

# ANNUAL REPORT



QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED



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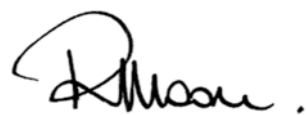
## NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited will be held in the Company's Boardroom, Cnr Castlemaine & Chippendall Streets, Milton on Friday 9 December, 2011, at 9:00am.

Business To Be Transacted:-

1. To receive and consider the Balance Sheet, the Profit & Loss Accounts and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors in respect of the Financial Year ended 30 September 2011.

2. To appoint the Directors for the 2012 year.
3. To elect the Chairman for the 2012 year.
4. To confirm the appointment of the Company's Auditors for the 2012 year. And to transact such other business of which due notice has been given.



**R.W.MOORE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
14 November, 2011 <

# DIRECTORS



**John Norman McDonald AM**

**Deputy Chairman and Director**  
Australian Rugby Football League Limited

**Managing Director**  
Cracker Print and Paper Pty Ltd

**Chairman and Director**  
Crushers Leagues Club Limited

**Chairman**  
Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland

**Chairman**  
AG Show



**Peter Joseph Betros**

**Director**  
Australian Rugby Football League Limited

**Director**  
Brisbane Markets Limited

**Director**  
Northern Territory Rugby League



**Michael John Borland**



**Bruce Miles Hatcher**

**Director**  
Queensland Academy of Sport

**Chairman & Director**  
Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club

**Director**  
MTA Insurance Limited

**Director**  
Pohlman's Nursery Pty Ltd

## DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

DIRECTOR	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
J.N. McDonald AM	14	14
P.J. Betros	14	13
M.J. Borland	14	14
B.M. Hatcher	14	13
R.A. Livermore (Retired 29/07/2011)	12	12
T.M. Mackenroth	14	13
J. Ribot De Bresac (Resigned 3/12/2010)	3	2
G.Sutherland (Resigned 3/12/2010)	3	2
N.J.Tillett	13	13
W.B. Prescott	11	10
R.D. Green	9	9
R.W. Moore	2	2



**Terence Michael Mackenroth**

**Director**  
Australian Rugby Football League Limited

**Director**  
Devine Limited

**Chairman**  
Lenards Holdings



**Nigel John Tillett**

**Director**  
Tillett Enterprises

**Director**  
Seisia Enterprises



**Walter Bruce Prescott**



**Ricki David Green**

**Director**  
Motivational Media Assemblies

**Chairman**  
Wynnum Manly Seagulls



**Robert William Moore**

**Director**  
Australian Rugby Football League Limited

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011

I have much pleasure in presenting the Chairman's Report of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited for 2011, a year in which we overcame some extraordinary challenges.

The devastating floods throughout the State and the cyclones in the north in the early part of 2011 saw the tragic loss of lives and severe damage to property. Many playing fields, buildings and equipment were affected by these natural disasters. The rugby league communities showed great resilience, and with support from the Flood Relief Appeal, the Rebuilding Rugby League Campaign, the Government, the Councils, the NRL clubs and all the wonderful volunteers, most of the facilities were repaired or rebuilt after a couple of months, enabling games to be played. Some of course were completely destroyed or un-repairable. Thank you to all who assisted in difficult and demanding times.

Despite the early hardships, the League experienced a very successful season. The XXXX Queensland Maroons team enjoyed its sixth-straight Harvey Norman State of Origin Series victory. Coach Mal Meninga AM, his staff and players are to be congratulated on this outstanding achievement. It was also time to recognise the special skills and contribution of superstar Darren Lockyer following his final State of Origin appearance. We have certainly treasured the moments of his great career which will remain with us forever.

We thank our principal sponsor Castlemaine Perkins XXXX for their continued support at all levels, major sponsor AAMI, apparel sponsor Canterbury International and Harvey Norman, the series sponsor.

The XXXX Maroons travelled to Emerald for a Fan Day in June. Supporters lined the streets to cheer and meet the Origin stars before the mayoral reception which was followed by a team training run. Hundreds of excited children received autographs from the players, who were deeply moved by the experience.

The Intrust Super Cup resulted in a courageous win for Wynnum Manly Seagulls over the Tweed Heads Seagulls at Suncorp Stadium. Wynnum Manly had to fight their way from sixth position in the finals to qualify for the grand final, a credit to coach Paul Green, players and staff. The League is most grateful for the continued sponsorship from Intrust Super and thanks CEO Brendan O'Farrell and the Intrust Super team for their valued contribution.

The League recognises the ongoing financial support from the ARL/News Partnership and thanks them sincerely. The competing teams, officials and match officials together with competitions manager Bill Hunter, media manager Michael Hillier and newly appointed general manager of the Intrust Super Cup clubs, Jamie O'Connor, deserve special thanks for their input.

The FOGS Colts Challenge and the FOGS Cup competitions produced some exciting rugby league providing the opportunity for the players to be recognised as the stars of the future.

We extend congratulations to the winners of the various competitions throughout the State and the players who gained representative honours. We thank FOGS Queensland, The Courier-Mail, Qantas, Men of League, Spotless Catering, the Carbine Club, regional media and all club sponsors for their enthusiasm and support.

The Cyril Connell and Mal Meninga Cups produced another exciting season. We are very pleased with the high standard being reached at this early stage, no doubt brought ahead by the dedicated coaching staff with the clubs.

The League is grateful to the State Government through the Department of Communities, Sport and Recreation Services, which plays a vital role in ensuring a strong presence and assistance in all areas of Queensland.

The QRL Board travelled to Roma, which was severely affected by the floods earlier in the year, for the Regional Board meeting in August. A very pleasant gathering after the meeting with the regional mayor, local rugby league officials and residents proved to be positive and was warmly received.

The QRL farewelled managing director Ross Livermore at the end of July. Ross'

THE XXXX MAROONS TRAVELLED TO EMERALD FOR A FAN DAY IN JUNE. SUPPORTERS LINED THE STREETS TO CHEER AND MEET THE ORIGIN STARS BEFORE THE MAYORAL RECEPTION WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A TEAM TRAINING RUN.

contribution to rugby league over more than three decades in all areas of the game, from grassroots football to the Origin arena, is very much appreciated. His attention to detail in all aspects of his work was evident with everyone who had the pleasure of working with him. Congratulations on an outstanding career and best wishes.

With the retirement of Ross we had the privilege of welcoming back Robert Moore through his appointment as CEO of the QRL. Robert had previously experienced the demands required in the QRL and has accepted his challenging role with enthusiasm. His previous experience with the Queensland Government in sports administration has enabled him to hit the ground running. The QRL is most fortunate to have Robert as its CEO to guide us through the exciting times ahead for our great game of rugby league.

Finally I thank my fellow directors and staff for their unselfish contribution in making the 2011 year so successful and setting a solid platform for working with the ARL Commission in 2012 and beyond.



**John McDonald AM**  
Chairman



## REBUILDING RUGBY LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

"On that Tuesday back in January, we had flood waters that came to the top of the second level of our clubhouse, completely inundating it. It more or less trashed the whole club."

That was how Northern Suburbs volunteer David Haug summed up the devastation at the proud Ipswich club, which quite simply, was brought to its knees. Unable to play any sporting fixtures on its main field, the club was in danger of closing its doors.

But much to the delight of Haug and club members, the rugby league fraternity banded together to provide vital financial assistance. On September 2, the Rebuilding Rugby League Committee presented a cheque of \$65,500 to the Norths club. Haug was deeply moved by the generosity. "It's been a long haul for the club, but the committee can now see light at the end of the tunnel, and we're going to grab it and

continue on with it," he said.

This was just one of many examples of assistance provided by the Rebuilding Rugby League Committee, headed by former Broncos CEO Bruno Cullen. The Committee included the QRL's Peter Betros and Troy Morton along with the National Rugby League's One Community representatives Trish Crews and Cathrine Johns. It raised more than \$200,000 in support of clubs and families hard hit by the floods as well as Cyclone Yasi in North Queensland. A total of 25 clubs received much-needed assistance, either via a subsidy for junior registrations or direct cash funding.

On the same day that the Committee provided a lifeline for Northern Suburbs, the Goodna Eagles (\$17,610) and Brothers St Brendans (\$16,446) clubs also received cheques. The funding packages were made possible thanks to contributions from the

QRL, NRL, Former Origin Greats, Intrust Super and the 1980 Initiative.

Immediately following the floods, there were grave concerns that junior and senior rugby league competitions would struggle to get up and running. However, all competitions commenced on time and participation numbers were again extremely healthy. While the Rebuilding Rugby League Committee contributed to this excellent outcome, it was the thousands of volunteers and club officials on the ground that made the biggest impact. Presidents, secretaries, treasurers, players, referees and their families and friends joined members of the wider community in a massive clean-up operation.

There were endless heart-warming tales. Some members of the Karalee Tornados lost their homes, but they were still assisting the footy club in every way possible. Support came from far and wide, with NRL players dropping into flood-hit areas to clean up and lift the spirits of the many devastated communities. Interstate rivalry was forgotten as junior clubs like the Sydney-based Kellyville Bushrangers 'adopted' the Theodore Roosters, supplying them with much-needed support in their time of need.

QRL Head Office staff experienced the devastation first hand. Some staff had just returned from annual leave when the QRL and South East Division offices inside Suncorp Stadium were inundated. Office equipment, records and personal items were destroyed by the muddy water. Much more would have been lost had it not been for the resolve of managing director Ross Livermore, who moved many items to higher ground.

With assistance from family and friends, along with complete strangers who walked in off the street armed with their buckets and brooms, QRL and South East staff commenced the massive clean up. Arrangements were then made for the QRL to operate out of Crushers Leagues Club at the Grange on a temporary basis. It was initially thought that the Crushers move would only be for a couple of weeks but unforeseen complications with the Stadium and office rebuild turned the stay into a number of months. Some staff eventually moved back into QRL headquarters before the May 25 State of Origin opener and it wasn't long after that point that the Milton office was fully functional again. <



## ROSS LIVERMORE

"Ross has been for us the consummate practitioner and always the envy of other codes. His longevity attests to this."

With those words from Kevin Brasch, long-serving managing director Ross Livermore was awarded a coveted Life Membership of the Queensland Rugby League on July 22 this year. After three decades of service, Ross' contribution and achievements were formally recognised at his retirement dinner in the Milton Room at Suncorp Stadium.

Before being awarded the Life Membership, guests heard from Chairman John McDonald and long-time colleague Bill



Hunter. Both men spoke passionately about their association with one of rugby league's most respected administrators.

Ross took up his post in February, 1981. He retired at the end of July, 2011, just a few weeks after the Queensland Maroons had won a sixth-straight Harvey Norman State of Origin series. While he took great delight in Queensland's Origin success, Ross took just as much pride in the ongoing development of the grassroots level of the game.

As a QRL representative, Ross served with distinction during his lengthy time on the ARL Board. He was a long-serving member of the Lang Park Trust and played leading roles in the Stadium's numerous re-developments. Ross also spent time on the Queensland Sports Federation and the Crushers Leagues Club Board.

During his tenure, there have been some bitter battles including the Super League war and States' voting rights. Both these conflicts were fought in the courts. At their conclusion, Ross and others worked overtime to restore

the game to its premier position.

In 2008, Ross was the driving force behind Queensland's successful rugby league Centenary celebrations. His attention to detail and meticulous planning was integral to the success of many events, including the spectacular Queensland Team of the Century Dinner.

One of his last big projects was the tribute dinner for Queensland representatives. Ross took great satisfaction from seeing the joy that this evening brought to the players who had served Queensland with such distinction before State of Origin. He worked tirelessly alongside the QRL History Committee and others to ensure the Honour Board featuring the names of all Queensland representatives since 1908 was as accurate as possible.

In April of this year, the QRL Board announced Robert Moore as Ross' successor. After a brief hand-over period, Robert commenced official duties in early

HE WAS A LONG-SERVING MEMBER OF THE LANG PARK TRUST AND PLAYED LEADING ROLES IN THE STADIUM'S NUMEROUS RE-DEVELOPMENTS.

August as the company's chief executive officer. Robert has previously worked with the QRL as its education and development manager. He has strong ties with the rugby league community through his many and varied former off-field roles which followed on from his days as a notable player with the Valleys club. <

## TRIBUTE TO QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVES

The rugby league fraternity paid tribute to its Queensland representatives at a glittering function in Brisbane on July 2.

More than 700 guests enjoyed a wonderful night of entertainment as Queensland's former stars were formally recognised at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The room was overflowing with pride as representatives from as far back as the late 1930s and 40s were introduced on stage by MC John McCoy.

QRL chairman John McDonald and Queensland greats Wally Lewis and Mal Meninga

made the presentations to the players, who received a certificate and specially-made

QRL pin. Several players, including legendary

fullback Frank Drake, donned their Queensland blazers from yesteryear for the grand occasion.

The evening commenced with a stirring poem from Rupert McCall, who touched the hearts of many in the room with his passionate address. An initiative of the QRL, Men of League and FOGs, the night was all about

recognising the tremendous achievements of Queensland's representatives before the birth of State of Origin.

Earlier in the day, many of the former players and their families gathered at Suncorp Stadium to witness the unveiling of the Queensland Representatives Honour Board. State Sports Minister Phil Reeves officially unveiled the striking plaque that lists all players who have represented Queensland since 1908 (outside the Origin arena).

Mr Reeves congratulated the players on their achievements and acknowledged the tremendous contribution they had made to rugby league in Queensland. "It's great to see so many young people here today and they will be able to see their granddads', great uncles' or fathers' names on the plaque for many years to come," Mr Reeves said.

The QRL received excellent feedback from both events. At the unveiling of the Honour Board, the QRL acknowledged that there could be some mistakes due to the length of the period involved and the limited documentation of the game in its formative years. A small number of errors were reported and the League is endeavouring to correct these. <

AN INITIATIVE OF THE QRL, MEN OF LEAGUE AND FOGS, THE NIGHT WAS ALL ABOUT RECOGNISING THE TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF QUEENSLAND'S REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE BIRTH OF STATE OF ORIGIN.



