PCYC Nations of Origin is held over four days and is a multi-faceted sport, cultural, education and leadership program that culminates around NAIDOC week every year. To be eligible to play participants must have 80 per cent school attendance and teams must be engaged with and endorsed by their local elders. Teams must consist of a 70:30 ratio of First Nations and non-First Nations young people with the competitions helping to build skills, character, leadership, as well as encouraging cultural respect and connections.

Other partnerships and initiatives to acknowledge the bond between the NSWRL and the First Nations community included the TAAP (Talented Aboriginal Athlete Program) camp, KARI Foundation, the Deadly Choices campaign to promote healthy living choices for First Nations people, Clontarf Academy and the Outback Rugby League Challenge.







## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Women in Sport Leadership program

The NSWRL's Women in Sport Leadership program, run in conjunction with the University of New England (UNE) and entered its fourth year in 2024. It enjoyed a major coup in October with Australian Olympic women's water polo coach Bec Rippon sharing her insights with participants after the team claimed the silver medal at the Paris Olympic Games. The program featured 21 participants from 10 different sports including Rugby League, athletics, surf lifesaving, tennis, touch football, basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, lawn bowls and football and was held at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence at Sydney Olympic Park. Graduates receive nationally-recognised credits towards a Diploma or Certificate IV in Leadership and Management with the program helping women achieve leadership positions in elite sporting organisations.

### Pride in Sport recognition

NSW Rugby League received national recognition as an inclusive sport after being awarded Bronze Tier Status at the annual Pride in Sport Awards in Melbourne in April. NSWRL's successful PSI Foundation Submission to the national Pride in Sport Index, cemented its status as a leading inclusive sport, and the organisation will continue this momentum with a PSI Advanced Submission in 2025. NSWRL's Pride in Sport journey began in 2021, when the organisation became a member of Pride in Sport, showcasing its commitment and dedication to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

### Game Changers

Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin player Millie Elliott held a three-week tour in February throughout regional NSW to bring health and wellbeing messages through a series of 'Game Changer' clinics for people with a disability. The clinics help educate and build confidence through topics including diet, exercise and short and long-term goals. Elliott founded the Trainer Group Foundation in 2022, a registered not-for-profit organisation, which has allowed her to hold 'Game Changer' workshops at various NRL clubs and community centres. The NSWRL and Westpac supported Elliott to take her clinics to nine regional centres across the state including Bega, Bateman's Bay, Lake Illawarra, Wagga Wagga, Orange, Dubbo, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Murwillumbah. She was joined on the tour by fellow NSW Blues Women's Origin players Kezie Apps, Emma Tonegato, Keeley Davis and Olivia Kernick.







## COMMUNITY AWARDS

### Community Awards

The NSWRL Community Awards recognise the important contribution made to the game every season by more than 31,000 volunteers, coaches, officials and referees at 700 clubs across the state. In 2024 there were 18 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.

Regional volunteer winners were invited to the Brad Fittler Medal at The Star Event Centre at Pyrmont, where Khalil Kouayder was announced as the Gordon Lowrie Community Volunteer of the Year. Kouayder received further honours after also being named the NRL Volunteer of the Year.

### 2024 NSWRL COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

#### NSWRL Gordon Lowrie Community Volunteer of the Year – Khalil Kouayder (Greenacre Tigers)

Kouayder has been involved with Rugby League for 12 years and took over as secretary of Greenacre Tigers in 2016. He leads by example and is at the ground for training, as well as games on Wednesday and Friday nights, and Saturday and Sunday. He acts as a trainer for the A Grade team on away games to ensure the players are well behaved, and for home games fills the role of Ground Manager or First Aid Officer. He is a role model in the Muslim community, instils core values of good sportsmanship, respect and representing Greenacre with pride.

#### NSWRL Community Rugby League Club of the Year

##### Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook Stags

Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook Stags have been serving the local community for more than 50 years and offer free registration and a personalised playing kit to Under 6 players to get them started on their Rugby League journey. With 400 players and 80 volunteers, they are North Sydney district's largest club fielding 24 teams from Under 6s to First Grade including Girls Tag and Female Tackle teams. The Stags also organised a club tour to Queensland for more than 200 participants to provide insight into Rugby League beyond their local community, and promote female representation in the sport. Nearly half of the committee members of the Stags are female including the President, who has served for four years.

#### NSWRL Community Coach of the Year (Male)

**Geoff Batten (Nambucca Heads Roosters)** – Batten has been a coach in the East Coast Region for 20 years and wears many hats for his club, Nambucca Heads Roosters. He holds a range of coaching positions including coach of the North Coast Bulldogs in the SLE Andrew Johns Cup (Under 16s Boys). He has also embraced the RISE program, which introduces young players to the regime of a Rugby League player, and has been a driving force for the Player Development Framework.

#### NSWRL Community Coach of the Year (Female)

**Judy-May Peni (Wentworthville United Magpies)** – Peni has been involved with Wentworthville United for three years and is passionate about Women's Rugby League. She funded a photographer to create game-day content for the club's social media platforms which led to 48 women wanting to join the Women's Open Age team in 2024. She has also assisted coaching the Penrith Panthers team in the Tarsha Gale Cup (Under 19s Women) as well as arriving at games early to help junior teams.

#### NSWRL First Nations Volunteer of the Year (presented by KARI Foundation)

**Brooke Roach (Raymond Terrace Roosters)** – Roach is the Vice-President of Raymond Terrace Magpies having recently stepped down from the role as President which he held for many years. He has been involved with First Nations teams for more than 25 years and has coached 20 Koori Knockout sides during this time. He is still an active player at 45 in the Men's Open Age C Grade competition, coaches the Women's Tackle team, and has coached the Girls Under 17s and Under 15s teams for the past five years where he has claimed two premierships. He also acts as an assistant coach for the Newcastle Knights in the Lisa Fiaola Cup (Under 17s) and is a strong and respected First Nations leader within the Port Stephens community.

#### NSWRL Inclusive Volunteer of the Year (presented by What Ability)

**Liam Luff (NSW Wheelchair Rugby League)** – Luff is an accomplished Wheelchair Rugby League athlete having represented the Australian Wheelaroos and NSW. He is also a two-time premiership winner and was named NSW Wheelchair Rugby League Player of the Year in 2023. He juggles his playing commitments with promoting the sport and has helped drive growth in the Cronulla-Sutherland region. He also coaches the Cronulla Sharks in the NSW Wheelchair Rugby League competition and volunteers at community events.

#### NSWRL Young Person of the Year

**Xavier Orchard (Macquarie Scorpions)** – Orchard is captain of the Macquarie Scorpions Under 15s team and leads the warm-up at training sessions. He also referees Junior Rugby League games where possible and volunteers as an Under 7s assistant coach. He is highly-valued by the club committee because of the respect he shows for his peers and the club and its history, as well as his dedication in giving back and encouraging his teammates to also do the same.

