

History of the 47th Battalion Memorial Trophy

The Trophy is a wonderful memorial to the 47th Battalion Regiment which has its headquarters in Maryborough, but it's formation many years ago drew men from all parts of the Wide Bay area.

The 47th Battalion Memorial Trophy was donated in 1971 by Bundaberg's Peter Marcellos, who emigrated from Greece and served in the Battalion that the Trophy was named for in World War 2.

It was his tribute to the memory of fallen comrades during the battles in World War 2.

The competition, which commenced in 1971, began an era which over the years drew together rugby league personnel and members of the 47th Battalion in a spirit of cooperation and remembrance of those members of the Battalion who paid the price to ensure this country retained its freedom and way of life.

Peter Marcellos, who passed away in 1988, was born in Greece and arrived in Australia prior to the outbreak of hostilities in 1939.

He enlisted in the 47th Battalion where he made many of his first friends in his adopted country.

In Peter's own words, "the 47th Battalion was my family and I wish to perpetuate the memory of the many friends I made, which includes those who paid the highest price in the Middle East and Papua New Guinea."

The original competition was started with Maryborough, Bundaberg, Gympie, South Burnett and Sunshine Coast competing, with Central Burnett given full membership in 1985.

Essentially, that competition drew its teams and players from the same areas as the 47th Battalion.

With the formulation of the Central Division through the merger of the former Wide Bay, Central and South West Divisions, the competition was expanded in 2010 and invitations extended to all Local Leagues to participate.

In 2011, four Women's teams were added to the competition.

In 2014, Northern Wide Bay (Central Burnett, South Burnett and Northern Districts) and South West Country (Roma District, Border and Western League) were added to make an eight-team group.

The 2019 competitions feature Men's teams from Sunshine Coast, South West Country, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Central Highlands, Rockhampton, Gladstone, and North Wide Bay.

Women's teams are from the Sunshine Coast, Central Highlands, Bundaberg, South West, Gladstone and Rockhampton.

