



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

From the fun on junior fields in community leagues to the thrills of the State of Origin arena, rugby league entertained and inspired millions of Queenslanders.



\$7.35M



QRL made a significant investment into community rugby league in 2023.

370



The number of clubs in Queensland, supported by 34 leagues.

358



The total number of Hostplus Cup games played by 20 members of the Queensland Maroons' 2023 squad.

1.69M



Queensland Maroons followers across social media platforms Instagram, Facebook, Twitter/X and TikTok.

67,701



Club participation increased by five per cent.

\$110K



Country Week matches generated substantial funds for the regional clubs and leagues that hosted Hostplus Cup teams.

23,000



Volunteers formed the backbone of rugby league in Queensland. This year, the QRL and NRL celebrated the achievements of many local heroes, including Dysart year 12 student Douglas Brown.

18,275



A record crowd for a stand-alone women's rugby league match in Australia attended Game II of this year's State of Origin series between the Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons and New South Wales Sky Blues.

20

Participation across community rugby league and QRL statewide competitions grew by five per cent in 2023.

26

32

Regional Queensland was smiling in September after the Queensland Under 17 Country girls prevailed 24-20 over Queensland City at the Logan Metro Sports Complex.

58

QRL LEADERS

- › Message from the Chair 8
- › CEO Report 10

OUR PLATFORM

- › Game Plan 2024 14
- › Infrastructure & Grants 16
- › Corporate & Social Responsibility 17

FOOTBALL

- › Participation 20
- › Statewide Competitions 22

6

- › Queensland Maroons 24
- › Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons 26
- › Queensland Under 19 - Men 28
- › Queensland Under 19 - Women 29
- › Queensland City v Queensland Country Under 17 - Boys 30
- › Queensland City v Queensland Country Under 17 - Girls 32

- › Match Officials 34
- › Awards 36

COMMERCIAL & CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

38

- › Partners 40
- › Digital, Content & Broadcast 42
- › Brand, Marketing & Media 44

COMMUNITY

- › Wellbeing 48
- › Special Events 49
- › Volunteers 50
- › QRL South East 52
- › QRL Central 54
- › QRL North 56
- › Growing & Supporting Rugby League in PNG 58
- › Vale 59
- › History 60

GOVERNANCE & FINANCIALS

46

62



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QRL LEADERS

8

Message from the Chair

10

CEO Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

With strong leadership and governance, Queensland Rugby League laid the foundations for an exciting and rewarding 2023 across all levels of the game.

While there were many challenges, the QRL team was there to support and guide clubs and leagues who are engrained in Queensland communities.

The QRL Board provided direct representation of regions and statewide competitions clubs, while working collaboratively in the best interests of the game.

NEW CEO UNITES AND INSPIRES

In his first year in the role of Chief Executive Officer, Ben Ikin united the workforce and stakeholders in a seamless leadership transition.

Ben is immensely passionate about rugby league in Queensland; and he has a deep understanding and feel for the game, from community football to the elite level.

Under this leadership model, I am confident we have the capacity to raise the capabilities of players, coaches, match officials and administrators involved in our pathways.

We are inspired to do this each and every day so that our people can reach the heights of the elite part of the game.

I am pleased to report that the progress we have made in this space has been exceptional, with more than 50 male and female players this year alone stepping up from state leagues into national competitions.

We remain committed to strengthening these pathways to provide opportunities for all aspirational Queenslanders.

This will again be our focus in the new year, as we work hard to build on the many great achievements, milestones and moments of 2023.

Many of these achievements wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of the Senior Leadership Team and QRL employees, who collectively maintained high standards to ensure fixtures and programs were delivered across every corner of Queensland.

REGIONAL FOOTPRINT GROWS

With a strong focus on building from the 'ground up' with our community leagues and statewide competitions, we have set the platform to remain a force in the years to come.

On this journey with us are the four Queensland-based National Rugby League clubs, who continue to play a critical role in the development of emerging talent.

We thank the Brisbane Broncos, Gold Coast Titans, North Queensland Cowboys and The Dolphins for their co-operative spirit, as well as the Melbourne Storm who continue to invest heavily in Queensland.

As a game, we can also be proud of the expansion of women's rugby league and the improvements made to our female pathways right across the board.

With the inclusion of the Western Clydesdales and Sunshine Coast Falcons in next year's BMD Premiership, there will be more opportunities for female players and coaches than ever before.

Most importantly, we will continue to fight hard to preserve and enhance this statewide footprint, the envy of many rival codes in Queensland.

The Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) has a critical role to play in the delivery of our vision, and we will seek every opportunity to co-operate with the ARLC and all stakeholders to ensure that decisions serve the best interests of all sectors of our sport.

From a QRL perspective, we have a great deal of investment in the game and I am comforted by the knowledge that we have a wide range of very experienced people who work diligently to make a difference.

A TIME TO REFLECT AND CELEBRATE

As I reflect back on 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been part of the rugby league family, no matter how big or small.

It is this network that underpinned the achievements at the top, where the Queensland Maroons performed exceptionally to win both the men's and women's State of Origin series.

I acknowledge the assistance of the Former Origin Greats (FOGS) over the Origin period, and congratulate the coaches and players on successful campaigns.

The success of these teams, and the manner in which they carried out their duties on and off field, is to be commended.

The pride displayed by those in the Maroon jersey inspired many, from communities in the south east of Queensland to towns like Weipa on the Cape York Peninsula.

I had the pleasure of attending a Activate Queensland! Country Week match in Weipa where the spirit of community rugby league was epitomised by the enthusiasm displayed by local volunteers and the visiting clubs who raised tens of thousands of dollars for the region by auctioning their jerseys.

Initiatives like Country Week make rugby league such an appealing sport to be a part of, and it is why we have a terrific group of partners and organisations on this journey with us.

PARTNERSHIPS ADD TO STRENGTH OF GAME

As we sign off on 2023, we express our thanks to Auswide Bank for the support they have provided during the past five years to community rugby league, statewide competitions and the Maroons.

The continued support from our platinum partners – XXXX and Puma – is valued immensely by the rugby league family in Queensland.

So too is the contribution made by Hostplus and BMD, who share our vision for providing statewide pathways for aspirational male and female participants right across Queensland.

The QRL is also grateful for the unwavering support of Harvey Norman and their ongoing investment into women's rugby league.

We are privileged to have a range of partners who support us across all tiers.

With the addition of Westpac to our partnerships family, we're in a terrific position to ensure rugby league remains the benchmark for sport in Queensland.

As I reflect back on 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been part of the rugby league family, no matter how big or small.



Bruce Hatcher

Bruce Hatcher
QRL Chair

CEO REPORT

Season 2023 was an exciting one for rugby league in Queensland as the game continued to go from strength to strength.

Community rugby league is the engine of our game, so it was heart-warming to see that approximately 68,000 participants signed up to play at one of our 370 clubs, with another year of participation growth.

Of course, this increase in our playing stocks is only made possible by the magnificent work of our volunteer base, who ultimately determine if the young boys and girls who play our game, fall in love with our game.

To these people, the QRL says 'thank you' because without you, there would be no game.

This is why we invested more than \$7.3 million into grassroots programs this year, and why our '2024 Game Plan' will focus on providing greater support for volunteers and better facilities for our participants.

Statewide clubs have once again proven themselves to be great developers of rugby league talent, ensuring the next generation of players, coaches, match officials and administrators can build the tools they need to transition into the elite game.

Our 2023 men's Queensland Maroons squad has played a combined 358 matches in the Hostplus Cup, and this year's BMD Premiership saw 22 players graduate into the NRLW, confirming the quality of our development pathway.

Not forgetting that when the NRL wanted to expand their Telstra Premiership, it was Queensland's own Redcliffe Dolphins who were the obvious choice.

Congratulations to all the winners of our statewide competitions, especially the Brisbane Tigers, who broke a long drought to take out the 2023 Hostplus Cup.

I saw grown men and women crying that night, it was a beautiful thing.

And to our mighty Maroons, who claimed the men's and women's State of Origin series, thank you for inspiring an entire state.

Billy Slater and Tahnee Norris are exceptional leaders who run world class football programs, and Queenslanders should rest easy knowing that both coaches have committed to multi-year contract extensions.

Bringing together all of the moving parts to deliver rugby league in Queensland is no easy task and requires a lot of good people doing a lot of good work.

To that end, I'd like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the QRL board, led by the indefatigable Bruce Hatcher, and the entirety of our QRL staff.

To our partners and members, thank you for sharing the journey with us.

Please know that your ongoing support makes dreams come true and helps strengthen communities.

From Mount Isa to Mackay, up to Thursday Island and down to the Tweed, rugby league has the power to unite and inspire Queenslanders. I've seen it.

Everyone at the QRL is committed to making our game the best it can be, and we all look forward to advancing the cause with relentless energy and optimism in 2024.

Of course, this increase in our playing stocks is only made possible by the magnificent work of our volunteer base, who ultimately determine if the young boys and girls who play our game, fall in love with our game.



Ben Ikin
QRL Chief Executive Officer



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

1
Glenn Ottaway
General Manager –
Pathways and Performance

2
Anthony Ireland-Jones
General Manager –
Commercial and Consumer Engagement

3
Gemma Davidson
General Manager –
People, Capability and Safety

4
Ben Ikin
Chief Executive Officer

5
John Driscoll
Chief Financial Officer

6
Adam Vanzanten
General Manager – Community Rugby League

OUR PLATFORM

DES WEBB STAND

14

Game Plan 2024

16

Infrastructure & Grants

17

Corporate & Social Responsibility

GAME PLAN 2024

Queensland Rugby League this year developed its 2024 Game Plan that will guide the organisation through the next 12 months.

A desire to create a healthy QRL saw Chief Executive Officer Ben Ikin and the Senior Leadership Team work with team members across the business to craft the Game Plan.

The significant body of work was shared with the people of the QRL in November, with team members coming together to bring the Game Plan 'to life' at the annual employee conference.



HEALTHY COMMUNITY CLUBS & LEAGUES

COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE GAME PLAN FY24
Mission: Healthy community clubs and leagues

- Volunteer support and capability
- Improve reporting and compliance
- Better facilities and more of them
- Accessible and inclusive clubs

WORLD CLASS FOOTBALL PROGRAMS & PATHWAYS

PERFORMANCE AND PATHWAYS GAME PLAN FY24
Mission: World class football programs and pathways

- Globally admired State of Origin programs and teams
- Pathway programs that produce national talent
- Competitions and clubs that support player transition via a state-wide footprint
- A network of coaching and performance staff supporting the development of talent

STRONG COMMERCIAL PORTFOLIO & BRAND

COMMERCIAL AND CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT GAME PLAN FY24
Mission: Strong commercial portfolio and brand

- A relentless focus on growing and knowing the Rugby League audience in Queensland
- Delivering the right message, to the right person, at the right time
- Delivering exceptional experiences through all consumer engagement
- A disciplined pricing and targeting strategy to convert prospective partners and customers

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL STEWARD OF THE GAME

FINANCE GAME PLAN FY24
Mission: Responsible financial steward of the game

- Provide timely and accurate financial information
- Lift financial and governance capability
- Innovate our business processes
- Financial health and sustainability of our business and stakeholders

A WORKFORCE LEARNING, GROWING & THRIVING

PEOPLE, CAPABILITY AND SAFETY GAME PLAN FY24
Mission: A workforce learning, growing and thriving

- Hire and retain top talent
- Develop and enhance operational skills and leadership capability
- Cultivate a healthy culture where employees thrive
- Support the workforce to feel safe, engaged and socially responsible



INFRASTRUCTURE & GRANTS

The recently released QRL Infrastructure Strategy (QRLIS) has become a genuine 'game changer' for rugby league in Queensland.

Coupled with the introduction of a full-time State Infrastructure and Grants Manager, it has given the game a clear mandate to create better facilities across rugby league venues in Queensland.

This is important given the QRL's participation growth of five per cent in 2023 and the need for the game to provide quality facilities that are safe and inclusive for all.

The introduction of the QRLIS has provided clubs, leagues and councils, who own the majority of the playing fields in Queensland, with an important resource that clearly identifies what a rugby league venue should look like for the various layers of the game.

The QRLIS has developed:

- › Stronger connection and collaboration with all levels of government in Queensland, particularly with the councils and State Government departments, including the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS)
- › A link to a professional and precise document that affiliates can access easily and utilise when applying for grant opportunities relating to infrastructure

In early 2023, DTIS announced their funding recipients for the first round of the Minor Infrastructure Program (MIP) and 13 rugby league venues were provided funding to upgrade their facilities.