#### NSWRL Volunteer of the Year Regional Winners

Broken Bay: Michelle Loader (Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook Stags)  
Central Sydney: Khalil Kouayder (Greenacre Tigers)  
East Coast: Rodney Nugent (Lake Cathie Bonny Hills Raiders)  
Macarthur: Kevin Bell (The Oaks Tigers)  
Monaro: Greg Smith (Yass Magpies)  
Newcastle and Maitland: Cherie Douglas (Cessnock Goannas)  
Northern: Todd Mitchell (Moree Boars)  
Riverina: Brent Parsons (Rankins Springs Dragons)  
South Coast: Carl Middleton (Kiama Knights)  
Southern Sydney: Andrew Gilchrist (Cronulla-Sutherland Referees Association)  
Western: Sara McDonough (Coonabarabran Unicorns)  
Western Sydney: Johny Sakr (Winston Hills Hawks)







## NSWRL EVENTS







## TRUE BLUES

True Blues Steve Roach and Michael O'Connor were inducted into the NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame in front of almost 500 guests at the annual True Blues dinner at The Star Event Centre in Pyrmont in May.

The glittering event was attended by Westpac NSW Blues coach Michael Maguire and the Westpac NSW Blues team, Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin coach Kylie Hilder and Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin players, NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden, NSWRL Chair Paul Conlon, the NSWRL Board, and True Blues ambassadors including Boyd Cordner, Danny Buderus, Nathan Hindmarsh, Steve Menzies, Craig Wing, and Ben Elias.

The night also included a pre-event function for the Westpac NSW Blues to catch up with True Blues, including a talk with former coach turned journalist Roy Masters who interviewed Roach and Elias about their memories playing for NSW. There was also a panel discussion on stage at the event with True Blues Brett Morris, Anthony Watmough and Greg Bird.

Roach, aka 'Blocker', joined Balmain from Wollongong Wests in 1982 and went on to have a long and distinguished career as a hard-running front rower with great ball skills. He was part of the 1989 Grand Final team against Canberra Raiders that has gone down as one of the greatest deciders in history.

Through the mid-1980s he was an automatic pick for New South Wales. He was the enforcer of the Blues pack, who walked a fine line and occasionally overstepped the mark. But his career was not defined by intimidation; Roach was blessed with elite ball skills and his ability to hold off defenders and release to support players was a feature of his game.

His imposing physical presence, combined with these skills earned him a long career at representative level. Roach played 17 Origin games for his state which included series victories in 1985, 1986 and 1990. He toured twice with the Kangaroos and played 20 Tests in the green and gold, and was named one of the top 100 Australian Players of the Century in 2008.

O'Connor was a dual international who made the switch from rugby union to sign with St George Dragons in 1983. He switched to Manly in 1987 and was part of the premiership-winning team that year.

O'Connor took a giant step towards greatness as a New South Wales representative on the first day that he wore the sky blue jersey. In a memorable debut at Lang Park, O'Connor scored all 18 points for the Blues (two tries and five goals) in a shock 18-2 victory in the opening game of the 1985 series.

He became a mainstay of the Blues backline, playing primarily at centre and occasionally on the wing in 19 appearances through to 1991. It was in his final series that O'Connor figured in one of the most iconic moments in Blues' Origin history when he booted a sideline conversion in torrential rain at the Sydney Football Stadium to secure a famous win.

O'Connor remains the Blues' highest point scorer, with 129 points, and his tally of 11 tries has not been surpassed by a NSW player at Origin level. He was a key contributor to the Blues' maiden series success in 1985 and won further series with the state in 1986 (the first Origin clean sweep) and 1990.

The NSWRL The Star Hall of Fame now features 31 players, including the Rugby League Immortals who represented NSW.







## BRAD FITTLER MEDAL

Westpac NSW Blues back-rower Angus Crichton completed a remarkable redemption story after winning his first Brad Fittler Medal, following a season which saw him start in The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup before later claiming a State of Origin series win.

Crichton was presented with his medal by True Blue Brad Fittler in front of more than 500 guests at The Star Event Centre on a night where 20 awards were handed out across NSWRL Representative, Major and Junior Representative Competitions, as well as community.

Crichton also claimed The Daily Telegraph People's Choice Award, while Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin winger Jaime Chapman was also a dual winner after taking out the NSW Blues Women's State of Origin Player of the Year and The Daily Telegraph People's Choice Award. Westpac NSW Blues captain Jake Trbojevic won the True Blue Award, and Yasmin Clydsdale the equivalent women's award.

Also in attendance at the awards was Westpac NSW Blues coach Michael Maguire, Westpac NSW Blues Women's Origin coach Kylie Hilder, NSWRL Chair Paul Conlon and the NSWRL Board, NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden, NSW Blues and NSW Blues Women's players, and club representatives.

Crichton was a standout in the 2024 Ampol State of Origin series claimed 2-1 by the Westpac NSW Blues and was also awarded the Wally Lewis Medal for Player of the Series.

He made his debut for the Blues in 2018 and has made 14 appearances for his state including all three games in 2024 where he ran for a total of 488m (162 average), made 61 tackles, 10 offloads and two line break assists.

Chapman also starred in this year's women's Origin series after scoring two tries, running for a total of 370m (123 average), making a line break, a line break assist, 12 tackle busts and two offloads.

Canberra Raiders fullback Chevy Stewart was named the NSW Under 19s Men's Player of the Year after scoring a try and setting up the match-winner in the 14-10 win over Queensland, while Illawarra Steelers halfback Kasey Reh was named NSW Under 19s Women's Player of the Year.

Raiders halfback Adam Cook was named The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup Player of the Year after a stellar season for the Green Machine who finished second on the table. Cook led the competition for try assists (21), was equal first for line break assists (20), and was second for both points scored (150) and goals (69).

Wentworthville Magpies back-rower Leilani Wilson was named Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership Player of the Year.

The Gordon Lowrie Memorial Community Volunteer of the Year Award winner was also announced with Khalil Kouayder from Greenacre Tigers taking the honour. Kouayder was chosen from 12 Regional Winners and has been involved with Rugby League for 12 years, taking over as secretary of Greenacre Tigers in 2016.

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.

The Brad Fittler Medal was first presented in 2005 with winners including Matt King (2005) Steve Menzies (2006), Danny Buderus (2008), Paul Gallen (2011), James Tedesco (2018-19, 22), Nathan Cleary (2020), Tom Trbojevic (2021) and Brian To'o (2022). The NSW Blues Women's Origin Player of the Year was first presented in 2015 with winners including Simaima Taufua (2015, 17, 19), Kezie Apps (2016), and Isabelle Kelly (2018, 21-22).

Other NSWRL Major Competition Award winners included Owen Pattie (Jersey Flegg Cup Player of the Year, Canberra Raiders), Craig Garvey (Leagues Clubs Australia Ron Massey Cup Player of the Year, Glebe Dirty Reds), Jake Watmough (Sydney Shield Player of the Year, Manly Leagues), Josh Ayers (Men's Country Player of the Year, Monaro Colts) and Alicia Earsman (Women's Country Player of the Year, Western Rams).

The NSWRL Junior Representatives Award winners included Jonah Anderson (Tom Nelson Medal for SLE Laurie Daley Cup Player of the Year, Monaro Colts) and Alexander Stephenson (Ron Lanesbury Medal for SLE Andrew Johns Cup Player of the Year, Central Coast Roosters).

The NSWRL Community Award winners included Daniel Luttringer (Grade Referee of the Year), Mitchell Pitscheider (Junior Representative Referee of the Year) and Kerrie Court (Ray Stellar Club Person of the Year, St Marys Saints).





