

Official Magazine of Queensland's Former Origin Greats

**FOGS**  
**QUEENSLAND**  
FORMER ORIGIN GREATS

# QUEENSLANDER

MAGAZINE

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SUMMER 2014



# THE NEW STATESMEN

SMITH AND THURSTON JOIN ORIGIN'S ELITE WITH NEW FOGS AWARD



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## A Message From THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



**NEXT** year will truly be the year of fresh starts, and new beginnings.

It is hard to believe that the end of another year is upon us again, and this – our summer edition of Queenslander Magazine – our final official farewell before Christmas and the annual break.

Looking back over 2014, it was once again a year of wonderful achievement for the Former Origin Greats organisation.

This is probably evident in the weight of this magazine, which is nearly double the usual size to accommodate all the news of what has happened over the past year and, specifically, the past six months.

At FOGS, we have continued to grow and develop, with our major programs for the year – the ARTIE Academy, FOGS Indigenous Employment and Careers Expos and annual State of Origin luncheon – enjoying continued success.

But the old adage of standing still by not moving forward rings true as always.

While we are always happy to reflect on our successes, the greater reward for us is in preparing for the challenges that are waiting for us on the horizon.

This is a sentiment shared this year by the Queensland State of Origin team.

For the first time since 2006, next year NSW and not Queensland will go into the Origin series as defending champions.

It is such a strange sensation, given the Maroons have been so successful for so long. But it was

a surreal sensation for many to have enjoyed an Origin era where Queensland won an incredible eight series in a row.

When you think back and remember that the previous longest winning streak had been three series in a row – and, that in 2006, NSW had been gunning for their fourth – what the Maroons have managed to achieve with their incredible run will never cease to amaze.

But next year represents a new beginning for the Maroons, picking themselves up and setting themselves for the challenge of returning the Origin shield to Queensland.

It will be tough, it always is. But the best victories aren't the ones that come easily. They are the ones built on giving everything you have to reach your goal.

Queensland has done it before, and they will do it again.

Similarly, the FOGS begin a new era in 2015 with the imminent shift to our new headquarters, across the road from Suncorp Stadium at 59 Castlemaine St.

It was always the vision of our founding chairman "Tosser" Turner for the FOGS to have a place of their own. Happily, another one of the great man's visions is coming to fruition.

Plans for the redevelopment of the building are in place, and construction work will begin soon to turn it into the FOGS' new home.

Suncorp Stadium is the spiritual home of rugby league, and this new base will be the spiritual home of

the FOGS.

I say that because we have been able to take this next step in the organisation's development because of the generosity of our benefactor and spiritual leader Tosser.

Like with everything we do, Tosser's legacy will live with the completion of the new building, which we hope to have finished and be occupying by Christmas 2015.

It may only be relocating across the road, but metaphorically it is a huge shift for us.

Aside from having a place to call our own, the building will also contain office space to be tenanted to other organizations, giving us a regular and reliable income stream of our own.

They are exciting times ahead, and we look forward to all of our members, staff, sponsors and supporters joining us on this new beginning.

My sincere thanks as always go to our tremendous sponsors, whose generosity and shared passion allow us to continue the work that we are doing.

We thank you all for being a part of the FOGS family, and look forward to working alongside you as teammates again next year.

From everyone at FOGS, I would like to wish everyone the best for Christmas and the New Year.

I look forward to catching up and your ongoing support in 2015.

### GENE MILES

Executive Chairman

*FOGS wish all our members,  
staff, sponsors and supporters  
all the very best for a wonderful  
Christmas and exciting New Year!*





# WARDYARDS

After eight years of glory, 2014 was a tough year for the Maroons. But don't dare suggest this is the end.

EIGHT is enough? Try telling that to the Queensland Maroons. While the remarkable streak of eight series wins may have been snapped this year, with NSW lifting the shield for the first time since 2005, Queensland's spirit is unbroken and its determination unwavering.

The history books will show that NSW recorded a 2-1 series win, after victories at Suncorp Stadium in Game I (12-8) and Game II at ANZ Stadium (6-4). But – as always – cold, hard statistics do not do justice to the tale. For instance, the score sheet won't show how the Maroons lost Test halfback Cooper Cronk to a broken arm in the 10th minute of the first game. As far as crippling blows go, that would take some topping.

Despite this, the Maroons only fell short in Game I by four points. Nor will the statistics show how, for Game II, champions Billy Slater, Greg Inglis and Daly Cherry-Evans – the new halfback to replace Cronk – all played under duress of serious injury and were in doubt until match morning. That was only after the Queensland selectors were forced to name a playing squad of 22 in the hope of getting a team on the field, and then having both Corey Parker and Josh Papalii withdraw before kick-off with injuries.

Beyond the statistics are the glimpses of magic that gave promise to fans, faith to coaching staff and false hope of those south of the border who have declared the Queensland dynasty dead. There were milestones to be celebrated, like Origin's 100th Game that saw Arthur Beetson's famous Queensland No.11 jersey retired for the match to honour the memory of the Maroons' first captain.

There were terrific debuts for backrower Aidan Guerra and winger Will Chambers. There were slices of history, such as Johnathan Thurston eclipsing Mal Meninga to become the greatest point-scorer in Origin history, and Queensland captain Cameron Smith becoming the first player ever to win 20 Origin games.

There was also the crunching 32-8 win in Game III at Suncorp Stadium that sent the message loud and clear that this Maroons juggernaut is not finished with yet.

"Looking back at it now, my overriding emotion about the series is one of respect," coach Meninga told Queensland Magazine. "From our perspective, we were a little bit off in our performance. But that is not taking anything away from the Blues, because they made us play that way. "We got a bit frustrated and consequently weren't thinking as clearly as we should have on occasions, and that led to our errors."

"It was the highest error count for a series that we'd had over the course of the nine years. That was all down to how the Blues played – their desire, passion and how much they wanted to win." To say it was a loss we had to have, I don't know about that. The hardest thing in sport or any walk of life is keep that passion and desire burning, because that is what drives you to give your very best.

"Our desire and preparation this year was really good. At the end of the day, it came down to footy – and we didn't complete our sets, made a lot of errors and didn't ask enough questions with the football. We didn't play as well as we could and that was the difference." Despite the tsunami of adversity that came their way this year, Meninga says his Maroons will draw positives out of the experience, even though the series result ultimately escaped them." The disruptions we faced in this series made it hard, no

question" he said. "To lose your halfback 10 minutes into Game I with a broken arm is a massive hurdle. When you are playing with 16 men against 17 at any level, let alone Origin, it is just tough. But to lose your halfback – especially one like Cooper who brings so many qualities to the team – made it difficult."

"But again, they are not excuses. We had our opportunities to win that game, and we didn't convert them." Origin is all about waiting for your opportunities to arrive and then taking them. That is where we have been successful – being able to wait and wait for the opportunity to come and then taking it."



"We didn't capitalise on that, either through an error, a poor decision or not having the bounce of the ball go our way."

Before Game III, NSW's most successful coach Phil Gould spoke publicly about how important it was for the Blues to win, because it was essentially the first game of the 2015 series. Meninga feels the same – and was proud to see the Maroons produce their best football again to trounce the Blues. "I was very pleased with their attitude in Game III" Mal said. "I said to them after the game that it would have been very easy for them to go through the motions there and look after themselves so they were a bit fresher going back into club footy." But they played exceptionally well. "It showed to me that putting on that Maroon jersey still means so much to them and they want to represent the state with everything they have every time they run out there – regardless of the situation." They didn't have to play the way they did. They chose to do it that way and I couldn't be more proud of them for that."





# IT WALKS TALL AMONG GIANTS OF THE GAME

## Third Dally M Medal for Thurston

**JOHNATHAN Thurston** grabbed himself another slice of rugby league history when he was crowned the joint winner of this year's Dally M Medal for the NRL's best and fairest player, alongside Parramatta's **Jarryd Hayne**. It is the first time in the award's 34-year history that two players have tied for the lead after all the votes were counted after 26 rounds of football, but no one would argue the two Test stars had stellar years for their respective clubs.

For **Thurston** though, the medal represented another milestone – joining Newcastle Knights Immortal **Andrew Johns** as the only man to win the award three times. Incredibly, **Thurston's** win in the 2014 Medal came nearly a decade after his previous wins in 2005 and 2007, reaffirming just how long the Queensland Maroons star has been at the top echelon of the game.

**Thurston** and **Hayne** both left the Star Casino with their arms full, after collecting a swag of awards between them.

As well as the Dally M, **Thurston** also took home honours as five-eighth of the year, point-scorer of the year and the Provan-Summons Medal as the fans' choice as player of the year. **Hayne** was named fullback of the year, try-scorer of the year and representative player of the year.

Both **Thurston** and **Hayne** finished with 32 votes from the season, beating two Englishmen in **Sam Burgess** (Souths, 29) and **Gareth Widdop** (Dragons, 28). Also on 28 points was Brisbane's **Ben Hunt**, who capped a break-out season with his inclusion in the extended Queensland State of Origin squad for Game II of this year's series. The man **Hunt** was set to replace for that game, **Daly Cherry-Evans**, was named as halfback of the year in the NRL's team of the season.

Another Queensland, Penrith's **James Segeyaro**, was chosen as hooker of the year.



**WINNERS ARE GRINNERS:** Parramatta's Jarryd Hayne and Cowboys captain Johnathan Thurston are crowned joint Dally M Medal winners.



**Team of the Year Award winners** (from left) James Segeyaro, Semi Radradra, Sam Burgess, James Graham and Daly Cherry-Evans.

Pictures: Courtesy News Corp.

# GLORY, GLORY

## South Sydney end their premiership drought and hand the NRL a book of fairytales for a generation

**FOURTEEN** years after winning a premiership with the Broncos as a gangly winger, Lote Tuqiri has capped one of the more remarkable sporting careers with his grand final win with South Sydney.

In a year when rugby league once again had to deal with its share of negative headlines, including the ASADA investigation with Cronulla, salary cap probes and the injury to Alex McKinnon, the Rabbitohs' 30-6 win over the Bulldogs in the NRL grand final provided a Disney library worth of fairytales.

Tuqiri was undoubtedly among them. At 35, the oldest man playing in the NRL, Tuqiri's experience was a key asset for the Rabbitohs and gave the former Maroons winger one last look from the top of the mountain after a tumultuous career.

From the highs of premierships, Origins, Tests, becoming a dual international after switching to rugby, then playing for Australia again on his return to league, Tuqiri has enjoyed a career few could rival.

But along the way there have been controversies, form slumps, facing the end of his career more than once and a string of serious injuries that peppered the later stages of his career.

And yet through it all, the big winger once again stood tall – earning himself a premiership ring to sit with the one he won with the Broncos in 2000.

Tuqiri was one of a bevy of Queenslanders to savour South Sydney's

win – fullback Greg Inglis and forwards Ben Te'o and Chris McQueen were other Rabbitohs to have also worn the Maroon jersey with pride, with Dave Tyrrell and Luke Keary Maroons in waiting.

Yet perhaps the greatest fairytale of them all belonged to a man who wore the pre-Origin Maroon jersey four times in 1973 – a former Queensland publican whose name will be forever etched in South Sydney folklore.

John Sattler was the last man to captain Souths to a premiership, way back in 1971, just before he headed to Queensland to finish his career with stints at Wests Panthers and Norths Devils.

He will forever be remembered as the man who played out the 1970 grand final with a broken jaw.

How fitting then Sattler should be present as his beloved Rabbitohs ended a 43-year title drought inspired by Sam Burgess – wearing Sattler's No.13 jersey – who played out the game after shattering his cheekbone and eye socket in the first tackle of the game.

John's son Scott, a Former Origin Great, said his legendary father was swept up in the emotion of what turned out to be a fairytale grand final.

"It had all the makings of a dream grand final, and I think that is what we got," Scott said. "It was a cracking game of football where we didn't really know who was going to win it until the last 10 minutes of the game, there was the massive effort of Sam Burgess."

"I saw (NRL CEO) David Smith in the tunnel after the game, and the huge smile on his face said two things: 1) How great is rugby league; and 2) dollar signs."

"It was one of the great advertisements for rugby league, and the match delivered everything that the code needed it to."

"My dad is a quiet guy, but he is very emotional about the club. When Souths qualified for the grand final, his emotion went to a new level."



"Not a lot of people get to see that side of him, outside of his family, but both he and Bobby McCarthy rode the wave of emotion all week."

"Even on the night, when the TV cameras kept panning to him, he still had that really nervous look on his face."

"A few people have said he wouldn't want Souths to win, because he is always remembered as their last premiership captain."

"It is not the way it is at all. He wishes it had happened sooner."

"To be there together with Bobby and George Piggins on the night to see Souths win another premiership, that was the most important thing for him – to be able to share the moment with some of his former teammates."



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# FROM THE COACH'S DESK

With Queensland coach Mal Meninga

## IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

### NOTHING lasts forever and nothing stays the same.

And while this year's State of Origin series loss was a bitter pill after eight years of success, everyone involved in the Queensland set-up knows that a 2-1 loss to NSW is not the end of us. It is merely a new beginning.