Some of these were submitted by clubs and leagues but the increased collaboration with schools and councils saw a number of successful grants that will help increase the number of fields and venues available for QRL clubs and participants.

The QRL co-funded six facility applications in round one which has increased to eight for round two of the program, the Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Program (MIIFF).

For this funding round, the QRL was able to provide more than 50 letters of support to clubs and leagues applying for funding to upgrade lighting, build new and inclusive change rooms, and to upgrade field quality.

In the QRLIS it was identified that only five per cent of rugby league venues had inclusive change rooms.

This percentage has already increased with the funding secured within the game in round one of the MIP. The QRL is excited to see this trend continue when round two is announced in early 2024.

More than 50 per cent of the feature and priority projects identified in the QRLIS have received facility upgrades; and with numerous identified clubs applying in the latest round of the MIP, it is anticipated that this percentage of successful upgrades will only increase.

The introduction of the new state role has allowed the QRL to track grant applications and successful grant recipients.

Pleasingly, clubs and leagues have been able to amass more than \$21 million in additional funding for improvements since 2020.

Proposed new initiatives to further enhance the QRL's grant success rate include:

- › The development of a Grants Buddy System
- › Storytelling opportunities where 'grants champions' will be promoted
- › Engaging successful clubs and grant writers through a variety of means such as online seminars and information sessions to promote best practice
- › The development of a grants calendar for each region

CORPORATE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Queensland Rugby League created a welcoming and inclusive environment for people of all backgrounds in 2023.

Led by the Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) working group, the QRL inspired Queensland communities through a range of initiatives and programs.

This work saw QRL achieve Bronze Level certification for the Pride in Sport Index by Pride in Sport, a significant accomplishment that recognised the game's ongoing commitment in the LGBTQ+ space.

The Pride in Sport Index is a benchmarking instrument specifically designed to assess the inclusion of people with diverse sexualities and genders within Australian sporting organisations and codes.

In September this year, QRL sent a strong message that everyone is welcome to enjoy what the game has to offer through the launch of a symbolic merchandise piece.

Designed in consultation with the CSR working group, Pride in Sport and the LGBTQ+ community, a pride cap was released for sale.

The cap launch further complemented QRL's existing 2023 inclusion initiatives that focused heavily on education and wellbeing.

Pride in Sport provided regular resources and online training sessions for the QRL's 100-strong workforce who helped facilitate, support and deliver the game across the state.

Formal education and awareness sessions were aligned to NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and Harmony Day.

Numerous all abilities programs thrived throughout the state, including the award-winning "Walk With Me 4 Autism" program in Gin Gin, where participation numbers doubled in 2023.

QRL's adaptive league programs also supported Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRL) and Queensland Wheelchair Rugby League (QWRL).

Themed rounds in 2023 included:

- › **Respect Round:** Clubs played an audio message before each game, and referees and captains shook hands before kick-off. Clubs also captured content across the weekend that displayed examples of respect at their club.
- › **Family of League Crazy Sock Round:** Statewide competitions clubs purchased socks for their competing teams, who promoted the eye-catching colour combination of teal and lime green to support Family of League.
- › **Women in League Round:** QRL collaborated with Harvey Norman to deliver a competition for all clubs, who submitted photos and videos that showcased the immense contribution of women's players, coaches, volunteers and administrators.
- › **Turn to Me Round:** The final round of the regular season highlighted the issue of mental health and wellbeing in all of the game's participants. It also reinforced the message of mateship during the off-season.



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 Match Officials
- 36 Awards

PARTICIPATION

Participation across community rugby league and QRL statewide competitions grew by five per cent in 2023.

Registration numbers exploded during the early months of the year, with a strong start to QRL statewide competitions, the excitement generated by the emergence of The Dolphins; and the blistering early form of the Brisbane Broncos in the National Rugby League all generating momentum.

The spike also reflected the way the game is structured and delivered across Queensland.

By season's end, there were 67,701 registered club players.

Female participation increased by 10 per cent, with numbers eclipsing 10,000 for the first time.

Junior numbers climbed above 50,000, with the Central and North regions welcoming an influx of new participants.



	QUEENSLAND	SOUTH EAST	CENTRAL	NORTH
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	Registered participants	67,701	27,707	23,536	15,528
	Percentage growth	5.18%	3.81%	7.01%	5.92%
	Registered female participants	10,311	3,497	3,765	2,866
	Percentage growth	10.30%	11.40%	10.64%	10.57%
	Registered junior participants	51,917	22,276	17,790	11,921
	Percentage growth	5.25%	3.45%	6.89%	6.46%
	Registered senior participants	15,784	5,431	5,746	3,607
	Percentage growth	4.96%	5.33%	7.36%	4.19%

RISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Junior numbers climbed above 50,000, with the Central and North regions welcoming an influx of new participants.



STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

Six QRL statewide competitions, headlined by the Hostplus Cup and BMD Premiership, provided exceptional opportunities for players, coaches, referees and administrators in 2023.

The competitions involved 83 teams and approximately 2350 registered players, 450 coaches and trainers, and 130 volunteers.

Heading into Game I of the women's State of Origin series, Queensland selectors picked 15 players who impressed in the 2023 BMD Premiership.

The Hostplus Cup produced exciting rugby league each week, as clubs fought for top eight spots in another tightly-contested competition.

For some players, it was a significant step in their rugby league journey with their Hostplus Cup form the catalyst for selection in the National Rugby League.

Twenty-nine players who featured in the 2023 Hostplus Cup regular season took the field for either the Brisbane Broncos or Melbourne Storm in their final round NRL clash.

There was an abundance of current and former NRL talent on show in the grand final between Brisbane Tigers and Burleigh Bears at Kayo Stadium.

The Tigers prevailed 22-18 in a thriller to land their first Cup premiership after a number of near misses in recent grand finals.

The match, broadcast live on FOX Sports, showcased the talents of some emerging stars, including exciting Burleigh prospect Keano Kini who was the recipient of the Duncan Hall Medal.

While the Bears were left to rue some missed opportunities, the Tigers celebrated with their fans before dusting themselves off to prepare for the NRL State Championship against the South Sydney Rabbitohs.

The New South Wales Cup champions proved too strong for the Tigers, going on to win the Accor Stadium clash 42-22.

Earlier in the year, the Bears beat the Wynnum Manly Seagulls 24-10 to claim the BMD Premiership.

There will be even more competition for the premiership trophy next year, with the Western Clydesdales and Sunshine Coast Falcons to compete in an expanded 10-team competition.

Moving forward, the BMD Premiership and Hostplus Cup will be underpinned by a new statewide competitions structure for aspirational male and female players.

There will be no male Under 21 competition in 2024, with the current Cyril Connell Challenge and Mal Meninga Cup competitions moving to Under 17 and Under 19 age groups.

The new structure will also align with female competition age groups following confirmation of the introduction of an Under 17 girls competition to support the existing Harvey Norman Under 19s.

The elevation of under-age male competitions aligns with the junior representative program in New South Wales, as well as the proposed Under 17 interstate game and the existing Under 19 clash.

CUP TO ORIGIN

NAME	CUP GAMES	NAME	CUP GAMES
Jai Arrow	22	Tom Flegler	15
AJ Brimson	7	Moeaki Fotuauka	7
Patrick Carrigan	25	Tom Gilbert	29
Daly Cherry-Evans	21	Harry Grant	41
Xavier Coates	3	Ben Hunt	11
Selwyn Cobbo	10	Cameron Munster	46
Reuben Cotter	16	Jeremiah Nanai	7
Tom Dearden	10	Murray Taulagi	30
Tino Fa'asuamaleaui	28	Reece Walsh	2
David Fifita	4	Christian Welch	24

358

HOSTPLUS CUP GAMES PLAYED BY 20 MEMBERS OF THE QUEENSLAND MAROONS' 2023 SQUAD

2023 RESULTS



HOSTPLUS CUP

Premiers: Brisbane Tigers
 Grand Final:
 Brisbane Tigers 22 def
 Burleigh Bears 18



BMD PREMIERSHIP

Premiers: Burleigh Bears
 Grand Final:
 Burleigh Bears 24 def
 Wynnum Manly Seagulls 10



HASTINGS DEERING COLTS

Premiers: Townsville Blackhawks
 Grand Final:
 Townsville Blackhawks 40
 def Brisbane Tigers 0



HARVEY NORMAN UNDER 19S

Top standings after Round 7:
 Ipswich Jets 14
 Mackay Cutters 12
 Burleigh Bears 12
 Sunshine Coast Falcons 10
 Brisbane Tigers 10



MAL MENINGA CUP

Premiers: Redcliffe Dolphins
 Grand Final:
 Redcliffe Dolphins 36 def
 Townsville Blackhawks 18



CYRIL CONNELL CHALLENGE

Top standings after Round 7:
 Redcliffe Dolphins 14
 Sunshine Coast Falcons 12,
 Townsville Blackhawks 12
 Central Queensland Capras 10
 Ipswich Jets 10



With the game seemingly slipping from Queensland's reach, Maroons five-eighth Cameron Munster broke a tackle and found Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow who raced away to score a blistering try.

QUEENSLAND MAROONS

The Queensland Maroons inspired an entire state with an exceptional 2023 campaign that saw Billy Slater's team secure the State of Origin series by Game II.

It took all of Queensland's renowned fighting spirit to earn the series victory, with the Maroons overcoming a spate of adversity to win the opening match in Adelaide 26-18.

In a remarkable display of resilience, the Maroons rallied late after injuries to Tom Gilbert (shoulder), Selwyn Cobbo (hip) and Murray Taulagi (head knock).

Adding to the setbacks was the sin-binning of forward Tom Flegler, only one minute after the Blues had assumed control at 18-16.

What happened next has already entered Origin folklore.

With the game seemingly slipping from Queensland's reach, Maroons five-eighth Cameron Munster broke a tackle and found Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow who raced away to score a blistering try.

The gritty Maroons put the result beyond doubt minutes later when a leaping Lindsay Collins plucked a high ball out of the air and found Munster on the inside.

The victory ensured the Maroons had vital momentum heading into Game II at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium, where more than 50,000 passionate fans witnessed a stunning performance.

With the series on the line, the Blues threw everything at Queensland in the opening half.

But Slater's men held their composure to skip out to a 10-0 half-time lead following tries to Valentine Holmes and Murray Taulagi.

Queensland put on a further four second-half tries to run away with a convincing 32-6 victory.

Game III belonged to the new-look Blues, who produced their best performance of the series to outplay the Maroons on their way to a 24-10 win in Sydney.

With a young squad that is eager to learn and grow together, excitement is already building ahead of the 2024 series.

Slater will take charge of the Maroons for a third series after agreeing to a three-year contract extension in September.



RECOGNITION
Ron McAuliffe Medal
 Reuben Cotter

FOGS Peter Jackson Memorial
 Lindsay Collins



TEAM LISTS

GAME I

1. Reece Walsh
2. Selwyn Cobbo
3. Valentine Holmes
4. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
5. Murray Taulagi
6. Cameron Munster
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
15. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
9. Ben Hunt
16. Reuben Cotter
11. David Fifita
12. Tom Gilbert
13. Patrick Carrigan

Interchange:

8. Thomas Flegler
10. Lindsay Collins
14. Harry Grant
17. Jai Arrow

18. Tom Dearden

QUEENSLAND MAROONS 26 def
 NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 18
 at Adelaide Oval, Adelaide

GAME II

1. Reece Walsh
2. Xavier Coates
3. Valentine Holmes
4. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
5. Murray Taulagi
6. Cameron Munster
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
10. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
9. Ben Hunt
15. Thomas Flegler
11. David Fifita
16. Reuben Cotter
13. Patrick Carrigan

Interchange:

8. Lindsay Collins
12. Jeremiah Nanai
14. Harry Grant
17. Moeaki Fotuauka

18. AJ Brimson

QUEENSLAND MAROONS 32 def
 NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 6
 at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

GAME III

1. AJ Brimson
2. Xavier Coates
3. Valentine Holmes
4. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
5. Murray Taulagi
6. Cameron Munster
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
8. Reuben Cotter
9. Harry Grant
10. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
11. David Fifita
12. Jeremiah Nanai
13. Patrick Carrigan

Interchange:

14. Ben Hunt
15. Lindsay Collins
16. Moeaki Fotuauka
17. Corey Horsburgh

NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 24
 def QUEENSLAND MAROONS 10
 at Accor Stadium, Sydney



2023 QUEENSLAND MAROONS GAME I SQUAD
Front: Reece Walsh, Ben Hunt, Daly Cherry-Evans (Captain), Billy Slater (Coach), Cameron Munster, Harry Grant, Tom Dearden
Middle: Patrick Carrigan, David Fifita, Lindsay Collins, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Christian Welch, Thomas Flegler, Selwyn Cobbo, Reuben Cotter
Back: Valentine Holmes, Murray Taulagi, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Jai Arrow, Tom Gilbert

HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS



The Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons brought the State of Origin shield back to the Sunshine State after a gripping two-match series against the New South Wales Sky Blues.