6

VALES





**Bob Abood**

Bob Abood was a highly-respected Magistrate and long-serving Chair of the NSWRL Judiciary. He served on the judiciary for 34 years and also had a long and distinguished career on the Bench. He also occasionally acted in a relieving capacity as Chair of the NRL Judiciary Committee.

**Darrell Bampton OAM**

A NSWRL Life Member and former NSW Origin team manager, Darrell Bampton OAM enjoyed a successful Rugby League career both on and off the field. He held roles as both Club Captain and Chief Executive Officer in his impactful association with the South Sydney Rabbitohs.

The Alexandria Rovers, Waterloo Waratahs and Zetland United junior graduated to Souths senior club and captained the Rabbitohs to the Presidents Cup Premiership in 1969 when it was a NSWRL Under 21s competition. Bampton also played in South Sydney's third grade competition that year and won the Grand Final against Canterbury-Bankstown.

He was nicknamed 'Number Nine' and debuted in first grade against the Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks in 1970. Bampton went on to play 116 games for Souths from 1969-73 and 1978-79, including 51 in first grade, scoring one try.

Retirement as a player opened the door for him to pursue football administration. Bampton was CEO of South Sydney (1997-1999), NSW State of Origin manager (1999-2002), Tri-Series ARL manager (1999) for the Kangaroos, World Cup manager (2000), Kangaroos tour manager (2001) and ANZAC Test manager vs New Zealand (2002). He was also appointed Vice-President of the NSWRL (2002). Bampton was awarded Life Membership of South Sydney in 1994, and the NSWRL in 2006. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to Rugby League in 2009.

**Keith Barnes**

Keith Barnes, renowned for his goalkicking prowess, was a member of the NRL Hall of Fame and a former Kangaroos captain (and captain-coach), as well as playing an integral role with Balmain Tigers where he played 194 premiership matches (1955-1968). Born in Wales, Barnes joined the Tigers from Wollongong where he started as a five-eighth before shifting to fullback. He signed with the club in 1955 and quickly established himself as a goalkicker, fullback and leader, earning himself the nickname 'Golden Boots', scoring a club record 1519 career points including a club record 180 points in 1956. He played 12 games for NSW (1956-63), kicking 54 goals, and booted the same number of goals for the Kangaroos from 17 Tests. He made his international debut in Australia's 1957 World Cup victory before leading the Kangaroos as captain from 1959-60, and later as captain-coach in the 1960 World Cup. He played in three Grand Finals for the Tigers (1956, 1964, 1966) but never claimed a premiership. Ironically, the year after he retired in 1968, the Tigers won their last title as Balmain. He stayed loyal to the Tigers in retirement serving as both General Manager of the Balmain Leagues Club and Balmain Chief Executive.

**Vic Byrne OAM**

A giant of Country Rugby League and legend of Orange CYMS club, Vic Byrne OAM's leadership and influence in the sport across western NSW was pivotal in him becoming a Life Member of the Country Rugby League (CRL), Western Division, and Group 10. He was awarded Life Membership of the NSWRL in 1990 and served as CRL President from 1990-1998. Byrne was also able to juggle club executive duties with those as a player.

He was a member of the undefeated Orange CYMS 1952 First Grade Premiership team, while he was serving as secretary (1951-52) of the club, at the age of 21. He took over as President in 1953, while he helped Orange CYMS win the Clayton Cup the following year.

Byrne was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2003 for his services to Rugby League.



Keith Barnes



Bob Abood



Darrell Bampton OAM



Vic Byrne OAM



Rees Duncan

Rees Duncan was a True Blue, Kangaroos tourist and proud Kurri Kurri junior who played 60 first grade games for the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles and Western Suburbs Magpies, including captaining the Sea Eagles side in 1954. A talented centre and five-eighth, Duncan played five games for NSW, scoring two tries in 1952-53. He also played four matches for NSW Country Firsts. A member of the 1952 Kangaroos to tour England and France, Duncan played 18 matches but his only two Tests were against New Zealand earlier that season. His father Rees Duncan Senior was also a True Blue having played six games for the NSW Firsts in 1931-32 in every forward position – front row, second row and hooker.

John Elford

Hailing from Casino on the north coast of NSW, John Elford was a beach sprint champion which assisted him with his speed and fitness. He started his Rugby League career with the Smithtown Tigers before joining Western Suburbs in 1966 after being scouted by Noel Kelly.

Elford began his career on the wing but was later shifted to the forwards where he remained for the rest of his career. A great defender and a confident ball player, Elford represented NSW in 1972 and Australia on four occasions. He was selected to be part of the Australian World Cup side in 1972 but broke his arm in a warm-up match and was unable to take part.

Injuries continued to plague Elford for the latter part of his career before he eventually retired in 1976. He returned home to captain-coach Smithfield, steering them to a Group 2 premiership in 1977 and a Grand Final in 1978.

Elford was also passionate about players’ rights and fought a legal battle unsuccessfully against the NSWRL’s transfer system in the NSW Supreme Court, leading him to sit out the 1969 season in protest. He eventually resolved his differences with the Magpies and remained a one-club man for the rest of his career.

John Gocher

John Gocher refereed 178 first grade matches from 1976 to 1986, including seven finals (1981-83). He was the man in the middle for the 1982 Grand Final won by Parramatta 21-8 over Manly Warringah. Gocher took charge of the 1981 and 1982 Grand Finals of the mid-week competition known as the Tooth Cup and KB Cup - South Sydney beating Cronulla-Sutherland 10-2 (1981) and Manly beating the Newtown Jets 23-8 (1982). He also handled Game Two of the 1983 State of Origin series (won 10-6 by NSW at the SCG), and four Test matches (1982-84). Gocher served the NSW Rugby League Referees Association with distinction as Treasurer from 1979-1983 and was recognised for his service with Life Membership of the NSWRLRA in 1983. After he retired, he went into coaching referees and when the NRL was formed in 1998, Gocher became a video referee for a further 132 games, including the 1997 Super League Grand Final, the 2000 NRL Grand Final and the 1998 Origin series - the first to use a video referee.

Paul Griffin

Paul Griffin was a Life Member of the Hills Bulls Sports Club, and the current Senior Football Co-ordinator. He owned and operated Griffin Air Conditioning, which is a major sponsor of the Hills District Junior Rugby League Football Club that fields teams in junior and senior Rugby League competitions, Oztag and Touch Football. His support helped Hills Bulls win their first NSWRL Sydney Shield premiership in 2023 with a 34-30 win over St Marys Saints. He was recognised for his contribution to Community Rugby League after being presented with the NSWRL Ray Stellar Club Person of the Year Award in 2015.



Rees Duncan



John Gocher



Paul Griffin



John Elford





**Dave Grimmond**

A lightning-fast winger and uncompromising defender, Dave Grimmond was born in the Riverina district at Narrandera.

He started his career in rugby union and in 1963 earned the tag of champion sprinter after recording 10 seconds flat over 100 yards at the Country Athletics Championships.

He represented the Wallabies in one Test in 1964 before a series of injuries and failure to gain further national honours prompted him to switch codes in 1968. He played Rugby League with Queanbeyan United, later turning down an offer to join Penrith after their admission into the competition in 1967. He gained representative honours in 1970 after being selected to be part of the NSW team that beat Queensland in a four-game series, with his highlight being two tries in the 34-8 win in Game Three.

**Terry Hill**

Terry Hill was a bullocking centre with a big personality whose Rugby League career stretched over five clubs and included representative appearances for Australia and NSW.