Right from the beginning of this team's incredible run of success in 2006, I have shied away from using the word "dynasty" and concentrated on this team's legacy. Dynasty is a word that was forced upon this team at the end of our second series together and now people have been equally as quick to proclaim the death of the "dynasty" after a single series defeat.

Let me just set the record straight here. While immensely proud of their achievements, not one player in this Queensland team was ever motivated to play well because of record books or winning streaks. Nor do they feel, now that the winning streak has ended, that their job is done. Next year, we will start again from scratch, the same as we always do, with the same passion, drive and determination that we have always had.

There are also positives to be taken out of this year's series loss.

For a start, the loss acted as a circuit-breaker, giving us all a chance to stop, take a breath and fully appreciate the magnitude of what this team has achieved over the previous eight years. It gave the people of Queensland a chance to stand back and applaud the team that so passionately represents them every year in the contest so dear to each Queenslander's heart.

And it has also given us the opportunity to look around at our structures and processes and decide if we need to be doing things differently. I am comfortable with the systems we have in place at the moment, but change is inevitable. There won't be much changing next year. We will go the 10 years together – players and staff – and then we will definitely look at making some changes for the future.

I want everyone on the staff to be able to celebrate together. They have been fantastic servants for Queensland over the past nine years.



We will all be there to celebrate 10 years working together and doing our best to make sure that we finish that 10-year period in the best fashion possible. After that, we will make some changes to introduce fresh ideas and faces.

As for my own position, I am asked at the end of every series whether it will be my last as Queensland coach, but I have no intention of walking away. I say it all the time, but I won't stick around if I am not wanted, or the players feel the need to hear from a different voice. If they or the Queensland Rugby League think that there is someone else who could do a better job, then I will accept that and move on.

I am not that self-centred or egotistical to hang around forever for my own benefit. My only concern is making sure that the players are able to get the best out of themselves and are able to do the Maroon jersey proud every time they run out to play. If I can't assist in that process, then I will move on. But for me, I still love it, I love being involved. The chance to work with these wonderful men for the betterment of Queensland is something very dear to me, and something that I am still very passionate about.

I have renewed ambition as well after what happened this year – it is not just the players feeling that way. The series loss this year is a personal challenge for me to find new and better ways for this team to play to its potential and that is a very exciting thing to be a part of.

Pictures: Courtesy News Corp.



# STATESMEN OF ORIGIN

This year, a new award was struck to honour the rare breed of champions who have played 30 or more Origin games for Queensland – the FOGS Statesman Award

**WITHOUT** question, the most underrated asset in Johnathan Thurston's massive rugby league arsenal is his durability.

For such a comparatively slight player to not only survive but thrive in the furnace of Origin football is amazing.

The fact Thurston manages to dominate matches despite being a primary target for the Blues in attack and defence is incredible.

That he has not only endured as Queensland's attacking linchpin for 30 games, but playing those 30 games in a row, is a simply astounding achievement.

Thurston and Maroons captain, Cameron Smith, were the two current Queensland players who were recipients of the new FOGS Statesman Award – which has been created to honour those players who have represented Queensland in Origin on 30 or more occasions.

Thurston and Smith join legendary names Wally Lewis, Mal Meninga, Allan Langer, Darren Lockyer and Petero Civoniceva in a very exclusive club that celebrates the incredible longevity of service to the Maroon cause.

FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles said the new award was created when Queensland coach Mal Meninga alerted him to Thurston's incredible feat of playing 30 straight Origin games in the lead-up to Game 3 of this year's series.

"The coach came to me before the series and told me that JT was about to play in his 30th consecutive Origin game, which is just unheard of, and I doubt we will ever see again," Gene said.

"Mal said we should really be acknowledging someone who plays 30 games. I thought it was a great idea.

"We obviously have the Tosser Turner Medal for Queensland players who have played more than 20 games, and then we have the elite group of guys who have played 30."

Each of the players to receive the FOGS Statesman Award were presented with a Tag Heuer watch.

"We wanted to present them with a memento that just wouldn't sit on a mantelpiece," Gene said. "We wanted something that would be a part of their everyday lives, so they would be able to see it and be reminded of the special milestone they have achieved.

"We had two recipients for this year, and we also awarded it retrospectively – so we were able to pay tribute to the phenomenal effort of Wally, Mal, Alfie, Locky and Petero.

"We have them on the honour board in the FOGS offices. Where the recipients of the Dick "Tosser" Turner Medal are listed for their 20 games in white print, the guys who have been awarded this Statesman Award for playing 30 or more games have their names printed in gold.

"We have had seven players reach this mark from more than 30 years and over 100 games of Origin footy, so that shows you what a select group of players this is."

While anyone reaching 30 games is a tremendous achievement, Gene said he still shakes his head at the thought

of Thurston playing his 30 all in a row.

"I really don't think that JT has been given the accolades he deserves for such an amazing achievement," Gene said.

"Playing 30 consecutive games is just a superhuman effort.

"You have to remember a couple of years ago, he was actually wheeled out onto the field after the game in a wheelchair after injuring his knee, which later required re-constructive surgery. He hasn't missed a game since.

"It is a genuinely remarkable feat of toughness and durability.

"We all know what an incredibly skillful player he is, but I think what he can do with the ball sometimes overshadows just how genuinely tough and resilient he is.

"It is an incredible achievement for him, so we were very pleased to present JT – and the six other recipients – with the FOGS Statesman Award."



Picture: Courtesy News Corp

# NEW LOOK, BUT SAME OLD PASSION

A NEW era for the Maroons will begin with a new-look jersey after banking and insurance giant Suncorp announced its logo would replace that of subsidiary AAMI on the front of the Queensland State of Origin jersey from next year.

The new sponsorship deal was announced in September, fittingly at Suncorp Stadium, where the company announced an expansion of its backing of the Queensland Rugby League, as well as a new sponsorship of the Queensland Ballet.

QRL Chairman Peter Betros and Maroons coach Mal Meninga were in attendance, and Mal said Suncorp's continued backing of the Maroons was the perfect marriage of two "Queensland icons". "Obviously AAMI has been there as a fantastic sponsor for the past 12 years and for the majority of that time we have been reasonably successful," Mal said. "They have brought us a fair bit of luck. "It has been a good association and an easy one to work with.

"They have been very low maintenance as major sponsors and that has allowed us to concentrate on doing our jobs in getting the team prepared to play well.

"It was a really successful period in our Origin history. But we are very pleased

now that AAMI's parent company Suncorp, which is a Queensland company as well, has come on board to keep that success and our tremendous working relationship going. "Suncorp is an iconic Queensland company in its own right and has been involved in supporting rugby league for a long time.

"The most obvious example is their naming rights sponsorship of Suncorp Stadium, which has been going for 20 years now.

"The company has also been in Queensland for something like 118 years, so they have been here even longer than the game of rugby league." Mal said Suncorp's commitment to Queensland through the backing of rugby league and ballet was an investment in the state's future generations. "We did the announcement in conjunction with the Queensland Ballet, which is another iconic element of Queensland life," Mal said. "Under the guidance of Artistic Director Li Cunxin, who I know personally and is a great man with an outstanding personal history, and CEO Anna Marsden the Queensland Ballet does wonderful things in the development of the arts and culture in Queensland."

"I think the sponsorship of the two is a great marriage, a great synergy. Both sport and the arts can help change the lives of

young people in Queensland, so they can work hand in hand to make a difference. "This sponsorship will allow young people to participate in their chosen field- whether it is sport or the arts, and allow them to pursue their passions and lead healthier lives."

TEAMMATES: Former Maroons winger Brent Tate joined Queensland Ballets Company Dancer Eleanor Freeman at the Suncorp sponsorship announcement. Picture: Courtesy Suncorp.



Picture: Courtesy News Corp

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# LUNCH KEEPS KICKING GOALS FOR QUEENSLAND CHARITIES



**THE** FOGS EA Hire Equipment Annual Charity Lunch is helping to change the lives of Queenslanders.

Now a fixture of the Queensland sporting calendar, the FOGS Origin Charity Lunch was this year held in the lead-up to the first game of the series, which also marked the historic 100th game of Origin.

Held at Suncorp Stadium, the lunch again sold out a month in advance, as Queensland footy fans continue to make the FOGS Charity Lunch a part of their Origin celebrations every year.

The lunch serves as the major fund-raising event for the FOGS, helping to finance the ongoing work that is helping to improve the Queensland community.

But the goodwill doesn't end there.

Thanks to the money raised at the 2013 event, significant donations were made to three very worthy Queensland causes at this year's lunch.

In November of last year, FOGS made a commitment to two very special girls, Alessia and Zoe.

Both girls are currently undertaking a 12-month Hear and Say Program, which the donation from FOGS will directly support.

As part of this program, both girls will be "switched on" to sound, enabling each child to hear for the very first time.

This donation will ensure a lifelong gift of speech and sound for both girls, and the FOGS are humbled to have played a role in such a special moment for the girls' families.

The second beneficiary for this year was Epilepsy Queensland, with FOGS very proud to announce at the lunch that a car was being donated to support their services.

Wally Lewis was on hand to present the CEO of Epilepsy Queensland, Helen

Whitehead, with the keys to the car in a fantastic moment for all concerned.

The remaining funds raised from 2013 Charity Lunch were distributed to continue FOGS' support of rugby league at all levels throughout Queensland over the past 12 months.

FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles said the organisation was very proud of the ongoing success of the lunch, particularly when it was able to fund the work of worthy charities.

"We are very fortunate to have the support that we do for the event,"

Gene said. "We are very aware that there are people going through tough times out there, so for us every year to have a room filled with 750 people coming together to celebrate Origin and celebrate being a Queenslanders is a great thing."

"Once again, we sold out a month before the event, which is a really nice feeling to have."

"This year was a bit of a special event, with the lunch being before the 100th Origin game."

"We raised in excess of \$100,000, and everyone went away after having a really enjoyable day."

"The majority of our guests are repeat offenders – we have our database of great supporters and when the email goes out saying tickets for the lunch are available, they are the ones that reply straight away saying they will be in for another year."

"The challenge for us is to keep improving the day, and better the benchmarks that keep being raised every year."

Gene said being able to

contribute to charities so they can continue their work for Queenslanders in need was a reflection of the core values founding Chairman Dick "Tosser" Turner set as the FOGS' foundations when the organisation was established.

"Tosser was all about using the passion of Queenslanders for Origin and the men who played in it as leverage to create a better life for everyone in the state, and I think he would be very pleased with role the lunch has played every year," Gene said.

"To be able to make significant donations to terrific causes like the Hear and Say Centre and Epilepsy Queensland will make their jobs easier, and in turn make life better for more Queenslanders."



Pictures: Courtesy News Corp

# PRIDE OF THE STATE

**Northern Pride's amazing win in the NRL State Championship is a massive boost for Queensland footy, says Scott Sattler**

THE question of which state boasts the best second-tier rugby league competition has been answered in emphatic fashion, with Cairns' Northern Pride being crowned the NRL's inaugural State Champions.

Just one week after their stunning 34-6 victory over Easts in the Intrust Super Cup (ISC) grand final, the Pride travelled to Sydney to take on Penrith in the first ever "Superbowl-style" showdown between the winners of the Queensland and New South Wales local leagues.

The Pride's win was a shock to the system for NSW league fans, who once again fell into the trap of thinking anything from New South Wales must be better than anything from Queensland.

The Pride were despised by the bookmakers, starting the game as ridiculous \$5.50 outsiders, but played brilliantly for the full 80 minutes to get home 32-28 at ANZ Stadium.

Former Queensland lock Scott Sattler says the Pride's win will prove a milestone moment for rugby league in both states.

"What they did by going down there and winning that game has opened up a whole new avenue of interstate rivalry that is just going to go to another level again," Sattler said.

"It also reaffirmed that the ISC is probably the second best rugby league competition in the world."

"I think what it is going to happen now is we will see a lot of players head to Queensland from New South Wales, the United Kingdom and New Zealand seeking a higher level of competition so they are a step closer to the NRL."

"That in turn will lead to an increase in the earning capacity of players in the Intrust Super Cup, making it even more professional and attractive to players."

Because of his dual roles as an ISC commentator for Channel 9 and a recruitment officer for South Sydney, few can match Sattler's intimate knowledge of Queensland's three main domestic competitions.

And while he said he was surprised by the size of the Pride's ISC grand final win over the Tigers, he said the Queensland Cup grand final was a fitting finale to a season of great football.

Sattler said the FOGS' long-running sponsorship of the FOGS Colts Challenge and FOGS Cup competitions were a massive boost for the game in Queensland, with the standard of football and the skill of the players leaping to another level in the past few seasons.

In the FOGS Cup, Easts came from 14-0 down against Wynnum Manly to win their third straight premiership, emerging with a hard-fought 20-14 victory.

The FOGS Colts grand final was a boilover, with Redcliffe upsetting high-fancied minor premiers Burleigh 34-20.

"I take a lot of interest in the FOGS Colts because of the recruitment work I do for the Rabbitohs," Sattler said.

"The FOGS Colts have always been a great production line for young talent, but what is interesting to me is how the FOGS Cup is just as crucial a step in that progression of young players."

"Once upon a time, the FOGS Cup was seen as the reserve grade of the Queensland Competition, but it is now at a level that has gone far beyond that perception."