Having won the opening game in Sydney 18-10, the Maroons ran out in front of 18,275 fans at Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville knowing anything bar a loss by eight points or more would see them crowned champions.

While the Maroons didn't get the clean sweep they so desperately wanted, the tight 18-14 loss to the Sky Blues was enough for Queensland to lift the shield in front of their home fans.

This year marked the first time the series was played over two games, with a points aggregate system introduced in the event of games being split.

And that's exactly how it panned out after the Sky Blues were awarded a late penalty try to snatch the win in a pulsating finish to the Townsville clash.

Earlier, Maroons back-rower Tazmin Gray was at her destructive best, with her powerful carries leading to Tamika Upton and Emily Bass crossing the try line in the first half.

Gray was also extremely effective in defence, producing some bruising hits and coming up with a try-saver on Jesse Southwell in the shadows of half-time.

Queensland led 14-6 at the break, but couldn't add to the tally in a dramatic second half that saw the Sky Blues cross twice.

Ultimately though, the final post-match scenes were all about the Maroons, who had laid the platform for the series on the back of the hard-fought Game I victory at CommBank Stadium in June.

A double from Julia Robinson and further tries from Gray and Emily Bass ensured the Maroons had the upper hand for the majority of the spirited contest.

Although disappointed at letting Game II slip, Maroons coach Tahnee Norris was exceptionally proud of her team's fighting qualities.

Norris has re-signed for a further two years, adding further stability to the Maroons' Origin program heading into the three-match series between the two fierce rivals in 2024.

TEAM LISTS

GAME I

1. Tamika Upton
2. Julia Robinson
3. Shenae Ciesiolka
4. Evania Pelite
5. Emily Bass
6. Tarryn Aiken
7. Zahara Temara
8. Shannon Mato
9. Destiny Brill
10. Keilee Joseph
11. Tazmin Gray
12. Shaniah Power
13. Ali Brigginsshaw (c)

Interchange:

14. Emma Manzelmann
15. Jessika Elliston
16. Sophie Holyman
17. Romy Teitzel

18. China Polata

HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS 18 def

NEW SOUTH WALES SKY BLUES 10 at CommBank Stadium, Sydney

GAME II

1. Tamika Upton
2. China Polata
3. Shenae Ciesiolka
4. Evania Pelite
5. Emily Bass
6. Tarryn Aiken
7. Zahara Temara
8. Shannon Mato
9. Destiny Brill
10. Keilee Joseph
11. Tazmin Gray
12. Romy Teitzel
13. Ali Brigginsshaw (c)

Interchange:

14. Emma Manzelmann
15. Jessika Elliston
16. Sophie Holyman
17. Shaniah Power

18. Tallisha Harden

NEW SOUTH WALES SKY BLUES 18 def

HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS 14 at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, Townsville



RECOGNITION

Annie Banks Medal
Tamika Upton

Renaë Kunst Medal
Zahara Temara



2023 HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS GAME I SQUAD

Front: Keilee Joseph, Emily Bass, Emma Manzelmann, Tahnee Norris (Coach), Ali Brigginsshaw (Captain), Destiny Brill, Shaniah Power
Middle: Evania Pelite, Sophie Holyman, China Polata, Tamika Upton, Romy Teitzel, Jessika Elliston, Tazmin Gray
Back: Julia Robinson, Shannon Mato, Shenae Ciesiolka, Zahara Temara, Tarryn Aiken

QUEENSLAND UNDER 19 - MEN



New South Wales retained their State of Origin Under 19 crown with a 32-14 win over Queensland at Kayo Stadium in July.

Led by their trio of Ethans – Sanders, Strange and Ferguson – who scored 28 of their team’s points, including the first 20, New South Wales overcame a spirited Queensland team in a quality clash.

Raiders prospect Strange scored three tries, halfback Sanders – the player of the match in this year’s SG Ball grand final – had a double, while Knights product Ferguson scored a try and kicked six goals.

Savelio Tamale was the other try-scorer for Andrew Ryan’s NSW team.

Queensland made a shaky start, with an early error seeing New South Wales take full advantage and score through Strange with just two minutes gone, and it was followed by a spectacular diving finish from Ferguson.

But it took only three minutes for all that NSW work to be undone, as Queensland scored quickfire tries to take the lead on 22 minutes.

First fullback Chevy Stewart spilled the ball right into the hands of an advancing Timothy Sielaff-Burns as he was trying to escape the in-goal area, ending in a Maroons try, before Wil Sullivan got over and Sielaff-Burns converted for a 10-8 lead.

But a stunning team try three minutes from the break, finished by Sanders, ensured the visitors took a 14-10 advantage into the sheds.

Just a minute into the second period scores were tied again thanks to a try from Redcliffe centre Caleb Jackson, but Strange then got his second and Ferguson converted to continue the rollercoaster theme.

A spirited dummy-half dart from Tamale secured the young Blues’ fifth and stretched their lead to 12, before Strange grabbed his third to blow the final scoreline out.

TEAM LIST

1. Mutua Brown
2. Israel Leota
3. Caleb Jackson
4. Mitchell Jennings
5. Tim Sielaff-Burns
6. Stanley Huen
7. Zack Lamont
8. Ryan Jackson
9. Blake Mozer
10. Ben Te Kura
11. Angus Hinchey
12. Wil Sullivan
13. Damon Marshall
14. Gabriel Satrick
15. Chris Faagutu
16. Michael Waqa
17. Jamal Shibusaki
19. Kai Simon

Coach: Matt Ballin

NEW SOUTH WALES 32 def **QUEENSLAND 14** at Kayo Stadium



Front: Nathan Cross (Assistant Coach) Gabriel Satrick, Tim Sielaff-Burns, Damon Marshall, Matt Ballin (Head Coach)
Chris Faagutu, Zack Lamont, Stanley Huen, Matt Gillet (Assistant Coach)
Middle: Blake Mozer, Jamal Shibusaki, Israel Leota, Ryan Jackson, Ben Te Kura, Wil Sullivan, Michael Waqa, Antonio Kaufusi (Assistant Coach)
Back: Mason Kira, Angus Hinchey, Caleb Jackson, Mitchell Jennings, Mutua Brown

QUEENSLAND UNDER 19 - WOMEN



Sixteen points in the second half lifted Queensland to a 20-14 victory in the women’s State of Origin Under 19 clash at Kayo Stadium.

Queensland came out of half-time a different side and powered to victory after trailing 10-4 at the break.

Interchange dummy-half Emily Bella changed the game when she entered the contest, with her scheming runs causing problems for the New South Wales defence.

Queensland got the scoring going when a fumbled kick defusal presented Skyla Adams with the chance to dive on a loose ball.

After watching a chance go begging, the visitors eventually made the most of a prolonged period of possession to cross through Chelsea Makira.

A well worked move down the left edge finished in Grace-Lee Weekes crossing to stretch her side’s advantage to 10-4 at half-time.

Destiny Mino-Sinapati put a couple of early second-half errors behind her to score her side’s second try on 45 minutes, but with Bella unable to convert from out wide, New South Wales still led by two.

On the very next set New South Wales gave away a penalty and piggy-backed Queensland back into attacking territory, with Bella racing out of dummy-half for a try.

A fourth Queensland try to Libby Surha looked to have secured the result, before Makira set up a tight finish when she went over for her double five minutes from time.

But it wasn’t to be, and after back-to-back NSW triumphs in recent years, the 2023 contest belonged to Queensland.

TEAM LIST

1. Destiny Mino-Sinapati
2. Sienna Laing
3. Libby Surha
4. Skyla Adams
5. Ebony Raftstrand-Smith
6. Chantay Kiria-Ratu
7. Sienna Lofipo
8. Shaylee Joseph
9. Lily-Rose Kolc
10. Jacinta Carter
11. Rilee Jorgensen
12. Malaela Sua
13. Matekino Kahukoti-Gray
14. Emily Bella
15. Alyssa McCarthy
16. Lily Peacock
17. Delaney Claridge
18. Helen Uitualagi

Coach: Deanna Turner

QUEENSLAND 20 def **NEW SOUTH WALES 14** at Kayo Stadium



Front: Meg Ward (Assistant Coach), Shaylee Joseph, Malaela Sua, Sienna Lofipo, Deanna Turner (Head Coach), Libby Surha, Helen Uitualagi, Lily-Rose Kolc, Maia Tua-Davidson (Assistant Coach)
Middle: Lily Peacock, Emily Bella, Skyla Adams, Chantay Kiria-Ratu, Delaney Claridge, Jacinta Carter, Matekino Kahukoti-Gray, Ebony Raftstrand-Smith
Back: Alyssa McCarthy, Destiny Mino-Sinapati, Rilee Jorgensen, Sienna Laing

QUEENSLAND UNDER 17 CITY V COUNTRY - BOYS



Queensland Under 17 Country snatched victory with a late field goal to defeat a persistent Queensland Under 17 City side at Logan Metro Sports Complex in September.

The victory followed on from the Queensland Under 17 Country girls' last minute 24-20 win just hours earlier.

It took until midway through the first half for both sides to settle into the game and Country was the first to take advantage when halfback Zac Herdegen dug into the line and popped a short pass to bullocking second rower Zac Garton.

Herdegen converted the 21st minute try to make it 6-0.

City struggled to execute as they tried to close the deficit, but they finally crossed moments before half-time after hooker Cory Pearse threw the dummy, went straight through the line and contorted himself over the stripe.

Coby Black made no mistake with the kick to send the team to half-time at 6-6.

Country came out of the sheds with renewed energy and it was interchange hooker Jai Bowden who sparked his side, jumping out of dummy half to score and take his team into the lead.

From there it was an arm wrestle for the next 15 minutes until Herdegen broke the tie when he struck a field goal from close range to put Country 13-12 ahead in the 66th minute.

But such was the back-and-forth nature of the contest, City clawed their way back into the game and it was a try to second rower Jac Finigan, followed by a Black conversion, that got them level again with 20 minutes to go.

From there it was an arm wrestle for the next 15 minutes until Herdegen broke the tie when he struck a field goal from close range to put Country 13-12 ahead in the 66th minute.

City got one more chance to attack the Country line and were setting up their own field goal attempt with some incisive runs up the middle before Jett Day, who started in the centres before moving into the back row, executed a perfect tackle under the ball to force a knock on and seal the win.

TEAM LISTS

QUEENSLAND CITY

1. Saxon Innes
2. Sunny Kama
3. Markatato Nosa
4. Phillip Coates
5. Robertson Tusi Tofu
6. Javon Andrews
7. Coby Black
8. David Leota
9. Cory Pearse
10. Cooper Bai
11. Jett Bryce
12. Jac Finigan
13. Prestyn Laine-Sietu
14. Harrison Hill
15. Dirhys Sefo
16. Samuel Hyne
17. Lachlan Buchbach

Coach: Jordan Rankin

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 13 def

QUEENSLAND CITY 12 at Logan Metro Sports Complex

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY

1. Seth Carpenter
2. Bailey Anderson
3. Thomas Morcom
16. Jett Day
5. Banjo Walker
6. Clancy Hohn
7. Zac Herdegen
8. Tavita Penaia Te'o
9. Braelan Marsh
10. Carter Ford
11. Zac Garton
12. Elijah-Shane Tapau
13. Kayne Smith
4. Rydell Tyrrell
14. Jai Bowden
15. Bodhi Sharpley
17. Beau Lucien

Coach: Antonio Kaufusi



QUEENSLAND CITY UNDER 17 BOYS

Front: Bryce Holdsworth (Manager) Sunny Kama, Markatato Nosa, Lachlan Buchbach, Robertson Tusi Tofu, Jordan Rankin (Head Coach), Samuel Hyne, Harrison Hill, Prestyn Laine-Sietu, Coby Black, Adrian Armstrong (Sports Trainer)
Back: Rob Tanielu (Assistant Coach) Saxon Innes, David Leota, Javon Andrews, Cooper Bai, Mitch Chad (Sports Trainer), Dirhys Sefo, Phillip Coates, Jett Bryce, Jac Finigan, Cory Pearse, James Chapman (Strength and Conditioner)



QUEENSLAND COUNTRY UNDER 17 BOYS

Front: Bodhi Sharpley, Rydell Tyrrell, Jai Bowden, Banjo Walker, Jett Day, Antonio Kaufusi (Head Coach), Zac Herdegen, Preston Cassidy, Bailey Anderson, Braelan Marsh, Clancy Hohn
Back: Bryce Holdsworth (Manager) Duane Carpenter (Assistant Coach) Ben Schrader (Physiotherapist), Seth Carpenter, Thomas Morcom, Tavita Penaia-Te'o, Beau Lucien, Elijah-Shane Tapau, Carter Ford, Kayne Smith, Zac Garton, Jonathan Dore (Strength and Conditioner), Dallas Williams (Sports Trainer), Danny Gray (Assistant Coach)

QUEENSLAND UNDER 17 CITY V COUNTRY - GIRLS



Regional Queensland was smiling in September after the Queensland Under 17 Country girls prevailed 24-20 over City at the Logan Metro Sports Complex.