QRL chairman John McDonald with Frank Drake



Former Queensland player and selector Hugh Kelly



## MAJOR SPONSORS



On Friday, July 1, just a few days out from the crucial third Origin match in Brisbane, the League's principal sponsor – Castlemaine Perkins (XXXX) – made an important announcement from deep inside the Maroons camp.

Bill Webb, Lion regional director, confirmed XXXX's ongoing commitment to rugby league in Queensland, which has spanned more than 20 years. Mr Webb proudly announced that XXXX would continue its major sponsorship of Queensland's three NRL clubs – the Broncos, Titans and Cowboys.

Mr Webb also spoke enthusiastically about XXXX's ongoing sponsorship of the Queensland Rugby League and State of Origin team. "We are passionate supporters of rugby league in this State and to be able to once again partner with these fantastic clubs and continue our support of the QRL and the

Maroons is very exciting," Mr Webb said.

Most importantly, XXXX's valuable sponsorship again reached the grassroots level of the game, with many teams and regions benefiting from the partnership. XXXX's support for rugby league and the wider community never wavered, despite encountering its own problems in January this year.

Mr Webb penned this piece in the official Origin magazine before Game One of this year's series. "Like many of Queensland's popular landmarks, our XXXX Brewery was not immune to the rising waters, and for three days it was left looking more like a floating oil rig than a brewery," he wrote. "I am fortunate to be able to say that with the help of our dedicated people and an extensive clean-up operation, just 18 days later we were once again turning out packaged beer for the Queensland community."

"For some, the clean-up has not been so fast, and the recovery much harder. When the floods first hit we could see the devastation that surrounded us, and alongside our parent company Lion Nathan National Foods, we provided \$500,000 worth of support to the community, our retail customers and our suppliers, who were all impacted."

Australian Associated Motor Insurers (AAMI) and Canterbury Clothing also continued their alliance with the Origin team. The League is most grateful to these companies who are injecting considerable funds which allow the League to undertake and expand its development programs.

This year also marked the second year of Intrust Super's sponsorship of Queensland's premier State-wide competition. The professional Intrust Super team made an enormous contribution to the overall success of the competition. <



## VALÉ ARTHUR BEETSON

On December 1, a shocked rugby league fraternity mourned the passing of one of the immortal figures of the game, a legend in Australian sport and a champion for Indigenous Australia.

Arthur Beetson OAM died on the Gold Coast of a heart attack at the age of 66, leaving behind a legacy of sporting and cultural achievement that will never be forgotten. The first indigenous Australian to captain any national sporting team, he was a giant of the game as a player in the sixties and seventies before in 1980 igniting the greatest rivalry in Australian sport – the State of Origin series.

As the player who led out the first Queensland Origin team he would symbolise the passion of an entire State and then go on to coach the Maroons to series wins in 1982, '83, '84, and '89. To a generation, he was Queensland.

QRL Chairman John McDonald said everyone involved in rugby league had many fond memories of his "magnificent achievements". McDonald recalled how Beetson was thrilled to captain Queensland in the inaugural Origin clash at Lang Park in 1980.

"He was so proud to lead Queensland out on the field that day," said McDonald, the coach of the Beetson-inspired team that recorded a famous 20-10 win over NSW. He was really happy as he never had the opportunity to play for Queensland because he transferred down to Sydney at an early age."

Arthur Henry Beetson was born in Roma on January 21, 1945. His explosive power first emerged in the centres through Roma Cities and Redcliffe before Balmain brought him to Sydney in 1966. Such was his talent that he would play for City, NSW and Australia in that first year.

Suspension kept him out of Balmain's greatest moment, the 1969 grand final, but few doubted he was one of the keys in making the side what it was. Still the legend was only just taking form. In 1971, Beetson went to the Roosters under Don Furner and found his way to the 1972 grand final. With Beetson firing, the Roosters went on to win the 1974 and '75 grand finals, the latter with a then record score-line of 38-0 over St George.

Along the way Beetson changed the

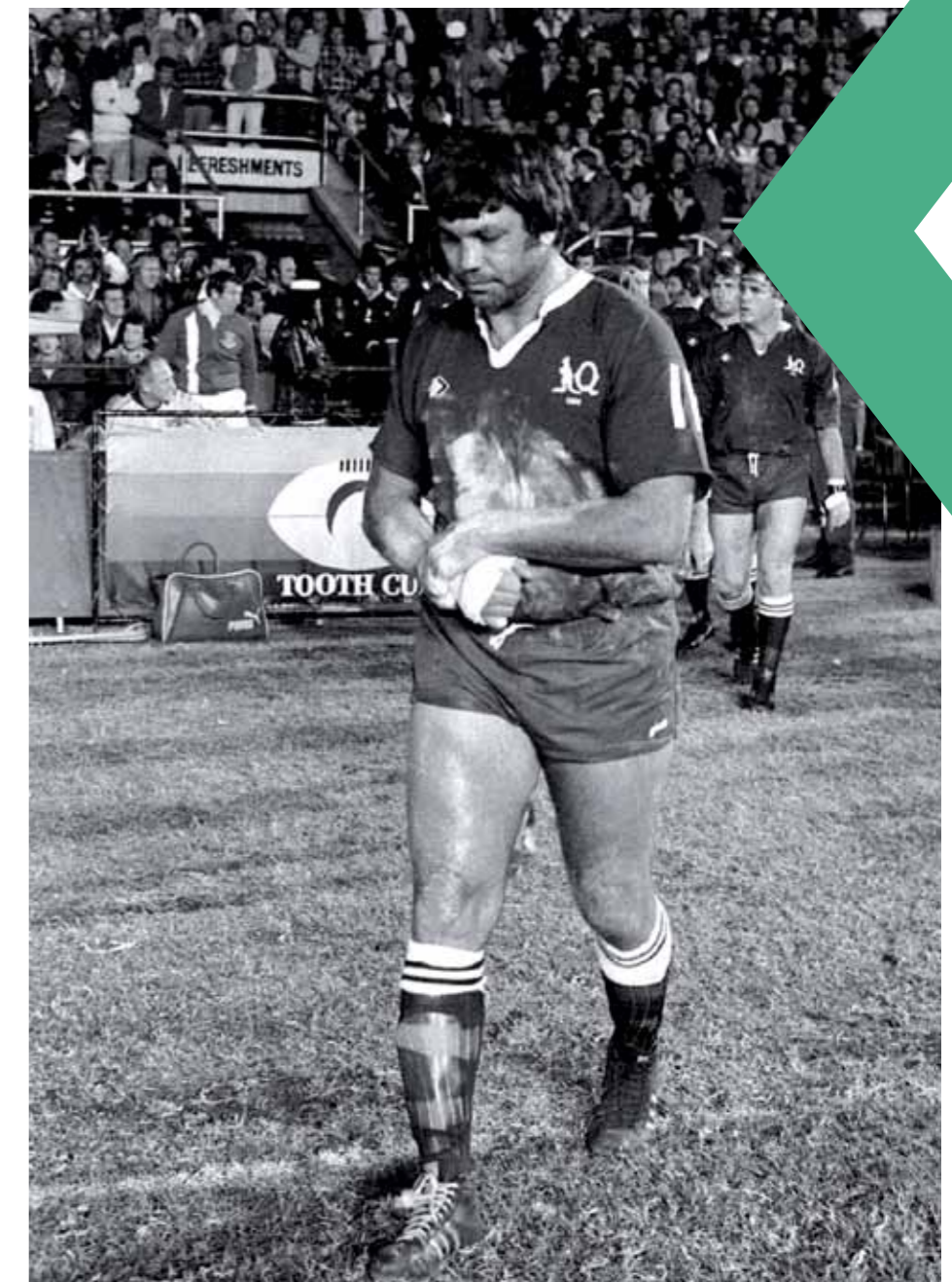
way forwards played with a mixture of ball-handling and iron-willed toughness that few thought possible. He was the greatest ball-playing forward of all time.

He would go on to play at the Roosters for three more seasons before heading to Parramatta, but his next date with destiny came as he led the Maroons onto Lang Park in 1980.

Beetson was first named Australian captain in Tests in 1973 and '74 and was chosen to captain Australia's World

Cup campaign in 1977. Throughout his illustrious career he would play 28 Tests as well as coaching Australia in 1983 and remaining a selector of Queensland and Australian teams after that point.

Beetson's playing career ended at Redcliffe in 1981 but as a coach he would define Origin as it moved from a 'once-a-year-spectacle' to the definition of sporting passion and rivalry. In the 2008 Centenary year, he was named in both the Queensland and Australian "Team of the Century". <



## ARL COMMISSION

Following regular changes to its operating structures over the past decade, the Queensland Rugby League is suitably placed to work constructively with the new ARL Commission.

Negotiations are well advanced, with the Commission expected to be functioning in December this year. From the outset of the often complex negotiations, the QRL strived to represent the best interests of its stakeholders.

At the same time, the League recognised the need for the Commission and the many positive outcomes it can provide for the game. With a charter to grow rugby league, 2012 and beyond marks an exciting new chapter for our great game at all levels.

The formation of one national body will provide greater efficiency across the board.

Importantly, the QRL will continue to administer the game in Queensland. However, the League will now have the assistance of the

Commission and the valuable resources it can provide.

The QRL is pleased with the appointment of former Queensland representative player John Grant as the ARL Commission's inaugural chairman. John is a highly-respected businessman with strong ties to the local Brisbane rugby league scene. He will head a truly independent and balanced team with considerable expertise in many fields. The inaugural Commissioners are:

- **John Grant** – former Queensland rugby league player and managing director of internet technology company Data#3
- **Catherine Harris AO PSM** – Chairperson of Harris Farm Markets.
- **Ian Elliott** – brand strategist and former chairman and managing director of George Patterson Bates.
- **Peter Gregg** – executive director and chief financial officer of Leighton Holdings.
- **Gary Pemberton AC** – former chairman of QANTAS and SOCOG.

- **Jeremy Sutcliffe** – CSR chairman.
- **Wayne Pearce OAM** – former Balmain, NSW and Australian player & media commentator.
- **Chris Sarra** – executive director of Queensland Technology's Stronger Smarter Institute. <

IMPORTANTLY, THE QRL WILL CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER THE GAME IN QUEENSLAND. HOWEVER, THE LEAGUE WILL NOW HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COMMISSION AND THE VALUABLE RESOURCES IT CAN PROVIDE.

## VALÉ DES WEBB

With a lifetime of service devoted to the Redcliffe Dolphins, long-serving president Des Webb would have been proud to see his club take home this year's Club Championship trophy.

Des will be remembered not only for his work with the Dolphins club, but with rugby league in general, having helped establish the Narangba Rangers Junior Rugby League Club. Despite his ill health, he remained heavily involved with his beloved Dolphins, even travelling up to Rockhampton to see his team play the Comets just a few days before he passed away, aged 73. Dolphins general manager and close friend Tony Murphy revealed how Des was eager to make the trip.

"The boys played great and it filled Des

with pride as the Dolphins romped home 44-18. Des spoke to the players after the game, each player silent with the respect afforded to a man of Des' stature," Murphy told Quest Newspapers. "He spoke with a soft voice but with each quiet word, the players took in what would be the last of many classic speeches by Des Webb."

Des was involved with the Redcliffe Dolphins since 1956 as a player, team manager and as club president since 1988. He was also a life member of both the Redcliffe Leagues Club and the Redcliffe District Rugby League Football Club. As a mark of respect, the Dolphins named their Club Person of the Year award after their long-serving president, which was won this year by Jon Sloan. <

DES WAS INVOLVED WITH THE REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS SINCE 1956 AS A PLAYER, TEAM MANAGER AND AS CLUB PRESIDENT SINCE 1988.



## STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Funding from the State Government provided a significant boost to the League and its many affiliates in what proved to be a testing year due to the natural disasters.

The League is most grateful to the State Government for this level of support. Through the Sport and Recreation Flood Fightback Plan, \$1,170,587 in funding was distributed to 50 rugby league clubs and associations.

The State Government also made the following contributions:

- \$250,000 to the QRL under the State Sport and Recreation Development Program to

deliver participation opportunities, build organisational capacity and develop projects and resources that support the inclusion of people with inequitable access to programs and services.

- \$60,000 to the QRL to develop a strategic development plan for rugby league in Far North Queensland.
- \$150,000 to the QRL to develop services to support rugby league development in the Cape York and Torres Strait regions of Queensland, including employment of two development officers.

- \$15,000 to individual athletes under the Young Athletes Assistance Program for attendance at State and National Championships.
- \$36,500 to 21 clubs under the It's Positive or It's Pointless Equipment Program.
- Funding for 37 employees supporting clusters that include rugby league clubs across Queensland under the Local Sport and Recreation Jobs Plan.
- \$75,000 to support the development of women, masters and universities rugby league. <

## VOLUNTEER AWARDS

On an electric evening that saw Maroons skipper Darren Lockyer raise the Origin shield in his final match for Queensland, a group of unsung heroes were themselves enjoying a night to remember.

The 2010 recipients of Outstanding Service Awards were special guests for the third match of the series at Suncorp Stadium this year. The six volunteers were: Julie Sutton (Burrumbidgee – South East Division); Karen Denny (Tugun – South East Division); Steve Henderson (Middlemount – Central Division);

Greg Carey (Warwick – Central Division); Glen Bartlett (Isis – Central Division); and Debra Gallop (Cairns – Northern Division).

This fine group of men and women have made significant contributions to their respective clubs and leagues over the years. Rugby league's volunteer network is integral to the code's success, and without these people, the game simply would not function.

This network faced a stern test earlier this year in the wake of the natural disasters. Many women worked tirelessly to help get

their clubs back up and running again, particularly after the devastating floods.

With this in mind, the Rebuilding Rugby League Committee and Harvey Norman found a special way to thank seven wonderful women. Dayna Broadway (West End), Mandy Elstone (Brothers St Brendans), Pat Bleakley (Kilcoy), Brooke Walker (Emerald Tigers), Gabrielle Shadforth (Tully), Liz Low (Souths Graceville) and Jenny Stewart (Goodna and District) were special guests at Suncorp Stadium for Game One of the Origin series. <

## QUEENSLAND SPORT AWARDS

On December 6 last year, the Queensland Maroons were officially recognised as the State's premier sporting team.