"The FOGS Cup now serves as the next step in the development process for young Queensland players."

"The standard of football across the three grades this year has been sensational. The QRL needs to take a lot of credit for the great shape Queensland football is in at the moment."

"But the FOGS should also be justifiably proud of the role they have played in supporting these competitions and ensuring the pathways for young Queensland players are as strong as they have ever been."



Pictures: Courtesy News Corp



# ARTIE ACADEMY GETS HANDS-ON WITH DEFENCE FORCE CAREERS



"The kids were blown away by some of the things they were able to do, and I must admit I was surprised at the amount of things that were put forward to us for the kids to experience," Mark said.

"We were having a walk around and touching the F-18 Super Hornets, we were walking around their training facilities, we had tours of their gym and facilities.

"We actually slept at the barracks, and stayed there from the Sunday through to the Friday.

"There were five days really jam packed with hands-on activities, which gave the kids an accurate portrayal of what life is like in defence force jobs."

The Defence Work Experience Program's South Queensland Liaison Officer Geoff Metcalfe told the Army News that the camp experience was designed to help make an easier transition from school for students who were interested in a defence force career.

"As part of this placement, I developed a schedule of activities," he said. "This included a WTSS (Weapons Training Simulation System) shoot, having meals in the mess, visiting the night-fighting facility, and listening to a Defence Force Recruiting presentation."

The ARTIE Academy students were joined at Gallipoli Barracks by students from the Brisbane Broncos' mentoring program.

"We had eight kids that went through, and there were eight Broncos kids as well," Mark said. "They experienced the whole camp as well, but we were the only ones that actually stayed on site."

"We had breakfast and all meals provided for us, so it was a real live-in experience for them. They lived the whole thing for a week."

But it wasn't all work and no play, with the ARTIE Academy students also attending the third State of Origin game at Suncorp Stadium, and meeting up with FOGS Scott Prince and Dallas Johnson before the game.

"The kids met up with the boys and had a bit of a chat about the things they were doing at the barracks," Mark said.

"On one of their first days in camp the kids had to do the fitness test – going through things like push-up tests and beep tests.

"They were having a good talk with them about that."

ARTIE Academy student Caalita Mitchell from Tullawong SHS, told the



Army News the camp experience had been helpful in trying to choose a career.

"It opened my eyes to opportunities in the ADF and possibly what I can do in the future," she said.

Michael Walit, from Morayfeld SHS said he had been inspired by the visit.

"The workshops were all very interesting with lots of information and the staff were kind, friendly and very supportive," Michael told Army News.

"I hadn't realised how many types of jobs there were in the ADF.

"I feel inspired to be a part of the ADF – an option I hadn't thought was available to me."



# MAROONS CAMP VISIT A REAL TREAT



**BEING** a member of the ARTIE Academy has its privileges.

A very lucky 130 ARTIE Academy students were able to experience that first-hand during July, when they were invited to a special day trip to Sanctuary Cove to go inside the Queensland State of Origin camp in the lead-up to Game 3.

The unique opportunity to watch the Maroons prepare was a reward for 130 ARTIE Academy students from the South-East Region who achieved the "Gold" standard of 90-100 per cent Physical Attendance, as well as a minimum B-rating in Effort and Behaviour in Maths and English.

"The group was able to meet a few of the Indigenous Queensland Origin players like Will Chambers, Greg Inglis, Justin Hodges and Johnathan Thurston," ARTIE Project Officer Casey Doyle explained.

"They came down and had a chat with

the kids about achieving good results in school, and their own futures beyond football.

"The guys had literally just finished their training for the morning so it was great they were able to spare their time for the kids."

But it was at the Maroons' afternoon training session where the ARTIE Academy students really got an idea of what a privileged position their hard work and dedication had delivered for them.

"In the afternoon the Queensland team had a public training session at Sanctuary Cove, so we went over and watched that," Casey said.

"We were very lucky, because it was getting close to time for us to leave, but we really wanted a group photo with all the players.

"But they were still in the middle of a

training session.

"But (FOG and Queensland Team Manager) Steve Walters was able to get the boys to come off the field quickly for a photo with our kids, and then went back on to the field to keep training.

"I think the rest of the public that were there were quite jealous!

"I think the people in the crowd were all expecting training was over, and that they would be able to get photos themselves.

"But the players did their photos with us and then ran back on the field to keep training. It was pretty amazing.

"The group also got to briefly chat with Mal Meninga during the camp. He took time out especially to talk to the kids, despite obviously having so much on in getting the team ready.

"It was a great day. The kids really seemed to love it."

## SPIRIT OF ARTIE LIVES ON AT DREAMWORLD CORROBOREE

**OF** all the wonderful milestones and honours to be bestowed upon the great Arthur Beetson during his lifetime, you cannot help but wonder just how proud he would have been to have a pie named after him.

While Arthur's memory and his legacy live on through tributes as varied as his bronze statue at Suncorp Stadium to the FOGS' own ARTIE Academy, Dreamworld's new Corroboree attraction would hold a special place in Beetson's heart.

At Corroboree's Kai-Kai Café, one of the items on the menu is the Artie Pie – a fitting tribute to the great man who certainly new his way around a meat-stuffed pastry.

While Arthur's love of meat pies was legendary, so too was his passion for his heritage and Indigenous culture.

That is why FOGS and the ARTIE Academy are official partners of the Dreamworld Corroboree – to pay tribute to the great man and to continue his legacy of educating and celebrating Indigenous culture on the on-going journey of reconciliation.

The Dreamworld Corroboree is the theme park's latest attraction – an interactive, walk-through

experience celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, wildlife and stories.

As visitors make their way through the Corroboree exhibit, they will learn about traditional stories associated with key animal exhibits and try hands-on activities including fire making, cultural weapons demonstration and music making.

The Corroboree took seven years to create, with the input of 22 Indigenous tribes and 51 individuals, who shared their knowledge of native culture, art and storytelling.

Dreamworld CEO said the Corroboree was created because of the opportunity to better tell the story of indigenous Australia.

"We have a lot of people that come to Dreamworld – well over a million people that come through our gates every year," he said.

"So (this was) the opportunity to not only show local people that come to Dreamworld a bit about their part of Australia on the Gold Coast, but to tell the national Indigenous story as well."

The relationship between the Dreamworld Corroboree and the FOGS ARTIE Academy could prove mutually beneficial, with Dreamworld employing 12 young people as Indigenous interpretation officers under the guidance of Jason Sandy, the Senior Indigenous Curator / Mentor.



"Their roles are to present different aspects of the culture – talking about weaponry, talking about music, and also doing a short presentation of a Dreamtime story," he said.

The focal point of the Dreamworld Corroboree is the Corroboree Theatre featuring a film on "The Creation Story of the Gold Coast".

This story was gifted to Dreamworld by Auntie Patricia O'Connor of the Yugambeh Language People.

Afterwards, a visit to the Kai-Kai Café for an Artie Pie could be in order, where visitors will see signage for the ARTIE Academy and photo of the Queensland State of Origin team.

This reinforces the long relationship between Indigenous Australians and Queensland rugby league, as well as paying tribute to the great man who was a giant of both worlds – Arthur.



# COWBOYS GAME A GOLD STAR REWARD

**FOUR** Gold ARTIE Academy students experienced the trip of a lifetime in August, travelling to Sydney to watch the Cowboys play Penrith and meeting North Queensland superstar Johnathan Thurston.

Sarah Bradden (Morayfield State High School, South East Queensland Region), Leelana Fabila-Hicks (Marsden State High School, South East Queensland Region), Jacynta Sailor (Gladstone State High School, Central Queensland Region), and Kaytlyn O'Sullivan (Kirwan State High School, Townsville Region) were the lucky winners who enjoyed an unforgettable trip during the NRL's Close The Gap Round.

The four selected students and a parent or guardian flew to Sydney to explore what the Harbour City had to offer – taking in sights like the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Bondi and the Blue Mountains.

The competition was only open to "Gold" ARTIE Academy students, meaning they had to achieve minimum standards of 90-100 per cent Physical Attendance, plus a minimum B-rating in Effort and Behaviour in Maths and English in Term 2.

All students within the ARTIE Academy that achieved these standards were presented with one of the specially designed ARTIE headgear, autographed by Thurston, and went into the draw to win the trip to Sydney.

"We then had Wally Lewis come into the office to do the prize draw, so it was all random, and Wally pulled out the names of the four lucky winners," ARTIE Project Officer Casey Doyle explained.

"We offered for one parent or guardian to come along as well, and for some of them the trip was their first time in a plane, which just added to an incredible experience. They loved it."

Casey said while playing the role of tourist and seeing



some of Sydney's sights had been a great experience, it was the chance to get up close and personal with Queensland State of Origin legend Thurston that had been the highlight.

"When the group got to Penrith, they went to the hotel that the Cowboys were staying at and Johnathan came down to meet with them, Casey said.

"The girls were lucky enough to chat and take photos with Thurston and prior to all other students receiving their headgear, were presented theirs by Thurston which he then personally signed for them.

"It was a great trip, and a terrific reward for all of their hard work."

## ARTIE ACADEMY HELPS ADSCALL TO MAJOR AWARD

A TERRIFIC partnership with the FOGS' ARTIE Academy program has delivered Queensland promotions firm Adcall a major national award.

Adcall was recently awarded the Bronze Award for Promotional Excellence of Non-Profit or Charitable Organisation Promotion at the 2014 Australian Promotional Products Association awards.

Adcall is responsible for the creation of the ARTIE Academy's beautiful range of products that are worn by staff and students, and used as a reward for achievement.

Adcall's work in taking the brilliant ARTIE Academy artwork and applying it to merchandise has given the program unique and immediately identifiable products, but also wearable, aspirational gear that the kids are proud to wear.

Samantha Jones from Adcall said the award was a special moment for the company, matched by the response of ARTIE Academy students to the merchandise created.

"This is a very prestigious award. We were competing again some very big agencies from Sydney and Melbourne, so for a small family company like ours to win was something very special," Samantha said.

"The awards are based on taking clients' logos, products

and designs and turning them into promotional products that are something beyond a boring stubby cooler.

"There are lots of challenges working with a client like the ARTIE Academy. Everything we make has to be cool for the kids, so they want to wear them, but it also has to be a good-quality product that is meaningful – and all at a very reasonable cost to the charity.

"These products are rewards for the kids, so they can be out there being seen saying 'hey, look at me. I achieved this'.

"They needed to be loud and bright but wearable, so people out in the community can see it and think 'I wonder where they got that'. That starts conversations about it and what ARTIE is doing.

"The challenge for us was to take that amazing artwork and turn it into merchandise that the kids are proud of, so they see themselves as leaders in their educational field."

Samantha said working with FOGS on the ARTIE Academy was different to normal corporate client work, with a large amount of emotion invested in the relationship and the items produced.

"FOGS and ARTIE are not just a brand – it encapsulates

so much more than a brand. This is about their identity," Samantha said.

"I just love hearing the stories about when the kids get their cap or shirt, or how proud they are to see Johnathan Thurston wearing an ARTIE cap like theirs.

"Those stories as a company makes us very proud to be on this journey with FOGS.

"We really care and are really passionate about the work that the FOGS are doing through the ARTIE Academy.

"It is such a good program. You often hear about all this government money going into funding programs, and wonder what the result is.

"With ARTIE, it is not just lip service. What they are doing is having such amazing results and making a difference to these kids' lives. You can see what a difference it is making.

"The FOGS team are really passionate about what they do, and that passion is infectious."



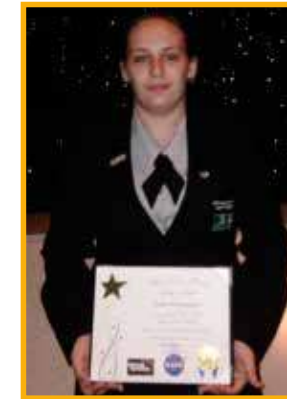
# ARTIE ACADEMY ALUMNI JESSIE IS SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

FORMER ARTIE Academy student Jessie Wooderson is on a rocket ride to the top.

Only 19 years of age, Jessie has already achieved so much in her short life, but don't think she is finished yet.

Since graduating at the top of her class at Bundamba State Secondary College in 2013, Jessie has not slowed down.

A graduate of the NASA Space School in Houston, Texas, Jessie was awarded a full scholarship with Bond University where she is now studying a Bachelor of Law.



"(The NASA School) was amazing," Jessie said.

"We were the first school to go through there as one group, which was pretty cool.

"It was a great experience. Just being able to go over there and see all the things I saw and meet all the people that I did was inspiring."

It was her time as an ARTIE Academy student that convinced Jessie to give her academic career everything she had.

Her rapid career trajectory led the ARTIE Academy to ask Jessie if she would be interested in speaking to current students in the program, and sharing her journey to inspire the next generation of ARTIE graduates.

She has now spoken at a number of ARTIE Academy State High Schools, including Burnside, Beerwah, Morayfield, Tullawong, Caboolture and her old stomping ground, Bundamba State Secondary College.

"For me, I started at an ARTIE school when I was halfway through Grade 10 when I came up here from NSW," she said.

