

# 2024



## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

More people fell in love with rugby league in 2024.

**\$45.24M**

477 Queensland clubs and entities excelled in bringing more funding to the game than ever before with the backing of the QRL's Infrastructure Strategy.

**430**

The number of rugby league matches livestreamed on the Qplus.tv platform with a total of 266,235 views for a 24 per cent increase compared to last year.

**25,492**

The opening game of the women's State of Origin series at Suncorp Stadium broke attendance and television rating records. The official crowd figure of 25,492 for the first match of the historic three-match series in Brisbane set a new benchmark. But such is the popularity of the women's game, this figure was eclipsed in Game II, the start of Queensland's epic fightback.

**35,983**

A record number of Maroons Members displayed their passion for rugby league in Queensland.

**70,636**

Community club participation grew by more than four per cent thanks to the incredible dedication and passion of the volunteers, coaches and referees who delivered the game in communities each week.

**1M**

The Queensland Maroons Facebook page secured a milestone of its own by reaching one million followers. Maroons Instagram also reached 500,000 followers as the strength and reach of the Maroons brand flourished.

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QRL deputy chair  
Naomi McCarthy

# QRL LEADERS

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is with pleasure that I deliver you this report and the 2024 Queensland Rugby League results following an outstanding season.

As custodians of the game, we are resolute in our commitment to lead and serve the rugby league community in Queensland.

We have a long and proud history and play a vital role in the game, and this is why we campaigned the Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) for adequate funding.

With funding secured over the next three years, we can now plan with confidence and implement programs and initiatives that support all levels of the game, from community rugby league through to our State of Origin programs.

Stability is now required. We have the platform that allows a very committed QRL team to drive standards and deliver a game that can be enjoyed by everyone.

As you read further into these pages, you will gain a deeper appreciation of our desire to create and support healthy community clubs and leagues – a critical part of our 2025 Game Plan.

We are certainly on the right path, given that our participation has grown by just under five per cent this year, which has been the case over the past few years.

However, there is always room for improvement and those in positions of trust must further their strong relationships with our long-standing volunteers and administrators, while at all times valuing the input of those new to the game.

While on the subject of administrators, we are fortunate in Queensland to have been served by one of the best.

Of course I speak of the recently retired Bruce Hatcher.

Bruce has been an absolute warrior for rugby league in Queensland, not only during his tenure on the board over the past 17 years, but in various roles associated with the game.

From his younger years as a member of the Queensland intensive training squad to his time on board with the Queensland Academy of Sport and QRL, Bruce's integrity, courage and honesty have stood tall.

Like many others, I have learnt enormously from Bruce, whose contribution has set an outstanding platform for the QRL to move forward under the leadership of chief executive officer Ben Ikin.

Ben is now firmly established in the role and is making a considerable impact across the many facets of our organisation.

With a true statewide footprint, QRL pathways are in great shape and continue to produce male and female players, coaches, referees, support staff and administrators for the elite level.

I am most encouraged by the depth of talent coming through our Under 17 and Under 19 statewide competitions, and into the men's Hostplus Cup and women's BMD Premiership.

Players from the Hostplus Cup are continually stepping up to the NRL, while current NRL squad members are also developing their games in Queensland's premier men's competition.

Having won three premierships in four years, as well as the NRL State Championship this season, the Norths Devils are the current benchmark of the Hostplus Cup.

Our statewide competition clubs are also committed to building sustainable female programs for players in their catchment areas.

This year we saw the Mackay Cutters claim the BMD Premiership; and in 2025 there will be two more teams challenging for the women's title following the inclusion of the Ipswich Jets and Northern Pride.

The expansion of this competition is a credit to the people involved across both community rugby league and our statewide competitions.

With the talent pool growing each year, fans can look forward to more and more competitive and skilful NRLW and State of Origin matches in the years to come.

This year's first ever three-match Origin series was simply brilliant, and credit must go to both states for producing an epic contest that drew record crowds and television ratings.

Queensland's extraordinary comeback in Game II in Newcastle deserves singling out and who will ever forget that incredibly special match-winning field goal by Lauren Brown.

While our men fell just short of a third consecutive Origin series win, the Maroons' Game III performance will go down as one of the most courageous efforts in Origin history.

We sincerely thank the NRL and NRLW clubs for their support of this year's men's and women's series; and for the part they play in the development of aspiring Queensland players, coaches and performance staff.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Former Origin Greats (FOGS), an organisation that is part of our 'DNA'.

As we sign off on 2024, we share our thanks to our partners for their significant investment into rugby league in Queensland.

Platinum partners Westpac, Puma and XXXX continue to impact the lives of Queenslanders in many ways, through their ongoing support of grassroots rugby league and our elite teams.

Major partners Ford, Hostplus, McDonald's, Queensland Government and Shell are also making a difference in Queensland communities through their commitment to the game.

And of course we are indebted to Harvey Norman and BMD for their ongoing contribution to our women's and girls' programs and competitions.

For this we say thank you, as every bit of support helps us unite and inspire Queenslanders through rugby league.

As Nelson Mandela once said, 'sport has the power to unite people in a way that little else does'.

How right he was.



**Brian Canavan**  
QRL Chair



# CEO REPORT

2024 was another big year for rugby league in Queensland, headlined by our Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons winning the first ever three game women's State of Origin series.

The back story to this historic victory is inspiring, and when told through the eyes of captain Ali Briggins, we better understand the journey for many of our elite female players.

As a young girl playing rugby league against the boys, Ali was better than most of them.

Good enough to be selected in an under 12s representative carnival and play against a young lad by the name of Daly Cherry-Evans.

But as good as Ali was, the rules of the day meant she had to give up the game at 13.

Never one to be beaten, Ali poured her energies into touch football and kept honing her skills for the day she would be allowed to re-enter the full contact version of the game.

When that fateful day finally arrived, a rugby league superstar quickly emerged, and the legend has been building ever since.

Like all our female trailblazers, it's been a tough and winding road for Ali, so I can't imagine how proud she must have felt leading out the Maroons onto Suncorp Stadium in front of 25,000 passionate fans.

To think that a young girl who had to give up the game would go on to captain a winning Queensland State of Origin team is incredible.

Ali's story captures every element of what makes our game great: courage, determination, aspiration, inspiration, losing, learning, winning, and most of all, enduring.

And like everyone who climbs to the top of the rugby league mountain, Ali's success couldn't have happened without a whole lot of good people supporting her along the way.

Those lucky few who get to pull on a Maroons jersey have all been coached, managed, refereed, served, and strapped by individuals who do what they do only for the love of the game.

Without those people, our volunteers, Ali Briggins and all her fellow Maroons don't get to climb that mountain, meaning our State of Origin success also belongs to them.

No volunteers, no Maroons, it's that simple, so to our volunteer army of 20,000, the QRL says thank you.

There were some other notable achievements worth celebrating across 2024:

- Registered club participation broke through 70,000 for the first time
- Norths Devils won their third Hostplus Cup premiership in four years, along with the NRL State Championship after overcoming the New South Wales Cup premiers
- Mackay Cutters flew the flag for regional Queensland with a superb grand final win in the expanded 10-team BMD Premiership
- Aspirational under 17 male and female players shone on and off the field as part of City versus Country development games, while the best of community rugby league also wore the City and Country colours with pride on QRL Grand Final day
- The juggernaut that is the annual men's State of Origin series rolled on with another epic contest between two fierce rivals; and the historic women's series set new attendance and television ratings records
- The QRL's Infrastructure Strategy helped deliver more funding for Queensland clubs and entities than ever before
- QRL and Queensland Touch Football formalised a three year partnership that will see both organisations work closer together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes

While we celebrated many highs, we also mourned the loss of some outstanding contributors to the game, most notably former QRL director Darryl Van de Velde.

Darryl's lifelong commitment to rugby league, both on and off the field, left an indelible mark, and he will be deeply missed.

Looking to the future, and a new era commenced for the QRL in 2024, with the very capable and experienced Brian Canavan being appointed as QRL Chair.

With a gold standard rugby league resume, I have no doubt that Brian will provide exemplary leadership for our organisation.

Which leaves me to farewell my friend and mentor, Bruce Hatcher.

Having only met Bruce for the first time when I joined the QRL Board in 2018, I was quickly taken by his intellect and honesty, a combination that can be quite confronting for the uninitiated.

I learned many things during our time together, the most important of which was to never compromise your integrity.

Bruce always fought for what he believed in, not what was convenient, and because of that the QRL and rugby league is in a better place.

And finally, to the QRL Board, our hard-working staff, and wonderful sponsorship family, thank you for your support this year.

Our attention now turns to 2025, and once again, everyone at the QRL will be focussed on making sure rugby league remains the leading sporting code in Queensland.



**Ben Ikin**  
QRL Chief Executive Officer





# GAME PLAN 2025

Queensland Rugby League is pleased to share its Game Plan for 2025.

With a purpose to unite and inspire Queenslanders, the QRL is committed to building healthy community clubs and leagues, world-class representative programs and pathways, an impactful charitable foundation; and a strong commercial portfolio and brand.

As a responsible financial steward, the QRL is also committed to a healthy work environment, while at all times striving to be the leading sporting code in Queensland.

# OUR PURPOSE: UNITE AND INSPIRE QUEENSLANDERS



**MISSION: Rugby League is the leading sporting code in Queensland**





# INFRASTRUCTURE & GRANTS

**\$45.24M total funding received by 477 clubs and entities**

Clubs, leagues and referee associations excelled in bringing more funding to the game than ever before.

The QRL Infrastructure Strategy (QRLIS) continues to underpin this success by helping to deliver quality programs and infrastructure enhancements.

The main objective has been to develop better facilities – and more of them. Bowen Seagulls and Mount Isa Rugby League were two success stories in 2024.

Bowen received more than \$1.6 million from the Queensland Government’s Resources Funding, while community football in Mount Isa Rugby League received \$2 million from the Mount Isa Transition Fund.

## Rugby League Facilities Audit

For the first time since prior to Covid-19, the game has completed a successful Facilities Audit.

More than 270 venues have now been mapped thanks to the work of a dedicated team of volunteers from clubs and leagues, who undertook the audit along with QRL staff.

Data allows the QRL to identify gaps and challenges, and allows the game to launch targeted infrastructure programs in the future.

## Increased collaboration with Government

One of the success stories since the development of the QRLIS is the improved connection and collaboration between rugby league and all levels of government.

The QRL wish to acknowledge the support of many wonderful councils and government departments, including the Department of Tourism and Sport.

These new partnerships will help drive participation and ultimately lead to more opportunities for aspirational players, coaches, referees and administrators.

## Rugby League Infrastructure Fund (RLIF)

The highlight of this increased collaboration with government is the RLIF, a partnership between the QRL and the Queensland

Government that aims to improve facilities across Queensland.

Councils, schools and QRL affiliated entities are eligible to apply for funding under this program. In 2024, more than 20 clubs and councils have benefited from funding allocated from the RLIF.

This has allowed clubs and councils to finish canteen, lighting, field and inclusive changerooms projects, and with additional funding for this program, the targeted infrastructure projects identified previously will only grow.

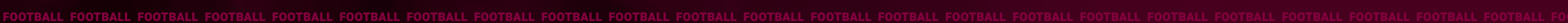




# FOOTBALL



- 20**    **Participation**
- 22**    **Statewide Competitions**
- 24**    **Queensland Maroons**
- 26**    **Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons**
- 28**    **Queensland Under 19 - Men**
- 29**    **Queensland Under 19 - Women**
- 30**    **Queensland City v Queensland Country Under 17 - Boys**
- 32**    **Queensland City v Queensland Country Under 17 - Girls**
- 34**    **XXXX Queensland City v Queensland Country - Men**
- 36**    **XXXX Queensland City v Queensland Country - Women**
- 38**    **Match Officials**
- 40**    **Awards**



# PARTICIPATION

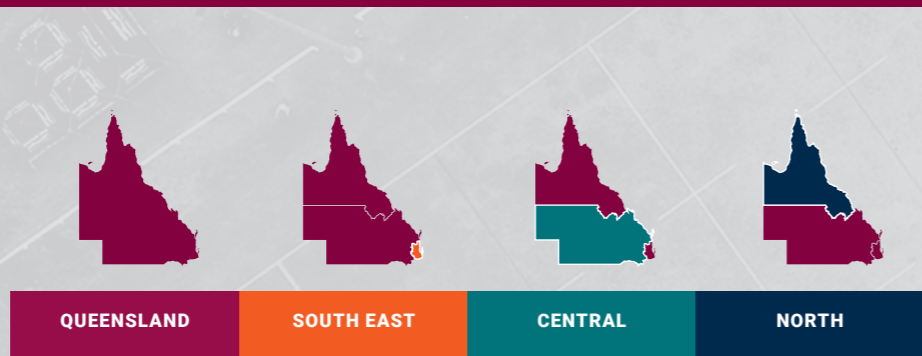
National community club rugby league player registrations reached 200,000 in a season for the first time.

Queensland played its part, with grassroots participation eclipsing 70,000 thanks to the incredible dedication and passion of the teams of players, volunteers, coaches and referees who delivered the game in communities each week.

The quality and variety of formats available to participants, as well as the surging popularity of the NRL and NRLW competitions, were also factors in Queensland's 4.37 per cent growth.

South East was again Queensland's biggest region with nearly 30,000 participants.

**🗣️ The number of registered female players grew to 11,630, with all three regions recording an influx of new players.**



	QUEENSLAND	SOUTH EAST	CENTRAL	NORTH
Registered participants	70,636*	29,459	24,584	15,584
Percentage growth	4.37%	6.28%	4.54%	0.36%
Registered female participants	11,630	4,198	4,242	2,997
Percentage growth	12.99%	20.22%	12.94%	4.72%
Registered male participants	59,006	25,261	20,342	12,587
Percentage growth	2.82%	4.28%	2.95%	-0.62%
Registered junior participants	54,207	20,117	18,912	11,746
Percentage growth	4.46%	2.98%	6.44%	1.48%
Registered senior participants	16,429	5,144	5,672	3,838
Percentage growth	4.07%	9.68%	-1.32%	6.43%

\*Includes players registered in QRL Statewide competitions.



# STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

2322 players took part in the QRL's six statewide competitions.

Aspirational players, coaches, performance managers and referees displayed their talents in six QRL statewide competitions throughout the 2024 season.

It was another groundbreaking year with the Sunshine Coast Falcons and Western Clydesdales competing in an expanded BMD Premiership for the first time.

The premier women's league was supported by the introduction of the Harvey Norman Under 17s competition, as well as the established Under 19s.