Born in Newtown, Hill played his junior football with the Zetland United Panthers and represented South Sydney Rabbitohs in the Harold Matthews Cup and SG Ball Cup. He made his first grade debut for the club in 1990 at age 18, but his early career is best remembered for being the catalyst that ended the controversial draft system.

Hill was poised to join Western Suburbs Magpies when Eastern Suburbs stepped in and selected him as a draft choice in 1991. Hill was forced to play for the Roosters before the Players Association won a legal challenge that prompted the demise of the draft and allowed Hill to join the Magpies.

Hill lasted two seasons at Wests before signing with Manly where he won the 1996 Premiership, as well as playing in the losing Grand Final team against Newcastle in 1997 which is regarded as one of the game's greatest deciders.

Hill had a lengthy representative career which included 14 appearances for NSW from 1993-2000, five games for City Origin from 1993-97 and 17 games for Australia. Following his retirement in 2005, Hill went on to coach Umina and Kincumber in the Country Rugby League.

**Danielle Kifooti**

Danielle Kifooti was a NSWRL Club Support Coordinator who started work in 2014 as the NSWRL Academy's Office Manager and successfully pulled together the organisation's Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures.

In 2017 Club and Competition Coordinator positions were created for the NSWRL community and Danielle was appointed to the Balmain, South Sydney and Sydney Roosters Districts.

She later moved onto the Manly Warringah and North Sydney Districts, where her passion for Community Rugby League united people, drawing on her experiences in the area as a former Beacon Hill Bears Club President.

Her initiatives included starting Manly Minis to attract more children to the game, the NSWRL's annual Respect Round, the Ground Managers Training resource and the NSWRL's Club Hub website for all Junior Rugby League assets.

**Ron Taylor**

Ron Taylor was a True Blue and a contemporary of other NSW greats and Test players Keith Barnes, Norm Provan and Tony Brown.

He was a centre who scored seven tries in his 49 first grade games for both Eastern Suburbs (1953-54) and South Sydney (1957-61), alongside kicking 49 goals.

A serious shoulder injury, while playing with the Roosters, initially forced Taylor's retirement at the end of the 1954 season, but he recovered sufficiently to be lured back to Rugby League and play 35 games for the Rabbitohs.

In 1958 he ran onto the SCG with Balmain's 'Golden Boots' Barnes, St George legend Provan and Newton's Australian five-eighth Tony Brown as part of the NSW Firsts in 1958, which beat the Queensland Firsts 25-14 to win the Interstate Series.

His other representative games included Sydney Firsts, NSW City Firsts and NSW City Seconds.



Terry Hill



Dave Grimmond



Ron Taylor



Danielle Kifooti







# RECORDS



NSWRL LIFE MEMBERS

NAME, ELECTED			
Abercrombie, J 1908	Stuntz, J 1908	Latta, RA 1936	Kelly, LT 1975
Boss, G 1908	Trumper, V 1908	Johnston, A 1938	Simpson, SA 1975
Brackenreg, H 1908	Weymark, A 1908	Gray, A 1939	Moses, JA BEM 1975
Brackenreg, G 1908	Ball, SG 1912	Lynch, CJ 1939	Clunas, G 1975
Bressington, G 1908	Quinlan, J 1912	Bennett, WG 1941	Cahill, C 1976
Buckle, A 1908	Carpenter, S 1913	Corbett, CG 1941	Goodman, TL MBE 1976
Burdon, A 1908	Frawley, D 1913	Fusedale, RG 1942	Fry, D 1978
Burdon, R 1908	Blue, JE 1914	Horne, JP 1943	Ibbitson, RJ 1978
Cann, WA 1908	Brennan, G 1914	Pert, S 1944	Shiner, A OAM 1978
Carty, R 1908	Edwards, J 1914	Russell, CJ 1944	O'Brien, J 1979
Cheadle, F 1908	Hooper, EJ 1914	Oxford, A 1946	Arthurson, KR AM 1979
Conlon, A 1908	Larkin, Serg EJ MLA 1914	Steel, LW 1947	Beaver, WF 1979
Costello, TB 1908	Mead, EJ 1914	Fahy, CW 1949	Cox, EH OAM 1980
Courtney, E (Jnr) 1908	Moffatt, JB 1914	Matthews, HR MBE 1949	Humphreys, KE 1980
Courtney, E (Snr) 1908	Phelan, TE 1914	Justice, AJ 1950	Bellew, TJ OAM 1981
Cribb, J 1908	Joynton Smith, J, the Hon 1914	Brennan, MT 1952	Gibson, CH 1981
D'Alpuget, L 1908	Upton, CHJ 1915	Bowd, HR 1953	Willoughby, G 1982
Devereaux, J 1908	Webb, W 1915	Buckley, WG OBE 1953	Bell, L 1982
Dobbs, A 1908	Ellis, WJ 1916	Wales, BP 1954	Johnson, F OAM 1982
Fenely, J 1908	Kelley, HPS 1916	Brand, AW 1955	Duggan, JT 1983
Flegg, H 1908	Butler, A 1919	Burns, EE 1955	Holman, KV MBE 1983
Ford, CH 1908	Chaseling, WA 1919	McGauley, JV 1956	O'Donnell, RS 1983
Fry, E 1908	Latta, A 1919	Robinson, NC 1957	Stephen, KG 1984
Giltinan, JJ (Founder) 1908	McFayden, E 1920	Kessey, JH 1958	Farrington, FJ 1984
Glanville, H 1908	Broomham, A 1921	Folwell, A 1959	Abbott, RJ AM 1985
Graves, R 1908	Davis, H 1921	Neill, JC 1959	Walsh, F 1985
Halloway, A 1908	Fitzgerald, T 1921	Evatt, Dr HV 1960	Pearce, CF 1985
Hamill, HC 1908	Hallett, H 1921	Dunn, RA OAM 1960	Barnhill, D 1986
Headley, C 1908	Lennon, W 1921	Lynch, JE 1961	Hammerton, EAE OAM 1986
Hennessy, AS 1908	McDougall, C 1921	Munro, JL 1961	Price, G 1986
Hoyle, HC MLA 1908	McGrath, J 1921	O'Neill, SA 1961	Hyde, FP MBE, OAM 1987
Hutcheson, C 1908	Ballerum, A 1922	Drews, JR 1966	Williams, LG 1987
Lawrence, HE 1908	Lennon, R 1922	Watson, DW 1966	Hampstead, J 1988
Lutge, D 1908	Apoloney, J 1923	Ford, JJ 1968	McCaffery, KA 1988
Mable, R 1908	Dawson, G 1923	O'Toole, JJ MBE OBE 1968	Porter, M 1988
Macnamara, ALH 1908	Kelly, WJ 1924	Kingston, AM 1969	Bull, ER 1989
McQuade, P 1908	McMahon, TI 1924	Bishop, G 1971	Moore, PS OAM 1989
Messenger, HH 1908	Flowers, F the Hon, MLC 1924	Liston, R 1971	McIntyre, LJ OAM 1989
Miller, HR 1908	Fraser, C 1925	Toby, A 1971	Neville, A 1989
Moir, P 1908	Schofield, L 1926	Wigzell, CE BEM 1971	Byrne, VJ OAM 1990
Noble, W 1908	Dargan, JL 1927	Charlton, KJ 1971	Kimberley, W 1991
Odbert, H 1908	Elliot, CJ 1927	Mackie, AI MBE 1971	Daley, D 1992
O'Farrell, T 1908	Haron, F 1928	McKinnon, RH BEM 1972	Richards, A 1993
Pearce, S 1908	Delaney, F 1931	Kell, C 1972	Barnes, WK AM 1994
Rosenfeld, A 1908	Hawkes, A 1931	Argent, JN OBE, OAM 1973	Rayner, W 1995
Scott, NH 1908	Lees, C 1931	Cohen, O 1973	Broughton, P 1995
Smallwood, R 1908	Neill, W 1931	Loveday, T 1973	Doust, SL OAM 1995
Smith, H 1908	Horder, H 1931	Facer, F 1974	McCall, I 1995
Stack, J 1908	Burge, F 1934	Stehr, AB 1974	Matthews, L 1996
	Bruce, W 1935	Walsh, K 1974	Quayle, J 1996
	Savage, RE the Hon MLC 1935	Forbes, HH 1975	Raper, J MBE 1997

