



2017 SEASON REVIEW

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB
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ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

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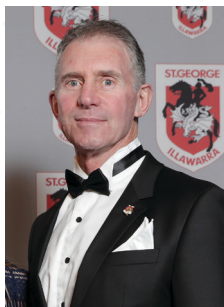
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JACK DE BELIN



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRIAN JOHNSTON

2017 was a mixed season for the St George Illawarra Dragons where we were represented by teams competing in the NRL Telstra Premiership and NYC Holden Cup as well as Illawarra in the Intrust Super Premiership.

These competitions – including the Harold Matthews, SG Ball and newly-introduced Tarsha Gale Cup – play a vital role in providing valuable opportunities for our players who want to compete for higher honours.

I was honoured to be elected Chairman of the St George Illawarra Dragons in April this year following the resignation of Warren Lockwood.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Warren for his services to our club and the game of rugby league. Warren was first appointed Chairman of the St George Illawarra Dragons back in 2001 and spent 17 years representing our club with distinction.

I plan to build upon Warren's contribution to the Dragons and consider it an absolute privilege to represent the club as Chairman.

My role is strategic rather than operational and my vision involves strategies surrounding a sustainable financial model for the club which is indeed a challenging environment with only one NRL club consistently making a profit each year. It is important to do so as it would be very positive to relieve our Leagues Clubs from some of their contributions that they make so that they then can focus on their associated junior leagues and charities, in particular.

I have been actively involved in the NRL Chairman meetings throughout the year, which have been successfully negotiating new funding models and constitutional reforms with the ARLC.

It has been well documented that we have been assessing our governance and ownership structure for some time and it remains a priority. Even though these discussions have been ongoing for some time, it is imperative that any decisions regarding our structures are right.

We are very proud of our club and brand and if there was to be change it

would need to be with right partner and association, to continue the traditions and history of our great club.

On-field success also remains paramount to the overall success of the Dragons. While the ninth-place finish wasn't the desired outcome there were plenty of positive signs that suggested success isn't too far around the corner – the club's positive start to the 2017 season, rising talent and recruitment is a testament to this. This was also reiterated in June, upon coach Paul McGregor re-signing with the club for a further two seasons.

Our Rugby League Performance Committee, of which I am a member, has been a worthy initiative. It has involved independent expertise from outside of rugby league and already we have seen some short-term positive improvements with long-term planning and a holistic approach to rugby league the priority.

As far as on-field milestones go, I'd like to congratulate local junior Jason Nightingale on becoming the third-highest capped St George Illawarra player in the club's history. In the same breath, Jason also became the fourth-most capped player across St George, Illawarra and St George Illawarra and crossed for his 100th NRL try throughout the season.

This year we also introduced two Dragons Ambassadors in New South Wales and Jillaroos duo Kezie Apps and Sam Bremner. I would like to thank the ladies for their contribution to the Dragons and the community in 2017, and congratulate them for their successes at the women's 2017 Rugby League World Cup.

Our Intrust Super Premiership outfit Illawarra faced a challenging season under coach Mathew Head – but did extremely well to play finals football in 2017. The Dragons' recent announcement regarding our 2018 Nuclear Model will see us represented as St George Illawarra in the ISP come 2018 which will only prove beneficial for both current and aspiring first grade players.

The 'Whole of Game' structural changes will also have implications for the Under-20s as they shift to the state-based reintroduction of the Jersey Flegg

competition. The final season of the Holden Cup proved one of the Dragons' biggest highlights in 2017 following their run to the preliminary finals. While they were unable to defeat eventual premiers in the Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles, the efforts coach Wayne Collins and his young squad put in throughout the year were admirable.

As a whole I'd like to thank Paul McGregor as well as his coaching, medical, performance and specialist staff for their contributions throughout the season.

Thank you to St George Junior Rugby Football League President Mitchell Sim and the Board as well as Chris Bannerman and the Illawarra League in association with Kevin Felgate of the CRL. The dedicated volunteers at both junior rugby league districts remain crucial in the rise of our junior players and potential future Dragons.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our longstanding business partners for their contribution and backing in supporting the Red V and helping it continue as the most recognised brand in rugby league. This includes our major sponsors St George Bank, apparel partners ISC, Domus Lighting, Momentum Energy, Wentworth Williams Accountants, Pauls Customs and



DRAGONS AMBASSADOR, NSW & AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE SAM BREMNER



JASON NIGHTINGALE BECAME THE THIRD HIGHEST CAPPED DRAGONS PLAYER IN 2017

Forwarding Solutions and Bingo Bins. Thank you also to our icon and executive partners.

I must also extend a special thank you to St George Leagues and Illawarra Steelers for their continued support over the years.

Well done and thank you also to all our valued Red V Members and to our loyal fans for their contributions to our Club. Your passion and commitment to belong, connect and commit to the Dragons remains crucial in the success of the Dragons.

Thank you to our executive management team Peter Doust (CEO), Michael McDonald (COO), Jamie Barrington (CFO), Jo Banning (Executive Manager Communications) and Ben Haran (Executive Manager Football) for the excellent jobs they've done in their respective key areas.

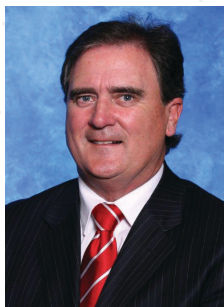
On behalf of the Dragons, thank you to ARL Chairman John Grant and the Commissioners together with NRL CEO Todd Greenburg and his team for their cooperation and assistance during the year.

There are many people who play important roles in the Dragons but nothing surpasses the importance of the support of families, wives, partners and friends who give so much of themselves for the benefit of our club.

With 2017 now behind us, I now look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2018 Telstra Premiership season.



DEDICATED SUPPORTERS AT DRAGONS VS SHARKS



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

PETER DOUST

The 2017 Annual Report across all key activities records positive performance, particularly in comparison with 2016. It was a year that delivered improved performance in football and other key business areas in a challenging business environment.

FOOTBALL

Rugby league performance is of course our core activity with the NRL performance our peak priority. While our NRL squad did not participate in finals football, several indicators underlined improvement across the year, particularly compared to 2016.

ATTACK

- Line breaks – second in NRL (14th in 2016)
- Tries – fifth in NRL (15th in 2016)

DEFENCE

- Missed tackles – second best in NRL (ninth in 2016)
- Line breaks conceded – second best in NRL (ninth in 2016)

SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT WITH:

- Match intensity training
- Sprint volumes
- Acceleration workloads

With our recruitment adding key marquee signings for 2018, the season ahead looks very positive.

Our Rugby League Performance Committee (RLPC) played an important part in assessing and directing our high performance improvement program in 2017. This will continue in 2018 with a

particular reference to the quantitative and qualitative measurement of staff performance and the continued priority for development of the Club's culture and leadership principles and practices. After the 2016 internal review, change was a priority for 2017 and the Head Coach's presentation to the RLPC in October 2017 was well received. It was concluded that coaching management and team dynamics had delivered improvement.

Also in rugby league, 2017 delivered change in the game's structure from 2018 onwards, with major changes arising from the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) such as:

- Top squad of 30 players (up from 25)
- Plus six development positions

The NSW Cup is to be elevated to the secondary position under the NRL while the previous National Youth Competition will be reverting to a state-based competition. Thus the pathway has been re-engineered. Given this opportunity, the St George Illawarra brand will be represented in NRL, NSW Cup, Jersey Flegg (Under 20s) going forward.

The Dragons' pathway will support rugby league player development, as depicted in the below chart.

In addition the Dragons have completed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Country Rugby League and Group 7 (who administer Country RL from Illawarra to Nowra) to

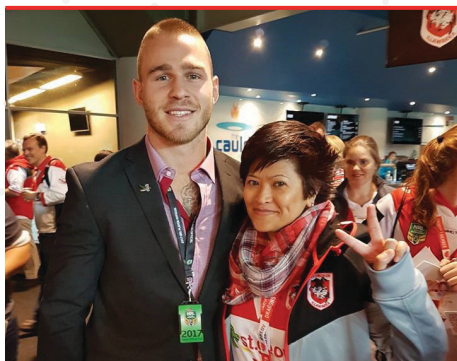
ensure we continue to work together on "the pathways".

The Dragons are now recognised as a 'Nuclear Model' club by the NRL, NSWRL and CRL.

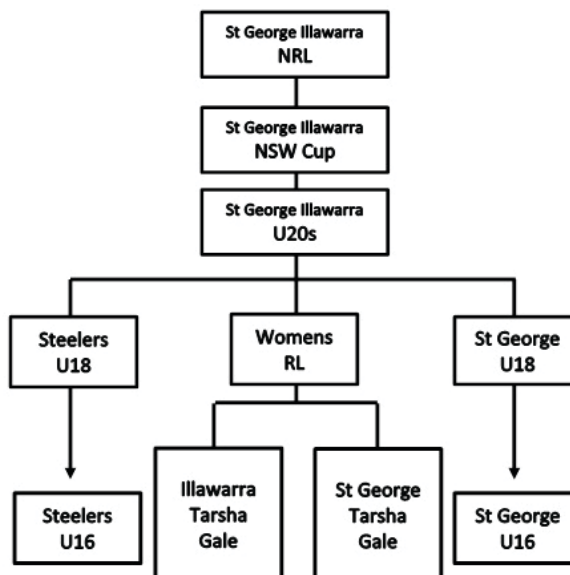
Another key component of our rugby league management activities is recruitment. In 2017, the Director of Rugby League Pathways and Recruitment excelled in re-signing all our young key priorities across the pathway, as well as two marquee recruits. Given the conclusion of negotiations regarding salary caps, through the CBA, the Dragons still have capacity to add key individuals if they meet our criteria.

With respect to our new structure, it is also important to note that in early-December the NRL announced there would be six NRL licences available for a 2018 Women's competition. We have certainly expressed our interest to the NRL in obtaining one of these licences, however the criteria is yet to be determined and communicated from the NRL.

Our Club has been instrumental in the development of women's rugby league for many years, particularly in the Illawarra where an open women's competition has been running since 2011. On top of this, Jillaroos duo Kezie Apps and Sam Bremner have been, and will continue to be, outstanding and positive contributors to our Club as Ambassadors.



EUAN AITKEN AT A RED V MEMBERS EVENT IN 2017





NENE MACDONALD

MEMBERSHIP

Over 19,000 Red V Members joined our program in 2017, a seven per cent increase from the previous year. This is a direct reflection of the work done by our Red V membership team to enhance benefits and improve flexibility for our supporters.

Our Members Advisory Forum continued to evolve in 2017, meeting regularly throughout the year to provide direct feedback on the membership program to Club Management. We sincerely thank Mathew Spanos, Jack O'Hara, Peter Rumph, Charlie Monti, Jordon Le Breux, Nicholas Ralston, Vivek Ramakrishna, Andrew Horne, Rachel Moncrieff, Brendan Murphy, Matthew Vickers, Andrew Anderson, Kristine Marinkovic, Nadia Gooshan, Greg Young, Leanne Hicks, Les Thompson, Peter Nowfel, Maxine Molloy, Peita Diamantidis, Vanessa Connolly, Colin Rayner, Jeremy Jones, Chris Hoycard, Garry Womsley, Chris Atlee, Matthew Bailey, James Cheal and Michael Hellyer for their time and energy as representatives across all membership categories and locations.

MERCHANDISE

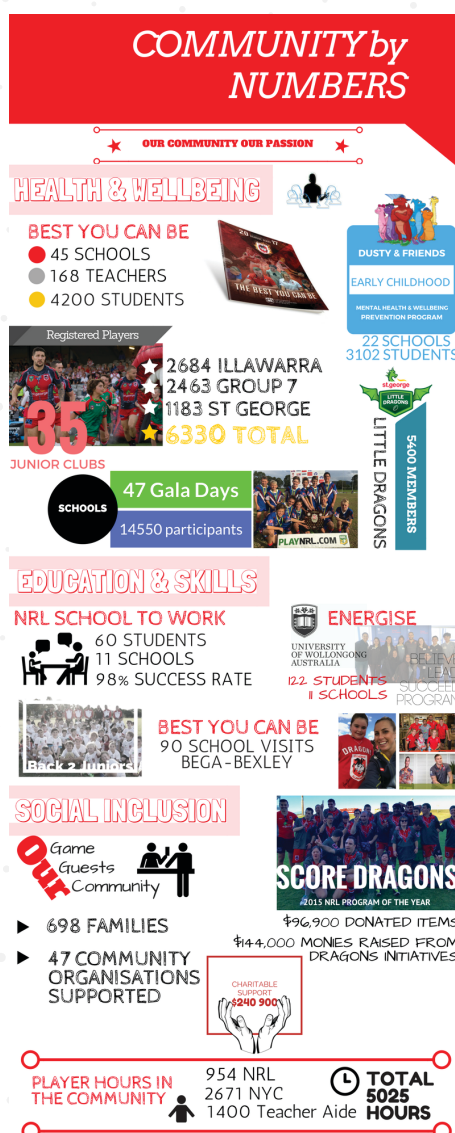
Merchandise gross revenue in 2017 was down compared to 2016 but the year was still profitable.