The Mackay Cutters announced themselves as a force across the female pathways, winning both the Harvey Norman Under 19 grand final and the BMD Premiership decider.

Both competitions unveiled stars of the future, with a total of 16 players from QRL clubs going on to play in the national league later in the season.

It was a similar story across the male pathway competitions, as 26 players made the progression from the Hostplus Cup to the NRL or English Super League.

Emerging male talent also showed their skills in the Mal Meninga Cup and Cyril Connell Cup, with both competitions producing some extraordinary rugby league.

Across the six statewide competitions, more than 2000 registered players wore the colours of their respective teams.

The QRL team worked diligently to facilitate and deliver weekly games, overseeing travel requirements, concussion protocols, match review / judiciary and the salary cap.

This team was supported by 45 game-day operations staff, who worked across 40 venues in total.

These venues included grounds used for Country Week (presented by Ford), as the Hostplus Cup spread its wings to Cooktown, Mount Isa, Bowen, Middlemount, South Kolan, Dalby and Tamborine Mountain in July.

More than 500 people were moved across the state during the week, including teams and staff, QRL and NRL employees, match officials, and game-day crew.

Regional clubs and leagues provided wonderful hospitality, while local participants and fans soaked up the opportunity to engage in various community activities.

Aided by the support of the Queensland Government, Country Week delivered strong financial benefits to the host clubs and leagues, who reported \$94K in profit.

As the weather warmed up, so too did the football, and it was perennial heavyweights the Norths Devils who again found form at the right time of the year.

The Devils sealed a comfortable victory over the Redcliffe Dolphins in the opening week of the finals, before overpowering the Papua New Guinea Hunters in the preliminary final.

Searching for their third title in four years, the Devils faced a committed Dolphins line-up for the right to be crowned 2024 Hostplus Cup premiers.

Both teams crossed for some superb tries in front of 7173 fans at Kayo Stadium, but ultimately the Devils were too good as they pulled away for a stunning 34-20 grand final victory.

The win gave the proud club a shot at the Newtown Jets in the NRL State Championship in Sydney on grand final day.

The match was in the balance until Oryn Keeley's second try secured a 20-18 victory for the Devils, the first Queensland representative to win the interstate clash since the Ipswich Jets in 2015.

## 2024 RESULTS



**HOSTPLUS CUP**  
**Premiers:** Norths Devils  
**Grand Final:**  
 Norths Devils 34 def  
 Redcliffe Dolphins 20



**BMD PREMIERSHIP**  
**Premiers:** Mackay Cutters  
**Grand Final:**  
 Mackay Cutters 16 def  
 Norths Devils 6



**HARVEY NORMAN UNDER 19s**  
**Premiers:** Mackay Cutters  
**Grand Final:** Mackay Cutters 18 def  
 Brisbane Tigers 16



**HARVEY NORMAN UNDER 17s**  
**Final Round Standings:**  
 Western Clydesdales 8  
 Brisbane Tigers 8



**MAL MENINGA CUP**  
**Premiers:** Tweed Seagulls  
**Grand Final:**  
 Tweed Seagulls 36 def  
 Burleigh Bears 12



**CYRIL CONNELL CUP**  
**Premiers:** Redcliffe Dolphins  
**Grand Final:**  
 Redcliffe Dolphins 24 def  
 Townsville Blackhawks 10





# QUEENSLAND MAROONS

The Queensland Maroons fell agonisingly short of a third consecutive State of Origin series victory despite a lion-hearted performance in Game III.

With the shield on the line, Billy Slater's Maroons produced one of the most tenacious efforts in Origin history at a sold-out Suncorp Stadium.

Starved of possession, and with momentum continually on the side of the New South Wales Blues, a desperate Maroons team were exceptionally brave over the 80 minutes.

The Maroons repelled wave after wave of attacking raids by the Blues, who eventually cracked the home team's defence with a try to Bradman Best in the 64th minute.

It was enough for NSW to close out a 14-4 victory in front of 52,457 fans, following the Blues' strong Game II victory at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The series started in spectacular fashion, as controversy plagued the opening match in Sydney when the Blues had a player sent off following a high tackle on Maroons fullback Reece Walsh.

Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow grabbed a hat-trick and Ben Hunt scored a double as Queensland raced in six tries to seal victory.

The Maroons started their Game II preparations in Toowoomba, with 6000 supporters lapping up the opportunity to meet their favourite players at the Queensland Maroons Westpac Fan Day.

On game night, NSW proved too strong at the MCG, producing a powerful first-half display to take the match out of Queensland's reach.

With the opportunity to return home for a Game III decider, the Maroons were out to restore pride in front of their home fans.

The pro-Queensland crowd was in awe of their team's commitment, standing as one as the Maroons took a 2-0 lead into half-time.

While the result didn't fall Queensland's way, the players did their state proud, with many – including young five-eighth Tom Dearden – tackling themselves to a standstill.

Dearden was subsequently recognised as the Maroons' best player, taking out the prized Ron McAuliffe Medal for the first time.

The Cowboys ace also played a pivotal role for Australia in their successful Pacific Championships campaign.

Dearden produced three line breaks, three try assists and seven tackle busts in a stunning performance that earned him player of the match honours in the Cup final victory over Tonga.

## TEAM LISTS

### GAME I

1. Reece Walsh
2. Xavier Coates
3. Valentine Holmes
4. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
5. Murray Taulagi
6. Tom Dearden
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (C)
8. Reuben Cotter
9. Ben Hunt
10. Lindsay Collins
11. Jaydn Su'A
12. Jeremiah Nanai
13. Patrick Carrigan

### Interchange:

14. Harry Grant
15. Moeaki Fotuaika
16. J'maine Hopgood
17. Selwyn Cobbo

18. Felise Kaufusi

**QUEENSLAND MAROONS 38** def **NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 10**  
at Accor Stadium, Sydney

### GAME II

1. Reece Walsh
2. Xavier Coates
3. Valentine Holmes
4. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
5. Murray Taulagi
6. Tom Dearden
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
8. Reuben Cotter
9. Ben Hunt
10. Lindsay Collins
11. Jaydn Su'A
12. Jeremiah Nanai
13. Patrick Carrigan

### Interchange:

14. Harry Grant
15. Moeaki Fotuaika
16. Felise Kaufusi
17. Kurt Capewell

18. Dane Gagai

**NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 38** def **QUEENSLAND MAROONS 18**  
at Melbourne Cricket Ground

### GAME III

1. Reece Walsh
2. Selwyn Cobbo
3. Dane Gagai
4. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
5. Valentine Holmes
6. Tom Dearden
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
15. Moeaki Fotuaika
14. Harry Grant
16. Felise Kaufusi
8. Reuben Cotter
11. Kurt Capewell
13. Patrick Carrigan

### Interchange:

9. Ben Hunt
10. Lindsay Collins
12. Jeremiah Nanai
17. Kayln Ponga

18. Trent Loiero

**NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 14** def **QUEENSLAND MAROONS 4**  
at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane



2024 QUEENSLAND MAROONS GAME I SQUAD

**Front:** Ezra Mam, Reece Walsh, Harry Grant, Daly Cherry-Evans (Captain), Billy Slater (Coach), Ben Hunt, Valentine Holmes, Tom Dearden, J'maine Hopgood  
**Middle:** Selwyn Cobbo, Xavier Coates, Lindsay Collins, Patrick Carrigan, Murray Taulagi, Felise Kaufusi, Jaydn Su'A  
**Back:** Jeremiah Nanai, Moeaki Fotuaika, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Reuben Cotter, Brendan Piakura

# HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS

The Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons won the first ever three-match women's State of Origin series following an extraordinary comeback.

Seemingly down and out after falling to the New South Wales Sky Blues in the historic standalone clash at Suncorp Stadium, the Maroons had their backs to the wall.

However, cool heads and experience prevailed, as captain Ali Brigginsshaw and new hooker Lauren Brown led the fightback.

Having re-grouped after the Suncorp Stadium loss, Tahnee Norris' team faced their acid test before a record women's Origin crowd of 25,782 at a waterlogged McDonald Jones Stadium.

With rain tumbling down, the 2024 series was quite literally slipping from Queensland's grasp as the Sky Blues took a 6-0 lead into halftime.

A bullet-like pass from Brigginsshaw to Shanae Ciesiolka narrowed the Sky Blues' lead to two points in the 54th minute.

But Queensland's joy was short lived when NSW crossed in the corner just four minutes later to extend their advantage to 10-4.

NSW was now within striking distance of wrapping up the series as the conditions deteriorated.

That was until crafty Queensland No. 6 Tarryn Aiken found space and sliced through to score with nine minutes remaining.

Brown knocked over the conversion to level the score at 10-10, and just five minutes later, the versatile Queensland star produced a play that would etch her name into Origin folklore.

That 'play' came in the form of a brilliant strike from her right boot – the field goal attempt sailing between the posts despite the rushing defence and horrible conditions under foot.

Queensland players embraced as one, before knuckling down in defence to hold out the Sky Blues in the dying stages to set up an Origin decider in Townsville.

Back on home soil for Game III, the momentum had now firmly switched in favour of the Maroons, who completely outplayed NSW from the opening whistle.



With Shannon Mato setting the standard in the middle and Evania Pelite finding her best form, Queensland led from start to finish to round out an incredible 22-6 victory.

Mato was the recipient of the Nellie Doherty Medal as the player of the series.

Fans tuned into the broadcast coverage in record numbers, with a clear uplift in audiences for the 2024 matches in comparison to previous years.

The Game III decider drew the largest live audience (1.143M), accounting for 35 per cent of the series' total and recording the highest streaming figure ever for a women's rugby league game.

## TEAM LISTS

### GAME I

1. Tamika Upton
2. Julia Robinson
3. Shanae Ciesiolka
4. Evania Pelite
5. Emily Bass
6. Tarryn Aiken
7. Zahara Temara
8. Shannon Mato
9. Destiny Brill
10. Jessika Elliston
11. Tazmin Rapana
12. Romy Teitzel
13. Ali Brigginsshaw (c)

### Interchange:

14. Emma Manzelmann
16. Sophie Holyman
17. Lauren Brown
20. Makenzie Weale

18. Sienna Lofipo

### NEW SOUTH WALES SKY BLUES 22 def HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS 12

at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

### GAME II

1. Tamika Upton
2. Julia Robinson
3. Shanae Ciesiolka
4. Evania Pelite
17. Emmanita Paki
6. Tarryn Aiken
7. Ali Brigginsshaw (c)
8. Shannon Mato
4. Lauren Brown
10. Jessika Elliston
11. Tazmin Rapana
12. Romy Teitzel
13. Sienna Lofipo

### Interchange:

9. Destiny Brill
14. Emma Manzelmann
15. Makenzie Weale
19. Keilee Joseph

18. Zahara Temara

### HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS 11 def NEW SOUTH WALES SKY BLUES 10

at McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle

### GAME III

1. Tamika Upton
2. Julia Robinson
3. Shanae Ciesiolka
4. Evania Pelite
5. Emmanita Paki
6. Tarryn Aiken
7. Ali Brigginsshaw (c)
8. Shannon Mato
9. Lauren Brown
10. Jessika Elliston
11. Tazmin Rapana
12. Romy Teitzel
13. Keilee Joseph

### Interchange:

14. Emma Manzelmann
15. Makenzie Weale
16. Sophie Holyman
17. Chelsea Lenarduzzi

18. Zahara Temara

### HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS 22 def NEW SOUTH WALES SKY BLUES 6

at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, Townsville



2024 HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS GAME I SQUAD

**Front:** Shanae Ciesiolka, Julia Robinson, Ali Brigginsshaw (Captain), Tahnee Norris (Coach), Zehara Temara, Shannon Mato, Jessika Elliston  
**Middle:** Evania Pelite, Tazmin Rapana, Skyla Adams, Tamika Upton, Romy Teitzel, Sienna Lofipo, Makenzie Weale, Lauren Brown, Sophie Holyman  
**Back:** Destiny Brill, Emily Bass, Tarryn Aiken, Keilee Joseph, Emma Manzelmann



# QUEENSLAND UNDER 19 - MEN



New South Wales held off a spirited Queensland team to claim a tense Under 19s Origin clash 14-10 at Leichhardt Oval in June.

Fullback Chevy Stewart's brilliance in attack and composure under the high ball were crucial as the Blues defeated a gallant Maroons side to continue their dominance of recent Under 19 clashes.

After players from both sides let off steam in a melee in the 20th minute, it was the Maroons who settled best, with bench forward Harry Armstrong crossing next to the posts courtesy of a sweet pass from Lewis Symonds.

The Blues regained the lead after 30 minutes when Newcastle's Connor Votano latched onto a cross field kick from Jake Elliott and spun through a tackle to ground the ball on the line.

The conversion went astray and the Blues led 10-6 at halftime.

The Maroons' resilience in defence had its reward in the 45th minute when a slick backline move put Tyreece Tait over in the corner to lock the score up at 10-10.

In the 50th minute, the Blues appeared to have taken the lead back when Michael Gabrael crossed from a Mitchell Woods grubber.

However, the bunker ruled a knock, leaving Queensland very much in reach of a famous victory. With the game in the balance, Blues five-eighth Blake Elliott struck a banana kick towards the sideline which Votano did well to tap back inside to Stewart, who broke a couple of tackles and sent Matthew Arthur over to make it 14-10 to NSW.

The Blues again got across the line with three minutes to play through Fanafove Seve, but desperate Maroons defence ensured he was held up and the visitors had one last chance to snatch victory.

Blues fullback Stewart came up with a brilliant take off a bomb and NSW were able to hang on.

## TEAM LIST

1. Jaxon Purdue
2. Israel Leota
3. LJ Nonu
4. Sam Stephenson
5. Tyreece Tait
6. Stanley Huen
7. Coby Black
10. De La Salle Va'a
9. Cameron Bukowski
15. Beni Allen
11. Zac Garton
12. Jamal Shibusaki
13. Mason Kira
14. Mutua Brown
16. Lewis Symonds
17. Harry Armstrong
19. Amare Milford
20. Reece Foley

Coach: Ben Te'o

**NEW SOUTH WALES 14** def **QUEENSLAND 10** at Leichhardt Oval

# QUEENSLAND UNDER 19 - WOMEN



A sublime display from New South Wales halfback Kasey Reh powered her team to a 46-4 win over Queensland in the women's Under 19 Origin clash at Leichhardt Oval.

With the classy Reh directing play, the Blues ran in nine tries to avenge a six point loss in last year's clash at Redcliffe.