More than 750 guests were on hand in the Plaza Ballroom of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre to witness the occasion. The Maroons received the Bank of Queensland 2010 Sport Team of the Year after winning a fifth successive Harvey Norman State of Origin series over the Blues.

Maroons skipper Darren Lockyer accepted the trophy and immediately signalled the

team's intention to create further history by winning a sixth-straight series in 2011 (and that they did). Lockyer praised his teammates and coach Mal Meninga for creating an outstanding "culture". The champion five-eighth also acknowledged the Queensland Rugby League and its Board for sticking by the team through the good times and bad.

The Maroons camp had double the reason to celebrate when Meninga was announced as the 2010 Sport Coach of the Year for the second time. Meninga was at the helm of a

Maroons outfit that demolished the Blues 3-0 in a rare Origin series clean sweep.

QRL managing director Ross Livermore accepted the award on behalf of Meninga, who had a prior commitment and was unable to attend Queensland sports' night of nights. Livermore said Meninga's Origin coaching record, which stood at 11 wins from 15 matches at the end of 2010, was simply extraordinary. "It's hard enough to win one Origin game, let alone a series," Livermore declared. <



## ASADA TESTING PROGRAM

The Queensland Rugby League continues to work closely with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority in an effort to make the sport as clean as possible.

Each year, participants are made aware of their responsibilities, and the substances on the WADA Prohibited List are readily available on the ASADA and QRL websites. Most importantly,

the testing is widespread across many competitions, representative carnivals and one-off games.

A total of 87 tests were conducted this year, with the final results from three cases pending. Last year, it was reported that two cases were pending. Both of these resulted in a violation of the Anti-Doping rules and suspensions were issued.

This year, 48 full screen and 24 half screen tests were conducted in the Intrust Super Cup. Lectures and information sessions are offered to the Intrust Super Cup clubs involved in Queensland's premier Statewide competition. Further testing was carried out in the Mal Meninga Cup (Under 18s), regional finals and at the Divisional Carnival. <

## QRL WEBSITE

The website broke new ground in 2011 with the emergence of QRL TV and the appointment of a new multi media co-ordinator.

Bill Scurfield joined the QRL team mid-season, working closely with Troy Morton, Michael Hillier and Colleen Edwards on a range of projects. Producing video content and photo galleries were two of Bill's early tasks. The video content enhanced QRL.com.au and drew additional traffic to the website. State of Origin and Intrust Super Cup videos featured heavily, along with a flow of local league and community content.

Each month, it was not uncommon for 100 news articles to be posted on the QRL.com.

au home page. This year, a concerted effort was made to cover a broader section of rugby league in Queensland, with regular stories and pictures covering regional rugby league, juniors, women's, referees, and education and development. Planning is already underway for next year and it is hoped that the coverage can be further expanded.

Statistically, QRL.com.au enjoyed another successful year, comparing favourably on an expanding network that includes NRL clubs and the NSWRL. The page impressions throughout the Origin period were the envy of other Sportal network members.

QRL.com.au was again the leader for local Queensland news and scores. All match results from the Intrust Super Cup, FOGS Cup and Colts were available immediately after full-time thanks to the dedication of scores co-ordinator Ken Cooper. Followers of the Mal Meninga and Cyril Connell Cups were also able to readily access scores through the website.

Incredibly, the website's Facebook page – 'Queensland Maroons' – grew to a staggering 325,000 members by October. This figure is believed to be one of the highest for a sporting organisation in the country and provides the QRL with enormous reach. <

## MAROON MEMBERS

Ben Veronese is your typical Maroons supporter.

He'll deck himself out in his Queensland jersey every match and cheer himself hoarse. But in 2011, Ben took his support for his favourite team to a new level by becoming a Maroon Member.

Ben (pictured – left) put himself into the running to win exclusive access to the Maroons' dressing room simply by becoming a member. The die-hard Maroons fan couldn't believe his luck when he won the random draw and went behind the scenes with a friend to meet many of his rugby league heroes, including Wally Lewis.

Ben instantly declared he would sign up again next year. With positive feedback like this and with the addition of further incentives

including an \$80 Canterbury clothing voucher, the League is hopeful that it will be able to attract a bigger membership base in 2012.

Launched a few weeks before the opening Origin clash of this year's series, a steady number of league fans signed up for the inaugural Maroon Members Club. An influx of new members joined in the lead up to Game Three as more people became aware of the initiative, which was advertised on the QRL website and through other media.

All Maroon Members received two Category Three tickets to one Origin game of their choice in Brisbane. Members gained a host of products and entitlements, including a polo shirt, cap, numbered key ring, bumper sticker and access to exclusive website content. <



## QRL HISTORY COMMITTEE

This year's Harry Sunderland Lecture, delivered by distinguished journalist Steve Ricketts, was an outstanding success.

Titled *The French Connection*, Steve presented the background and highlights of the first French team to visit Australia some 60 years ago. They played an exhilarating style of football, which we had never seen before. Steve's family-assisted presentation was received with a rousing, standing ovation.

The previous year's Harry Sunderland Lecture drew 52 people. This year, the number was 98. With such entertainment, an excellent morning tea and splendid camaraderie, it is clearly an annual function not to be missed.

In 2012, the Lecture will be delivered by North Queensland's Greg Shannon. It is titled *Rugby League and the Services*. A highlight will be the revealing of the 'first' State of Origin trophy played for by Queensland and New South Wales (Army) teams. The trophy, made from war-time bombs, was played for in New Guinea in 1945. Players' names are on the trophy, along with the scores. Would it surprise, that Queensland won both games!

Our Anthology is moving too slowly, with some regions failing to contribute. Poet extraordinaire, Rupert McCall, is assisting us in this endeavour, which is quite an honour. Another project underway is the compiling of a book titled *Rugby League Grounds* in Queensland. Every club in Queensland has or plays at their 'home' ground. The tales about these grounds must be legion, enthralling and certainly worth recording for posterity. The League will send out guidelines as to how this should be done.

The floods were not kind to the History Committee. Many of our records at the Stadium were savaged by mud and water, while our Time Capsule will need to be relocated. Committee members Max Howell and Greg Shannon were driven from their homes and lost valuable possessions.

The Committee continues to seek assistance from the State Government in relation to the creation of a Museum/Hall of Fame in the Stadium precinct. Each week, we are recipients of valuable items, which deserve to be shared with the League community, in an appropriate place and manner.

History members played a more than

significant role in locating past Queensland representative players and their families, which made for a highly successful presentation evening. The silver wall at the Stadium's northern end is a living record of those who had the honour of wearing the Maroon jersey.

There is every chance a national history group could be formed and housed at the soon-to-be-opened Rugby League Central in Sydney. It is to be hoped personnel from Queensland will be included in this body.

We congratulate and welcome new CEO Robert Moore to the Queensland Rugby League. He has an enormous affinity with the game, both here and overseas. He shares our enthusiasm for the League's history and we look forward to his involvement.

The Committee thanks the Board for its genuine interest and support.

History Committee members: Kevin Brasch (chair), Paul Hayes, Professor Max Howell AO, Ross Livermore, John McCoy, Robert Moore, Steve Ricketts and Greg Shannon (secretary).

**Kevin Brasch** <



Greg Core donates the Queensland cap worn by his grandfather August Christian Schatz in 1911 to the QRL History Committee

## QRL REFEREES' BOARD

The QRL Referees' Board would like to commend everyone on another successful and memorable season.

It has been a year of excitement and many rewards. This has been partly due to the leadership of Bill Harrigan and Stuart Raper at the National level. They responded positively to the challenges presented to them, as the new custodians of the NRL referees in 2011. Their wisdom and direction gave referees permission to take back the driving seat, referee the game, and not just manage it. Importantly, their guidance has allowed refereeing to prosper from the elite to the grassroots level.

It's also fitting to pay tribute to Darren Lockyer – the Broncos, Queensland and Australian captain – who has been an absolute ornament to the game and no doubt has and will always be an inspiration to many young players.

The grassroots of the game remains strong and the Board firmly believes that the future of refereeing in Queensland is in good hands. Board chairman Tony Maksoud attended many end-of-year presentations and State Carnivals and he noted that it was refreshing to see the talent, enthusiasm and dedication flowing through all levels of the game.

Congratulations to all referees for a magnificent effort in 2011, especially those who officiated in finals across the State. Of notable significance were the milestones reached by Michael Wise who refereed his first NRL game in Townsville and the Residents game between Queensland and New South Wales as the main curtain-raiser to the final State of Origin game. He then capped off a phenomenal year with his first Intrust Super Cup grand final. Well done Michael on these outstanding achievements.

The stability of the QRL Referees' Board over a number of years has allowed it to confirm its strategic direction and take significant strides towards achieving its objectives around the five goals of recruitment, retention, education, career pathways and communication; influencing numerous refereeing agendas. The Board will continue to seek and deliver relevant projects and programs across the State.

The areas of greatest focus for the Board throughout 2012 should be to:

- increase referee numbers across all levels of the game;



- develop the number and quality of match official coaches; and
- continue the drive towards having more referees at the elite and national levels.

The knowledge and experience on the Board across all levels and facets of refereeing has been outstanding. Special mention must go to our Independent Directors Stuart Berndt and Bernie Pramberg. Their hard work and professionalism ensures the Board's image continues to be enhanced at local association levels across the State. Bernie has stated that he will not be seeking re-election to the Board in 2012. His contribution to refereeing and rugby league is acknowledged and we wish him well as he pursues his other interests.

The Board would also like to acknowledge referees' operations officer John Topp and academy manager Eddie Ward. Their knowledge, professionalism and capacity to deliver is second to none. The contribution

from referee development officers has again been of the highest standard. They work long hours and regularly go above and beyond what's expected of them.

The Referees' Board is grateful to our valued sponsors: The Legends Club, Goodlife Health Clubs, Stradacon Penna, Triple Play, Esanda Finance and Q-Energy. Their fantastic financial contribution, under challenging economic circumstances, has supported the Board in delivering many successful outcomes.

In conclusion, the Board wishes to recognise the support of Ross Livermore, Robert Moore, David Bannister and the Queensland Rugby League Board for their ongoing commitment to refereeing in Queensland. We sincerely thank all referees, volunteers and administrators for their commitment and hard work across what is always a busy season, and look forward to our team responding to the challenges ahead in 2012. <

## QRL JUNIORS' BOARD

2011 marked another fabulous year for rugby league in Queensland. The Maroons again won the State of Origin, making it six series wins in a row for our great State and when one looks at this, it augurs well for the game here in Queensland.

Among the many highlights for the year were:

### ALLIED PICKFORDS TRANSPORT SPONSORSHIP

The sponsorship arrangement with this great Australian company saw the arrival and delivery of a new and exciting phase for education and community involvement, mainly within the south east and greater south west. On August 8, the QRL took possession of a truck fitted out with television monitors, a barbeque and generators. It also came with electronics so that it could be used as a presentation dais for carnivals, sign on days and education seminars.

The QRL Juniors' Board entered into negotiations with Allied Pickfords in July 2010 and the vehicle was the result of a great deal of consultation between the two organisations. The Board believes that this initiative can only increase the popularity of the game within Queensland. It will continue to strengthen our ties with the community at large, particularly those in areas where the game needs to be promoted and the education of players, coaches and administrators can be enhanced.

Recognition must go to Paul Fowles of Allied Pickfords and operations manager Geoff Whitworth.

### REGISTRATIONS

This year was the first year for some time where we have seen a downturn in player registrations across the State. This is not only an issue within Queensland, but across the country and it is an issue that we need to work together collectively to address.

New player registrations to our game this year were encouraging, with 10,083 males and 264 females signing on for the first time. This is positive but it really illustrates how hard we have to work on retention and the issues behind losing players and officials each year.

### SIGN ON CAMPAIGN

A few changes were made this year to the campaign but once again it was very successful and drew praise from the clubs and local leagues.



### CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The Exchange was played at Kawana Juniors on the Sunshine Coast at the start of the July school holidays and it was an outstanding success. The crowds on each of the two days would have exceeded 1000 people per day, with the brand of football of a high standard. The manner in which the players and officials of the teams presented themselves was a credit to them and this cannot be spoken of highly enough.

The officials and volunteers at the Kawana club did a magnificent job and nothing was too difficult for them. This was appreciated by players, officials and the spectators. The accommodation was again at the Currimundi Active Recreation Centre where the players participated in varying activities. The staff at the centre informed the Juniors' Board that the players conducted themselves in a dignified manner.

The Juniors' Board would like to thank the QRL Board for its ongoing support of this program, an important part of the calendar as it provides opportunities for players who normally would not get to play games of this nature.

### TRIPLE PLAY STATE JUNIOR CARNIVAL

Ipswich Junior Rugby League (IJRL) hosted this year's carnival at the Briggs Road Complex. The facilities provided were of a high standard and the officials and

volunteers worked long hours throughout the duration of the event. The IJRL were well supported by the SEQ Division whose staff provided much-needed support.

In a first for the carnival, a women's Under 17 game between Ipswich and the Gold Coast was played. The participants showed great skill, commitment and courage. The game was won by the Gold Coast but the contest was very even right up to the last minute of play. Recognition must go to the QRL Women's Board, the IJRL and GCJRL for organising the game. However special thanks must be directed to Belinda Sleeman (QRL women's development officer) and Madonna Bowers (IJRL) for their work.

Games at the Triple Play State Carnival were again of a high standard and credit here must go to the officials who worked tirelessly with the players. This first-class preparation of these teams ensured the football over the five days of the carnival was of strong quality.

This year the games were played using limited interchange rules in all ages and this worked very well. The same format will be used in 2012. Players and officials spoke in favour of this rule change which was very pleasing from a Juniors' Board point of view.

This year was the year of the North Queensland Marlins whose teams in all ages played some excellent football. They were well coached and the officials involved with the teams worked hard behind the scenes to ensure the players gave a great account of themselves each day.