This year was the final year of the ISC contract and with any changes in apparel supply, a unique set of circumstances can prove challenging and impacts the Club royalties from the NRL's centralised and controlled licensing program.

This year saw the introduction of a new online shop via Shopify which created an improved online customer experience. This was also enhanced with the introduction of Afterpay while further improvements are planned for 2018.

COMMUNITY

It was another big year for Dragons Community, as depicted in this image. Thanks to Recoveries and Reconstruction for their support of our community program.



PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership revenue incorporating sponsorship and corporate sales activities remained steady in 2017, with organisations across a wide range of industry sectors investing in the Dragons.

In 2017, we welcomed Domus Lighting and Betting Club as new apparel partners with the Dragons. They joined our existing apparel partners in St. George Bank, Momentum Energy, Wentworth Williams, Bingo Industries and Paul's Customs. In addition, we also welcomed several new icon level partners including Brydens Lawyers as our membership partner (see partnerships directory – page 26).

GATE RECEIPTS

Despite some scheduling challenges the Dragons had an average attendance of 13,326 per game across our home games schedule in 2017. Games were played at UOW Jubilee Oval, WIN Stadium, ANZ Stadium and the Sydney Cricket Ground.

A crowd of over 20,000 attended our Round 26 home game against the Bulldogs at ANZ Stadium, while we achieved attendances in excess of 15,000 against the Eels and Manly at WIN Stadium and the Sharks at UOW Jubilee Oval.

'RIGHT GAME, RIGHT VENUE' (RGRV) STRATEGY

Given the uncertainty regarding the redevelopment of the major venues in Sydney and the inability of the NRL to deliver key platforms of our original RGRV strategy over the term, the Board believed we should re-direct our home game strategy for 2018 and 2019 for starters. While initialing such change for the go-forward, it is to be noted that the RGRV strategy delivered significant benefits to the business's bottom line over the period.

CLUB SUSTAINABILITY

The Game (ARLC) and the Clubs have been very concerned about club sustainability for many years. All but two clubs have made profits in any one year over the term of the last broadcast funding cycle. As we enter 2018, the first year of the new broadcast cycle, high priority has been placed on centralised funding to clubs. A new licence agreement will for the first time cover the cost of salary caps. A non-playing football cap is to commence operation in 2018 as well.

The business of rugby league can now focus on sustainable revenue growth through, in particular, improved



scheduling, digital investment, data management, continued membership value propositions and more entertaining, effective cost to customer events.

Comment has been made about the Dragons' debt to the NRL, which was created out of the need to support the RGRV and other key Dragons programs – namely community and pathways initiatives – with working capital.

The first planned repayment of principal was made ahead of time in October 2017 and the debt will continue to be reduced, as planned, over the next three years or less. It is also important to note that the Dragons are not the only NRL club who has chosen to seek funding from the NRL.

St George Leagues Club and the Steelers continued to support the Dragons' business strategy and rugby league generally through 2017 and we thank them for their ongoing support of the Dragons.

GOVERNANCE

Previously, the Board foreshadowed a commitment to ongoing best practice in sporting governance and management. This remains a priority.

In 2017, the Board continued their succession planning and management. Dragons Chairman Warren Lockwood stood down in April and was succeeded by Brian Johnston. We acknowledge and thank Warren for his 16 years of commitment, leadership and stewardship.

In October, Mr. Bob Millward retired as a Dragons' director which has enabled new blood to be introduced as well. Mr. John Brannon has been appointed. John is a company director and Chairman working across government, commercial and not for profit boards in industries including: finance, sports administration, mining, ports, tourism and education. John also has extensive executive management experience in operational and functional roles including General Manager/CEO of Port Kembla Coal Terminal Ltd, government relations, business improvement and cost reduction, corporate affairs, community engagement, health and safety, environment, survey and property and human resources. John holds a Bachelor of Commerce (majoring in Economics), a Master of Business Administration and completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course in 2012.

Furthermore, discussions with WIN Corporation continued in 2017 although they have not been completed to date. The Board remains committed to identifying an appropriate partner for the long-term future. The process and detail is complex and the fit needs to

be right for our Club. The discussions are ongoing and there is nothing yet in place.

During 2017, the UOW and Dragons extended their Memorandum of Understanding – which was initially formulated in 2009 – until at least 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG (UOW)



UOW VICE CHANCELLOR PAUL WELLINGS, THE HON. JOHN HOWARD & ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA CHAIRMAN BRIAN JOHNSTON AT THE SIGNING OF THE MOU

The partnership provides for a range of joint strategic initiatives of mutual benefit and of benefit for the community generally.

To quote UOW Vice Chancellor Paul Wellings: "We work closely to deliver a comprehensive range of programs and resources for primary and secondary school. By extending our partnership with the St George Illawarra Dragons we are re-affirming our commitment to this great club and to our shared objectives."

Finally, I would like to thank my Executive Colleagues for their loyalty and commitment, and my gratitude is

extended to the Board of Directors for their continued support. To all the staff of the Dragons, thanks for your dedication and professionalism.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our valued corporate partners and Red V Members whose contributions directly support the sustainability of our Club and rugby league endeavours across the board each year. In

particular, I'd like to thank St. George Bank, who recently announced a two-year partnership extension. With our partnership set to hit its 40th year, these two iconic brands and corporations working together is a definite positive for everyone associated with the Dragons.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to follow us on our official digital channels for daily information. These include our new-look website www.dragons.com.au, our free Apple and Android apps and on social media via Facebook ([/NRLDragons](https://www.facebook.com/NRLDragons)), Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat ([nrl_dragons](https://www.instagram.com/nrl_dragons)).



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NRL COACH'S REPORT

PAUL MCGREGOR

2017 was a season of what could've been for the NRL squad, given how close we came to securing a place in finals football.

While we were able to exceed the critics' expectations set out for us at the beginning of the year, we didn't meet our own.

Our best and our worst performances were too far apart and this was on show in our final game of the season against the Bulldogs – with a top eight berth on the line.

Basically our season shouldn't have come down to winning the final game of the regular season. We had plenty of chances to secure a top eight spot in the five weeks prior and our failure to capitalise was telling.

While I can't stress enough about our disappointment on missing out on finals football, we remain focused on the positives and what we can take from them into the 2018 season. One of those positives was our start to the season – where we sat on top of the NRL competition ladder – following a 6-1 start. This included wins over eventual finalists in the Penrith Panthers, Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles, North Queensland Cowboys and the reigning premiers Cronulla Sharks.

I believe our preparation, patience, perseverance and playing to our strengths, mixed with our strong level of

fitness and conditioning, demonstrated that we have the ability to compete with and defeat any team in the competition. Overall, there were strong indications that the systems we have in place are headed in the right direction – a clear sign of this was the significant improvement in our attack considering we went from 15th (in 2016) to fifth this year in terms of tries scored and produced the second-highest amount of line breaks in the competition.

As a football staff, we began our preparations for season 2017 back in November last year. A number of changes and adjustments were made from 2016, particularly following the introduction of the Dragons' Rugby League Performance Committee which highlighted a need of mine to focus entirely on the players and the team performance.

Nathan Pickworth was promoted to Head of Athletic Performance – and brought in a number of new faces from various backgrounds and experiences.

After coaching the NYC team in 2016, Mat Head was promoted to an NRL Transition Coach role which also entailed coaching Illawarra's Intrust Super Premiership team, while former Dragon Wayne Collins joined the club from South Sydney to coach our Holden Cup side.

Ben Creagh, Gabby Ripoll and Matti Clements (wellbeing) and Mick Martin

(leadership) fulfilled important key roles in ensuring best practice for optimal performance.

We only used 25 players throughout the entire season, which was a real positive in how the players and staff prepared. While injuries played their usual part, it offered an opportunity for the younger players in our system.

Congratulations to local juniors Matt Dufty, Jai Field, Blake Lawrie and Hame Sele for making their respective first grade debuts. Ranging in age from 19-21, they combined for 31 NRL games and displayed the value of the pathways in place for those coming through the ranks.

A special thanks and acknowledgement also needs to be extended to the other players within our squad that worked tirelessly through the year, but didn't get the opportunity to play first grade.

Plenty of players ticked off many milestones in 2017, but none were more significant than Jason Nightingale crossing for his 100th NRL try. While the 32-28 win over the Newcastle Knights at Jubilee Oval wasn't pretty, Nightingale's hat-trick on the day to bring up his century was something special. Tyson Frizell and Leeson Ah Mau also celebrated two milestones each with both playing their 100th game for the Red V. Tyson also played his 100th NRL game while Leeson celebrated 150 games in first grade.



TRY CELEBRATIONS



KURT MANN

Others to celebrate milestones – and who should be celebrated accordingly – were Josh Dugan, Josh McCrone, Russell Packer and Gareth Widdop (150 NRL games), Tim Lafai, Paul Vaughan (100 NRL games), Euan Aitken, Nene Macdonald, Kurt Mann and Cameron McInnes (50 NRL games).

Congratulations to Tyson Frizell, Josh Dugan, Gareth Widdop, Jason Nightingale, Russell Packer, Siliva Havili, Taane Milne, Joe Lovodua, Leeson Ah Mau, Tim Lafai, Paul Vaughan and Nene Macdonald on achieving their respective international honours in 2017.

Skipper Gareth Widdop deserves special mention for his effort this season, where he was duly rewarded the illustrious Dragons 'Player of the Year' Medal. Despite suffering a knee injury on Anzac Day and missing a month of football, Gareth still managed to finish third overall on the Dally M Medal leaderboard. Gareth was a guiding light for us this year and was our most influential player on game day. His bottomless talent and competitive fight was a contributing factor towards his best season to date as well as the season's positives.

To our departing players we would like to thank you for your contribution and wish you all the best on the journey ahead.

I would like to congratulate both our NYC and ISP teams for their respective success in 2017. Mat Head and Wayne Collins did an outstanding job. Mat's Illawarra boys had to overcome plenty of adversity and instability this season and



GARETH WIDDOP

yet still managed to make it to week two of the finals in trying circumstances.

Wayne's Holden Cup team was the success story for the Dragons this season. Age was just a number for his squad this season – with the majority of them able to play in the Under-20s in 2018 – as they were able to finish third on the ladder after losing just eight games. Going all the way to the preliminary finals, the young Dragons went within a whisker of qualifying for the final Holden Cup grand final.

The continued success of the NYC and ISP squads is a testament to Director of List Management and Pathways Ian Millward and other key staff members, who are ensuring the club's depth and succession planning remains effective.



CAMERON MCINNES

I would like to thank the recently retired Chairman Warren Lockwood for his support and long service to the Dragons, as well as thank new Chairman Brian Johnston, CEO Peter Doust and the entire board and management for their support this year. Additionally, thank you to the entire coaching, performance and support staff for their hard work.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all our corporate partners and Red V Members and fans for their ongoing support. Your investment goes directly towards supporting our football endeavours. Your passion and support is second to none.