A mistake by Maroons winger Ebony Raftstrand-Smith coming out of her own end in the sixth minute handed the Blues an opportunity and Reh powered her way over on the right edge to make it 4-0 with Chelsea Savill unable to convert.

With the Blues on the attack again, Raftstrand-Smith made amends for her earlier error with a strong tackle to deny Maria Paseka, who had taken a bomb on the full and set her sights on line.

In the 16th minute, Raftstrand-Smith added a try to her try-saver when she latched onto a cut-out pass from Skylia Adams and ran over the

top of Paseka to tie things up at 4-4.

A pinpoint long kick by Reh trapped the Maroons in goal and from the ensuing line dropout Blues winger Lindsay Tui showed great pace to outstrip the defence on the left and put her team ahead 8-4.

Just five minutes later, the Blues had a third when hooker Chelsea Savill burrowed over from close range and added the extras to stretch the lead to 10 points.

On the back of a long break by winger Tia-Jordyn Vasilovski, it was Newcastle's Tarsha Gale Cup player of the year Evah McEwen who capitalised with a brilliant solo try to send the home side to the break with a commanding 20-4 lead.

NSW continued their attacking onslaught in the second half but the young Maroons never stopped trying.

Maroons fullback Montaya Hudson produced a gutsy try-saver on Evie McGrath in the 49th minute, inspiring her teammates to dig deep in the closing stages.

## TEAM LIST

1. Montaya Hudson
2. Kiarah Siauane
3. Mercedes Taulelei-Siala
4. Mariah Brown
5. Ebony Raftstrand-Smith
6. Caitlin Tanner
7. Skylia Adams
8. Matekino Gray
9. Imogen Hei
15. Shaylee Joseph
10. Lily Peacock
11. Reegan Hicks
13. Tiresa Leasuasu
12. Jaydah Tofae
14. Shauna Barnham
16. Maleala Su'a
17. Relna Wuruki-Hosea
18. Paityne Johns

Coach: Deanna Turner

**NEW SOUTH WALES 46** def **QUEENSLAND 4** at Leichhardt Oval



**Front:** Nathan Small (Assistant Coach), Darius Boyd (Assistant Coach), Coby Black, Cameron Bukowski, Ben Te'o (Head Coach), Reece Foley, Stanley Huen, Mutua Brown, Jesse Maclean (Assistant Coach)

**Middle:** Liam Bartlett (Strength and Conditioner), Sam Stephenson, Amare Milford, Mason Kira, De La Salle Va'a, Cooper Bai, Tyreece Tait, Michael Waqa, Jaxon Purdue, James Chapman

**Back:** Lewis Symonds, Beni Allen, Jamal Shibusaki, Harry Armstrong, LJ Nonu, Zac Garton

**Front:** Maia Tua-Davidson (Assistant Coach), Imogen Hei, Shauna Barnham, Deanna Turner (Head Coach), Paityne Johns, Mariah Brown, Mitch Sargent (Assistant Coach)

**Middle:** Jaydah Tofae, Kiarah Siauane, Lily Peacock, Skylia Adams, Reegan Hicks, Matekino Gray, Mercedes Taulelei-Siala, Tiresa Leasuasu, Hayley Bush,

**Back:** Relna Wuruki-Hosea, Shaylee Joseph, Montaya Hudson, Ebony Raftstrand-Smith, Malaela Su'a, Destiny Mino-Sinapati, Caitlin Tanner

# QUEENSLAND UNDER 17 CITY V COUNTRY - BOYS



Queensland City overcame a gritty Country side in the Under 17 boys' showdown to record a 50-24 win at Totally Workwear Stadium in April.

Following in the footsteps of the City girls – who put Country to the sword earlier in the day – the boys turned up the heat in the second half, after going into the break in front 22-18.

City started the match strong by scoring a double in the opening eight minutes, before Country put up a fight in the back end of the first half with tries to Zac Bateman and Mark Morrow.

But in the second half, it was clear that City had gone to another level, as they dominated their counterparts, running in six tries to one.

Coach Rob Tanielu said the win came off the back of the bonds the team formed in their short camp.

City hooker Sam Martin was named as his team's player of the match, scoring a try in the victory.

Captain Jared Horne was also strong in the middle for the dominant City team.

For Country, backrower Morrow was named as his team's player of the match.

## TEAM LISTS

### QUEENSLAND CITY

1. Seth Gundry
2. Siosaia Poese
3. Kilarney Lavender
4. Joseph Tupuse
5. Oliver Patterson
6. Adaquix-Jeremiah Watts-Luke
7. Marley McLaren
- 8 Fa'apale Feaunati
9. Sam Martin
10. Cooper Young
11. Nelson Maka'afi
12. Taylan To'a
13. Jared Horne (c)
14. Hayden Watson
15. Mace Andrew
16. Ronnic Starkey
17. Kobi Floro
18. Tom Parker

Coach: Rob Tanielu

QUEENSLAND CITY 50 def

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 24 at Totally Workwear Stadium

### QUEENSLAND COUNTRY

1. Christian Mikaele
2. Joseph Litidamu
3. Elijah McKay
4. Finn Kendall
5. Harrison Meilland
6. Tyler Melrose
7. Braithen Scott (c)
8. Xzavier Timoteo
9. Brodie Hilt
10. Cohen Jackson
11. Mark Morrow
17. Declan Grady
13. Jackson Koina
12. Shaun Elara
14. Zac Bateman
15. Cayde Miller
16. Charlie Coates
18. Harrison Braithwaite

Coach: Duane Carpenter



QUEENSLAND CITY UNDER 17 BOYS

**Front:** Jared Horne, Mace Andrew, Sam Martin, Rob Tanielu (Head Coach), Marley McLaren, Adaquix-Jeremiah Watts-Luke, Seth Gundry  
**Middle:** Siosaia Poese, Ronnic Starkey, Fa'apale Feaunati, Kobi Floro, Taylan To'a, Kilarney Lavender, Cooper Young  
**Back:** Joseph Tupuse, Oliver Patterson, Nelson Maka'afi, Tom Parker, Hayden Watson



QUEENSLAND COUNTRY UNDER 17 BOYS

**Front:** Joseph Litidamu, Zac Bateman, Tyler Melrose, Duane Carpenter (Head Coach), Cohen Jackson, Braithen Scott, Finn Kendall  
**Middle:** Christian Mikaele, Xzavier Timoteo, Charlie Coates, Declan Grady, Cayde Miller, Elijah McKay, Mark Morrow  
**Back:** Brodie Hilt, Harrison Braithwaite, Jackson Koina, Shaun Elara, Harrison Meilland







# XXXX QUEENSLAND CITY V COUNTRY – MEN



Queensland Country secured a country double in the XXXX Queensland City versus Country games at Kayo Stadium, beating City 26-16 in a quality men's match.

The women kicked off Queensland Rugby League Grand Final Day, presented by Ford, with Country beating City 12-8.

And the men did not disappoint, following them up with an extremely physical and entertaining clash.

Country brought the intensity early and took their chance in the 10th minute when Jake Speed made an acrobatic put-down in the left-hand corner after a pass from Toowoomba teammate Chris Woodbridge.

They were in again in the 19th minute when giant second-rower Jeremiah Matautia bumped off a couple of would-be defenders to score in the right-hand corner, finishing the move with an impressive swan dive to take it to an 8-0 scoreline.

Country had all the momentum and were in again in the 23rd minute when City fullback Ono Sooiolo couldn't get near a towering torpedo from halfback Woodbridge, with another Toowoomba teammate, Joseph Vite, there to pick up the scraps.

Woodbridge converted to make it 14-0. City worked their way back into the grind and were eventually rewarded when crafty halfback Brayden Torpy's short pass had Reed Young through a huge hole and over to score, and with Nathan Brown's conversion they were back in the game at 14-6 – eventually the half-time score.

The second half was an arm-wrestle for the early stages and momentum looked to be turning in City's favour when Country second rower Jake Leitch was sent to the sin bin for attacking the legs of Brayden Torpy while kicking.

It only galvanised the Country side, who found enough space out wide despite being a man down for right winger Jake Riley to dive over in the corner, and Woodbridge raised the flags to make it 20-6.

City did eventually take advantage of the extra man – Bessie Aufaga-Toomaga getting the perfect bounce from a Torpy grubber in behind to score next to the sticks, the conversion bringing it back to 20-12.

They were back in a few minutes later in the right corner through Deijion Leugaimafa and it was all to play for at 20-16 with 15 minutes remaining.

The game was in the balance until Country's Blake Mara burrowed over from dummy half under the black dot to secure the win in the 78th minute, converting his own try to lock in a 26-16 win.

## TEAM LIST CITY

1. Ono Sooiolo
2. Deijion Leugaimafa
3. Bessie Aufaga-Toomaga
4. Luke Maddaford
5. Oskar Enasio
6. Nathan Brown
7. Brayden Torpy
8. Cameron Torpy
9. Jordan Scott
10. Takitau Mapapalangi
11. Reed Young
12. Samuel Collins (c)
13. James Robinson
14. Blake Scott
15. Samuel Shannon
16. Daniel Shannon
17. Zane Ford

Coach: Kevin Neighbour

## TEAM LIST COUNTRY

1. Lennix Tovo
2. Jake Riley
3. Joseph Vite
4. Samuel Elara
5. Jake Speed
6. Jed Bignell
7. Christopher Woodbridge (c)
8. Henry Teutau
9. Jack Pattie
10. Blake Mara (c)
11. Jeremiah Matautia
12. Logona Vetemotu
13. Bailey Cavanough
14. Curtis Dempsey
15. Jakob Leitch
16. Anthon Ngunz
17. Daniel Moevao

Coach: Colin Speed

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 26 def  
QUEENSLAND CITY 16 at Kayo Stadium,  
Redcliffe



# XXXX QUEENSLAND CITY V COUNTRY – WOMEN



Queensland Country claimed victory over City in a tightly-fought match on QRL grand final day at Kayo Stadium.

In an entertaining start, errors from City handed their opponents the best opportunities of the opening 10 minutes.

Country managed to cross in the eighth minute, but the City defenders did enough to keep Jordii Mahendrarajah from planting the ball down.

City started to grind their way back into the clash and found space down the left through Shanarlii Peckham, who was shut down by Country fullback Georgia Bartlett.

A couple of quick play-the-balls later the ball was swung out to the right as Alexandria Kiriwi fended off Country's Toni Daisy and offloaded to her winger Tarnisha Lyons to score in the right-hand corner.

But City's play went back to the trend of the first 10 minutes after the try, continually making errors around halfway to invite Country back into the game.

Country finally broke through in the 22nd minute when captain Imogen Healy put a grubber into the in-goal, the kick staying inside the dead ball line just long enough for Bartlett to touch down and lock up the scores at 4-4.

Country kept receiving opportunities from the City side but could not capitalise further before half-time.

They were made to pay for it when play resumed, as City immediately took their first opportunity and took an 8-4 lead through Peckham.

City held the ascendancy for much of the half and looked set to ice the game 10 minutes from time until Melody Tass stole an intercept and raced downfield.

After shifting to the left, Kortney Deguara was left unmarked on the wing and dotted down to tie the scores. Malia Ting's conversion attempt fell just short of going over the black dot.

Country received a piggy-back penalty on the set after points, and following a brilliant charge from Genavie Tabuai off the tap, the ball was spread left and into the hands of Deguara, who offloaded to Gagie Mackie Namok to fall over the line.

City then kept the crowd on the edge of their seats as they looked to score with seconds to go, only for a spirited Country team to repel the raid and be crowned victors.

## TEAM LIST CITY

1. Amy Bird
2. Narlii Peckham
3. Alexandria Kiriwi
4. Chazmin Holloway
5. Tarnisha Lyons
6. Mystery Kora
7. Memory Paitai
8. Eden Utatao
9. Patrice Chambers (c)
10. Crystal Tamarua
21. Harmony Baanders
12. Jaime Phillips
13. Indi Seeto
14. Lilielle Vaitolo
22. Nikki Cox
16. Lina Tanielu
19. Chynna Leota

Coach: Roy Leoni

## TEAM LIST COUNTRY

1. Georgia Bartlett
2. Toni Daisy
3. Gagie Mackie Namok
4. Genavie Tabuai
5. Melody Tass
6. Malia Ting
7. Imogen Healy (c)
8. Xanthe Topping
9. Alenna Whipp
10. Amy Atkinson
11. Felicity Powdrell
12. Madi Westecott
13. Jordii Mahendrarajah
14. Kortney Deguara
15. Ella Cronin-Flanagan
16. Chloe Buttigieg
17. Mateeka Nielson

Coach: John Buttigieg

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 12 def  
 QUEENSLAND CITY 8 at Kayo stadium,  
 Redcliffe





# MATCH OFFICIALS

1956

REGISTERED OFFICIATING PARTICIPANTS IN QUEENSLAND

The number of match officials across leagues and associations in Queensland increased in 2024 as the state's officiating program went from strength to strength.

Program managers worked diligently to improve engagement with members, who thrived from their involvement in a range of new initiatives and events.

The QRL Officiating Statewide Education Day in February set the tone and was followed by multiple online education webinars for senior match officials.

Activations were held across the state at various events, including Magic Round, State of Origin, Country Week, Women in League Round, Indigenous Round and QRL Grand Final day.

A strong focus was also placed on providing additional support for match officials through the QRL's Positive Environment Program (PEP), Support Squad initiative, and the Green Sock campaign.

More than 1200 referees across the state wore green socks in a move that sent a powerful message to the rugby league community about treating young referees with respect, refraining from abuse, and understanding that emerging match officials are still learning.

The campaign – which carries the words “if their socks are green, they are under 18” – aims to attract more referees and boost retention by creating a positive environment.

► **2025 Focus:** Recruitment and retention of match officials in the community game, especially for ages 16+, remain a priority for the QRL.



## 2024 AWARDS

- Barry Gomersall Memorial Award**  
Hamish Kleijn
- John Topp Medal**  
Dylan Lawrence
- Clubman**  
Greer Beck
- Coach of the Year**  
Dennis Swenson and Lloyd Evans
- Dennis Regan Trainers' Award**  
Byron Cook
- Hostplus Cup touch judge debutants**  
Adam Rossiter, Nick McEwan, Harrison Lea, Izzy Davidson, Lachlan Sutton
- Hostplus Cup referee debutant**  
Josh Eaton
- Rookie of the Year**  
Josh Eaton
- Hostplus Cup grand final touch judges**  
Tori Wilkie and Nick Morel
- Hostplus Cup grand final referee**  
Jarrod Cole
- Steve Kanowski Touch Judge of the Year**  
Nick Morel
- Nick Euclid Medal**  
Nick Pelgrave
- BMD Premiership grand final touch judges**  
Connor Baker and Kailey Beattie
- BMD Premiership grand final referee**  
Tori Wilkie

# AWARDS

Queensland Rugby League celebrated the achievements of its players, coaches, referees and volunteers across community rugby league, statewide competitions and elite representative programs in September.

