
St George Illawarra Dragons

Community Report *2019*



dragons.com.au



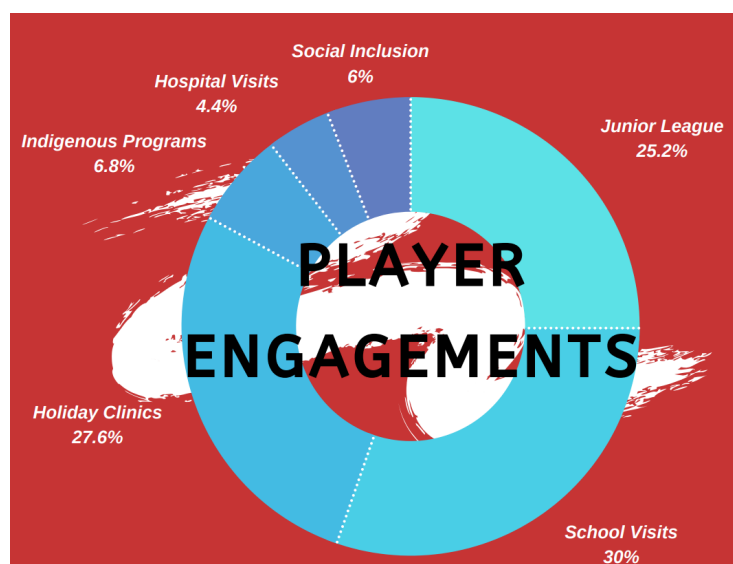
About Community

Dragons Community support and present programs around three community pillars that reflect the needs within our local community. We have tailored programs and formed partnerships with the NRL and key local organisations in line with each of the pillars: **Health & Wellbeing**, **Grassroots** and **Social Inclusion**

Each pillar and program is continually monitored to ensure the best possible outcome for all involved. Dragons Community is now an integral part of the communities it services. We have been proactive in providing valuable programs and producing resources which many can benefit from.

Player Involvement

Whether it is by direct participation or through media such as educational resources, website, mass media or social media, player involvement in community is paramount to the success of Dragons Community. Dragons' players in particular understand that they are in a unique position whereby they can promote and encourage, either directly or indirectly, the physical, cultural and intellectual welfare of young people in our community. In 2019 the NRL squad engaged in 250 appearances, we are very fortunate to also be supported by players from NSW Cup, Jersey Flegg, SG Ball and Tarsha Gale (Steelers and Dragons) volunteering for over 1000 hours of engagements.



Dragons 2019 Junior League Journal: The St George Illawarra Dragons, with financial support from Illawarra JRL, South Coast Group 7 JRL, St George JRL, were able to offer all registered junior rugby league participants (6s – 12s), the opportunity to receive a complimentary **Little Dragons Membership**. (4989 members) an exclusive, complimentary Little Dragons Boot Bag.



St George Illawarra 2019 'Back 2 Juniors' rugby league visits saw all 35 clubs in Dragons catchment visited by Dragons Players and Ambassadors, with the biggest day being held in May with 25 Club visits conducted from Gerringong to Earlwood.



Korbin Sims, Jackson Ford (both Gerringong Lions), Tyson Frizell (Corrimal Cougars), Blake Lawrie (Dapto Canaries), Jai Field (Shellharbour Sharks), Tristan Sailor (Wests Illawarra), Luciano Leilua (Hurstville United), Matt Dufty (Penshurst RSL) and Jacob Host (Renown United) were fortunate enough to return to their own junior clubs.

Game Day Challenge: This initiative involved 615 local juniors (41 under 10 teams) being provided the opportunity to play one of our home games:

WIN Stadium, Netstrata Jubilee Oval, Sydney Cricket Ground and Glen Willow Sporting Complex, Mudgee. This experience stays with these players for a lifetime.

