



ANNUAL REPORT



# SNAPSHOT

**60,857** **4646**

The number of players registered with a Queensland club in 2017.

The number of registered female club players this year increased by 21%.

**\$151,000**

Revenue generated by clubs that hosted Country Week matches in Round 20 of the Intrust Super Cup.

**14,401**

Maroon Membership grew significantly in 2017.

**39,000**

The number of people who attended the Maroon Festival in Brisbane in the lead up to State of Origin Game I.

**11,260** **961**

The Intrust Super Cup decider between PNG Hunters and Sunshine Coast Falcons attracted a record grand final crowd.

The overall number of Intrust Super Cup games played by members of the 2017 Melbourne Storm and North Queensland Cowboys Grand Final teams.

**1,307,508**

The number of social media followers on QRL platforms.



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Front (from left):** Robert Moore, Bruce Hatcher, Renita Garard OAM.

**Back:** Bruce Prescott, Brad Tallon, Leigh Anderson, Terry Mackenroth, Danny McGuire, Darryl Van de Velde.



# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It has been an honour to have served as the Chairman of the Queensland Rugby League this year.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Board and QRL staff for their support and hard work throughout the season.

It has been a pleasure to have worked alongside such a committed group of people, all striving collectively towards the common goal of serving and developing our great game.

## A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

When I reflect on 2017, I am extremely proud of the significant milestones we have achieved.

Renita Garard OAM became our first female director, adding a new dimension to our operations through her on and off-field experience in elite sport.

She will strive to further develop women's rugby league, which is on the rise following Australia's World Cup win and confirmation of the inaugural NRL Women's Premiership in 2018.

The wonderful success of the PNG Hunters in winning their first Intrust Super Cup premiership capped off another big year for our premier statewide competition.

Off the field, years of planning came to fruition with the inaugural Maroon Festival, which brought the stars of the game together with fans in a fabulous celebration of all things Queensland.

## VALUES UNDERPIN ORIGIN WIN

If ever leadership, courage and teamwork were required to transform a competitive team into a winning team, this was it.

From losing Game I on our hallowed turf to the sheer guts and determination of winning Game II in Sydney under great adversity, this was an incredible performance by the XXXX Queensland Maroons.

We will never forget the winning goal kicked by Johnathan Thurston under such physical and mental duress.

These young men form a special group who

prosper because of the set of values and behaviours they adhere to.

Nothing is ever too much for them, from engaging with local communities to helping the future stars of our game.

## VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE FOUNDATIONS

Our volunteers are largely responsible for the widespread success of rugby league.

They create the opportunity for boys and girls and men and women to participate in this great game. Thank you for your very hard work which does not go unnoticed.

I have experienced many wonderful moments where friendships and relationships have developed around the mutual interest of rugby league.

Congratulations to those who were recognised at the NRL's Annual Community Awards in Sydney.

## GOVERNANCE REFORM A KEY CHANGE

With the QRL receiving considerable funding through the game's broadcast deal, it is essential that the underlying governance and structure of the QRL is sound, progressive and accountable for the investment of this funding on a state-wide basis.

I am pleased that we have made significant advancements in these areas with the support of the entire QRL Board, ably led by Managing Director Robert Moore who has been instrumental in delivering this success.

## SIGNING OFF ON 2017

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Major Partners in 2017 - XXXX, Suncorp, Canterbury, Star Entertainment and Intrust Super.

Pleasingly, XXXX has re-committed as the official beer of the Maroons and has extended its support of the game across all levels.

By the end of the new deal, this commitment will have reached 31 years, a truly wonderful association that has assisted the game immensely.

As we transition into a new era of partnerships, we are genuinely excited about what the future

holds.

We are privileged to have Intrust Super expand their support over the next five years, and we can look back with pride as we farewell Suncorp, Canterbury and Star Entertainment.

I am thrilled to welcome ISC as official apparel partner of the Queensland Maroons for the next four years, as well as Hastings Deering who are right behind our new statewide Under 20s competition.

Finally, we are indebted to our fans for the passion and colour they bring to the grounds each week, as well as those who service the game in various management and staff roles under the QRL banner.

We can move forward with confidence with a new Strategic Plan. Our aim is to grow participation numbers, increase our volunteer network and provide great rugby league pathways so that our boys and girls can excel and become the good citizens of tomorrow.

**Bruce Hatcher**  
QRL Chairman

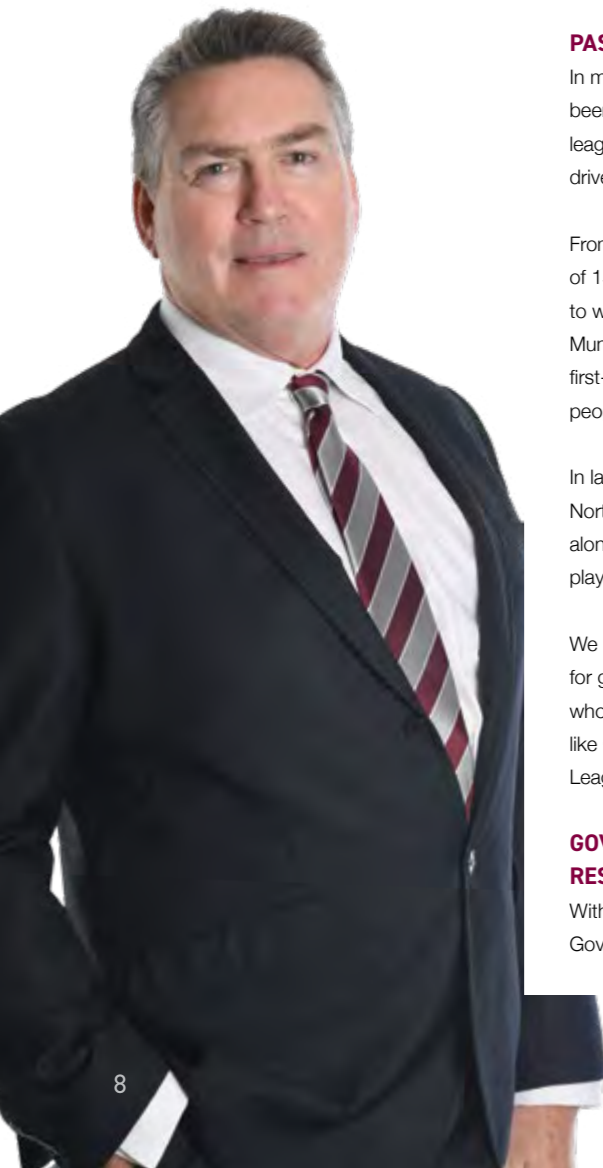


# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Queensland Rugby League (QRL), I am proud to bring you our Annual Report for 2017.

It has been another strong year for the Queensland Rugby League and these pages will showcase the many on-field highlights as well as the key advancements made off the field.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside my fellow Directors, led by Chairman Bruce Hatcher, who has been at the forefront of our campaign to ensure crucial funding for grassroots during the Australian Rugby League Commission's constitutional reform process.



## LEADERSHIP DRIVES SUCCESS

Full credit must go to XXXX Queensland Maroons coach Kevin Walters and his players, who displayed immense character and skill to record a 2-1 series victory. Given the high turnover of personnel and the unavailability of several proven big-match players, this was one of the great Origin performances.

The leadership from the coach and senior players was simply outstanding, and with this in mind, I would encourage participants game-wide to follow their high standards.

We are delighted to have extended Kevin's services as Maroons head coach until 2020, and we look forward to watching our next wave of talent shine under his tutelage on the game's biggest stage.

## PASSION COMES TO THE FORE

In my various travels around the grounds, I have been privileged to watch some exciting rugby league and talk face to face with those who drive the game in their local communities.

From watching the PNG Hunters play in front of 15,000 passionate fans at Port Moresby to witnessing exciting games in Murgon and Mundubbera, it has been refreshing to see first-hand what the game means to so many people.

In late November, I travelled to Innisfail in Far North Queensland to celebrate their Centenary alongside current and former international players, including our very own Billy Slater.

We should never take our game's rich history for granted, particularly in regional communities, who we will continue to support with initiatives like Country Week and the provision of Local League Operations Managers.

## GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS DELIVER RESULTS

With the support of the Queensland Government, we are committed to harnessing

new growth opportunities, as well as reaching out to those in need of a helping hand.

In a significant step for the game this year, we saw the introduction of a female Under 15 squad to our Queensland Academy of Sport rugby league program.

The Government's new three-year \$210,000 investment into 'Get in the Game' Country Week has also made a major contribution to the game in regional and outback Queensland.

And in a further boost for grassroots clubs which require significant upgrades to infrastructure, we have partnered with the Queensland Government and NRL to deliver the Queensland Footy Facilities Fund.

## A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

As custodians of the game, we are committed to servicing our stakeholders and making sound investments into the game's future.

I am pleased to report that following a much broader consultation process, our new Strategic Plan (2018 – 2022) will be unveiled early next year. This is another positive step for the code following the recent pathways review which has already led to many positive outcomes for the game in Queensland, including increased funding for statewide rugby league.

The profile of the Intrust Super Cup has risen considerably in this period, and in 2018 we can look forward to the commencement of the new statewide Hastings Deering Colts competition following the disbandment of the NYC. This outcome was the culmination of six years of work between the QRL and clubs.

It is collaboration like this which augurs well for the future of our code in this great state.

**Robert Moore**  
Managing Director



# THE COACH: KEVIN WALTERS

I am honoured to submit this report after being involved in such an incredible 2017 Holden State of Origin series.

Firstly, I would like to thank the players who put in a fabulous effort throughout the series, as well as my staff who did everything in their power to ensure the best preparation possible.

I would also like to acknowledge the support I have received from the QRL Board of Directors, QRL staff, sponsors and of course the fans who turned up in big numbers to back this champion team.

## ADVERSITY MAKES US STRONGER

If you sat down at the start of the series and tried to imagine how it all actually worked out, people would have said you're crazy.

We were convincingly beaten by a superior New South Wales team in the opening match of the series.

In Game II, the Blues were in front until Johnathan Thurston kicked that unbelievable goal from the sideline in the 79th minute to take it into a decider.

I just felt it was a really satisfying series for everyone involved, not just the playing group, but for their families, team staff and fans.

To come out on top in the end after such a tough start to the series was a fantastic experience for everyone.

## ORIGIN ROOKIES STAND UP

Eight players made their Origin debuts this year and all of them did their jobs.

I refer to it as the Queensland way – while it's great to make the Maroons team, that's just the start.

You've got to really wear that jersey with distinction and pride, and I felt all of the guys did that over the course of the series.

It was a privilege to work with the next generation of Queensland players coming through.

To get to Suncorp Stadium for a decider, and then for the team to play the way they did in such an important game, was extremely satisfying and a moment I will treasure forever.

## ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ORIGIN WARRIORS

I believe we made the right call with our Game I team, even though the scoreboard probably didn't reflect that.

Nate Myles, Sam Thaiday, Aidan Guerra and Jacob Lillyman have been some of the mainstays of this team's success, and the selection panel felt they deserved that opportunity in Game I.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out for us and we had to make some changes. While we knew the time for change was coming, it's always difficult to make those calls.

At the end of the day, we're continually striving to do the right thing by Queensland, not just the individual, and I think that's always been the Queensland way as well.

## A REWARD FOR OUR FANS

When Maroons fans leave Suncorp Stadium, we want them to leave proud of their team and

the performance of their team. That wasn't the case in Game I.

We were all as disappointed as the Queensland fans were. But they got rewarded in Game III with a top-class performance from our players.

This makes every Queenslanders feel really good, and it's a feeling that lasts right up until the next series gets underway.

## AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

Our upcoming QAS Emerging camps are very important for the long-term future and success of the Maroons.

It's a pathway for them to make it all the way from Under 15s to 20s, and then into the State of Origin arena.

Part of my charter is to oversee the transitioning period because the reality is our senior players will have moved on sometime within the next two or three years.

My challenge when I initially took the job was to see that transition through, and I can't thank the Board enough for giving me the opportunity in the next few years to maintain the high standards our players have set.

**Kevin Walters**  
XXXX Queensland Maroons Coach



# OUR FRAMEWORK



# RENITA GARARD

Recognising the need for diversity and the desire to further develop women's rugby league, the QRL appointed its first female director this year.

Renita Garard OAM, a dual Olympic gold medallist with the Hockeyroos, joined the QRL Board as an Independent Director in June.

Renita is also chair of the QRL's newly-formed People & Culture Committee.

During her time with the Hockeyroos, she won a gold medal as part of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic team and captained her country to gold in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Off the sporting field, Renita has fulfilled board roles with both the International Hockey Federation and Hockey Australia.

These positions have included involvement in the development of sport across all levels and throughout the world.

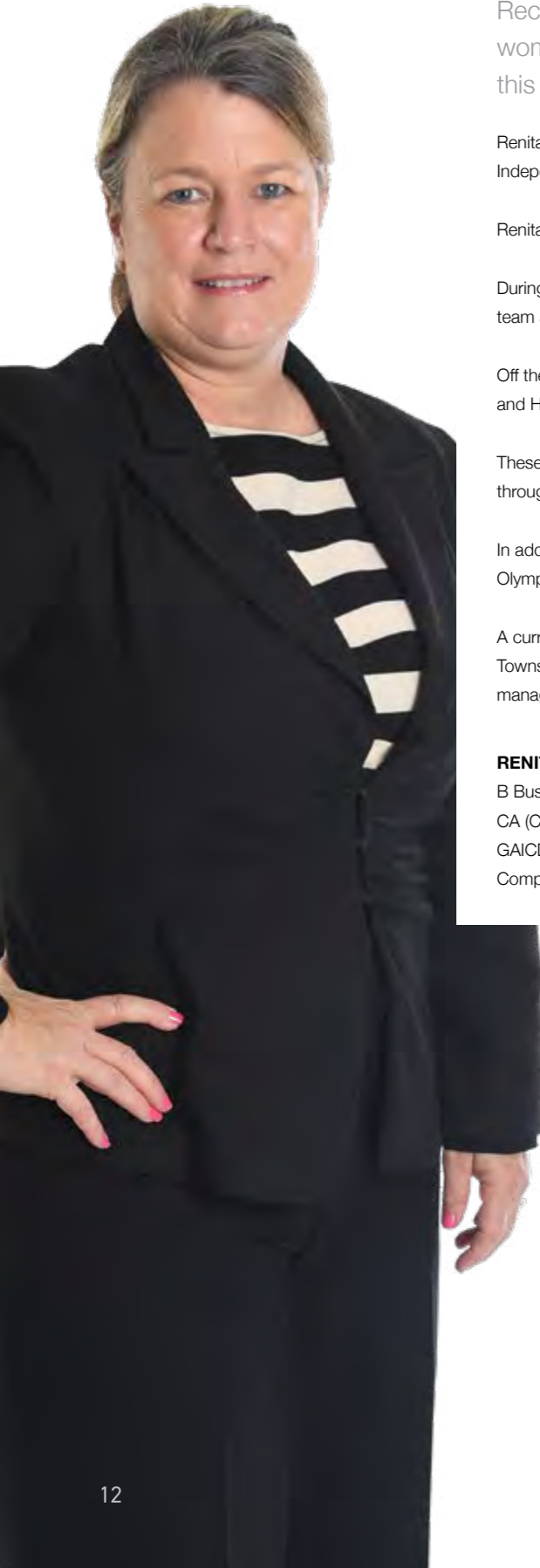
In addition, she has had significant exposure to the strategic directions set by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), together with leading domestic and international sporting organisations.

A current director with international consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and chair of the Port of Townsville Limited (POTL), Renita has strong skills in the areas of strategy, policy, governance, risk management, financial management, taxation and leadership.

## RENITA GARARD OAM

- B Bus (Bachelor of Business)
- CA (Chartered Accountant)
- GAICD (Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors)

» Renita is also chair of the QRL's newly-formed People & Culture Committee.



# GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Female participation, rugby league in the bush and local league clubs in need of new facilities were beneficiaries of the QRL's partnership with the Queensland Government this year.

We are extremely proud of this close working relationship with our Government leaders, who share our passion for the growth of the game.

That passion was on display before the opening game of the Holden State of Origin series when the XXXX Maroons were special guests of the Parliamentary Friends of Rugby League.

Annastacia Palaszczuk offered her best wishes to captain Cameron Smith, who presented the Premier with a signed Origin football and thanked all MPs for their ongoing support.

The Queensland Government also played a key role in bringing the Maroon Festival to fruition this year.

Government-backed programs assisted many levels of the code in 2017.

In a first for the game this year, a talented group of Queensland girls were given the opportunity to take part in the Female Under 15 Queensland Academy of Sport program.

An initiative of the Queensland Government, the QAS is aimed at supporting the state's elite and developing athletes.

The QRL is of the belief that our long-standing partnership with the QAS is critical to future success in the Origin arena for both our male and female teams.

Government sponsorship has also made a significant contribution to the game in regional

and outback Queensland.

The first year of the Government's new three-year \$210,000 investment into 'Get in the Game' Country Week kicked off this season, paving the way for Intrust Super Cup fixtures to be held in Winton, Julia Creek, Mundubbera, St George, Bamaga and Clermont.

In a further boost for rugby league at grassroots level, the Queensland Government partnered with the NRL and QRL to announce the Queensland Footy Facilities Fund.

This program will provide more than \$1,275,000 over two funding rounds to improve the quality, access and condition of community rugby league facilities across Queensland.



# CLUB HEALTH CHECKS & FACILITY MAPPING

This year we designed a facility focussed program to allow clubs to provide evidence-based data to assist their applications for State Government funding programs.

In addition, a disaster recovery audit was developed to give clubs the opportunity to document damage caused by severe weather events.

This process enabled clubs to access funding programs immediately upon their release. The 2017 Club Health Check detected issues of non-compliant facilities in relation to NRL facility standards.

Regardless of how small the non-compliance is, the clubs have been advised so the matters can be rectified.

# 35%

Of all clubs plan to develop or renovate facilities to cater for greater female participation.



# QAS RUGBY LEAGUE PROGRAMS

In 2017, we introduced a female Under 15 squad to the Queensland Academy of Sport rugby league program.