The Brisbane City Hall event put the spotlight on the Redcliffe Dolphins and Norths Devils in the lead up to the 2024 Hostplus Cup grand final.

Both the Dolphins and Devils featured prominently in the awards, with three players across both clubs named in the Hostplus Cup Team of the Year.

Dolphins livewire Trai Fuller was named as the competition's premier fullback, while Devils duo Manase Kaho (wing) and Tukimihia Simpkins (prop) were also recognised following the Bishop Park club's march to a third grand final in four years.

After a thrilling preliminary final victory over the Northern Pride, the good news kept flowing for the Dolphins with Latrell Siegwalt (Rookie of the Year) and Jarrett Boland (Murray Hurst Education Award) recognised for their on and off-field achievements.

Although shattered at missing the grand final, both the Pride and Papua New Guinea Hunters were able to celebrate outstanding seasons.

The Pride's Eric Smith was named Coach of the Year after leading the Cairns-based club to this year's minor premierships, while the Hunters' inner circle stood as one to applaud Judah Rimbu after the star hooker was announced as the Petero Civoniceva Medallist.

Rimbu polled 21 points across the season (judged by the referees under a 3-2-1 points system) to edge out Cody Hunter (Sunshine Coast Falcons), Thomas Duffy (Northern Pride), Rory Ferguson (Souths Logan Magpies) and Jake Clifford (Pride).

Clifford and Duffy were also named in the Hostplus Cup Team of the Year alongside teammate Dane Aukafolau.

After a highly-competitive BMD Premiership season that culminated with a Mackay Cutters grand final victory over Norths Devils in May, the competition's leading players and coaches were also acknowledged.

Cutters trio Krystal Blackwell, Tahlulah Tillett and Bree Chester were named in the BMD Premiership Team of the Year alongside Devils teammates Georgia Hannaway and Jada Ferguson.

The Western Clydesdales also had a strong presence in this team with Georgia Sim, Leianne Tufuga and Tara Reinke rewarded for their outstanding efforts throughout the season.

Reinke had double the reason to celebrate when she was named as the Steph Hancock Medallist.

The hard-working lock forward polled points across five matches to claim the prestigious award as the best and fairest player in the BMD Premiership.

After taking the Devils to the 2024 grand final, Meg Ward was named as the BMD Premiership Coach of the Year.

Both the women's and men's coaches awards were named in honour of Darryl Van de Velde, a highly-respected former player, coach and administrator who passed away earlier this year.

The awards also celebrated the contribution of volunteers across the state, as well as the men and women who provided exceptional service to the Queensland Maroons.

Tom Dearden was the Maroons' best player and the recipient of the Ron McAuliffe Medal, while the team's long-serving head trainer Matt Barradeen was presented with the FOGS Peter Jackson Memorial Award.

Following a tenacious series victory over the New South Wales Sky Blues, Queensland forward Shannon Mato added the Annie Banks Medal to her Nellie Doherty Medal as player of the series.

The Renae Kunst Medal – awarded to a player or staff member who most embodies the Maroons spirit – was presented to Zahara Temara for a second-straight year.



## 2024 QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

### STATEWIDE COMPETITION AWARDS

**Steph Hancock Medal**  
Tara Reinke, Western Clydesdales

**Petero Civoniceva Medal**  
Judah Rimbu, PNG Hunters

**Darryl Van de Velde BMD Premiership Coach of the Year**  
Meg Ward, Norths Devils

**Darryl Van de Velde Hostplus Cup Coach of the Year**  
Eric Smith, Northern Pride

**BMD Premiership Pedro Gallagher Award for Rookie of the Year, presented by the Carbine Club**  
Georgia Hannaway, Norths Devils

**Hostplus Cup Pedro Gallagher Award for Rookie of the Year, presented by the Carbine Club**  
Latrell Siegwalt, Redcliffe Dolphins

**BMD Premiership Leading Points Scorer**  
Chantay Kiria-Ratu, Souths Logan Magpies

**BMD Premiership Leading Try Scorer**  
Bridget Hoy, Tweed Seagulls

**Hostplus Cup Leading Points Scorer**  
Thomas Duffy, Northern Pride

**Hostplus Cup Leading Try Scorer**  
Manase Kaho, Norths Devils

**Des Morris Medal for Cyril Connell Cup Player of the Year**  
Tom Parker, Souths Logan Magpies

**Mal Meninga Cup Player of the Year**  
Zane Harrison, Tweed Seagulls

**Harvey Norman Under 19 Player of the Year**  
Nadia Windleborn, Burleigh Bears

**Murray Hurst Education Award – Male**  
Jarrett Boland, Redcliffe Dolphins

**Murray Hurst Education Award – Female**  
Bridget Hoy, Tweed Seagulls

**Club Championship, presented by TPIL**  
Burleigh Bears

**Hostplus Cup Minor Premiership**  
Northern Pride

### BMD PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR

**Fullback**  
Krystal Blackwell, Mackay Cutters

**Winger**  
Georgia Sim, Western Clydesdales

**Centre**  
Leianne Tufuga, Western Clydesdales

**Five-Eighth**  
Georgia Hannaway, Norths Devils

**Halfback**  
Tahlulah Tillett, Mackay Cutters

**Prop**  
Chelsea Lenarduzzi, Burleigh Bears

**Hooker**  
Jada Ferguson, Norths Devils

**Second Rower**  
Bree Chester, Mackay Cutters

**Lock**  
Tara Reinke, Western Clydesdales

### HOSTPLUS CUP TEAM OF THE YEAR

**Fullback**  
Trai Fuller, Redcliffe Dolphins

**Winger**  
Manase Kaho, Norths Devils

**Centre**  
Ethan Quai-Ward, Souths Logan Magpies

**Five-Eighth**  
Jake Clifford, Northern Pride

**Halfback**  
Thomas Duffy, Northern Pride

**Prop**  
Tukimihia Simpkins, Norths Devils

**Hooker**  
Cory Paix, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

**Second Rower**  
Dane Aukafolau, Northern Pride

**Lock**  
Sam Coster, Burleigh Bears

# AWARDS



## 2024 QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

### REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAMS

**Ron McAuliffe Medal**  
Tom Dearden

**Annie Banks Medal**  
Shannon Mato

**FOGS Peter Jackson Memorial Award**  
Matthew Barradeen

**Renae Kunst Medal**  
Zahara Temara

### COMMUNITY AWARDS

**Shell V-Power Volunteer of the Year**  
Damian Smith, Mackay Magpies

**Harvey Norman Contribution to the Female Game Award**  
Tori Wilkie, Gold Coast Rugby League Referees' Association

**rebel Young Person of the Year**  
Thomas Ottaway, Maroochydoore Swans JRL

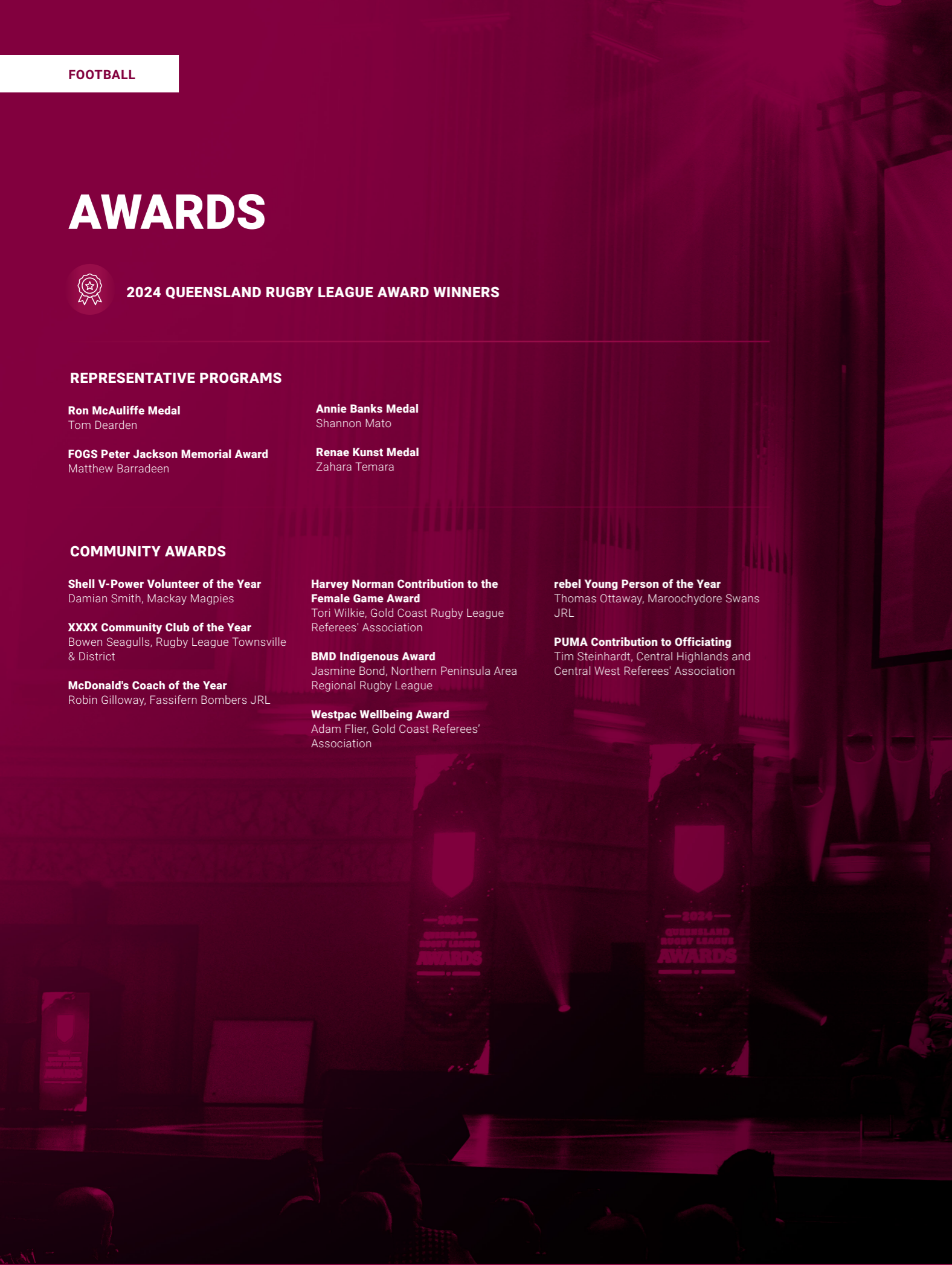
**XXXX Community Club of the Year**  
Bowen Seagulls, Rugby League Townsville & District

**BMD Indigenous Award**  
Jasmine Bond, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Rugby League

**PUMA Contribution to Officiating**  
Tim Steinhardt, Central Highlands and Central West Referees' Association

**McDonald's Coach of the Year**  
Robin Gilloway, Fassifern Bombers JRL

**Westpac Wellbeing Award**  
Adam Flier, Gold Coast Referees' Association



Judah Rimbu and Tara Reinke





# PARTNERS

Ground-breaking campaigns and activations strengthened the QRL's commercial partnerships and enhanced the overall experience for participants and fans of the game.

Westpac joined the QRL as a major partner in 2024, backing rugby league across all levels, from community football to the Queensland Maroons State of Origin teams.

Westpac featured on the front of the men's jersey and the shoulder of the women's, activated multiple fan engagement initiatives and worked with the QRL to deliver numerous community initiatives across the state.

As well as Westpac, the QRL had some other major additions to the partner portfolio in 2024. In June, Ford was announced as the QRL's exclusive automotive partner.

QRL and Maroons-branded Fords were rolled out across the state, providing community teams and the Maroons with the transport needed to keep rugby league running.

Coles Liquor joined the team as Maroons Coaches partner and TPIL as the QRL's official legal partner. These new partners, along with the existing portfolio, conducted numerous fan engagement activities throughout the rugby league season with some additional highlights being:

- › XXXX entered their third year of their award winning postcodes campaign, as more stories were told about communities across Queensland. With the men's team again wearing their hometown postcodes on their sleeve, the campaign continues to grow and attract major accolades.
- › rebel extended their partnership by providing hydration equipment and balls to Maroons programs in 2024. rebel branded water bottles, water coolers, cooler boxes and training balls were rolled out across Maroons camps for both the men and women's teams.
- › Hostplus continued its support of Queensland's premier men's competition, with strong broadcast and attendance figures connecting partners with fans across the season.
- › Harvey Norman strengthened their support of women's rugby league, becoming the naming rights partner of both the Under 17 and Under 19 women's statewide competitions.

## PLATINUM PARTNERS



## MAJOR PARTNERS



## OFFICIAL PARTNERS



## BROADCAST PARTNERS



## OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS







# DIGITAL, CONTENT & BROADCAST

Queensland Rugby League celebrated strong growth across all social media platforms, as well as the Qplus.tv live streaming platform in 2024.

Each of the various accounts on the two main platforms of Instagram and Facebook achieved a significant year-on-year increase for post engagement which contributed towards overall follower growth on each account.

The Queensland Maroons Facebook and Instagram pages secured significant milestones, reaching one million and 500,000 followers respectively as the strength and reach of the Maroons brand continues to flourish as one of the most recognisable across the country.

A growing trend in social media is the use of short-form video and this was clearly noticeable in 2024 as the Queensland Maroons, Hostplus Cup and QRL accounts all enjoyed considerable growth for video views on Instagram and Facebook respectively.

This was evident with the popular 'Mini Maroons' concept, filmed at local community clubs across the state, following a conscious shift to video in 2024.

Snackable pre-game 'player moments' of the Queensland Maroons men's and women's teams in the sheds and sit-down short-form hype videos that focused more on the players' personalities proved an instant fan favourite and further exemplified the impact of short-form video in 2024.

The past year also saw single vision highlights of a try or certain moment from a match dominate as some of the best performing content pieces across the statewide competitions and community rugby league

sector, as well as the "What a weapon" video concept for the junior competitions.

Overarchingly, the junior and representative competitions all performed well and recorded good growth across the various social media accounts to reinforce the importance of capturing and highlighting the Queensland pathway narrative.