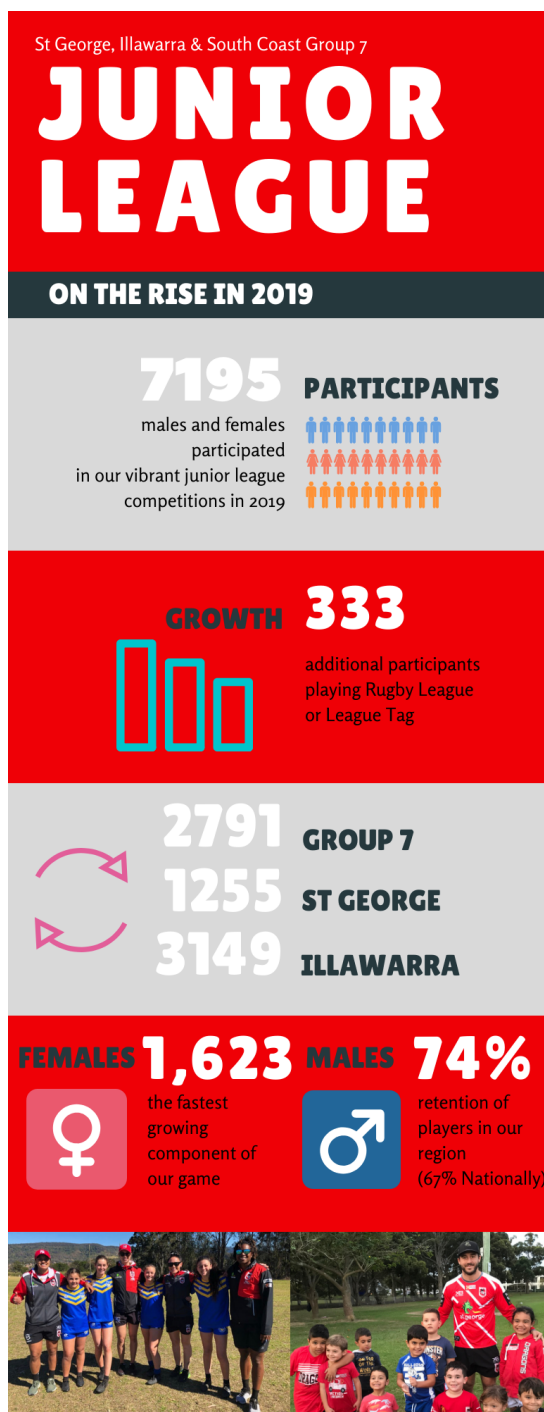


League Stars is safe, inclusive and educational. The local NRL Development Officers have ensured every participant has equal opportunity to laugh and learn in a non-contact, organised and safe environment.

In a credit to the staff we have working in our St George Illawarra catchment they have led the way in participation number of the program in 2019

Game Day Initiatives: A highlight for our young players is walking out with our NRL Players as Junior League Ambassadors at our home games.

2019 once again saw the **Junior League Relay** with 27 Clubs, 198 players taking part in a great spectacle at half time at our Round 15 and Round 20 games.



‘The Best You Can Be’ Diary (Primary School)

The Dragons school planner ‘The Best You Can Be’ is a 40 page resource with numerous focused and a tips for students to follow. Focus topics include: the importance of sleep, nutrition, respect, kindness, screen time, positivity and the importance of family meal time. Additionally, Dragons players also draw from their own lives to provide motivation for all children to be the best they can be in all aspects of life.



5825 STUDENTS

will be encouraged to make positive choices around health, education and social issues



SCHOOLS

61

schools take part in program, up from 44 in 2018



253 TEACHERS / CLASSROOMS



engaged in wellbeing conversations and physical activity lessons throughout 2019

proudly supported by



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Score Dragons

The Illawarra/South Coast junior league and the Disability Trust partnered in 2014 to create a new all-inclusive program for participants with disabilities to be a part of the local Illawarra Junior Rugby League competition.

The program has continued to thrive via the success of the program in our region and wouldn't be possible without the support from our Junior League Clubs playing host.

The Dragons have now helped to get the SCORE Program up and running in Campbelltown (SCORE Tigers), Canberra (SCORE Raiders) and most recently in Melbourne (SCORE Storm).

Besides the highlight of playing in the local league each week a major achievement this year was the SCORE Dragons v SCORE Raiders game being played at the Sydney Cricket Ground as the Round 25 Dragons v Tigers curtain raiser.



Game On!

The Bevelsie Family Trust program has been simply outstanding. Through the generosity of Bob and Narelle St Clair, Dragons Community has been able to help many needy associations, charities and individuals.

Opportunities for disadvantaged, disabled and senior citizens include:

- An Open Air Corporate Box, which has been donated to selected charities
- 'Kids Big Day Out' 200 Kids and Their Families supported
- 'High Tea at the Footy' 120 senior citizens were our guests





Dragons Community / NRL Development Team:

The Dragons work very closely with NRLD and have a very strong team which is highly regarded in our communities.

Adam Bezzina Manager Dragons Community

Kezie Apps Dragons Community Officer

Paul Everill Dragons Inclusion and Outreach

Matt O'Brien Manager, NRL Development, Southern NSW

Pamela Goodridge and Huw Ellis NRL Development Officers – St George

Brooke Smith and Kyle Williams NRL Development Officers – Illawarra

Tim Del Guzzo and Cheyanne Hatch NRL Development Officers – South Coast

Dragons Community Female Ambassadors We are very fortunate to have 5 female ambassadors: Shakhia Tungai, Sam Bremner, Emma McKeon (Swimming), Grace Stewart (Hockey) and Sally Fitzgibbons (Surfing)