In a major boost for women and girls' rugby league, 21 young players from around the state assembled in camp on the Gold Coast for four days.

Participants received expert coaching and guidance from a range of experienced coaches and mentors, in line with the program's aim to develop highly-skilled and motivated players for future Queensland representation.

Camps for our leading Under 15, U16, U18 and U20 male talent were held as well, while

the next line of Origin players came together under Kevin Walters on the Gold Coast in late January.

Nearly half of the 20-man QAS squad would go on to make their Origin debuts for the Maroons later in the year.

The eight QAS squad members who played a part in Queensland's successful Origin campaign were Tim Glasby, Coen Hess, Valentine Holmes, Ben Hunt, Anthony Milford, Cameron Munster, Dylan Napa and Jarrod Wallace.

## 2017 QAS EMERGING ORIGIN SQUAD:

- Jayson Bukuya (Cronulla Sharks)
- Dale Copley (Gold Coast Titans)
- Kyle Feldt (NQ Cowboys)
- Tim Glasby (Melbourne Storm)
- Jake Granville (NQ Cowboys)
- Coen Hess (NQ Cowboys)
- Valentine Holmes (Cronulla Sharks)
- Ben Hunt (Brisbane Broncos)
- Felise Kaufusi (Melbourne Storm)
- Edrick Lee (Canberra Raiders)
- Ethan Lowe (NQ Cowboys)
- Nene Macdonald (St George Illawarra Dragons)
- Anthony Milford (Brisbane Broncos)
- Cameron Munster (Melbourne Storm)
- Moses Mbye (Canterbury Bulldogs)
- Dylan Napa (Sydney Roosters)
- Lloyd Perrett (Manly Sea Eagles)
- Ashley Taylor (Gold Coast Titans)
- Christian Welch (Melbourne Storm)
- Jarrod Wallace (Gold Coast Titans)

## FEMALE QAS SQUAD:

- Courtney Tamati (Waterford RLFC)
- Emma Wood (North Thuringowa RLFC)
- India Macphee (Magpies JRLFC)
- Jasmine Peters (Northern Suburbs JRLFC)
- Jordii Mahendrarajah (Kangaroos JRLFC)
- Layne Bennett (Tully JRLFC)
- Shanaye Watson (Western Lions RLFC)
- Aria Hudson (Emu Park RLFC)
- Skye Houliston (Hervey Bay RLFC)
- Loretta Viani (Caboolture JRLFC)
- Ashleigh Isaacs (Newtown RLFC)
- Haylea Lonergan (Central Highlands JRLFC)
- Mariesha Orr (Caboolture JRLFC)
- Abelee Stanley-Bosen (Toowoomba JRLFC)
- Christine Okesene (Northern Suburbs Ipswich JRLFC)
- Courtney Reynolds (Western Lions RLFC)
- Tiamo Williams (Banyo RLFC)
- Sara Sautia (Aspley Devils RLFC)
- Indee Brown (Waterford RLFC)
- Kirra Hautamaki (Aspley Devils RLFC)
- Keilee Joseph (Waterford RLFC)





# PATHWAYS

Our Intrust Super Cup continues to provide ready-made players to the National Rugby League.

The two finalists in the NRL this year – the Melbourne Storm and North Queensland Cowboys – have exceptionally strong ties to Queensland’s premier competition.

Of the 34 grand final players, only five have not featured in the Intrust Super Cup.

The Storm’s premiership-winning team have played a total of 444 Cup games, while the Cowboys came in even higher with 517.

Cowboys coach Paul Green also cut his teeth in the Intrust Super Cup, guiding the Wynnum Manly Seagulls to back-to-back premierships in 2011-12.

These figures provide further proof that the Intrust Super Cup is not only the strongest statewide competition in the country, but an integral part of the pathway opportunities for players, coaches, sports trainers and referees.



# 961

The overall number of Intrust Super Cup games played by members of the Melbourne Storm and North Queensland Cowboys 2017 grand final teams.

### MELBOURNE STORM

Billy SLATER	24
Suliasi VUNIVALU	19
William CHAMBERS	22
Curtis SCOTT	20
Joshua ADDO-CARR	-
Cameron MUNSTER	46
Cooper CRONK	61
Jesse BROMWICH	-
Cameron SMITH	28
Jordan MCLEAN	11
Felise KAUFUSI	45
Tohu HARRIS	1
Dale FINUCANE	-
Kenny BROMWICH	42
Tim GLASBY	98
Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	9
Slade GRIFFIN	18
<b>Storm Total:</b>	<b>444</b>

### NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS

Lachlan COOTE	1
Kyle FELDT	47
Justin O’NEILL	1
Kane LINNETT	-
Antonio WINTERSTEIN	2
Te Maire MARTIN	-
Michael MORGAN	21
Shaun FENSOM	23
Jake GRANVILLE	110
Scott BOLTON	82
Gavin COOPER	42
Ethan LOWE	55
Jason TAUMALOLO	14
John ASIATA	26
Ben HAMPTON	34
Coen HESS	9
Corey JENSEN	50
<b>Cowboys Total:</b>	<b>517</b>



# QRL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

We ushered in the new season by staging the revamped QRL Leadership Conference on the Sunshine Coast in February.

Formerly known as the QRL Admin Conference, this year’s event brought together an outstanding group of speakers, presenters and tradeshow exhibitors.

The event was tailored to assist those involved in grassroots sport, with club and local league administrators exposed to sport education material, lectures, workshops and important resources.

Topics covered throughout the Conference included Strategic Planning, Volunteer and Player Retention, Diversity, Grants / Business Planning, Social Media and Mental Health.

The event incorporated the QRL Women’s Leadership Forum, which attracted some outstanding speakers and presenters, including five-time Olympian Natalie Cook *(pictured)*.

Keynote speakers throughout the course of the weekend included league great Mark Coyne, NRL Head of Football Brian Canavan and former AFL star Alastair Lynch.

Major sponsor XXXX got behind grassroots footy by offering each senior rugby league club in Queensland one complimentary attendance.

» Keynote speakers throughout the course of the weekend included league great Mark Coyne, NRL Head of Football Brian Canavan and former AFL star Alastair Lynch.



# PLAYING OUR GAME



# A NEW JUNIOR LEAGUE

Parents and junior rugby league players were part of a different league experience this year as the code took steps to ensure a more fun, friendly and free-flowing game for all.

The changes were part of a wider review of junior rugby league, with a focus on improving the under six and seven years of age game experience, while continuing to develop the overall game involvement for all levels both on and off the field.

After extensive research and consultation with grassroots communities, children at the younger end of the playing spectrum were part of the new experience in 2017.

The innovative models focussed on more game time, increased opportunities with the ball and a positive learning environment where players were rewarded for effort (rather than penalised for mistakes).

We have received encouraging feedback from participants and will continue to look at new strategies through the creation of a comprehensive Player Development Framework to further boost our participation base.

» The new models provided a positive learning environment where players were rewarded for effort (rather than penalised for mistakes).



# PARTICIPATION

Strong growth in the women's game and a rise in one of the code's key male participation segments led to an increase in annual club registration numbers.

The number of registered male and female players reached 60,857 this year, a small gain on the 2016 numbers.

Throughout the state, 4646 female players were registered with clubs this year, an increase of 21%.

There was also an increase in the key male participation segment of Under 10s to 12s, with numbers up 2.65%.

However, male participant numbers from Under 13s to 18s decreased by 4.1%.

The League is aware of the challenges that rugby league and other traditional team sports face and is committed to implementing strategies to improve our retention rate in this demographic as well as senior men.

Overall retention numbers throughout Queensland did improve, however, with 40,616 players continuing in the game (1.7% increase).

Recruitment numbers were once again strong with the game attracting 12,261 new players, a statistic underpinned by the game's commitment to the Safeplay Code and other regulations.

» Overall retention numbers throughout Queensland did improve, with 40,616 players continuing in the game (1.7% increase).

## QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE

• **Overall participation numbers** (club figures; excluding school numbers and other general participation programs):

- 2016: 60,794
- 2017: 60,857

• **Breakdown by gender:**

- Male: 56,211
- Female: 4646 (increase of 21%)

• **New registrations:**

- 12,261

• **Retention**

- 40,616 continuing from 2016 season
- 7980 players returning from two or more seasons out of game

## • Male trends

- Increase in numbers for Under 10s to 12s (12,502 in 2017 compared to 12,180 last year)
- Decline in Under 13 to 18s (16,180 in 2017 compared to 16,877 last year)

## • QRL Divisions

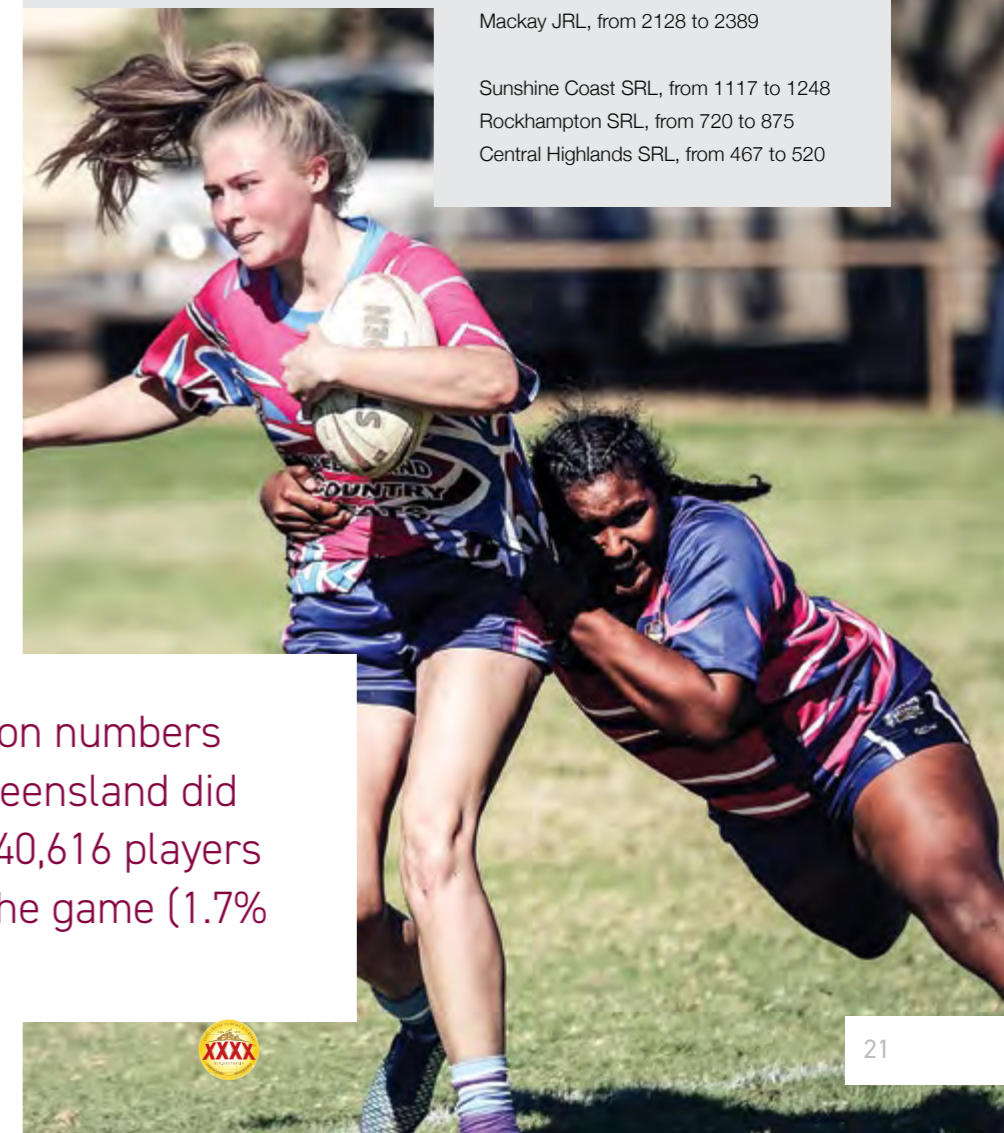
- Northern: 13,576
- Central Division: 21,084 (increase 1.5%)
- South East Division: 25,407

## Growth areas include (male & female):

Sunshine Coast JRL, from 3412 to 3528  
Warwick JRL, from 1012 to 1099

Fraser Coast JRL, from 665 to 717  
Cairns JRL, from 2080 to 2220  
Mackay JRL, from 2128 to 2389

Sunshine Coast SRL, from 1117 to 1248  
Rockhampton SRL, from 720 to 875  
Central Highlands SRL, from 467 to 520



# WOMEN & GIRLS

Once again, the participation of women and girls has continued to be an exciting growth area for the game.

With more opportunities to play being provided throughout the state, girls especially are jumping at the chance to take up every new offering.

There were 4646 female players registered with Queensland clubs this year, an increase of 21%.

However, schools remained a strong base for participation, particularly with the implementation this year of the Karyn Murphy Cup.

Named after the pioneering Queensland representative player, the new statewide competition was offered across four age groups (11-12 years - enrolled in Year 5 or 6 only; Year 7 & 8; Year 9 & 10 and Year 11 & 12) and involved three terms of competition spread across multiple weeks.

The nine-a-side competition gave girls across Queensland the opportunity to represent their school and compete to be crowned state champions.

The Karyn Murphy Cup culminated with the grand finals at Dolphin Oval as part of the Queensland School Finals which involved the GIO Cup state final.

The QRL State Junior Carnival once again hosted both the Under 14 and Under 16 age groups with some great games played in both divisions.

Providing pathways was a key focus for the QRL and history was made with the inaugural Female Queensland Academy of Sport squad taking part in their training camp on the Gold Coast.

As part of the QAS program, the squad of 21 players were put through their paces at the Runaway Bay Sports Super Centre under the guidance of coach Ben Jeffries and assistant coach Renae Kunst (Queensland Women's representative and Jillaroo).

At the elite level, this past year saw an exciting development with Harvey Norman coming on board as the first major sponsor of Women's rugby league in Queensland. A long-term sponsor of the Australian Jillaroos, their partnership also sees them support the Women's game in NSW.

With the backing of this new sponsorship, the Queensland Women's team completed a pre-camp early in the season to help prepare for the Interstate Challenge.

And in a further boost, a Queensland Women's Harvey Norman Clinic for junior girls, which saw all members of the state Women's team help lead training drills with NRL Development staff, proved such a success that another similar clinic was held in November.

Elsewhere in the game, QRL Referees' High Performance Unit member Belinda Sleeman

made history as the first female match official to be appointed to a World Cup fixture.

She made her debut as a touch judge in the Round 1 Pool match between Fiji and USA in Townsville.

In further positive news for the game, a new NRL Women's Premiership will be launched in 2018, along with a State of Origin match on the stand-alone representative weekend and Test matches for the Jillaroos in the Pacific and New Zealand.

» There were 4646 female players registered with Queensland clubs this year, an increase of 21%.



**Harvey Norman**

# INDIGENOUS

With support from the QRL Northern Division, more and more Indigenous players from remote communities are getting the opportunity to play our game.

Throughout the month of October alone, carnivals were played in Gordonvale, Townsville, Thursday Island, Cairns, Bamaga and Mackay.

Some of the football throughout the year was simply breathtaking, with organisers and fans still talking about the Cape Cluster thriller between the Weipa Raiders and the Lockhart River Scorpions.

Importantly, all carnival committees worked closely with the QRL Northern Division to sanction the events.

This ensured all players, referees and volunteers were insured and accredited referees officiated the games.

Furthermore, all participating teams contributed to the Indigenous Development Fund, a program which assists with the training of coaches, sports trainers and referees.

Once again, the biggest Indigenous carnival was played in September when the Moreton Bay Region welcomed thousands of participants and supporters for the Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri Rugby League Carnival.

Played at Redcliffe's Dolphin Oval, the carnival attracted a record 53 teams and 1300 players in the men's, women's and Under 15 divisions.

A drug, alcohol and sugar free event, the carnival represented an innovative way to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to take responsibility for their health.

All players were required to have a health check with their GP before taking the field, and junior players required a 90% school attendance rate to be eligible to play.



» The carnival attracted a record 53 teams and 1300 players in the men's, women's and Under 15 divisions.

# HOLDEN STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES



The XXXX Queensland Maroons captivated an entire state by winning the seemingly ‘unwinnable’ series.

Eight players were thrust into the Origin arena for the first time as XXXX Maroons selectors ushered in a new era following a heavy Game I loss to the Blues.

A settled and confident NSW team was on track to clinch Game II and the series when they skipped away to a 16-6 half-time lead in front of more than 82,000 fans at ANZ Stadium.

However, Queensland responded like the champion team it is, rallying from behind to snatch a remarkable 18-16 win after a late try by Dane Gagai and brilliant sideline conversion from Johnathan Thurston.

Thurston was severely hindered by a shoulder injury, but he somehow came up with the clutch play in the dying minutes to send the series into a decider.

The Maroons carried that momentum into Game III, dominating the Blues on their way to a comprehensive 22-6 victory in front of more than 52,000 fans at Suncorp Stadium.

In true Queensland style, the Maroons saved their best for last as skipper Cameron Smith ran riot behind a dominant forward pack.

The win was even more meritorious given the long list of injuries to proven Origin performers, including Greg Inglis, Matt Scott, Darius Boyd and Thurston.

The next generation of stars stepped up in their absence, with the likes of Dane Gagai, Cameron Munster, Jarrod Wallace, Dylan

Napa and Valentine Holmes making their mark alongside Smith and fellow Origin stalwarts Cooper Cronk and Billy Slater. The win must surely rank as one of Queensland’s finest since the inception of the State of Origin concept in 1980.

Under immense scrutiny, coach Kevin Walters held his nerve, with his passion and tactical nous coming to the fore as the Maroons climbed off the canvas to record a stunning series win for the ages.

Walters has now presided over consecutive series wins for the Maroons since taking over from Mal Meninga, the most successful coach in Origin history.



» In true Queensland style, the XXXX Maroons saved their best for last as skipper Cameron Smith ran riot behind a dominant forward pack.



# INTRUST SUPER CUP



The Intrust Super Cup continues to play a significant role in the development of future elite talent.

Of the 26 players who donned the Maroon jersey during this year's Origin series, 22 of them have played in the Intrust Super Cup for a combined total of 568 games.