TARIQ SIMS

NRL DRAGONS 2017

MATCH RESULTS

ROUND	DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	RESULT	SCORE	CROWD
1	4 Mar	Penrith Panthers	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	42-10	7,283
2	12 Mar	Parramatta Eels	WIN Stadium	L	16-34	16,023
3	19 Mar	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Southern Cross Group Stadium	W	16-10	14,247
4	26 Mar	New Zealand Warriors	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	26-12	11,608
5	2 Apr	Wests Tigers	ANZ Stadium	W	6-28	13,172
6	8 Apr	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	Lottoland	W	10-35	11,654
7	15 Apr	North Queensland Cowboys	WIN Stadium	W	28-22	13,886
8	25 Apr	Sydney Roosters	Allianz Stadium	L	12-13	40,864
9	30 Apr	Melbourne Storm	WIN Stadium	L	22-34	12,377
10	12 May	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	UOW Jubilee Oval	L	14-18	15,927
11	19 May	New Zealand Warriors	FMG Stadium	W	30-14	11,108
12		BYE				
13	3 Jun	Wests Tigers	ANZ Stadium	W	16-12	12,983
14	12 Jun	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	ANZ Stadium	L	2-16	24,083
15	18 Jun	Parramatta Eels	ANZ Stadium	L	10-24	13,559
16	25 Jun	Newcastle Knights	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	32-28	10,174
17	30 Jun	Gold Coast Titans	Cbus Super Stadium	L	10-20	13,140
18		BYE				
19	14 Jul	Canberra Raiders	GIO Stadium	L	14-18	10,977
20	23 Jul	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	WIN Stadium	W	52-22	16,883
21	29 Jul	Newcastle Knights	McDonald Jones Stadium	L	14-21	15,031
22	4 Aug	South Sydney Rabbitohs	Sydney Cricket Ground	L	24-26	12,312
23	12 Aug	Gold Coast Titans	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	42-16	8,973
24	18 Aug	Brisbane Broncos	Suncorp Stadium	L	12-24	31,832
25	27 Aug	Penrith Panthers	Pepper Stadium	W	16-14	18,848
26	3 Sep	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	ANZ Stadium	L	20-26	21,582



PAUL VAUGHAN

COMPETITION LADDER



JOEL THOMPSON

TEAM	W	L	B	F	A	+/-	PTS
Melbourne Storm	20	4	2	633	336	297	44
Sydney Roosters	17	7	2	500	428	72	38
Brisbane Broncos	16	8	2	597	433	164	36
Parramatta Eels	16	8	2	496	457	39	36
Cronulla Sharks	15	9	2	476	407	69	34
Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	14	10	2	552	512	40	32
Penrith Panthers	13	11	2	504	459	45	30
North Queensland Cowboys	13	11	2	467	443	24	30
St George Illawarra Dragons	12	12	2	533	450	83	28
Canberra Raiders	11	2	2	558	497	61	26
Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	10	533	2	360	455	-95	24
South Sydney Rabbitohs	9	450	2	464	564	-100	22
New Zealand Warriors	7	83	2	444	575	-131	18
Wests Tigers	7	28	2	413	571	-158	18
Gold Coast Titans	7	13	2	448	638	-190	18
Newcastle Knights	5	14	2	428	648	-220	14

COMPETITION LADDER

PLAYER	APPS	T	G	FG	PTS	PLAYER	APPS	T	G	FG	PTS
Leeson Ah Mau	24	-	1	-	24	Jake Marketo	1	-	-	-	0
Euan Aitken	12	6	-	-	12	Will Matthews	1	-	-	-	0
Jack de Belin	23	2	-	-	23	Josh McCrone	21	1	-	-	4
Matt Dufty	7	3	-	-	7	Cameron McInnes	24	4	-	-	16
Josh Dugan	17	3	2	-	17	Taane Milne	11	1	-	-	4
Kalifa Faifai Loa	2	2	-	-	2	Jason Nightingale	24	16	-	-	64
Jai Field	3	-	-	-	3	Russell Packer	19	1	-	-	4
Tyson Frizell	22	1	-	-	22	Hame Sele	15	-	-	-	0
Jacob Host	11	1	-	-	11	Tariq Sims	24	3	-	-	12
Tim Lafai	24	7	6	-	24	Joel Thompson	23	9	-	-	36
Blake Lawrie	6	-	-	-	6	Paul Vaughan	23	8	-	-	32
Nene Macdonald	23	6	-	-	23	Gareth Widdop	21	10	75	1	191
Kurt Mann	21	7	-	-	21						



JOSH MCCRONE



TEAM VICTORY PHOTO WITH THE ALEX MCKINNON CUP

2018

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NYC COACH'S REPORT

WAYNE COLLINS

The 2017 St George Illawarra Dragons Under-20s side was not only one of the youngest teams in the National Youth Competition but also one of the most successful teams – considering they were in the top four for all but two of the 26 rounds and ended the regular season in third place on the competition ladder.

All 30 players in the squad have reason to feel very proud of their efforts. Watching the team improve from the Charity Shield to the preliminary final loss against Manly – one game from the grand final – was very pleasing and a credit to all the players and staff involved. Although the team lost the preliminary final against eventual premiers Manly, the team showed their never-say die attitude when they came back from 18-6 down at half-time to lock the scores at 18-all. Unfortunately for the Dragons, Manly came home the strongest to win the game.

We started the year with a very young team with 24 of the 30 man squad turning 19 and playing a year young. This means there are exciting times for the Dragons in the years ahead. Two players, Zac Lomax and Steven Marsters, were still young enough to have played

SG Ball while another player, Bailey Dickenson, played five games after he completed the SG Ball season with Illawarra. All three have big futures with the Dragons.

Some of the highlights of the regular season were the close wins where the team was either behind and came home strong or were in front and hung on to win. This is not only a big rap on the players' fight and character, but also an indication of the team's fitness. We have Mitch Nielsen, our strength and conditioner coach, to thank for that. Some of these wins were against the Panthers (Round 1 – 18-16), Parramatta (Round 2 – 26-22), Warriors (Round 11 – 24-22), Bulldogs (Round 14 – 28-26) and the Eels again in Round 15 where we recorded a 32-30 win. Other notable performances included beating traditionally strong NYC teams Parramatta twice and Penrith twice in the regular season before probably our best performance of the year in our qualifying final defeat of Penrith. It was a game where we trailed twice in the match before a late inside ball from Jackson Willis to Zac Lomax (who broke the line) saw Steven Masters score the match-winning try.

As a credit to the club, staff and players, a number of players were rewarded with individual representative honours. Reece Robson played for the Junior Kangaroos who defeated the Junior Kiwis, which included Steven Marsters. Zac Lomax played in a successful NSW Under-18s team against their Queensland counterparts and was also voted the Brad Fittler NSW Under-18s best player. Zac also captained the Australian Schoolboys on their tour of New Zealand. Reuben Garrick and Tristan Sailor played against each other in the Under-20s Origin clash while Tristan was also nominated for the NYC Dally M Player of the Year award.

Jackson Ford was named the Paul McGregor Player of the Year for season 2017 for his consistent performances throughout the season following his dominant displays in carrying the ball an average 113 metres per match. Jackson also finishing third in the team for tackle breaks. Jackson won out over a team full of strong performers.

Our captain, Stuart Mason was also named in the NYC Academic Team of the Year, which was due reward for his efforts both on and off the field. Stuart is



REUBEN GARRICK CONGRATULATED BY TEAM MATES



TRISTAN SAILOR



JACKSON FORD

an outstanding individual who captained the side with a lot of pride and passion, and always put the team first.

Ultimately the role of the NYC is to get players to perform at a level that prepares them for the Intrust Super Premiership or provide an opportunity to regain their best football before returning to higher grades. This year we had Matheson Johns, Rueben Garrick, Reece Robson, TJ Uele and Jai Field play both grades which is great for them and the future of the club.

I would like to thank the Illawarra and Group 7 competitions and all the local coaches of our Under-20s squad players for working hand-in-hand with our players' development.

TEAM ACTIVITIES

Some of the activities the team participated in included:

NRL Rookie Camp – 10 players attended and participated in educational sessions on cultural awareness, social media, alcohol, personal brand, respectful relationships, illicit drugs, money manners, mental health awareness, player manager roles, the RLPA and theatre sports.

Playwise Camp – Players spent a few days at TAFE thanks to a Dragons initiative which provides players with sessions on finances, social media,



AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND U20 REPS REECE ROBSON, PATRICK HERBERT, BLAKE LAWRIE, STEVE MARSTERS AND JAI FIELD

mental health, as well as sampling a variety of vocational options, building their resumes and undertaking literacy and numeracy testing.

Mental Health Movement and Breakfast – Former Dragon Dan Hunt ran the team through a presentation on mental health: his powerful story, what mental health is and things that we can all do to help ourselves and others.

The Resilience Project – The squad attended a presentation with the NRL and NSW Cup squads from The Resilience Project which uses the power of story to promote gratitude, empathy and mindfulness as effective tools for good health.

Cultural Night – The players and their families told stories of their cultures. Everyone appreciated learning about the many cultures within the team and what playing rugby league meant. Jason Gillard's grandmother sharing her experience as part of the Stolen Generations was particularly memorable.

Anzac game dinner – After taking the team through a gruelling training session, Shaun from the 2nd Commando Regiment told of his experiences in the army and what Anzac Day means to him.

DEVELOPING YOUNG MEN

Away from the field, the playing squad also represented the club at a number of

events throughout the season including the i98FM Convoy for Kids, which is now a tradition for members of the team to assist with in name of raising funds for the local Illawarra charities.

From within the squad we had seven players at University undertaking a degree, another four completing a Certificate III or IV course, five completing an apprenticeship, two completing traineeships, and another three players who completed their HSC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of one of the best staff groups I've worked with. They being, assistant coach Jason 'Tank' Peterson, team manager and wellbeing officer Gabby Ripoll, education officer Holly Scheeringa, strength and conditioning coach Mitch Nielsen, Dr Stefan Erikson, physiotherapist Jordan Loveridge and the guys that work tirelessly in the back ground – Ian 'Barbs' Campbell, Mark 'Wombat' Allan, John Gasnier, Chris 'Gus' Wykes, Steve 'Snake' Nielson and Dan Hunt. Every staff member helped create an enjoyable environment in which the players could grow as individuals and as a part of this team. Thanks also to the Dragons' board and management for all their support throughout 2017. We're all looking forward to season 2018.

NYC DRAGONS 2017

MATCH RESULTS

ROUND	DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	RESULT	SCORE	CROWD
1	4 Mar	Penrith Panthers	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	18-16	7,283
2	12 Mar	Parramatta Eels	WIN Stadium	W	26-22	16,023
3	19 Mar	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Southern Cross Group Stadium	L	4-38	14,247
4	26 Mar	New Zealand Warriors	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	48-24	11,608
5	2 Apr	Wests Tigers	ANZ Stadium	W	30-22	13,172
6	9 Apr	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	New Era Stadium	W	32-26	11,654
7	15 Apr	North Queensland Cowboys	WIN Stadium	L	6-40	13,886
8	25 Apr	Sydney Roosters	Allianz Stadium	W	35-26	40,864
9	30 Apr	Melbourne Storm	WIN Stadium	W	46-24	12,377
10	12 May	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	UOW Jubilee Oval	L	14-36	15,927
11	19 May	New Zealand Warriors	FMG Stadium	W	24-22	11,108
12		BYE				
13	3 Jun	Wests Tigers	ANZ Stadium	W	54-16	12,983
14	12 Jun	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	ANZ Stadium	W	28-26	24,083
15	18 Jun	Parramatta Eels	ANZ Stadium	W	32-20	13,559
16	25 Jun	Newcastle Knights	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	21-16	10,174
17	30 Jun	Gold Coast Titans	Cbus Super Stadium	L	24-26	13,140
18		BYE				
19	14 Jul	Canberra Raiders	GIO Stadium	L	12-18	10,977
20	23 Jul	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	WIN Stadium	W	46-22	16,883
21	29 Jul	Newcastle Knights	McDonald Jones Stadium	L	22-30	15,031
22	4 Aug	South Sydney Rabbitohs	Sydney Cricket Ground	L	38-16	12,312
23	12 Aug	Gold Coast Titans	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	36-12	8,973
24	18 Aug	Brisbane Broncos	Suncorp Stadium	L	46-12	31,832
25	27 Aug	Penrith Panthers	Pepper Stadium	W	40-10	18,848
26	3 Sep	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	ANZ Stadium	D	34-34	21,582
QF	9 Sep	Penrith Panthers	Allianz Stadium	W	18-14	
PF	23 Sep	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	Allianz Stadium	L	18-34	