"For me to have those people that I could go to at school and just talk to;



that motivated and were there to tell you that you could keep going and it was OK... their motivation and inspiration played a big part on me getting through the last few years of my schooling."

Now paying the favour forward by offering a helping hand to current students in the ARTIE Academy, Jessie said her main message was for the kids to believe in themselves and that they – just like her – can shoot for the stars.

"I never thought I would be able to do something like mentor students, but the guys from FOGS convinced me to do," she said.

"I ended up realising that I have the ability to do it.

"It is so important for kids to be getting that message.

"Even though they might not say anything to you, or they look like they don't care, they do.

"As long as they are getting that bit of support they will always remember it."

## TUANOA TWINS ARE LEADING BY EXAMPLE

**HELPING** others can deliver beautiful rewards.

Just ask twin sisters Danica and Kiesha Tuanoa, who were so inspired by the work of the ARTIE Academy during their time at Tullawong State High School, they have now been recruited by the program to talk to current students and show them the path to success.

"Our school work improved so much under the mentoring of the ARTIE program that we really wanted to stay involved once we had left school," Kiesha said.

"We were asked to write a story about how we made it through high school, which we did, and the feedback was so good they wanted to present it to more schools."

Kiesha says both girls, of Torres Strait Islander heritage, were so grateful for the assistance the ARTIE Academy provided them in helping to graduate last year.

"Because of the support that I was receiving from ARTIE, I was able to offer support to other kids in my group. It was a big help," she said.

"Half of the students didn't rely on ARTIE the way that me and Dani did. But once we told them 'they really help you, the don't muck around – it is really full on', and they started seeing the achievements that me



and Dani got, then they started picking their acts up and getting the support that we were getting."

Dani now works in the Corroboree at Dreamworld, while Kiesha is working part-time while doing her traineeship in fitness.

But the chance to motivate and inspire other students with the ARTIE Academy is delivering its own rewards.

"I do a lot of things at different primary schools and high schools. I pass on what I have learnt, and tell them to keep on pushing," Kiesha said.



"At the high schools, we have been getting great feedback, with kids saying to us: 'We want to be like you'.

"They say: 'We want to be doing this, we want to be working with ARTIE'.

"I think that is the greatest thing to hear them say something like that. It is a beautiful thing to hear."



# ONE KEY RESOURCES AND FOGS WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR YOUNG JOB-SEEKERS

**DELIVERING** kids that are “job ready” to potential employers is the foundation of a partnership between One Key Resources and the FOGS’ Ripple Effect program.

The partnership is designed to help Indigenous kids interested in the mining, gas and construction industries to find work.

One Key Resources works on major projects throughout the country, providing labour hire and recruitment as well as training programs to their clients.

These industries are very difficult to break into so FOGS rely on One Key Resources to find opportunities for our kids.

And thanks to the ARTIE Academy and Ripple Effect programs, FOGS are helping deliver One Key with the resource all employers are looking for – talented, skilled and willing workers.

The relationship between FOGS and One Key is already strong: Former Queensland captain Darren Lockyer is a director of One Key Resources.

Locky is now also an ambassador for the program, and has played an active role in visiting some of the sites where the students are placed as well as working with clients and the industry to try and create more opportunities for ARTIE program graduates to enter the workplace.

Mark Lennon, Program Manager, said the Ripple Effect was about giving ARTIE Academy students the right tools to pursue their dream careers.

“When the kids are leaving Year 12, sometimes it is difficult to take that next step and get into the course that you want, or get the right job you want, right out of school,” Mark said.

“FOGS started the Ripple Effect so we could continue the work of the ARTIE

Academy once the students graduated from school.

“ARTIE graduates would sign up for the Ripple Effect and we would work with them for the next 12 months on getting on the right path that they wanted to be on for their careers.

“A lot of jobs today require different licences, qualifications or tickets.

“So the Ripple Effect set out to get the kids ready to do what they wanted to do, and then introduce them to the right people that could help them out.”

Mark said the relationship with One Key was helping ARTIE Academy students to get a foot in the door of a very competitive resource industry by equipping them with the skill they need to stay one step ahead of other job-seekers.

“There were a lot of kids that wanted to break into that industry, particularly in the regional areas,” he said. Because of that, it is tough to get an opportunity – especially when you have no experience.

“So we partnered up with the team at One Key, because they have a lot of contacts in the industry and they know what is needed to succeed in the industry.

“They were able to help in the mentoring in that industry.

“We identified a bunch of different kids that met the criteria that employers were looking for, and were able to do an even more tailored approach to have these kids ready to go into jobs.

“One Key were able to really deliver the message to employers that these were kids that we had put a lot of work into over a long period of time.

“They liked what the ARTIE Academy did, especially with its focus on maths, English and attendance.

“We knew a lot about the kids.

It wasn’t like we were putting forward kids that we didn’t really know.

“We have worked with all of these kids for a number of years so we knew we were putting good kids forward.

“They are representing FOGS and One Key in a way, so it was very important that we were putting the right kids forward.”



Jamie Woulfe - Labourer at Shamrock Civil



Dakota Blake and Zachery Kaur - Trainee Heavy Vehicle Operator at Middelmount Coal



Dylan Jones - Industrial Cleaner at Transpacific

## AMANDA S A GOOD SPORT WITH REBEL

**CONFUCIUS** said “Choose a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life.”

Former ARTIE

Academy student

Amanda Kenny is living that dream to letter, thanks to Rebel Sport and the FOGS’ Ripple Effect program.

A keen lover of sport, Amanda recently travelled to Singapore as a member of the Queensland Rubies Women’s Indigenous Hockey Team.

And when she graduated from Burnside State High School last year, working in the world of sport was her ultimate goal.

Ripple Effect Program

Manager Mark Lennon said Amanda’s passion for sport and positive attitude has made her fit right in with the team at Rebel Sport, who had contacted FOGS about placing ARTIE Academy students to work in their stores.

“Rebel Sport had come to us and said they wanted

to get some of the ARTE kids employed in their stores,”

Mark said. “They have a recruitment drive around September of every year to get new kids in before the Christmas period.

“In high school, Amanda was identified as a kid that loved her sport and she was very successful in a number of sports while in school.

“The team at ARTIE told me that she was very keen on working in that industry.

“A lot of her spare time gets taken up with hockey, because it is such a huge passion of hers. She wanted to work in sport in some capacity after school.

“The ARTIE Academy helped her get a qualification in sports coaching while she was at school to help her pursue that dream.

“When Rebel Sport said there was an opportunity at the Sunshine Coast near where Amanda lives, we put her forward for the role.

“She was successful in getting a position there, and since she has been there has performed very well.”

Mark said the role of the Ripple Effect program was not just in finding jobs for former ARTIE Academy students, but maintaining motivation and mentoring



after leaving school.

“We don’t just stop the mentoring once they are employed, it is an on-going thing,” he said. “I would drop in to talk to Amanda, the store manager and anybody else she works with to find out if there are any sorts of issues or ways that we could help them out.

“But with Amanda, there have been no issues at all.

“Amanda’s case was so successful, Rebel came back to us and said they wanted to have more ARTIE kids coming through the program and working for them.

“We are in the process now of getting the applications in for the current Year 12 kids to do the same thing and follow Amanda’s lead.”



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— with the —

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# EXPOS KEEP DELIVERING RESULTS FOR QUEENSLAND

**QUEENSLANDERS** love a winning streak, and the FOGS Indigenous Employment and Careers Expos just keep getting results.

While the Maroons' amazing State of Origin winning streak may have been broken this year, the FOGS Expos continue to deliver victories for jobseekers and employers in Queensland.

The last of this year's Expo series was at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on September 18, bringing down the curtain on an amazing year that had seen the Expo visit four other locations across the state – Cairns, Townsville, Mount Isa and Rockhampton.

Over the course of this year's Expo series, just under 12,200 Indigenous school leavers and job seekers attended, looking for an opportunity to improve their lives.

As always, thanks to the support of so many local, national and international employers, there were plenty of opportunities to be had.

This year the Expos showcased 270 exhibits from a broad spectrum of education, training and employment providers looking to make contact on a personal level with the workforce of tomorrow.

Helping to play match-maker between the two sides were our Former Origin Greats, who once again helped to bring the star power needed to

encourage and motivate the kids to chase a better future.

This year, the FOGS would like to thank members Gene Miles, Gary Belcher, Kerrod Walters, Michael Hancock, Colin Scott, Greg Dowling, Allan Langer, Sam Backo, Steve Renouf, Petero Civionceva, Steve Price, Wendell Sailor, Scott Prince, Justin Hodges and Jharal Yow Yeh for taking their time to help at the Expos.

As well, this year Brisbane Broncos stars Ben Barba, Mitchell Dodds, Josh Hoffman, Josh McGuire and Lachlan Maranta were on hand to help spread the employment, education and training message.

FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles said the Expos once again delivered amazing results in connecting jobseekers with potential employers.

"Every year we are just amazed at the results and the feedback that the Expos get from right across the state, and that is thanks to the massive amount of hard work done by the staff at FOGS," Gene said.

"When you are talking about young people's lives and helping them make choice that can create better futures, it is a big responsibility.

"But I think the results and the many happy

success stories that have come out of the Expos in the past few years are evidence enough that it is a responsibility that we take very seriously and accomplish very well.

"Obviously the former Origin players and the current NRL guys from the Broncos play a big role in the process for us as well, because they are the ones that help get these kids through the door and wanting to talk about their careers.

"Every Expo is a massive operation, so my sincere thanks go to everyone involved for another successful year."

## RODNEY IS PREPARED FOR CAREER SUCCESS

**THE** late, great Arthur Beetson had a motto that he lived by: "Fail to prepare, prepare to fail".

It is a simple message, but one Arthur knew resonated across all walks of life.

Whatever it is that you want to succeed in, you need to put in the hard work to be ready to give it your best shot.

If you just sit back and expect things to happen, then you're on the path to failure.

It is the reason why footballers put themselves through hours of seemingly endless slog during the brutal summer months in preparation for the next season.

When the time comes, they will be ready.

Arthur's words must have struck a chord with Rodney Fisher, a young student in the FOGS' ARTIE Academy.

Rodney is only 17 and in Grade 12 at Bundamba State Secondary College.

But when the FOGS Indigenous Employment and Careers Expo was on in Brisbane, Rodney turned up dressed in a suit with copies of his resume under his arm.

If an employment opportunity came his way at the Expo, Rodney was fully prepared to take his chance.

It is an attitude and determination that could not help but impress potential employers.

At the Expo, Rodney spoke to representatives from Construction Skills Queensland, Thiess and Origin Energy.

He was able to show with his presentation that he had the attitude to succeed.

He was able to outline his qualifications, which include a Certificate 2 in Resources and Infrastructure and a Certificate 1 in Civil Construction, to show he had the skills needed to be an asset for a potential employer.

And by completing an exam at 7am so he could attend the Expo, he showed he had the work ethic required to make every post a winner.

In short, Rodney came prepared.

And now the results will follow: All three exhibitors said that they would follow up with Rodney after the

holidays – with the expo falling on the last day of Term 3.

Like all of us, Rodney has had his challenges. But he has made a commitment that he does not want to fail at life, so he is determined to make the most of all his opportunities.



## THOMAS INSPIRES KIDS TO FOLLOW THE LEADERS

**THE** FOGS Indigenous Employment and Careers Expos are working – playing a critical role in creating better futures for young Queenslanders.

How do we know?

They tell us!

Thomas Draper is one of the FOGS Expos' real success stories, and now he is helping to inspire others to change the direction of their lives and chase their dreams.

Now a construction supervisor with Arrow Energy, Thomas first came to the attention of FOGS when he told his personal story at the 2012 Toowoomba breakfast forum.

Since then, he has been more and more involved with the work of FOGS, helping to motivate and inspire kids who, like Thomas once did, dreamt of making it big in a dream career.

"I'm a Civil Construction Supervisor currently working at Arrow Energy," Thomas says.

"I'm someone that would rather lead from the front than push from the back and in doing so I've worked hard to make work enjoyable for my team while at the same time keeping them accountable, especially when it comes to

taking ownership of safety.

"My confidence will always be my strength. With a lot of hard work there is not a lot of things I won't back myself to achieve.



"Outside of work I am committed to improving the outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

"I spend a lot of my spare time highlighting the power of education and the rewards that hard work can bring.

"By volunteering with organisations like the Former Origin Greats, I have been able to share my story with many underprivileged kids and to see the shift of thinking in their eyes and the self belief being sown remains one of the most powerful experiences of my life."

When FOGS were producing a DVD presentation for this year's Motivational Workshop, Thomas was the perfect choice to deliver the critical message to attendees that no matter their background or personal struggles, you are still able to succeed.

The DVD features Indigenous men and women from a number of different industries sharing their personnel stories of success and their individual journeys, each detailing the barriers and motivation encountered in their path to success.

Thomas, in an email to FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles, said the response to the DVD and the way that it

had inspired the next generation of jobseekers had been overwhelming.

"There have been a number of students searching my name and leaving random messages on my Facebook messages. Needless to say it's been extremely uplifting," Thomas said.

"I recently had a student leave me a message, saying that she saw the video at one of the Expos.

"She said it was the most inspirational thing she's ever seen and that because of the FOGS Expo she was challenged to make some tough changes in her life and that she dreams of doing something big with it.