While short-form videos achieved great engagement and views across social platforms in 2024, the QRL content and creative teams combined to produce two longer-form videos that were beautiful examples of storytelling – *Papua New Guinea: Passion for Rugby League* and *Bush Footy: A way of life*.

In Papua New Guinea, rugby league is more than just a game; it's a way of life and this was brilliantly told in a short documentary shot on the ground in PNG.

Throughout the piece, the people and players of PNG gave a rare insight into what the game means to them and how it will inspire the next generation.

FOG Shane Webcke narrated the touching bush piece highlighting the pride and passion of regional participants across the great state of Queensland.

Online, the Maroons squad announcement for each game of the 2024 State of Origin series again proved popular as the top three most-viewed articles on the website in 2024 (Game 1 - 193,206 views, Game 2 - 91,383 views, Game 3 - 80,828).

As the hub for all things statewide competitions, including team lists, results, previews and features, there were roughly 1,150,000 total views of related articles, while on average there were 2000 views of community rugby league articles on the QRL website.

As was evident on QRL social platforms, the 'What a weapon' video concept also proved popular on the web with the Cyril Connell Cup, Mal Meninga Cup and Harvey Norman Under 19 'Weapons of the Year' taking out the top three most viewed videos on the website respectively.

It was a hugely successful season for the QRL's livestreaming platform Qplus.tv after it achieved significant and widespread viewership growth in 2024 across all statewide competitions.

During the 2024 season, 430 rugby league matches were livestreamed on the Qplus.tv platform with a total of 266,235 views for a 24 per cent increase compared to last year.

The surge in popularity of the women's game was clear to see following a 417% broadcast viewership growth of the BMD Premiership this year with 91,288 total views.

The QRL acknowledges the support of broadcast partners Fox Sports, Kayo and Channel Nine who helped ensure our statewide competitions were accessible in 2024.

While it was a landmark year for the women's game, Hostplus Cup viewership has also grown, as the senior men's competition recorded a 74 per cent increase since the platform's introduction in 2022 with an average viewership of 18,646 this past year.

More than 100,000 people viewed the Hostplus Cup grand final between Norths Devils and Redcliffe Dolphins which was aired on Fox League and replayed on Qplus.tv.

## Instagram

ACCOUNT	FOLLOWERS	POSTS	IMPRESSIONS	ENGAGEMENT	VIDEO VIEWS
Queensland Maroons	500,000	362 (+21.1%)	44,592,417	5,301,517 (+12%)	17,202,564 (+108.3%)
Hostplus Cup	64,500	483 (-4%)	3,904,140 (-3.7%)	465,033 (+8.1%)	4,161,525 (+104.6%)
QRL	53,400	452 (+34.5%)	4,562,966 (+81.5%)	721,659 (+88.5%)	5,824,835 (+221.5%)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>617,900</b>	<b>1297 (+14%)</b>	<b>53,059,523</b>	<b>6,488,209 (+17%)</b>	<b>27,188,924 (124.7%)</b>

## Facebook

ACCOUNT	FOLLOWERS	POSTS	IMPRESSIONS	ENGAGEMENT	VIDEO VIEWS
Queensland Maroons	1,020,400	502 (+660.6%)	40,546,205 (+531%)	763,386 (+1170.8%)	2,997,542 (+875.4%)
Hostplus Cup	132,600	432 (+254.1%)	7,939,628 (+63.8%)	51,506 (+45.5%)	1,807,502 (+147%)
QRL	87,500	727 (+280.6%)	9,003,327 (+160.1%)	57,027 (+99.3%)	1,422,244 (+385.4%)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1,240,500</b>	<b>1661 (+338.3%)</b>	<b>57,489,160 (+290.2%)</b>	<b>871,919 (+602.7%)</b>	<b>6,227,288 (+367.4%)</b>

## Tiktok

ACCOUNT	FOLLOWERS	POSTS	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	VIDEO VIEWS
Queensland Maroons	155,350	24 (+9.1%)	2,025,233 (-12.1%)	236,738 (-27.5%)	2,358,908 (-11.6%)

## QPlus.tv feature games

COMPETITION	GAMES	TOTAL VIEWS	AVERAGE VIEWS (2024)	AVERAGE VIEWS (2023)	YOY GROWTH
Hostplus Cup	28	522,074	18,646	18,216	+2%
BMD Premiership	12	91,288	7,607	1,472	+417%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>620,594</b>	<b>15,136</b>	<b>12,474</b>	<b>+12%</b>



# BRAND, MARKETING & MEDIA

**35,983**

**A RECORD NUMBER OF MAROONS MEMBERS DISPLAYED THEIR PASSION FOR RUGBY LEAGUE IN QUEENSLAND.**

Before a ball was even kicked this year, Queenslanders were 'united in maroon' thanks to an epic campaign that launched 2024 Maroons Membership.

This unique campaign was driven by the release of an emotion-charged video titled 'Wall of Sound'.

Some of Queensland's biggest male and female stars feature in the video, which superbly depicts the passion and energy in the grandstands and dressing room before a home game.

While the Maroons' on-field exploits were well documented in 2024, male and female squad members were always willing to make a difference in the community.

During the pre-season camp, players surprised long-serving members and even attended a young member's birthday in the park.

Both squads presented brilliantly at their respective series launches, as Queenslanders from all walks of life began to rally behind their teams. The Queensland Maroons Westpac Fan Day held in Toowoomba was a highlight of the 2024 events schedule with thousands of fans turning up on a beautiful Queensland day to throw their support behind the Maroons.

Queenslanders also displayed immense support for the family and friends of Carl Webb, who co-designed a Maroons Indigenous jersey before he sadly passed way from Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in December last year.

All proceeds from sales of the jersey at Maroons Shop, as well as \$10,000 paid for the artwork during the auction at this year's Maroons Long Lunch, were donated to the Carl Webb Foundation.

The men's playing jersey was again the most popular merchandise item on Maroons Shop, with the broader merchandise and Puma apparel range performing strongly across key retail partners.



## MEDIA

The QRL worked proactively with print, television and radio organisations to tell many positive stories in 2024.

Media and broadcast interest in both men's and women's Maroons reached new heights as the country was captivated by Origin fever throughout the months of May, June and July.

QRL Media facilitated daily interview, vision and photo opportunities with media and broadcast partners.



# WELLBEING

Queensland Rugby League delivered on its commitment to support and educate players, from community rugby league to the elite level.

This commitment extended to the wider rugby league community of parents, coaches and volunteers.

From drug and alcohol education to mental health awareness and support, the QRL was again proud to offer a point of contact in the South East, Central and Northern regions.

Wellbeing and education highlights across the three regions were:

## South East

- › The network of volunteers attached to Support Squad grew significantly across the state.
- › More than 30 teams in the SEQ region participated in wellbeing education sessions.
- › Further education sessions (GRIP) were presented at numerous carnivals.

## Central

- › The wellbeing team delivered 'Healthy Relationships' across five schools and four clubs, involving more than 650 participants across all sessions.
- › 'Maroon Mindset' was delivered to 360 RISE participants during the state development series on the Sunshine Coast.
- › A Suicide Postvention Plan club guide was developed to provide guidance to members of the rugby league community.

## North

- › Vicarious trauma sessions were delivered in July and August. These sessions focused on recognising the signs and symptoms of vicarious trauma and how to implement strategies and tools to reduce the impacts.
- › RISE remote camps in Weipa and Thursday Island delivered life-fit content to rural and remote areas.
- › Remote communities enjoyed the opportunity to engage with rugby league at the outer island development camps held on Moa and Masig Islands.

The QRL continued to work closely with Pride in Sport, participating in the Pride in Sport Index National Survey.

Numerous Themed rounds highlighted the game's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The QRL team also participated in various social impact and charitable initiatives, including campaigns associated with Share the Dignity, River to Rooftop and the White Cloud Foundation.





# SPECIAL EVENTS

## HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS LAUNCH DINNER

The inaugural Queensland Harvey Norman Maroons dinner marked the first standalone launch event for the women's team. Held in the spectacular Rose Room at Cloudland, 90 attendees enjoyed a two-course meal and heard from two engaging panels as the team was officially presented to guests.



## HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS FAN DAY

With the support of Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA), the Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons Fan Day was successfully staged in the Queen Street Mall. Thousands of fans took the opportunity to meet the team ahead of the opening match of the historic three-game series at Suncorp Stadium. The event featured a signing session followed by partner activations where fans engaged with players through photos and activities.



## QUEENSLAND MAROONS LONG LUNCH

The Queensland Maroons Long Lunch saw over 650 guests enjoy a two-course meal and drinks, while celebrating the exclusive unveiling of the 2024 Maroons squad. Attendees engaged with insightful panels featuring players and coaches, and paid tribute to the late Carl Webb by raising \$10,000 for his foundation. The event offered a rare opportunity to connect with the entire Maroons team and coaching staff.



## QUEENSLAND MAROONS WESTPAC FAN DAY

The Queensland Maroons Fan Day, supported by the Queensland Government and Toowoomba Regional Council, was a huge success, drawing more than 6000 fans to the Toowoomba Sports Ground. Fans enjoyed watching the team train before a two-hour signing session, where they had the chance to meet their favourite players. Partner engagement was strong through a vibrant activation zone and a sold-out XXXX members upgrade area.



## QUEENSLAND MAROONS GAME DAY BREAKFAST

The Queensland Maroons Game Day Breakfast at Victoria Park was a sold-out event, providing the perfect start to Brisbane's game day festivities. During the event, QRL chief executive officer Ben Ikin launched the Queensland Maroons Foundation, which successfully garnered significant donations. Attendees enjoyed three dynamic panels, featuring sports stars from various disciplines.



## QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE AWARDS

The QRL Awards lunch at Brisbane City Hall celebrated the achievements of top performers in the league on the eve of the Hostplus Cup grand final weekend. The event started with a special tribute to retiring QRL chairman Bruce Hatcher, who was presented with a Maroons jersey from his great mate Wayne Bennett.



## QRL GRAND FINAL DAY, PRESENTED BY FORD

QRL Grand Final Day, featured three exciting rugby league games, culminating in the highly-anticipated Hostplus Cup premiership decider at Kayo Stadium. Various QRL partners engaged the crowd with giveaways and "kick for cash" games, enhancing the festive atmosphere. More than 7000 fans were treated to an exhilarating grand final, where the Norths Devils emerged victorious against the Redcliffe Dolphins.



## STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS LAUNCH

The 2024 Statewide Competition Launch took place at Hotel X, uniting key figures from across the competitions for an inspiring event hosted by Channel Nine's Adam Jackson. Highlights included panel discussions with BMD Premiership captains and coaches from newly formed teams, as well as Hostplus Cup coaches, who shared insights on past successes and future goals. The event celebrated achievements and set an enthusiastic tone for the upcoming season.



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers again formed the backbone of rugby league across Queensland.

From Currumbin to Cooktown, thousands of volunteers sacrificed their time to ensure their clubs, leagues and associations could thrive and become pillars of their local communities.

The QRL formally recognised the contribution of its volunteers through the 2024 Community Volunteer Awards across eight categories.

Each year, these awards shine the spotlight on the people who make rugby league tick in communities right across Queensland, including administrators, coaches, referees and young people from the city to the country.

Shortlists were revealed in April, before the winners were announced the following month.

The winners were treated to an exclusive State of Origin experience in Brisbane, where they toured Suncorp Stadium alongside Former Origin Greats at the Maroons' captain's run.

Award recipients included North Queensland's Damian Smith, who was recognised as the Shell V-Power Volunteer of the Year.

Smith had a profound impact on every aspect of the Mackay Magpies juniors and seniors.

Smith ensured all participants were able to take part in club initiatives, and was also involved in coaching as well as the Rugby League Mackay and District judiciary.

The XXXX Club of the Year was the Bowen Seagulls, who participated in programs such as the Positive Environment Program (PEP) and Support Squad.

The McDonald's Coach of the Year was Robin Gilloway from the Fassifern Bombers.

A humble contributor to the junior club, Gilloway helped steer the Bombers to new heights through his coaching direction.

Queenslanders also featured prominently in the NRL Community Awards.

Bowen took out the double by snaring national honours as the Community Club of the Year, the Sunshine Coast's Thomas Ottaway received the Young Person of the Year, and Jasmine Bond was presented with the Indigenous Community Award.

Full list of recipients from the 2024 QRL Community Volunteer Awards are listed on page 42.



**Bowen Seagulls Community Club of the Year**



**Volunteer Award winners**



# QRL SOUTH EAST

South East's mission for 2024 was to drive healthy community clubs and leagues, with four key focus areas.

These areas were volunteer support and capability, improved reporting and compliance, better facilities and more of them; and having accessible and inclusive clubs.

The South East team worked diligently with clubs and leagues across these target areas, setting a strong platform for further progress next year.

Participation across the great South East continues to grow with nearly 29,500 male and female participants playing rugby league throughout Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ipswich areas.

This constituted an overall growth of six per cent in participation, with Ipswich recording the highest growth in the region with an increase of nine per cent compared to the 2023 season.

The growth and quality of the female game continues to soar across the South East with an incredible 20 per cent increase in participation.

Junior girls continue to make up a significant part of this increase with a total of 3319 young women playing rugby league in 2024.

With the female game expanding across the South East, the SEQ Chairs Challenge representative carnival welcomed the addition of senior women's representative teams from Gold Coast, Ipswich and Brisbane for the first time.

The quality of talent on display justified the addition of this female representative program with the Gold Coast completing the double by taking out both the men's and women's titles.

Registered match officials across the South East increased by 11 per cent in 2024 with the 13-17 year old bracket recording the largest increase of nearly 16 per cent.

This can be partly attributed to the very successful Green Sock campaign introduced by the QRL in March.

With participation growing across the game, there has been a strong need to increase the region's volunteer base.

Pleasingly, volunteer numbers increased by 14 per cent throughout the South East; with many devoting countless hours each week for the good of the game.

The region acknowledges the recipients of 2024 QRL Community Volunteer awards – Robin Gilloway (McDonald's Coach of the Year), Torie Wilkie (Harvey Norman Contribution to the Female Game; and Adam Flier (Westpac Wellbeing).

This year saw the Support Squad program gain traction within the South East, with the Gold Coast leading the way with 100 per cent compliance in having at least one Support Squad member at each club.

Support Squad members continue to play a vital role in helping players and volunteers with many varied issues.

For his efforts in supporting players and coaches at his club of 15 years, Mudgeeraba's Jonny Raithby was named as the Support Squad Person of the Year for the region.

### Volunteer winners from South East:



Robin Gilloway



Torie Wilkie



Adam Flier





# QRL CENTRAL

Regional Queensland communities were humming throughout 2024 as QRL Central delivered engaging rugby league events across the vast region.