JACKSON WILLIS

COMPETITION LADDER



JOE LOVODUA

TEAM	W	L	D	B	F	A	+/-	PTS
Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	19	4	1	2	920	446	474	43
Penrith Panthers	15	7	2	2	711	518	193	36
St George Illawarra Dragons	15	8	1	2	660	620	40	35
Parramatta Eels	15	9	0	2	713	546	167	34
North Queensland Cowboys	14	10	0	2	718	536	182	32
Brisbane Broncos	14	10	0	2	640	572	68	32
Newcastle Knights	13	10	1	2	650	661	-11	31
Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	13	11	0	2	736	623	113	30
South Sydney Rabbitohs	12	10	2	2	692	586	106	30
Sydney Roosters	12	1	1	2	782	622	160	29
Gold Coast Titans	10	13	1	2	638	768	-130	25
Canberra Raiders	10	14	0	2	584	688	-104	24
Melbourne Storm	9	15	0	2	601	769	-168	22
Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	6	15	3	2	462	686	-224	19
Wests Tigers	5	17	2	2	480	850	-370	16
New Zealand Warriors	3	21	0	2	396	892	-496	10

COMPETITION LADDER

PLAYER	APPS	T	G	FG	PTS	PLAYER	APPS	T	G	FG	PTS
Tom Angel	20	2	-	-	8	Zac Lomax	20	8	77	-	186
Max Bailey	5	-	-	-	-	Joe Lovodua	26	4	-	-	16
Jack Cross	1	-	-	-	-	Steven Marsters	22	9	-	-	36
Bailey Dickinson	6	-	-	-	-	Stuart Mason	26	2	-	-	8
Josh Dowel	18	1	-	-	4	Jayden Morgan	19	5	-	-	20
Jai Field	3	-	1	-	2	Dylan Morris	10	6	-	-	24
Jackson Ford	20	4	-	-	16	Trent Peoples	19	2	-	-	8
Dane Francis	6	3	-	-	12	Cooper Purcell	8	-	-	-	-
Brayden Gallagher	13	1	-	-	4	Reece Robson	15	4	-	-	16
Reuben Garrick	19	7	1	-	30	Tristan Sailor	26	15	-	1	61
Jason Gillard	24	16	-	-	64	Israel Seufale	1	-	-	-	-
Elijah Hunt	1	-	-	-	-	Mathew Sheppard	20	4	-	-	16
Matheson Johns	22	9	-	-	36	TJ Uele	25	5	-	-	20
Hayden Lomax	20	2	-	-	8	Jackson Willis	26	15	20	1	101



TJ UELE



NYC TEAM CELEBRATION



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NSW CUP COACH'S REPORT

MAT HEAD

The 2017 season for the Illawarra RLFC team competing in the Intrust Super Premiership (ISP) involved a number of changes from the National and Premiership-winning 2016 season of the Illawarra Cutters. These changes in both staff and playing personnel, the team managed to finish the season in the top eight and fifth overall. A change in sponsorship arrangements brought about a change in name from the Illawarra Cutters to Illawarra RLFC at the beginning of the 2017 season. Our focus for Illawarra in 2017 was offering opportunities for a number of local players from the Dragons' development regions. This saw the majority of the Illawarra squad comprised of players from local Illawarra and Group 7 clubs as well as players graduating from the Dragons' successful 2016 Holden Cup (Under-20s) team.

In addition to these players, members of the successful 2016 ISP team were afforded an opportunity with the NRL squad in the 2017 season. These players were Chris Lewis, Jacob Hind, Levi Dodd and Shaun Nona and highlighted the benefits of our development pathways.

Throughout the season Illawarra were always within the top eight, though at times lacked consistency. This in part was due to the youthfulness of the team that was selected each week. We used 39 players in 2017 including a number of current Under-20s players who were blooded throughout the year. Regular team members Jai Field, Pat Herbert, Isaac Thompson, Jack Payne, Blake Lawrie, Mathew Dufty, Adam Clune, Luciano Leilua, Josh Kerr, Jacob Host and Hame Sele are all under 22 years of age.

With such an inexperienced team, the experience of the likes of Jake Marketo, Will Mathews and Jacob Hind was crucial. The assistance of these senior players accelerated the learning curve for these young players and will set them up for the future.

The loss of four experienced players in Mose Masoe, Tyrone McCarthy, Lewis and Nona to mid-season transfers also set the team back over a number of weeks.

The foundations that this year set for many of the players with NRL

aspirations will prove beneficial moving forward as these young men have gained experience at this level of rugby league many of their peers are yet to gain. After consistent performances in ISP, Lawrie, Sele, Field and Dufty were all rewarded with their NRL debuts. With all these players being local juniors they are great examples of the pathway through the Dragons' junior representative teams into the Under-20s, ISP and eventually the NRL.

HIGHLIGHT MOMENTS

A spectacular comeback victory against Newtown at Henson Park. After trailing by over 20 points a little over 20 minutes into the game, the team stormed home to record a 38-34 victory.

An outstanding 24-10 victory against last year's grand final rivals, Mounties in Canberra with a depleted team.

A euphoric 34-32 away victory in Newcastle thanks to a goal after the siren. This came after being down to one reserve for the majority of the game and having to defend for the majority of the second half.



TRY TIME - JAI FIELD



JACK PAYNE

A dramatic Round 25 draw against the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs in Wollongong to secure a finals spot. Trailing 22-6 at half-time in that match, two tries inside the final eight minutes (with the last going through nine sets of hands) kept their premiership defence intact.

Accustomed with the need to find late points following on from their Round 25 triumph, the team overcame the thoughts of panic when trailing inside the final two minutes in their do-or-die clash Finals Week One clash against the Mounties at Kogarah. Trailing 26-24, a tidy outside-in play to find livewire Jai Field in space saw him score one of the more memorable tries in the history of the ISP.



TYRONE MCCARTHY & PATRICK HERBERT

HONOURS

Congratulations to Luciano Leilua who after winning the Under-20s Player of the Year in 2016 backed it up by winning the 2017 Illawarra Player of the Year. Jack Payne was a well-deserved recipient for the Coach's Award especially for his impressive attitude throughout the year. Jacob Host, Jake Marketo and Hame Sele all played for City Origin, Patrick Herbert played for the New Zealand Under-20s team once again while Blake Lawrie and Jai Field both feature for NSW and the Junior Kangaroos. Congratulations to all!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to thank the Illawarra Steelers and their board for their tireless efforts to maintain a pathway for rugby league

players in the Illawarra region. I'd like to also thank the St George Illawarra Dragons for their ongoing support both financially and in kind. I'd like to give special mention to Dragons coach Paul McGregor and his staff for their assistance throughout the year as the well as the Dragons' board and management for their continued backing. Our major sponsors Tabcorp, Hardware Man, KJ Scaffolding, LX Electrical and Multi Civil and Rail made Illawarra's season possible and we thank them for their assistance throughout 2017. I'd like to thank all the staff involved with Illawarra over the course of the year, including those that assisted from other teams within the club when required. Most importantly I'd like to congratulate and express my gratitude to all 39 players for their dedication throughout the year.



JAKE MARKETO

ILLAWARRA 2017

MATCH RESULTS

ROUND	DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	RESULT	SCORE
1	4 Mar	Penrith Panthers	UOW Jubilee Oval	L	6-28
2	12 Mar	Wentworthville Magpies	WIN Stadium	W	24-16
3	18 Mar	Newtown Jets	WIN Stadium	W	22-12
4	25 Mar	New Zealand Warriors	WIN Stadium	L	14-21
5	2 Apr	Wyong Roos	Morrie Breen Reserve	L	14-48
6	8 Apr	Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles	Lottoland	L	18-36
7	15 Apr	Wests Tigers	Campbelltown Stadium	W	20-14
8	22 Apr	Mounties	WIN Stadium	W	40-18
9	29 Apr	North Sydney Bears	Nowra Showground	L	10-23
10	14 May	Wentworthville Magpies	Ringrose Park	W	32-12
11	20 May	Newtown Jets	Henson Park	W	38-34
12		BYE			
13	2 Jun	Wests Tigers	WIN Stadium	W	36-8
14	10 Jun	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	Belmore Sportsground	L	0-38
15	17 Jun	Wyong Roos	WIN Stadium	L	16-32
16	25 Jun	Newcastle Knights	UOW Jubilee Oval, Kogarah	L	20-32
17	1 Jul	Mounties	GIO Stadium	W	24-10
18		BYE			
19	15 Jul	New Zealand Warriors	Mt Smart Stadium	L	14-28
20	22 Jul	Penrith Panthers	Pepper Stadium	L	18-48
21	29 Jul	Newcastle Knights	McDonald Jones Stadium	W	34-32
22		BYE			
23	12 Aug	North Sydney Bears	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	30-16
24	19 Aug	Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles	WIN Stadium	L	22-24
25	26 Aug	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	WIN Stadium	D	28-28
EF	3 Sep	Mounties	UOW Jubilee Oval	W	30-26
SF	10 Sep	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	UOW Jubilee Oval	L	14-32



HAME SELE

COMPETITION LADDER



JOSH KERR

TEAM	W	L	D	B	F	A	+/-	PTS
Wyong Roos	16	4	2	3	622	437	185	40
New Zealand Warriors	13	5	4	3	558	424	134	36
Penrith Panthers	14	7	1	3			307	35
Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	12	7	3	3	532	414	118	33
Mounties	11	9	2	3	523	468	55	30
North Sydney Bears	11	10	1	3	393	377	16	29
Newcastle Knights	10	11	1	3	526	558	-32	27
Illawarra	10	11	1	3	480	558	-78	27
Wentworthville Magpies	9	13	0	3	499	465	34	24
Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles	8	14	0	3	466	606	-140	22
Newtown Jets	6	15	1	3	408	573	-165	19
Wests Tigers	4	18	0	3	322	756	-434	14

PLAYER RECORDS

PLAYER	APPS	T	G	PTS	PLAYER	APPS	T	G	PTS
Rob Buaserau	1	1	-	4	Blake Lawrie	18	1	-	4
Adam Clune	12	2	-	8	Luciano Leilua	23	4	-	16
Sam Clune	8	1	-	4	Chris Lewis	12	2	-	8
Jesse Dee	14	1	-	4	Willie Manu	2	-	-	-
Levi Dodd	4	1	1	6	Jake Marketo	23	-	-	-
Matt Dufty	17	7	-	28	Mose Masoe	17	-	-	-
Kalifa Faifai Loa	12	5	-	20	Will Matthews	11	1	-	4
Jai Field	14	11	27	98	Tyrone McCarthy	15	-	-	-
Ryan Fletcher	6	-	-	-	Taane Milne	11	3	3	18
Jay Gallagher	1	-	-	-	Shaun Nona	14	-	38	76
Reuben Garrick	6	3	-	12	Jack Payne	11	3	-	12
Siliva Havili	14	2	-	8	Jordan Pereira	8	2	-	8
Patrick Herbert	24	10	3	46	Cooper Purcell	1	-	-	-
Jacob Hind	24	6	-	24	Reece Robson	6	1	-	4
Jacob Host	9	2	-	8	Hame Sele	7	-	-	-
Drew Hutchison	1	-	-	-	Izaac Thompson	13	14	-	56
Matheson Johns	3	1	-	4	John Tohi	5	2	-	8
Matthew Jurd	1	-	-	-	Keelyn Tuuta-Edwards	1	-	-	-
Rhys Kennedy	13	1	-	4	TJ Uele	1	-	-	-
Josh Kerr	24	8	-	32					



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OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

HONOURS

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

AUSTRALIA

Josh Dugan
Tyson Frizell
Kezie Apps
Sam Bremner

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S XIII

Josh Dugan
Tyson Frizell
Paul Vaughan

ENGLAND

Gareth Widdop

FIJI

Joe Lovodua
Taane Milne

ITALY

Paul Vaughan

NEW ZEALAND

Jason Nightingale
Russell Packer

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Nene Macdonald

SAMOA

Leeson Ah Mau
Tim Lafai

TONGA

Siliva Havili

NSW STATE OF ORIGIN

Josh Dugan

Tyson Frizell
Jack de Belin (18th man)
Sam Bremner
Kezie Apps

NSW COUNTRY ORIGIN

Jack de Belin
Tariq Sims
Paul Vaughan

NSW CITY ORIGIN

Jake Marketo
Cameron McInnes
Hame Sele
Jacob Host (18th man)