The game's leading statewide competition is also providing a platform for the growth of the international game with the Papua New Guinea Hunters competing for a fourth-straight year.

Season 2017 belonged to the Hunters, who sent their passionate fans into a frenzy with a historic grand final victory in front of a record crowd at Suncorp Stadium in September.

Having claimed the minor premiership, the PNG Hunters booked their spot in the premiership decider with a tight 6-4 win over the Redcliffe Dolphins.

The Dolphins were bundled out of the title race by the rampant Sunshine Coast Falcons in a one-sided preliminary final.

Sunshine Coast raced out to an early 10-0 lead in the grand final and were seemingly cruising

to victory.

The Hunters gradually clawed their way back into the contest, despite making a mountain of handling errors.

With the clock winding down, Hunters crowd favourite Willie Minoga pounced on a grubber kick and Ase Boas added the conversion to secure a thrilling 12-10 victory.

Hunters fans stayed in the stands long after the full-time siren had sounded to celebrate with their heroes, many of whom wiped away tears as they completed a victory lap.

It was a particularly satisfying and rewarding moment for Michael Marum, the inaugural coach of the Hunters and the 2017 Intrust Super Cup Coach of the Year.

Unfortunately, Marum and the Hunters were unable to replicate their success in the Intrust Super Championship match in Sydney, with the Penrith Panthers proving too classy on NRL Grand Final day.

# 568

The overall number of Intrust Super Cup games played by Maroons players who contested the Holden State of Origin series in 2017.



## INTRUST SUPER CUP GRAND FINAL

**PNG HUNTERS 12** (Watson Boas, Willie Minoga tries; Ase Boas 2 goals) def **SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS 10** (Matthew Soper-Lawler, Joe Stimson tries; Joe Stimson goal) at Suncorp Stadium.

## INTRUST SUPER CHAMPIONSHIP

**PENRITH PANTHERS 42** (Tony Satini 4, Darren Nicholls, Viliame Kikau, Christian Crichton, Maika Sivo tries; Darren Nicholls 5 goals) def **PNG HUNTERS 18** (Adex Wera, Bland Abavu, Ase Boas tries; Ase Boas 3 goals) at ANZ Stadium, Sydney.

## FINAL INTRUST SUPER CUP STANDINGS

Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Bye	For	Against	Points
PNG Hunters	23	17	1	5	2	550	378	39
Redcliffe Dolphins	23	17	0	6	2	604	332	38
Easts Tigers	23	16	1	6	2	596	422	37
Sunshine Coast Falcons	23	15	1	7	2	647	416	35
Souths Logan Magpies	23	15	0	8	2	580	484	34
Townsville Blackhawks	23	12	2	9	2	573	473	30
Ipswich Jets	23	12	0	11	2	536	539	28
Mackay Cutters	23	10	2	11	2	531	566	26
Burleigh Bears	23	10	0	13	2	446	510	24
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	23	9	0	14	2	433	465	22
Norths Devils	23	9	0	14	2	502	572	22
Northern Pride	23	6	0	17	2	400	555	16
Tweed Heads Seagulls	23	5	0	18	2	337	710	14
CQ Capras	23	4	1	18	2	416	729	13

# FOGS COLTS CHALLENGE



Following on from their success in the Statewide format earlier in the year, the Redcliffe Dolphins took out the double with a dominant finish to the FOGS Colts Challenge season.

Played in the second half of the season, the FOGS Colts Challenge brought together 10 teams (predominantly from the south east corner) over 16 rounds.

Norths Devils finished in top spot ahead of Redcliffe, Tweed Heads, Sunshine Coast and Easts.

After three weekends of finals, the Dolphins and Devils were the two teams who qualified for the September 24 Grand Final at Suncorp Stadium.

The Dolphins were simply too good on the day, with Trai Fuller and Corban Daniels running in two tries each in the resounding 56-18 victory.

**REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 56** (Trai Fuller 2, Corban Daniels 2, Radean Robinson, Michael Walit, Mitchell McPaul, Regan Baker, William Partridge, Bailey Butler tries; Reece Braun 7, Corban Daniels goals) def **NORTHS DEVILS 18** (Michael Molo, Kobe Hetherington, Kalemb Hart tries; Jack Miers 3 goals) at Suncorp Stadium.

» The Dolphins were simply too good on the day, with Trai Fuller and Corban Daniels running in two tries each in the resounding 56-18 victory.



# FOGS UNDER 20s STATEWIDE



Some of Queensland's best Under 20s talent showcased their skills in the new FOGS Under 20s Statewide competition.

Played over eight rounds at the start of the season, the competition featured 15 teams from across the state.

Victoria was also represented and finished a creditable ninth with two wins and a draw.

Redcliffe Dolphins and Mackay Cutters finished on top of the ladder, with both teams going on to win their respective semi-finals against Western Mustangs and Northern Pride to qualify for the final.

The Dolphins proved too strong for the Cutters in front of a big crowd at Suzuki Stadium, running away with a 34-12 win.

Following confirmation of the disbandment of the NYC, the game has made significant steps to improve its development pathways next year with the introduction of the statewide Hastings Deering Colts.

This competition will be aligned with the Intrust Super Cup and will give many players the opportunity to represent their own region over the full duration of a season without having to move away from home.

**REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 34** (Trai Fuller 2, Michael Walit 2, Corban Daniels, Mitchell McPaul tries; Reece Braun 5 goals) def **MACKAY CUTTERS 12** (George Prior, Darcy Head tries; Jacob Bourke 2 goals) at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

» The Dolphins proved too strong for the Cutters in front of a big crowd at Suzuki Stadium, running away with a 34-12 win.



# MAL MENINGA CUP



The state's best Under 18 talent contested the Mal Meninga Cup this year.

Carrying the name of one of Queensland's greatest ever players and coaches, the Mal Meninga Cup provides players and coaches from across the state with an opportunity to experience top-level rugby league over a 10-week period.

Meninga's former club, the Souths Logan Magpies, finished in top spot with five wins.

The Magpies beat the fourth-placed Redcliffe Dolphins in their semi-final clash to set up a grand final encounter against the Western Mustangs, who were too good for the Easts Tigers in the 2 v 3 play-off.

In a spectacular final which produced some free flowing end-to-end football, the Western Mustangs finished the stronger to claim a stunning 40-30 win over the Magpies.

Denzel Burns and Cory Paix were two of the stars for the Mustangs, scoring 28 points between them.

**WESTERN MUSTANGS 40** (Denzel Burns 3, Alexander Dunemann, Cory Paix, James Robinson, Brock Diment tries; Cory Paix 6 goals) def **SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES 30** (Saeed Annewetey, Dray Ngatuere-Wroe, Thane Kellermeyer, Blake Scott, Sam Tolu tries; Tanah Boyd 5 goals) at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park

» In a spectacular final which produced some free flowing end-to-end football, the Western Mustangs finished the stronger to claim a stunning 40-30 win over the Magpies.



# QRL STATE CARNIVAL

We are passionate about providing representative opportunities for players of all levels.

While the QRL State Carnival on the Gold Coast didn't attract the fanfare of other major representative games, it was an event that carried real meaning.

Our best local league talent from throughout the state were given the opportunity to represent their region and vie for a prestigious Queensland Rangers jersey.

The men's competition featured South East Queensland, Central, Northern and the Poinsettias.

Central took out the title after beating Northern 20-18 in a final day thriller, and subsequently had eight players selected in the Queensland Rangers team.

The women's draw was contested by South East Queensland, Central and Northern, with selectors on hand to pick the Harvey Norman Queensland Women's team for the Interstate Challenge.

South East Queensland took the carnival honours with comprehensive wins over Central and Northern.

SEQ lock Rona Peters was named Player of the Carnival and was later named in the Queensland Women's team alongside 12 teammates.

» South East Queensland women took the carnival honours with comprehensive wins over Central and Northern.





# QRL STATE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS



Our leading junior talent showcased their skills at the revamped Junior Championships on the Sunshine Coast in July.

All three QRL Divisions (SEQ Water Dragons, Central Crows and Northern Marlins) were represented in Under 14 and Under 16 (boys and girls) competitions across four days.

The championships brought together more than 260 players, as well as coaches, trainers, volunteers, match officials, talent identification scouts and supporters, in a wonderful celebration of rugby league.

With the Cyril Connell Cup dropping off the calendar this year, male players had the opportunity to press for Queensland Under 16 selection.

The two South East Queensland teams dominated selection in the state team after strong performances throughout the carnival.

In an entertaining Under 16 grand final, SEQ White took the honours with a 42-30 win over SEQ Green.

## SHIELD WINNERS

**Under 14 Boys Shield:** Central Crows & SEQ Green

**Harvey Norman Under 14 Girls Heather Ballinger Shield:** Central Crows

**Under 16 Boys:** SEQ White

**Harvey Norman Under 16 Girls Karyn Murphy Shield:** SEQ Water Dragons

**Under 14 Boys Award:** Jayden Thurston (Central Crows #12)

**Under 14 Girls, Veronica White Award:** Georgia Voll (Central Crows #13)

**Under 16 Boys, Peter Gray Award:** Will Evans (SEQ White #1)

**Under 16 Girls, Stephanie Hancock Award:** Melanie Watherston (Central Crows #6)

» In an entertaining grand final, SEQ White took the honours with a 42-30 win over SEQ Green.



# QRL SENIOR PREMIERS

## GRAND FINAL RESULTS

### MAJOR COMPETITIONS

- **INTRUST SUPER CUP**  
PNG Hunters 12 *def* Sunshine Coast Falcons 10.
- **FOGS COLTS CHALLENGE**  
Redcliffe Dolphins 56 *def* Norths Devils 18.
- **FOGS UNDER 20s STATEWIDE**  
Redcliffe Dolphins 34 *def* Mackay Cutters 12.
- **MAL MENINGA CUP**  
Western Mustangs 40 *def* Souths Logan Magpies 30.

### BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE

Valleys Diehards 16 *def* Redcliffe Dolphins 12.

### SEQ WOMEN'S

Burleigh Bears 10 *def* Ipswich Brothers 6.

### BRISBANE SECOND DIVISION

**Premier:** Valleys Juniors 25 *def* Brighton 24.

**Northside 1:** Brothers Juniors 16 *def* Dayboro 12.

**Southside 1:** Beenleigh Seniors 18 *def* South Sunnybank 10.

### IPSWICH RUGBY LEAGUE

Goodna Eagles 32 *def* Fassifern Bombers 14.

### GOLD COAST TWEED RUGBY LEAGUE

Burleigh Bears 20 *def* Runaway Bay 12.

### TOOWOOMBA RUGBY LEAGUE

Dalby Diehards 48 *def* Pittsworth Danes 4.

### BORDER RUGBY LEAGUE

Inglewood Roosters 38 *def* Tenterfield Tigers 30.

### ROMA DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE

Cities 32 *def* Miles 14.

### WESTERN LEAGUE

Augathella Meat Ants 24 *def* Charleville Comets 16.

### CENTRAL WEST RUGBY LEAGUE

Winton Devils 32 *def* Ilfracombe Scorpions 16.

### CENTRAL HIGHLANDS RUGBY LEAGUE

Middlemount Panthers 34 *def* Bluff Rabbitohs 22.

### SUNSHINE COAST GYMPIE RUGBY LEAGUE

Noosa Pirates 24 *def* Maroochydore/Cooloolun Swans 6.

### NORTHERN DISTRICTS

Avondale Tigers 54 *def* Gin Gin Hawks 16.

### BUNDABERG RUGBY LEAGUE

Brothers 22 *def* Wallaroos 18.

### SOUTH BURNETT (Pictured)

Murgon Mustangs 44 *def* Cherbourg Hornets 42.

### CENTRAL BURNETT

Gayndah Gladiators 38 *def* Mundubbera Tigers 16.

### ROCKHAMPTON RUGBY LEAGUE

Rockhampton Brothers 28 *def* Norths Chargers 20.

### MACKAY DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE

Whitsunday Brahmans 31 *def* Wests Tigers 6.

### TOWNSVILLE RUGBY LEAGUE

Brothers 18 *def* Herbert River 16.

### CAIRNS DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE

Yarrabah Seahawks 31 *def* Innisfail Brothers 22.

### MOUNT ISA EXTENDED LEAGUE

Town Lions 60 *def* Normanton Stinglers 0.

### CAPE CLUSTER

Weipa Raiders 18 *def* Lockhart Scorpions 16.



# AWARDS

Dane Gagai capped off a stunning 2017 Holden State of Origin series when he was presented with the Wally Lewis Medal after the XXXX Maroons' stunning Game III victory at Suncorp Stadium.

The Queensland winger was simply outstanding throughout the three-match series, running for a staggering 561 metres.

His two tries in Game II lifted the Maroons to a famous come-from-behind victory which kept the series alive.

Gagai was just as inspirational off the field as well, bringing joy to thousands of people in his home town of Mackay during the Maroons' annual Fan Day.

At Intrust Super Cup level, the competition's most prestigious award – The Courier-Mail Medal – went to PNG Hunters skipper Ase Boas.

Boas had an outstanding season for the Hunters, polling 29 points from the referees to edge out Matt Lodge (28) and Krys Freeman (25).

## STATE OF ORIGIN

**Wally Lewis Medal:** Dane Gagai (Overall Player of the Series)

**Ron McAuliffe Medal:** Josh McGuire (Maroons' Player of the Series)

**Peter Jackson Medal:** Johnathan Thurston (Outstanding Contribution)

## Players' Player:

- Game I: Cooper Cronk / Dane Gagai
- Game II: Dylan Napa
- Game III: Cameron Munster / Cameron Smith



» His two tries in Game II lifted the XXXX Maroons to a famous come-from-behind victory which kept the series alive.



## QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE

**Courier Mail Best & Fairest Medal:** Ase Boas – PNG Hunters

**Mal Meninga Cup Player of the Year:** Cory Paix – Western Mustangs

**U20s Statewide Player of the Year:** Reece Braun – Redcliffe Dolphins

**FOGS Colts Player of the Year:** Stephen Buckley – Sunshine Coast Falcons

**Carbine Club Rookie of the Year:** Brandon Smith – Sunshine Coast Falcons

**Leading Point Scorer:** Carlin Anderson – Townsville Blackhawks

**Leading Try Scorer:** Jonathon Reuben – Townsville Blackhawks

**Club Championship:** Redcliffe Dolphins

**John 'Cracker' McDonald Minor Premiership Shield:** PNG Hunters

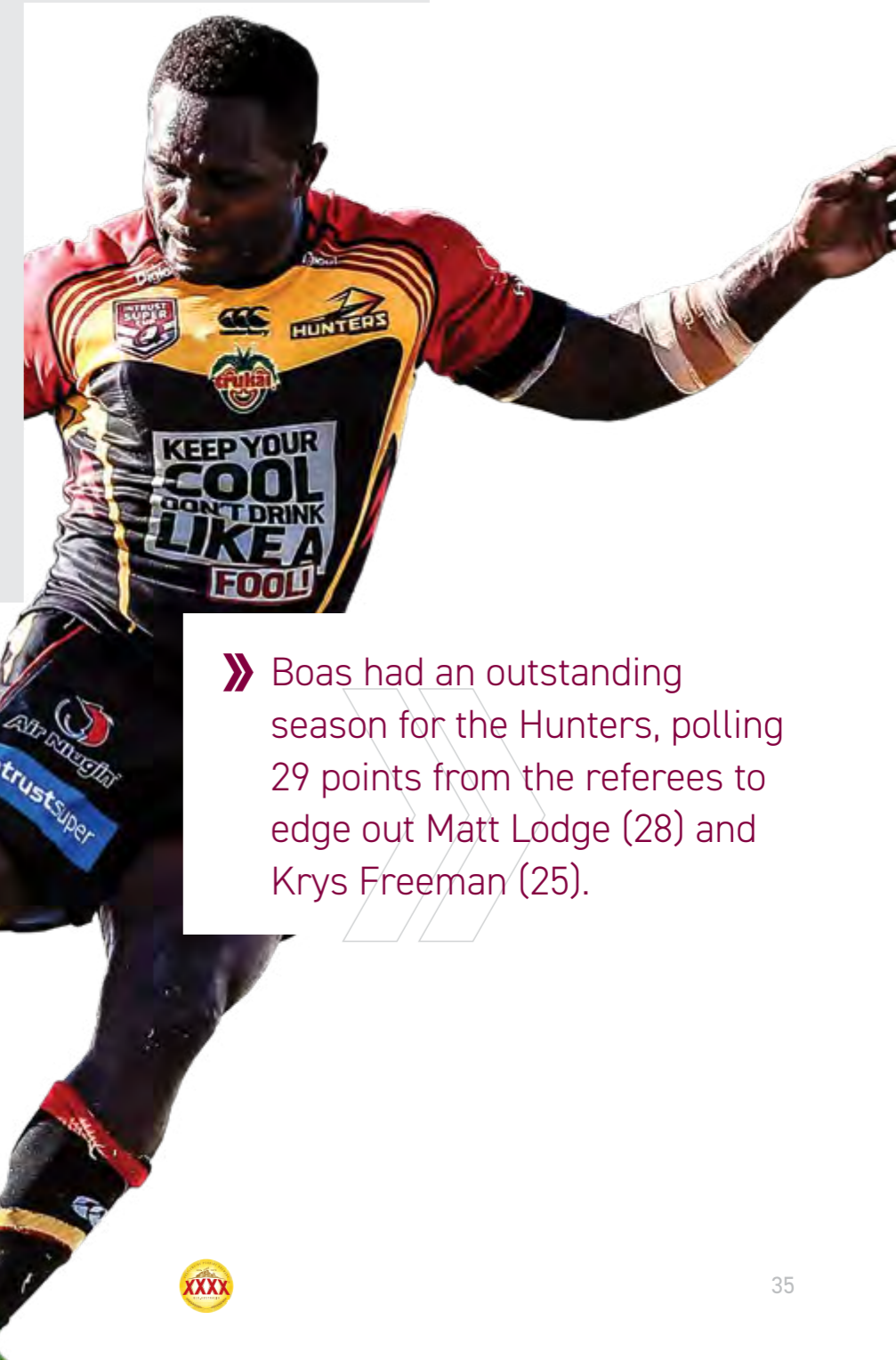
**XXXX People's Choice:** Ase Boas – PNG Hunters

**XXXX Representative Player of the Year:** Nick Slyney – Redcliffe Dolphins

**Women's Representative Player of the Year:** Brittany Breayley

## Intrust Super Cup Team of the Year:

- **Fullback:** Jamayne Isaako (Souths Logan Magpies)
- **Wing:** Jonathon Reuben (Townsville Blackhawks)
- **Centre:** Justin Olam (Sunshine Coast Falcons)
- **Five-Eighth:** Billy Walters (Easts Tigers)
- **Halfback:** Brodie Croft (Easts Tigers)
- **Prop:** Matt Lodge (Redcliffe Dolphins)
- **Hooker:** Pat Politoni (Burleigh Bears)
- **Second Row:** Blake Leary (Townsville Blackhawks)
- **Lock:** Sam Anderson (Redcliffe Dolphins)
- **Coach:** Michael Marum (PNG Hunters)



» Boas had an outstanding season for the Hunters, polling 29 points from the referees to edge out Matt Lodge (28) and Krys Freeman (25).