CRL LIFE MEMBERS

Monaghan, Dr W 1997	Harrison, D 2019	Cahill, FJ	Devlin, F
Lumsden, E 1998	Marsh, T 2019	Ferris, HC	McIntrye, L
Mossop, R 1999	Carroll, B 2019	McGuire, J	Sharpe, J
Falla, M 2000	Hollingsworth, Dr J 2019	Gleeson, MJ	Gale, N
Hayes, J 2000	Rossiter, P 2019	Thirwell, TL	McAlpine, E
Lanesbury, R 2000	Anderson, J OAM 2019	Quinn, J	Barnhill, D
Millward, R, OAM 2001	Smith, N 2019	O'Malley, D	Cosgrove, K
Nelson, B OAM 2001	Latter, J 2019	Elliott, AC	McNamara, K
Watson, R 2001	McDonald, P 2019	Flanigan, W	Bartlett, J
Walsh, B OAM 2002	Anderson, J 2019	Brazil, H	Fawkner, J
Wright, G 2002	Walsh, R 2019	Loveday, T	Bowden, J
Corcoran, P AM 2003	Ghosn, S 2020	Meaney, F	Tilson, R
Roberts, K 2003	Mulholland, P 2020	Chandler, E	Kelly, M
Elliss, P 2004	Rowney, T 2020	Kingston, AM	Middleton, H
Massey, R 2004	Betts, S 2021	O'Toole, J OAM	Riordan, J
McCarthy, R MBE 2004	Carr, G 2023	Gillard, H	Best, N
Coote, RAM 2005	Mieni, S 2023	Ward, J	Lumsden, E
Gibson, J OAM 2005	Bridge, W 2024	Rigby, E	Tiernan, G
Thompson, F 2005	Brady, T 2024	Roach, V	Farmer, T
Bampton, D OAM 2006		Gahan, J	Williams, W
Feltis, D OAM 2006		Hattam, J	Smith, K
Stone, M 2006		Walsh, K	Barker, G
Spagarino, D 2007		Thom, J	
Riordan, J 2007		Wilson, J	
Cleary, MA AO 2008		Hagan, AP	
Kurtz, B 2008		Moreland, D	
Piggins, G 2008		Smith, F	
Fitzgerald, D AM 2009		Baker, R	
Powell R 2009		Slogget, G	
Aggett, K 2012		Sercombe, S	
Wallace, B 2012		Barrett, V	
King, J 2013		Maitland, B	
Renilson, C 2013			
Chalk, J OAM 2014			
McMartin, J 2014			
Politis, N AM 2015			
Cronin, M OAM 2016			
Byrne, V 2019			
Byrnes, A OAM 2019			
Kimberley, W 2019			
Lanesbury, R 2019			
O'Dwyer, J OAM 2019			
Kelly, J 2019			
Mayhew, G 2019			
Charters, N 2019			
Nelson, T 2019			
Riolo, K OAM 2019			
Wright, G 2019			
Hamilton, R OAM 2019			
Hardy, K OAM 2019			
Fish, F 2019			





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	2024 NSW 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	2024 Queensland 2-1
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	2022 NSW
2013 NSW	2023 NSW
2014 NSW	2024 NSW
2015 NSW	
2016 NSW	
2017 NSW	
2018 Queensland	
2019 NSW	
2020 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)	
2021 Not contested (COVID-19 pandemic)	

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
2024 NSW

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





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
					2024 City

COUNTRY V CITY  
UNDER 18s BOYS

2021 City  
2022 City  
2023 City  
2024 City

COUNTRY V CITY  
UNDER 16s BOYS

2021 City  
2022 City  
2023 City  
2024 City

COUNTRY V CITY WOMEN

2017 City  
2018 Not held  
2019 Not held  
2020 Not held  
2021 City  
2022 Country  
2023 Country  
2024 Not held

COUNTRY V CITY  
UNDER 19s WOMEN

2023 City  
2024 Country

COUNTRY V CITY  
UNDER 17s GIRLS

2023 City  
2024 City





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
	2024 Penrith, Melbourne

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	2024 Newtown





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  
2024 Sydney Roosters, Cronulla-Sutherland

JERSEY FLEGG CUP

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

Year, Premiers

1961 Manly Warringah	1988 Manly Warringah
1962 South Sydney	1989 Canberra
1963 Canterbury-Bankstown	1990 Parramatta
1964 South Sydney	1991 Newcastle
1965 Western Suburbs	1992 Newcastle
1966 South Sydney	1993 Canberra
1967 South Sydney	1994 Balmain
1968 South Sydney	1995 Sydney City
1969 South Sydney	1996 St George
1970 Parramatta	1997 Balmain
1971 Canterbury-Bankstown	1998 North Sydney
1972 South Sydney	1999 Canterbury
1973 Balmain	2000 Bulldogs
1974 Manly Warringah	2001 Bulldogs
1975 St George	2002 Sydney Roosters
1976 Canterbury-Bankstown	2003 Bulldogs
1977 Penrith	2004 Sydney Roosters
1978 South Sydney	2005 St George Illawarra
1979 Canterbury-Bankstown	2006 Penrith
1980 Balmain	2007 Penrith
1981 Western Suburbs	2018 Cronulla-Sutherland
1982 Balmain	2019 South Sydney
1983 Canterbury-Bankstown	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1984 Balmain	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1985 Parramatta	2022 Penrith
1986 Penrith	2023 Canterbury-Bankstown
1987 Manly Warringah	2024 Canterbury-Bankstown

SYDNEY SHIELD

Year, Premiers

2012 Wentworthville	2019 Ryde-Easwood
2013 Belrose	2020 Cronulla-Caringbah
2014 East Campbelltown	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
2015 Wentworthville	2022 St Marys
2016 East Campbelltown	2023 Hills Bulls
2017 St Marys	2024 Brothers
2018 East Campbelltown	

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  
2024 Illawarra

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  
2024 Glebe Dirty Reds

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  
2024 Maitland

ILLAWARRA CUP

Year, Premiers

2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)  
2022 Collegians  
2023 Thirroul  
2024 Western Suburbs

PETER MCDONALD PREMIERSHIP

Year, Premiers

2022 Forbes  
2023 Dubbo CYMS  
2024 Mudgee

MEN’S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Monaro  
2022 Illawarra South Coast  
2023 Newcastle  
2024 Newcastle

WOMEN’S COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year, Premiers

2021 Newcastle-Maitland Region  
2022 Central Coast  
2023 Monaro  
2024 Western Rams



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	2024 St George

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
2024 Illawarra

LAURIE DALEY CUP

Laurie Daley Cup 2018-present.