NRL WORLD ALL STARS

Nene Macdonald
Paul Vaughan

NRL INDIGENOUS ALL STARS

Joel Thompson

JUNIOR KANGAROOS

Jai Field
Blake Lawrie
Reece Robson

JUNIOR KIWIS

Patrick Herbert
Steven Marsters

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS

Zac Lomax

NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLBOYS

Steven Marsters

NSW UNDER-20S

Jai Field
Reuben Garrick
Blake Lawrie
Reece Robson

QUEENSLAND UNDER-20S

Tristan Sailor

NSW UNDER-18S

Zac Lomax

NSW UNDER-16S

Blake Dowel
Max Feagai
Aaron Schoupp

MILESTONES

150 NRL CAREER GAMES

Leeson Ah Mau
Josh Dugan
Josh McCrone
Russell Packer
Gareth Widdop

100 NRL CAREER GAMES

Tyson Frizell
Tim Lafai
Paul Vaughan

50 NRL CAREER GAMES

Euan Aitken
Nene Macdonald
Kurt Mann
Cameron McInnes



JOSH DUGAN



BLAKE LAWRIE



CITY/COUNTRY ORIGIN REPS – HAME SELE, PAUL VAUGHAN,
CAMERON MCINNES, JACK DE BELIN, JACOB HOST, JAKE MARKETO &
TARIQ SIMS



TYSON FRIZELL

100 DRAGONS CAREER GAMES

Leeson Ah Mau
Tyson Frizell

100 NRL CAREER TRIES

Jason Nightingale

NRL DEBUT

Matt Dufty (Round 20)
Jai Field (Round 1)
Blake Lawrie (Round 17)
Hame Sele (Round 6)

PLAYER AWARDS

DRAGONS MEDAL NRL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Gareth Widdop

IMMORTALS TROPHY

Cameron McInnes



TIM LAFAI

GEOFF SELBY MEMORIAL NRL COACH'S AWARD

Paul Vaughan

RED V MEMBERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Paul Vaughan

MARK COYNE CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Joel Thompson

DRAGONS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD

Joel Thompson

PAUL MCGREGOR NYC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jackson Ford

ISP PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Luciano Leilua



PAUL VAUGHAN

ISP COACH'S AWARD

Jack Payne

NRL AWARDS

RLPA FIVE-EIGHTH OF THE YEAR

Gareth Widdop

DALLY M FIVE-EIGHTH OF THE YEAR

Gareth Widdop

NRL-RLPA ACADEMIC TEAM OF THE YEAR

Jacob Host (Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science)

NYC ACADEMIC TEAM OF THE YEAR

Stuart Mason (Bachelor of Exercise Science)



JOE LOVODUA



KEZIE APPS



GARETH WIDDOP



STAFF DIRECTORY 2017

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Warren Lockwood (*Chairman until April*)
Brian Johnston (*Chairman from April*)
Peter Black
Peter Doust (*Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer*)
Andrew Gordon
Graeme Gulloch
Bob Millward (*retired Oct 2017*)
Sean O'Connor

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer
Peter Doust
Chief Operating Officer
Michael McDonald
Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Barrington
Executive Manager - Communications
Jo Banning
Executive Manager - Football Operations
Ben Haran

MANAGERIAL AND OPERATIONAL STAFF

Executive Assistant to CEO
Kelly Cassidy
Dragons Community Manager
Paul Everill
Community & Development Officer
Adam Bezzina
Manager - Partnerships
Ben Thompson
Senior Corporate Sales Executive
Jon Burt
Partnerships Management and Growth Executives
Shaun Timmins
Jack Scully
Sponsorship and Digital Commercialisation
Idris Wais
Partnerships - Experience and Engagement
Jane Elkin
Merchandise and Licencing Manager
Brooke Luinstra
Retail Operations Manager
Andrew Wardrop (*from July*)
Warehouse & Logistics Coordinator
Steve Mirceski
Manager - Dragons Live and Events
Amy Lugg
Coordinator - Dragons Live and Events
Dylan Minehan
Membership and Ticketing Manager
James Peters
Senior Membership and Ticketing Executive

Andrew Fiatarone
Membership Service and Retention Executive
Renee Pengilly
Red V Membership and Customer Service Coordinators
Kate Calcott
Philip Phan
Marketing Strategy and Operations Manager
Kylie Lawless
Data, Insights and Systems Manager
Gary Lockwood
Communications and Media Executive
Jack Brady
Content and Production Executive
Patrick Williamson
Communications Assistant
Nathan Beuman
Digital Communications Executive
Thomas Guest (*til June*)
PA to COO & CFO
Anna Barwell
Financial and Payroll Accountant
Karen Morgan
Assistant Accountant
Sharon Vitnell
Accounts Receivable/Medical Fund Mgt
Mary Antonio
Accounts Payable
Gabrielle Hofman
Reception - Kogarah
Madison Grant

DRAGONS RUGBY LEAGUE STAFF

Head Coach
Paul McGregor
NRL Assistant Coaches
Ben Hornby
Dean Young
NSW Cup Coach/Transition Coach
Mathew Head
NYC Coach
Wayne Collins
Performance Analyst
Gabe Cameron
Head of Athletic Performance
Nathan Pickworth
NYC Manager/ NRL and NYC Welfare Officer
Dan Hunt (*until June*)
Gabby Ripoll (*from June*)
Director of List Management and Pathways
Ian Millward
Strength and Conditioning Coach / Performance Nutritionist
Andrew Rondinelli
Strength and Conditioning Coach
Alex Clarke
Pathways Football Manager
Scott Stewart

Club Doctors

Dr Tom Carrigan
Dr Stefan Erikson
Sports Scientist
Billy Hulin
NRL Physiotherapist
Chris Bailey
Steve Dean
Player Wellbeing Officer
Ben Creagh
Integrity Unit Officer
Craig Young
NRL Gear Steward
Mick Lavorato
Careers Adviser
Holly Scheeringa
NYC Assistant Coach
Jason Peterson
NYC Strength and Conditioning Coach
Mitch Nielsen
NYC Physiotherapist
Jordan Loveridge
NYC Trainers
Ian Campbell
John Gasnier
Chris Wykes
Steve Nielsen
Mark Allen
Occupational Health and Safety Consultant
Phil Driscoll
Club Chaplin
Rev Stephen Edwards

CLUB AMBASSADORS

Kezie Apps
Sam Bremner
Matt Cooper
Mark Gasnier

DRAGONS TEAM STORE

2018 PRE-SEASON
SHOP.DRAGONS.COM.AU

POWERADE ION4





HIGH PERFORMANCE UNIT REPORT

IAN MILLWARD AND SCOTT STEWART

Now in its ninth year, the 2017 St George Illawarra Dragons High Performance Unit (HPU) was made up of 49 players who were selected from our respective St George Dragons and Illawarra Steelers Harold Matthews and SG Ball teams. The major focus of the program as always was to fast track the skills and physical development of our targeted, elite junior players.

The players identified to participate in this program are selected due to their ability and attitude throughout the junior representative season. Beginning in May, the program was divided up into two six week blocks.

The skills program was overseen by the St George and Illawarra SG Ball and Harold Matthews cup coaches Ben Linde, Shane Millard, Pat Gibson and Brendon Perenara. Additional input is also provided from NRL assistant coaches Ben Hornby and Dean Young, who themselves, are products of such programs. Ben and Dean have also undertaken sessions with the coaches to help them improve their skills and

knowledge. A primary focus of the High Performance Unit is to help juniors reach their full potential.

A new addition to the High Performance Unit staff in 2017 was Ryan Bailey. Ryan was employed as the Strength and Conditioning coach of the High Performance Unit, and he oversaw all the elite juniors who had been identified for additional physical development. Ryan works under the guidance of St George Illawarra Head of Athletic Performance Nathan Pickworth who, in conjunction with Ryan, implemented training and testing programs. These programs provide essential data to help transition players through the pathways system. The holistic approach that has been implemented throughout the club by Nathan Pickworth and his NRL staff will benefit the Dragons for many years to come.

Another crucial aspect of the High Performance Unit program in 2017 was the work the club was able to do with externally based scholarship players who live in country areas. During the 2017 season the Dragons HPU unit

served contracted young players from the Forbes, Orange and Leeton areas. These players are identified by St George Illawarra Dragons Country Recruitment Officer Brian Keegan.

As well as the face-to-face visits, Ryan Bailey also communicated strength and conditioning programs to the players via various forms of social media and emails throughout the season. As a result of this external program, five of these players have progressed into our junior representative teams in 2018.

Whilst in these country areas working with our contracted players, we also deliver clinics to identify other prospective talents as well as promote growth and education of rugby league throughout. These clinics were delivered by Young, Bailey, Shaun Timmins and Dan Hunt.

All the work that the Dragons undertake in the country is coordinated by Keegan. Brian's passion for both the Dragons and the development of rugby league throughout a number of regional areas is unrivalled. Brian is a huge asset



HARRIS GEORGOPOULOS – ST GEORGE SG BALL
PLAYER OF THE YEAR AND HPU SQUAD MEMBER



HPU REPRESENTATIVES FROM GLEN INNES WITH CAM MCINNES



MATTHEW DELBANCO



NSW U16 REPS – MAX FEAGAI AND AARON SCHOUPP

for the club and we thank him for his ongoing efforts to coordinate these programs within country areas.

It is a credit to the systems in place and the staff involved that in 2017 we had ten players involved with the New South Wales Blues' Under-16s and Under-18s teams as well as with the Junior Kangaroos. This is a record number of juniors participating in these elite level programs from our club. Five of those players have been elevated to the 2018 Top 30 NRL squad. One of these players who has been elevated to the Top 30 squad was Zac Lomax who was awarded NSW Blues Under-18s Player of the Year.

A number of recent graduates of the High Performance Unit program made their first grade debut in 2017. These players were Matt Dufty, Blake Lawrie, Jai Field and Hame Sele who joined 2016 debutants Jacob Host and Luciano Leilua in the first grade squad. Every single one of these local juniors were graduates of our HPU program in past seasons.

This season's 2017 Under-20s National Youth Competition squad had a higher representation of players from the High Performance Unit program than in any previous season. This team went within one win of qualifying for the grand final. With the majority of the players involved in this team able to once

again compete in this competition in 2018 – albeit in the state-based Jersey Flegg competition – this side should see further players progress through the Dragons' rugby league pathways program.

I would like to thank the board for their

continual support for this program and for sharing our vision to help develop young talented players to reach their full potential in becoming St George Illawarra Dragons NRL players.