"It's another rock in the pond, it's cause and effect!

"And I have no doubt that because of the FOGS some of the kids that walk through those doors will go on to be a shining light for their families and communities."

Hopefully then they too, like Thomas, will be able to inspire others to follow their paths to success.



## FOGS THE KICK OFF FOR SEAN'S POLICE CAREER

**IT** may have been destined, but for Sean Martin, the Former Origin Greats (FOGS) Indigenous Employment and Career Expo at Suncorp Stadium was the point at which his police career kicked off.

On September 29, Sean joined 13 others at the North Queensland Police Academy in Townsville to start the Indigenous Cadetship Program (ICP), a 12-week course preparing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees for direct entry into recruit training.

Sean's ancestry stems from his Aboriginal grandmother; however his policing heritage dates back to his great grandfather (Constable John Gurn), grandfather (Sergeant 2/c James



Gurn) and great uncle (Detective Sergeant 1/c Michael Gurn), who were all Queensland police officers.

Sean's sister, Erin, also has recently donned the uniform as a First Year Constable after

completing her ICP and recruit training.

Unsurprisingly, given his family history, Sean's childhood dream was to become a police officer; and he was grateful that the Brisbane FOGS expo was held at a time when his life was ready for a new and positive direction.

So one day after returning from overseas, Sean made a bee-line for the Queensland Police Recruiting display at the expo.

There he met Indigenous Employment Officer, Adrian Coolwell, who said Sean was an ideal ICP candidate.

"At 26 years of age, Sean has life experience from his overseas travels; several years of work, including a carpentry apprenticeship; and a Year 12 education.

"FOGS brings together young people keen to stay on the 'straight and narrow' and give themselves good career prospects.

"This is reinforced by the positive interaction with rugby league 'greats' who, as role models, encourage these young adults to follow their dreams.

"The ICP provides them with the opportunity to take that big step into a rewarding career," Adrian said.





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There are more than 29,000 workers enrolled in CSQ programs across the state which range from initiatives aimed at school students to

more experienced workers looking to upskill. Over the next few years, we're going to see a shift in the focus of the industry from major resource based projects to residential and commercial activity, which tends to be more labour intensive.

Whether you're starting out in the industry, looking for apprentices or wanting to take your career to the next level, CSQ can help. CSQ's website is the best place to start if you're looking for a pathway into construction, with innovative career planning tools and details about CSQ funded training, visit [www.csq.org.au](http://www.csq.org.au).

# MATES MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Pictures: Courtesy News Corp.

In September, a group of adventurers from Queensland's building and construction industry took on the challenge of the Kokoda trek in Papua New Guinea.

The trek was a fundraising campaign for MATES in Construction, a charity raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention in the construction industry.

The Kokoda track crosses notoriously difficult terrain and was the scene of fierce fighting between Australian and Japanese soldiers in 1942. Mateship, endurance, courage and sacrifice are words which symbolise the history of the Kokoda track and the adventure often proves life changing for those who make the journey.

Four CSQ representatives joined the Kokoda trek, distributing gift packs in the villages along the way including balls and shirts donated by the Broncos – which proved very popular!



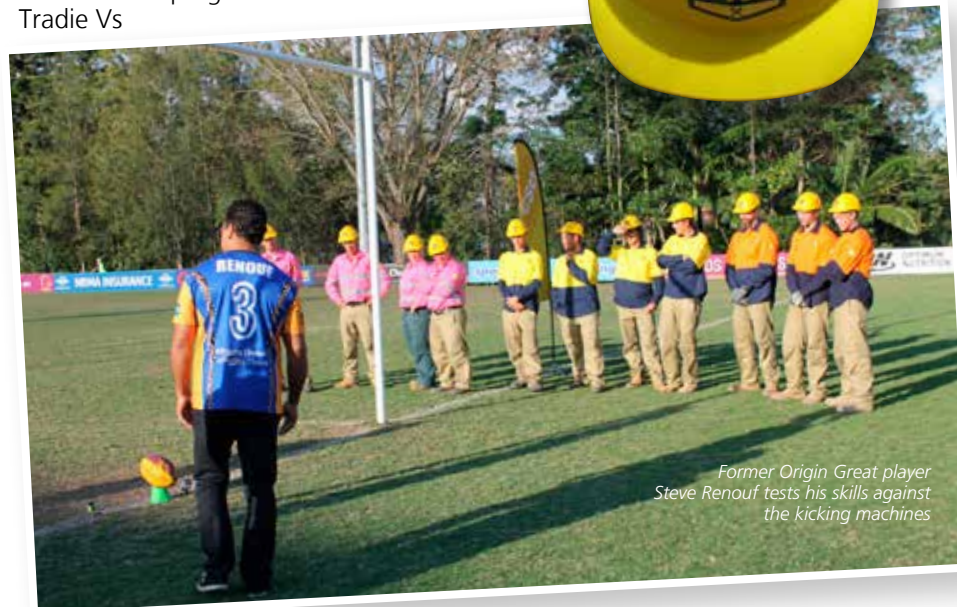
The Thompson Builders team building their kicking machine

We take a look behind the scenes of CSQ's exciting new campaign. CSQ is about to launch a new digital web series to help promote the building and construction industry as a career of first choice.

The Tradie Vs campaign brings together teams from Thompson Building Group, construction company McNab and WorldSkills to compete against each other in a range of quirky challenges.

One of the challenges sees the teams building a device which will kick a football through a goal. The kicking machines are then tested on the field at the Broncos training facility at Red Hill, cheered on by Former Origin Great Steve Renouf. Points are scored for the most goals and the longest kick. As the Tradie Vs campaign will show, the building and construction industry offers a fun, innovative and rewarding career - no day is the same and you never quite know what you'll turn your

hand to next! Keep an eye on CSQ's Facebook page and [www.csq.org.au](http://www.csq.org.au) for the launch of Tradie Vs



Former Origin Great player Steve Renouf tests his skills against the kicking machines

# A great career starts here

There are fantastic careers available in the building and construction industry. Find one that is right for you and start building a successful career today.

**CSQ** STRONGER FUTURES IN CONSTRUCTION



# BACK TO THE FUTURE

**After six years away, Wayne Bennett is back at the helm of the Broncos. But will Bennett get the best out of Brisbane? And will Brisbane get the best out of Bennett? The man himself says yes.**

IF Wayne Bennett is doubting his ability, he isn't showing it.

When he began his Broncos coaching career in 1988, the detractors said he wouldn't make it. He shut them up with six premierships.

Now, as he prepares for his second incarnation at the Broncos, on the brink of his 65th birthday, Bennett is once again ready to silence the Doubting Thomases who believe Father Time has robbed him of his title-winning mojo.

Is he too old to coach? Not on your life.

Does he believe he can deliver the Broncos a seventh premiership? Yes.

Will it happen next year? Possibly not.

But in any event, Bennett saw enough during his six-year absence to



know the Broncos, as a club, have not lost the qualities he helped cultivate over his initial 21-season tenure.

"In my time away, I saw a lot of the things we'd created that were still there," he said.

"Things like always playing well, trying hard, (being) never easy to beat. Not being pushovers. It's something I don't have to worry about trying to recreate or get back.

"It's there. It's always been there, it's one legacy the foundation players have left: If you play for the Broncos, you are expected to do your best most weeks.

"I just want the right people to have the same belief I've got and that's how I want the guys to play. To be a Broncos player, you have to be prepared to play well every week, because your opposition will be ready for you.

"No-one comes unmotivated to play for the Broncos. I've been away six years and that situation doesn't really exist much outside the Broncos. Everyone is always ready to play.

"At other clubs, you pick up some easy games, they underestimate you, but no-one underestimates the Broncos."

To illustrate his point, Bennett has not embarked on the mass cleanout some envisaged.

There is just one major change to his team of assistants, with club legend Kevin Walters returning to replace former coach Anthony Griffin's right-hand man Kristian Woolf.

The playing roster is largely unchanged.

Utility Josh Hoffman has been given permission to leave, while incoming recruits Anthony Milford and Mitch Garbutt were signed before Bennett agreed to his Broncos resurrection.

The master coach sees areas in his roster that require fine-tuning, but points to his Dragons' title-winning class of 2010 as evidence a squad can exceed the sum of its parts.

"I have inherited a roster not of my selection but that's fine, I knew that when I got the job," he said.

"I've got no problems there but it remains to be seen what we do with it and where we go.

"When we won a premiership at the Dragons in 2010, we won it not because of what we had, we won it because we wanted something bad enough.

"If this team wants something bad enough next year, then they will be a hell of a lot better than the team sitting around wondering what they could have done.

"We may not have the perfect players in key positions, but if they care and compete we can do something.

"We have the same salary cap as everyone else. That's what these players have to prove to me ... that they can get the job done and want to pay the price for a premiership."

Brisbane legend Gorden Tallis sent shockwaves through the club in 2013 when he made the stunning assertion the Broncos had lost their aura under Griffin.

If you judge that on premierships droughts, Tallis is right.

It's been eight years since the club last tasted title glory – the longest stretch in Brisbane's decorated history.

But Bennett says other indicators are proof the Broncos are not a basketcase.

"I won't criticise what has gone on here the last five or six years, it's a worthless exercise," he said.

"I have an opportunity to get it right here and that's what I intend to do.

"Whether we have lost the aura, it

doesn't matter. If we start winning footy games and get everybody to buy in, the aura will be back that quickly it won't matter.

"I won a premiership at (Brisbane) Souths in 1985, and the same principles can work in 2015. I have no doubt.

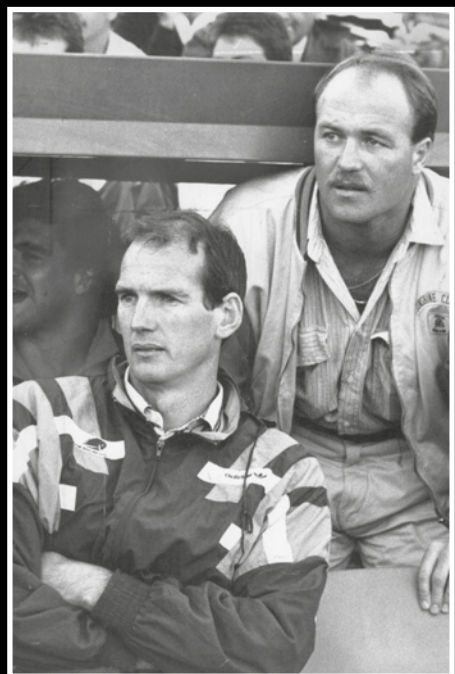
"The Broncos mean something to Queenslanders. I know there's the Cowboys and the Titans and they mean something and they have their supporters, which is great.

"But the Broncos brand ... wherever I have gone in Queensland in the six years I've been away, even in NSW, it just fascinates me the amount of Broncos fans and how powerful the club is.

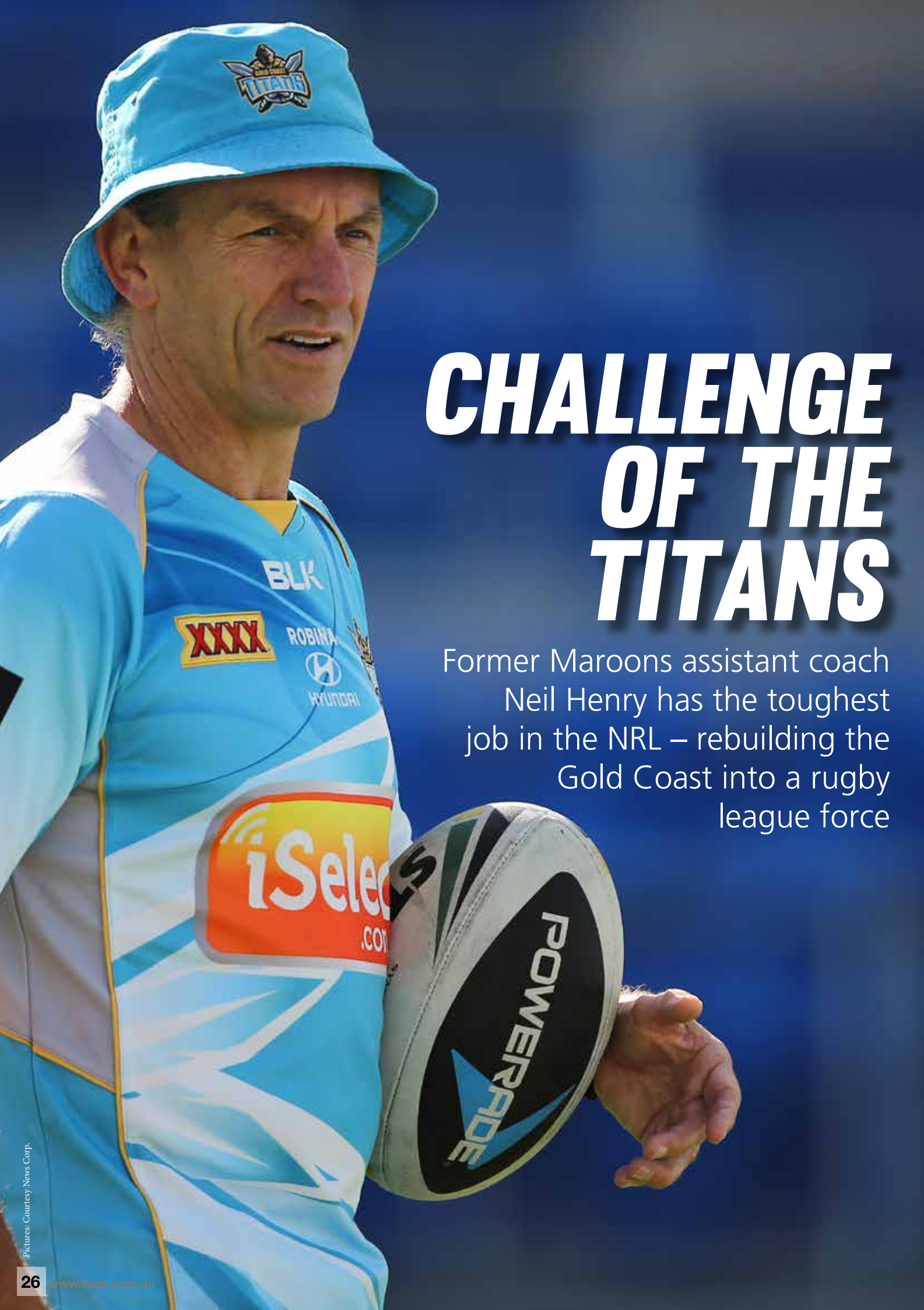
"The value of the Broncos to the state in an economic way as well as an emotional way – there is a responsibility that I get.