Year, Premiers	
2018 Newcastle	2022 Illawarra South Coast
2019 Illawarra South Coast	2023 Illawarra South Coast
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)	2024 Monaro
2021 Central Coast	

HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP

Year, Premiers		
1970 Parramatta	1988 Parramatta	2008 Parramatta
1971 Parramatta	1989 Penrith	2009 Bulldogs
1972 Parramatta	1990 Parramatta	2010 Penrith
1973 Cronulla-Sutherland	1991 Gold Coast	2011 Canterbury-Bankstown
1974 South Sydney	1992 Newcastle	2012 Parramatta
1975 Parramatta	1993 Canberra	2013 Parramatta
1976 Parramatta	1994 Parramatta	2014 Newcastle
1977 Cronulla-Sutherland	1995 Canberra	2015 Cronulla-Sutherland
1978 Canberra	1996 Illawarra	2016 Parramatta
1979 Penrith	1997 Parramatta	2017 Newcastle
1980 Group 12	1998 Parramatta	2018 Manly Warringah
1981 Parramatta	1999 Parramatta	2019 Newcastle
1982 Parramatta	2000 Newcastle	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1983 Group 6	2001 Cronulla-Sutherland	2021 Manly Warringah
1984 Canberra	2002 Penrith	2001 Cronulla-Sutherland
1985 Penrith	2003 Parramatta	2022 Western Suburbs Magpies
1986 Parramatta	2004 Parramatta	2023 Canterbury-Bankstown
1987 Illawarra	2005 Penrith	2024 Warriors
	2006 Penrith	
	2007 Bulldogs	

ANDREW JOHNS CUP

Andrew Johns Cup 2018-present.

Year, Premiers	
2018 Western Rams	2022 Northern Rivers
2019 Northern Rivers	2023 Central Coast
2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)	2024 Central Coast
2021 Central Coast	

LISA FIAOLA CUP (METROPOLITAN)

2024 Canterbury-Bankstown

LISA FIAOLA CUP (REGIONAL)

2024 Western Rams





PRESIDENTS CUP

Statewide third-tier competition 2020-2023.

Year, Premiers		
1910 Eastern Suburbs	1950 Newtown	1991 Canterbury-Bankstown
1911 Eastern Suburbs	1951 South Sydney	1992 Western Suburbs
1912 Balmain	1952 Balmain	1993 Eastern Suburbs
1913 Eastern Suburbs	1953 South Sydney	1994 Cronulla-Sutherland
1914 Balmain	1954 Balmain	1995 Canberra
1915 Eastern Suburbs	1955 Eastern Suburbs	1996 South Queensland
1916 No Competition	1956 Newtown	1997 Parramatta
1917 No Competition	1957 St George	1998 Canterbury-Bankstown
1918 North Sydney	1958 Western Suburbs	1999 Parramatta
1919 Newtown	1959 Balmain	2000 Bulldogs
1920 Eastern Suburbs	1960 South Sydney	2001 St George Illawarra
1921 Newtown	1961 South Sydney	2002 Bulldogs
1922 Eastern Suburbs	1962 South Sydney	2003 Canberra
1923 Eastern Suburbs	1963 South Sydney	2004 Sydney Roosters
1924 Eastern Suburbs	1964 South Sydney	2005 Parramatta
1925 Western Suburbs	1965 South Sydney	2006 Parramatta
1926 Balmain	1966 Balmain	2020 Maitland
1927 Eastern Suburbs	1967 Balmain	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1928 Newtown	1968 South Sydney	2022 Maitland
1929 Balmain	1969 South Sydney	2023 Maitland
1930 Balmain	1970 Manly Warringah	2024 Not held
1931 Canterbury-Bankstown	1971 South Sydney	
1932 Balmain	1972 South Sydney	
1933 North Sydney	1973 Balmain	
1934 Southern Districts	1974 South Sydney	
1935 St George	1975 Parramatta	
1936 South Sydney	1976 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1937 Northern Suburbs	1977 South Sydney	
1938 Eastern Suburbs	1978 Eastern Suburbs	
1939 Balmain	1979 Parramatta	
1940 Balmain	1980 South Sydney	
1941 St George	1981 St George	
1942 South Sydney	1982 South Sydney	
1943 South Sydney	1983 South Sydney	
1944 Newtown	1984 Illawarra	
1945 Western Suburbs	1985 Penrith	
1946 Manly Warringah	1986 Penrith	
1947 Western Suburbs	1987 Eastern Suburbs	
1948 Eastern Suburbs	1988 Parramatta	
1949 Eastern Suburbs	1989 South Sydney	
	1990 Canberra	

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Flowers Memorial Pennant

Year, Premiers		
1930 Eastern Suburbs	1968 South Sydney	2004 Sydney Roosters
1931 Eastern Suburbs	1969 South Sydney	2005 Parramatta
1932 South Sydney	1970 Eastern Suburbs	2006 Sydney Roosters
1933 South Sydney	1971 St George	2007 Penrith
1934 Eastern Suburbs	1972 Manly Warringah	2008 Parramatta
1935 Eastern Suburbs	1973 Newtown	2009 Bulldogs
1936 Eastern Suburbs	1974 Eastern Suburbs	2010 Cronulla-Sutherland
1937 Eastern Suburbs	1975 Eastern Suburbs	2011 Cronulla-Sutherland
1938 Canterbury-Bankstown	1976 Parramatta	2012 Balmain
1939 Canterbury-Bankstown	1977 Parramatta	2013 Cronulla-Sutherland
1940 St George	1978 Parramatta	2014 Penrith
1941 Balmain	1979 Parramatta	2015 Penrith
1942 St George	1980 Parramatta	2016 Mounties
1943 Balmain	1981 Parramatta	2017 Mounties
1944 Balmain	1982 Parramatta	2018 Penrith
1945 Eastern Suburbs	1983 Manly Warringah	2019 Wentworthville
1946 St George	1984 St George	2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1947 Balmain	1985 St George	2021 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
1948 Western Suburbs	1986 Parramatta	2022 Penrith
1949 St George	1987 Manly Warringah	2023 Canterbury-Bankstown
1950 Balmain	1988 Manly Warringah	2024 Canterbury-Bankstown
1951 St George	1989 South Sydney	
1952 South Sydney	1990 Canberra	
1953 South Sydney	1991 Western Suburbs	
1954 South Sydney	1992 Brisbane/Newcastle	
1955 St George	1993 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1956 St George	1994 Canterbury-Bankstown	
1957 St George	1995 Cronulla-Sutherland	
1958 St George	1996 Brisbane	
1959 St George	1997 Parramatta	
1960 Western Suburbs	1998 Parramatta	
1961 Western Suburbs	1999 Parramatta	
1962 St George	2000 Parramatta	
1963 St George	2001 Parramatta	
1964 St George	2002 Parramatta	
1965 St George	2003 Parramatta	
1966 St George		
1967 South Sydney		