# RETIRING CLASS

We said farewell to one of the greatest players in State of Origin history at Suncorp Stadium in July.

For Johnathan Thurston, it wasn't the way he wanted to finish his decorated representative career after a shoulder injury denied him an Origin swansong.

But the game fittingly turned on a spectacular pre-match tribute, with the man affectionately known as JT and his young family given a stirring applause from fans who lapped up the video tribute.

The fact that Queensland was even able to press for a famous series win can in part be put down to Thurston's heroics.

With the series slipping away in front of a parochial NSW crowd in Game II, Thurston courageously stayed on the field as the Maroons embarked on a comeback mission.

When Dane Gagai scored in the dying minutes, the hopes of an entire state rested on one man. Under severe duress, Thurston stepped up to kick a difficult conversion and the Maroons held on for a memorable 18-16 win.

The champion playmaker is the second most capped player in Origin history behind Cameron Smith and no other player has scored more

points.

We also said farewell to Cooper Cronk and Nate Myles, two champion performers at Origin level over long periods of time.

Cronk played 22 Origin matches, while Myles represented his state on 32 occasions between 2006-17.

At Intrust Super Cup level, we recognised the achievements of our retiring players with a special tribute on the big screen before the September 24 Grand Final.

Between them, Mat Pitman, Steven Thorpe, Darren Griffiths, Anthony Mitchell and Michael Parker-Walshe played 583 games.



» The fact that Queensland was even able to press for a famous series win can in part be put down to Thurston's heroics.

# MILESTONES

Everything Cameron Smith touched in 2017 turned to gold.

He captained the Melbourne Storm to an NRL premiership and led his beloved XXXX Queensland Maroons to a famous State of Origin series victory.

Success carried over to the international arena as well – he led the Kangaroos to an ANZAC Test match win against the Kiwis in his 50th Test, as well as World Cup glory.

Along the way, he wrote his name into more record books, confirming his status as one of the all-time greats.

In Game I of this year's Origin series, he notched his 40th appearance for the Maroons, an incredible record that may never be eclipsed.

At club level, he surpassed Darren Locker as the game's most capped player when he took the field for his 356th match in the Melbourne Storm's qualifying final win over Parramatta.

At the game's night of nights, Smith was crowned Dally M Player of the Year, Dally M Hooker of the Year and Dally M Captain of the Year.

Smith's humble persona has been a feature of his decorated career, with the devoted family man earning plaudits within and outside of the game he first played as a six-year-old with Logan Brothers.

Smith's great mate Cooper Cronk also had a season to remember, sharing in the NRL, Origin and Test match spoils.

On the eve of making his 20th Origin appearance in Game I, Cronk was presented with the Dick "Tosser" Turner Award.

**Smith Award:** Cameron Smith (40 games)

**Dick "Tosser" Turner Award:** Cooper Cronk (20 games)



» At the game's night of nights, Smith was crowned Dally M Player of the Year, Dally M Hooker of the Year and Dally M Captain of the Year.



# MATCH OFFICIALS

The pathways and opportunities available to our match officials is the envy of many other codes.

At the forefront of this progress is the QRL Referees' High Performance Unit, which oversaw many significant achievements this year.

The HPU squad trained two nights a week from November to the beginning of February and then once a week from February to September.

This was a reduced workload from previous years to enhance a better work-life balance.

In SEQ, two strength and conditioning trainers were engaged as well as a Post Graduate student.

Regional trainers operated in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton.

Under the National Structure of Officiating, best practice was rolled out throughout the year by NRL full-time match officials and coaches Andrew Dunemann and Shayne Hayne, who conducted both theory and on field sessions in SEQ and regional centres.

# 1782

The number of active referees in Queensland (5% increase).



## REPRESENTATIVE

**State of Origin series:** Touch Judges: Chris Butler (Brisbane), Brett Suttor (Brisbane).

**World Cup:** Chris Butler (Brisbane), Belinda Sleeman (Ipswich) and Michael Wise (Brisbane) officiated in the 2017 World Cup. Tyson Brough (Sunshine Coast) was selected to officiate at the Women's World Cup.

## FINALS APPOINTMENTS

### NRL & World Cup Grand Final:

**Touch Judge** – Chris Butler (Brisbane)

**NRL Finals Week 1:** Chris Butler, Brett Suttor, Michael Wise, Belinda Sleeman and Clayton Sharpe.

### Intrust Super State Championship: Lead Referee

– Jarrod Cole (Gold Coast), **Touch Judge** – Belinda Sleeman (Ipswich)

**Intrust Super Cup: Referee** – Jarrod Cole (Gold Coast), **Assistant Referee** – Nick Pelgrave (Brisbane). **Touch Judges** – Belinda Sleeman (Ipswich), Peter Anderson (Gold Coast).

**Residents: Assistant Referee** – Jarrod Cole (Gold Coast). **Touch Judge** – Nick Morel (Brisbane), Michael Gordon (Gold Coast).

**NYC Finals: Lead Referee** – Liam Kennedy (Brisbane).

**Brisbane Rugby League: Referee** – Dan Munroe (Brisbane).

**Ipswich Rugby League: Referee** – Jacob Whitehouse (Brisbane).

**Gold Coast Rugby League: Referee** – Ethan Menchin (Brisbane).

### FOGS Colts Challenge: Referee

- Wyatt Raymond (Townsville).

**Touch Judges** – Isaac Freeman (Brisbane), Jake Stanton (Sunshine Coast).

**FOGS Colts Statewide: Referee** – Jakson Shearer (Sunshine Coast). **Touch Judges** – Jackson McKellar (Brisbane), Ryan Hayes (Sunshine Coast).

**Mal Meninga Cup: Referee** – Jack Ebert (Townsville). **Touch Judges** – Isaac Freeman (Brisbane), Jordan Morel (Brisbane).

## INTRUST SUPER CUP STATISTICS & MILESTONES

- The weekly analysis reports showed 2193 penalties were awarded over the 167 games with an average of 13 per game, 86.5% penalty accuracy and 91.9% decision making accuracy.

- 24 referees were appointed to 222 games as referees (single / 2 referee games).

- 11 NRL referees were appointed to 23 games and 13 QRL referees were appointed to 199.

- Tim Rutherford refereed his 100th game in Round 16 (Burleigh v Ipswich), becoming the 12th referee to achieve the milestone.

- Tyson Brough, Liam Kennedy and Nick Pelgrave refereed their 50th Intrust Super Cup games.

- Dan Munroe, Damian Brady and Ethan Menchin made their debuts.

- Six touch judges debuted in the Intrust Super Cup – Ryan Hayes (Sunshine Coast), Ethan Menchin (Brisbane), Jackson McKellar (Brisbane), Matt Muscat (Mackay), Jakson Shearer (Sunshine Coast) and Glen Stewart (Sunshine Coast).

# 2017 VALE



## GRAHAM "BUTCH" LENTON

The game lost one of its most influential and respected figures in outback rugby league when Winton stalwart Graham Lenton passed away in October aged 61. The man affectionally known as "Butch" held key positions in politics and rugby league administration.

He was so highly regarded that his passing was acknowledged by the state's highest office. "Winton could not have had a more dedicated or passionate representative," Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said.

A Life Member of the Central West Rugby League and QRL Central Division, Lenton served the game for the best part of four decades in numerous roles.

While fiercely passionate about his home town team, the Winton Shire Council Mayor of the past four years was always eager to see the game flourish right across the region.

He had two stints as the President of the Central West Rugby League, the first which commenced in 1990.

Lenton and his wife Ros worked hard behind the scenes to get Winton on the paddock in 2017, and the club duly responded with a fitting 32-16 grand final win over Ilfracombe.

He was instrumental in the significant improvements made to the Winton Showgrounds (which this year hosted an Intrust Super Cup Country Week game), and he was also involved in many community organisations such as the Waltzing Matilda Centre, the Truck Museum and the Fire Brigade.



## RICHARD JOHNSTON OAM

Highly-regarded referees' coach Richard Johnston OAM passed away in April aged 77.

A former State League referee, Johnston made a seamless transition into the coaching and education field, where he was instrumental in the development of Queensland's leading referees for more than 25 years. Johnston's love of the game and his passion for assisting others took him all over Queensland in his role as the inaugural QRL Referees' Development Manager.

The newly-created position in 1992 raised some eyebrows, but it didn't take long for Johnston to win over the doubters as he managed everything from State League coaching to QRL carnivals and development. In 2003, Johnston commenced a new role with the QRL's South East Queensland and Wide Bay Divisions.

While he retired from the QRL in 2009, Johnston was never lost to the game. Right

up until his sudden passing in April, Johnston spent time mentoring young match officials from the Sunshine Coast/Gympie Referees Association.

He will remain a much-admired figure in many regional communities, including Hughenden where the State School's sporting oval is named after the former teacher.

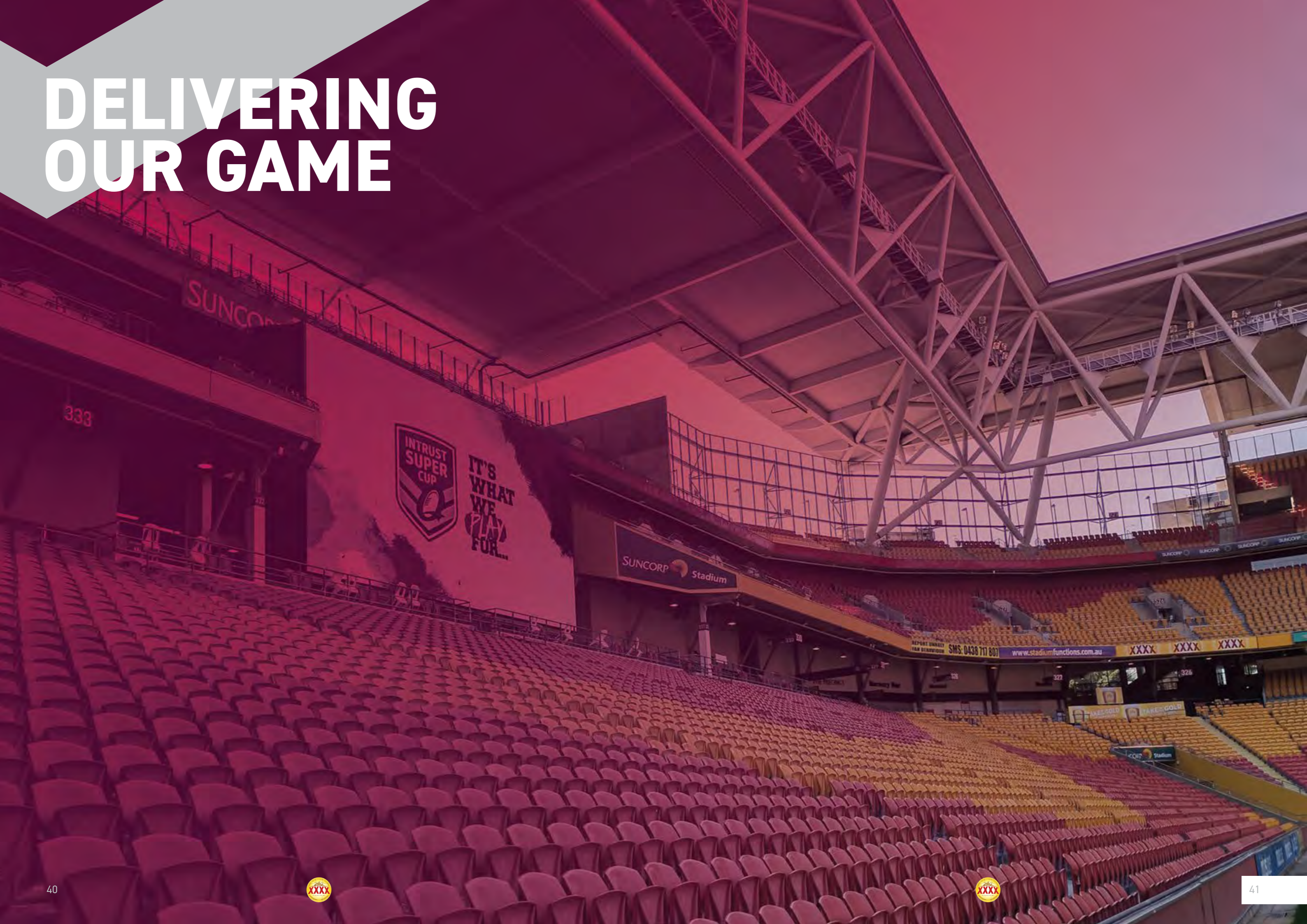
While he enjoyed life's simple pleasures like a can of Coke and chocolate Mars bar – his regular intake while evaluating referees on game day – Johnston was an astute operator and a pioneer for the referees.

He led the push for greater coaching and development resources, two key improvements supported by the establishment of the QRL Referees' Board in 1992.

Johnston worked closely with another father figure of the refereeing fraternity in the late Nick Euclid OAM, the former Chairman of the Referees' Board.



# DELIVERING OUR GAME



# DIGITAL

The QRL continues to enhance its thriving digital and social media footprint with more fans engaging with our platforms than ever before.

This year, we increased our coverage across the state, improved our internal production capability and raised our overall audience with more traffic on game related platforms (QRL Live).

In summary, 2017 digital highlights include:

- 1,307,508 social media followers (8% increase)
- 8,158,731 page impressions on websites (13% increase)
- 54% increase in game-related web products consumption (QRL Live)
- Increased internal capability and full-state coverage across all levels of the game
- Increased commercial value, deliverables and cost-savings
- Full service creative & production delivery for partners

We set out to deliver full-state coverage via a content strategy which reflects our ongoing commitment to increase the quantity and delivery of coverage across all levels of the game.

For the first time, Intrust Super Cup and Major Competitions video highlight packages were produced internally. Internal production also resulted in a quicker delivery time and increased quality for fans of our game.

The dedicated video editor produced more than 170 highlights packages across Major Competitions.

The QRL Correspondents network took another step forward with Central Division appointing Cameron Stallard to drive content, leading

to an increase in the coverage of carnivals, competitions and key messages.

Pleasingly, our website total page impressions increased 13% and QRL Live page impressions increased by 54%, with 14% more users viewing 3.62 more pages than the previous year.

Social media exploded as well, with a massive 1,307,508 followers across all platforms (8% increase).

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Jersey Launch Video

In partnership with Canterbury Clothing, we created a unique way to reveal the 2017 Maroons State of Origin jersey. Current and former players featured in the video, which was produced internally. The result was a commercially viable video production which drove our partner's objective and engaged a wider audience in the lead up to Christmas.

Results:

- 1,500,000 people reached
- 462,000 video views
- Partnership with Canterbury Clothing, Goodlife Health & Fitness, Dreamworld

### Personalised Plates Qld

The Digital team presented and won the account to provide creative and production services for this campaign in 2017.

We delivered full-scale video production (15" & 30" TVC), studio photography, full branding, logo development and microsite creative development.

Results:

- 471,300 people reached
- 14,600 clicks
- 157,595 views

### Series Launch Production

The team facilitated the video and AV production for the Queensland Maroons 2017 Series Launch. The evening's full production included more than 19 minutes of video content showcased across a unique three-screen display before 350 guests.

Results:

- Full creative development
- 19 minutes of produced video
- Estimated cost of 24% industry rate

## VIDEO CONSUMPTION -

PLATFORM	PLAYS
QRL.COM.AU	468,350
QLD Maroons Facebook	10,610,000
Intrust Super Cup Facebook	201,500
QLD Rugby League Facebook	355,400
Maroon Festival Facebook	400,383
Live Stream Events	183,484
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,219,117</b>

» Social media exploded as well, with a massive 1,307,508 followers across all platforms (8% increase).

## FACEBOOK - YEAR ON YEAR

BRAND	INTERACTIONS		REACH		ENGAGEMENT RATE		FOLLOWERS	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
QLD Maroons	3,790,000	1,920,000	183,689,061	104,998,921	2.06%	1.82%	916,000	941,900
Intrust Super Cup	62,400	112,200	5,192,071	9,513,068	1.2%	1.17%	46,380	58,400
QLD Rugby League	N/A	43,400	3,063,796	4,657,712	N/A	1.41%	16,276	22,308
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,852,400</b>	<b>2,075,600</b>	<b>191,944,928</b>	<b>119,169,701</b>			<b>978,656</b>	<b>1,022,608</b>

## INSTAGRAM - YEAR ON YEAR

BRAND	INTERACTIONS		FOLLOWERS		INTERACTION PER POST	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
QLD Maroons	1,180,000	1,240,000	138,000	170,100	3,033	5,081
Intrust Super Cup	N/A	66,700	8,996	14,900	N/A	409
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1,306,700</b>	<b>146,996</b>	<b>185,000</b>		

## TWITTER - YEAR ON YEAR

BRAND	INTERACTIONS		FOLLOWERS		INTERACTION PER POST	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
QLD Maroons	43,700	40,200	71,700	91,000	3,033	5,081
Intrust Super Cup	N/A	7,600	7,630	8,900	N/A	409
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,700</b>	<b>47,800</b>	<b>79,330</b>	<b>99,900</b>		

## WEBSITES - YEAR ON YEAR

BRAND	PAGE IMPRESSIONS		UNIQUE BROWSERS		PV/U*	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
QRL.COM.AU	5,209,366	4,908,194	1,471,340	1,299,583	3.54	3.77
QRL LIVE	1,970,181	3,037,200	187,554	214,966	10.5	14.12
MAROON MEMBERSHIP	N/A	146,468	N/A	37,822	N/A	3.87
MAROON FESTIVAL	N/A	66,869	N/A	22,107	N/A	3.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,179,547</b>	<b>8,158,731</b>	<b>1,658,894</b>	<b>1,574,095</b>	<b>4.32</b>	<b>5.18</b>



# MARKETING & BRAND

Some impressive marketing campaigns were delivered using the latest in design techniques throughout 2017.