Their Under 13 team was very impressive from day one and their Under 14 side was a shade unlucky not to take overall honours. The other Divisions also played some great games in all ages and credit must go to the participants who walked away from the week better players and with many new friends. The 2011 winners of the Triple Play State Carnival were:

Under 13 – North Queensland Marlins;

Under 14 – SEQ Poinsettias;

Under 16 – North Queensland Marlins.

Next year's State Carnival will be played at the Kawana Junior Rugby League grounds which we believe will be a great venue to showcase the young talent each Division has to offer. The Juniors' Board would like to thank major sponsor Triple Play for

supporting this event, the QRL and our other very good sponsors – Cathay Pacific Airlines, Phoenix International Transport and Strategic Airlines as well as the game day sponsors.

### ARL DEVELOPMENT SHIELD

The State-wide Under 15 club competition was won by Logan Brothers who played Edmonton in the final held at Barlow Park, Cairns, before the Intrust Super Cup game between the Northern Pride and Ipswich Jets.

The game was very entertaining and the large crowd who came to witness it were very supportive of the young players. Many thanks must go to the people from the Cairns Junior and Senior Rugby League and the officials from the Northern Pride who looked after all concerned. Congratulations must also go to the players from both sides for

the manner in which they played and also to the Logan Brothers players and officials who represented their club and GBJRL very well.

### OUTBACK COUNTRY CHALLENGE

The inaugural Outback Country Challenge involved junior players from the country areas. Organised by the Outback Committee, the successful Challenge provided opportunities for players in the Under 14 and 16 age groups. Two Merit teams were named and from all accounts the weekend was a great success.

Next year, players from the Merit teams will travel to the City/Country Exchange where the Under 14 side will play games against the other sides in that carnival and the Under 16's will play against a side from SEQ and also another invitational team.

### QRL JUNIORS' BOARD

#### Chairman

Geoff Orman

#### Operations Manager

Grant Noyce

#### Education and Development Manager

David Bannister

#### Chairman Central Juniors

Glyn Rees

#### Chairman SEQ Juniors

Dan Moran

#### Chairman Northern Juniors

Bert Petersen

#### Independents

Murray Stanton and Mark Hohn



## EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

At first glance, surf boards and high ropes courses don't appear to have much in common with rugby league.

But for many of the boys and girls who attended some of the QRL's 2011 camps, these activities equipped them with much more than a new array of physical skills. As new Sunshine Coast-based development officer Glen Dreger observed, the majority of participants left the Currimundi Mod Camp in September armed with new life skills. This is just one example of the diversity that the League's many and varied development programs provide.

Currimundi was one of seven venues to host a Mod Camp in late September. The others were held at Tallebudgera, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Innisfail and Gatton. The Divisions reported healthy numbers for these events and good attendances were again expected for the Summer Camps to be held in Townsville, Rockhampton and the Gold Coast from December 12-16.

Importantly, these camps also offer courses for coaches and trainers to learn and enhance their skills. The League's Education

and Development team again accredited thousands of participants at a variety of levels throughout the State. This work forms the backbone of grassroots rugby league.

The QRL's three Divisions – South East, Northern and Central – invested heavily on the ground through their committed staff. In a year that produced endless success stories, one of the more heart-warming tales emerged from near the northernmost tip of mainland Australia when development officers became immersed in the Bamaga community in the lead up to the historic Intrust Super Cup clash between the Northern Pride and Souths Logan. This was just part of the extensive work that has been conducted in the Cape in recent years. The emergence of the Cape Cluster competition has been another of the shining lights. In early September, the finals series was played in Weipa and was accompanied by six junior rugby league games, a community match and women's game.

Not to be outdone, the South East was a centre of activity and on August 8, the QRL launched a dual-branded, purpose-built

vehicle to promote rugby league. The vehicle, supplied by Allied Pickfords, has already been put to great use by development staff and will next year be seen at the State Junior Carnival, City/Country Cultural Exchange and other major events operated under the auspices of the QRL throughout Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and the Charleville/Cunnamulla area.

Maroons star Ashley Harrison teamed up with QRL chief executive Robert Moore and representatives from Allied Pickfords to formally launch the partnership. Allied Pickfords is one of the largest providers of removal services around the world and has 10 branches throughout Queensland, many in regional locations. "Their involvement with this program will be fantastic for grassroots rugby league," Moore said.

In October, the QRL.com.au announced that the 2012 Admin Conference would be held on the Sunshine Coast from February 10-12. In a major disappointment after months of planning, the floods led to the cancellation of the Southern and Northern Conferences scheduled for February of this year.

Featuring a revamped program, the 2012 Conference to be held at the Novotel's Twin Waters Resort will offer something new for Queensland's volunteers, officials and administrators. The Conference is set to take on a more philosophical and informative approach to developing rugby league and discovering more about the future of the game. Topics to be covered include:

- ARL Commission
- QRL Future Direction
- QRL Strategic Planning workshop
- Community Alliance Initiatives
- Making our Game more Environmentally Sustainable
- Cultural Awareness
- Long Term Athlete Development and the Player Pathway
- Social Responsibility – What the Game is doing to address it
- Conflict Resolution
- Rugby League Risk Management
- Use of Technology in the Non-For-Profit Sector
- Generational Perspective
- Balancing Growth and Sustainability – Strategic Alignment
- Social Media <

## MURRI CARNIVAL

Despite the fierce competition on the field, the inaugural Queensland Murri Carnival in September was a great success in bringing the community together for a four-day celebration of indigenous rugby league.

Based at Mudgeeraba's Firth Park on the Gold Coast, there were 50 teams taking part in three divisions of competition – Open Men, Women and Under 15s. Supported by the Australian Rugby League, the Queensland Rugby League, the Gold Coast City Council and the Queensland Government, the event also placed an important focus on indigenous health, employment, education and the arts.

After such a successful launch for the drug and alcohol free event, co-ordinator Tony Currie was optimistic of a 30% increase in participation at next year's carnival. "It was a terrific response," the former international said. "I think it's going to have exponential growth."

The Southern Dingoes were 44-24 winners over the Purga Wagtails in the final, taking home the Lionel Morgan Cup in the Open Men's competition. The Dingoes side, which featured Intrust Super Cup players Brendan Marshall, Ian Lacey and Liam Georgetown, were too good on the day for their opponents in claiming the Cup, named in honour of the legendary winger who was the first indigenous player to represent Australia in a rugby league Test match.

As well as competing for their teams, participants in the Under 15s tournament vied for the opportunity to be selected in the Queensland Murri squad. The 26-player squad was named in early October, with the final 17 to take on the NSW Koori side as the curtain-raiser to next year's Indigenous All Stars game to be named at a later stage.

The carnival also honoured Arthur Beetson, the first Indigenous rugby league player to captain Australia in any sport, who spent a lot of time promoting the tournament in his role as this year's carnival ambassador. <





## WOMEN & GIRLS

Across most sports, women and girls have historically experienced barriers to their participation, not only as players, but also as administrators, officials, coaches and in executive positions.

Female rugby league participants have certainly experienced barriers, including inadequate facilities, and across the spectrum of roles, in a sport which has traditionally been targeted at males, by primarily male administrators and executives. Although improving in some respects, this is still evident in the game now. The QWRL Board, through its newly-developed Strategic Plan, is taking responsibility for introducing change to the perception and involvement of females in rugby league. Increasing the participation and representation of women and girls in all areas of rugby league will assist in building a more balanced and diverse sport, promote a positive sporting culture, provide strong leadership and ultimately contribute to a strong, sustainable sport from grassroots to elite level, and from remote to metropolitan locations.

The 2009 Independent Sport Panel Report (Crawford Report) identified women as a priority area on which the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) should focus strategy development to ensure Australia's sports sector is open to all. Specifically the report detailed that "women require special consideration across the sporting sector with respect to representation and funding. Women are under-represented in leadership roles, as coaches and administrators in sporting organisations."

Women and girls participation continues to offer QRL the biggest growth opportunity across Queensland, with both junior and senior participation figures increasing by 11% from 2010, as a result of new competitions and teams developed in 2011. This equates to approximately 2,500 participants in club-based competitions. QWRL is of the view that rugby league, if it wants to be competitive with other sports offerings, needs to:

- reach out to women and girls,
- make the sport attractive to them and
- encourage them to participate.

The Board has enjoyed a successful inaugural year, forming a solid platform from which to base its strategy over the next three years. It also hosted several

successful events and initiatives, increasing the development and exposure of the women's game. The State Championships were held on the Sunshine Coast in May, comprising the three Divisional sides and a Queensland Barbarians development side. The Northern Territory Titans also accepted an invitation to join, utilising the opportunity to test their newly-developed players against regular competition players. Following their Queensland experience, NT Titans players and staff returned home to Darwin and instigated an inaugural four-team competition.

From the State Championships, 17 players were selected to represent Queensland, under the direction of coach Steve Belsham for the third consecutive year. In a huge boost to the women's game, the annual Nellie Doherty Cup Interstate match against New South Wales was played before the opening Harvey Norman State of Origin match at Suncorp Stadium on May 25. The female Maroons continued their interstate dominance, claiming a 13th straight series with a 26-0 victory.

This event saw the demand for involvement in the sport increase significantly and the QRL Women's Development Officer swamped with enquiries to join. A 2012 Queensland Emerging Squad has been announced, and the 20 selected players will attend a three-day pre-season camp under the direction of state coaching staff. The camp will comprise a range of programs, including game skills, gym, nutrition, goal setting and team building. This program

is aimed at providing a higher level of development and coaching for young players who have been identified as future representative players.

The QRL successfully trialled female-only accreditation courses in 2011, as part of the push for more volunteers, and these programs will continue in 2012.

The QWRL Strategic Plan supports female participation. The QWRL Board believes this plan will provide the female game with direction and purpose heading into the future, with the continued support of the QRL. <



## ARL DEVELOPMENT

2011 marked the 12<sup>th</sup> year in the field for ARL Development. During that time span, ARLD's role in development has broadened significantly. However, its core mission has not altered: **To provide a positive rugby league experience(s) to as many boys and girls as possible and to support and strengthen the infrastructure of the grassroots game.**

The objectives of the organisation have also remained fairly constant:

- To expand the consumer base of the sport:
  - Players, coaches, referees and first aid officers
  - Fans (TV watchers, attendees, merchandise buyers, etc)
  - Gate keepers (especially mothers and female teachers)
  - Volunteers
- To educate and demonstrate to the community that rugby league at junior levels is fun and safe and can be played by both boys and girls with or without tackling (as opposed to the gladiatorial image of the NRL)
- To adapt to the significant changes in the education system that have seen women become the predominant teaching force and the need for sport in schools to be more closely linked to curriculum outcomes
- To work towards establishing rugby league as a game that is inclusive of anyone who wants to play no matter what the sex, age or skill level; while, at the same time, ensuring that the elite athletes receive the necessary training and opportunities to maximise their potential
- To make a difference by encouraging and supporting development efforts currently being undertaken by State Leagues and clubs to support and build the grassroots infrastructure of the game while concentrating on areas of weakness or neglect.

There were some additions to ARLD's human resources in 2011. Thanks to a grant from the NRL (brought about by a submission from the Titans), two new NDO positions were created on the Gold Coast which came on line mid-year. Additionally, under the expanded participation funding from the Australian Sports Commission, two NDO positions were created (one in Queensland and one in NSW) specifically to develop girls' participation.

Work continued on establishing Backyard League as both the preferred teaching method and the flagship clinic program. The main features are intra-school competition, teacher involvement and free footballs to all participants, which act as both an advertisement for the game and encourages unstructured (playground) rugby league. In 2011 more than 100,000 children and nearly 800 teachers will have had the five session Backyard League experience. Thanks are due to the NRL for coming to the party to ensure that all participants received a mod league ball. Work continued in 2011 to develop a second generation Backyard League program for children who have previously participated. The purpose of this second phase is to move the children closer to formal competitions in schools and/or clubs.

The finalisation of a new infants' program is also near fruition. The pre-school to second grade age groups are usually not catered to by sports when they come into schools, as they are a very difficult age group to engage and organise. As such, they represent a strategic opportunity for rugby league. Using ARLD professional staff and "story-book" learning techniques, a three-session program is being trialled in schools and ARLD staff have had initial in-servicing to learn the program. One of the new Gold Coast positions concentrates exclusively on the infants' program. It is hoped that the program will pick up a sponsor before the end of the year.

ARLD's programs for social responsibility, junior welfare and respect protocols, managed by Brad Levy, had its first full year in action. Working closely with the welfare department at the NRL, its clubs as well as with State Leagues, the program has reached some 5000 elite juniors and is rolling down into more domestic-level competitions for 13 and over at junior league level. Sponsored by the No Illicit Drugs in Sports campaign run through the Prime Minister's Department, the program addresses issues of drugs, respect for women, social media, alcohol, social decision making and other social and ethical issues facing teenagers. The respect protocols are aimed at restoring and/or reinforcing the fundamental elements of good sportsmanship to junior competitions

– the underlying theory is that if you respect the game, the game will respect you.

A national coach and referee mentoring program funded by the Australian Sports Commission was launched in 2011 under the extended participation funding scheme. The program, administered by ARLD and implemented by the State Leagues, creates part-time coaching and refereeing panels which are paid to mentor and update coaches and referees "on site".

Also nearing completion in 2011 is the construction of an e-learning, interactive platform which will greatly enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of coaching, refereeing and first aid officer accreditation courses. It will reduce the necessity of production of hard copy materials, give greater flexibility to the participants (who can do much of the courses in their own time and at home), reduce the amount of face-to-face time required and provide internet registration and payments for the course tuition and provider/presenter payments. The platform will also allow the ARLD to post a variety of other educational material like club administration aids. The expected launch of the facility is mid-January 2012.