2017 HIGH PERFORMANCE UNIT SQUAD:

Tyler Ah Chong
Bailey Antrobus
Kane Ball
Jalal Bazzaz
Hayden Budd
Joshua Cannard
Dallas Collins
Matthew Delbanco
Joseph Dickson
Blake Dowel
Jiye Ellis
Jack Emery
Vulcan Er
Mathew Feagai
Max Feagai
Oscar Fitzpatrick
Kimi Folaumoeloa
Ben Fulton
Harris Georgopoulos
Duke Grant
Tomas Harris
Zach Herring
Ethan Hicks

Hamish Holland
Sam Hooper
Alex Laboulet
Jamie Lawler
Sam McCann
Jye McRae
Tyler Moon
Connor Muhleisen
Matthew Nicholson
Aiden Oloapu
Shalom O'Ofou
Ollie Parrish
Jye Richards
Jason Saab
Shaun Sauni-Esau
Maylee Semu
Aaron Schoupp
Tyrone Simitsopoulos
Tyson Simpson
Jayden Sullivan
Luciano Svagelli
Simeone Taateo
Jack Walsh
Zaan Weatherall
Tyrann Wishart
Nikau Wrathall

PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY 2017

MAJOR PARTNER



APPAREL PARTNERS



ICON PARTNERS



EXECUTIVE PARTNERS



PREMIER PARTNERS



St George Leagues Club

MAJOR PARTNER

St George Bank	Banking & Finance	13 33 30
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JERSEY PARTNER

Domus	Lighting	02 9554 9600
Momentum Energy	Energy Retailer	1300 794 824
Wentworth Williams Accountants	Accounting	1300 783 857
Bingo Industries	Waste/recycling	1300 424 646

OFFICIAL APPAREL PARTNER

ISC	Clothing & Footwear	1300 853 585
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PREMIER PARTNERS

St George Leagues Club	Leagues Club	02 9587 1022
Illawarra Steelers	Leagues Club	02 4227 2255

ICON PARTNERS

Bettingclub	Betting	1300 258 225
Bevelsie Family Trust		
Bryden's Lawyers	Lawyers/Solicitors	02 9726 4518
Onsite Cleaning	Cleaning	02 9912 2100
Carlton United Breweries	Beverage	02 9217 1200
Coastwide Engineering	Industrial Engineering	02 4274 4133
Coca-Cola Amatil (Aust) Pty Ltd	Beverage	13 26 53
Lifestyle Solutions	Disability Support	1800 634 748
Paul's Customs & Forwarding Solutions	Freight	02 9750 6277
Recoveries & Reconstruction	Legal Practise	1300 556 683
Sports Master Athletics International (SMAI)	Fitness	02 4283 4363
Triple M Sydney	Media	02 9367 1000
Tynan Motors Pty Ltd	Automotive	02 9545 8888
WIN TV / i98 Radio FM	Media	02 4223 4217

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

Anytime Fitness	Gym	02 9415 5300
McDonald's Illawarra	Restaurant	02 9875 6666
Val Morgan	Cinema Network	02 8113 5600
CBC Facilities Maintenance Pty Ltd	Building & Servicing	02 4220 2000
Science in Sport	Supplements	0449 774 225

BUSINESS PARTNERS

A & A Building Services Pty Ltd	Building	02 9904 9558
Addbuild Additions	Building	02 8765 1555
AGS Structural Construction	Building	0414 890 810
Ainsworth Game Technology	Gaming	02 9739 8000
Bates Bikes	Cycling	02 9585 1230
Beiersdorf Australia Company	Branded Goods	02 9888 0977
Blades Football	Sporting Goods	02 9707 1879
Capital City Waste Services	Hygiene Service	02 9599 9999
Coledale Rainforest Retreat	Tourism	02 4268 4460
Convenient Chemist Wollongong	Pharmacies	02 4229 1528
CRP Sydney	Medical	02 9524 1076
CST Corporate Solutions	Solicitors	1300 554 321
CVC Law	Lawyers	02 4226 4222
DeiCorp Constructions	Building & Construction	02 8507 5600
Destination Wollongong	Tourism	1800 240 737
D J Plant Hire	Nursery	0408 384 243
Dynamic Projects	Construction	02 9616 2900
Floormanania	Retail	02 9524 4999
Fresh Flowers & Gifts	Florist	02 8005 2236
Fuji Xerox	Office Supplies	02 8116 3601
G & B Lawyers	Law	0481 287 528
Holcim Concrete (Australia) Pty Ltd (Unanderra)	Building	02 4271 5445
Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd (Albion Park)	Building	02 4256 7233
Hornby Transport	Transport	
IGT (Australia) Pty Ltd	Gaming	02 9812 1010
Illawarra Business Chamber	Business Chambers	02 4229 4722
Illawarra Mercury	Media	02 4221 2333
Illawarra Hino	Automotive	02 4256 7700
Inter-Chillers Air	Conditioning & Refrigeration	02 9584 1454
JayThom Pty Ltd	Software	1300 885 279
Office Supplies Australia	Retail	1300 131 108
Kells the Lawyers	Legal	02 4221 9311
Kingsgrove Sports Centre	Sports Equipment	02 9502 4533
Lagoon Seafood Restaurant	Restaurant	02 4226 2125



Lee Legal Group	Legal	02 9527 7522
Liondos Clothing	Retail	02 9597 2175
Lugarno Pharmacy	Pharmacies	02 9153 7343
Martin Newman	Corporate	
McGrath Mazda	Sutherland Automotive	02 9545 7333
Metro Mix	Concrete	02 9849 7402
Munro Spaul Corporate Business Services	Finance	02 9570 8999
Nikolovski Lawyers	Legal	02 4227 6833
O'Connor First National Real Estate	Real Estate	02 4226 6055
One 3 Designer Homes	Builders	02 4210 6913
Print Media	Printing	02 4225 7475
Professionals Chambers Fleming	Real Estate Real Estate	02 9771 4555
QMS Sport	Marketing & Media Signage	02 9939 3264
Reward Distribution	Suppliers	02 8717 6600
Sage Hotel Wollongong	Hotel	02 4201 2111
S.E.C Plating Pty Ltd	Electroplating	02 9750 8011
Scent Washroom Services Pty Ltd	Hygiene Services	1300 668 418
Smile Design Orthodontics	Orthodontic	02 9541 8111
Solutions @ Pty Ltd	Kitchens	02 9772 1067
Southside Security & Investigation	Security	02 9587 1022
Southern Youth & Family Services Association	Incorporated Charity	02 4229 0739
St Johns Park Bowling Club	Clubs	02 9610 3666
Stabilised Pavements of Road Australia Pty Ltd	Stabilisation Contractor	02 9526 1066
Steel Supplies Dubbo	Steel Supplies	02 6884 7711
Stoneglass Dental Laboratory	Dental Manufacturing	02 9764 1036
Suttons Trucks	Transport	02 9335 9066
Taro Distributors	Automotive	02 9774 3011
The Academy Brand Pty Ltd	Clothing & Footwear	02 9327 3011
Trend Mirco	IT Services	1300 305 289
True Blue Direct	Hygiene Service	02 9540 1911
Turner Bros Curtains Furnishings & Specialty Blinds	Commercial	02 8594 0700
Vilis Pies	Food & Beverage	02 9609 5299
Warren Saunders Insurance Brokers	Insurance	02 9587 3500
West's Illawarra Leagues Club	Club	02 4271 1155

Wisharts Paint Solutions	Decoration/Painting	02 4272 1140
Wollongong Diagnostics	Radiology	02 4226 1777
Wollongong Jet Ski	Marine	02 4227 3818
Wollongong Private Hospital	Hospital	02 4255 5030
Wymap Group Pty Ltd	Transport	02 9317 5722

RED V CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Chas Sankey Fraser Optometrists	Optometrist	07 4632 3166
D J Shaw Pty Ltd	Personal	02 9584 1000
Dragons Supporters Club QLD Inc.	Supporters Club	07 3403 0206
G L Zakos & Associated Building	Consultant	02 9427 1777
I R Taylor Pty Ltd	Building	0418 686 389
Macdonald Customs	Customs & Quarantine	02 9526 5515
Maritime Mining & Power	Mining	02 8263 3228
Credit Union Petkovski Transport Pty Ltd	Transport	02 4256 2441

PLAYER POSITION PARTNERS

Destination Wollongong	Tourism	1800 240 737
Illawarra Mercury	Media	02 4221 2333
Kingsgrove Sports Centre	Sports Equipment	02 9502 4533
Pauls Customs & Freight Forwarding Solutions		02 9750 6277
Val Morgan	Cinema Network	02 8113 5600

ST GEORGE JUNIOR LEAGUE PARTNER

Addbuild Additions	Building	02 8765 1555
Kogarah Council	Council	02 9330 9465

ILLAWARRA JUNIOR LEAGUE PARTNER

Coastwide Engineering	Industrial Engineering	02 4274 4133
Illawarra Subway	Retailer	02 4229 7925
Momentum Energy	Energy Retailer	1300 794 824

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Bevelsie Family Trust

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AND DRIVE



ST GEORGE DISTRICT RLFC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CRAIG YOUNG

The Dragons' season start was outstanding as they led the entire competition, then through the Origin period they lost momentum and struggled to recapture their early-season form. Injuries to Gareth Widdop, Russell Packer and Tyson Frizell compounded the situation. We limped into the final part of the season and failed to maintain much-needed consistency.

There were however many positives to come from the season in particular the local players who made their NRL debuts having come through our HPU pathways system in Hame Sele (Kingsgrove Colts) and Matt Dufty (Penshurst RSL).

I would like to thank coach Paul McGregor, his assistants Dean Young and Ben Hornby for their devotion and commitment to the Dragons. Head of Athletic Performance Nathan Pickworth and his staff also should be recognised for their hard work and expertise in preparing the players for the rigors of the NRL season.

Our NYC team was defeated in the grand final qualifier by eventual premiers Manly. To Wayne Collins and his staff

thank you, you play a pivotal role in the Dragons' development pathway system. Thanks also to our Intrust Super Premiership coach Mathew Head and his staff for their efforts this season.

2017 also saw Peter Black resign as St George District Rugby League Football club's Chairman. I would like to thank Peter for his commitment and passion in his role at this great club for the past 17 years. I appreciate his advice and friendship in helping me transition into the role.

COMMUNITY

Our Dragons Community staff and players did a remarkable job again in 2017 thanks to visits in the St George area. Whether they visited schools or local football clubs as part of the Back 2 Juniors program, Dragons Community did an outstanding job in instilling the local kids with plenty of positive messages. I would like to thank Community Manager Paul Everill and Community Officer Adam Bezzina for leading the way in this respect. I'd also like to thank Reece Robson, Hayden Lomax, Regional Game Development Manager Maria Arthur and NRL Development Officers Pam Goodridge and Huw Ellis for their efforts in the community.

Joel Thompson deserves plenty of praise too. Not only for being nominated again for the Ken Stephen Medal – a prize he won in 2016 – but for also his tireless

work in and around the Dragons' local communities.

ST GEORGE JUNIOR RL

We have a responsibility to assist the juniors to encourage both male and females to play the game of rugby league. It is part of our community fabric and I would like to thank President Michael Sim and his executive for their devoted service and all of the volunteers who front up each week to ensure our players have the facilities to play the game of Rugby league. I would also like to thank the Junior RL Referees Association who plays an invaluable role in our game. Congratulations also to Renown United and Penshurst RSL on winning the St George District Rugby League Junior Club Championship and Senior Club Championship respectively. It is a great achievement for both clubs.

2017 JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE/HPU

Congratulations to the players from the St George district who gained selection in the junior representative teams. You have the opportunity to be part of the Dragons' pathway system which could give you the opportunity of playing with the Dragons in the NRL competition one day. Never lose sight of your dream.

Thanks to Junior Representative Coordinator Graeme Wynn and Rugby League Pathways Manager Scott Stewart for their commitment and experience.



MATT DUFFY NRL DEBUT FROM PENSHURST RSL



EARLWOOD SAINTS U17S



CRAIG RIMMER CHAMPIONS – ARNCLIFFE U10S

I would like to congratulate Harold Matthews' duo Ali Kansou (Coach's Award) and Dallas Collins (Player of the Year) and SG Ball duo Ethan Hicks (Coach's Award) and Harris Georgopoulos (Player of the Year) for their respective awards.

Congratulations must also go to SG Ball winger Shondre Lee-Silva who was the leading try scorer in the Under-18s competition in 2017.

I would like to acknowledge all the hard work our coaching, recruitment and pathways staff do in identifying players to participate in our junior reps and high performance programs. Thanks to Director Ian Millward, Football Manager Ben Haran and Recruitment Officer Brian Keegan.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

The St George DRLFC will be 100 years old in 2021. We have formulated a

History Committee to begin planning for the historical event. The committee will also be working with the SCG Trust to establish a Dragons Museum within the current NRL museum. Those chats are in their infancy currently so keep an eye out for any further developments as they happen.

PLAYERS REUNION AND GRAND FINAL DINNER

The annual players' reunion was held on July 1 at St George Leagues Club and was well represented. Congratulations must go to Steve Edge who coordinated the event.

On September 29, the St. George DRLFC held its annual grand final dinner to raise funds for the junior league. This function also celebrated the 40-year anniversary of the successful 1977 GF team. The majority of the team and partners attended the event. Again thanks to Steve Edge who organised the function.

ST GEORGE LEAGUES CLUB

I would like to thank the General Manager Danny Robinson, Chairman Brian Johnson and directors for their generous support of rugby league within our district and the ongoing contributions to the St George Illawarra Dragons.

On behalf of the board of the St George DRLFC I would like to recognise the efforts of all Dragons' staff in particular the CEO Peter Doust.

I would like to offer condolences on behalf of the Board of Directors to the respective families of Ken Boothroyd, Kevin Hole, Graeme Buckley and Coach Paul McGregor's mother who passed away during the season.