Kingaroy hosted the prestigious XXXX 47th Battalion, where Queensland Outback men's and women's team added a new layer to the respective competitions.

Queensland Outback included players from Mount Isa to St George, and joined the eight-team men's and seven-team women's competition for the first time, as they went head to head with regular combatants from Rockhampton to Toowoomba.

After some keenly-fought games, Toowoomba Clydesdales emerged victorious in the men's, while the Sunshine Coast celebrated back-to-back women's titles.

The annual Frank Fisher Cup held at Mitchell was another major success, with Queensland Police Service and school activations adding to the atmosphere around the grounds.

The carnival delivered an uplifting cultural experience for participants, who embraced the legendary achievements of Indigenous Team of the Century representative Frank Fisher.

A record number of teams participated in the Adrian Vowles Cup in Charleville, while the Jason Hetherington / Gary Larson Carnival in Gladstone saw 893 players and close to 200 team staff display their passion for rugby league.

There was also plenty of passion on display at Hervey Bay, where the club hosted a successful 'Seagals' rugby league carnival for junior female players.

Along with the 47th Battalion, other highlights for Wide Bay included the National Rugby League game between the Bulldogs and Dolphins in Bundaberg, a rise in junior participation within the Bundaberg and Fraser Coast leagues; and the addition of a new team in the open women's competition.

Central Queensland highlights included Rockhampton's Reef v Beef Challenge, which this year included Under 13,14 and 15 boys; and Under 14 and 17 girls.

Female participation in Rockhampton, Gladstone and the Central Highlands grew significantly, with events like the girls gala day at McIndoe Park offering opportunities for players, coaches and match officials.

Southwest and Outback rugby league produced many memorable moments, from RISE programs through to the Rees / Orman City Cultural Exchange, Peter Rafter Memorial Challenge and the Mulga Cup.

Junior and senior fixtures, along with grand finals across the regions, were played in true spirit.

Rugby league on the Sunshine Coast thrived as well, with participation increasing by more than eight per cent.

The Sunshine Coast Junior Rugby League RISE program was one of the largest in the state, with 330 players and more than 50 coaches taking the opportunity to upskill over five training sessions.

The rebel State Development Series Carnival featured 35 teams from across the region.

Successful program initiatives this year included the introduction of the ground manager role, and a concerted effort to highlight uplifting stories from the 'Positive Environment Program'.

The introduction of a points demerit system to Sunshine Coast competitions also had a positive impact in the region, as clubs welcomed the program and supported the process.

Importantly, the QRL and NRL Development teams combined to set a high standard of accreditation and compliance across the region.

QRL Central this year celebrated the achievements of Community Volunteer Awards recipients Thomas Ottaway and Tim Steinhardt.



Thomas Ottaway



Tim Steinhardt





# QRL NORTH

## QRL North stepped up its support for its network of volunteers with the launch of Healthy Club Expos in 2024.

This initiative ensured volunteers from clubs and leagues throughout the region were equipped with the latest information and trends in the game.

Following the exhibitions, clubs benefited from further consultation with the North team, in line with the QRL's mission to develop and maintain healthy clubs and leagues.

Participation numbers were again strong with 15,584 players registered in club competitions.

These competitions were supported by more than 5000 volunteers, several of whom were this year acknowledged at both state and national level.

Bowen Seagulls added the NRL Community Rugby League Club of the Year award to its honour board after also claiming Queensland's XXXX Community Club of the Year.

State individual accolades went to Damian Smith (Mackay Magpies – Shell V-Power Volunteer of the Year) and Jasmine Bond (Northern Peninsula – BMD Indigenous Award).

Junior and senior rugby league teams travelled from far and wide to be involved in carnivals across the region.

These events continue to be engrained in the fabric of North Queensland, with 22 carnivals – ranging from Under 7s through to senior men's and women's – held this year.

Another huge success story was the RISE program that culminated with the staging of the rebel State Development Series in Townsville

This program provided unique opportunities and experiences for more than 700 participants.

QRL North embraced new programs that aligned to the QRL's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

RISE camps were delivered across remote and regional communities of Palm Island, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Mount Isa and Weipa.

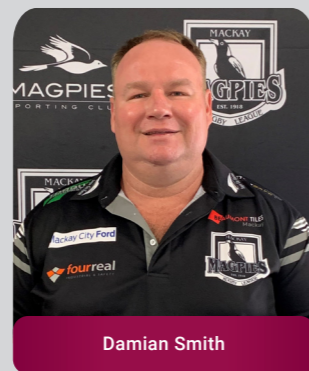
All participants came together to take part in the first RISE Remote Carnival in Cairns.

At senior representative level, Townsville did the XXXX Foley Shield double

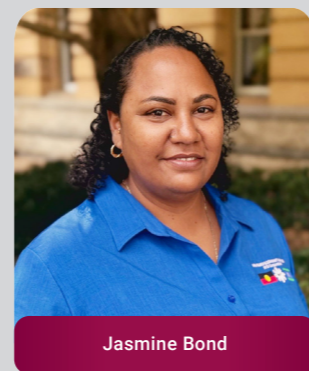
after claiming both the men's and women's titles.

The Townsville men's team was able to sneak home on countback after finishing on equal wins and differential with Cairns and Mackay. Townsville secured the women's Foley Shield after running away with a convincing 24-8 victory over Mackay.

Another major positive to emerge in 2024 was the resurrection of the Southern Cape Cluster.



Damian Smith



Jasmine Bond



Bowen Seagulls





# GROWING & SUPPORTING RUGBY LEAGUE IN PNG

The PacificAus Sports Program entered its second phase of funding from the Australian Government in 2024, marking the start of a new four-year funding cycle.

This partnership continues to strengthen rugby league in Papua New Guinea, with the Queensland Rugby League playing a significant role in delivering strategic support and operational excellence to the PNGRFL and PNG Hunters.

Key achievements in the first year of this phase include the successful launch of the inaugural Women's National Competition (Santos Cup); critical education initiatives for rugby league professionals, and governance and operational advancements.

These outcomes reflect the program's alignment with PacificAus Sports objectives, fostering stronger ties between Australian and PNG rugby league communities while building sustainable pathways for the sport in the country.

QRL remains dedicated to supporting the PacificAus Sports program throughout this phase, ensuring its long-term vision for rugby league excellence in PNG is realised.

## Major Achievements in 2024

### Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League outcomes:

#### Women's Santos Cup

The newly formed Santos Cup featured six teams over six weeks, setting a new benchmark for female elite pathway competitions in the region with more than 150 players engaged.

#### Education

The program delivered educational material to improve the technical and operational capacity of key rugby league personnel, with a focus on upskilling coaches, match officials, and sports trainers to enhance the quality of rugby league at all levels.

#### Performance and pathways

Dedicated performance and pathways staff within PNGRFL were appointed to oversee athlete development, ensuring a structured and strategic approach to high-performance management.

### PNG Hunters outcomes:

#### Away team travel support / stadium hire

Essential funding was provided for visiting teams' travel logistics to PNG and stadium hire for PNG Hunters home games. These efforts strengthened the Hunters' ability to host games in PNG, fostering local engagement and economic activity.

### QRL outcomes:

#### Resource sharing and expertise

QRL produced a compelling documentary highlighting the passion and dedication to rugby league in PNG. This piece displayed the cultural and sporting significance of the sport, increasing visibility and engagement.

#### Major competitions team support

The program delivered competition management education to PNGRFL through the QRL's Statewide Competitions team. Essential resources, intellectual property, and best practices to improve PNGRFL's operational capacity were shared.

#### Tahnee Norris advisory

Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons coach Tahnee Norris provided advisory support and technical reviews for the Santos Cup. Norris delivered coach development sessions to elevate the quality of coaching in the competition.

#### Team Management support

The QRL's Cassie Davis supported the PNG Orchids as team manager for the Prime Minister's XIII, ensuring seamless coordination and athlete welfare while building capacity among PNG national staff.

#### Governance and operational support to PNGRFL

Workshops and reviews streamlined governance frameworks to improve operational efficiency at PNGRFL, further strengthening alignment with PacificAus Sports objectives.

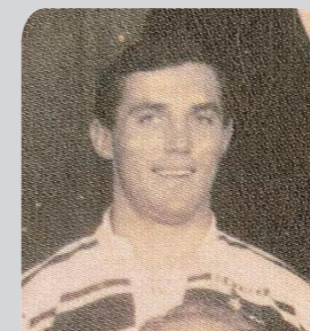
# VALE

The Queensland rugby league family celebrated the incredible contributions made by some remarkable individuals this year.

The QRL acknowledges their wide ranging achievements and extends its condolences to family members, friends and colleagues.



Bob Banks



John Bourke



Mike Colman



Arthur Denovan



Len Dittmar



Peter McGrath



Peter Rafter



John Topp



Darryl Van de Velde

# HISTORY

Inaugural Australian Rugby League Commission chairman John Grant delivered the Annual Ross Livermore Memorial Lecture in front of an appreciative audience in May.

The lecture attracted widespread media publicity given the nature of Grant's address, which included insightful comments on the way the game is run today, as well as reflections on his time in charge.

History Committee member Steve Haddan was MC, while chairman Steve Ricketts officially welcomed guests, among them John Lang and Adrian McGregor, who previously presented the Livermore Lecture.

Greg Shannon wrote the popular 'Chronicle' newsletter, which was distributed to guests.

The Chronicle focused on 1984, arguably the greatest year in QRL history, with Queenslanders dominating the Australian side after a resounding State of Origin series win.

Queensland Residents defeated New Zealand at Lang Park, and Toowoomba beat the touring Great Britain side.

On top of all that, the Brisbane representative side won the prestigious National Panasonic Cup, defeating Sydney Roosters in the final.

The Committee was delighted to see Lionel Morgan inducted into the NRL Hall of Fame, given it had thrown its weight behind the family's endeavours to honour the Indigenous icon, who passed away in 2023, aged 85.

Ricketts was part of the Hall of Fame judging panel and also represented the Committee at the Hall of Fame Dinner at the Sydney Cricket Ground in August.

On behalf of the QRL, the committee has accepted century-old historical items from donors with strong family links to Queensland legends Jim Bennett and Tom Gorman.

Jim Bennett played for Queensland and Australia in 1924, while Tom Gorman famously became the first Queenslander to captain a Kangaroo touring side to Britain in 1929.

Bennett's nephew Jeff Bennett travelled to Australia from his home in Canada for the State of Origin series and handed over Jim's 1924 Queensland cap, in addition to other items of memorabilia from his illustrious career.



In addition, Jeff and his wife Helen donated \$10,000 to the fledgling Maroons Foundation, in Jim's name, to support country rugby league at the grassroots level.

The Bennetts' generosity was officially acknowledged by QRL chairman Bruce Hatcher and chief executive officer Ben Ikin at the State of Origin game-day breakfast.

Haddan and Paul Hayes represented the Committee at the official handover of Gorman's 1924 Test jumper by his nephew, Peter McCrystal, in October.

Hayes and Shannon have co-authored a discussion paper advocating the recognition of players currently not acknowledged as Australian representatives, despite being selected for national duty.

The paper identified several categories, including non-playing reserves who never got the chance to play for Australia again, and players selected, who have featured in Australian team photographs and/or programs, but were ruled out with injury at the last minute.

The discussion paper recommended that these players be recognised in official records, without being awarded official Test numbers.

## QRL History Committee

**Chair:** Steve Ricketts

**Members:** Paul Hayes, John McCoy, Greg Shannon, Steve Haddan, Greg Adermann, Peter Betros, Michael Pease, Rebecca Trimble, Colleen Edwards.



## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- › Former Queensland State of Origin coach and captain Paul 'Fatty' Vautin was inducted into the Queensland Sports Hall of Fame on November 21. The History Committee supported the proposal to recognise Vautin. Iconic administrator Harry Sunderland was also inducted into the Queensland Sports Hall of Fame last year.
- › Long-serving North Queensland official Tim Nugent detailed his new role as Cowboys' events and heritage specialist, as the club prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Nugent acknowledged the work Greg Shannon has been doing for the Cowboys as the club's official historian. Shannon was interviewed by ABC Radio about the 'State of Origin' match played on Bougainville during World War II, and also contributed history columns to newspapers in North Queensland.
- › Committee archivist Paul Hayes will be honoured in 2025 with a display of selected items from his collection, at the 'Precious' Exhibition at the Brisbane Museum in City Hall. While many of the items on display at the QRL have been donated directly to the QRL, or have been handed down across the decades, many other items are the direct result of Hayes' endeavours in the rugby league community.
- › Steve Ricketts fulfilled a number of obligations in 2024. He was commissioned by Australian coach Mal Meninga to write 'The History of the Kangaroos'. The result was a booklet, comprising 14 chapters, which was presented to each of the Australian players in camp during their Pacific Championships campaign.
- › Ricketts represented the Committee at the annual Carbine Club State of Origin lunch, where he addressed guests about Des Morris' contribution to rugby league, as a medal honouring the Queensland great was unveiled. The medal will be presented annually to the Cyril Connell Cup's best player.

# 2022

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# GOVERNANCE & FINANCIALS

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# DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited ("QRL" or the "Company") for the year ended 31 October 2024 and the auditor's report thereon.

## DIRECTORS NAMES

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

**B.W. Canavan**

**N.S. McCarthy**

**C.P. Cronk**

**R.M. Garard**

**S.D. Bliss**

**C.J. Begg**

**B.D. McGuire**

**M.J. O'Hanlon** (Appointed: 1 November 2024)

**B.J. O'Farrell** (Appointed: 2 February 2024)

**P.C. Daley** (Alternate director for M.J. O'Hanlon)

**R.C. Whyte** (Alternate director for C.J. Begg)

**P.D. Hunt** (Alternate director for B.D. McGuire)

**K.S. Egan** (Alternate director for B.J. O'Farrell)

**B.M. Hatcher** (Retired: 31 October 2024)

**D.J. Van De Velde** (Resigned: 29 January 2024)

The directors have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The net profit of the Company for year ended 31 October 2024 was \$974,595 (2023: net loss of \$283,785).

As at 31 October 2024, the Company's net assets were \$9,435,909 (2023: \$8,461,314).

## OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

- The QRL's objectives are to:

Increase male and female player participation numbers from junior through to elite levels of rugby league throughout Queensland, Maintain the State of Origin teams performance,

- Foster, develop and extend rugby league from the junior through to elite levels throughout Queensland; and Take such action as may be considered to be in the best interests of rugby league in Queensland.
- To ensure the objectives of the QRL are being met, the Company will: Promote and communicate the achievements of the QRL within Queensland communities and amongst the stakeholders of rugby league in Queensland,
- Continue to support and resource the Queensland State of Origin programs, Pro-actively identify and develop future Origin players, Organise, conduct, and develop competitions within Queensland from junior through to elite levels,
- Conduct player camps and be responsible for the education of coaches, first aid officers and other officials within the game's development structures and produce a range of resources to assist in this regard,
- Co-operate, with organisations administering the game in other states of Australia and other countries, in the fostering and development of the game,
- Subscribe to, become a member of, and co-operate with any other club, association, or organisation, whether incorporated or not, whose objectives are altogether or in part similar to those of the QRL,
- Enter into any arrangement with any government or authority, supreme, municipal, local, or otherwise that may be conducive to any or all of the QRL's objectives,
- Regulate the operation of all member bodies and affiliates; and
- Provide grants by way of gift and to render other financial assistance to clubs and other persons and bodies connected with the game.

The KPIs of the QRL are reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer, Senior Leadership Team, and the Board of Directors on a regular basis to ensure relevance at any particular point in time.

The QRL's performance is constantly measured against:

- Demographic analysis of participation numbers, potential players, and lost players; Feedback from member clubs and other key stakeholders; and Budget.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Queensland Rugby Football League Limited ("QRL") is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with any surplus income or property applied to promote its principal activities.

The QRL's principal activities are the promotion, development, and governance of rugby league at all levels in Queensland, from grassroots to elite.

The QRL is a member of the Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC), the national body for rugby league in Australia, and works closely with the ARLC, National Rugby League and its officers to develop and deliver strategies to improve participation in rugby league programs.

Given the significant distances across remote and regional Queensland, the QRL's resources are located to support community rugby league and talent pathways across the state, working closely with various local and regional leagues and clubs. In recent years, the QRL has focused on building participation in the game for female athletes and athletes from diverse cultural and social backgrounds.

The QRL also continues to focus upon building the support and engagement with fans through the male and female State of Origin teams, the Maroons. This focus continues to deliver improved revenue outcomes through partnership, hospitality, membership, and e-commerce programs to fund the objectives of the QRL.

# INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS

**B.W. CANAVAN**

**CHAIRPERSON** (from November 1 2024)  
**SOUTH EAST REGION CHAIR** (until 31 October 2024) | BHumanMovSt

Born in Warwick Queensland, Brian was educated in schools on the Darling Downs and Brisbane, completing his tertiary studies at the University of Queensland. He played and coached in the Brisbane Rugby League competition with the Fortitude Valleys Club for a period of 12 years and was a secondary school teacher for 10 years. Brian joined the Brisbane Broncos in their inaugural year in the national competition and worked with Queensland and National Rugby League clubs, Queensland's State of Origin team and rugby league's governing bodies. His involvement in the sport has covered the areas of governance and management, coaching, strength and conditioning and junior participation. In recent times, Brian has held senior management positions, including NRL Head of Football and NRL club chief operating officer, chief executive officer and director of football. Brian was elected as chairperson of QRL Southeast Region in 2021 and QRL Chairperson on 1 November 2024.

**N.S. MCCARTHY**

**INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR** | BSc GAICD

Former Australian water polo representative Naomi McCarthy OAM was appointed to the QRL Board as an Independent Director in January 2020. McCarthy represented Australia at two Olympic Games, as vice-captain of the gold medal winning team at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and as captain of her country at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. She has remained heavily involved in sport since her retirement, previously serving as a board member of the Queensland Academy of Sport and as a director of Womensport Queensland. McCarthy is currently the Manager Sport Engagement at Griffith University, where she works closely with many professional and Olympic/Paralympic Sports and their elite athletes. Naomi is Chair of the QRL's Corporate & Social Responsibility Committee.

**C.P. CRONK**

**INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR** | GAICD

A former Queensland and Australian halfback, Cooper was appointed to the QRL Board as an independent director in August 2021. As the Chair of the QRL Pathways & Performance Committee, Cronk is passionate about 'giving back' to the game and helping Queensland produce elite players of the future. Cronk played his junior rugby league with the Souths Acacia Ridge club, before going on to play with the Norths Devils in the then Queensland Cup. His talent and work ethic saw him become a dominant force at the Melbourne Storm, where he played 325 games between 2004 and 2017. Cronk capped of an incredible professional career with consecutive grand final wins at the Sydney Roosters and has since established himself as one of the most respected voices in the game through his work as a presenter with Fox Sports.

**R.M. GARARD**

**INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR** | BBus FCA GAICD

Renita Garard AM was appointed as an Independent Director to the QRL Board in June 2017. She is a dual Olympic gold medallist, having been a member of the Australian Women's Hockey team from 1993 to 2000, while off the sporting field, she has fulfilled board roles with both the International Hockey Federation and Hockey Australia, and the Queensland Academy of Sport. She is currently the Board Chair of the 4 Aussie Heroes Foundation Limited, and a Board Member of Embark Early Education Limited and The Energy Collective Limited. Renita is Chair of the QRL's Audit & Risk Committee.

**S.D. BLISS**

**INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR** | GradCertBus

A respected Indigenous community leader Samantha Bliss was appointed to the QRL Board as an independent director in November 2021. Having forged a career in the Queensland Police Service for close to 30 years, Bliss is a former Queensland and Australian rugby league representative who has a genuine desire to promote and develop rugby league in Queensland. A specialist in child protection and family support with senior management experience, Samantha chairs the QRL's Participation Committee and will contribute to the QRL's child safety and member protection frameworks, and work related to the QRL's Female Strategy, Diversity and Inclusion Framework and Reconciliation Action Plan.

**C.J. BEGG**

**NORTHERN REGION CHAIR**

Clinton Begg has a deep-rooted connection to rugby league, having dedicated over 30 years as both a match official and administrator. His involvement spans all levels of the game—from community rugby league to state and national competitions. Throughout this time, he has received numerous Queensland Rugby League Awards for his contributions in the Match Officialdom category, as well as nominations for the NRL Volunteer of the Year. He is also a Life Member of the North Queensland Rugby League Referees, a testament to his long standing commitment and influence within the sport.

Clinton is particularly passionate about promoting rugby league in regional and remote areas of Queensland, working to increase participation and build stronger local connections to the game. He also has a strong interest in the successful implementation of the QRL Strategic Framework 2023-2027 and is focused on the opportunity's rugby league can harness leading up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Professionally, Clinton is a consultant, advising businesses on strategies for success in the digital economy and helping them develop innovative, strategic structures. He has extensive experience working with both state and federal government departments and agencies and has collaborated with prominent national and international brands. With this broad expertise, Clinton brings a wealth of knowledge and strategic insight to the Queensland Rugby League Board.



# INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS CONT.

**B.D. MCGUIRE****CENTRAL REGION CHAIR** | DipT

As Chair of the QRL Central Region, Danny McGuire is serving his second stint on the QRL Board. He previously served on the Board from 2006-2009 and joined again in 2013. He had been Chair of the Wide Bay Region for nine years. Danny has been a coach and administrator with Sunshine Coast junior club Kawana (Life Member) and has served as Chair of the Sunshine Coast Rugby League. In 2010, he was inducted into the Sunshine Coast University Sports Hall of Fame for administrators. Danny is a member of the QRL's Participation Committee and serves as Chair of the QRL Outback Committee.

**M.J. O'HANLON****SOUTH EAST REGION CHAIR (from 1 November 2024)** | BA, Grad Dip Teach, B Lett (Hons)

As a vastly experienced educator, the highly respected teacher and school principal has worked in Atherton, Blackwater, Bundaberg, Mackay and Rockhampton, before settling at Beenleigh State High School in 2009. Each tenure formed another chapter in his rugby league journey, as O'Hanlon and his family immersed themselves in community rugby league. From playing and coaching, to refereeing and running clubs and local leagues, O'Hanlon has filled just about every position possible. It's that experience that has made him a trusted voice on the Southeast council over the past three and a half years. Matt has served in numerous sports administration roles, chairing the Capricornia School Sport Board (2000-2009), Queensland School Sport Management Group (2010-2019) and South Coast School Sport (2016-2022). He has also served as a board member of Queensland School Sport (2012-2020) and School Sport Australia (2013-2020). In 2021, he received the Education Queensland Jack Pizzey Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership.

**B.J. O'FARRELL****STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR (from 2 February 2024)**  
MBA, DipSM, GAICD

Brendan O'Farrell is an accomplished Non-Executive Director and Advisory Board Member, with extensive experience across a diverse range of industry sectors. In addition to his QRL Board role, he currently sits on several company boards, including Stadiums Queensland, the State Investment Advisory Board (SIAB), TUH Health Fund, investLogan Pty Ltd, Broncos Leagues Club, Windsor Income Protection Pty Ltd and is Chair of Economic Development Queensland and Clubs Queensland.

Brendan is the founder of his own consulting firm, Maple Tree Consulting Pty Ltd. He holds an MBA, Diploma of Superannuation Management – DipSM and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and has further enhanced his expertise through courses in Strategic Management at Wharton Business School and in Leading and Building an Innovative Culture at Harvard Business School.

Brendan's career spans over 25 years in senior executive roles, ranging from General Manager to Chief Executive Officer, providing him with a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience in corporate governance, strategic management, and organisational development.

Over the years, Brendan has been an avid follower of rugby league in Queensland, and with this extensive knowledge of community and pathway competitions, he is committed to making a meaningful contribution to the game across the state.

**B.M. HATCHER****CHAIRPERSON (until 31 October 2024)** | BCom FCA FAICD

A QRL Director for over 16 years, Bruce was re-appointed as Chair of the QRL at the Annual General Meeting held on 31 January 2020. Bruce is a specialist family business consultant to BDO Chartered Accountants and a Director of the Brisbane Markets Ltd and will continue his involvement in rugby league as patron of QRL's Maroons Foundation.

**D.J. VAN DE VELDE****STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR (until 29 January 2024)**

Through his role as the Statewide Competitions Clubs Director, Darryl Van de Velde was involved in the development of Queensland's premier competition – the Hostplus Cup. A well-known and respected rugby league identity, Darryl brought a wealth of experience to the position as a former professional rugby league footballer, coach and administrator. Darryl passed away on 27 February 2024 and his significant contribution to the game will be fondly remembered.



## DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

DIRECTORS	BOARD MEETINGS		AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETINGS		FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS		GOVERNANCE, REMUNERATION & NOMINATION MEETINGS	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
B.W. Canavan	8	8	2	2	-	-	-	-
N.S. McCarthy	8	7	-	-	-	-	5	5
C.P. Cronk	8	8	-	-	6	6	-	-
R.M. Garard	8	8	7	7	-	-	-	-
S.D. Bliss	8	5	-	-	6	5	-	-
C.J. Begg	8	8	-	-	-	-	5	5
B.D. McGuire	8	8	-	-	6	6	-	-
B.J. O'Farrell	6	6	5	4	-	-	-	-
B.M. Hatcher	8	8	-	-	-	-	5	5
D.J. Van De Velde	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	-

Each of the QRL Board Committees is chaired by an independent director and includes another appointed QRL director, members of the QRL Senior Leadership Team, and external members with relevant skills and experience representing QRL stakeholder interests.

\*Corporate & Social Responsibility Committee ceased during 2023 and was absorbed into the Governance, Remuneration and Nomination Committee.

## MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The Company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$20 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 31 October 2024, the number of members was 9 (2023: 9). The combined total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$180 (2022: \$180).

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit for the financial year is provided with this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

*Brian Canavan*

**B.W. CANAVAN**

Chairman

18 December 2024

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE DIRECTORS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

As lead auditor for the audit of the financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited for the financial year ended 31 October 2024, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit;
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit; and
- no non-audit services provided that contravene any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

*Ernst & Young*

**ERNST & YOUNG**

*Matthew Taylor*

**MATTHEW TAYLOR**

Partner

18 December 2024

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS &amp; OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
<b>REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS</b>	4.a	47,713,760	39,874,133
Other income	4.b	2,300,117	985,815
Finance income	4.c	395,292	401,526
<b>LESS: EXPENSES</b>			
Employee benefits expense	4.d	(13,004,071)	(11,782,849)
Competitions		(12,774,264)	(11,398,108)
Representative teams		(6,485,040)	(6,130,410)
Grants to clubs and schools		(1,114,480)	(354,620)
Sponsor servicing		(1,529,353)	(1,387,564)
Referee development expenses		(963,911)	(893,893)
Development expenses		(944,495)	(159,973)
Commercial expenses		(3,537,899)	(2,564,224)
Expected credit losses		(23,550)	(1,444,916)
Administration expenses		(4,699,086)	(2,485,344)
Grants acquitted		(3,589,651)	(2,198,071)
Depreciation expenses	4.e	(687,043)	(635,381)
Finance costs	4.f	(81,731)	(109,906)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>(49,434,574)</b>	(41,545,259)
<b>(Loss)/profit for the year</b>		<b>974,595</b>	(283,785)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>		<b>974,595</b>	(283,785)

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.





# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2024

	NOTES	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	12,102,400	9,017,111
Trade and other receivables	6	1,752,084	4,337,743
Inventories	7	123,940	142,302
Prepayments		776,337	607,283
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>14,754,761</b>	14,104,439
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	8	214,759	233,291
Right-of-use assets	9	702,243	1,133,009
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>917,002</b>	1,366,300
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>15,671,763</b>	15,470,739
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	2,772,479	3,397,418
Contract liabilities	11	1,498,255	1,029,974
Lease liabilities	9	632,430	637,625
Employee benefit liabilities	12	860,055	986,943
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>5,763,219</b>	6,051,960
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Lease liabilities	9	300,841	825,895
Employee benefit liabilities	12	171,794	131,570
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>472,635</b>	957,465
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>6,235,854</b>	7,009,425
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>9,435,909</b>	8,461,314
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		9,435,909	8,461,314
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>9,435,909</b>	8,461,314

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

	RETAINED EARNINGS \$
<b>As at 1 November 2023</b>	<b>8,461,314</b>
Profit for the year	974,595
Other comprehensive income	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>974,595</b>
<b>As at 31 October 2024</b>	<b>9,435,909</b>
<b>At 1 November 2022</b>	<b>8,745,099</b>
Loss for the year	(283,785)
Other comprehensive income	-
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>	<b>(283,785)</b>
<b>At 31 October 2023</b>	<b>8,461,314</b>

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

NOTES	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from customers	57,981,510	42,456,090
Payments to suppliers and employees	(54,504,686)	(44,614,488)
Interest received	341,542	360,973
Interest and borrowing costs paid	(81,731)	(109,906)
<b>Net cash flows (used in)/from operating activities</b>	<b>3,736,635</b>	<b>(1,907,331)</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of plant and equipment	(112,402)	(52,919)
Loan Given	(30,000)	-
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>	<b>(142,402)</b>	<b>(52,919)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Lease principal repayment	(508,944)	(508,259)
<b>Net cash flows used in financing activities</b>	<b>(508,944)</b>	<b>(508,259)</b>
<b>NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>3,085,289</b>	<b>(2,468,509)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 November	9,017,111	11,485,620
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 October</b>	<b>12,102,400</b>	<b>9,017,111</b>

The above statement of changes in cash flow should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

## 1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

The financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (the "QRL" or "Company") for the year ended 31 October 2024 was authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the directors on 18 December 2024.