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
- 2024 Angus Crichton

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
- 2024 Jake Trbojevic

NSWRL HALL OF FAME

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2017 Clive Churchill  | 2019 Steve Mortimer   |
| 2017 John Raper       | 2019 Tommy Raudonikis |
| 2017 Reg Gasnier      | 2021 Billy Smith      |
| 2017 Bob Fulton       | 2021 Brett Kenny      |
| 2017 Graeme Langlands | 2021 Glenn Lazarus    |
| 2017 Arthur Beetson   | 2022 Ken Kearney      |
| 2017 Andrew Johns     | 2022 Harry Wells      |
| 2017 Bradley Clyde    | 2022 Ricky Stuart     |
| 2017 Ron Coote        | 2023 Dave Brown       |
| 2017 Laurie Daley     | 2023 Danny Buderus    |
| 2017 Brad Fittler     | 2023 Frank Burge      |
| 2017 Bob McCarthy     | 2023 Michael Cronin   |
| 2017 Norm Provan      | 2023 Dally Messenger  |
| 2018 Keith Holman     | 2024 Steve Roach      |
| 2018 Ken Irvine       | 2024 Michael O'Connor |
| 2018 Steve Rogers     |                       |

COUNTRY RUGBY LEAGUE  
WOMEN’S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- 2020 Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)
- 2021 Chantelle Graham (South Newcastle Lions)
- 2022 Jessica Gentle (Central Coast Roosters)
- 2023 Krystal Blackwell (Goulburn City Bulldogs)
- 2024 Alicia Earsman (Canowindra Tigers)

NSW BLUES 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
- 2024 Jaime Chapman

NSW BLUES WOMEN’S AWARD

- 2022 Caitlan Johnston
- 2023 Kezie Apps
- 2024 Yasmin Clydsdale

COUNTRY RUGBY LEAGUE  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1965 Laurie Moraschi (Griffith)                | 1994 Brian Quinton (Kurri Kurri)                               |
| 1966 Terry Pannowitz (Maitland)                | 1995 Jamy Forbes (Cessnock)                                    |
| 1967 Allan Thompson (Newcastle)                | 1996 Brett Gallard (Orange CYMS)                               |
| 1968 Allan Thompson (Newcastle)                | 1997 Darren Leaney (Bellingen)                                 |
| 1969 John Cootes (Newcastle)                   | 1998 Paul Skovgaard (Western Suburbs/Newcastle)                |
| 1970 Les Hutchings (Condobolin)                | 1999 Troy Clear (West Belconnen)                               |
| 1971 Dick Jefferey (Glen Innes)                | 2000 Jarrod O’Doherty (Western Suburbs/Newcastle)              |
| 1972 Brian Burke (Maitland)                    | 2001 Jamie O’Connor (Burleigh)                                 |
| 1973 John Donnelly (Gunnedah)                  | 2002 Ryan Dagwell (Western Suburbs/Newcastle)                  |
| 1974 Michael Cronin (Gerringong)               | 2003 John Johnson (Scone)                                      |
| 1975 Steve Hewson (Queanbeyan United)          | 2004 Phil Stonham (Queanbeyan)                                 |
| 1976 Peter Kennedy (Forbes)                    | 2005 Chris Bailey (Northern Blues)                             |
| 1977 Barry Pearson (Illawarra Western Suburbs) | 2006 Dean Amos (Wyong) and Darren Jackson (Cobar)              |
| 1978 Ray Brown (Griffith Waratahs)             | 2007 David McLean (Berkeley)                                   |
| 1979 Pat Smith (Maitland)                      | 2008 Grant Wooden (Wagga Kangaroos)                            |
| 1980 Perry Haddock (Erina)                     | 2009 Grant Wooden (Wagga Kangaroos)                            |
| 1981 Terry Regan (Cessnock)                    | 2010 Mitch Williams (Wyong Roos)                               |
| 1982 Willie Tarry (Cessnock)                   | 2011 Jimmy Grehan (Wests Illawarra)                            |
| 1983 Paul Field (Cootamundra)                  | 2012 Todd Maloney (Umina)                                      |
| 1984 Ross Gibson (Wyong)                       | 2013 Riley Brown (Cessnock) and Rory O’Brien (Wests Illawarra) |
| 1985 Peter Hawthorne (Griffith)                | 2014 Chris Adams (Cessnock)                                    |
| 1986 Neil Moy (Parkes)                         | 2015 Jarrod Thompson (Collegians)                              |
| 1987 Steve Walters (Lakes United)              | 2016 Chris Adams (Lakes United)                                |
| 1988 Chris Cumming (Aberdeen)                  | 2017 Tori Freeman-Quay (West Belconnen)                        |
| 1989 Mark Ryan (Moree)                         | 2018 Caleb Ziebell (Cudgen Hornets)                            |
| 1990 Paul Danes (Wagga Magpies)                | 2019 Cameron Vazzoler (Kiama)                                  |
| 1991 Richard Jones (South Newcastle)           | 2020Not awarded (COVID-19 pandemic)                            |
| 1992 Trevor Crow (South Newcastle)             | 2021 Jake Goodwin (West Wyalong)                               |
| 1993 Warren Douch (Erina)                      | 2022 Jake Brisbane (Warilla-Lake South)                        |
|  | 2023 Chad O’Donnell (Maitland)                                 |
|  | 2024 Josh Ayers (Queanbeyan)                                   |







# 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
Paul Conlon	District Court Judge (Acting). Former Crown Prosecutor and Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor. Former Chairman, NRL Judiciary.	Chairman	Since 26 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

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.

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
Paul Conlon	18	18
John Anderson OAM	18	18
Bob Walsh	18	18
Terence Brady	18	17
Carolyn Campbell	18	16
Joe Kelly	18	17
The Hon. Kevin Greene AM	18	18

Paul Conlon has served as Chairman of the Board since 26 February 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

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



DIRECTORS’ REPORT

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND RESULTS OF THOSE OPERATIONS

The net surplus of the Company from operations is \$6,554,875 (2023: deficit of \$720,741). The Directors are satisfied with the performance and operations of the Company during the financial year.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

The statutory accounts of the Company for the 2023 financial year reported that the adequacy of the funding from the Australian Rugby League Commission for the 2023 season, as required by the New Members Agreement, was the subject of an ongoing dispute.

During the course of the financial year, the dispute was resolved with the outcome that the Company received additional funds from the Australian Rugby League Commission in the sum of \$3,123,998 relating to the 2023 financial year, representing a further amount constituting adequate funding under the New Members Agreement. This amount, having been received in the course of the financial year, has been recorded by the Company as Revenue in the 2024 financial year, but to reflect the spread of Revenue between the 2023 financial year and the 2024 financial year, this further amount of \$3,123,998 has been reallocated in the Statement below from 2024 Revenue to 2023 Revenue. Accordingly, the Statement below represents a summary of Profit and Loss and other Comprehensive Income, normalised between the 2023 financial year and the 2024 financial year, to take account of the foregoing.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue	49,325,182	43,999,914
Cost of Sales	(689,275)	(434,179)
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>48,635,907</b>	<b>43,565,735</b>
Centre of Excellence	507,902	520,921
Operating Expenses	(46,660,985)	(42,563,222)
<b>Results from operating activities</b>	<b>2,482,824</b>	<b>1,523,434</b>
Financing income	1,058,053	769,826
<b>Surplus for the period</b>	<b>3,540,877</b>	<b>2,293,260</b>

DIVIDENDS

The company is a not-for-profit organisation and is prevented by its constitution from paying dividends.