The theme for Origin was centred around the recognition of our inspirational 'Statesmen' who have all played 30 or more representative games for the XXXX Maroons.

This campaign featured the tagline "State of Strength" and highlighted the achievements of nine past and present Origin stars before and during the series.

Emotive and powerful designs featuring our most respected and capped players could be seen across major assets, including the team bus and dressing rooms.

This theming was also a special feature of the Series Launch dinner and it carried across into the Maroon Festival, where we celebrated the greats of the game through the interactive Legends Walk.

This year marked the end of an era with the representative career of Johnathan Thurston coming to a close.

Given his enormous contribution on and off the field, it was important to celebrate his fantastic achievements for Queensland.

A private tribute piece for Johnathan was created by our design team and presented to the champion Maroons playmaker before the Game III decider at Suncorp Stadium.

The inspiring memento highlighted mateship, memories and milestones from his extraordinary 37-game career.

The Intrust Super Cup was supported by a stunning finals campaign creative which used a paintbrush effect to feature the team captains.

Team colours were used with vibrant effect to create eye-catching designs across both digital and print applications.

The mix of channels used to promote the final included outdoor digital billboards, social, radio and press advertisements, which all helped to attract a record crowd to Suncorp Stadium and further demonstrated the importance of the statewide competition as a vital pathway for our future Origin stars.



# MAROON MEMBERSHIP

A revamped Maroon Membership program brought an exciting new offering for fans this year.

The program delivered exclusive competitions, event invitations and insider content year-round, as well as a new range of Member-only merchandise and benefits.

With a strategy focussed on engaging fans on a larger scale and offering packages that represent good value for money, the program saw the total number of Members grow to more than 14,000 in 2017.

## OFFERING

The program was re-branded from 18th Man to Maroon Member, and had a total of 13 Membership packages in 2017. The first dual membership with an NRL club was introduced in partnership with the North Queensland

Cowboys, with ticketed and non-ticketed memberships available. A partnership with Queensland's premier statewide competition also saw the introduction of dual memberships with Intrust Super Cup clubs.

## SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS

For the first time, a grassroots cashback initiative was introduced to support our local clubs and leagues. Memberships were available to purchase during the participant registration process on PlayNRL.com and the Maroon Member website. More than 150 clubs received cashback as part of the initiative in 2017, and to further assist grassroots clubs, this incentive will be doubled from \$5 to \$10 next year.

## MAROON FESTIVAL

A Maroon Member Zone was exclusively open to Members who received complimentary beverages upon arrival. Members enjoyed prime viewing of the Queensland Stage and

engaged with league greats Petero Civoniceva and Justin Hodges, our 2017 Membership Ambassadors.

## GAME DAY ACTIVITY

Members not only had access to the Members Bar on Origin game nights at Suncorp Stadium, but they had the unique opportunity to register for the on-field pre-game entertainment featuring Bernard Fanning and Birds of Tokyo.

## ACTIVATIONS

Our Membership team had a presence at several major events, staging activations at the Maroon Festival, Mackay Fan Day, Intrust Super Cup grand final, the Royal Queensland Show, Rugby League World Cup, QRL Leadership Conference and season launch at Queensland Parliament.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH ICE BREAK

This promotion saw Maroon Membership branding printed on approximately three million Ice Breaks throughout Queensland.

## SURVEY & LOOKING AHEAD

98% of respondents viewed Maroon Membership as a positive experience.

With continuing growth and development of the Membership program in 2018, we're excited about what we can achieve through the backing of our Members, partners and supporters.



# MAROON FESTIVAL

In the lead-up to this year's Holden State of Origin series, Brisbane came alive with Queensland pride at the inaugural Maroon Festival.

More than 39,000 fans and proud Queenslanders of all ages came together at South Bank Parklands for four days of free festivities to celebrate everything that is great about being a Queenslanders.

Maroon Festival was born out of Queensland's love and passion for Origin, which brings together communities, crosses generations and unifies our state in a way that no other sport has managed to match.

The Festival was an opportunity to amplify this intense love of Origin and extend the Origin experience for Queenslanders into an inclusive and enjoyable community event.

The inaugural Maroon Festival showcased the very best that Queensland has to offer, including fresh local produce, talented sports men and women, health and nutrition, and our wonderful outdoor lifestyle.

Over the four days, we welcomed the arrival of the Maroons with a River Parade, were entertained with well-known athletes and celebrities, learnt about former and current Origin legends through the interactive AR Legends Walk, tested our skills in the Fit + Fun Zone and were inspired with healthy cooking demonstrations.

The Festival culminated in a live and free broadcast of Game I with the Brisbane CBD skyline as the backdrop.

Although Queensland didn't end up with a win that night, the Festival was a clear winner for our community, and a proud achievement for all those involved in the staging of a new event of this scale.

We would like to thank our major partners - The Star Entertainment Group, Queensland Government and the NRL for bringing this project to life.

## AT A GLANCE

- The Maroon Festival attracted 39,000 attendees.
- Nearly 32% of all attendees were visitors to Brisbane. More than 10,600 individuals from outside Brisbane attended the event.
- The event generated direct and incremental expenditure of \$1.7 million attributable to the Brisbane economy and \$0.92 million attributable to the Queensland economy.
- The Maroon Festival was responsible for generating 5,692 visitor nights in Brisbane. The majority of these nights (86%) were generated by extended stay visitors - most of whom had travelled for the Origin match but had extended their stay because of the Festival.

» More than 39,000 fans and proud Queenslanders of all ages came together at South Bank Parklands





# ATTENDANCES

A record crowd for an Intrust Super Cup grand final watched the Papua New Guinea Hunters record an historic victory over the Sunshine Coast Falcons in this year's decider.

In an enthralling finish to the season, Hunters fans in the 11,260-strong crowd erupted when Willie Minoga scored the match-winning try in the dying minutes.

The attendance eclipsed the 2002 grand final crowd of 10,126 at Dolphin Oval (Redcliffe v Ipswich).

The three Holden State of Origin series matches drew a combined total of 185,189 fans.

**GAME I**  
**50,390**

SUNCORP STADIUM, BRISBANE

**GAME II**  
**82,259**

ANZ STADIUM, SYDNEY

**GAME III**  
**52,540**

SUNCORP STADIUM, BRISBANE

The crowd for the deciding match of the series in Brisbane set a new Suncorp Stadium record for the biggest Origin attendance at the venue.

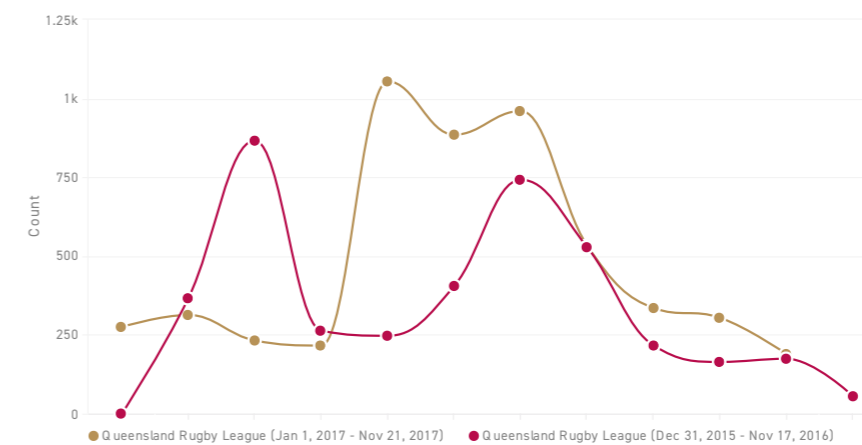


# MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

QRL Media continues to help shape and enhance the organisation's public profile through the delivery of proactive and reactive messaging.

Throughout 2017, QRL Media provided communications advice and strategic media plans to Head Office departments as well as the South East, Central and Northern Divisions of the QRL. We extend our thanks to all metropolitan and regional media for sharing our passion for the game in our state.

## QRL MEDIA EXPOSURE 17 v 16 (SOURCE: MELTWATER)



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- QRL Media prepared and distributed more than 120 Media Releases and Alerts on all levels of the game, from grassroots participation to Origin.
- We worked closely with players, coaches and other key stakeholders to achieve significant media coverage of the 2017 Holden State of Origin series. We also worked closely with broadcasters Channel 9 and Fox Sports to facilitate additional coverage of the Maroons' Origin campaign.
- Coverage of the interstate Women's match increased considerably with QRL Media co-ordinating daily media opportunities in camp. Players and coaches featured in more than 40 interviews and photos, including a special feature in The Courier-Mail's Q Weekend.
- QRL Media assisted metropolitan and regional media with their coverage of Queensland's premier competition, the Intrust Super Cup. Events which attracted significant media coverage included the Season Launch, QRL Major Competitions Dinner, 'Get in the Game' Country Week and the Grand Final Launch.
- The appointment of the QRL's first female Director, Renita Garard OAM, made headlines in June. The Courier-Mail broke the news with a full-page story, while the QRL Digital team produced an in-depth video interview with Renita, who also featured in the Sunshine Coast media following her first Board meeting at Kawana.



**5746**

The number of Intrust Super Cup news mentions between March 1 and October 31.

# TELEVISION RATINGS

## STATE OF ORIGIN

# 10,693,328

Cumulative Broadcast Viewers

## AVERAGE AUDIENCE PER MATCH

### GAME I

# 3,530,281

### GAME II

# 3,484,438

### GAME III

# 3,678,609

## HIGHEST AUDIENCE PEAK

### GAME III

# 4,178,375

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS

- Key markets (Brisbane and Sydney) performed strongly, with the three game cumulative audiences up .05% and 2% respectively against 2016.
- Total viewers up 1%, despite national TV down 4.4% over the three game timeslots.
- Game III saw the largest ever TV share across the five capital cities combined.

### INTRUST SUPER CUP

- 139,480 viewers (combined metro and regional audience) watched the grand final between the PNG Hunters and Sunshine Coast Falcons.

### INTRUST SUPER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 660,000 viewers (combined metro and regional audience) watched the final between PNG Hunters and Penrith Panthers on NRL Grand Final day.

# PARTNERS

Long-term commercial partnerships which have grown significantly over time have been integral to the game's development in Queensland over many years.

This support has placed the QRL in a healthy position as we commence a new journey next year.

Our focus in 2018 is to continue to develop innovative ways to engage with our partners, through the delivery of content, live experiences and brand activations.

This year, we farewelled two fabulous long-term partners in Suncorp (15 years) and Canterbury (24 years).

Suncorp chose not to continue its major partnership because of a shift in business strategy, while ISC replaced Canterbury as the official apparel partner of the XXXX Maroons following an extensive tender process.

XXXX re-committed as the official beer of the Maroons and through its new deal has extended its support of the game across all levels beyond the 30-year mark, while stepping back as naming rights partner.

Intrust Super raised its support of the game by coming on board as a Maroons partner for the next five years in a new deal announced in November.

The Platinum-rated 100% Industry Super Fund also extended its State League sponsorship in an agreement that will see the competition reach its 14th season as the Intrust Super Cup.

Next year's Intrust Super Cup will be supported by a new statewide Under 20s competition to be known as the Hastings Deering Colts.

And in a major boost for female participation pathways, the game this year secured its first major sponsor of women's rugby league.

Harvey Norman's support of the fastest growing segment in rugby league set the important foundations for further developing the state pathways and talent pool for expansion of the women's game.

The partnership with Harvey Norman this year included naming rights of the Queensland and NSW Women's Interstate Challenge teams, female only coaching clinics, and grassroots female carnivals and programs.



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



# OUR COMMUNITY



# VOLUNTEERS

We are extremely fortunate to have volunteers who share our passion for rugby league.

From coaches to sports trainers and groundskeepers to club committees, our volunteer network is at the forefront of the game's operations.

Through events like the QRL Leadership Conference and the appointment of local QRL Operations Managers, we will continue to support those who serve our grassroots clubs and leagues.

While there are many clubs and leagues who could do with an influx of new helpers, it is pleasing to note that the number of registered volunteers has increased.

The below graph counts distinct registered NRL ID's per season and shows a year over year rise across coaches, referees, sports trainers and general volunteers.

The NRL acknowledged some of the game's many unassuming heroes and their tireless work at the 11th Annual Community Awards in Sydney in the lead up to the grand final.

Gladstone's Jacqueline Jones was presented with the Women in League Achievement Award.

Jacqueline has clocked-up an enormous number of hours, sacrificing her free time and often travelling long distances, to actively encourage female participation opportunities.

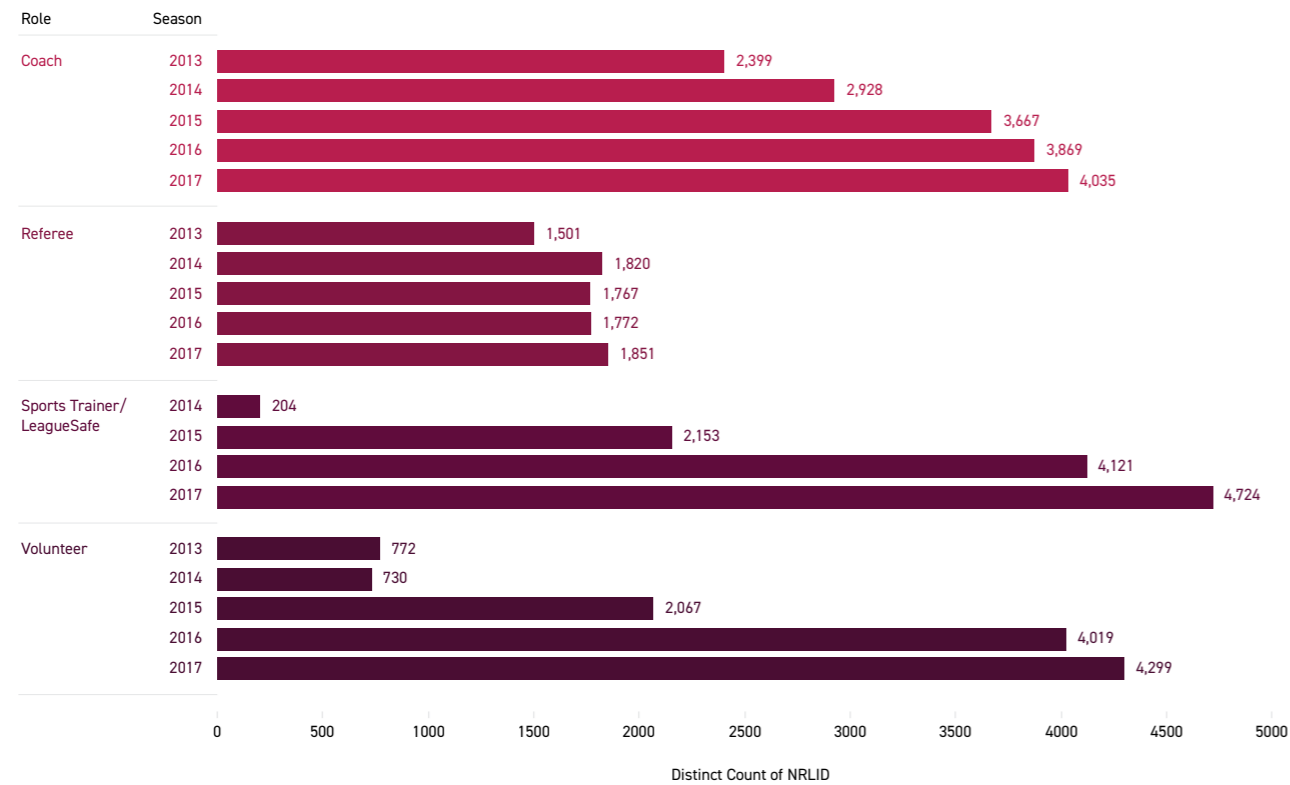
Three other regional Queenslanders were finalists in the Volunteer of the Year category. They were Robert Redfern (Northern Districts), Jenny Bradley (Mackay Junior Rugby League) and Dane McQueen (Brothers Juniors).

The Murgon JRLFC, from the South Burnett region, were the Grassroots Club of the Year (presented by Telstra).

Facing an uncertain future last year, the club fought back from the brink under a new committee which fostered participation and enjoyment at all levels.

## REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS - YEAR ON YEAR

The below counts distinct NRLID's registered per season



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Rugby league is renowned for producing amazing stories.

And more often than not, it's the amazing people on the ground who are at the heart of the spine-tingling moments.

While it's impossible to recognise everyone who made a valuable contribution in these pages, we thought it was important to share this feel-good story from 2017.

During the season, we received an email from the Brisbane Youth Service's Jesse Nolan, who felt compelled to inform us about the deeds of Souths Logan Magpies player Luke Archer.

Utilising his skills as a personal trainer, Luke invites young homeless and drug affected youths into his home studio each week.

In an extraordinary act of generosity and goodwill, Luke teaches them about nutrition and how to work out effectively.

Luke's contribution to the community was recognised by the QRL at the Annual Gala Dinner in August.

» Utilising his skills as a personal trainer, Luke invites young homeless and drug affected youths into his home studio each week.



# CHARITIES & DONATIONS

We are passionate about assisting the rugby league family, particularly those who have fallen on hard times.

As such, the QRL is a proud supporter of the Men of League Foundation, as well as numerous other reputable charities and organisations from the wider community.

Over the past 12 months, we have distributed hundreds of signed Origin jerseys and footballs to families, local leagues, schools, sponsors and charity groups.