Both sides had tries denied in a frantic 16-minute period in the second half before winger Zaleah Mosby-Nona became the hero, breaking the deadlock in the shadow of full-time to end an entertaining contest.

It was a roaring start for Country, who scored two tries in the opening five minutes thanks to two magnificent line breaks and tries by second rower Takoda Thompson.

Her second was a particular highlight as she ran 40 metres, beating a number of would-be tacklers and showing plenty of determination to slam the ball down.

While they were down 10-0, the City side kept their composure and once they had a chance with the ball they made the most of it, getting their first try on the board in the seventh minute through Raewyn Olamalii.

The combatants were all square after Olamalii dived over again, as City hopped in front 12-10 with the conversions by fullback Isla Talau.

It was a roaring start for Country, who scored two tries in the opening five minutes thanks to two magnificent line breaks and tries by second rower Takoda Thompson.

Country tried asserting themselves with physicality in defence, showing off their technical skills with a number of jarring hits stopping the opposition forwards in their tracks, while in attack they shifted the ball cleanly and quickly.

They soon took back the lead when five-eighth Caitlin Tanner dived on a well-placed grubber into the in-goal area, and she slotted the simple conversion to make it 16-12.

City returned serve straight away with a Talau try in the corner in the final minute before the break, sending the teams into the sheds locked at 16-16.

They were also next to score on the resumption when centre Te Rina Pearse dived on a loose ball after a cross-field kick off the boot of five-eighth Ella-Jaye Harrison-Leaunoa proved too challenging for the Country defence, making it a four-point game with just over 20 minutes remaining.

But after holding out City's strong set after points, Country received a penalty to get into attacking position, with an enterprising series of offloads and passes leading to centre Jennifer Kimber crossing the stripe out wide in the 44th minute.

It ultimately took a moment of brilliance from outstanding Toowoomba playmaker and player of the match Chloe Pallisier to finish the game, with her stunning cut-out pass on halfway putting Mosby-Nona away down the left side for the match winner.

TEAM LISTS

QUEENSLAND CITY

1. Isla Talau
2. Aspen Nakao
3. Indiahna Frawley
4. Te Rina Pearse
5. Bella Thompson
6. Ella-Jaye Harrison-Leaunoa
7. Shanaralii Peckham
8. Jaida Faleono
9. Raewyn Olomalii
10. Grace King
11. Kiara Wright
12. Hayley Bush
13. Lyla Duffy
14. Kaylani Tavita
15. Sienna Ibrahim
16. Mhia Taylor
17. Sifa Leapai
18. Easter Mikaele

Coach: Ana Fotu

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY

1. Mariah Brown
2. Zaleah Mosby-Nona
3. Lucy Davis
4. Jennifer Kimber
5. Elenoa Regunamada
6. Caitlin Tanner
7. Chloe Pallisier
8. Tori Dakin
9. Eva Steers
10. Mackenzie Stephens
11. Chelsea Middleton
12. Takoda Thompson
13. Pypah Ferguson
14. Emily Maher
15. Chloe Powell
16. Shaylee Hazledine
17. Makayla Elliott
18. Abbie Ritchie

Coach: Amanda Ohl

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY 24 def

QUEENSLAND CITY 20 at Logan Metro Sports Complex



QUEENSLAND CITY UNDER 17 GIRLS

Front: Aspen Nakao, Bella Thompson, Mhia Taylor, Isla Talau, Ella-Jaye Harrison-Leaunoa, Jaida Faleono, Te Rina Pearse, Kaylani Tavita, Shanaralii Peckham, Sienna Ibrahim, Raewyn Olomalii

Back: Alice Hill (Strength and Conditioner), Steve Casey (Assistant Coach), Corey Rees (Physiotherapist), Hayley Bush, Lyla Duffy, Indiahna Frawley, Kiara Wright, Sifa Leapai, Grace King, Ana Fotu (Head Coach), Thea White (Manager), Karren Brady (Sports Trainer)



QUEENSLAND COUNTRY UNDER 17 GIRLS

Front: Zaleah Mosby-Nona, Emily Maher, Chloe Pallisier, Jennifer Kimber, Eva Steers, Amanda Ohl (Head Coach) Shaylee Hazledine, Chloe Powell, Elenoa Ragunamada, Caitlin Tanner, Mariah Brown.

Back: Kylie Watts (Strength and Conditioner), Jo Kerr (Assistant Coach), Mitch Sargent (Assistant Coach), Mackenzie Stephens, Pypah Ferguson, Makayla Elliott, Tori Dakin, Takoda Thompson, Abbie Ritchie, Chelsea Middleton, Lucy Davis, Mick Clifford (Sports Trainer), Taylor Crossley (Physiotherapist)



The number of registered match officials grew to 1794, less than one per cent off pre-COVID 19 registrations.



MATCH OFFICIALS

1794 REGISTERED MATCH OFFICIALS IN QUEENSLAND.

With a strong focus on community engagement, Queensland Rugby League attracted more match officials to the game in 2023.

The number of registered match officials grew to 1794, less than one per cent off pre-COVID 19 registrations.

In an encouraging year for the QRL officiating team, participation highlights included:

- › 6.78 per cent growth in registered 13-24 year-old match officials
- › 7.62 per cent growth in registered female match officials

The QRL officiating team worked proactively to engage referees' associations through regular regional assembly meetings; and reached more match officials than ever before through community and representative carnivals.

Seasoned NRL match officials also played a key role in inspiring and educating the emerging referees, who received exposure to the game's professionals during major events like Magic Round, State of Origin and Women in League Round.

Other key initiatives in 2023 included the six-week RISE program for referees in south east Queensland, and the coach / mentor pilot held in Townsville.

The QRL team was further boosted by the appointment of a fulltime officiating coordinator, and was pleased to report the successful trial of new software used for weekly appointments within QRL statewide competitions.

GRAND FINAL APPOINTMENTS:



Hostplus Cup

Referee: Tyson Brough (Sunshine Coast)
Touch Judges: Dan Munroe (Brisbane) / Jack Klein (Gold Coast)
Bunker Review Official: Tim Rutherford (Brisbane)



BMD Premiership

Referee: Tori Wilkie (Gold Coast)
Touch Judges: Izzy Davidson (Gold Coast) / Kailey Beattie (Sunshine Coast)



Hastings Deering Colts

Referee: Matt Gannon (Brisbane)
Touch Judges: Cameron Wegner / Dylan Lawrence (both Gold Coast)



Mal Meninga Cup

Referee: Adam Rossiter (Gold Coast)
Touch Judges: Izzy Davidson / Fletcher Shearman (both Gold Coast)

XXXX Challenge

Referee: Matt Gannon (Brisbane)
Touch Judges: Bayden Sawyers (Ipswich) / Bailey Sheppard (Gold Coast)



2023 AWARDS

John Topp Medal

Adam Rossiter

Eddie Ward Medal

Ben Watts

AWARDS

Redcliffe Dolphins fullback Trai Fuller and Wynnum Manly Seagulls second-rower Shaniah Power were this year recognised as the premier players in their respective competitions.

Fuller was announced as the recipient of the Petero Civoniceva Medal as the best and fairest player in the Hostplus Cup, while Power was presented with the Steph Hancock BMD Premiership Player of the Year.

For Eidsvold Eagles junior Fuller, the medal capped off a breakthrough season for the electric speedster, who scored a brilliant try during his National Rugby League debut for The Dolphins.

In the BMD Premiership, Power was a constant threat to opposing teams throughout the regular season and finals series.

Power earned points in five consecutive premierships matches to finish on 11 points, one clear of Burleigh Bears star Zahara Temara.

Other major awards within the QRL statewide competitions included the naming of the Hastings Deering Colts Player of the Year and the Auswide Bank Mal Meninga Cup Player of the Year.

Brisbane Tigers fullback Lachlan West was a runaway winner in the Colts, while Townsville Blackhawks forward Jamal Shibasaki finished two points clear of Wynnum Manly's Coby Black in the Meninga Cup.

The 2023 awards celebrated the community rugby league family, with guests treated to some stunning video tributes that highlighted the immense contribution made by participants and volunteers across Queensland.

A red-hot field of players were in the mix for State of Origin awards within the QRL representatives program, following series victories for the Queensland Maroons and Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons.

Queensland forward Reuben Cotter was presented with his first Ron McAuliffe Medal as the Maroons' players' player, while Lindsay Collins was announced as the recipient of the FOGS Peter Jackson Memorial Award.

The prestigious FOGS award is a long-standing honour that recognises a player or staff member who epitomises the famous Queensland 'spirit'.

The equivalent in the women's Origin is the Renae Kunst Medal, which this year went to tenacious halfback Temara.

The Annie Banks Medal for Player of the Year was awarded to classy fullback Tamika Upton.



Steph Hancock BMD Premiership Player of the Year, Shaniah Power with Petero Civoniceva medal winner, Trai Fuller.

A red-hot field of players were in the mix for State of Origin awards within the QRL representatives program, following series victories for the Queensland Maroons and Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons.



2023 QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

STATEWIDE COMPETITION AWARDS

Steph Hancock Medal
Shaniah Power, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Petero Civoniceva Medal
Trai Fuller, Redcliffe Dolphins

BMD Premiership Coach of the Year
Maia Tua-Davidson, Souths Logan Magpies

Hostplus Cup Coach of the Year
Karmichael Hunt, Souths Logan Magpies

BMD Premiership Rookie of the Year
Destiny Mino-Sinapati, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Hostplus Cup Rookie of the Year
Morea Morea, Papua New Guinea Hunters

BMD Premiership Leading Points Scorer: Zahara Temara, Burleigh Bears

BMD Premiership Leading Try Scorer
Kalisi Longopoa, Souths Logan Magpies

Hostplus Cup Leading Points Scorer
Josh Rogers, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Hostplus Cup Leading Try Scorer
Jonathon Reuben, Norths Devils

Hastings Deering Colts Player of the Year
Lachlan West, Brisbane Tigers

Auswide Bank Mal Meninga Cup Player of the Year
Jamal Shibasaki, Townsville Blackhawks

Murray Hurst Education Award – Male
Brent Woolf, Tweed Seagulls

Murray Hurst Education Award – Female
Dannii Perese, Burleigh Bears

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Community Coach of the Year
Zeke Field, Caboolture Snakes

Auswide Bank Community Social Responsibility Program of the Year
Stanley River Junior Rugby League Club

XXXX Community Club of the Year
Zenath Kes Rugby League

Shell V-Power Volunteer of the Year
Joe Pennisi, Herbert River Crushers

Harvey Norman Contribution to the Female Game Award
Ana Fotu, Pine Central Holy Spirit

Club Administrator of the Year
Jaz Burton, Pine Central Holy Spirit

Community Match Official of the Year
Heath Zygnerski, Gold Coast Referees' Association

Young Person of the Year
Trinity Maclean, Brothers Ipswich / Ipswich Referees' Association and Douglas Brown, Dysart Bulls

BMD PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR

Fullback
Evania Pelite, Souths Logan Magpies

Winger
Emily Bass, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Centre
Julia Robinson, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Five-Eighth
Zahara Temara, Burleigh Bears

Halfback
Ashleigh Quinlan, Burleigh Bears

Prop
Dannii Perese, Burleigh Bears

Hooker
Chante Temara, Burleigh Bears

Second Rower
Shaniah Power, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Lock
Shannon Mato, Mackay Cutters

HOSTPLUS CUP TEAM OF THE YEAR

Fullback
Tristan Sailor, Souths Logan Magpies

Winger
Jordan Pereira, Souths Logan Magpies

Centre
Deine Mariner, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Five-Eighth
Josh Rogers, Wynnum Manly Seagulls

Halfback
Jack Campagnolo, Souths Logan Magpies

Prop
Bailey Butler, Central Queensland Capras

Hooker
Trey Brown, Central Queensland Capras

Second Rower
Jacob Alick, Burleigh Bears

Lock
Sam Coster, Burleigh Bears

COMMERCIAL & CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

40

Partners

42

Digital, Content & Broadcast

44

Brand, Marketing & Media

PARTNERS

Queensland Rugby League's partnership family provided immense support across all levels of the game.