The Pathways Review, a sub-committee of the ARLD Council, completed an extensive audit of opinions reviewing the junior game and its relevance to both the needs of elite and recreational players. Using a series of public forums, on-line submissions and targeted expert advice along with an extensive literature review, the Committee has determined some potential changes to the laws of, firstly, mini/mod then junior international and the competition structures for juniors. Trials were commenced of several law variations and combinations for the 6-8 age groups towards the end of 2011. These trials will be analysed professionally through video review. From the reviews recommendations and their rationales will be made available for feedback from stakeholders. As this process is being undertaken the Review Committee will initiate a similar trial process for the next age group and overtime through all the junior grades. While the whole process is likely to take several years, it will be of great benefit to the future of rugby league. <



## HARVEY NORMAN STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES



It's not long after the full-time siren and Queensland skipper Darren Lockyer embraces teammate Johnathan Thurston.

The atmosphere is electric as the crowd stands as one to applaud Lockyer. Everyone wants a piece of the retiring Queensland skipper who has just led the XXXX Maroons to a series victory in his final Origin match.

But before the celebrations get in full swing, Lockyer makes his way over to Thurston – the injured halfback with a bag of ice strapped against his knee. Photographers and television cameras swarm around the pair. They capture the moment ... and what a moment it is. There is little doubt it will become one of the enduring images from a spectacular 2011 series.

Gunning for a sixth-straight Origin series victory, the Maroons made a perfect start in the series opener, defeating the Blues 16-12. In an entertaining match, Queensland led 6-0 at half-time and dominated the opening 20 minutes of the second half to lead 10-0 after Jharal Yow Yeh scored his first Origin try in the right corner from a Cooper Cronk grubber kick.

However, the resilient Blues stunned the home crowd with converted tries to Mitchell Pearce and Michael Jennings. Within the blink of an eye, the Blues were in front. But with the game on the line, that man Lockyer stood up and delivered the perfect inside

ball to Billy Slater who raced away to score the match-winner with just eight minutes remaining. Queensland hooker Cameron Smith was the man of the match.

The Maroons then headed to Sydney, confident they could wrap up the series on enemy soil. But it wasn't to be their night, with the Paul Gallen-inspired Blues keeping the series alive with an 18-8 victory in front of 81,965 fans at ANZ Stadium. Desperate to end the Maroons' dominance, the Blues threw everything at Queensland in a gripping end-to-end contest. NSW scored three tries to one, but it was the Maroons who drew first blood through a penalty goal to Thurston, before Smith sliced his way through two New South Wales defenders to score next to the posts. Thurston slotted the conversion for an 8-0 lead.

NSW hit back when Luke Lewis leapt high to grab a Jamie Soward kick, with the Dragons five-eighth converting to bridge the gap to two points. Queensland was kept scoreless in the second half as the Blues posted tries to debutant Will Hopoate and veteran Anthony Minichiello to lock the series up.

The build up to Game Three was intense. The hype centred on Lockyer's final Origin match for Queensland, although David Taylor's suspension and baseless media reports questioning Mal Meninga's coaching role with the team added further spice.

Queenslanders were outraged by *The Daily Telegraph's* personal attack on Meninga, who initially brushed aside the newspaper's ridiculous claims with a minimum of fuss. But when the final match was done and dusted, Meninga returned fire at the *Telegraph* and others from south of the border through his newspaper column. Meninga felt the current Maroons side had not received the praise it deserved after such an extraordinary run of success. Queensland rallied behind Meninga, who held his ground despite a fresh round of bullets from his detractors.

To his credit, Meninga and his support staff had the Queenslanders primed for Origin Three and despite the immense pressure and constant distractions, the Maroons produced arguably the most clinical first-half performance in Origin history. The precision in Queensland's game in the opening 35 minutes was a sight to behold as the Maroons raced to a commanding 24-0 lead. New South Wales scored two late tries against the run of play to trail 24-10 at half-time, but the match was as good as over.

Queensland reasserted its dominance in the second half and threatened to win by a huge score. However, a controversial no try ruling against the home team and a couple of late converted tries to NSW spared the Blues from further blushes. Queensland eventually ran out 34-24 winners, a scoreline that flattered the Blues.

Lockyer paid tribute to the supporters in his moving speech after full-time. "It's such a great feeling of relief. Everyone here wanted Queensland to win," Lockyer said. "These guys have been fantastic. I've had a great time and it's a nice way to finish. We started fantastic at 24-0. To their credit (NSW) came back. It's just a great effort. It has been a great journey and to the Queensland people, it's been a privilege to play for you, I hope you enjoyed that."

Smith, the man set to take over the captaincy from Lockyer, capped an outstanding series with his second man of the match award. He also received the Wally Lewis Medal for the player of the series. Outstanding prop Petero Civoniceva was presented with the Ron McAuliffe Medal and Peter Jackson Medal at the team's post-series function. <



# XXXX QUEENSLAND MAROONS STATE OF ORIGIN TEAM



**THIRD ROW (L-R):** Justin Hodges, Sam Thaiday, Petero Civoniceva, Jharal Yow Yeh, Dane Nielsen, Matt Scott, Nate Myles  
**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Allan Langer (Trainer/Analyst), Trevor Gillmeister (Conditioner), Roy Saunders (Doctor), Corey Parker, Ben Hannant, Andrew Gee (Media Manager), Matthew Barradeen (Trainer), Darius Boyd, Jacob Lillyman, Scott Thornton (Physiotherapist), Michael Hagan (Assistant Coach), Jason Hetherington (Trainer)  
**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Johnathan Thurston, Greg Inglis, Cooper Cronk, Steve Walters (Manager), Darren Lockyer (Captain), Mal Meninga (Coach), Cameron Smith, Billy Slater, Ashley Harrison



Willie Tonga – Game 1



David Taylor – Game 2





## MAROON KANGAROOS



Billy Slater



Greg Inglis



Justin Hodges



Jharal Yow Yeh



Johnathan Thurston



Petero Civoniceva



Cameron Smith



Matt Scott



Sam Thaiday



Ben Hannant



Willie Tonga



Darius Boyd



David Shillington



Cooper Cronk



Corey Parker



Daly Cherry-Evans



Darren Lockyer

Darren Lockyer's farewell appearance on Australian soil was one to be savoured for home fans, with the retiring skipper playing an important hand in setting up a 42-6 win for the Kangaroos.

Fielding five debutants in the one-off Test at Newcastle's Ausgrid Stadium, New Zealand were unable to hold out the rampant Kangaroos who made a blistering start in front of more than 32,000 spectators.

Earlier this year in the traditional May Test match – Australia again were the victors, although it was a much closer affair. Relocated to the Gold Coast's Skilled Park after the original host city of Christchurch was struck by a devastating earthquake, the New Zealanders went down fighting in a 20-10 loss.

Queensland contributed 12 players for the game – including debutant Jharal Yow Yeh, who was yet to make his Origin debut, something he achieved at Suncorp Stadium in Game One this year. The Brisbane Broncos winger was joined by fellow

Queenslanders Lockyer, Billy Slater, Greg Inglis, Justin Hodges, Johnathan Thurston, Petero Civoniceva, Cameron Smith, Matt Scott, Sam Thaiday, Cooper Cronk and Ben Hannant in the green and gold.

Injuries ruled out Civoniceva and Inglis for the October Test match, but opportunities arose for David Shillington, Darius Boyd and Willie Tonga. The Test match was the perfect hit out before the Kangaroos embarked on their Four Nations campaign against New Zealand, England and Wales.

Fifteen Queensland players were named in the squad to tour the UK. The players were: Billy Slater, Greg Inglis, Darren Lockyer, Johnathan Thurston, Cameron Smith, Matt Scott, Sam Thaiday, Willie Tonga, Darius Boyd, David Shillington, Cooper Cronk, Jharal Yow Yeh, Corey Parker, Daly Cherry-Evans and David Taylor. Taylor later withdrew due to injury.

Fittingly, Lockyer scored the final try in Australia's 30-8 defeat of England in the final at Elland Road. <



## QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT

In late January, Mackay product and Melbourne Storm player Dane Nielsen was learning from the best at an Emerging Origin Squad camp in Brisbane.

Just a few short months later, Nielsen was running around in the middle of Suncorp Stadium in a Queensland Maroons jersey. At the time of his selection, many pundits questioned Nielsen's ability to handle the demands of Origin footy.

But those, like his Storm teammates, knew him well enough to be aware that he could handle whatever would come his way. And then there were those like Maroons head coach Mal Meninga, who felt Nielsen was the right man because of the experience he gained through the QAS Emerging Origin Squad.

Nielsen was one of nine new players who took part in the 2011 squad that was put through its paces by Academy head coach Wayne Bennett. The 14-man squad

completed numerous sessions at the Queensland Sport & Athletics Centre (QSAC) in Brisbane from January 21-23.

The squad included Matt Gillett – the 2010 Dally M Rookie of the Year who got his chance with the Broncos following a bumper season with the Norths Devils in the Intrust Super Cup. Interestingly, the squad also included Daly Cherry-Evans, another player who cut his teeth in the Intrust Super Cup. Cherry-Evans went on to win the Dally M Rookie of the Year award before playing in Manly's grand final winning team.

However, the QAS program isn't just about furthering the development of NRL players. Identifying and nurturing rugby league talent from the junior ranks has again been high on the agenda this year with a QAS Under 16 team completing a successful tour of New Zealand in October. <

### 2011 QAS EMERGING ORIGIN SQUAD

- Ben Barba** (*Canterbury Bulldogs*)
- Daniel Vidot** (*Canberra Raiders*)
- Jharal Yow Yeh** (*Brisbane Broncos*)
- Dane Nielsen** (*Melbourne Storm*)
- Justin O'Neill** (*Melbourne Storm*)
- Daly Cherry-Evans** (*Manly Sea Eagles*)
- Robert Lui** (*Wests Tigers*)
- Martin Kennedy** (*Sydney Roosters*)
- Jake Friend** (*Sydney Roosters*)
- Matt Bell** (*Penrith Panthers*)
- Matt Gillett** (*Brisbane Broncos*)
- Ben Te'o** (*Brisbane Broncos*)
- Ben Lowe** (*South Sydney Rabbitohs*)
- William Zillman** (*Gold Coast Titans*)

# INTRUST SUPER CUP



Red and green was the flavour of September as the Wynnum Manly Seagulls produced a stunning late season surge to claim a breakthrough Intrust Super Cup premiership.

In the week leading up to the September 25 grand final, Wynnum Manly coach Paul Green said he was astounded by the amount of support on display around the bay. Red and green sausages were on offer at the butcher while the local bakers (somehow) churned out loaves in the colours of their local Seagulls.

That spirit transferred to grand final day at Suncorp Stadium which saw the Wynnum Manly faithful turn out in full voice and colour – it was the ‘Chook Pen’ en masse and out in force. Anything red and green

was in vogue – wigs, face paint, zinc, even the occasional South Sydney Rabbitohs jersey was not considered blasphemous on this particular occasion.

And the Wynnum Manly fans got the result they were craving with a hard-fought 16-10 win over the minor premiership-winning Tweed Heads team. The Tweed had clearly been the best side throughout the regular season, losing just the one match in a record-breaking campaign. However, the team from south of the border couldn't quite carry that same form into the finals, losing their opening semi-final clash to the eventual premiers.

Tweed set up a re-match with Wynnum Manly in the big one by beating the Northern

Pride 26-10 in their preliminary final clash. Wynnum followed up its upset semi-final win with a clinical 36-0 drubbing of the Redcliffe Dolphins. Redcliffe had earlier bundled Souths Logan out of the premiership race, while the Ipswich Jets also suffered an early exit after a semi-final loss to the Pride.

But the 2011 season will be remembered for Wynnum Manly's against-the-odds premiership. Incredibly, Wynnum Manly claimed the title after becoming the first team in the history of the Cup to qualify for the finals with more losses than wins. The Seagulls won 10, drew one and lost 11 of their regular season matches to snare the sixth and final spot in the play-offs.

That record counted for little though in an intriguing finals series. Led by a dominant forward pack featuring NRL players Dane Carlaw and Mitchell Dodds, Wynnum Manly took their game to a new level. Their intensity in defence rattled their opponents. Coach Green heaped praise on his team's tenacious defensive effort in his post-match address to his players and support staff.

Wynnum Manly conceded just two tries in the grand final, both coming before half-time. Tweed appeared set to take a commanding 10-0 lead into the half-time break before disaster struck in the final few seconds before the break when a Tweed error gifted Wynnum Manly field position. A set play from

the scrum win resulted in a try to fullback Jake Granville. It proved to be the turning point in the match as the Baysiders added a further two second-half tries to claim a maiden Queensland Cup title and their first premiership since 1995.

Granville was a deserved winner of the Duncan Hall Medal for the player of match. The dynamic youngster regularly troubled the Tweed from fullback and out of dummy half. It capped off a superb season for Granville after he was named the Qantas Player of the Year at The QRL Black Tie Awards.

The big winner from the annual awards was Norths Devils flyer Javarn White – the Courier-Mail's Best & Fairest. White was

also the competition's leading try-scorer in the regular season with 20. More than 200 guests attended the annual awards dinner, successfully organised by QRL competitions and operations manager Bill Hunter.

This year's competition again received outstanding support from major sponsor Intrust Super. Brendan O'Farrell and his dedicated team are passionate about the competition and the QRL again looks forward to working with Intrust Super in 2012. Intrust Super went above and beyond its call of duty throughout the season, particularly in its efforts to promote grand final day. Intrust gave away a family holiday to Fiji to a lucky patron and made regular contributions through its representative on the promotions committee.

Likewise, the ABC was a terrific partner throughout the year, broadcasting one match every Saturday in its traditional 2pm timeslot along with both preliminary finals and the Sunday grand final. Viewers enjoyed a number of innovations in the ABC1 coverage this season and the League extends its thanks to Greg Elliott and his team. The League recognises the importance of the ABC's coverage and was ecstatic to learn that the national broadcaster would not be cutting the Statewide competition from its programming next year.

In June, the QRL appointed Jamie O'Connor as the general manager of the Intrust Super Cup Clubs with the charter to guide and facilitate the development of the 12 competing clubs. Jamie joined the QRL from the NSW Country Rugby League, where he worked as the Newcastle regional manager.