These items have assisted with the fundraising events of many charities and families, including Bundaberg's Rod and Renee Howard, whose young daughter was recently diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

A signed Maroons jersey donated to the family raised a staggering \$3450.

"I can't begin to tell you how much pressure this type of money takes off our family and helps Mimi's development with the treatment she needs," Rod Howard said.

"If the players knew what a difference their signatures made to a little girl's life they would also be overwhelmed."

» A signed Maroons jersey donated to the family raised a staggering \$3450.

## CENTRAL DIVISION 'RIZEUP'

Central Division clubs this year banded together to raise more than \$6500 for charity partner RizeUp.

The clubs also gathered donations that assisted more than 350 people affected by domestic violence.

The donations made their way into 200 homes and included 20 full kitchen packs, eight bathroom packs and 15 laundry packs.

In addition to the 200 homes, 11 children were able to begin their education with school starter packs, including books, stationery, school bags, shoes, uniform and school fees.

# WELLBEING & EDUCATION

The importance of ensuring our elite juniors and statewide competition players make sound choices on and off the field saw Queensland's NRL Wellbeing and Education unit deliver more programs than ever before.

From the annual Semi-Pro day to the QRL Leadership Conference, the game's wellbeing staff delivered a variety of presentations across the state.

**Intrust Super Cup club visits:** The Wellbeing team visited the Intrust Super Cup clubs, talking to players and staff about the NRL's Education Grants as well as other professional services on offer. The annual Semi-Pro day in Brisbane attracted more than 400 attendees, who took part in an engaging program that covered mental health, cultural awareness, resilience and drugs and alcohol.

**QRL Leadership Conference:** David Solomona and Jioji Ravulu presented on culture and inclusion at the February event on the Sunshine Coast.

**Junior State Carnival Education:** With the Cyril Connell Cup reverting to a weekend carnival on the Sunshine Coast, the Wellbeing team presented to the Under 16 boys and girls teams. Players took part in the CareerWise program, designed to enhance performance and help our athletes play a better game on the field and in every area of life, including work, school and further education. Before the commencement of the carnival, each of the three QRL Divisions held camps where players were educated on drugs and testing procedures, resilience and decision making.

**QRL Outback Carnival:** At the annual carnival held at Cloncurry, the team presented to 90 players and 20 staff on Resilience, ASADA and Better Choices.

**Central Division:** Trish Drummond delivered the Alive Project (suicide prevention) in the South West, Young Warrior Leadership camp

and numerous other education programs to grassroots clubs.

**Turn to Me Round:** Player wellbeing assumed the spotlight in the final round of the Intrust Super Cup when participants donned blue socks for the 'Turn to Me' Round. The initiative was aligned with the game's wellbeing partners, including Lifeline, the Black Dog Institute, Kids Helpline and headspace. A number of game day activations took place throughout the round, with the 'Turn to Me' message and Pete Murray's *Better Days* song featuring heavily across the match day venues.



# Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation

We partnered with Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation to drive organ and tissue donation awareness in Round 5 of the Intrust Super Cup.

Players and referees wore rainbow socks and shoelaces to "inspire discussion" about a subject that will be forever close to the heart of Foundation CEO Allan Turner, who established the organisation not long after the passing of his seven-year-old daughter Zaidee.

Mr Turner now dedicates much of his life to the cause, and was absolutely thrilled that the QRL dedicated a full round of Major Competition fixtures to the initiative for the second year running.

QRL Media facilitated numerous media opportunities to promote the Foundation, which was also given air time during Channel Nine's broadcast of the Redcliffe v Ipswich match.

**Background:** Zaidee Rose Alexander Turner – aged seven years and 22 days – died suddenly in 2004 from a burst blood vessel in her brain called a cerebral aneurysm.

Zaidee's parents, Kim and Allan, founded Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation not long after.

At the time of Zaidee's death, the Turner family had been registered organ and tissue donors

for five years. As a result, Zaidee donated her organs and tissues at the Royal Children's Hospital, as were her wishes at the time.

From this gift, the lives of seven people were improved and, in some cases, saved.



» Players and referees wore rainbow socks and shoelaces to "inspire discussion"



# COUNTRY WEEK

Now an integral part of the QRL calendar, 'Get in the Game' Country Week continues to kick goals for the game in the bush.

With support from the Queensland Government and the NRL, we took six Intrust Super Cup matches to regional and outback centres in July.

Winton, Julia Creek, Mundubbera and St George were first-time Cup venues, while local fans in Bamaga (2011 & 2015) and Clermont (2013) received another taste of our flagship competition.

Each Country Week centre organised numerous community events, including race days and gala dinners.

Game Development teams ran coaching clinics for boys and girls, while local coaches and referees had the opportunity to upskill.

Importantly, a QRL Director was present at each Country Week ground to view facilities and discuss key issues with local league representatives.

Along with giving country fans an opportunity to watch quality rugby league in their own backyards, the round generated crucial funding for the grassroots level of the game.

A total of \$151,000 was generated in revenue, which amounted to a profit of more than \$65,000 for the host clubs and leagues.

## "GET IN THE GAME" COUNTRY WEEK - ROUND 20

### Bamaga

Yusia Ginou Oval: Wynnum Manly Seagulls v Northern Pride.

### Clermont

Bear Park: CQ Capras v Redcliffe Dolphins.

### Winton

Eric Lenton Memorial Recreation Ground Ipswich Jets v Townsville Blackhawks.

### Mundubbera

Archer Park: Easts Tigers v Norths Devils.

### St George

Rowden Park: Burleigh Bears v Sunshine Coast Falcons.

### Julia Creek

Kev Bannah Oval: Souths Logan Magpies v Tweed Heads Seagulls.

# \$151,000

Revenue generated by clubs who hosted Country Week matches in Round 20 of the Intrust Super Cup.



# FAN DAY



The XXXX Queensland Maroons' ability to connect with their fans is truly a sight to behold.

# \$8000

Profit raised for grassroots rugby league in Mackay following the Fan Day luncheon.

With the backing of the QRL and Suncorp, the Maroons travelled to Mackay before their crucial second match of the Origin series.

Thousands of fans greeted the team upon its arrival in the city centre. As the players made their way down the street towards the Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre – the venue for a sold-out luncheon – they signed autographs and posed for photos.

Some players held babies decked out in Queensland colours – and local favourite Dane Gagai was embraced by his granddad Billy in a moving moment captured by a large media contingent.

Such was the team's popularity, many players needed a police escort just to get them to the lunch, where thousands of dollars were raised for grassroots rugby league in the Mackay District.

Following the lunch, the players shifted base to Mackay's BB Print Stadium for a coaching clinic with hundreds of enthusiastic junior players.

The regional Fan Days have been a massive drawcard for numerous years now, with previous events held in Emerald, Bundaberg, Longreach, Proserpine and Gladstone.



# QRL HISTORY COMMITTEE

It was another eventful year for the History Committee, with the highlight a record attendance for the annual Ross Livermore Memorial Lecture in May.

Titled 'Our Game', the lecture was delivered by Committee member Steve Haddan, and was based around his book on the history of the Brisbane club competition.

For the first time, the lecture was held in the new Rugby League Central Queensland building with 112 guests treated to a passionate and insightful address from Haddan.

Next year's lecture will be delivered by Broncos coach Wayne Bennett to mark the 30th anniversary of the club's inaugural season. In 2019, the lecture will be given by former Queensland coach Michael Hagan.

The historical display at RLCQ continues to be refined, and was modified in October to give emphasis to the World Cup, which culminated with the final at Suncorp Stadium on December 2.

The History Committee wishes to thank those who have contributed items for display, among them Lew Platz (1975 World Cup blazer and jersey), Kevin Walters (1992 World Cup jersey) and the family of former French captain, Francis de Nadai (1968 World Cup tracksuit top).

The Committee has also taken possession of former Queensland player Reg Pegg's 1946 Maroons' jumper, donated to the QRL by his family. Appropriate storage space for these items is one of the pressing issues for the Committee.

With the assistance of QRL staff, and on the initiative of Chairman Kevin Brasch, the Committee promoted an essay writing competition for school students.

It is hoped this will become an annual event after more than 30 entries were submitted.

The Committee has also been assisting noted author Joe Gorman with his latest project, a book about State of Origin football and the people of Queensland.

Greg Shannon is continuing with his oral history project, and also has been heavily involved with celebrations around the Centenary of Rugby League in the Innisfail District.



## QRL HISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chairman:** Kevin Brasch AM

**Secretary:** Steve Ricketts

Greg Adermann

Steve Haddan

Paul Hayes

John McCoy

Greg Shannon

» The Committee has also been assisting noted author Joe Gorman with his latest project, a book about State of Origin football and the people of Queensland.



# OUR REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS





# XXXX QUEENSLAND MAROONS



## GAME 1

Suncorp Stadium, May 31

1. Darius **Boyd**
2. Corey **Oates**
3. Will **Chambers**
4. Justin **O'Neill**
5. Dane **Gagai**
6. Anthony **Milford**
7. Cooper **Cronk**
8. Dylan **Napa**
9. Cameron **Smith (c)**
10. Nate **Myles**
11. Josh **Papalii**
12. Matt **Gillett**
13. Josh **McGuire**
14. Michael **Morgan**
15. Sam **Thaiday**
16. Aidan **Guerra**
17. Jacob **Lillyman**
- 18th Man: Jarrod **Wallace**

**NSW BLUES 28** (James Maloney, Mitchell Pearce, James Tedesco, Andrew Fifita, Jarryd Hayne tries; James Maloney 4 goals) def

**QUEENSLAND MAROONS 4** (Corey Oates try) at Suncorp Stadium

Crowd: **50,390**



## GAME 2

ANZ Stadium, June 21

1. Billy **Slater**
2. Valentine **Holmes**
3. Will **Chambers**
4. Darius **Boyd**
5. Dane **Gagai**
6. Johnathan **Thurston**
7. Cooper **Cronk**
8. Dylan **Napa**
9. Cameron **Smith (c)**
10. Jarrod **Wallace**
11. Gavin **Cooper**
12. Matt **Gillett**
13. Josh **McGuire**
14. Michael **Morgan**
15. Josh **Papalii**
16. Coen **Hess**
17. Tim **Glasby**
- 18th Man: Cameron **Munster**

**QUEENSLAND MAROONS 18** (Dane Gagai 2, Valentine Holmes tries; Johnathan Thurston 3 goals) def **NSW BLUES 16** (Jarryd Hayne, Brett Morris, Mitchell Pearce tries; James Maloney 2 goals) at ANZ Stadium

Crowd: **82,259**

## GAME 3

Suncorp Stadium, July 12

1. Billy **Slater**
2. Valentine **Holmes**
3. Will **Chambers**
4. Michael **Morgan**
5. Dane **Gagai**
6. Cameron **Munster**
7. Cooper **Cronk**
8. Dylan **Napa**
9. Cameron **Smith (c)**
10. Jarrod **Wallace**
11. Gavin **Cooper**
12. Matt **Gillett**
13. Josh **McGuire**
14. Ben **Hunt**
15. Josh **Papalii**
16. Coen **Hess**
17. Tim **Glasby**
- 18th Man: Felise **Kaufusi**

**QUEENSLAND MAROONS 22** (Valentine Holmes 3, Jarrod Wallace tries; Cameron Smith 3 goals) def **NSW BLUES 6** (Josh Dugan try; James Maloney goal) at Suncorp Stadium

Crowd: **52,540**



**Front:** Cooper Cronk, Josh McGuire, Cameron Smith (c), Kevin Walters (Coach), Billy Slater, Will Chambers, Dane Gagai.  
**Middle:** Ben Hunt, Tim Glasby, Matt Gillett, Jarrod Wallace, Cameron Munster, Valentine Holmes.  
**Back:** Michael Morgan, Gavin Cooper, Dylan Napa, Coen Hess, Josh Papalii.



# XXXX QUEENSLAND RESIDENTS

Queensland produced a dominant performance to win back the Residents shield in the opening match of the representative season in early May.

Spurred on by memories of their 2016 loss to New South Wales at the same ground, the new-look Queensland team defended with great gusto to lead 8-6 at half-time.

Queensland registered its first-half points through a Dean Britt try and two successful strikes with the boot from Scott Doyle, the second of which came from a penalty goal on the stroke of half-time.

The home team did it comfortably in the second half, with right winger Delouise Hoeter cashing in to score in the corner after fine lead-up work from Jahrome Hughes who quickly distributed the ball.

Hoeter followed it up with a superb overhead grab from a Kyle Laybutt kick two minutes later in the same corner.

Queensland struck for a third time in the half when Billy Walters swooped on a kick behind the line from Laybutt to pull further in front.

When replacement hooker Christian Hazard stepped up and created a two-on-one for Tom Opacic to score, the game was out of reach for NSW.

Big lock Mitchell Frei capped off a stunning performance for the hosts with a try of his own to put the finishing touches on an impressive team effort.

## XXXX QUEENSLAND RESIDENTS 36

(Delouise Hoeter 2, Dean Britt, Billy Walters, Tom Opacic, Mitch Frei tries; Scott Doyle 6 goals) def **NSW INTRUST SUPER**

**PREMIERSHIP RESIDENTS 6** (Moses Leota try; Jayden Nikorima goal) at Suzuki Stadium, Langlands Park.

**Player of Match:** Blake Leary (XXXX Queensland Residents)

## Team List

1. Jahrome **Hughes**
2. Jonus **Pearson**
3. Tom **Opacic**
4. Scott **Doyle**
5. Delouise **Hoeter**
6. Billy **Walters**
7. Kyle **Laybutt**
8. Sam **Anderson**
9. Mitchell **Cronin**
10. Nathaniel **Neale**
11. Dean **Britt**
12. Blake **Leary (c)**
13. Mitchell **Frei**
14. Christian **Hazard**
15. Nick **Slyney**
16. George **Fai**
17. Joe **Boyce**
- 18th Man: Lachlan **Timm**

Coach: Jon **Buchanan**



**Front:** Delouise Hoeter, Jahrome Hughes, Christian Hazard, Sam Anderson, Jon Buchanan (Head Coach), Blake Leary (c), Billy Walters, Scott Doyle, Joe Boyce.  
**Middle:** Dean Arbuthnot (Trainer), George Fai, Jonus Pearson, Lachlan Timm, Kyle Laybutt, Tom Opacic, Wayne Treleaven (Assistant Coach), Jamie Dowse (Manager).  
**Back:** Damian Coccione (Physiotherapist), Mitchell Cronin, Dean Britt, Mitchell Frei, Nicholas Slyney, Nathaniel Neale, Chris Mikkelsen (Strength & Conditioner).



# QUEENSLAND UNDER 20

Despite a promising opening, the Queensland Under 20s went down to their New South Wales rivals 30-16 at Suncorp Stadium.

The young Maroons made a dream start when Corey Horsburgh – elevated to the starting side by coach Justin Hodges – scored in just the third minute.

They were in again soon after when Tristan Sailor powered down the right wing in the 16th minute for a 10-0 advantage.

However, the NSW side would not be denied, and slowly started to build their way back into the contest.

Their first try came when big No.10 Blake Lawrie crashed over under the goal posts.

His St George Illawarra teammate Jai Field

– who had a great night with the boot – converted the try to cut the margin to four points.

Queensland restored its 10-point lead when lock Keegan Hipgrave offloaded to AJ Brimson, who put Brodie Croft in open space for a spectacular try.

However, NSW had the final say in the half and in what proved to be a crucial play, Curtis Scott popped a brilliant ball to winger Reuben Garrick who stayed just inside the line on his way to touching down to score.

NSW appeared a different team in the second half and lifted to another level as they knew their unbeaten run was on the line.

As the scoreboard got away from them, the Maroons kept attacking with some razzle dazzle play – but it wasn't to be and Nat Butcher rubbed salt into the wounds when he went over with 11 seconds to go for the Blues.

**NEW SOUTH WALES 30** (Blake Lawrie, Reuben Garrick, Jai Field, Jack Murchie, Nat Butcher tries; Jai Field 5 goals) def

**QUEENSLAND 16** (Corey Horsburgh, Tristan Sailor, Brodie Croft tries; Tristan Sailor 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium

**Player of the Match:** Jack Murchie (NSW)

## Team List

1. Corey **Allan**
2. Phillip **Sami**
3. Gehamat **Shibasaki**
4. Daniel **Brownbill**
5. Tristan **Sailor**
6. Alexander **Brimson**
7. Brodie **Croft (c)**
16. Corey **Horsburgh**
9. Harry **Grant**
10. Keenan **Palasia**
11. Hiale **Roycroft**
12. Mitchell **Dunn**
13. Keegan **Hipgrave**
8. Patrick **Carrigan**
14. Gerome **Burns**
15. Apiata **Noema**
17. Thomas **Skinner**
- 18th Man: Sam **Johnstone**

Coach: Justin **Hodges**



**Front:** Paul Dyer (Manager), Alexander Brimson, Gerome Burns, Brodie Croft (c), Justin Hodges (Coach), Thomas Skinner, Harry Grant, Tristan Sailor, Scott Prince (Assistant Coach).  
**Middle:** Lote Tuqiri (Trainer), Keegan Hipgrave, Apiata Noema, Corey Horsburgh, Hiale Roycroft, Mitch Dunn, Daniel Brownbill, Graham Adams (Trainer).  
**Back:** Matthew Barradeen (Head Trainer), Gehamat Shibasaki, Patrick Carrigan, Keenan Palasia, Sam Johnstone, Corey Allan, Phillip Sami, Ben French (Physiotherapist).



# QUEENSLAND UNDER 18

A hat-trick of tries from talented New South Wales halfback Luke Metcalf steered the young Blues to a thrilling 35-28 victory at ANZ Stadium.

Metcalf scored a great individual four pointer to open the scoring and the home team crossed again soon after for an early 10-0 lead.

However, Queensland kept their heads up and hit back with Western Mustangs fullback Travis Turnbull producing a great break down field before finding Treymain Spry to his left who touched down to score.

That gave the visitors a lift and it was soon locked up at 10-10 when Ronaldo Mulitalo showed sheer strength and determination to find his way over the line.

Turnbull made no mistake with the conversion and Queensland had the lead 12-10.