Extensions were finalised with numerous long-term partners who will continue to engage with rugby league in 2024 and beyond.

With the game thriving on and off the field, the QRL has also welcomed Westpac as the front of jersey partner for the Queensland Maroons, First Choice Liquor Market as official coaches partner, as well as Queensland firm TPIL Lawyers.

In September, the QRL acknowledged Auswide Bank's contribution over the past five years.

In that time, Auswide Bank supported multiple junior clinics, community road shows and regional fan days.

★ 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

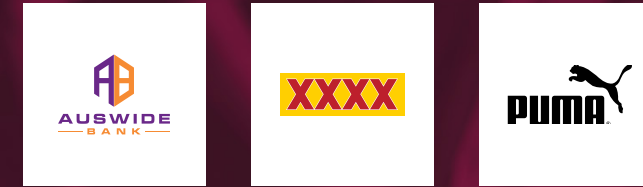
- › Hastings Deering continued their support for QRL statewide competitions this year in valuable long-standing partnership that has reached all corners of Queensland
- › QRL's new partnership with rebel saw the brand featured on all footballs throughout statewide competitions. The rebel State Development Series was also a successful addition to the QRL's talent development pathway
- › QRL welcomed Personalised Plates Queensland (PPQ) in a unique partnership that saw Maroons players feature their own 'personalised plate' design across their training jerseys in camp
- › QRL partners continued their commitment to community football, hosting clinics throughout Queensland that offered further opportunities for young male and female footballers to get involved and improve their skills
- › Partners took part in activations at many events, including Queensland Maroons fan days, rebel and Harvey Norman in-store signing sessions, the regional shield tour, Shell V Power breakfast with the stars and the Maroons long lunch
- › A full season of Hostplus Cup delivered strong exposure across the QPlus broadcast platform, connecting partners with engaged fans who tuned in to follow their team all season
- › The Maroons showed their support for families doing it tough by visiting Ronald McDonald House in Brisbane



- › For the second year running, XXXX removed its iconic logo from the left sleeve of the Queensland jersey and replaced it with a postcode of the player's choosing. The brand elevated this campaign by releasing a limited-edition can design and competition that encouraged all of Queensland to show their pride in their 'origin'



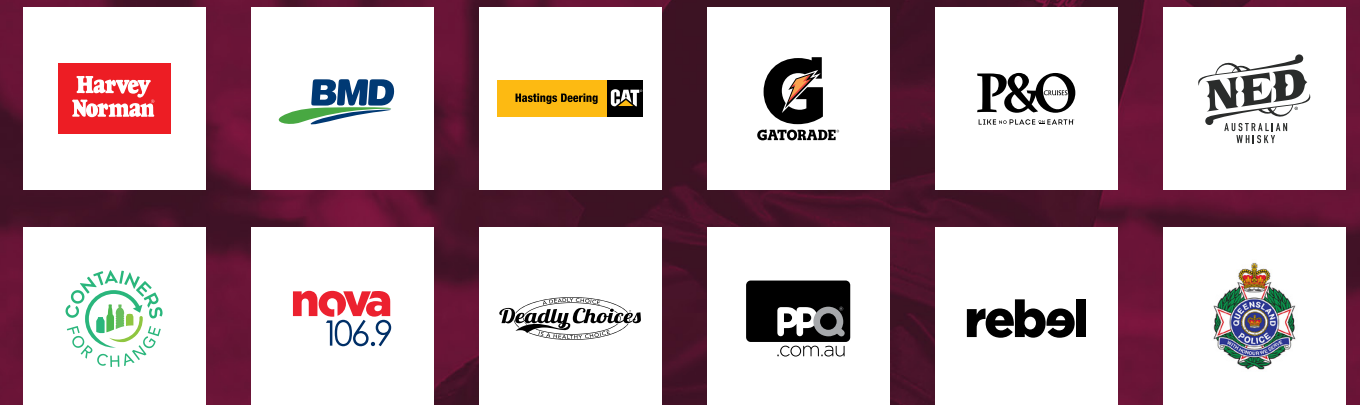
PLATINUM PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS





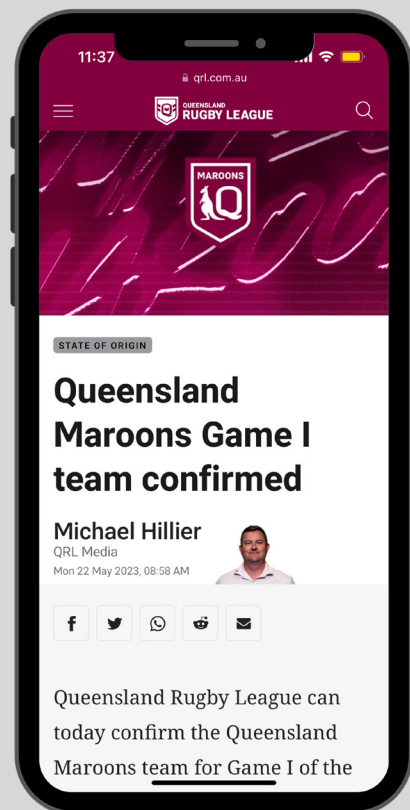
DIGITAL, CONTENT & BROADCAST

Queensland Rugby League's website was number one in the NRL Digital Network for news content.

Between November 2022 and October 2023, QRL.com.au attracted 1.8 million unique views to lead a network that included all NRL clubs and the New South Wales Rugby League.

The Queensland website also recorded more than 2.5 million sessions and 3.2 million aggregated views (the combination of page views on the website and screen views on the app).

State of Origin was again a massive drawcard, with the five articles naming the teams (Queensland Maroons for three games and Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons for two games) the top five read pieces for the year.



The Game I men's release was the top read item in the entire NRL Digital Network for the year.

The top performing videos on social included a collaboration with Gatorade titled 'Road to the dunk', Billy Slater's media conference to talk about Game II selections, the 'Made for Queenslanders' poem; and a short video of the Maroons celebrating with their team song after Game I.

With a strong focus on quality behind-the-scenes content for Instagram in 2023, a combination of snackable videos, quality photos and graphics generated strong attention and engagement.

Content across QRL statewide competitions and community rugby league also proved extremely popular throughout the year.





There were approximately 700 pieces of content created for statewide competitions on the QRL website (and shared to social media), with additional content created for social media.

At its peak when five competitions were running at once, there were 22 set pieces that would be published as a weekly minimum across the QRL website and social media.

Hostplus Cup was the second most popular topic on the QRL website with 770,007 page views.

“ The Game I men's release was the top read item in the entire NRL Digital Network for the year.

On social media, the popularity of the Queensland Maroons soared, with the number of followers on each platform listed below:

-  **Facebook: 993,000**
-  **Instagram: 443,000 (plus 17,000 on women's Instagram)**
-  **TikTok: 130,000**
-  **Twitter / X: 107,000**

★ 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- › Followers of the Hostplus Cup Instagram page surpassed 61,000 this year, with nearly 10,000 new followers
- › The Hostplus Cup Facebook page saw a 25 per cent increase on last year in content interactions, with followers increasing by 2267 to hit 120,000
- › Total followers of the QRL Instagram page (which features BMD Premiership and all youth competitions) reached 42,100 followers this year, increasing by nearly 12,000
- › The most viewed content piece within statewide competitions on the website was the voting article for the Mal Meninga Cup 'player to bank on' with 21,937 page views
- › The most popular Hostplus Cup website piece was the return of Felise Kaufusi for the Redcliffe Dolphins, with 19,235 page views
- › QRL Crunch was a new content piece with a top viewership on Instagram (30,976 plays)
- › The most popular video piece on Hostplus Cup Instagram – produced by QRL creators – was the Ryan Papenhuyzen return highlights, with 57,161 plays

Community rugby league participants and fans were kept informed and entertained during an action-packed year.

Across 237 content items that highlighted the stars and quiet achievers of local league competitions, there were 350,000 website page views and 500,000 video views.

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

- › The top article – 'Former NRL, Cup stars line up in Rugby League Brisbane grand finals' – attracted 25,514 unique page views
- › The weekly Statewide score wrap was extremely well read in the early to middle part of the season, with popular themes including family feats and ex-NRL player involvement
- › 'Everything you need to know' articles about specific QRL events was a key content piece for participants and fans throughout the year
- › The team completed 19 video projects, covering events and initiatives like the Adrian Vowles Cup and Community Awards

The QRL grew its live streaming platform in 2023, with Qplus.tv year on year viewership as follows:

TOTAL VIEWS



MINUTES WATCHED

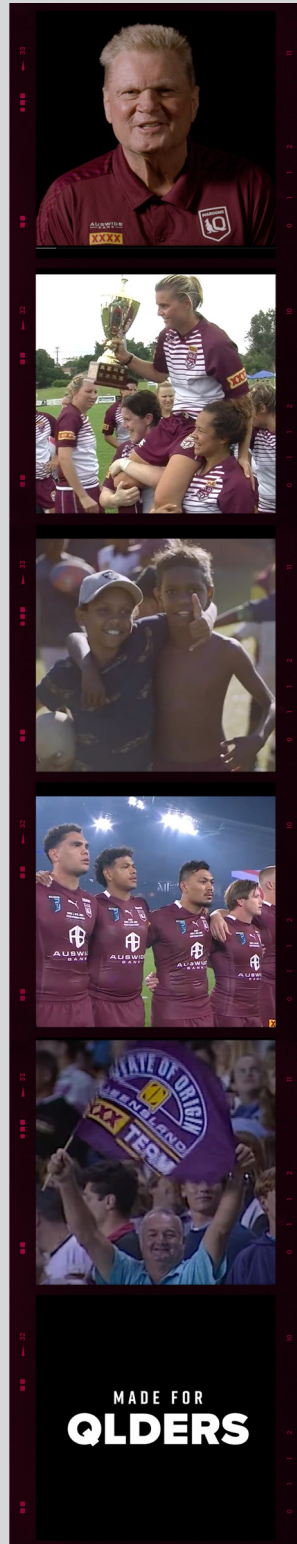


The average viewership of the Hostplus Cup feature game increased from 10,691 to 17,559, while the most watched game in 2023 was the preliminary final clash between Brisbane Tigers and Central Queensland Capras (33,228 viewers).

This year's Hostplus Cup grand final on FOX Sports reached 193,000 with an average audience of 83,000.



BRAND, MARKETING & MEDIA



26,286

MAROONS MEMBERS DISPLAYED THEIR PASSION FOR QUEENSLAND'S STATE OF ORIGIN TEAMS.

Queensland rugby league fans were this year inspired by a superb content piece featuring Maroons great Paul "Fatty" Vautin.

Titled 'Made for Queenslanders', the video showcased some iconic Origin moments and the Maroons' connection to communities in every corner of the state.

A collaboration between the QRL's marketing and digital content departments, the piece saw Vautin reflect on what Queensland's men's and women's Origin team means to Queenslanders.

"When it comes to Origin, we're right there together," Vautin says in one of many powerful lines.

“ Titled 'Made for Queenslanders', the video showcased some iconic Origin moments and the Maroons' connection to communities in every corner of the state.

The video attracted more than 500,000 views across Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, as Queenslanders lapped up the passion and intense rivalry that only State of Origin can deliver.

That emotion was carried onto the field, as Queensland's flagship teams lived up to Fatty's words.

Throughout the year, the Maroons brand was further enhanced by some incredible assets produced by the QRL's creative services and content team.

Community rugby league and statewide competitions were also supported by the teams as followers were informed and entertained by quality content across QRL platforms.



Statewide competitions commenced under the banner of the QRL's 'Make your mark' campaign, which highlighted the skills and talent of aspirational athletes involved in the state's pathways.

QRL also worked proactively with print, television and radio organisations to tell many positive stories in 2023.

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

QRL Media facilitated daily interview and vision opportunities with media and broadcast partners across this period.