The FOGS competitions again provided valuable support to the Intrust Super Cup in 2011. Numerous players graduated from the Colts and FOGS Cup ranks into the premier grade throughout the season. Many exciting Colts players made their ISC Cup debuts but few could top Mitch Cronin's first game for the Souths Logan Magpies. Cronin scored a hat-trick of tries in front of the ABC television cameras in South Logan's round 16 win over Burleigh.

The 2011 FOGS Cup premiers were the Redcliffe Dolphins, who beat the Norths Devils 30-18 in the grand final. Norths Devils won a thrilling Colts grand final 26-22 against Tweed Heads after scoring in extra time. <



## 2011 AWARD WINNERS

**COURIER-MAIL BEST & FAIREST:**  
Javarn White (*Norths Devils*)

**QANTAS PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**  
Jake Granville (*Wynnum Manly*)

**CARBINE CLUB OF QUEENSLAND ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:**  
Josh Starling (*Tweed Heads*)

**REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**  
Luke Capewell (*Ipswich Jets*)

**MEN OF LEAGUE COACH OF THE YEAR:**  
Ben Anderson (*Tweed Heads*)

**FOGS CUP PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**  
Peter Poppi (*Wests Panthers*)

**FOGS COLTS PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**  
Ben Cook (*Redcliffe Dolphins*)

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP:**  
Redcliffe Dolphins

**NICK EUCLID MEDAL (GRAND FINAL REFEREE):**  
Michael Wise

**LEADING TRY SCORERS:**  
Colts – Mitchell Buckett (*Sunshine Coast*)

**FOGS Cup –** Scott Ireland (*Ipswich Jets*)  
**Intrust Super Cup –** Javarn White (*Norths Devils*)

**LEADING POINT SCORERS:**  
Colts – Ben Cook (*Redcliffe Dolphins*)  
**FOGS Cup –** Liam Tyson (*Wests Panthers*)  
**Intrust Super Cup –** Liam Georgetown (*Redcliffe Dolphins*)

## HISTORIC CUP MATCH IN BAMAGA

Located near the northernmost point of the country, the tiny town of Bamaga in Cape York is a place more known for its fishing and camping than for its rugby league competition.

But in round 20 of the Intrust Super Cup this year, the locals were treated to an historic game when the Souths Logan Magpies and the Northern Pride came to town. Although it was officially a home game for the Magpies, the Brisbane side were happy to travel more than 2500km north in order to help support the development of rugby league in regional areas by playing in front of a vocal Northern Pride crowd.

The first-ever state league game played in an Indigenous community, Yusia Ginou Oval was also the 66<sup>th</sup> location to host a Queensland Cup game in the competition's history. More than 2000 spectators were on hand to experience the atmosphere at the ground, and they witnessed a great game between two of the heavyweight teams in the competition.

A late flurry of points saw the Magpies defeat the Pride 40-22 to claim the Tropical North Queensland TAFE Shield. However, this game was about so much more than the final result on the scoreboard.

It was an event that brought the local community together, as well as many fans from surrounding areas, who were all treated to a day-long feast of rugby league. Kicking off with juniors' games, the entertainment continued with a women's match and senior men's game before the main attraction.

An initiative of the Northern Pride, it received strong support from not only the Souths Logan Magpies, but the Queensland Rugby League, the NPA Regional Council and Cape PCYC as well. The Northern Pride were heavily involved through their award-

winning Take Pride program, scheduling activities such as rugby league clinics and targeted development programs throughout the schools and communities.

A number of Northern Pride and QRL development officers also arrived at Bamaga a few days before the game to help promote rugby league at schools and various other community venues. The involvement of the QRL development officers in the area has been made possible by the support of the Queensland Government through the Department of Communities Sport and Recreation Services. <



## XXXX QUEENSLAND RESIDENTS

On an unforgettable evening at Suncorp Stadium, the XXXX Queensland Residents produced a brilliant attacking performance to thrash the NSW Cup representative side.

Queensland scored three tries in each half on its way to an eye-catching 32-6 victory in the annual clash. The third of Queensland's tries was an absolute beauty and would be fit for any highlights reel.

The stunning movement featured eight different players and an amazing sequence of passes. The ball eventually found its way to replacement hooker Kayne Lawton, who launched himself over the try-line as the crowd roared its approval.

The try put the home side in front 16-0 at half-time, but New South Wales responded early in the second half through a runaway try out of nothing to Jake Mullaney. That would

be the visiting side's last moment of joy though, as further tries from Luke Capewell, Ryan Simpkins and Joel Riethmuller sealed a breathtaking victory.

Capewell's support play was a feature of the win, while halves Grant Rovelli and Brad Davis were also superb behind a dominant forward pack. Queensland coach Kevin Carmichael was ecstatic with the performance, which again highlighted the quality of players involved in the Intrust Super Cup – the country's premier competition outside of the National Rugby League.

In a show of strength, a host of players involved in the July 6 clash have signed NRL contracts for 2012 and beyond. This immensely talented group includes the likes of Luke Harlen, Nick Slyney, Capewell and Simpkins. <



**THE BALL EVENTUALLY FOUND ITS WAY TO REPLACEMENT HOOKER KAYNE LAWTON, WHO LAUNCHED HIMSELF OVER THE TRY-LINE AS THE CROWD ROARED ITS APPROVAL.**



**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Travis Waddell, Kayne Lawton, Grant Rovelli, Mark Vaiao, Brad Davis (c), Joel Riethmuller, Liam Georgetown, Luke Capewell  
**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Adam Schumacher (Physio), Gerald Thompson (Head Trainer), Lorenzo Maafu, Kevin Carmichael (Coach), Ryan Simpkins, Jon Buchanan (Asst Coach), Mal Long (Manager)  
**THIRD ROW (L-R):** James Wood, Mathew Pitman, Nick Slyney, Chris Farrell, Luke Harlen, Ramon Filipine, Brett Anderson

## XXXX QUEENSLAND RANGERS

New South Wales Country avenged its 2010 defeat at the hands of the XXXX Queensland Rangers in this year's annual representative clash.

Country ran out 34-24 winners in the July 9 match at Coonabarabran. The Rangers competed bravely throughout after suffering a major disruption leading into the match when five-eighth Andrew Walker failed to travel with the side. Queensland played a man down but managed to put a scare through a formidable NSW team.

Country went to the break leading 16-12 and was able to build on their lead upon the resumption of play. Rangers never stopped

coming though, and in true Queensland style scored late to narrow the final margin to 10 points.

Bundaberg star Shaun Collins scored two tries for the Rangers, while Tom Hewitt, Adam Jeffery and Tyrone Hopgood also crossed. The Rangers concept again provided a representative opportunity for players involved in local competitions outside of the Intrust Super Cup. Players were selected from the A Grade Divisional Carnival held on the Gold Coast in June. This year's Rangers team was coached by Wayne Barnett, who was impressed with the level of talent on display. <



**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Gavin Duffy, Junior Ahio, James Tutulia, Shaun Daylight, Mat Templeman (c), Matt Duncan, Shaun Collins, Jody Henry  
**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Paul Herron (Trainer), Jason Green (Asst Coach), Tom Hewitt, Ross Turi, Bureta Faraimo, Wayne Barnett (Coach), Graham Campbell (Manager)  
**THIRD ROW (L-R):** Casey Rogers, Joel Fitzgerald, Tyrone Hopgood, Mat Cameron, Adam Jeffery

## QUEENSLAND UNDER 18S

New South Wales beat Queensland 16-6 in the Under 18 clash at Sydney's ANZ Stadium on June 15.

The young Blues scored the only points of the first half courtesy of a try to giant back-rower Kyle Lovett. NSW dominated field position and got over the line on a further three occasions – only to be denied by the referee each time for knock-ons.

Queensland's best chance in the first half came four minutes from half-time when exciting North Queensland fullback Zac Santo broke the line. But despite only having the fullback to beat and an unmarked Queensland player in support, the Maroons bombed the golden

opportunity when the ball went to ground.

Santo atoned for the mistake in the second half with a number of scintillating runs and he had a hand in the try to Tautau Moga that ignited Queensland's hopes late in the game. Queensland was trailing 10-0 when Moga found space and launched himself inside the left corner post to score a spectacular try.

Anthony Gadd converted from the sideline to close the gap to 10-6 with seven minutes remaining. However, Queensland couldn't build on the momentum after turning over possession from the kick-off. NSW capitalised with a try to hooker Michael Lichaa to seal a hard-fought victory. <

QUEENSLAND'S BEST CHANCE IN THE FIRST HALF CAME FOUR MINUTES FROM HALF-TIME WHEN EXCITING NORTH QUEENSLAND FULLBACK ZAC SANTO BROKE THE LINE.



**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Joe O'Callaghan (Trainer), Zac Santo, Jack Kelleher, Kurt Mann, Brendan Lam (Coach), Cameron Cullen (c), Stephen Coombe, Luke Abdul-Rahman, Mitchum Ardler, Glenn Butcher (Manager)

**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Mark Tookey (Asst Coach), Francis Molo, Matthew Berwick, Iain Riccardi, Daniel Alvaro, Anthony Gadd, Tautau Moga, Rian Diffey, Hymel Hunt, Chris Grevsmuhl, Caleb Binge, Damian Cociolone (Physio)

## UNDER 18 MAROONS

Over the next few years, there is every chance that a number of players involved in the victorious Under 18 Maroons team will look back at this game as a defining moment of their careers.

That's because the players learnt a lot about themselves and emerged from a difficult away trip with a tough win. Like seasoned professionals, the team arrived in Coonabarabran after a long bus trip and got straight on with the job.

The Maroons defeated the New South Wales Country side 22-16 in a hard-fought game after leading 12-4 at half-time. Queensland got off to a promising start with tries to hooker Mitch Moore and centre Brett Greinke (converted by Dwyane Duncan), and

after the break kicked out to a 16-4 lead after a try through Anthony Scott.

The injection of Stephen Widders into the game for NSW Country sparked them into life, and when he crashed over from dummy half and converted his own try, the margin was back to six points. But the Queenslanders rallied and scored through captain Zac Friend and with the conversion from Patrick Mago, they led 22-10.

The Country boys scored again through fullback Charly Runciman and Widders converted, but it was not enough to deny the Maroons. The Maroons selected Runciman as the NSW Country's best player, with Country nominating Queensland captain Friend as their best. <



**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Clifford Beetham, Jordan White, Mitch Moore, Brett Greinke, Zac Friend (c), Dwayne Duncan, Jason Levy, Anthony Scott

**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Ron Tasker (Trainer), Brad Henderson (Coach), Tom Backhouse, Michael Holcroft, Jordan Tighe, Corey Jensen, Richard Duff (Manager), Ian Alberts (Physio)

**THIRD ROW (L-R):** Jack Svendsen, Patrick Mago, Richard Tuala, Aaron Rockley, Josh Jaggle

## QUEENSLAND UNDER 16S

If you listened to most pundits, it was supposed to be a giant mismatch.

New South Wales would simply be too big, too strong and too fast. But the reputation of the much-hyped young Blues mattered little to a committed group of Queenslanders who set Suncorp Stadium alight in the opening exchanges.

An early Queensland blitz resulted in tries to classy pair Ryan Mitchell and Luke Bateman. Spurred on by a crowd growing in size and vocal support by the minute, the young Maroons went on the attack for a third

unanswered try with a sweeping movement to the right. However, the final pass went to ground and it would later go down as a major turning point in the annual clash.

New South Wales steadily recovered to build an 18-10 lead late in the second half. But the hosts refused to go away, and when Jack Anderson crossed for a converted try, the margin was suddenly back to two points. Queensland then launched one last attacking raid on the NSW line, but much to the disappointment of coach Scott Dunshea, the young Maroons came up short as the Blues

held on for an 18-16 victory.

An emotional Dunshea was proud of his team's efforts, although he couldn't help but lament the missed chance. "If you get your opportunities, but you don't take them – that's what happens," Dunshea said.

"We started on fire and we did what we went out to do with the ball, but their bigger forwards started dominating in the back end of that first half, and we started to fatigue a bit in the back end ... just that constant defence against their big boys ... it took its toll." <



**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Nathan Wilson, Ryan Mitchell, Scott Dunshea (Coach), Duncan Paiaaua (c), Tony Dixon (Manager), Eric Blair, Jayden Berrell

**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Damian Cocciolone (Physio), Jack Anderson, Luke Bateman, Sam Gee, Brett Sartor (Trainer), Shaun Hudson, Temone Power, Paul Byrnes, Nathan Antonik (Asst Coach)

**THIRD ROW (L-R):** Harry Pondekas, Jarrod Earle, Tyson Cleal, Jai Arrow, Brenko Lee, James Iodice

## UNDER 16 MAROONS

In the first of three big representative matches at Coonabarabran on July 9, the Under 16 Maroons went down to a strong New South Wales Country team.

Although disappointed with the 40-16 loss, Maroons coach Adrian Vowles took many positives from the game. The Queensland players went into camp on the Gold Coast immediately upon the conclusion of the State Championships, taking in the sights of the tourist strip after regular training sessions. They made their way to the northern NSW town in high spirits

but when the game got underway, it was Country who made the early inroads.

Country skipped out to an early 14-4 lead before Queensland hooker Clint Posselt opened the scoring for the Maroons. Big forward Joseph Ofahengaue kept the Maroons in contention with the first of his two tries shortly before half-time.

However, the second half belonged to Country. Euan Aitkan planted the ball over the line on three occasions and Jade Antcliffe completed a double to ensure a comfortable victory for the home team. <

**ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTED WITH THE 40-16 LOSS, MAROONS COACH ADRIAN VOWLES TOOK MANY POSITIVES FROM THE GAME.**



**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Brandon Pryor, Corey Langton, Clint Posselt, Marcus Foreman, Michael Cochrane, Keith Gadd, Deacon Fletcher

**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Mark Winton (Trainer), Tuli Leota, Michael Lafferty, Keenin Stone, Valentine Holmes, Matt Turnbull, Adrian Vowles (Coach)

**THIRD ROW (L-R):** Joseph Ofahengaue, Jack Brock, Codey Kennedy, Alex Clark-Kennedy, Tim Wolens

## QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S TEAM

One of the state's most successful representative teams, the Queensland women's side continued their unprecedented dominance this year – claiming their 13<sup>th</sup> straight win over New South Wales in emphatic fashion.