NRL DEBUT FOR KINGSGROVE COLTS HAME SELE



ILLAWARRA DISTRICT RLFC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

PETER NEWELL OAM

Another domestic rugby league season has concluded, but the 15th Rugby League World Cup saw the game continue until early December. Until then we can take a look at the NRL, NSW and Illawarra seasons just concluded and who was recognised for what.

The Bulldogs were flies in the ointment for both the St George Illawarra Dragons NRL side and Illawarra's Intrust Super Premiership team as the 2017 season reached the pointy end. The Bulldogs, out of top eight contention, nevertheless put an end to the Dragons' hopes of progressing into the playoffs with a 26-20 victory in the last game, while the blue-and-whites did the same to Illawarra's hopes of making it back-to-back Intrust Super premierships with a 32-14 win in the quarter-final. The Dragons Under-20s Holden Cup team did well to make the final four before losing to Manly. Congratulations to back-rower Jackson Ford who won the Paul McGregor Trophy as Under-20s Player of the Year, as well as Luciano Leilua for winning the Illawarra Player of the Year and Jack Payne for receiving the Illawarra Coach's Award.

I am pleased to see Paul McGregor contracted to coach the Dragons for

the next two seasons and wish him, all players and staff the very best, as well as thanking all of our Illawarra team, on and off the field, for giving their best this season and keeping the flag flying into 2018.

It was a big year for Collegians in the 2017 Hardware Man Illawarra Rugby League competition. The Collie Dogs overcame minor premiers Dapto 22-14 to take out the first grade premiership, while also defeating Bosco Engadine 22-16 to win the Under-18s title, and missing the treble by one point in a 17-16 second grade loss to Thirroul. As well, Collies collected the Print Media Club Championship Trophy, and dead-heated with Dapto for the Bob Lowrie Trophy for the most tries scored during the season (80 each).

In other grades, Windang defeated Avondale 20-0 in the Illawarra Shield, Corrimal Cougars defeated Berkeley 24-0 to take the Inspirations Paint women's league title, while Batemans Bay defeated Berkeley 30-20 to win the women's Under-18s. The Cougars later went on to defeat Queanbeyan Blues 36-0 in the CRL Women's Challenge Cup. Well done to Steelers employee Georgie Brooker who finished the season as the competition's second-highest

point scorer with 58 points and second-highest try scorer with 10 four-pointers, as well as being named her club's best and fairest of the season. The women's competitions certainly have resonated along the Illawarra and South Coast this year and I have no doubt they will only go from strength to strength.

In other awards, Helensburgh's Wayne Bremner was named the Paul McGregor Medal Player of the Year as well as taking the Frank Smith Trophy for best back. The Hardware Man Illawarra Shield Player of the Year was Joel Hanson, while Josh Honan of Dapto took the Alex Jack Memorial Trophy for Under-18s Player of the Year and Tammy Fletcher of Corrimal was named best player in the Women's League. Dapto's Josh Bryant and Rob Buaserau shared the Jack Royall Trophy for highest try scorer with 16 each, while Thirroul's Joel Johnson took the George Grofus Trophy for best forward.

The Paul McGregor Medal presentation night at The Grange Golf Club included two other special recognitions. This season marked a record-setting 10 grand finals controlled by referee Marcus Jennett over 16 years (2002, 2005-8, 2012-14, 2016-17). The previous record had stood for 75 of the



COLLEGIANS



CORRIMAL

Illawarra District competition's 100-plus years. This year also was marked by Andrew Riolo refereeing 400 first grade games, another great achievement. Congratulations to both Marcus and Andrew.

In South Coast Group 7, the Jamberoo Superoots downed the Kiama Knights 18-14 in a game for the ages before a pleasing crowd at the Collegians Sports Centre, Figtree. It was Jamberoo's first top-grade title in 43 years, while Kiama were appearing in their first top-grade grand final appearance since 1990. In reserve grade, Kiama defeated Gerringong 20-4, Milton-Ulladulla edged out Warilla Lake South 28-24 in the Under-18s, Mt Warrigal defeated Sussex Inlet 20-18 in third grade, and Kiama defeated Milton Ulladulla 20-16 in the women's league. This most successful grand final day again underlined what an asset the Collegians club has provided to the wider rugby league and sporting fraternity in development of this first-class facility.

Off the field, at the Steelers annual general meeting earlier this year retired Steelers and Dragons stalwart Neil Lovett received Steelers Life Membership. Neil had been an institution at the Steelers and Dragons for 31 years, playing a particularly significant role in managing out junior reps and NSW first grade teams and his recognition is well deserved.

Many thanks to all who contributed to

the Illawarra competitions on all levels, among them Illawarra Division chairman Ian Neill, manager Chris Bannerman, junior administrator Steve Nielsen and Stacy Drury as well as the dedicated board of management and judiciary members. Thanks also to our valued sponsors: The Hardware Man, Carlton and United Breweries, Bendigo Bank, Inspirations Paint and Cleary Bros.

Once again, I also extend particular thanks to the Gordon family and WIN Corporation whose support over many years – emphasised again this year – has enabled the Steelers to continue supporting our game at all levels and the local community at large. Thanks also to our St George District RLFC and Leagues Club friends and my Steelers board colleagues, noting the retirement of long-serving director John Thirlwell and appointment of John Brennon to fill the casual vacancy. At the same time, we welcomed new Steelers General Manager Sharon Arrow who has hit the ground running. I'd also like to acknowledge Operations Manager Luke Barker for his role as acting General Manager earlier this year and his ongoing commitment to the club.

On a sad note, during the year the Illawarra rugby league fraternity lost a number of great supporters, among them: Jean McGregor, Tommy Rawnslay, Sharon Young, Warren Wynn, Dennis Murada, George Evans, Mike Andrews, Ron Rowles, Rikki Organ, Ruth Clark and Doug Canty.

In Wollongong, we're now looking forward to the UK Super League game between Wigan Warriors and Challenge Cup holders Hull FC on Saturday, February 10 at WIN Stadium. It will be the first time such a game has been played outside Europe, and will occur just before the greatest game of all resumes domestically soon after.



**ILLAWARRA TARSHA GALE REPRESENTATIVE
MADDISON PERCEVAL**



OUR PROUD HISTORY

1921 – 2017

CLUB RECORDS

ENTERED PREMIERSHIP

St George Dragons: 1921–1998

Illawarra Steelers: 1982–1998

St George Illawarra Dragons: 1999–present

NRL/FIRST GRADE PREMIERS

St George Dragons (15)

1941, 1949, 1956, 1957–66, 1977, 1979

St George Illawarra Dragons (1)

2010

NRL/FIRST GRADE RUNNERS-UP

St George Dragons (13)

1927, 1930, 1933, 1937, 1942,
1946, 1953, 1971, 1975, 1985,
1992, 1993, 1996

St George Illawarra Dragons (1)

1999

NRL/FIRST GRADE MINOR PREMIERS

St George Dragons (15)

1928, 1946, 1956–60, 1962–67, 1979,
1985

St George Illawarra Dragons (2)

2009, 2010

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

St George Dragons (18)

1940, 1942, 1946, 1949, 1951,
1955–59, 1962–66, 1971, 1984–85

St George Illawarra Dragons (1)

2009

CUP TIES

St George Dragons (2)

1944, 1959

NIGHT FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

St George Dragons (1)

1933

PRE-SEASON COMPETITION

St George Dragons (4)

1963–65, 1971

Illawarra Steelers (1)

1992 Tooheys Challenge

MID-WEEK COMPETITION

St George Dragons (1)

1988 Panasonic Cup

PREMIER LEAGUE/RESERVE GRADE PREMIERS

St George Dragons (6)

1938, 1962–64, 1976, 1985

St George Illawarra Dragons (1)

2001

Illawarra Cutters (1)

2016

PREMIER LEAGUE/RESERVE GRADE RUNNERS-UP

St George Dragons (16)

1927, 1931, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1950,
1951, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1965, 1971,
1972, 1973, 1978, 1984

St George Illawarra Dragons (2)

2002, 2004

NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Illawarra Cutters (1)

2016

JERSEY FLEGG/THIRD GRADE PREMIERS

St George Dragons (15)

1940, 1942, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1957,
1963, 1965, 1966, 1972, 1974, 1983,
1985, 1987, 1996

Illawarra Steelers (1)

1984

St George Illawarra Dragons (1)

2005

JERSEY FLEGG/THIRD GRADE RUNNERS-UP

St George Dragons (10)

1930, 1943, 1958, 1964, 1971, 1978,
1979, 1984, 1990, 1992

St George Illawarra Dragons (1)

2002

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

St George Illawarra Dragons (1)

2011

TEAM RECORDS

BIGGEST WIN

St George Dragons

91–6 v Canterbury–Bankstown Bulldogs, Earl
Park, 11/5/1935 (Premiership record)

Illawarra Steelers

45–0 v Canberra Raiders, Wollongong
Showground, 25/4/1982

St George Illawarra Dragons

54–0 v Auckland Warriors, WIN Stadium,
6/5/2000

WORST DEFEAT

St George Dragons

61–0 v Manly–Warringah Sea Eagles,
Brookvale Oval, 3/7/1994

Illawarra Steelers

51–0 v Newtown Jets, Henson Park, 2/5/1982

St George Illawarra Dragons

70–10 v Melbourne Storm, MCG, 3/3/2000

LONGEST WINNING STREAK

St George Dragons

12 matches: 6/9/1958 – 24/5/1959

Note: The St George Dragons went through
the 1959 season undefeated, however they
drew one game. During this period the Saints
played an amazing 23 matches without a loss.

Illawarra Steelers

4 matches: 4/7/1993 – 25/7/1993

4 matches: 25/6/1997 – 17/7/1997

St George Illawarra Dragons

9 matches: 27/3/2011 – 29/5/2011

LONGEST LOSING STREAK

St George Dragons

8 matches: 3/7/1926 – 28/8/1926

Illawarra Steelers

11 matches: 15/5/1988 – 7/8/1988

St George Illawarra Dragons

7 matches: 8/6/2015 – 25/07/2015

LARGEST HOME CROWD

St George Dragons

Kogarah Oval: 23,582 v South Sydney
Rabbitohs, 4/5/1975

Illawarra Steelers

Steelers Stadium: 17,527 v St George
Dragons, 21/5/1993

St George Illawarra Dragons

Sydney Football Stadium: 40,164 v Sydney
Roosters, 25/4/2012

WIN Jubilee Oval, Kogarah: 20,847 v
Cronulla–Sutherland Sharks, 29/3/2009

WIN Stadium, Wollongong: 19,608 v
Cronulla–Sutherland Sharks, 10/9/2005

LARGEST GRAND FINAL CROWD

St George Dragons

Sydney Cricket Ground: 78,056 v South
Sydney Rabbitohs, 18/9/1965

St George Illawarra Dragons

Stadium Australia: 107,999 v Melbourne
Storm, 26/9/1999

MOST CONSECUTIVE GRAND FINAL WINS

St George Dragons

11: 1956–1966

Won Three Grades in One Season

St George Dragons

1963

UNDEFEATED PREMIERS

St George Dragons

1959

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

MOST TRIES IN A GAME

St George Dragons

Jack Lindwall: 6 v Manly–Warringah Sea
Eagles, Hurstville Oval, 3/5/1947

Illawarra Steelers

Alan McIndoe: 5 v Gold Coast Seagulls,
Steelers Stadium, 4/5/1991

St George Illawarra Dragons

Matt Cooper: 4 v Penrith Panthers, WIN
Stadium, 18/4/2004

Mark Gasnier: 4 v Wests Tigers, Oki Jubilee
Stadium, 20/6/2004

Brett Morris: 4 v North Queensland Cowboys, Dairy Farmers Stadium, 9/5/2009

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH

St George Dragons

Les Griffen: 15 v Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Earl Park, 11/5/1935

Illawarra Steelers

Rod Wishart: 10 v Parramatta Eels, Steelers Stadium, 16/7/1995

St George Illawarra Dragons

Amos Roberts: 9 v Auckland Warriors, WIN Stadium, 6/5/2000

Jamie Soward: 9 v Canberra Raiders, WIN Stadium, 8/7/2007

Gareth Widdop: 9 v Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, Jubilee Oval, 31/5/2015; v Newcastle Knights, Jubilee Oval, 2/8/2015

MOST POINTS IN A MATCH

St George Dragons

Les Griffen: 36 (2 tries, 15 goals) v Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Earl Park, 11/5/1935