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.

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.

DIRECTORS’ REPORT

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE OF OFFICERS

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

The Company is a public company limited by guarantee and without share capital. In accordance with the constitution of the Company, every member of the Company undertakes to contribute an amount limited to \$5 per member in the event of the winding up of the Company during the time he or she is a member or within one year thereafter. The total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$195. (2023: \$195).

	2024	2023
Number of members at 31 October	39	39

PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY

There are no current proceedings on behalf of the Company.

This report is made out in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



Paul Conlon  
Chairman  
Dated at Sydney this 13th December 2024





## FINANCIALS

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

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Revenue	52,449,180	40,875,916
Cost of sales	(689,275)	(434,181)
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>	<b>51,759,905</b>	<b>40,441,735</b>
Centre of Excellence - tenants	380,873	380,873
Centre of Excellence - field hire	127,029	140,048
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(1,121,046)	(1,035,666)
Development expenses	(9,024,991)	(7,621,622)
Employee expenses	(11,329,118)	(10,963,729)
Equipment maintenance expenses	(411,489)	(541,637)
General expenses	(993,684)	(1,186,880)
Corporate events expenses	(483,954)	(414,762)
Occupancy expenses	(1,032,974)	(1,287,822)
Professional services expenses	(1,334,712)	(704,639)
Referee and game expenses	(18,705,772)	(16,478,284)
Sponsorship expenses	(1,637,082)	(1,543,037)
Telecommunications expenses	(696,163)	(675,145)
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>5,496,822</b>	<b>(1,490,567)</b>
Financing income	1,118,028	818,010
Financing expenses	(59,975)	(48,184)
<b>NET FINANCING INCOME</b>	<b>1,058,053</b>	<b>769,826</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>6,554,875</b>	<b>(720,741)</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<b>6,554,875</b>	<b>(720,741)</b>

### NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2024	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	12,111,655	9,946,905
Trade and other receivables	360,401	2,913,867
Inventories	44,316	68,417
Prepayments	1,048,664	801,364
Accrued revenue	503,764	429,502
Financial assets	16,612,684	11,420,229
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>30,681,484</b>	<b>25,580,284</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	21,916,735	22,311,028
Intangibles	4	4
Accrued revenue	-	150,000
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>21,916,739</b>	<b>22,461,032</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>52,598,223</b>	<b>48,041,316</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	3,341,450	5,618,166
Deferred Centre of Excellence funding	300,000	300,000
Deferred Revenue	3,488,259	2,866,169
Employee benefits	2,172,227	1,863,400
Current lease liability	272,312	292,134
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>9,574,248</b>	<b>10,939,869</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	2,478,438	2,649,614
Deferred Centre of Excellence funding	975,000	1,275,000
Employee benefits	294,760	387,662
Non-Current lease liability	437,154	505,424
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,185,352</b>	<b>4,817,700</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>13,759,600</b>	<b>15,757,569</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>38,838,623</b>	<b>32,283,747</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated funds	33,190,677	26,635,801
Reserve	5,647,946	5,647,946
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>38,838,623</b>	<b>32,283,747</b>





NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash receipts from customers, sponsors and funders (inclusive of GST)	60,666,365	43,997,438
Cash paid to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(53,556,423)	(44,915,926)
<b>NET CASH FROM/(USED) IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>7,109,942</b>	<b>(918,488)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest received	1,074,599	637,693
Transfer of term deposit to cash and cash equivalents	839,630	246,822
Investments in debt securities	(6,019,030)	-
Distributions received	4,418	-
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(501,445)	(63,292)
Proceeds from sale of property,plant and equipment	-	4,850
<b>NET CASH (USED IN)/FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(4,601,828)</b>	<b>826,073</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Lease payments	(343,364)	(255,722)
<b>NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(343,364)</b>	<b>(255,722)</b>
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,164,750	(348,137)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 NOVEMBER	9,946,905	10,295,042
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 OCTOBER</b>	<b>12,111,655</b>	<b>9,946,905</b>

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE LIMITED  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS

	Accumulated Funds (\$)	Reserve (\$)	Total Equity (\$)
<b>BALANCE AT 1 NOVEMBER 2022</b>	<b>27,356,542</b>	<b>5,647,946</b>	<b>33,004,488</b>
Deficit for the year	(720,741)	-	(720,741)
<b>BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2023</b>	<b>26,635,801</b>	<b>5,647,946</b>	<b>32,283,747</b>
Surplus for the year	6,554,875	-	6,554,875
<b>BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2024</b>	<b>33,190,676</b>	<b>5,647,946</b>	<b>38,838,622</b>

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

FUNCTIONAL AND PRESENTATION CURRENCY

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



REVENUE

The Company generates revenue primarily from the fostering and propagation of Rugby League in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

In the following table revenue from contracts with customers is disaggregated by major products and service lines.

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Sponsorship and marketing revenue	9,028,734	8,574,814
ARLC Funding - NSWRL	19,900,386	14,351,017
Elite pathways funding	4,550,000	4,440,000
Other grant and subsidies	1,874,064	1,280,853
Blatchys Blues & related revenue	1,104,824	996,527
Royalties revenue	1,356,846	1,328,342
NSWRL representative funding	5,202,518	4,269,673
Recovered insurance costs	4,384,210	3,884,299
Recovered costs - football games	3,011,123	1,284,669
Other revenue	2,036,475	465,722
TOTAL MAJOR PRODUCTS/SERVICE LINES	52,449,180	40,875,916

EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Salaries and wages	9,260,564	8,845,935
Superannuation contributions	949,445	869,207
Other employment expenses	1,119,109	1,248,587
TOTAL EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	11,329,118	10,963,729

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	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
The company has guaranteed the repayment of the following bank facilities should they be called upon:  Elobay Pty Limited	17,421	17,421
The Company holds a lease agreement with the Minister of Education which expires on 31 December 2040. Under the terms of the lease agreement, the Company may be required to make good in respect of the Narrabeen Academy site on the termination of the lease. The directors do not believe that it is probable that a future outflow of economic benefits will be required on termination and accordingly a provision for make good has not been provided for within the annual financial report.  During the prior year, the usage of the Narrabeen premises was revised, which is under going review. An onerous contract provision of \$200,000 has been taken up in the prior year in respect of ongoing costs to be incurred over the life of the lease.  There are no further contingent assets or liabilities at 31 October 2024.		

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There has not arisen in the interval between end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and usual 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.



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 New South Wales Rugby League Limited (the Company):

- a) The Company is not publicly accountable;
- b) The financial statements and notes that as set out on pages 9 to 31 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 2024 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) The Consolidated entity disclosure statement as at 31 October 2024 set out on page 32 is true and correct: and
- d) 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 13th day of December 2024.



Paul Conlon  
Chairman



Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of New South Wales Rugby League Limited

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 2024. 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 2024
- Summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Summary statement of changes in members' fund, and Summary of cash flows for the year then ended
- Related notes.

Scope of the Summary Financial Statements

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

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

The Audited Financial Report and our auditor's report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the Audited Financial Report in our auditor's report dated 13 December 2024.





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 13 December 2024.

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 2024.



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*.

*K/ma*

KPMG

Sydney

24 January 2025



PARTNERS



PROUD SUPPORTERS







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