Playing as the curtain-raiser to Game One of the Harvey Norman State of Origin series at Suncorp Stadium, the home side put on a strong display, winning the contest 26-0. It was the first time the team had played in the lead-up to an Origin game, and it gave rugby league fans the opportunity to see the skills and the talent nurtured by the burgeoning women's competitions in the state.

Speaking before the game, skipper Karyn Murphy said being able to expose the women's game to more fans was a "huge opportunity". After leading 14-0 at half-time, Queensland were able to go on with the job, and hold out all the NSW attack could throw at them to again lift the Nellie Doherty Cup.

Queensland's quest for 13 straight wins also captured the attention of the public, with the media keen to promote their achievements to date. The women's team were featured on the front page of *The Courier-Mail* on the eve of the game, no mean feat considering the fact the men's

side were aiming to make their own history by winning six series in a row.

The members of the Queensland team were selected following the successful Queensland Women's Rugby League State Championships, which were held on the Sunshine Coast in May.

In a further development this year, 2011 was also the first time an Emerging Squad was named. Modelled on the innovative men's Emerging Origin Squad concept, 21 players were selected for the program which is aimed at further developing female players to put them on the representative pathway. <



**FRONT ROW (L-R):** Natalie Gala, Natalie Dwyer, Tegan Rolfe, Tahnee Norris (vc), Karyn Murphy (c), Suzanne Johnson, Delwyn Fraser, Natasha Baggow

**SECOND ROW (L-R):** Sarah Lewis (Physio), Therese Kelly (Asst Coach), Kaitlin Moss, Carl Liesegang (Trainer), Bianca Ambrum, Rebecca Taylor (Manager), Steve Belsham (Coach)

**THIRD ROW (L-R):** Nicole Curtis, Stephanie Hancock, Tui Cope, Heather Ballinger, Joanne Barrett, Erin Elliott, Renae Kunst

## CYRIL CONNELL & MAL MENINGA CUPS

Under a revamped structure, Queensland's premier Under 16 and Under 18 competitions went from strength to strength in 2011.

With the Southern and Northern Conferences phased out, a 'Statewide' format was introduced with encouraging results. Sixteen teams competed in both the Connell and Meninga Cups, with the opening round kicking off in early March.

Both age groups were split into four pools, with set double header weekends to limit travel. Each pool consisted of four teams who played each other once. Crossover games with another pool followed and the top ranked team from each pool qualified for the semi-finals.

The semi-finals were played in front of a big crowd at Redcliffe's Dolphin Oval on April 30. In the first Connell Cup semi-final, the Central Comets defeated Gold Coast Green 20-18. The second match was another tight affair, with the Easts Tigers confirming their spot in the Queensland final with a tense 32-26 win over the Toowoomba Clydesdales.

The Meninga Cup semi-finals saw the Townsville Stingers and Norths Devils advance to the Queensland decider. The Stingers beat Souths Logan 34-22, while the Devils shook off the Sunshine Coast to win 28-14.

The spotlight then fell on the picturesque Langlands Park the following weekend for the Queensland finals. The Connell Cup final was a gripping end-to-end contest between two equally matched teams. The lead changed hands on numerous occasions before the Easts Tigers finally saw off the Comets to win an enthralling tussle 28-22. Central's Duncan Paiaaau was named man of the match for his classy performance at five-eighth.

The Norths Devils ran away with the Meninga Cup final, downing the Stingers 28-10. The Devils led 10-4 at half-time and were never really threatened in the second half. The man of the match award went to Devils star Francis Molo.

The two Queensland winners had to keep the celebrations low key as they had just a few more days to prepare for the National finals in Sydney. Connell Cup holders the Tigers were brave in defeat against the Canterbury Bulldogs, while Meninga Cup champions the Devils put in a strong showing but went down to the Newcastle Knights. Both National finals were replayed on Fox Sports. <



THE NORTHS DEVILS RAN AWAY WITH THE MENINGA CUP FINAL, DOWNING THE STINGERS 28-10.



Cyril Connell Cup Winners



Mal Meninga Cup Winners

## A GRADE CARNIVAL

Central Division grabbed the overall honours at the 2011 A Grade Divisional Championships.

Central took home the silverware after beating the Northern Marlins 18-16 in a thriller on the opening day and the Kookaburras 44-18 on day two. The SEQ Poinsettias were also unbeaten but they finished behind the slick Central Division outfit in the final competition standings.

Selectors were quick to recognise the

performances of both Central and the Poinsettias, with the two teams providing a combined total of 13 players to the Queensland Rangers team that would later go on to play New South Wales Country.

The 2011 carnival was again played at Pizzey Park on the Gold Coast and it received terrific support from WIN Television. The standard of rugby league impressed many good judges as the best local players from outside of the Intrust Super Cup

showcased their skills.

Central's Mat Templeman, who scored three tries in two games, was named Player of the Carnival. Teammate Shaun Collins also impressed, scoring a hat-trick in Central's final day win over the Kookaburras to seal his spot in the Rangers team.

**Final Points:** Central Division 8.5, South East Queensland Poinsettias 7.5, Northern Marlins 3.5, South East Queensland Kookaburras 0.5 <

## OUTBACK MATCHES

With talk of snow falling near Uralla, this year's representative match was always going to be a challenging experience for the Queensland Outback team.

On paper, the Queenslanders were also up against it, with the New South Wales Country Seconds team having a much bigger player pool to choose from and a far more experienced side. But nothing could dampen the Queensland team's enthusiasm when players from a host of genuine bush competitions arrived alongside coach

Richard Steele for the first training session in Toowoomba.

Players from Mount Isa, Barcadine, Mitchell, Doomadgee, Hughenden, Normanton, Miles and Winton came together for the July 23 clash at Uralla's Woodville Oval. Fortunately, the snow stayed from the tiny NSW town but conditions were "absolutely freezing" when the game kicked off at 2.30pm.

Queensland Outback made a promising start, crossing for the first try of the match through classy hooker Brent Kuskey. However, Country soon grabbed the ascendancy to run away with a comprehensive 48-8 victory. Kuskey

was awarded the best and fairest player by the Country Bulls, while Chris Trembath took the honours for the NSW side.

The Queensland team was selected from the Outback Carnival held at Barcadine. Mount Isa took the honours in the open grade after three strong wins. They finished on 13.5 points, well clear of Mid West (8),

Central West (7) and South West (1.5).

Central West were the Under 20 winners, accumulating 14 points to edge out South West (11). Central West's Robert Ellis was named the Under 20 Player of the Carnival. The talented centre was one of six players selected in the Outback Under 20 team that drew 20-all with Rockhampton. <



## SCHOOLS

Only one point could separate rivals Palm Beach Currumbin and Keebra Park in this year's Queensland final of the National Schoolboys Cup. Played in front of a huge crowd at Pizzey Park on the Gold Coast, it was a Kane Elgey field goal in extra time that gave his Palm Beach side a 25-24 victory.

Palm Beach looked to be doing it easy early in the game, leading 24-6, before a spirited comeback from Keebra Park levelled the scores. However, it was not enough, and the one-point win gave Palm Beach the chance to represent the state in the National semi-final at Parramatta. Unfortunately, they lost the match against The Hills 36-10, with the NSW school going on to claim back-to-back titles.

In July this year, the Queensland Schoolboys 18 Years team took part in the

National Championships at St Marys. In the championship final against NSWCCC, the Queensland team was the first to score with a try to Sam Harrold after only three minutes of play. However, they were to be their only points of the day, as NSWCCC went on to take the hard-fought decider 20-4.

In the Under 15s, NSWCHS won the championship final over Queensland Maroon 16-12 in a game that went down to the wire. In tough conditions at Perth's Nib Stadium, it was the NSW side who managed to get the result in a high-quality match.

One of the major events on the Queensland Primary Schools Rugby League calendar was the State Under 12 Carnival held at Wynnum in June. The final was a great game between South Coast and the Sunshine Coast, which resulted

in an 8-8 draw at full-time, meaning both teams shared the honour of being named State Champions. Following the carnival, a strong Queensland team was selected to contest the National Under 12 Exchange in Melbourne in August. Queensland was the dominant team throughout the championships and went on to defeat the ACT 26-0 in the final.

This year saw 452 Queensland schools represented in the ARL Development Cup. The restructured competition saw Tully Combined State School play a combined Millmerran State School/St Joseph's side in the final at Dairy Farmers Stadium. Played as a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys v Cronulla Sharks game, it was a great experience for all the young players involved. Millmerran took the honours 34-10. <





## BRISBANE BRONCOS



While they were not able to give retiring skipper Darren Lockyer a fairytale farewell, the Brisbane Broncos came agonisingly close, bowing out one game before the grand final.

Despite that disappointment, it was almost fitting that Lockyer – who suffered a fractured cheekbone in the Broncos' qualifying final win over the St George Illawarra Dragons – would play his final club game at Suncorp Stadium.

A preliminary final berth was a satisfying achievement for a club which started the year in less than desirable fashion, replacing head coach Ivan Henjak with Anthony Griffin only weeks out from the season opener. It

was never going to be easy, but Griffin – who gained much of his coaching experience in the Queensland Cup – was able to get the most out of his young players.

They began the season with a rare loss against the North Queensland Cowboys; and despite many pundits predicting they would again miss the top eight, the team defied early expectations to perform strongly all year. Young gun Jack Reed followed in the footsteps of Matt Gillett, the 2010 NRL Rookie of the Year. The unflappable Reed was selected from the Norths Devils to play in the NRL opener and he held his own throughout the entire season. The experience of older players like outgoing captain Lockyer

and next season's skipper Sam Thaiday was also a vital part in shaping their success.

Feeder clubs the Wynnum Manly Seagulls and Redcliffe Dolphins enjoyed particularly successful years – with the Seagulls taking out this year's Intrust Super Cup title at Suncorp Stadium. Broncos-contracted players Mitchell Dodds, Dane Carlaw and Kurtis Lingwood were key members of the successful team which overcame six-straight losses at the start of the season to take out the premiership. The Central Comets and Norths Devils – the Broncos' two other feeder teams – achieved mixed results, while the Dolphins were knocked out in the preliminary final stage by Wynnum Manly. <

## NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS



The North Queensland Cowboys returned to form this year, making the top eight for the first time since 2007.

Key to that success was the return to fitness for most of the season of Matt Bowen and Queensland Origin halfback Johnathan Thurston, with their combination again proving deadly in attack. The addition of experienced players including Dallas Johnson and Brent Tate was another major factor in turning their fortunes around.

Coach Neil Henry was also able to unearth talented youngsters like Tariq Sims, a key player who was also nominated for this year's Rookie

of the Year award at the Dally Ms. Despite their improved showing this year, they ran out of steam at the end of the season. The Cowboys went into their week one finals game against eventual premiers the Manly Sea Eagles with only one win from their last five games, and despite putting up a strong fight early, crashed out of contention with a 42-8 loss.

The Under 20s side enjoyed another successful season, building on their strong performance from the year before to finish the regular season in second spot. The team performed well throughout the finals series, making it all the way to the main game.

However, they suffered a heart-breaking extra time loss in the grand final against defending premiers the New Zealand Warriors.

The Cowboys' Intrust Super Cup feeder clubs had mixed results, with last year's premiers the Northern Pride halted in their quest to repeat their grand final success. The Pride, who finished second on the ladder, were defeated in the preliminary final by minor premiers the Tweed Heads Seagulls. Playing under a new coach this year, the Mackay Cutters were unable to secure back-to-back finals appearances, with injuries hindering their campaign. <



## GOLD COAST TITANS



There is no other way to describe it but as a season of discontent for the Gold Coast Titans.

After making the 2010 preliminary finals, there were high expectations this year of the competition's youngest club. However, they finished the year with the wooden spoon after injuries and inconsistency cruelled any chance of mounting another strong campaign to claim their maiden title.

Key players like Nathan Friend were out of action for much of the year, while the retirement in 2010 of Mat Rogers saw the

club struggle to find a suitable replacement to partner Scott Prince in the halves.

There were a few bright sparks to their season however, with the emergence of impressive rookie Matt Srama and the selection of reliable backrower Ashley Harrison for State of Origin duty with Queensland.

Another bonus was the performances on the field of their feeder clubs in the Intrust Super Cup, in particular the Tweed Heads Seagulls and the Ipswich Jets. The Jets turned around the disappointment of the

2010 season to make this year's finals, while the Seagulls broke all sorts of records on the way to the minor premiership and the grand final, only stumbling at the final hurdle against Wynnum Manly.

The retirement of Preston Campbell will no doubt be felt next year, with the foundation player a key part in building strong community ties. However, the Titans can boast a number of big name signings for the coming season, spearheaded by representative players Nate Myles, Jamal Idris and Beau Champion. <

## STATISTICS 2011

The following displays the numbers of senior and junior clubs, teams and players registered for the season.