Jack Lindwall: 36 (6 tries, 9 goals) v Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles, Hurstville Oval, 3/5/1947

Illawarra Steelers

Rod Wishart: 22 (1 try, 9 goals) v Western Suburbs Magpies, Steelers Stadium, 27/8/1995

Rod Wishart: 22 (3 tries, 5 goals) v Newcastle Knights, Marathon Stadium, 4/8/1996

Rod Wishart: 22 (2 tries, 7 goals) v Penrith Panthers, Steelers Stadium, 25/8/1996

Rod Wishart: 22 (2 tries, 7 goals) v South Sydney Rabbitohs, WIN Stadium, 9/3/1997

St George Illawarra Dragons

Amos Roberts: 22 (1 try, 9 goals) v Auckland Warriors, WIN Stadium, 6/5/2000

Jamie Soward: 22 (1 try, 9 goals) v Canberra Raiders, WIN Stadium, 8/7/2007

Gareth Widdop: 22 (1 try, 9 goals) v Newcastle Knights, Jubilee Oval, 2/9/2015

Gareth Widdop: 22 (2 tries, 7 goals) v Penrith Panthers, UOW Jubilee Oval, 4/3/2017

MOST TRIES IN A SEASON

St George Dragons

Tommy Ryan: 26 in 1957

Illawarra Steelers

Alan McIndoe: 19 in 1991

St George Illawarra Dragons

Nathan Blacklock: 27 in 2001

MOST GOALS IN A SEASON

St George Dragons

Harry Bath: 108 in 1958

Illawarra Steelers

John Dorahy: 76 in 1983

St George Illawarra Dragons

Jamie Soward: 90 in 2009

MOST POINTS IN A SEASON

St George Dragons

Harry Bath: 225 (3 tries, 108 goals) in 1958

Illawarra Steelers

Rod Wishart: 176 (11 tries, 66 goals) in 1995

St George Illawarra Dragons

Jamie Soward: 234 (12 tries, 90 goals, 6 field goals) in 2009

MOST TRIES IN CLUB HISTORY

St George Dragons

Johnny King: 143 (1960-1971)

Illawarra Steelers

Rod Wishart: 68 (1989-1998)

St George Illawarra Dragons

Matt Cooper: 124 (2000-2013)

MOST GOALS IN CLUB HISTORY

St George Dragons

Graeme Langlands: 648 (1963-1976)

Illawarra Steelers

Rod Wishart: 386 (1989-1998)

St George Illawarra Dragons

Jamie Soward: 398 (2007-2013)

MOST POINTS IN CLUB HISTORY

St George Dragons

Graeme Langlands: 1554 – 86 tries, 648 goals (1963-1976)

Illawarra Steelers

Rod Wishart: 1044 – 68 tries, 386 goals (1989-1998)

St George Illawarra Dragons

Jamie Soward: 977 – 39 tries, 398 goals, 25 field goals (2007-2013)

MOST GRAND FINAL APPEARANCES

St George Dragons

Norm Provan: 11 (1953, 1956-1965)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS

AUSTRALIAN TEST CAPTAINS

St George Dragons

Ken Kearney (1956)

Reg Gasnier (1962-1967)

Ian Walsh (1963-1966)

Johnny Raper (1967)

Phil Hawthorne (1970)

Graeme Langlands (1970-1974)

WORLD CUP CAPTAINS

St George Dragons

Johnny Raper (1968)

Billy Smith (1970)

Graeme Langlands (1972-1977)

DALLY M MEDAL

St George Dragons

Michael Potter: 1991

St George Illawarra Dragons

Trent Barrett: 2000

CLIVE CHURCHILL MEDAL

St George Dragons

Brad Mackay: 1993

St George Illawarra Dragons

Darius Boyd: 2010

CLUB HONOURS

TOP 10 FIRST GRADE/NRL APPEARANCES

St George Illawarra Dragons

Ben Hornby: 273

Ben Creagh: 270

Jason Nightingale: 245

Matt Cooper: 243

Dean Young: 209

Mark Gasnier: 174

Brett Morris: 169

Jason Ryles: 156

Trent Barrett: 154

Dan Hunt: 150

St George Dragons

Norm Provan: 256

Billy Smith: 234

Craig Young: 234

Graeme Langlands: 227

Michael Beattie: 210

Mark Coyne: 207

Ricky Walford: 207

Rod Reddy: 204

Barry Beath: 198

Graeme Wynn: 195

Illawarra Steelers

Michael Bolt: 167

Brett Rodwell: 156

Rod Wishart: 154

Neil Piccinelli: 145

Brian Hetherington: 144

John Cross: 137

Alan McIndoe: 125

Paul McGregor: 124

John Simon: 120

David Walsh: 114

Combined Club

Ben Hornby: 273

Ben Creagh: 270

Norm Provan: 256

Jason Nightingale: 245

Matt Cooper: 243

Rod Reddy: 237

Billy Smith: 234

Craig Young: 234

Graeme Langlands: 227

Michael Beattie: 210



INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIA

St George Dragons

Wayne Bartrim	1995-96
Barry Beath	1971
Tony Branson	1968, 71
Bob Bugden	1959-60
George Carstairs	1921-22
Brian 'Poppa' Clay	1957, 59-60
Mark Coyne	1995-97
Percy Fairall	1935-38
Wayne Fullerton-Smith	1988
Fred Gardner Snr	1933-34
Reg Gasnier	1959-65, 67-68
Ted Goodwin	1972-73
Scott Gourley	1991
Johnny Hawke	1949, 51
Phil Hawthorne	1970
Jack Holland	1948-50
Pat Jarvis	1983
Alex 'Rick' Johnston	1921-22
Brian Johnston	1987
Arthur 'Snowy' Justice	1928-30
Ken Kearney	1952-58
Johnny King	1966-68, 70
Ross Kite	1955
Graeme Langlands	1963-75
Eddie Lumsden	1959-63
Brad Mackay	1990, 92-94
Matt McCoy	1949
Doug McRitchie	1948-50
Noel Mulligan	1951
Kevin O'Brien	1956-57
Michael O'Connor	1986
Bryan Orrock	1956-57
Noel Pidding	1948, 50-53
Norm Provan	1954, 56-60
Graham Quinn	1980
Johnny Raper	1959-60, 62-68
Elton Rasmussen	1962, 67-68
Rod Reddy	1977-80, 82
John Riley	1959-60

Ron Roberts	1949-50
Steve Rogers	1983
Kevin Ryan	1963-64
Tommy Ryan	1952-53
Billy Smith	1964-68, 70
Ian Walsh	1962-66
Billy Wilson	1959-60
John Wittenberg	1968-70
Graeme Wynn	1980
Craig Young	1978-82, 84
Illawarra Steelers	
Bob Lindner	1993
Alan McIndoe	1988
Paul McGregor	1991-96
Rod Wishart	1991-96
St George Illawarra	
Luke Bailey	2003-04
Trent Barrett	2000-02, 04
Nathan Blacklock	2001
Darius Boyd	2009-10
Matt Cooper	2004-06
Ben Creagh	2005, 11
Josh Dugan	2015-17
Tyson Frizell	2016-17
Mark Gasnier	2001, 05-08
Ben Hornby	2006
Trent Merrin	2015
Brett Morris	2009-14
Jason Ryles	2001-05
Shaun Timmins	1999-04
Michael Weyman	2010
Dean Young	2010
NEW ZEALAND	
St George Dragons	
Jason Donnelly	1993
Illawarra Steelers	
Craig Smith	1998
St George Illawarra	
Gerard Beale	2014
Nathan Fien	2009-12
Jason Nightingale	2008-17

Russell Packer	2017
Craig Smith	1999-01
Jeremy Smith	2009-10
Chase Stanley	2007
ENGLAND	
St George Illawarra	
Mike Cooper	2015-16
Gareth Widdop	2014-17
GREAT BRITAIN	
Illawarra Steelers	
Andy Gregory	1989
Steve Hampson	1989
FIJI	
St George Illawarra	
Joe Lovodua	2017
Taane Milne	2017
Eto Nabuli	2015
ITALY	
St George Illawarra	
Paul Vaughan	2017
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	
St George Illawarra	
Nene Macdonald	2017
SAMOA	
St George Illawarra	
Leeson Ah Mau	2013-17
Tim Lafai	2016-17
Peter Mata'utia	2014
Lagi Setu	2009
Kyle Stanley	2014
Daniel Vidot	2013
SCOTLAND	
St George Illawarra	
Euan Aitken	2016
Daniel Heckenberg	2000
TONGA	
St George Illawarra	
Siliva Havili	2017
WALES	
St George Illawarra	
Tyson Frizell	2013

DRAGONS MEDAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

1999: Jamie Ainscough
2000: Trent Barrett
2001: Jason Ryles
2002: Shaun Timmins
2003: Ben Hornby
2004: Mathew Head
2005: Luke Bailey
2006: Mark Gasnier and Jason Ryles
2007: Ben Creagh
2008: Jason Ryles
2009: Ben Creagh
2010: Ben Creagh
2011: Jason Nightingale
2012: Brett Morris
2013: Trent Merrin
2014: Ben Creagh
2015: Leeson Ah Mau
2016: Tyson Frizell
2017: Gareth Widdop

LIFE MEMBERS

ST GEORGE DISTRICT

* Fusedale, RD	1938
* Gilbert, H	1938
* Hall, WJ	1938
* McGraw, JW	1938
* Yager, AW	1938
* Burt, JH	1939
* Moymow, AV	1941
* Killiby, T	1942
* Brown, R	1944
* Harding, W	1944
* Justice, AJ	1944
* Mogridge, JR	1947
* Ross, D	1948
* Clarkson, A	1949
* Sadlier, W	1951
* Fahy, CW	1952
* Kelly, LT	1953
* Wales, BP	1954
* Tipping, N	1955
* O'Connor, R	1957
* McGrath, JF	1958
* Proops, J	1960
* Summerell, W	1961
* Mackie, Al MBE	1962
* Maher, HC	1963
Provan, N	1963
* Brown, AG	1964
* Facer, FH	1964
* Black, EH, OBE	1965
* Price, G	1965
* Dellow, LC	1966
* Flood, RS	1966
* Clay, B	1967
* Ellwood, J	1968
Lumsden, E	1969
Raper, J, MBE	1971
* Gardner, FH	1972
Langlands, G, MBE	1973

Smith, W	1973
Palmer, I	1974
Beath, B	1976
* Fleming, J	1980
Reddy, R	1981
Summerell, W	1982
* Ryder, D	1982
* Stone, R	1984
Jansen, J	1986
Wynn, G	1988
Young, C	1988
* Gasnier, R	1989
Grant, J	1989
Johnston, B	1990
Beattie, M	1990
* Kearney, K	1991
* Robbins, A	1991
* Doust, L	1992
King, J	1992
Starkey, B	1993
Carroll, P	1993
* Lindwall, J	1994
* Kite, R	1995
* Kenyon, B	1996
Walford, R	1996
* McRitchie, D	1997
Coyne, M	1998
McClelland, D	2000
French, J	2000
Connelly, R	2001
Saunders, W	2001
Lockwood, W	2002
Kinna, D	2002
* Grosvenor, R	2003
Robinson, D	2003
* Lowrie, G	2004
Black, P	2006
Ninness, M	2007
Mackay, B	2009

Crowe, C	2010
Books, C	2010
Ellis, G	2011
Howard, J (AC)	2011
Armstrong, B	2012
Gasnier, J	2015
Parkes, D	2015
McCullough, G	2016

ILLAWARRA DISTRICT

Allan Barry	
* John Cleary	
Joe Davidson	
Bruce Gordon	
Richie Hetherington	
Neil Lovett	
Ian Kirk	
Brian Kurtz	
Shane McKellar	
Colin Markham	
Bob Millward OAM	
* David Murphy	
Ian Neill	
Peter Newell OAM	
Ray Nicholson	
Sean O'Connor	
Jim Pearce	
* Col Purcell OAM	
Tony Villa	

PLAYER LIFE MEMBERS

Trent Barrett
Ben Creagh
Matt Cooper
Ben Hornby
Paul McGregor
Jason Ryles
Shaun Timmins
Rod Wishart
Dean Young

#REDV



ISC



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..... 7:30pm - 9:30pm



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