MEMBERSHIP

More than 26,000 memberships were sold as Queensland rugby league supporters enjoyed many benefits.

A record-breaking women's State of Origin crowd for Game II in Townsville saw 727 Maroons Members take their seat in the official Queensland supporters bay at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

Kane's Crew, a new addition to the Maroons Membership portfolio in 2022, attracted 1700 new members.



“ Throughout the year, the Maroons brand was further enhanced by some incredible assets produced by the QRL's creative services and content team.

COMMUNITY

48

Wellbeing

49

Special Events

50

Volunteers

52

QRL South East

54

QRL Central

56

QRL North

58

Growing & Supporting
Rugby League in PNG

59

Vale

60

History

WELLBEING

13K

THE QRL WELLBEING TEAM REACHED PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL PARTS OF QUEENSLAND.

The Queensland Rugby League wellbeing team expanded its services in 2023 with the launch of 'GRIP', a new club education wellbeing program.

The program was introduced at the popular Adrian Vowles Cup in Charleville, where the wellbeing team delivered key messages about gratitude, resilience, intent and pride.

GRIP sessions were also presented to participants at the rebel RISE Development Series carnivals in each region.

Throughout the year, wellbeing team members took immense pride in visiting more than 50 clubs, while also delivering important messages and resources during 15 wellbeing community visits.

Club-based education focused on:

- › Respectful relationships
- › Mental health awareness
- › Anti-bullying
- › Risks of e-cigarettes; and
- › GRIP

QRL's Support Squad initiative this year welcomed 80 new members who were accredited through the Mind Challenge face-to-face Mental Health First Aid course.

“ Throughout the year, wellbeing team members took immense pride in visiting more than 50 clubs, while also delivering important messages and resources during 15 wellbeing community visits.

On R U OK Day, four high-performing members were recognised at the inaugural awards, which celebrated the vital contribution of wellbeing volunteers at community rugby league clubs.

Across October and November, a level two 'Wellbeing Champion' program was introduced for Support Squad members.

This wellbeing component commenced with online information sessions for 40 current members, who are now qualified as trained mentors across all regions of the QRL.

This year also saw the launch of a new partnership with the White Cloud Foundation, with every participant across the state now having access to a free tele-mental health service.

Across the statewide competitions network, club wellbeing managers worked energetically to assist athletes with career goals and advice, while also sharing important tools and resources to help with life challenges.

Clubs held various education sessions throughout the season and raised awareness and funds for numerous charities and not-for-profit organisations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY 23

QUEENSLAND MAROONS LONG LUNCH

The Queensland Maroons formally kicked off their men's and women's Origin campaigns in front of more than 600 guests at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre in May. Guests received fantastic insights from Billy Slater, Daly Cherry-Evans, Tom Gilbert, Tahnee Norris, Ali Brigginsshaw and Evania Pelite ahead of the 2023 series. Hosts Michael Atkinson and Alissa Smith kept the event flowing, with the unveiling of Paul Vautin's 'made for Queenslanders' video one of the many highlights. The lunch also raised \$5000 for the Goanna Academy through the auction of Sid Domic's Indigenous jersey artwork.

JUNE 4

QUEENSLAND MAROONS FAN DAY

With the backing of Cairns City Council and the Queensland Rugby League, Barlow Park was painted maroon as local supporters arrived in numbers to support their favourite team. Despite the wet weather and soggy grounds, more than 4000 fans lined the Cairns field to meet the Maroons ahead of the third State of Origin match. Having already locked up the series, the Maroons were a huge hit with fans, who were thrilled to see home town hero Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow. Junior players from the Far North Queensland clubs enjoyed the opportunity to share the same field with their favourite Queensland players, who joined members of the coaching team in the afternoon for further community visits throughout the region.

JUNE 17

HARVEY NORMAN MAROONS FAN DAY

Northern fans lapped up the opportunity to meet their Origin heroes at The Strand before the women's State of Origin match in Townsville. The event included a beach clinic with enthusiastic junior players and a signing session with Maroons stars. The presence of QRL partners rebel, Macca's, Harvey Norman and Containers for Change added to the atmosphere at the event, as Origin fever kicked in ahead of the historic Townsville clash between the Maroons and Sky Blues.

JUNE 21

SHELL V-POWER BREAKFAST WITH THE STARS

A massive line up of stars took to the stage in Brisbane on the morning of Game II of the men's State of Origin series in Brisbane. Rugby league icon Wally Lewis and motor racing legend Dick Johnson kicked off the entertainment inside Brisbane City Hall. More than 200 guests also heard from league greats Petero Civoniceva and Johnathan Thurston, as well as Australian athletes Cedric Dubler, Dane Zorko and Susie O'Neill. All stars expressed their love for Queensland and how they have celebrated Origin over the years.

SEPT 15

QRL AWARDS

The annual QRL awards recognised the achievements of participants across all levels of the game. From players and coaches in community leagues, to the standout performers across statewide competitions and Queensland Maroons' State of Origin programs, the awards celebrated those who excelled in 2023. Highlights included the presentation of the Petero Civoniceva Medal and the Steph Hancock BMD Premiership Player of the Year.

SEPT 17

STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS GRAND FINALS

Broadcaster FOX Sports delivered a gripping Hostplus Cup grand final to viewers around the world in September. While crowd numbers were slightly down on previous years, the atmosphere inside the ground was electric. After a spate of grand final misses, the Brisbane Tigers produced a brave performance to beat the Burleigh Bears in a classic grand final. The Tigers weren't so fortunate in the Hastings Deering Colts grand final after meeting a ruthless Townsville Blackhawks team. Off the field, the 50-50 Charity Raffle raised \$2500 for Hampo's Youth Foundation.

VOLUNTEERS

23K+

VOLUNTEERS SET THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE MANY ON-FIELD SUCCESS STORIES.

Community rugby league endured its challenges throughout 2023 but one feature remained constant – the immense contribution of volunteers.

More than 23,000 people volunteered in a variety of roles that allowed junior and senior players to showcase their athleticism and skills on rugby league fields across Queensland.

Through numerous initiatives linked to the 'Game Plan' and the desire to create healthy clubs and leagues, the QRL invested significantly in its volunteer network this year.



NRL COMMUNITY AWARDS

COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

Zenadth Kes Junior Rugby League (ZKJRL)

Thursday Island's Zenadth Kes Junior Rugby League (ZKJRL) is a small community club making a big difference to children on Thursday Island, Horn Island, Hammond Island and other small Torres Strait remote islands.

Despite being one of the most remote clubs, Zenadth Kes Junior participants travel to games by ferry and dinghy, allowing them to play in regular competition.

The club partnered with key health providers in the Torres Strait, working in partnership to close the gap target for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This partnership provided an opportunity for health providers to reach more people who may not have access to these services prior to joining the club.

Each region took part in workshops that focused on bolstering volunteer support and capability, improving reporting and compliance, building better facilities; and having more accessible and inclusive clubs.

In an effort to complement this direction, the QRL team is working on a new club and league health check that will be simplified to meet these objectives.

Volunteer recognition went to new heights in 2023 with the achievements of individuals, clubs and leagues recognised through the annual QRL Awards and NRL Community Awards.

Thursday Island's Zenadth Kes Junior Rugby League club, as well as Year 12 student Douglas Brown, were major award recipients at both state and national level.

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Douglas Brown

A focused year 12 high school student, Douglas Brown dedicated himself to his rugby league club, the Dysart Bulls. Douglas volunteered as a coach, and assisted with set up on game days. He was also involved in fundraising and unpacking deliveries at the club during the week.

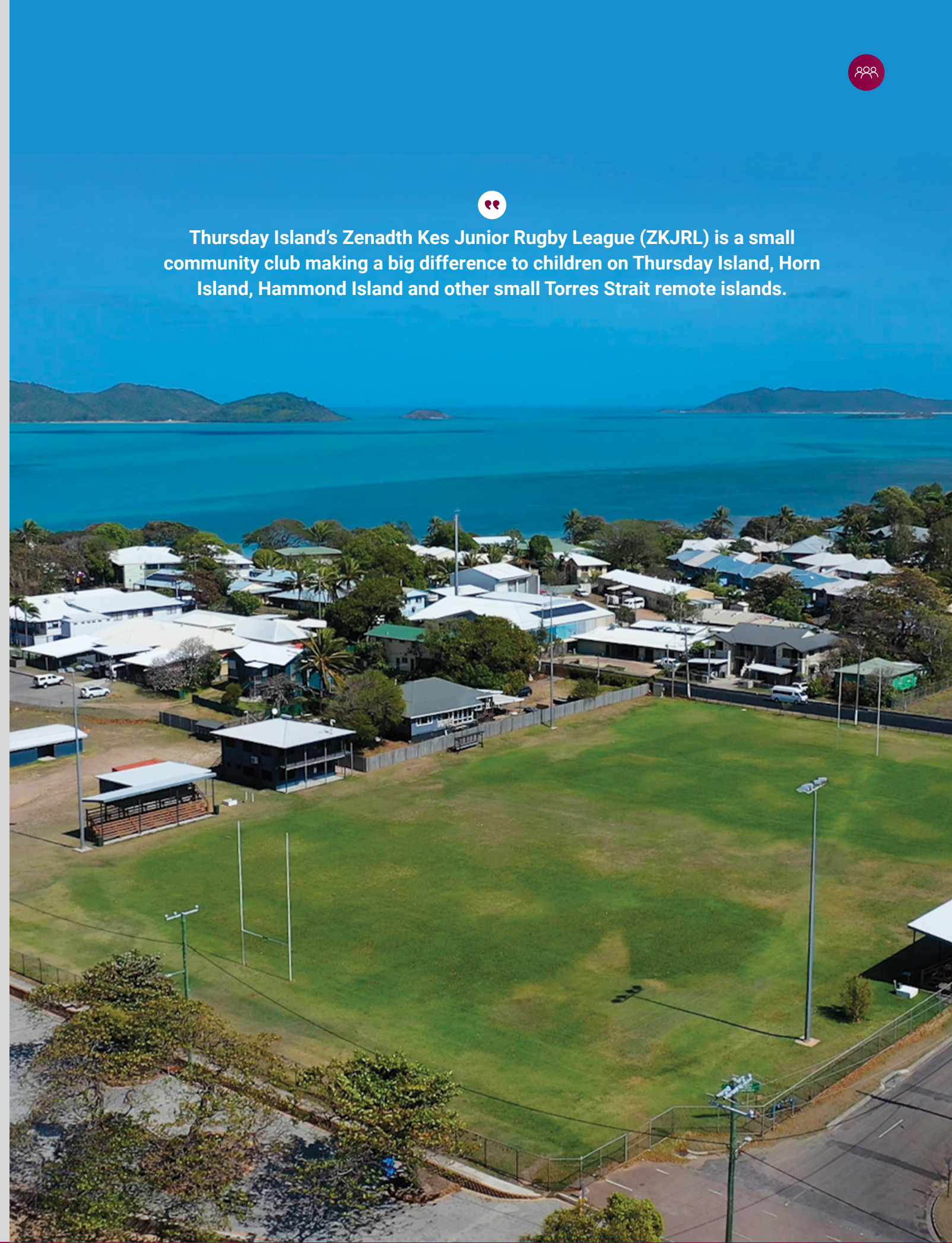
When the Under 13 team struggled to secure a coach, Douglas stepped into the role, keen to make sure the boys could play in the competition.

He travelled each weekend to their games and trained them during the week while balancing his studies, apprenticeship applications and own rugby league responsibilities.

Full list of QRL Community Volunteer Awards on page 37.



Thursday Island's Zenadth Kes Junior Rugby League (ZKJRL) is a small community club making a big difference to children on Thursday Island, Horn Island, Hammond Island and other small Torres Strait remote islands.





QRL SOUTH EAST



For the first time in a number of years, QRL South East had an uninterrupted season with no COVID-19 issues or weather events impacting the community.

The region continued to focus on building capacity, capability and engagement with key stakeholders throughout 2023.

On the field, participation increased by four per cent with more than 27,700 male and females registered in competitions across the Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ipswich areas.

On the field, participation increased by four per cent with more than 27,700 male and females registered in competitions across the Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ipswich areas.

South East recorded an 11 per cent increase in female participation with junior numbers the biggest driver as more than 2750 young players enjoyed the game.

With more people playing the game, the need for additional match officials is required to facilitate this growth.

Pleasingly, match official numbers increased by six per cent across the South East.

New initiatives like Respect Round highlighted the need to encourage match officials of all ages.