### SENIORS

Clubs 228  
Teams 504  
Players 15,639

### JUNIORS

Clubs 218  
Teams 2567  
Players 44,229 <



## 2011 SENIOR PREMIERS

### MAJOR COMPETITIONS

**INTRUST SUPER CUP**  
Wynnum Manly Seagulls

**FOGS CUP**  
Redcliffe Dolphins

**FOGS COLTS**  
Norths Devils

### SOUTH EAST DIVISION

**GOLD COAST**  
Bilambil Jets

**IPSWICH**  
Brothers

**BRISBANE SECOND DIVISION**  
Premier Grade  
Easts Juniors

### CENTRAL DIVISION

**WESTERN LEAGUE**  
Charleville Comets

**CENTRAL WEST**  
Winton Devils

**ROMA & DISTRICT**  
Chinchilla Bulldogs

**BORDER RUGBY LEAGUE**  
Inglewood Roosters

**TOOWOOMBA**  
Valleys Roosters

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS**  
Peak Downs Pirates

**ROCKHAMPTON**  
Yeppoon Seagulls

**GLADSTONE**  
Brothers

**SUNSHINE COAST/GYMPIE**  
Caboolture Snakes

**NORTHERN DISTRICTS**  
Miriam Vale Magpies

**FRASER COAST**  
Wallaroos

**BURNETT PREMIER LEAGUE**  
Wondai Wolves

**BUNDABERG**  
Brothers

### NORTHERN DIVISION

**MOUNT ISA**  
Northern Storm

**MID WEST**  
Doomadgee Dragons

**MACKAY & DISTRICT**  
Moranbah Miners

**TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT**  
Brothers

**CAIRNS & DISTRICT**  
Brothers

## CONCLUSION

In January this year, before a rugby league ball had even been kicked, Queensland was under siege. First came the devastating floods. And as if on cue, Cyclone Yasi swept through the north, creating further suffering and chaos in many communities.

The immediate focus was to get Queenslanders back on their feet. But as families rebuilt and local townships and cities were gradually restored, the reality set in that life had to go on. The commencement of sporting fixtures would prove to be a positive 'distraction' and a true sign that life was getting back to normal. As one of the most popular sports in Queensland, rugby league had a huge role to play.

It would be no easy task though. Many local club participants and their families didn't have a home to return to. Some club facilities were destroyed – even the spiritual home of rugby league in Queensland – Suncorp Stadium – couldn't escape nature's fury. But like the rest of Queensland, the rugby league community fought back. Through the efforts of many volunteers, and with guidance from the Rebuilding Rugby League Committee, junior and senior rugby league fixtures throughout the State got underway on time.

Financial support was provided to individual families and clubs. While these vital dollars were essential to the mere existence of some clubs and associations, no dollar

value could be placed on rugby league's ability to unite across many fronts.

The events that unfolded throughout the early months of 2011 added further motivation to Queensland's flagship team – the Queensland Maroons. This champion team did not need another incentive to win given it would be Darren Lockyer's final Origin series. But make no mistake, the Maroons wanted to win just as much for the people who had suffered through the hard times.

On June 8, Mal Meninga and his Maroons team visited Emerald, a Central Queensland town ravaged by flood waters. The Maroons left a lasting impression on thousands of locals who lined the streets for an opportunity to meet and greet their heroes. The entire Maroons squad took part in a luncheon and training session before signing autographs for fans, many of whom had driven hundreds of kilometres to see them. The Queensland players were humbled by this experience. It was yet another example of rugby league's united approach in Queensland and the elite level of the game's ability to connect with the grassroots.

Despite the early setbacks, participation levels throughout the junior and senior ranks remained healthy in 2011. Competitions were won and lost, with grand final days providing epic finishes – from the Gold Coast thriller in the south to the hard-fought Cairns decider in the north. Major competitions – headed by

the Intrust Super Cup – were again of a high standard. With the growth of the Intrust Super Cup and progression of the Mal Meninga and Cyril Connell Cups along with the FOGS competitions, there have never been more pathways for players, coaches and match officials alike.

With the advent of the Independent Commission, the League is in a strong position to move forward and meet the challenges ahead. The League is now reaping the benefits from the extensive review of its Governance structure. Positive outcomes have been achieved through the recent restructuring of Divisions and the positioning of Independent Directors on the QRL Board.

Importantly, the League is employing more and more people on a local league level and in the education and development field. This is assisting with the game's growth throughout Queensland, a poignant factor with the arrival of the Commission.

Right from the outset, the League has been heavily involved in negotiations regarding the formation of the Commission. Board representatives Terry Mackenroth and Bruce Hatcher have been at the forefront of the complex negotiations. An exciting era is now ready to begin and the League feels it could not be in a better position to continue with its charter of fostering and developing the game throughout Queensland. <



# FINANCIALS



## DECLARATIONS

### OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

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

In order to ensure the long term objectives are being met the Company will:

- Organise, conduct, and develop competitions within Queensland for junior 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;
- To subscribe to, become a member of and co-operate with any other club, association or organisation, whether incorporated or not, whose objects are altogether or in part similar to those of the QRL;
- To enter into any arrangements with any government or authority, supreme, municipal, local or otherwise that may seem conducive to the QRL's Objects or any of them;
- Regulate and control the operation of all member bodies and affiliates;
- Make grants by way of gift and to render other financial assistance to the clubs and other persons and bodies connected with the game.

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

In order to ensure the short term objectives are met, the Company will:

- Promote and communicate the achievements of the QRL within the various communities;
- Continue to support and resource the Qld State of Origin program;
- Proactively identify and develop the future Origin players through an ongoing association with the Queensland Academy of Sport.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the QRL during the course of the financial year were the fostering and propagation of Rugby League in Queensland.

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

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.

### OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Profit/(Loss) from Operating Activities, after Grants and other payments to Local Leagues and Clubs, for the financial year was \$104540 (2010: (\$110383)).

### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

In the opinion of the Directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company that occurred during the financial year under review not otherwise disclosed in this report, the accounts or the review of the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.

### EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

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

### LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS

The Directors are not aware of any particular changes in the operations of the Company which will materially affect the results in subsequent years.

### DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY

The Company has provided for and paid premiums during the year for Directors' and Officers' Liability insurance. The insurance is in respect of legal liability for damages and legal costs arising from claims made by reason of any omissions or acts (other than

dishonesty) by them, whilst acting in their individual or collective capacity as Directors or Officers of the Company.

The Company has not included details of the nature of the liabilities covered or the amount of the premium paid in respect of the Directors' and Officers' Liability and Legal Expenses insurance contracts, as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of the contracts.

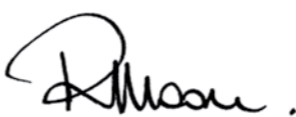
### AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The Auditors' Independence Declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, is set out on page xx.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors. <



**J.N. McDonald AM**  
Director



**R. W. Moore**  
Director


*Dated this 18th day of November 2011*

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The Directors of the Company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001; (a) comply with Accounting Standards; and (b) give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 September 2011 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the Directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debt as and when they become due and payable.

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



**J.N. McDonald AM**  
Director



**R. W. Moore**  
Director

*Dated this 18th day of November 2011*

## AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATION ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

We declare that to the best of our knowledge and belief, during the financial year ended 30 September 2011 there has 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 any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

### Name of Firm:

Griffin Carr  
Chartered Accountants

### Name of Partner:

J M Griffin

### Address:

Lvl 22, 288 Edward Street, Brisbane Qld 4000



*Dated this 18th day of November 2011*

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

### REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2011, Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the Directors' declaration

### DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Company's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Directors' responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Directors' financial reporting under the Corporation Act 2001. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

### INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporation Act 2001, provided to the Directors of Queensland Rugby League Limited would be in the same terms if provided to the Directors as the date of this auditors report.

### AUDITORS' OPINION

In our opinion the financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 September 2011 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and complying with the Corporations Regulations 2001.

#### Name of Firm:

Griffin Carr  
Chartered Accountants

#### Name of Partner:

J M Griffin

#### Address:

Lvl 22, 288 Edward Street, Brisbane Qld 4000



Dated this 18th day of November 2011

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

	NOTES	2011 \$	2010 \$
Profit for Operating Activities Before Grants	2	746992	661550
<b>Less</b> Grants and Appropriations		642452	771933
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<b>104540</b>	<b>(110383)</b>

The Statement of Comprehensive Income is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements set out in pages 58 to 61.

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

	NOTES	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	4	12282800	3888992
Receivables	5	3795659	3379042
Inventories	6	21673	18544
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>16100132</b>	<b>7286578</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property Plant and Equipment	7	164415	163392
Other	8	258500	25000
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>		<b>422915</b>	<b>188392</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>16523047</b>	<b>7474970</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	9	10614392	1605814
Provisions	10	326519	399089
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>10940911</b>	<b>2004903</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	10	41211	33682
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>41211</b>	<b>33682</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>10982122</b>	<b>2038585</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>5540925</b>	<b>5436385</b>
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>			
Retained Profits		5540925	5436385
<b>Total Members Funds</b>		<b>5540925</b>	<b>5436385</b>
Commitments	13		

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements set out in pages 58 to 61.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

	NOTES	2011 \$	2010 \$
Total Equity at the Beginning of the Financial Year		5436385	5546768
Total Comprehensive Income		104540	(110383)
<b>Total Equity at the end of Financial Year</b>		<b>5540925</b>	<b>5436385</b>

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements set out in pages 58 to 61.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

	NOTES	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash Receipts in the course of operations		9890964	8454943
Cash Payments in the course of operations		(10307463)	(10155289)
		(416499)	(1700346)
Cash Receipts from Origin Series Payable		8719046	–
Net Cash/(used in) provided by operating activities	14	8302547	(1700346)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Interest Received		392822	274366
Payments for/Sales of property, plant and equipment		(60275)	(84356)
Profit/(Loss) from sale of non-current assets		(7786)	(18012)
Loan – Associated Club		(233500)	(25000)
Net Cash provided by investing activities		91261	146998
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>			
Net Increase(decrease) in cash held		8393808	(1553348)
Cash at beginning of the financial year	14	3888992	5442340
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12282800</b>	<b>3888992</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements set out in pages 58 to 61.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

## 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This 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.

### REPORTING BASIS AND CONVENTIONS

The Directors have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Company is a non reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports. This financial report is therefore a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Corporations Act 2001, and the significant accounting policies disclosed below which the Directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurements at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

### ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Property, Plant and Equipment

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

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by Directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### Initial Recognition and Measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the company commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (ie trade date accounting adopted)

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transactions costs except where the instrument is classified 'at fair value through profit or loss' in which case transaction costs are expenses to profit or loss immediately.

#### Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

### INTANGIBLES

#### Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

### Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

### Taxation

No income tax was provided because of the exemption allowed under Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act (1997) in respect of income of a Company which is not carried on for the purposes of profit making. The Queensland Rugby Football League Limited is a Company formed to encourage an athletic sport.

### Investments

Financial instruments held for trading are classified as Current Assets and are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised in the Profit and Loss Statement.

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments.

### Inventories

Inventories, representing footballs and manuals, are carried at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### Receivables

#### Trade Debtors

Trade Debtors to be settled within 30 days are carried at amounts due. The collectability of debts is assessed at balance date and specific provisions made for any doubtful accounts.

### Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Company during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of liability.

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian 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 balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>2. OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
Turnover from Trading Activities	10307581	9917073
Revenue from outside operating activities:-		
Interest Received - Investments	392822	274366
	10700403	10191439
<b>OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>		
Operating Profit/(Loss) has been arrived at after charging/(crediting) the following items:-		
Depreciation	52994	48295
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Non-Current Assets	(7786)	(18012)
Directors' Income. The number of Directors of the Company whose income from the Company falls within the following band: \$10000 - \$19999	NUMBER 8	NUMBER 8
<b>Total income received by all Directors of the Company from the Company</b>	<b>80000</b>	<b>80000</b>
<b>3. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION</b>		
Amounts received or due and receivable for audit purposes	27201	34310
<b>4. CASH</b>		
Cash at Bank	12282800	3888992
<b>5. RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade Debtors	3795659	3379042



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>6. INVENTORIES</b>		
Finished goods - at cost	21673	18544
<b>7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Motor Vehicle and Equipment - at cost	424627	394221
Less Provision for Depreciation	260212	230829
	<b>164415</b>	<b>163392</b>

### 8. OTHER

Loan – Southern Suburbs Rugby League Football Club Ltd	101000	25000
Loan - Northern Pride Rugby League Football Club	7500	–
Loan - Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles Rugby League Football Club	150000	–
	<b>258500</b>	<b>25000</b>

### 9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Trade Creditors and Accruals	10614392	1605814
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### 10. PROVISIONS ENTITLEMENTS

Employee Entitlements	367730	432771
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### 11. RELATED PARTIES

#### DIRECTORS

The names of each person holding the position of Director of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited during the financial year are:-

**Messrs J.N. McDonald A.M., L. W. Anderson, P.J. Betros, T. W. Bliss, M.J. Borland, R. D. Green, B.M. Hatcher, R.A. Livermore, T.M. Mackenroth, W.B. Prescott, J. Ribot DeBresac. G. Sutherland, B.A. Tallon, N.J Tillet.**

The Chairman, Mr J.N. McDonald is Managing Director of Cracker Print and Paper Pty Ltd. During the year the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited engaged Cracker Print and Paper Pty Ltd to supply material relating to the printing of programmes and stationery. All dealings were based on normal commercial terms and conditions. Details of Directors' remuneration are set out in Note 2.

### 12. SEGMENT REPORTING

The Company's principal activity is the promotion of Rugby League in Queensland which includes the negotiation and management of sponsorship and licensing agreements, television rights, education, coaching and development and the staging of matches. Queensland Rugby League's principal place of operation is Brisbane, Australia.

### 13. COMMITMENTS

#### SUPERANNUATION COMMITMENTS

The Company contributes to an employee Superannuation Fund based on a percentage of gross salary.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

### 14. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

#### (i) Reconciliation of cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank, short term deposits at call and debentures. The Company has no credit standby arrangements. Cash as at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	NOTES	2011	2010
		\$	\$
Cash	4	12282800	3888992
		<b>12282800</b>	<b>3888992</b>

#### (ii) Reconciliation of Operating Profit to net cash provided by operating activities.

Operating Profit/(Loss)	104540	(110383)
<i>Add/(Less) items classified as investing/financing activities:</i>		
Profit/(Loss) on sale on non-current assets	7786	18012
Interest received	(392822)	(274366)
<i>Add/(Less) non cash items:</i>		
Amounts set aside to provisions	(65041)	18459
Depreciation	52994	48295
Net Cash provided by operating activities before change in assets and liabilities	(292543)	(299983)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	3129	9390
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(416617)	(1417130)
(Decrease)/increase in trade creditors	9008578	7377
<b>Net Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>8302547</b>	<b>(1700346)</b>