"I take the Broncos job with such great responsibility because there is a special gravitas to this club. I know that more than anybody now.

"A lot of Queenslanders rely on the Broncos. We are more than a football club. The players have always recognised that too. That's a big reason why I'm back."







# CHALLENGE OF THE TITANS

Former Maroons assistant coach Neil Henry has the toughest job in the NRL – rebuilding the Gold Coast into a rugby league force

Neil Henry has never been one to back away from a challenge.

It's just as well, because the newly-installed Titans coach will need thick skin and an even thicker textbook of ideas to revive a Gold Coast club that has copped more black eyes than a Mike Tyson opponent. Financial problems, legal battles, declining attendances, a wooden spoon, finals blowouts. You name it, and just about every conceivable footballing catastrophe has beset the Titans in recent years.

The ongoing melodrama eventually created too many cracks, leading to the resignation of foundation coach John Cartwright in August. Now, with the Titans mired in one of the most critical positions in their seven-year history, Henry is tasked with resurrecting a strife-torn club in a region littered with sporting carcasses. If history is any barometer, the club is in good hands under the 53-year-old, who is renowned among the code's finest tactical brains and showed during his time with the Raiders he knows how to resurrect a club.

The parallels are compelling. In 2007, in Henry's first year in charge at Canberra, the Raiders finished 14th. The following year, Henry claimed the Dally M coach of the year award, piloting the Green Machine into the top six with a free-wheeling style embraced by a posse of rising stars. In 2014, the Titans, like Canberra's class of 2007, also finished 14th. Given that, Henry isn't expecting miracles next season but hopes the club's impending full-time move to Coomera in 2016 can provide stability after the Titans almost drowned under a \$25 million debt two years ago.



"There are certain things we'd like to achieve and I'd like to achieve in coaching but it also revolves around the stability of the club and the financial viability of the organisation," said Henry, who joined the Titans last season as an assistant after five years as the Cowboys' head coach. "It's no secret we're looking at ways to increase our revenue stream or have investors to the club. "Look, it's difficult times, but we have a board in place that is really experienced and wants to make this place successful. "It's not going to be a quick fix I don't think, but our roster is still fairly healthy and we can certainly get results next season." A key plank in Henry's rebuilding mission



is setting up a production line that will roll quality local talent into the Titans' senior ranks. Since the club's entry in 2007, the Titans' junior-development structures have come under fire, despite possessing a vast catchment area that extends south to Coffs Harbour. Kevin Gordon, Ben Ridge and David Mead are examples of Titans locals made good. But others, such as Kane Lawton, Will Matthews, Jordan Rankin, Bodene Thompson, Shannon Walker and Jordan Rapan, have either landed on the scrapheap or chased a fresh start at rival clubs.

The Titans' under-20s side have been whipping boys for several seasons and Henry admits the club needs to lift its act at grassroots level to prevent a junior exodus to the Broncos. "We have a huge nursery here and we need to start developing our own and holding onto our own is probably more important," he said. "But we also need to create pathways for our better

younger players that they stay here and don't go up the road to Brisbane or down south.

"We need to have a view to the future with our young players coming in too and be a bit astute with players we've given an opportunity to and developed over time.

"There is a lot to look forward to, but the balance of your playing roster is vital and it needs a bit of thought." Indeed, Henry has deep thinking to do on several fronts.

There is an increasing push for William Zillman to be shifted from fullback, while promising halves Albert Kelly and Aidan Sezer have had trouble staying on the park due to a series of injuries.

In the forwards, the Titans will sorely miss retired Origin duo Luke Bailey and Ashley Harrison, who held the side together with their team-first ethos and workrate. "There's no doubt we missed a regular halves pairing, they played just six games together," Henry said of Sezer and Kelly.

"If you have an established roster and for some reason the coach is gone but players are signed, I think there is no doubt (the new coach) can get results. "It's a bit of a luxury to come into a side that's been travelling well or made the finals for a few years. "That is the nature of coaching too. All coaches see themselves as development coaches and want to bring players through and it's no different here."

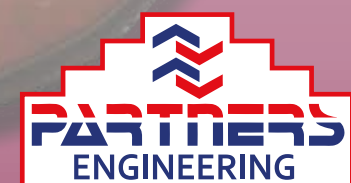
But Henry's biggest hurdle could be the fickle Gold Coast sporting market. If the Titans can win regularly enough to make the finals and crowds begin rising, Henry has the experience to make the club a regular finals force.





**FOGS**  
**QUEENSLAND**  
 FORMER ORIGIN GREATS

The Queensland Rugby League and Former Origin Greats wish to acknowledge the support of the following organisations as part of the **1980 Initiative**.



Supporting the development of rugby league in Queensland

# MENINGA STILL AN ORNAMENT TO THE GAME



Pictures: Courtesy News Corp.

EVEN 20 years after his retirement as one the greatest players to have graced a rugby league field, the Mal Meninga fend remains as potent as ever. But in May of this year, it was a different type of fend from Big Mal as he tried in vain to deflect attention and public adulation at the unveiling of a bronze statue outside Suncorp Stadium.

The former Queensland captain joins fellow Maroons legends Arthur Beetson, Wally Lewis and Darren Lockyer in the Lang Park pantheon of greats. Despite his remarkable record as coach of Queensland, Meninga chose to have his statue pay homage to his equally remarkable playing career that – among premierships, records and Kangaroo jerseys galore – netted him 32 games and 161 points for his beloved Maroons in the theatre of Origin. “It was always going to be me as a player,” Mal said.

“I am very proud of what I have achieved in my playing career. “As far as I am concerned, I am only a part-time coach anyway. The success that I have had with Queensland has all been about the players, and really, this trophy is a tribute to them as much as it is about me.

“The second best job is coaching. The best is playing when you can go out there and do something about it.” Meninga said he was proud but humbled to have been honoured by the statue, which was unveiled by Queensland Premier Campbell Newman. “It’s a truly

humbling experience, I get embarrassed by it all, but at the same time, I accept it on behalf of all the people I’ve played with and my family as well,” Mal said.

“You don’t go out in life to get accolades. I always look back and understand that it comes from a team. And team starts with family, and I’ve had a fantastic upbringing with Mum and Dad in the bush of Queensland.”

Ironically for a man who has made a career out of standing beneath it, Meninga is still uncomfortable in the spotlight. And even though the day of the unveiling, on the morning of the 100th Origin game at Suncorp Stadium, was all about him, he was quick to turn the focus onto future tributes for the likes of Allan Langer and members of the current Maroons team.

“I get the real fabric of rugby league and what it can do for country regions, and how it can bring communities together,” Mal said. “That’s what Origin does as well. It brings the state of Queensland together. “This football team gets it. They understand that it’s bigger than themselves and bigger than their families.

“It’s about playing for the state and that expectation on their shoulders they carry very well. They really do understand the concept of Queensland origin. Their plaques are here, so hopefully maybe one day another statue. A little tribute for Alfie, maybe.”

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# THE Q STARTS HERE...

## Young guns are lining up to press their claims for a Queensland jersey

QUEENSLAND State of Origin's golden age shows no sign of abating, with a number of future Maroons throwing up their hands to carry the torch and our traditions into the next generation.

The annual Emerging Origin squad that gathers in Brisbane in January will be one of the most keenly contested squads in recent years, with a new batch of rookies entering the Origin fray, while the more senior players are pushing even harder to be the next to roll off that wonderful Maroons assembly line. Much is made of the core of senior Queensland players not getting any younger – with the likes of **Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk,**

crippling injury toll that Queensland had to deal with during the 2014 series may have contributed to our first series loss since 2005, but it did come with a silver lining. With few other options but to call for all hands on deck, Maroons coach Mal Meninga says a number of players were given a higher education in Origin football a little earlier than planned, but it was a situation that would ultimately deliver benefits for Queensland in the future.

"Getting a close-up look at **Josh McGuire** and **Ben Hunt** in the Origin environment was revealing," Mal said. "I was really pleased with how they responded. It was the best thing we could have done to be honest with you. **Josh** was there because he deserved to be, he has been a part of our system for a number of years and keeps putting his hand up. **Ben** had a terrific year for the Broncos and played his way into Origin calculations."

"We are hoping that coming into the Origin camp will help him personally by giving him a bit of confidence and a bit of self belief. Let's hope he can keep his form going next year under **Wayne Bennett**." But outside of the Origin arena, so many more Maroons contenders put themselves on the Queensland selectors' radar. **Anthony Milford**, another to be given a taste of life inside the Maroons' inner-sanctum during

this year's series, earned selection at five-eighth for the Prime Minister's XIII game against PNG to add another string to an increasingly impressive bow.

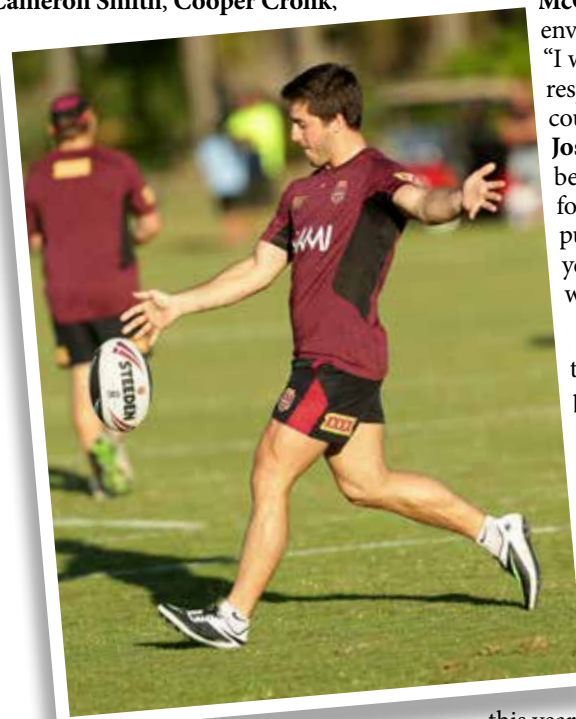
**Michael Morgan**, already an Emerging squad veteran after impressing for a number of years in the halves, exploded to a new level this year under **Paul Green** after a shift to fullback. Happily, those players seemed to be the rule for



Queensland in 2014, rather than the exceptions. "We are very happy with how things panned out this year," Mal said. "They are all young kids with time on their side, which they need to work their way into the Queensland team. It is very exciting times." Those guys had great years, as did **Hunt** and **McGuire**. But we also had guys like **Dane Gagai**, and the hookers **Jake Friend**, **James Segeyaro** and **Andrew McCullough**, who all had fantastic years.

"**Korbin Sims** has played the majority of the season in first grade for Newcastle, and **Dale Copley** had a great year for Brisbane. "I was really impressed with **Ethan Lowe** at the Cowboys, and **Kyle Feldt** is another in Townsville that we have our eyes on." Then there is **Edrick Lee** in Canberra, **Tatau Moga** at the Cowboys, **Nene McDonald** played first grade this year for the Roosters, **Dylan Napa** keeps coming along – so we do have some talent around.

"I was also really impressed by what **Ben Barba** delivered for the Broncos at No.6 late in the year." We have a few stocks at the moment which is good. Most of those guys we have talked about are playing in competitive positions, so it really will be a case of may the best guy win. "All of a sudden there is a bit of competition building for a few key spots, and that is a very healthy thing for us."



**Johnathan Thurston** and **Justin Hodges** among those closer to the end of their careers than the start. But quietly and efficiently, Queensland officials and selectors have been gathering a massive attacking arsenal of talent to ensure the Maroons' recent incredible run of success will not fade as more senior players move on. The

# TATE EXPECTATIONS

## Brent might be gone, but the Cowboys are set for big things in 2015

"IT was never going to end any other way for Tatey," says Queensland coach Mal Meninga. "He didn't deserve the luck that he had." Meninga's words are the perfect summation of the career of Brent Tate, one of rugby league's great warriors, who has announced his retirement from the game that embraced him and tortured him in equal measure.