This concept was embraced by the region's stakeholders, who consistently displayed gratitude and support towards referees.

It is hoped that initiatives like this will encourage more people to take up the whistle in years to come.

In the representative arena, Rugby League Brisbane Red were crowned XXXX Chairman's Challenge winners after beating Cairns 44-28 in the 2023 grand final.

The victory capped off an impressive campaign by a Brisbane Red team that progressed to the showpiece game on the back of a strong semi-final victory over Toowoomba.

The RISE program once again provided great connection with the rugby league community, as statewide competition clubs and local leagues offered aspirational players and coaches with the opportunity to learn new skills.

The commitment and dedication displayed by volunteers, who turned up each week in a variety of roles, was integral to the region's success.

Volunteer numbers increased by nearly nine per cent with their important work underpinning the day to day operations of clubs and local leagues.



QRL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Club Administrator of the Year
Jaz Burton, Pine Central Holy Spirit

Community Match Official of the Year
Heath Zygnerski, Gold Coast Referees' Association

Harvey Norman Contribution to the Female Game Award
Ana Fotu, Pine Central Holy Spirit

Young Person of the Year
Trinity Maclean,
Brothers Ipswich / Ipswich Referees' Association)



In the representative arena, Rugby League Brisbane Red were crowned XXXX Chairman's Challenge winners after beating Cairns 44-28 in the 2023 grand final.



QRL CENTRAL

Rugby league inspired and entertained many communities throughout the Central region in 2023.

Few local events can match the passion of a community league grand final, and this year there were many classic matches for the clubs who embarked on season-long journeys into the final match of the year.

Reports throughout the region noted a significant increase in crowd numbers across the grand final venues, as supporters displayed their support for their local heroes in various leagues.

Behind the scenes, Central team members responded professionally to issues lodged via the Positive Environment Program (PEP).

Despite the increased workloads for employees who managed this program, QRL Central has made it clear it will not tolerate poor behaviour. With a focus on providing a family-friendly atmosphere, Central stepped up its support for volunteers.

The outstanding efforts of many unsung Central region heroes were recognised via numerous awards.

A particular highlight was the presentation of the Auswide Bank Community Social Responsibility Award to Stanley River president Mary-Anne Hallam, who was recognised for their members' uptake of the Support Squad wellbeing initiative.

The Central Region carnivals were once again a highlight of the year. The 47th Battalion Carnival was held at Emerald in the Central Highlands this year, with the standard of rugby league complementing the hospitality.

Toowoomba was too classy in the open men's division, while the Sunshine Coast won their first trophy for 10 years in the women's division.

The Under 17 region girls' carnival was held in Bundaberg with the South West team claiming the honours.

The number of players who took the field across QRL Central competitions grew by seven per cent.

Senior numbers were extremely encouraging, as was the number of registered coaches and referees.

Statewide competition clubs within QRL Central all had healthy seasons, providing further incentive for young footballers to be involved in these clubs.

The Central Queensland Capras finished in the top four of the Hostplus Cup, while the Sunshine Coast Falcons made the finals and the Western Clydesdales had a terrific first year.

The inclusion of the Clydesdales and Falcons in next year's BMD Premiership is another encouraging development that reflects the growth and rise in the standard of female community competitions.

All-abilities programs also took off with the backing of QRL Central, which will continue to promote a safe and inclusive environment for all in 2024.



Toowoomba was too classy in the open men's division, while the Sunshine Coast won their first trophy for 10 years in the women's division.



The 2023 Auswide Bank Community Social Responsibility Award was awarded to Stanley River.

QRL NORTH



Rugby league in the north flourished across all age groups with more than 15,000 people pulling the boots on this year.

Close to 5000 registered volunteers played a critical role in supporting on-field participants who proudly wore their club colours across junior and senior fields.

This selfless group of volunteers, along with dedicated match officials, formed the backbone of the game in the north, and this work has placed the region in a position to build on strong participation numbers.

QRL North's three biggest leagues – Far North Queensland Rugby League, Rugby League Townsville District and Rugby League Mackay District – facilitated successful competitions across all age groups for both males and females.

A highlight in 2023 was the return of rugby league in remote areas for the first time since COVID-19.

This included competitions in the Northern Peninsula Area and Gulf Districts, the staging of RISE player development camps; and an administration conference on Thursday Island.

The introduction of the Remote Areas Forum held in Cairns provided stakeholders with an opportunity to reflect on 2023.

This event recognised the impact rugby league has on the region's diverse communities, where the game is part of their identity.

While QRL North faced many challenges, there were positive stories in every corner of the region, highlighted by state and national Community Club of the Year recipient Zenadth Kes Junior Rugby League Club.

“ While QRL North faced many challenges, there were positive stories in every corner of the region, highlighted by state and national Community Club of the Year recipient Zenadth Kes Junior Rugby League Club.

This club is a shining example of what can be achieved when dedicated people and communities are equipped with the tools and resources to operate safely and efficiently.



Community Club of the Year recipient
Zenadth Kes Junior Rugby League Club.

QRL North continued to grow all-abilities competitions with a record number of participants taking part in Mackay and Townsville.

These competitions culminated in inter-city matches, including one as a National Rugby League curtain-raiser at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

The RISE program blossomed with more than 600 aspirational participants benefiting from their involvement across four programs.

Renowned for its participant-friendly carnivals, QRL North successfully hosted 22 events ranging from Under 7s through to open age groups.

These carnivals were a celebration of connection, culture and impact, and provided a significant financial injection for communities.

Looking ahead to 2024, QRL North will continue to drive healthy leagues and clubs through strong governance practices, the creation of positive environments and its vision to ensure the game is accessible for all.



“ The RISE program blossomed with more than 600 aspirational participants benefiting from their involvement across four programs.



GROWING & SUPPORTING RUGBY LEAGUE IN PNG

The Queensland Rugby League played a pivotal role in developing rugby league in Papua New Guinea through its ongoing commitment to the PacificAus Sports program.

In the fourth year of the partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the QRL-led program developed pathways for PNG teams to participate in high-level Australian sporting competitions, and created elite pathways for emerging athletes.

In a testament to the program's effectiveness and its ability to attract funding and support, the 'Growing and Supporting Rugby League in PNG' initiative has doubled in size and financial resources.

This has raised the capabilities of the program, meaning significant outcomes have been achieved across female athlete development, well-being, education, and commercial sustainability.

With support and ongoing direction from the QRL, the PNGRFL has gained valuable insights to strengthen their strategic targets and operational structure.

As a result, several milestones within the PNGRFL's High Performance plan have been accomplished, including the successful execution of the Women's National Championships.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Players of National Interest (PONI's) program has opened avenues for PNG-based Orchids players to participate in Queensland's BMD Premiership.

Other advancements have been noted in PNGRFL programs relating to coach development, performance services and officials.

The elite pathways programs for both males and females expanded in 2023 following the introduction of Junior Kumuls and Junior Orchids participating in the Prime Minister's XIII.

This year also saw the funded programs for the PNG Hunters progress as planned, as the Hostplus Cup club builds towards fielding both junior male and women's teams in QRL statewide competitions.

A proposed expansion of the PacificAus Sports program for 2024-2027 has been tabled to further bolster rugby league ties between Australia and PNG.

QRL project leads will continue to work side by side with the people of PNG to enrich the sport while simultaneously promoting education, cultural understanding and goodwill.

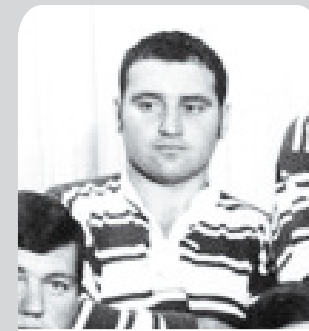


♥ This year also saw the funded programs for the PNG Hunters progress as planned, as the Hostplus Cup club builds towards fielding both junior male and women's teams in QRL statewide competitions.

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.



Mick Aprile



Marcia Hill



Ben Hunter



John McDonald



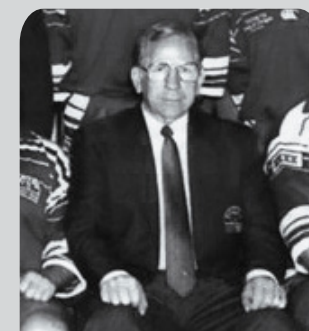
Lionel Morgan



Barry O'Connor



John Sattler



Ben Wall



Carl Webb



Brent Wilkinson

HISTORY

The QRL History Committee launched new initiatives and expanded its services in 2023 to help celebrate and preserve the game's rich history.

In a productive year, the committee facilitated the successful Ross Livermore Memorial Lecture and contributed to the State of Origin display at the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery.

Former Test centre Tony Currie became the first Indigenous person to present the Livermore Lecture, which will next year be delivered by John Grant, the inaugural chairman of the Australian Rugby League Commission.

Among those in attendance was Hervey Bay curator Llewellyn Millhouse, who expressed his gratitude to the QRL and the History Committee for the information and artifacts provided for the display.

The gallery's 'Origin Story' exhibition featured art and memorabilia, and brought together artists from across the Fraser Coast region in a unique State of Origin celebration.

History Committee members were heavily involved in honouring the passing of former QRL chairman John McDonald AM, and Indigenous rugby league trail blazer Lionel Morgan.

Steve Ricketts provided media with historical information on the rugby league journeys of both McDonald and Morgan, and also represented the committee at Morgan's funeral at Wynnum Manly Leagues Club in October.

The Committee has also added its weight to moves by the Wynnum Manly club to have Morgan included in the NRL Hall of Fame, given he was the first Indigenous man to represent Australia in rugby league.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to former QRL chief executive officer Rohan Sawyer for his contribution to its activities, and officially welcomed his successor, Ben Ikin, who has made significant contributions at meetings.

Paul Hayes provided storage areas at his Albany Creek residence in the wake of the disastrous 2022 floods, which swept through the historical display at the QRL.

While many items were lost in the flood, the committee still boasts a wealth of historical material, and members of the public continue to donate items.



A recent example was a 1933 Queensland jersey, donated by a man from Tyalgum in the Tweed Valley.

Committee members have a deep and abiding passion for the history of the game, and contributing to the preservation and promotion of the game's heritage is a labour of love.

QRL History Committee

Chair: Steve Ricketts

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

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- › Iconic Queensland Rugby League administrator Harry Sunderland was inducted into the Queensland Sports Hall of Fame. The Committee advocated for his inclusion, and provided Sport Queensland with background information on Sunderland's decorated career.
- › North Queensland Committee member Greg Shannon maintained his QRL History column in 'The Wet Tropic Times', with the newspaper carrying tributes to John McDonald and Lionel Morgan. Shannon, who is also the North Queensland Cowboys' official historian, featured in several interviews with ABC Radio.
- › Paul Hayes assisted many members of the public with their requests, ranging from contact details for former players to information in official programs; and the playing records of representative and club footballers. He also provided historic displays at the Livermore Lecture; Origin II and the Hostplus Cup grand final. Rebecca Trimble was able to solve the mystery of the whereabouts of Bob Tubman's representative caps, so they could be returned to the family of the rugby league pioneer.
- › Steve Haddan was actively involved with history keeping at Redcliffe, the Western Clydesdales, and the Valleys clubs in Brisbane and Toowoomba. Haddan's work ranges from hosting various events, to helping document the clubs' past.
- › Colleen Edwards wrote a number of historical articles during the year, most notably one celebrating the 50th anniversary of Arthur Beetson captaining Australia against France.
- › Steve Ricketts contributed Queensland-based articles for the Family of League Foundation magazine, and also helped editor Steve Russo with information for an article about the historic 1983 Queensland tour of England. Former History Committee chairman Kevin Brasch was one of the prime movers behind the tour, which helped Queensland consolidate its standing in State of Origin football. Flashback columns on stevericketts.com.au chronicle many aspects of Queensland Rugby League history.

“ North Queensland Committee member Greg Shannon maintained his QRL History column in 'The Wet Tropic Times', with the newspaper carrying tributes to John McDonald and Lionel Morgan.

Lionel Morgan pictured in background.