The Company is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is Rugby League Central - Queensland, 83 Castlemaine Street, Milton, QLD 4064.

The nature of the operations and principal activities of the Company are described in the directors' report.

## 2. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### A. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These general purpose financial statements (GPFS) have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures. The Company is a not-for-profit entity for the purposes of preparing these financial statements. The Directors have determined the Company is eligible to report in accordance with GPFS Tier 2 Simplified Disclosure Standards on the basis that it does not have public accountability.

The financial report covers Queensland Rugby Football League Limited as an individual entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, unless otherwise stated in the notes.

The following are the material accounting policies adopted by the Company in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

### B. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES, DISCLOSURE, STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS

#### New and amended standards and interpretations

The new and amended Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations that apply in 2024 do not materially impact the financial statements of the Company.

#### Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective and have not been

adopted by the Company for the annual reporting year ended 31 October 2024. The directors have not early adopted any of these new or amended standards or interpretations. The Company intends to adopt these new and amended standards and interpretations, if applicable, when they become effective.

### C. REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of the goods or services are transferred to the customer at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The Company has generally concluded that it is the principal in its revenue arrangements. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax ("GST").

#### Commercial revenue

Corporate hospitality and merchandise revenue is recognised at a point in time when control of the asset is transferred to the customer, generally on delivery of the goods. The normal credit term is 30 days upon delivery.

Membership subscriptions are recognised over the period the income relates.

#### Grant income

Grants from the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited ("ARLC") are recognised as revenue in the period in which the ARLC funding relates to the extent that expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the terms and conditions attaching to individual program funding and grants.

#### Partnership

Partnership and other revenue receipts are recognised in the profit or loss when the revenue is earned based on meeting the performance obligations as outlined in the contract.

### D. OTHER INCOME

#### Government grants

Government grants are recognised where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attached conditions will be complied with. When the grant relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income on a systematic basis over the periods that the related costs, for which it is intended to compensate, are expensed. When the grant relates to an asset, it is recognised as income in equal amounts over the expected useful life of the related asset.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

## 2. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### E. FINANCE INCOME

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking in to account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

### F. FINANCE COSTS

All finance costs are expensed in the period in which they occur. Finance costs consist of interest and other costs that an entity incurs in connection with the borrowing of funds.

### G. CURRENT VERSUS NON-CURRENT CLASSIFICATION

The Company presents assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position based on current/non-current classification. An asset is current when it is:

- Expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle;
- Held primarily for the purpose of trading;
- Expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period; or
- Cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when:

- It is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle; It is held primarily for the purpose of trading;
- It is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period; or
- There is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

The Company classifies all other liabilities as non-current.

### H. TAXES

#### i. Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### ii. Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

### I. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position comprise cash at bank and on hand and short-term deposits with a maturity of three months or less, which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

### J. INVENTORIES

Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### K. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### i. Financial assets

##### Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, as subsequently measured at amortised cost.

The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Company's business model for managing them. With the exception of trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Company has applied the practical expedient, the Company initially measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Company has applied the practical expedient are measured at the transaction price determined under AASB 15.

Refer to the accounting policies in Note 2.c Revenue from contracts with customers.

In order for a financial asset to be classified and measured at amortised cost, it needs to give rise to cash flows that are 'solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI)' on the principal amount outstanding. This assessment is referred to as the SPPI test and is performed at an instrument level.

#### Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Loans and receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate (EIR) method.

Loan receivables are initially recognised at fair value, carry no interest and are repayable on demand.

#### Trade and other receivables

A receivable represents the Company's right to an amount of consideration that is unconditional (i.e., only the passage of time is required before payment of the consideration is due). Trade receivables, which generally have 30 days terms, are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the EIR method, less an allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs). All trade receivables held by the Company are measured at amortised cost.

The Company's business model for managing financial assets refers to how it manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows. The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling the financial assets, or both.

#### Subsequent measurement

##### Financial assets at amortised cost (debt instruments)

The Company measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the EIR method and are subject to impairment. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

The Company's financial assets at amortised cost includes trade and other receivables.

#### Derecognition

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is primarily derecognised (i.e., removed from the Company's statement of financial position) when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired.

#### Impairment of financial assets

The Company recognises an allowance for ECLs for all debt instruments not held at fair value through profit or loss. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Company expects to receive, discounted at an approximation of the original effective interest rate. The expected cash flows will include cash flows from the sale of collateral held or other credit enhancements that are integral to the contractual terms.

For trade receivable, the Company applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Therefore, the Company does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Company has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

#### ii. Financial liabilities

##### Initial recognition and measurement

##### Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value and are subsequently carried at amortised cost. Due to their short-term nature they are not discounted. They represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Company becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Financial liabilities are classified, at initial recognition, as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, loans and borrowings and payables, as appropriate.

All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of loans and borrowings and payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs.

The Company's financial liabilities include trade and other payables.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

## 2. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### Subsequent measurement

For purposes of subsequent measurement, financial liabilities are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost (loans and borrowings).

### Derecognition

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

### L. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held available for use, consistent with the estimated consumption of the economic benefits embodied in the asset.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates (2023 and 2022)	Depreciation basis
Plant and equipment at cost	10% - 50%	Diminishing value
Leasehold improvements at cost	10%	Straight-line

### M. CONTRACT LIABILITIES

A contract liability is recognised if a payment is received or a payment is due (whichever is earlier) from a customer before the Company transfers the related goods or services. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the Company performs under the contract (i.e., transfers control of the related goods or services to the customer).

### N. LEASES

The Company assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

### N. LEASES (CONTINUED)

#### i. Company as a lessee

The Company applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The Company recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

#### (i) Right-of-use assets

The Company recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e., the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

	2024	2023
Property	10 years	10 years
Motor vehicles	3 years	3 years

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Company at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

#### (ii) Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Company recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees. The lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Company and payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Company exercising the option to terminate. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as expenses (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Company uses its incremental borrowing rate ("IBR") at the lease commencement date because the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments (e.g., changes to future payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine such lease payments) or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

#### (iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Company applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option). It also applies the lease of low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### O. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES

#### Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave and accumulated sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

#### Long-term employee benefit obligations

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of the services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee turnover, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms approximating to the terms of the related obligation.

For currencies in which there is no deep market in such high quality corporate bonds, the market yields (at the end of the reporting period) on government bonds denominated in that currency are used. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the change occurs.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

## 3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The Company evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Company. Key estimates and judgements impacting the financial statements are as follows:

#### Recoverable amount of trade receivables

As at 31 October 2024, the Company had outstanding trade receivable balances. As at the reporting date, management have assessed that these trade receivables are not impaired other than as provided for.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

## 4. REVENUE AND EXPENSES

### A. DISAGGREGATED REVENUE INFORMATION

Set out below is the disaggregation of the Company's revenue from contracts with customers:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>TYPE OF GOODS OR SERVICE</b>		
Partnership	11,797,047	10,534,528
ARLC funding	27,820,000	24,179,905
Other grants and subsidies	4,703,332	2,758,103
Commercial revenues	3,393,381	2,401,597
<b>Total revenue from contracts with customers</b>	<b>47,713,760</b>	39,874,133
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL MARKETS</b>		
Australia	47,713,760	39,874,133
<b>Total revenue from contracts with customers</b>	<b>47,713,760</b>	39,874,133
<b>TIMING OF REVENUE RECOGNITION</b>		
Goods transferred at a point in time	47,713,760	39,874,133
<b>Total revenue from contracts with customers</b>	<b>47,713,760</b>	39,874,133

### B. OTHER INCOME

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Insurance revenue	1,344,693	-
Other revenue	955,424	985,815
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,300,117</b>	985,815

Insurance revenue represents a levy, introduced in 2024, charged to players for insurance and administration related expenses. The insurance revenue for 2024 is \$1,344,693 (2023: \$nil).

### C. FINANCE INCOME

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Interest income	395,292	401,526

### D. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Employee benefits expense	13,004,071	11,782,849

Included in employee benefit expense is superannuation expense of \$1,426,468 (2023: \$1,209,910).

### E. DEPRECIATION EXPENSES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Depreciation of plant and equipment	130,934	156,564
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	556,109	478,817
<b>Total</b>	<b>687,043</b>	635,381

### F. FINANCE COSTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	81,731	109,906



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

## 5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	8,845,461	4,992,324
Short-term deposits	3,256,939	4,024,787
	<b>12,102,400</b>	9,017,111

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise the above.

Cash and cash equivalents consist of short-term deposits which are considered to be readily available, as the cost for terminating the deposit earlier than the term date is considered immaterial.

## 6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade receivables	1,551,924	5,641,234
Allowance for expected credit losses	-	(1,303,491)
Loan receivables	30,000	-
Other receivables	170,160	-
	<b>1,752,084</b>	4,337,743

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are usually paid within 30 days.

## 7. INVENTORIES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Merchandise for sale	<b>123,940</b>	142,302

Cost of inventories sold to customers amounting to \$557,091 was recognised as an expense during the year (2023: \$467,587). This is recognised in commercial expenses.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

## 8. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 November 2023	857,355	272,509	1,129,864
Additions	108,501	3,901	112,402
Disposals	-	-	-
<b>At 31 October 2024</b>	<b>965,856</b>	<b>276,410</b>	<b>1,242,266</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 November 2023	694,766	201,807	896,573
Depreciation charge for the year	102,329	28,605	130,934
Disposals	-	-	-
<b>At 31 October 2024</b>	<b>797,095</b>	<b>230,412</b>	<b>1,027,507</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
<b>At 31 October 2024</b>	<b>168,761</b>	<b>45,998</b>	<b>214,759</b>
At 31 October 2023	162,589	70,702	233,291

## 9. LEASES

### Company as a lessee

The Company has lease contracts for various items of property and motor vehicles used in its operations. Leases of property have lease term of 10 years, while motor vehicles generally have lease terms of 3 years. The Company's obligations under its leases are secured by the lessor's title to the leased assets.

The Company also has certain leases of premises with lease terms of 12 months or less and leases of office equipment with low value. The Company applies the 'short-term lease' and 'lease of low-value assets' recognition exemptions for these leases.

Set out below are the carrying amounts of right-of-use assets recognised and the movements during the year:

	PROPERTY	MOTOR VEHICLES	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
At 1 November 2023	824,453	308,556	1,133,009
Adjustment of opening balance	(24,701)	-	(24,701)
Additions	-	150,044	150,044
Depreciation charged for the year	(345,842)	(210,267)	(556,109)
<b>At 31 October 2024</b>	<b>453,910</b>	<b>248,333</b>	<b>702,243</b>

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current	632,430	637,625
Non-current	300,841	825,895

Presented below is a maturity analysis of future lease payments:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Not later than 1 year	681,574	734,111
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	312,582	881,007
	<b>994,156</b>	<b>1,615,118</b>

The amount of expense relating to short-term leases and leases of low-value assets recognised in profit or loss during the year ended 31 October 2024 was \$339,515 (2023: \$228,103).



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

## 10. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2024	2024
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade creditors	1,247,599	1,939,011
Sundry creditors and accruals	1,194,997	1,370,948
GST payable	329,883	87,459
	<b>2,772,479</b>	<b>3,397,418</b>

## 11. CONTRACT LIABILITIES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Contract liabilities	1,498,255	1,029,974

Contract liabilities in financial year ended 31 October 2024 comprise partnership revenue and grant funding received from government partners of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited prior to 31 October 2024 which relate to the financial year ending 31 October 2025.

## 12. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Annual leave	645,666	667,674
Long service leave	214,389	319,269
	<b>860,055</b>	<b>986,943</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Long service leave	171,794	131,570

## 13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

### Key management personnel compensation

Compensation expense of key management personnel amounted to \$1,920,004 during the year ended 31 October 2024 (2023: \$1,995,640).

## 14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

### Commitments

The Company did not have any commitments at 31 October 2024 (2023: \$nil).

### Contingencies

The directors were not aware of any contingent assets or contingent liabilities that have arisen in respect of the Company during the year (2023: \$nil).

## 15. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Company is dependent upon the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited ("ARLC") providing funding which is used in fostering and further developing the game of rugby league in Queensland.

## 16. MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The Company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$20 (2023: \$20) each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 31 October 2024, the number of members was 9 (2023: 9). The combined total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$180 (2023: \$180).

## 17. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

There were no significant events occurring after the reporting period which may affect either the Company's operations or results of those operations or the Company's state of affairs.

## 18. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The auditor of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited is Ernst & Young (Australia).

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Amounts received or due and receivable by Ernst &amp; Young (Australia) for:</b>		
An audit or review of the financial report of the Company	51,500	41,500
Non-audit services	7,350	7,350
	<b>58,850</b>	<b>48,850</b>

## CONSOLIDATED ENTITY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Disclosure of subsidiaries and their country of tax residency, as required by the Corporations Act 2001, does not apply to the Company as it does not have any subsidiaries.





# DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited, I state that:

In the opinion of the directors:

- (a) the financial statements and notes of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited for the financial year ended 31 October 2024 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 its performance for the year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) complying with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
- (c) the consolidated entity disclosure statement on page 93 required by section 293(3A) of the *Corporations Act* is true and correct.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors**

**B.W. CANAVAN**  
Chairperson

18 December 2024

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED**

## OPINION

We have audited the financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 October 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, the consolidated entity disclosure statement and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 October 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

## BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of:

- The financial report (other than the consolidated entity disclosure statement) that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- The consolidated entity disclosure statement that is true and correct in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*; and

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

- The consolidated entity disclosure statement that is true and correct in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001; and
- for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of:
- The financial report (other than the consolidated entity disclosure statement) that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- The consolidated entity disclosure statement that is true and correct and is free of misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.