Tate won a premiership with Brisbane, had stints with three NRL clubs and was a mainstay of Origin and Test football for the majority of his career. But a neck injury in 2003 meant he spent the rest of his career playing in a special neck brace, and the tortuous string of knee injuries would have been enough to crush many. Three times he fought back from knee reconstructions that could have ended his career. When his knee gave up on him for a fourth time in this year's State of Origin series, Tate knew the battle had been lost, announcing his retirement at age 32.

Despite his shocking run with injuries, Tate still enjoyed a career most would envy – 229 first grade games bagging 81 tries, 23 games for Queensland between 2002-14 and 26 Tests for Australia over an 11-year international career. Tate's retirement has thrown an unexpected hurdle in the path of the Cowboys, who will be looking to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their 1995 entry into the Australian Rugby League by improving on their disappointing early exits from the finals in the past three years.

Meninga, casting an eye over all three Queensland clubs heading into 2015, says the Cowboys will only improve after another off-season under coach Paul Green, and will make a serious challenge for next year's title. "The Cowboys were great this year, but they will get even better next year," he said.

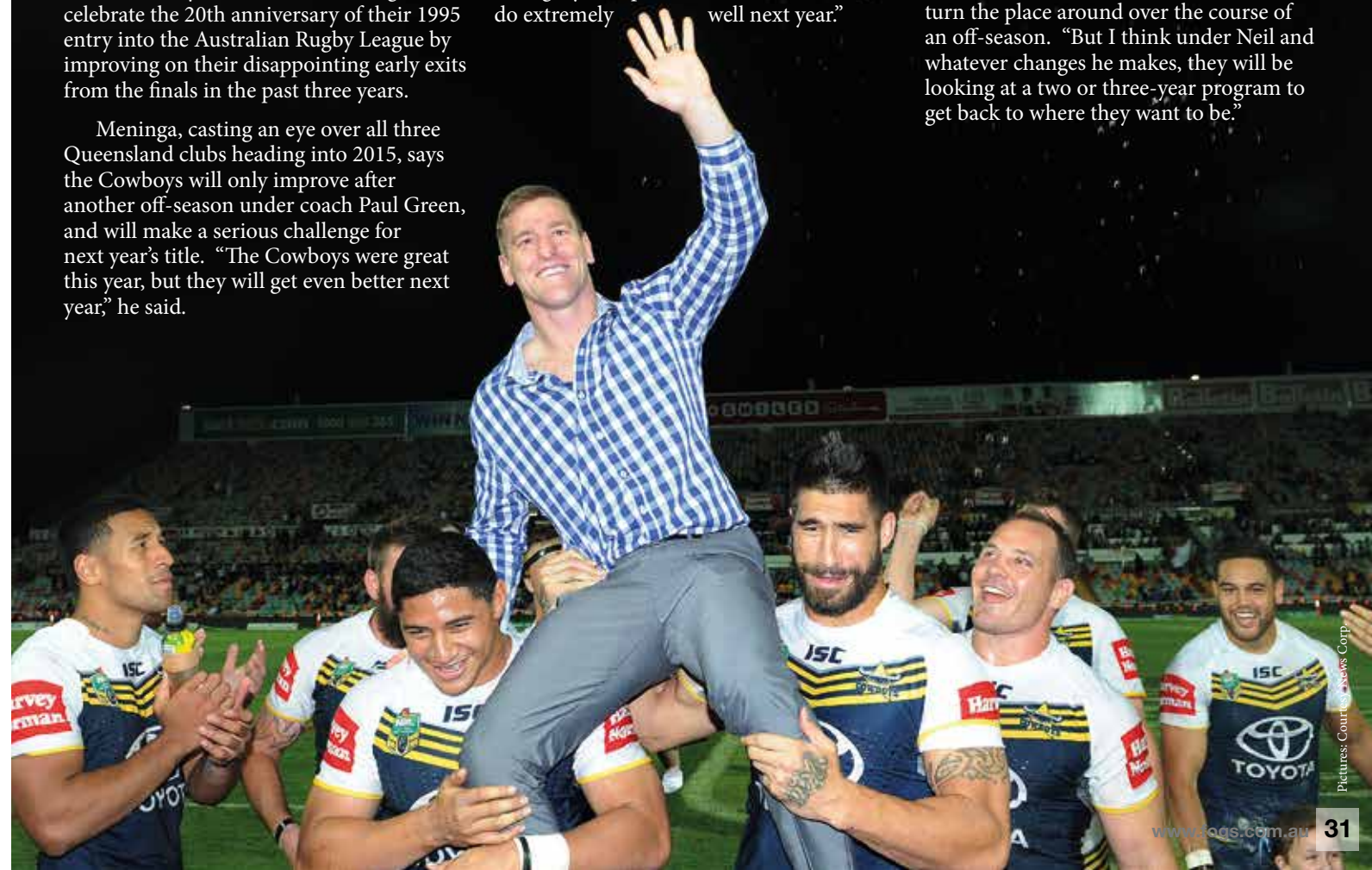
"This was their first year under Paul Green, and I think they will come along in leaps and bounds next year just knowing what to expect from him as a playing group, not having to take time to learn new processes and procedures."

The arrival of **Jake Granville** from the Broncos and **Wynnum Manly** might just add a bit extra for them with his style of game. "He is great out of dummy-half, he is strong, and will pose a real threat in attack." That half-a-second hesitation from a defensive line, waiting to see what Granville is going to do, will buy a little bit more time to free **Johnathan Thurston** up and that could make a big difference to them. "I think Granville will add a new dimension for them."

The good news for Broncos and Titans fans is that Meninga thinks both of those clubs are also ready for an improved 2015, saying both clubs chose the right men for the job in respective new coaches **Wayne Bennett** and **Neil Henry**. "Wayne will come back really motivated to succeed with Brisbane and that will be great news for the Broncos," Mal said. "It is the place where he made his reputation and I know whenever he leaves, he will be determined to leave the club in fantastic shape, because that will be his legacy. I expect the Broncos to do extremely well next year."



As for the Titans, appointing **Neil** was the only decision to be made. He has been a part of the club for 12 months now. He understands the culture and the inner-workings really well and understands how to fix and improve what they have. "Their roster needs some adjusting, but that is a process that will take a couple of years for them." They are not going to be able to turn the place around over the course of an off-season. "But I think under **Neil** and whatever changes he makes, they will be looking at a two or three-year program to get back to where they want to be."





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# UNDER PRESSURE

Former Maroon Joe Kilroy shares the private pain of fellow Queensland winger Darius Boyd

JOE Kilroy can't comprehend the sums of money being banked by today's NRL stars, but he can relate to the pressures that can ruin the careers of even the most gifted league talents. When the former Broncos flyer recently read about the demons plaguing Maroons ace Darius Boyd, who recently sought help for depression, Kilroy gave the knowing nod of a man who has navigated some dark days.



Truth is, not much can shock Smokin' Joe. After all, 1095 days rotting away in prison will desensitise you to almost anything. As a convicted drug trafficker, Kilroy has learned not to judge. Time behind bars has opened his eyes and mind and provided life lessons he passes on today to prevent disadvantaged youth making the same mistakes. And, as Kilroy has come to learn, not even the fame and fortune of the NRL can shield the code's most bankable stars from life's challenges. In the past 18 months, three NRL stars, Boyd, NSW prop Andrew Fifita and Maroons hopeful Chris Sandow, have checked into rehabilitation clinics to treat personal problems. Kilroy says it is critical for NRL players to have entrenched support networks, pointing to his own demise as evidence of the pitfalls of lacking trusted allies. In 1988, Kilroy made his Origin debut for Queensland. The following year, he was behind bars, forced to swap his prized Broncos outfit for meek prisonwear after sharing marijuana with a friend. "If you don't have a support network of people you can rely on and that can firmly

keep your feet on the ground as well, it's going to be an uphill battle," says Kilroy. "You have to get some bloody good mentors that you trust. You need external input in your life. I didn't have that family unit and I wish I did, because I believe a lot of my faults and my lack of skills would have been addressed. "I've had to learn the hard way and often a family unit can provide those lessons. "The thing is, when you stuff up, so many people pay the price. I know the stuff that went through my wife's and mother's head, just reading stuff in the papers about me being a drug dealer and how they will be perceived by their friends. "It impacts on your family, your loved ones cop all sorts of torment over your sins." While depression and breaking the law are poles apart, Kilroy can empathise with Boyd on one core issue ... confronting the demons that lurk within. Boyd recently spoke of his regret at not knowing his biological father and his plan to heal long-festering wounds. Over the past decade, Boyd has found a valued mentor in Wayne Bennett, ironically the very coach who helped Kilroy fight through the toughest chapter of his life. "Take it from me, Darius Boyd couldn't find a better mentor than Wayne Bennett," Kilroy said. "When I was sitting in jail at age 30, I turned to Wayne. I fed off his advice. He was nothing but supportive. There was no expectations, no judgments. "A lot of his coaching philosophies helped me in jail and fell into place when I got out. "Darius will find Wayne is not just a football coach, he's a life coach. "So much of the stuff Wayne taught me I use in my line of work today. As a game, rugby league changes but the disciplines remain. "Your NRL career doesn't last forever but the lessons you learn in rugby league you can maintain for the rest of your life." Now 54, Kilroy is thriving on youth work. He takes Indigenous kids from broken homes on camps, where he teaches them Aboriginal customs such as tracking, boomerang and spear throwing and traditional cooking. If Boyd returns to the Broncos next year under Bennett as expected, it may be his last shot at resurrecting his NRL career..

Kilroy has simple advice for any aspiring NRL player.

"The money players are making today is life-changing money. It's a house paid off before you are 27. How many people are there in society, in their 40s, who would love that?" he says.

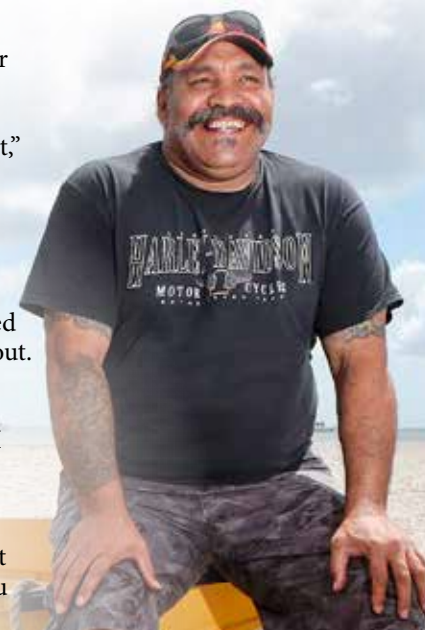
"These NRL players have a 25-year headstart on everyone else don't waste it. It will be the biggest mistake of your life." At the end of the day, the players have to be responsible for their actions but the sudden wealth is catching a lot of blokes out.

"Some kids are going from \$32,000 to \$280,000 and \$400,000 in a couple of years. "If they don't have a solid support network and very good true friends, they are being set up for failure.

"It can disappear in the blink of an eye. All it takes is one dumb decision or one wrong action.

"But everyone shines differently under different lights and sometimes you just need a polish to shine.

"It's about inviting opportunity and realising your potential."



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# THE NIGHT I FLATTENED AN IMMORTAL

Jamie Goddard enjoyed a wonderful career – but a single punch made him a part of every Origin highlight reel

**JAMIE** Goddard still gets asked about THAT punch – the day he sensationally floored NSW Immortal Andrew Johns in his maiden Origin series.

The difference is Goddard, the tough nut carved out of the no-nonsense Queensland town that is Mount Isa, now recounts his famous anecdote from deep inside enemy territory. That's right. The former Maroons hooker who belted one of the Blues' greatest players, in one of the great Origin brawls, now lives in New South Wales.

"When I finished at the Northern Eagles, I settled in Terrigal (on the NSW Central Coast) and I'm loving it," said Goddard, today a 42-year-old father of three. "The only shame is that it's south of the border, but it's been good the last eight years. "Still, there's no way we'll support the Blues. My three kids are still Maroon through and through."

So what on earth has kept poor Goddard in the land of Cockroaches? "We have a real-estate business that myself and my partner are running," he says. "We've had it for five years now, called Belle Property, so I'm in business trying to survive. "You can do very well, but there's a lot of people who come and go because they can't handle it. "You have to work just as hard in rugby league to succeed."

A tough-as-nails rake, Goddard

extracted every ounce of his potential, playing 160 top-grade games at three clubs, Gold Coast, North Sydney and the Northern Eagles, between 1992-2002. Incredibly, all three went broke, but perhaps Goddard is best remembered for turning Johns into a punching bag in his third game for the Maroons in 1997.

The series was already a dead rubber. The Blues won the opening two games, but that didn't stop Origin III exploding after six minutes when Johns and Goddard collided heavily off the ball. Johns went down and Goddard pounced, landing a flurry of short jabs. It was the spark that would ignite a fisticuff inferno.