GOVERNANCE & FINANCIALS

64

Directors' Report

66

Information on Directors

70

Statement of Profit or Loss &
Other Comprehensive Income

71

Statement of Financial Position

72

Statement of Changes in Equity

73

Statement of Cash Flows

74

Notes to the Financial Statements

88

Directors' Declaration

89

Independent Auditor's Report



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 2023 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.M. Hatcher

L.W. Anderson (Resigned: 27 January 2023)

C.J. Begg (Appointed: 27 January 2023)

S.D. Bliss

B.W. Canavan

C.P. Cronk

R.M. Garard

N.S. McCarthy

B.D. McGuire

D.J. Van De Velde

P.C. Daley (Alternate director for B.W. Canavan)

R.C. Whyte (Alternate director for C.J. Begg)
(Appointed: 27 January 2023)

S. Hawkins (Alternate director for L.W. Anderson)
(Resigned: 27 January 2023)

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

M. Peters (Alternate director for D.J. Van de Velde)
(Resigned: 27 January 2023)

B.J. O'Farrell (Alternate director for D.J. Van de Velde)
(Appointed: 27 January 2023)

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 loss of the Company for year ended 31 October 2023 was \$283,785 (2022: \$1,264,202).

As at 31 October 2023, the Company's net assets were \$8,461,314 (2022: \$8,745,099).

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.M. HATCHER****CHAIRMAN** | 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.

**L.W. ANDERSON****NORTHERN REGION CHAIR** (Resigned: 27 January 2023)

Leigh's involvement in the game dates back to the mid 1960's through his playing days as a Townsville junior. Over the last four decades, Leigh has undertaken a myriad of roles in rugby league, from club coach to club President in junior and senior clubs, as a District and Leagues Club Board member, and as Independent Finance Director for the Northern Region. Leigh is a Life Member of Townsville Brothers Rugby League and Townsville & District Junior Rugby League.

**C.J. BEGG****NORTHERN REGION CHAIR** (Appointed: 27 January 2023)

Clinton has a long connection to rugby league as a match official and administrator for the past 30 years. Begg's involvement and participation in rugby league extends to all levels of the game from community, state and national rugby league competitions. This involvement has seen him receive varying Queensland Rugby League Awards in the Match Officialdom area of the game as well as nominations for the NRL Volunteer of the Year. Begg as well has a Life Membership of the North Queensland Rugby League Referees. Begg has a strong passion for participation in the game of rugby league in regional and remote areas of the state and he as well has a strong interest in the QRL Strategic Framework 2023- 2027. In his professional life, Begg consults with businesses around success within the digital economy as well as the development of innovative strategic structural systems within businesses. Begg has extensive experience working with government departments and agencies both State and Federally and has as well held a position within the Australian Small Business Advisory Service.

**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.

**B.W. CANAVAN****SOUTH EAST REGION CHAIR** | 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 before joining the Brisbane Broncos in their inaugural year in the national competition. Following a 10- year teaching career, Brian became involved in rugby league, working 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 management, coaching, strength and conditioning and junior participation development. In recent times, Brian has held senior management positions, including NRL governing body head of football and NRL club chief operating officer, chief executive officer and director of football. Brian has recently been elected as chairperson of QRL South East Region, is a member of the QRL's Audit & Risk Committee, and currently works as a special projects consultant.

**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. She is currently a Board Member of the Queensland Academy of Sport and Board Chair of the 4 Aussie Heroes Foundation Limited. Renita is Chair of the QRL's Audit & Risk Committee.

INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS CONT.



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.



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 also serves as Chair of the QRL Outback Committee.



D.J. VAN DE VELDE

STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR

Through his role as the Statewide Competitions Clubs Director, Darryl Van de Velde is actively involved in the development of Queensland's premier competition – the Hostplus Cup. A well-known and respected rugby league identity, Darryl brings a wealth of experience to the position as a former professional rugby league footballer, coach and administrator. Darryl played club football in Queensland for Easts, Souths and Redcliffe and represented his state on one occasion in 1977. He coached Castleford and Warrington in England and was the Chief Executive Officer of the South Queensland Crushers club. Darryl is a member of the QRL Pathways & Performance Committee.

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

DIRECTORS	BOARD MEETINGS		AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETINGS		PATHWAYS & PERFORMANCE MEETINGS		GOVERNANCE, REMUNERATION & NOMINATION MEETINGS		CORPORATE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE 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	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
B.M. Hatcher	6	5	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
C.J. Begg	5	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3
S.D. Bliss	6	6	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	1
B.W. Canavan	6	6	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
C.P. Cronk	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R.M. Garard	6	6	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
N.S. McCarthy	6	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	4
B.D. McGuire	6	5	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-
D.J. Van De Velde	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 2023, the number of members was 9 (2022: 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.

B.M. HATCHER
Chairman
18 December 2023

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 2023, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

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

ERNST & YOUNG

MATTHEW TAYLOR
Partner
18 December 2023



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS	4.a	39,874,133	34,626,448
Other income		985,815	1,022,700
Finance income	4.b	401,526	67,004
LESS: EXPENSES			
Employee benefits expense	4.c	(11,782,849)	(11,338,424)
Competitions		(11,398,108)	(11,000,735)
Representative teams		(6,130,410)	(5,017,461)
Grants to clubs and schools		(354,620)	(367,661)
Sponsor servicing		(1,387,564)	(1,537,000)
Referee development expenses		(893,893)	(832,885)
Development expenses		(159,973)	(223,761)
Commercial expenses		(2,564,224)	(2,490,234)
Expected credit losses		(1,444,916)	(19,179)
Administration expenses		(2,485,344)	(2,885,525)
Grants acquitted		(2,198,071)	(817,767)
Depreciation expenses	4.d	(635,381)	(400,490)
Finance costs	4.e	(109,906)	(49,232)
Total expenses		(41,545,259)	(36,980,354)
(Loss)/profit for the year		(283,785)	(1,264,202)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year		(283,785)	(1,264,202)

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 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	9,017,111	11,485,620
Trade and other receivables	6	4,337,743	2,864,132
Inventories	7	142,302	89,014
Prepayments		607,283	481,318
Total current assets		14,104,439	14,920,084
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	6	-	159,000
Plant and equipment	8	233,291	336,936
Right-of-use assets	9	1,133,009	1,487,165
Total non-current assets		1,366,300	1,983,101
Total assets		15,470,739	16,903,185
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	3,397,418	2,331,968
Contract liabilities	11	1,029,974	2,565,712
Lease liabilities	9	637,625	534,622
Employee benefit liabilities	12	986,943	1,074,414
Total current liabilities		6,051,960	6,506,716
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	9	825,895	1,312,496
Employee benefit liabilities	12	131,570	338,874
Total non-current liabilities		957,465	1,651,370
Total liabilities		7,009,425	8,158,086
Net assets		8,461,314	8,745,099
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		8,461,314	8,745,099
Total equity		8,461,314	8,745,099

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 2023

	RETAINED EARNINGS	TOTAL EQUITY
	\$	\$
As at 1 November 2022	8,745,099	8,745,099
Loss for the year	(283,785)	(283,785)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(283,785)	(283,785)
As at 31 October 2023	8,461,314	8,461,314
At 1 November 2021	10,009,301	10,009,301
Loss for the year	(1,264,202)	(1,264,202)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(1,264,202)	(1,264,202)
As at 31 October 2022	8,745,099	8,745,099

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 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
		\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers		42,456,090	41,749,062
Payments to suppliers and employees		(44,614,488)	(41,090,601)
Interest received		360,973	29,116
Interest and borrowing costs paid		(109,906)	(49,232)
Net cash flows (used in)/from operating activities		(1,907,331)	638,345
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts on disposal of plant and equipment		-	61,140
Purchase of plant and equipment		(52,919)	(173,305)
Repayment of loan received		-	14,000
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(52,919)	(98,165)
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(98,165)	(64,604)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Lease principal repayment		(508,259)	(261,651)
Net cash flows used in financing activities		(508,259)	(261,651)
NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		278,529	1,510,505
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 November		11,485,620	11,207,091
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 October	5	9,017,111	11,485,620

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 2023

1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

The financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (the "QRL" or "Company") for the year ended 31 October 2023 was authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the directors on 18 December 2023.

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. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These general purpose financial statements 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 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 significant 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 2023 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 2023. 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.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT 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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

K. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Impairment of financial assets

The Company recognises an allowance for expected credit losses (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.

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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

N. LEASES (CONTINUED)

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:

Class of fixed asset	2023	2022
Property	10%	10%
Motor vehicles	33%	33%

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.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

O. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)

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.

P. COMPARATIVES

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

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 2023, 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 2023

4. REVENUE AND EXPENSES

A. DISAGGREGATED REVENUE INFORMATION

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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
TYPE OF GOODS OR SERVICE		
Partnership	10,534,528	9,657,098
ARLC funding	24,179,905	20,905,758
Other grants and subsidies	2,758,103	1,312,906
Commercial revenues	2,401,597	2,750,686
Total revenue from contracts with customers	39,874,133	34,626,448
GEOGRAPHICAL MARKETS		
Australia	39,874,133	34,626,448
Total revenue from contracts with customers	39,874,133	34,626,448
TIMING OF REVENUE RECOGNITION		
Goods transferred at a point in time	39,874,133	34,626,448
Total revenue from contracts with customers	39,874,133	34,626,448

B. FINANCE INCOME

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Interest income	401,526	67,004

C. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Employee benefits expense	11,782,849	11,338,424

Included in employee benefit expense is superannuation expense of \$1,209,910 (2022: \$1,088,796).

D. DEPRECIATION EXPENSES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Depreciation of plant and equipment	156,564	139,358
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	478,817	261,132
	635,381	400,490

E. FINANCE COSTS

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	109,906	49,232



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	3,994,667	6,174,929
Short-term deposits	5,022,444	5,310,691
	9,017,111	11,485,620

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

6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	5,641,234	2,824,414
Allowance for expected credit losses	(1,303,491)	(18,532)
Loan receivables	-	58,250
	4,337,743	2,864,132
NON-CURRENT		
Loan Receivables	-	159,000

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

7. INVENTORIES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Merchandise for sale	142,302	89,014

Cost of inventories sold to customers amounting to \$467,587 was recognised as an expense during the year (2022: \$381,512). This is recognised in commercial expenses.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

8. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
COST			
At 1 November 2022	1,142,149	272,509	1,414,658
Additions	52,919	-	52,919
Disposals	(337,713)	-	(337,713)
At 31 October 2023	857,355	272,509	1,129,864
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION			
At 1 November 2022	904,194	173,528	1,077,722
Depreciation charge for the year	128,285	28,279	156,564
Disposals	(337,713)	-	(337,713)
At 31 October 2023	694,766	201,807	896,573
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 October 2023	162,589	70,702	233,291
At 31 October 2022	237,955	98,981	336,936

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 2022	1,207,597	279,568	1,487,165
Adjustment of opening balance	(85,840)	-	(85,840)
Additions	-	210,501	210,501
Depreciation charged for the year	(297,304)	(181,513)	(478,817)
At 31 October 2023	824,453	308,556	1,133,009

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Current	637,625	534,622
Non-current	825,895	1,312,496

Presented below is a maturity analysis of future lease payments:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Not later than 1 year	734,111	655,047
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	881,007	1,430,918
	1,615,118	2,085,965

The amount of expense relating to short-term leases and leases of low-value assets recognized in profit or loss during the year ended 31 October 2023 was \$228,103 (2022: \$290,255).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

10. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade creditors	1,939,011	1,058,835
Sundry creditors and accruals	1,370,948	1,063,734
GST payable	87,459	209,399
	3,397,418	2,331,968

11. CONTRACT LIABILITIES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Contract liabilities	1,029,974	2,565,712

Contract liabilities in FY23 comprise grant funding received from government partners of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited prior to 31 October 2023 which relate to the financial year ending 31 October 2024.

12. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Annual leave	667,674	803,898
Long service leave	319,269	270,516
	986,943	1,074,414
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	131,570	338,874

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Key management personnel compensation

Compensation expense of key management personnel amounted to \$1,995,640 during the year ended 31 October 2023 (2022: \$1,639,337).

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Commitments

The Company did not have any commitments at 31 October 2023 (2022: \$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 (2022: \$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 (2022: \$20) each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 31 October 2023, the number of members was 9 (2022: 9). The combined total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$180 (2022: \$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).

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Amounts received or due and receivable by Ernst & Young (Australia) for:		
An audit or review of the financial report of the Company	41,500	38,900
Non-audit services	7,350	7,850
	48,850	46,750



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 2023 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 October 2023 and 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.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

B.M. HATCHER
Chairman

18 December 2023

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 2023, 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 a summary of significant accounting policies, 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 2023 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 that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures* and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF 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.

Ernst + Young
ERNST & YOUNG

Matthew Taylor

MATTHEW TAYLOR
Partner
Brisbane
18 December 2023





ABN 65 009 878 013