Queensland went further in front when a short-side play from Cory Paix to his centre Murray Taulagi resulted in the NQ product getting the ball down.

The conversion went across the face of the uprights and the lead remained at 16-10 to Queensland.

A good start again evaded Queensland in the second half – with NSW crossing twice in the space of five minutes to reclaim the lead.

With Metcalf leading the charge, the Blues skipped away to a 28-16 advantage.

Queensland responded with two tries to level the score, but the Blues kicked a late field goal before crossing once more in the dying seconds to close out the game.

**NEW SOUTH WALES 35** (Luke Metcalf 3, Sebastian Kris 2, Ethan Parry tries; Zachary Lomax 5 goals, Zachary Lomax field goal) def **QUEENSLAND 28** (Treymain Spry, Ronaldo Mulitalo, Murray Taulagi, Logan Bayliss, Eddie Blacker tries; Travis Turnbull 4 goals)

**Player of the Match:** Luke Metcalf (NSW)

**Team List:**

1. Travis **Turnbull**
2. Treymain **Spry**
3. Murray **Taulagi**
4. Ronaldo **Mulitalo**
5. Kea **Pere**
6. Cory **Paix**
7. Tanah **Boyd**
8. Logan **Bayliss**
9. Tyson **Smoothy (c)**
10. Eddie **Blacker**
11. Brandon **Russell**
12. J'maine **Hopgood**
13. Reihana **Marsh**
14. Kyle **Paterson**
15. Tino **Fa'asuamaleaui**
16. Garrett **Smith**
17. Tom **Gilbert**
- 18th Man: Brock **Diment**

Coach: Josh **Hannay**



**Front:** Travis Turnbull, Tyson Smoothy (c), Tanah Boyd, Josh Hannay (Coach), Cory Paix, Kyle Paterson, Brock Diment.  
**Middle:** Ben Heidenreich (Physiotherapist), Thomas Gilbert, Reihana Marsh, Murray Taulagi, Eddie Blacker, Kea Pere, J'Maine Hopgood, Jim Wilson (Trainer), Richard Duff (Manager).  
**Back:** Chris Muckert (Strength & Conditioner), Garrett Smith, Logan Bayliss, Tino Fa'asuamaleui, Ronaldo Mulitalo, Brandon Russell, Treymain Spry, Mick Roberts (Assistant Coach)



# QUEENSLAND UNDER 16

New South Wales pulled off one of the great escapes to break Queensland hearts in the annual interstate clash at Suncorp Stadium.

Putting state loyalties aside, it was a stunning try to seal the win for NSW, with Bradman Best streaking down the field to score in the closing minutes.

The try came after a failed field goal attempt from the young Maroons, who were trying to break the 16-16 deadlock.

After the kick missed its mark, NSW fullback Albert Hopoate ran the ball out of the in-goal area and powered away, linking up with Best who ensured a memorable win for the Blues.

Earlier in the evening, the home side got off to the perfect start when skipper Will Evans found his way over the line after some good lead-up

play from prop forward Lance Bagon, who proved hard to handle in the first half.

The Queenslanders then enjoyed a period of dominance to lead 12-4 at the half-time break.

NSW hit back with Blake Dowel scoring the opening try of the second half, before Aaron Schoupp crossed in the 50th minute and kicked the conversion to level the score at 16-16.

It set up a grandstand finish – and it was the Blues who delivered the knock-out blow against the desperate Queensland team.

**NEW SOUTH WALES 22** (Cooper Jenkins, Blake Dowel, Aaron Schoupp, Bradman Best tries; Aaron Schoupp 3 goals) def **QUEENSLAND 16** (Alo'fiana Khan-Pereira 2, Will Evans tries; Ezraa Coulston 2 goals) at Suncorp Stadium

**Player of the Match:** Jaron Purcell (New South Wales)

**Team List:**

1. Fanitesi **Niu**
2. Alo'fiana **Khan-Pereira**
3. Will **Evans (c)**
4. Ezraa **Coulston**
5. Ryan **Garner**
6. Joshua **James**
7. Tom **Dearden**
8. Lance **Bagon**
9. Jake **Simpkin**
10. Stepharn **Holo**
11. Eli **Morgan**
12. Tristan **Powell**
13. Nelson **Grove**
14. Zach **Brooks**
15. Tahu **Kingi**
16. Myphala **Ah Chong**
17. Feao **Maka**
- 18th Man: Bailey **Biondi-Odo**

Coach: Kurt **Richards**



**Front:** Alo'fiana Khan-Pereira, Tom Dearden, William Evans (c), Kurt Richards (Coach), Feao Maka, Nelson Grove, Bailey Biondi-Odo.  
**Middle:** Dave Gatt (Manager), Joshua James, Jake Simpkin, Tristan Powell, Ryan Garner, Eli Morgan, Fanitesi Niu, Ezraa Coulston, Gerald Thompson (Trainer).  
**Back:** Jamal Esfahani (Strength & Conditioner), Zach Brooks, Tahu Kingi, Stepharn Holo, Lance Bagon, Myphala Ah Chong, Lindsay Trigar (Physiotherapist), Allan Petersen (Assistant Coach).



# QUEENSLAND MURRI UNDER 16

The New South Wales Koori team staged a stunning second-half comeback to defeat the Queensland Murri Under 16s in Newcastle.

The Queenslanders raced out to a 14-4 lead at half-time, but couldn't hold the fast-finishing home team in a thrilling finish.

With three minutes remaining, Joseph Gordon stepped up to kick the winning goal which saw NSW claim the shield for the first time since 2013.

Despite the loss, there was a lot to like about the Queensland performance.

All players put in a whole-hearted effort, while Watjerra Briggs, Tyreese Gyemore and Rayden Burns had the honour of getting their name on the try scorers' sheet.

The game was played in four quarters and unfortunately the breaks often came at times that halted the momentum of the Queensland team.

There were plenty of wins off the field though for the Queenslanders, who took part in numerous development and cultural activities throughout the NRL All Stars Week.

The Queensland team was selected from the annual Murri Carnival held at Redcliffe's Dolphin Oval.

**NEW SOUTH WALES KOORI 16** (Tristan Eldridge, Kobe Rugless, Izziah Aldridge tries; Joseph Gordon 2 goals) def **QUEENSLAND MURRI 14** (Watjerra Briggs, Tyreese Gyemore, Rayden Burns tries; Tyreese Gyemore goal) at Newcastle Oval.

**Team List:**

1. Rayden **Burns**
2. Alo'fiana **Khan-Pereira**
3. Byron **Parnell**
4. Hamish **Gibson**
5. Watjerra **Briggs**
6. Bailey **Biondi-Odo**
7. Lincoln **Rebel**
8. George **Lee**
9. Tyler **Han**
10. Vaughn **Kim (c)**
11. Cole **Gardner**
12. Lochie **Pollack**
13. Elia **Mooka**
14. Jesse **Braslin**
15. Jackson **Smith**
16. Leo **Blennerhassett**
17. Tyreese **Gyemore**
18. Ben **McKellor**
19. Rodney **Wailu-Walsh**
20. Denzel **Borthwick**

Coach: Jim **Stevens**



**Front:** Gary Halliday (Manager), Tyreese Gyemore, Alo'fiana Khan-Pereira, Bailey Biondi-Odo, Jim Stevens (Coach), Vaughn Kim (c), Byron Parnell, Jesse Braslin, Keiron Lander (Assistant Coach).  
**Middle:** Dwayne Kangan (Trainer), Ben McKellor, Leo Blennerhassett, Elia Mooka, Denzel Borthwick, Jackson Smith, Lochie Pollack, Watjerra Briggs, Ron Tasker (Trainer).  
**Back:** Rodney Wailu-Walsh, Lincoln Rebel, Rayden Burns, Leo Dynevor (Trainer/ Mentor), George Lee, Tyler Han, Cole Gardner.

# XXXX QUEENSLAND RANGERS

The NSW Ron Massey Cup representative team put in a polished performance to down the XXXX Queensland Rangers in their annual representative clash on the Gold Coast.

In perfect conditions for rugby league, NSW struck first when Cowen Epere scored and Chad O'Donnell added the conversion for a 6-0 lead.

Rangers produced a quick reply when Matt Duggan capitalised on a NSW error to open the scoring for the hosts.

It didn't take long for NSW to regain the momentum through their fullback Don Thompson after his team created an overlap on the left.

They went back-to-back following another great attacking set, with crafty hooker Soni Luke kicking for James Gammidge to score.

They went in again – the fourth time in 20 minutes – when a simple set for the NSW team finished with a chip to winger Maika Sivo on the left side.

While the conversion was unsuccessful, they held a dominant 22-4 lead to really take the wind out of the Queenslanders who did themselves no favours with their error rate.

Queensland started strongly in the second half with interchange forward Halvor Harris leading the charge with his enthusiastic runs.

James Sharkie and Ono So'oialo posted late consolation tries for Queensland to narrow the final margin to 16 points.

**NSW RON MASSEY CUP 30** (Cowen Epere, Don Thompson, James Gammidge, Maika Sivo, Atini Gafa tries; Chad O'Donnell 5 goals) def **QUEENSLAND RANGERS 14** (Matthew Duggan, James Sharkie, Ono So'oialo tries; Haydan Lipp goal) at Pizzey Park.

**Player of the Match:** Soni Luke (NSW)

**Team List:**

1. Matthew **Skaife**
2. Paul **Ulberg**
3. Steven **Franciscus**
4. Esera **Esera**
5. Ono **So'oialo**
6. Haydan **Lipp**
7. Matthew **Duggan**
8. Ross **Bella**
9. Sam **Burns**
10. Benjamin **Shea**
11. Murray **Goldsworthy**
12. Rueben **Baillie**
13. Jason **Wardrop (c)**
14. Joseph **Bradley**
15. Shem **Vaoa**
16. Halvor **Harris**
17. James **Sharkie**
- 18th Man: Paul **McKewin**

Coach: Glen **Dreger**



**Front:** Matt Pacey (Sports Trainer), Ono So'oialo, James Sharkie, Paul Ulberg, Glen Dreger (Coach), Shem Vaoa, Sam Burns, Paul McKewin, Michael Barber (Strength & Conditioner).  
**Middle:** Mark Ross (Assistant Coach), Reuben Baillie, Joseph Bradley, Jason Wardrop (c), Haydan Lipp, Matt Duggan, Esera Esera, Mark Winton (Manager).  
**Back:** Steven Franciscus, Ross Bella, Ben Shea, Murray Goldsworthy, Matthew Skaife, Halvor Harris, Carly Jennar (Physiotherapist).



# QUEENSLAND WOMEN

**Harvey Norman**

New South Wales claimed their second-straight win over Queensland in the annual interstate clash at WIN Stadium.

The Harvey Norman Queensland women's team was desperate to send out champion players Steph Hancock and Renae Kunst as winners, but their hopes were thwarted by a formidable NSW outfit which was too good on the day.

NSW winger Jessica Sergis scored a hat-trick on debut as the Blues made it back-to-back wins for the first time with a 22-6 victory.

The tone was set early when Blues skipper Ruan Sims put in some strong hits in the first half, while Kezie Apps celebrated her return to the representative scene with several offloads and plenty of tough carries on the left edge.

Queensland's brave bid for victory on away soil was hindered by injury to key players.

Kunst was unable to finish the game after failing a HIA assessment, while fellow key forward Heather Ballinger played on with a broken hand.

The Blues enjoyed the run of play throughout the majority of the first half, but they could never really shrug off the Maroons, who only trailed by four points at half-time after Hancock turned Jenni-Sue Hoepper under to get the visitors on the board.

However, the second half belonged to the Blues as they ran in three more tries to seal a strong win.

**NEW SOUTH WALES 22** (Jessica Sergis 3, Corban McGregor, Vanessa Foliaki tries; Caitlin Moran goal) def **QUEENSLAND 6** (Jenni-Sue Hoepper try; Chelsea Baker goal) at WIN Stadium.

**Player of the Match:** Kezie Apps (NSW)

**Team List:**

1. Karina **Brown (c)**
2. Chelsea **Baker**
3. Amelia **Kuk**
4. Jenni-Sue **Hoepper**
5. Courtney **Robinson**
6. Zahara **Temara**
7. Ali **Brigginshaw**
8. Steph **Hancock**
9. Brittany **Breayley**
10. Heather **Ballinger**
11. Renae **Kunst**
12. Tazmin **Gray**
13. Rona **Peters**
14. Sasha **Mahuika**
15. Kody **House**
16. Asipau **Mafi**
17. Chelsea **Lenarduzzi**
- 18th Woman: Kate **Haren**

Coach: Adrian **Vowles**



**Front:** Sasha Mahuika, Jenni-Sue Hoepper, Renae Kunst, Adrian Vowles (Coach), Karina Brown (c), Amelia Kuk, Courtney Robinson.  
**Middle:** Colleen Edwards (Media Manager), Jordan Schouten (Strength & Conditioner), Asipau Mafi, Ali Brigginshaw, Chelsea Lenarduzzi, Tazmin Gray, Chelsea Baker, Rona Peters, Angela Flack (Physiotherapist), Kym Mahon (Sports Trainer).  
**Back:** Ben Jeffries (Assistant Coach), Brittany Breayley, Zahara Temara, Heather Ballinger, Steph Hancock, Kody House, Kate Haren, Steve Brown (Manager).

# QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITIES

Queensland Universities reclaimed the Tas Baitieri Cup after downing the NSW Tertiary team in Coffs Harbour.

Coached by Gary O'Brien, the student Maroons built on a 24-12 lead at half-time to finish off with a strong victory that avenged their defeat in the annual fixture last year.

Griffith University Dragons' hooker Jesse Domic – son of former Broncos and Penrith player Sid Domic – was named man of the match for a display that featured clever kicking and a try.

Domic's four-pointer came just before half-time when he burrowed over from dummy half to hurt the Blues as Queensland took a 12-point lead into the break.

Earlier in the game, the Maroons had opened the scoring when nippy half Cody Feltham darted over after just four minutes, with utility

Laithan Joseph making it 12-0 when he scored in the 18th minute.

NSW hit back with a try to Jaden Pardy (24th minute), but the youngest player on the field, Zane Jones, got an early 18th birthday present when he went over soon after for Queensland.

The Blues struck again to be just a try behind when Brandon Webb scored in the 33rd minute, but Domic's response gave Queensland the ascendancy going into halftime.

When Maroons' five-eighth Richard Kay scooted over soon after they returned to the field and captain Dave Ballard chased a kick to score with 20 minutes to go, the trophy was coming back to Queensland.

Domic's club teammate and centre Matt Butler was named Queensland's Players' Player by his peers after rattling the Blues with some huge hits.

**QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITIES 34** (Cody Feltham, Laithan Joseph, Zane Jones, Jesse Domic, Richard Kay, Dave Ballard tries; Kay 5 goals) def **NSW TERTIARIES 18** (Jaden Pardy, Brandon Webb, Taylor Bennett tries; Luke Johnston 3 goals) at Geoff King Motors Oval, Coffs Harbour.



**Front:** Mitch Chad, Harry Dickman, Mitch Paesler, Cody Feltham, Dave Ballard (c), Chris Hansen, Laithan Joseph, Ben Kelly, David Todd.  
**Back:** Grant Stephensen (Assistant Coach / Team Manager), Trad McLean (URLQ Chairman), Aimee Wildman (Manager), Richard Kay, Maverick Soalo, Jake Strasser, Zane Jones, Jesse Domic, Matt Butler, Domenic Heidke, Declan Morrissy, Alex Fites, Gary O'Brien (Coach), Henry l'Iga (Trainer), Zac O'Brien (Trainer).



# ON FIELD

A restructure of rugby league pathways will see the introduction of a new model for our aspiring elite talent next year.

This model is born out of the cessation of the National Youth Competition, with Queensland (and New South Wales) to run its own state Under 20s competition in line with the Intrust Super Cup.

It will provide a clearer pathway for elite junior players and enables them to stay at home longer, whilst also seeing the game expand regionally.

The 2018 competition will be known as the Hastings Deering Colts and will feature 15 teams, including a representative side from the Victorian Rugby League.

This competition also has the potential to expand into the Pacific Nations via teams like the Papua New Guinea Hunters, who are working towards entry in 2019.

With support from its Major Competition clubs, we have pushed hard for this change and now look forward to an exciting new chapter for the game.

In season 2017, parents and junior rugby league players were part of a different league experience as the code took steps to ensure a more fun, friendly and free-flowing game for all.

We have received encouraging feedback following the innovative changes, and with the backing of the NRL, we will continue to look at new participation strategies through the creation of a comprehensive Player Development Framework.

Ultimately, we want to broaden our participation base and keep players in the game for longer through sustainable competitions and programs, which cater for social players as well as the elite.

We are incredibly proud of the current pathways and opportunities available for both men and women who seek to play or coach at the highest level.

Eight players who cut their teeth in the Intrust Super Cup and QAS programs got their chance to play for the Maroons at State of Origin level in 2017 and others will get their chance next season.

With games in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, it is shaping up to be a fascinating series that will yet again captivate millions around the world.

The level of interest and fanfare around the women's game is on the rise as well, and we look forward to watching our Queensland team face off against NSW in a stand-alone State of Origin during the NRL's representative weekend.

We are delighted to report that a female Queensland Under 18 squad will be included in the QAS rugby league program in 2018.



# OFF FIELD

Good governance across the game is a high priority in 2018 and beyond.

Our organisation's goal is to set the standard with our own strong and progressive governance, while also assisting our leagues and clubs as much as possible via the Club Health Check and Facility Mapping process.

This year, an Independent Board Review was completed by Directors Australia, which provided the QRL with 15 recommendations for Governance improvement.

The QRL Board has fully completed four of the priorities and is regularly monitoring these additional recommendations.

The appointment of our first female Independent Director was another positive undertaking this year.

With a charter to further develop the women's game, Renita Garard OAM commenced the role in June this year.

She is also the Chair of the QRL's newly-formed People & Culture Committee, an initiative aimed at making the QRL an employer of choice in our industry.

Throughout 2018, this committee will assist the QRL Board of Directors identify and fulfil the cultural, strategic and operational people priorities of the QRL.

As custodians of the game, we are also fully committed to servicing our external stakeholders and making sound decisions and investments into the game's future.