Two minutes later, NSW prop Mark Carroll charged at the line and Maroons rival Clinton O'Brien came off second best attempting a shoulder charge. Within seconds, the Origin combatants were throwing punches and Johns, wearing the No.9 jumper, went after Goddard.

When referee David Manson tried to restore order, calling out the two hookers, Johns ducked behind the official and went for the jugular. Goddard retaliated. He landed a vicious right. Bang. Right on the chin. Johns hit the deck. It was later reported the Blues legend needed 27 stitches. "I don't get sick of being asked about it," he says with a laugh. "Sometimes it's embarrassing but I'd rather half his talent than

what I had. "After that game, Joey and I swapped jerseys and we're all good now. It's stayed on the field for me. There's no vendetta.

"It was a lucky punch. Like a lot of brawls back then, it's over within 30 seconds at most, so you do your best. "When we got sent to the bin, he was still mouthing off and we almost got into it again down the tunnel.

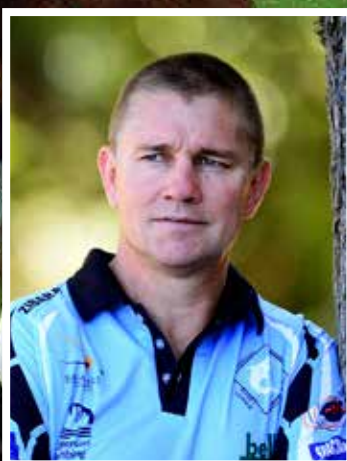
"The funny thing is at the judiciary, Geoff Bellew represented both of our clubs so he ended up appearing for me and Joey. He stood in the middle of the hearing arguing both our cases! "I said before we walked in: 'Geoff how on earth can this work?' He said: 'Boys, don't worry, I'll get you both off'. "We both walked out with two-week suspensions. I said: 'Thanks Geoff, that went well'."

Goddard now stays involved by coaching the Terrigal Sharks first-grade side and will always cherish his four games for the Maroons in 1997-98.

"It's nice to be giving back to rugby league, the sport is a big part of most communities and you see that in the FOGS organisation," he said.

"I only played four games for Queensland. I wish I had more of those times but I'm grateful for what I got.

"Playing alongside Allan Langer, Steve Renouf and Gorden Tallis will stay with me forever."

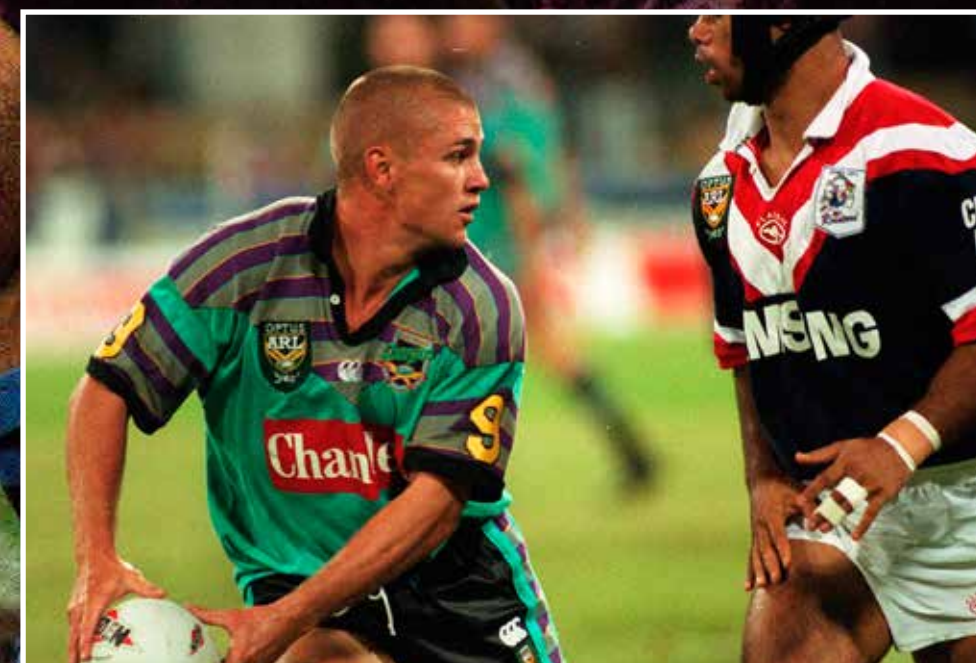


**JAMIE GODDARD**

**POSITION:** Hooker

**CLUBS:**  
Gold Coast, North Sydney,  
Northern Eagles

**ORIGIN:**  
4 games for Queensland  
(1997-98)





# GILLY TAKES AN AXE TO ASBESTOS

## with marathon charity walk

THE two important roles of father and a son convinced Trevor Gillmeister to undertake a massive charity walk from Townsville to Brisbane to raise money and awareness for the Asbestos Related Disease Support Society.

Gilly lost his father Ron to mesothelioma – the most lethal of all asbestos diseases – in 2008, which in turn inspired him to become a spokesman for the Asbestos Related Disease Support Society. But it was being the father of two girls, coupled with the massive spike in DIY home renovations in Australia, that made the former Queensland captain decide that more had to be done to educate Australians about the dangers of asbestos.

So the "Taking an Axe to Asbestos" fundraising walk from Townsville to Brisbane was born. "Honestly, the number of people that I have spoken to in the lead-up to this walk that have told me about how they lost someone they knew because of asbestos has been incredible. We just don't appreciate what a major killer this stuff is," Gilly said.

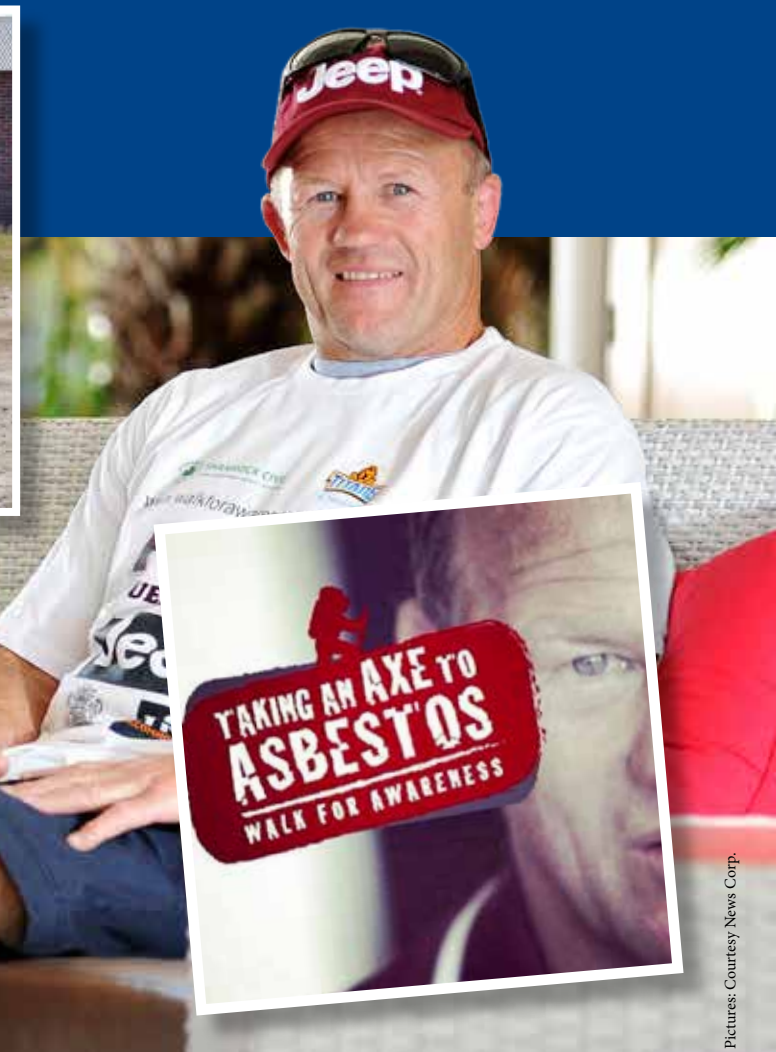
"Obviously I got involved in helping out the society after losing Dad, and I wanted to do what I could to help ensure other families did not have to go through what ours did. What really terrifies me

is the number of Mums and Dads out there doing renovations on their home, and not even realizing they have asbestos in their house." If they are in there knocking down walls and ceilings without knowing what they are doing, they are putting themselves and their family in great danger.

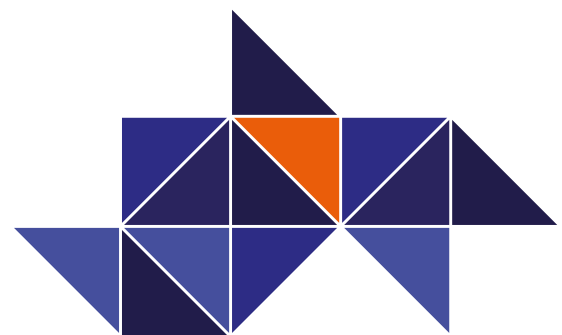
"I guess for me as a father, the thought of having these kids around the country being exposed to asbestos fibres without even knowing, because mum and dad have been working on the house, is a bloody scary thing. This stuff can kill you, as simple as that. And with everyone watching those home reno shows and giving it a go themselves right around the country, we could be facing a really big problem in a few years' time."

To help raise awareness of the hidden killer lurking in a lot of Aussie homes, Gilly set off on his 1400km trek down the coast of Queensland – leaving from Townsville on September 26 and arriving in Brisbane on October 27. There were plenty of stops in rural communities along the way to host fundraisers, with a number of FOGS – including Allan Langer, Steve Walters, Martin Lang, Mark Hohn, Alan McIndoe, Mick McLean and Jason Hetherington – helping out along the way.

The FOGS also chipped in as an official sponsor of the Walk for Awareness, putting in \$20,000 to a wonderful cause. "The ARDSSQ do a lot of great work for people suffering from asbestos-related diseases, providing support and financial support for treatment, and it is work that largely goes unnoticed by most people in the community," Gilly said. "I wanted to help them out by raising awareness of their cause and raising some money for them as well, and thanks to the generosity of so many people, and our wonderful sponsors like the FOGS, we have been able to do that."



Pictures: Courtesy News Corp.



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## TACKLE ONE

**TREVOR  
GILLMEISTER  
TAKES A HEAD  
ON LOOK AT  
THE BIG ISSUES  
IN THE NRL**



### IT'S TIME WRESTLING WAS TAPPED OUT

**It's up to the NRL to wield the big stick and get these wrestling tackles out of our game.**

IN my previous column, I spoke about the dangers of the lifting tackle. But I think wrestling in the ruck may be an even bigger problem – and one that we should be trying to get out of the game altogether. I have never been a fan of the wrestling, right from the time it came into our game.

I understand its origins: Coaches looking for any edge employed wrestling tactics to buy more time at the ruck. But I have a big issue with it. It has become a blight on the game. If you want a clear idea on how much wrestling in the ruck has changed the nature of the game, just tune in one night to Fox Sports and watch one of the replays of the games from the 1990s.

I speak to so many people who watch those games and their comments to me are all the same: Wasn't it a much better game when the rucks were quicker? Can you imagine if we had the speed and athleticism of our players today working under the ruck speed of the 1990s? It would be unbelievable.

Instead, modern games are being strangled to death by wrestling tactics that have no part in our code. Not only that, but the art of being a good defender is becoming less of an asset with each game that passes. The good defenders, the ones who put in good shoulder tackles, don't get rewarded as much any more. If a defender comes up with a good, low shot under the ball, and puts a bloke on his back, he should get as much time as he likes to work the bloke over on the ground.

But that is not how it works any more. These days if a defender produces a good, low hit that drops an attacking player, the referees are almost immediately telling them to release the tackle. You can understand why coaches are reluctant to have their players tackling around the legs these

days. There is no reward. That is why the wrestling came into the game – it is just a way of buying time, slowing down the play to allow the defensive line to set itself again.

The ultimate aim of any tackle is to get the ball carrier onto his back. But you shouldn't be doing that by using their arms as levers and forcing their shoulders back into those positions. Some clubs do it more than others and a lot of clubs train for it specifically as well.

Some clubs that I won't mention work on it three days a week over the off-season and then they wonder why they have so many blokes queuing up for shoulder operations. When I was at the Titans, we didn't do much of it at all. We never learned manoeuvres to put players into bad positions. The training we did on wrestling was all about getting yourself out of those bad positions and trying to get a quicker play of the ball.

So how do we get it out of the game? The referees are already under enough pressure on the game, so it shouldn't just be dumped in their lap. If the game is serious about getting it out of the game, then it is the game itself that must do the job. I know it is not as simple as Dave Smith saying "cut it out", but there has to be a serious enough deterrent so players won't take the risk of getting caught. Maybe the game needs to look at an automatic suspension of 4-6 weeks for these types of tackles.

I think it is a fair punishment. Aside from ruining the spectacle of our game, these tackles – chicken wings, grapples, crushers and all the other ones as well – are putting the game's players in danger of injury.

If a heavy automatic suspension is brought in as a deterrent, pretty soon the players – and the coaches as well – will realise that these sorts of tactics just aren't worth it. Pretty soon, they will be gone from the game. And the game will be better for it.







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