Our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, which is set to be finalised in early 2018, will provide the foundations moving forward.

We are indebted to the Queensland Government for the delivery of funding which assists all levels of the game.

Numerous local clubs and leagues, who have been successful in gaining funding from the Queensland Footy Facilities Fund, will be able to provide better infrastructure for their members courtesy of this partnership between the State Government, QRL and NRL.



# GOVERNANCE & FINANCIALS

Queensland Rugby Football League Limited  
ABN 65 009 878 013

Financial report  
For the year ended 31 October 2017



# DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited ("QRL") for the year ended 31 October 2017 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:

P.J. Betros (Resigned 27 January 2017)

B.M. Hatcher (Appointed Chairman 27 January 2017)

R.W. Moore (Managing Director)

L.W. Anderson

R.M. Garard (Appointed 30 June 2017)

T.M. Mackenroth

B.D. McGuire

W.B. Prescott

B.A. Tallon

D. Van de Velde

S. Hawkins (Alternate Director for L.W. Anderson) (Appointed 27 January 2017)

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

J. Rhea (Alternate Director for B.A. Tallon)

M. Peters (Alternate Director for D. Van de Velde)

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

## SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The QRL's short-term objectives are to increase player participation numbers from junior through to elite levels of rugby league throughout Queensland, and to maintain the State of Origin team performance.

The QRL's long-term objectives are to foster, develop, extend and control rugby league from the junior through to elite levels throughout Queensland and to generally take such action as may be considered to be in the best interests of rugby league in Queensland.

To ensure the short-term 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 program; and
- Pro actively identify and develop future Origin players through an ongoing association with the Queensland Academy of Sport.

To ensure the long-term objectives of the QRL being met, the Company will:

- 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 controlling the game in other states of Australia and other countries, in the fostering and control 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 and control the operation of all member bodies and affiliates; and
- Make 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 Executive Management 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
- Budgets.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

To carry out the Company's strategies and to achieve its short-term and long-term objectives, the Company engaged in its principal activities during the year of fostering and propagating rugby league in Queensland. There were no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the year.

## INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS



### B.M. HATCHER

BCom FCA FAICD

#### Chairman

A QRL Director for over 10 years, Bruce was appointed Chairman of the QRL at the Annual General Meeting held on 27 January 2017. Bruce is a specialist family business consultant to BDO Chartered Accountants. He is a Director of the Brisbane Markets Ltd and a trustee of the MTAA Super Fund which is an Industry Super Fund representing the Motor Industry throughout Australia.



### R.W. MOORE

BHumanMovSt

#### Managing Director

A Human Movements graduate, Robert has held a number of different positions before he received his first role in rugby league administration with the London Broncos. Robert returned to Queensland where he took up a post as the QRL's Education and Development Manager and later accepted a position with the State Government as the Deputy Director General for Sport and Recreation Services. He returned to the QRL as Ross Livermore's successor in August 2011. Robert is Chair of the QRL's Game Development Committee and Deputy Chair of QSport.



### L.W. ANDERSON

#### Northern Division Chairman

Leigh Anderson's involvement with the game dates back to 1963 through his playing days with Central Juniors in Townsville. Over the past two decades, he has undertaken a myriad of roles in junior and senior rugby league, including a long stint as the Northern Division's Independent Finance Director. Leigh is currently Chair of the QRL Northern Division.



### R.M. GARARD

BBus CA GAICD

#### Independent Director

Renita Garard OAM 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 director with international consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and Board Chair of the Port of Townsville Limited ("POTL"). Renita is Chair of the QRL's People & Culture Committee.



### T.M. MACKENROTH

#### Independent Director

A former Queensland Australian Labor Party politician, Terry Mackenroth joined the QRL Board in 2006 after a notable parliamentary service history that spanned nearly 30 years. He held a number of ministerial roles, including Treasurer and Deputy Premier. Terry is Chair of the QRL's Business Development Committee, a Trustee of Q Super, Chairman of the Clem Jones Centre, Director of Strategic Development Springfield Land Corporation and has previously served on the Board of the Australian Rugby League.



# DIRECTORS' REPORT CONT.

## INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)



**B.D. MCGUIRE**

*DipT*

**Central Division Chairman**

As Chairman of the QRL Central Division, 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 the chairman of the Wide Bay Region for nine years. He has been a coach and administrator with Sunshine Coast junior club Kawana (Life Member) and has served as the chairman of the Sunshine Coast Rugby League. In 2010, he was inducted into the Sunshine Coast University Sports Hall of Fame for administrators. Danny is currently a State Manager for an IT integrator and a member of the QRL's Game Development Committee. Danny also serves as chairman of both the QRL Outback Committee and the QRL Women's Advisory Group.



**W.B. PRESCOTT**

**Independent Director**

A legal specialist, Bruce Prescott has been assisting the QRL for many years and was by its side during the tumultuous Super League war. Bruce has a diverse legal background and an excellent understanding of the League's constitution and rules. He has served as an independent director on the Board for the past three years in a period of unprecedented change with the formation of the Australian Rugby League Commission. Bruce retired last year after more than 25 years as a partner in law firm HopgoodGanim. Bruce is Chair of the QRL's Audit & Risk Committee.



**B.A. TALLON**

*BEng(Civil) BCom MBA GAICD*

**South East Division Chairman**

As Chairman of the QRL South East Division since 2012, Brad oversees one of the biggest participation zones in the country. He has an abundance of experience, having previously served as the South East's Financial Director for 10 years and on the QRL Board for three years between 2007 and 2009. He has held volunteer administrative positions in the game since 1984. Brad is a member of the QRL's Audit & Risk Committee and is an Executive General Manager at Holcim Australia, Chairman of Metromix Pty Ltd and a Director of Harwood Nominees Pty Ltd.



**D. VAN DE VELDE**

**Statewide Competitions Director**

Through his role as the Statewide Competitions Director, Darryl Van de Velde is actively involved in the development of Queensland's premier competition – the Intrust Super 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 before becoming the Chief Executive Officer of the South Queensland Crushers club. Darryl is the current chairman of Men of League Queensland and also serves on the respected organisation's National board.

## MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS	DIRECTORS' MEETINGS		AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETINGS		REMUNERATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
	NUMBER ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	NUMBER ATTENDED	NUMBER ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	NUMBER ATTENDED	NUMBER ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	NUMBER ATTENDED
P.J. Betros	1	1	-	-	-	-
B.M. Hatcher	11	11	-	-	-	-
R.W. Moore	11	11	-	-	1	1
L.W. Anderson	11	10	-	-	-	-
R.M. Garard	5	5	-	-	1	1
T.M. Mackenroth	11	11	-	-	-	-
B.D. McGuire	11	11	-	-	-	-
W.B. Prescott	11	9	4	3	1	1
B.A. Tallon	11	10	4	4	-	-
D. Van de Velde	11	11	-	-	-	-
J. Rhea	1	1	-	-	-	-

## 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 2017 the number of members was 12. The combined total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$240.

## 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 on behalf of the board of directors.

**B.M. HATCHER**  
Chairman

**R.W. MOORE**  
Director

Dated this 13th day of December 2017

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

As lead auditor for the audit of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited for the period ended 31 October 2017, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

## PITCHER PARTNERS

**JASON EVANS**  
Partner

Brisbane, Queensland  
13 December 2017



# STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

	NOTE	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>	4	26,407,438	23,360,315
<b>Less: expenses</b>			
Employee benefits		(6,696,086)	(5,636,340)
Competitions		(7,103,650)	(6,756,279)
Representative teams		(4,123,042)	(4,082,946)
Grants to clubs and schools		(917,263)	(1,075,479)
Sponsor Servicing		(1,324,177)	(805,255)
Referee development expenses		(816,041)	(854,364)
Development expenses		(401,754)	(359,324)
Commercial expenses		(2,059,343)	(628,582)
Administration expenses		(2,778,646)	(3,003,567)
		(26,220,002)	(23,202,136)
<b>Profit for the year</b>		187,436	158,179
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>187,436</b>	<b>158,179</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2017

	NOTE	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	13	9,356,539	9,337,874
Trade receivables	6	1,875,155	3,097,490
Inventories		40,364	36,550
Other assets	7	265,991	408,475
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>11,538,049</b>	<b>12,880,389</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Other assets	7	139,000	148,696
Property, plant and equipment	8	577,131	628,958
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>716,131</b>	<b>777,654</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>12,254,180</b>	<b>13,658,043</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	9	4,006,695	4,764,407
Borrowings	11	62,274	64,270
Provisions	12	988,119	841,672
Income received in advance	10	454,693	1,363,248
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>5,511,781</b>	<b>7,033,597</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Borrowings	11	-	80,717
Provisions	12	219,558	208,324
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>		<b>219,558</b>	<b>289,041</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>5,731,339</b>	<b>7,322,638</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>6,522,841</b>	<b>6,335,405</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		6,522,841	6,335,405
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>6,522,841</b>	<b>6,335,405</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

	RETAINED EARNINGS	TOTAL EQUITY
	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 November 2015	6,177,226	6,177,226
Profit for the year	158,179	158,179
<b>Balance as at 31 October 2016</b>	<b>6,335,405</b>	<b>6,335,405</b>
Balance as at 1 November 2016	6,335,405	6,335,405
Profit for the year	187,436	187,436
<b>Balance as at 31 October 2017</b>	<b>6,522,841</b>	<b>6,522,841</b>

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

	NOTE	2017	2016
		\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers		30,244,285	28,769,110
Payments to suppliers and employees		(30,469,118)	(25,700,991)
Interest received		147,854	159,955
Finance costs		(19,464)	(13,491)
<b>Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>(96,443)</b>	<b>3,214,583</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(205,845)	(318,296)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		119,764	39,425
Payment of loans to associated parties		(6,500)	(90,000)
Repayment of loans from associated clubs		28,596	30,951
Cash held in term deposit		250,000	(250,000)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>186,015</b>	<b>(587,920)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of finance lease liabilities		(70,907)	(131,124)
<b>Net cash (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>(70,907)</b>	<b>(131,124)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF CASH</b>			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		9,337,874	6,842,335
Net increase in cash held		18,665	2,495,539
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9,356,539</b>	<b>9,337,874</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

## NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report covers Queensland Rugby Football League Limited as an individual entity. Queensland Rugby Football League Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Queensland Rugby Football League Limited is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial report was approved by the directors as at the date of the directors' report.

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.

### (a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

#### Historical Cost Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

#### Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial report requires the use of certain estimates and judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies. Those estimates and judgements significant to the financial report are disclosed in Note 2.

### (b) Going concern

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis.

### (c) Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances and amounts collected on behalf of third parties.

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the buyer and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably. Risks and rewards of ownership are considered passed to the buyer at the time of delivery of the goods to the customer.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

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.

Sponsorship and other revenue receipts are recognised in the profit or loss when the revenue is earned or when the services in respect to the fee have been rendered.

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

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### (d) 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.

### (e) Inventories

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

### (f) Financial instruments

#### Classification

The company classifies its financial assets in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the nature of the item and the purpose for which the instruments are held.

#### 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 method.

#### Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities include trade payables, other creditors and loans from third parties.

Non-derivative financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Financial liabilities are classified as current liabilities unless the group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

### (g) Property, 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.

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, 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	Depreciation basis
Leasehold improvements at cost	10%	Straight line
Plant and equipment at cost	10%-50%	Diminishing value

### (h) Leases

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

#### Finance leases

Leases of fixed assets, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

the company are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised, recording an asset and a liability equal to the fair value or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. The interest expense is calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if this is practicable to determine; if not, the company's incremental borrowing rate is used. Interest expense on finance leases is included in finance costs in the statement of profit or loss. Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the company will obtain ownership of the asset, or over the term of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period in accordance with the effective interest method.

## Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

## (i) Employee benefits

### (i) 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 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.

### (ii) 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.

## (j) Goods and services tax (GST)

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.

## (k) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

## NOTE 2: 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 loan receivables

As at 31 October 2017, the Company had outstanding loan receivables with various rugby league clubs. As at the balance date, management have assessed that these loans are not impaired.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$

## NOTE 3: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

Compensation received by key management personnel of the company	977,612	1,071,238
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The following were key management personnel of the Company at any time during the reporting period, and unless otherwise indicated were key management personnel for the entire period:

Name	Appointment / resignation details
P.J. Betros	Resigned 27 January 2017
B.M. Hatcher	Appointed Chairman 27 January 2017
R.W. Moore	Managing Director
L.W. Anderson	
R.M. Garard	Appointed 30 June 2017
T.M. Mackenroth	
B.D. McGuire	
W.B. Prescott	
B.A. Tallon	
D. Van de Velde	
G.F. Maher	Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary

## NOTE 4: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

Sponsorship	7,366,777	7,139,928
ARLC funding	13,365,200	12,726,000
Other grants and subsidies	513,600	290,000
Commercial revenue	3,375,284	1,669,420
Interest received	147,854	159,955
Other revenue	1,638,723	1,375,012
	<u>26,407,438</u>	<u>23,360,315</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 5: OPERATING PROFIT</b>		
Profit / (loss) for the year has been determined after:		
Net gain on disposal of non current assets:		
- Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	29,773	-
Finance costs	19,464	13,491
Depreciation	163,228	168,441
Bad and doubtful debts	16,677	32,698
<b>NOTE 6: RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade debtors	1,902,155	3,140,285
Provision for doubtful debts	(27,000)	(42,795)
	<u>1,875,155</u>	<u>3,097,490</u>
<b>NOTE 7: OTHER ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	243,241	123,325
Term deposit	-	250,000
Loan receivables	22,750	35,150
	<u>265,991</u>	<u>408,475</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Loan receivables	139,000	148,696

**NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT****Leasehold improvements**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
At cost	250,000	250,000
Accumulated depreciation	(37,500)	(12,500)
	<u>212,500</u>	<u>237,500</u>

**Plant and equipment**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
At cost	1,044,659	1,079,717
Accumulated depreciation	(680,028)	(688,259)
	<u>364,631</u>	<u>391,458</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>577,131</u>	<u>628,958</u>

**(a) Reconciliations**

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year.

**Leasehold improvements**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Opening carrying amount	237,500	-
Additions	-	250,000
Depreciation expense	(25,000)	(12,500)
Closing carrying amount	<u>212,500</u>	<u>237,500</u>

**Plant and equipment**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Opening carrying amount	391,458	534,777
Additions	205,845	68,296
Disposals	(94,444)	(55,674)
Depreciation expense	(138,228)	(155,941)
Closing carrying amount	<u>364,631</u>	<u>391,458</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 9: PAYABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
<b>Unsecured liabilities</b>		
Trade creditors	1,837,014	1,049,634
Sundry creditors and accruals	2,169,681	3,714,773
	<u>4,006,695</u>	<u>4,764,407</u>

**NOTE 10: INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE****CURRENT**

Income received in advance	<u>454,693</u>	<u>1,363,248</u>
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Income received in advance is comprised of income received from / invoiced to sponsors and partners of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited prior to 31 October 2017 which relates to the financial year ending 31 October 2018.

**NOTE 11: BORROWINGS****CURRENT****Secured liabilities**

Finance lease liability	<u>62,274</u>	<u>64,270</u>
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**NON-CURRENT****Secured liabilities**

Finance lease liability	<u>-</u>	<u>80,717</u>
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**Terms and conditions and assets pledging as security relating to the above financial instruments**

All finance lease liabilities are secured by the underlying assets financed. The financing arrangements are typically repaid over 3-5 years. Residual amounts are refinanced at the discretion of the Company.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 12: PROVISIONS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Employee benefits	791,653	725,064
Lease straight lining	196,466	116,608
	<u>988,119</u>	<u>841,672</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Employee benefits	<u>219,558</u>	<u>208,324</u>

**NOTE 13: CASH FLOW INFORMATION****RECONCILIATION OF CASH**

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position is as follows:

Cash on hand	2,140	1,984
Cash at bank	2,747,401	3,276,725
At call deposits with financial institutions	6,606,998	6,059,165
	<u>9,356,539</u>	<u>9,337,874</u>

**RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS WITH PROFIT**

Profit from ordinary activities	187,436	158,179
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**ADJUSTMENTS AND NON-CASH ITEMS**

Depreciation	163,228	168,441
Bad and doubtful debts	16,677	32,698
Net (gain) / loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(25,320)	16,249

**CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

(Increase) / decrease in receivables	1,205,658	809,446
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(119,916)	(30,355)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(3,814)	(23,602)
Increase / (decrease) in revenue received in advance	(908,555)	747,808
Increase / (decrease) in payables	(769,518)	865,585
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provisions	77,823	203,526
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	79,858	266,608
Cash flows from operating activities	<u>(96,443)</u>	<u>3,214,583</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$

## NOTE 14: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

### FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS

#### Payable

- not later than one year	67,115	70,828
- later than one year and not later than five years	-	82,196
Minimum finance lease payments	67,115	153,024
Less future finance charges	(4,841)	(8,037)
Total finance lease liability	<u>62,274</u>	<u>144,987</u>

#### Represented by:

Current liability	62,274	64,270
Non-current liability	-	80,717
	<u>62,274</u>	<u>144,987</u>

### OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:

#### Payable

- not later than one year	669,937	583,326
- later than one year and not later than five years	3,804,350	2,111,970
- later than five years	1,672,296	2,173,858
	<u>6,146,583</u>	<u>4,869,154</u>

## NOTE 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.

## NOTE 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 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 31 October 2017 the number of members was 12. The combined total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$240.

## NOTE 17: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 31 October 2017 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- the operations, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2017, of the company, or
- the results of those operations, or
- the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2017, of the company.



# DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

1. In the directors' opinion, the financial statements and notes thereto, as set out on pages 82 -95, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - (a) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
  - (b) giving a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 October 2017 and performance for the year ended on that date of the company.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



**B.M. HATCHER**  
Chairman



**R.W. MOORE**  
Director

Dated this 13th day of December 2017

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

### REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

#### 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 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and 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 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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 "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 confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

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

#### Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 31 October 2017, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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 Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

### 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 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 the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement 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 management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's 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 those charged with governance 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.

### PITCHER PARTNERS



**JASON EVANS**

Partner

Brisbane, Queensland  
13 December 2017





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