

Official Magazine of Queensland's Former Origin Greats

FOGS
QUEENSLAND
FORMER ORIGIN GREATS

QUEENSLANDER

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A NEW DAWN

Rookies rise to the challenge as
we say goodbye to the greats

FOGS

QUEENSLAND

FORMER ORIGIN GREATS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



IT is easy sometimes to fall into the trap of worrying about the end of an era, instead of being excited and optimistic about a whole new era beginning. For the Former Origin Greats and Rugby League in Queensland, 2019 represents the start of exciting new eras brought about through hard work, tough times and valuable lessons learned along the way. On the football field, new eras have already begun for Queensland. While the 2018 series loss to the Blues was tough to swallow at the time, that disappointment should not overshadow the terrific positives to come out of the year. Some hard lessons were learned, but that is the only way that you get experience. I know those lessons will serve us well in the years to come. There was another Queensland "loss" on the field this year that we can count as a victory – the historic Women's State of

Origin game held at North Sydney Oval. While our girls in Maroon narrowly lost on the night, it was a tremendous leap forward for the Women's game to have such a high-quality game, broadcast live in prime-time, under the State of Origin banner for the first time. Our girls, under the coaching of Jason Hetherington and Trevor Gillmeister, did us all proud. The rapid rise of Women's Rugby League is just brilliant for the game, and that is why we at the FOGS were so keen to support the Queensland girls as major sponsors this year. You can read all about it on Page 8 inside. It is also the start of a new era for the FOGS as an organisation as we head into 2019, with an increase in staff, new sponsorship partners, the continued success of our Annual Charity Lunch and the incredible results of our ARTIE

Academy. The ARTIE Academy will go to new heights next year on the back of a new funding agreement with the Federal Government. In July, then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the new agreement at Suncorp Stadium. This allows us to spread our wings a little further back into the far north of Queensland – a particularly pleasing result because we had established ourselves there in the early days of the program. Unfortunately due to regional government divides we had to vacate Townsville and North Queensland, so it is great to be back there again.

To all of the members of FOGS, our sponsors and supporters – old and new – thank you all once again for being involved and for all of your hard work in making FOGS the success that our Founding Chairman Dick "Tosser" Turner wanted it to be. To you and all of your families and loved ones, our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Gene Miles
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



Wally, Geno and the other "Big Mal": Then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announces more Federal Government support for the FOGS' ARTIE Academy at Suncorp Stadium. Picture: Courtesy News Queensland



BARTONS HYUNDAI IS KEEPING THE ARTIE ACADEMY ON THE ROAD



MEMBERS of the Former Origin Greats have always been driven to succeed. Now, thanks to a new partnership with Bartons Hyundai, that drive will go even further.

THE incredible success of the FOGS' ARTIE Academy has seen a greater demand for the program's coordinators to get to and from the participating schools.

To help make that happen, Bartons – through Dealer Principal Mark Beitz – have donated six new Hyundai cars to keep the ARTIE Academy and the academic careers of young Indigenous Queenslanders on the road.

"This new partnership with Bartons is massive for FOGS," said FOGS General Manager Marty Rowen.

"It assists us at such a huge level given we have so many ARTIE Academy school-

based coordinators on the ground right throughout southeast Queensland.

"As a growing organisation, with so many students in our program enjoying wonderful success and producing amazing results, we needed to get even more coordinators and more resources out there to build on what we were doing.

"Dealer Principal Mark Beitz and his team at Bartons could not have been more generous and appreciative of the work that the FOGS are doing.

"To have six Bartons Hyundai cars coming into the FOGS ARTIE Academy fleet is quite unbelievable.

"Mark is a long-time supporter of rugby league in Queensland, especially through the Wynnum Manly Seagulls club.

"So it was a really natural fit for us to work together with Bartons and Hyundai here, giving us the extra support we need to get out and reach as many students as we can and make a difference in their lives."

Rowen said the partnership was also a "unique" sponsorship arrangement, with the FOGS standing to benefit even more thanks to the generosity of Bartons.

"They are not only helping us out with the provision of the vehicles, but Bartons have also added a commercial element that will see \$500 from every new vehicle sold donated to the FOGS' programs," he said.

"All any friend of FOGS needs to do is show the dealership the Bartons ad from this edition of the magazine, or mention that they are a friend of FOGS, and that money will come back to us to support even more causes and charities in the community."

Bartons Dealer Principal Mark Beitz said their organisation had always been centred around serving their community, so the opportunity to begin a partnership with FOGS was a natural step forward.

"We are all very proud of the fact that Bartons has been such a strong part of the Wynnum, Manly and Redlands communities for nearly 75 years," Beitz said.



"\$500 FROM EVERY NEW VEHICLE SOLD DONATED TO THE FOGS' PROGRAMS"

"Like the FOGS, we started off with humble beginnings. But through hard work and dedication to what we do we have grown to become one of the biggest dealerships in Queensland.

"But like the FOGS too, we are also big believers in giving back to the communities that made us successful.

"We have been long-time supporters of various programs and sports in our community, but particularly Rugby League.

"We have been major sponsors of the Wynnum Manly Seagulls for many years now, and we do that not just because we love the game, but because of the positive difference it can make in the lives of young people.

"The work of the FOGS through the ARTIE Academy has taken that to a whole new level, and the results they have been achieving are remarkable.

"So we were more than happy to show our support of the FOGS and the work they are doing by providing six new Hyundai cars, to ensure those results and good work continues."



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IMMORTAL

Mal receives the game's highest honour as Gordie and Petero join the Hall of Fame

THREE more Former Origin Greats were invited to walk with the giants of the game at the glittering Rugby League Hall of Fame ceremony held in Sydney in July.

Former Maroons captain and coach Mal Meninga received the highest honour the game can bestow on an individual by being named as the 13th Immortal.

Meninga joins fellow Queenslanders Wally Lewis and Arthur Beetson in this select group of men chosen as the 13 greatest to ever play rugby league in Australia.

FOG #82 Gordie Tallis and FOG #120 Petero Civoniceva were also honoured for their outstanding contributions to the game with their induction into the prestigious Rugby League Hall of Fame.

Both Tallis and Civoniceva

spoke warmly, proudly and passionately about their early days, and how their brilliant careers could only have been possible with the love and support of their parents, families and junior coaches.

They were sentiments echoed by Meninga who, along with St George legend Norm Provan, joined pre-war greats Dally Messenger, Frank Burge and Dave Brown as the five new Immortals announced by NRL CEO Todd Greenberg.

"Upon reflection, it is all a bit surreal," FOG #4 told Queensland Magazine.

"It is certainly a tremendous personal honour. But I think the award really is an accolade for all of the people that helped me achieve what I did in my career.

"All of those people, my parents especially, helped me



Gordie Tallis and partner Gemma Elder arrive for the 2018 NRL Hall of Fame Induction

to become the player I was and the person that I became.

"To be named as an Immortal is recognition for all of those people that had faith in me.

"To me, that is what makes the Immortals so prestigious – it is recognition for everyone that was involved in your football life in a positive way, and that is what makes it so special."

Meninga said he had no inkling that he was to be named an Immortal, and had turned up to the ceremony as Australian Test coach to support the game.

"I had no idea it was coming. I went to the event that night honestly thinking that other people were going to get it, and I was very happy with that," he said.

"It was a privilege to be

there.

"It was like being amongst friends and family, because everyone in the room was there to celebrate what is good about Rugby League.

"When they announced the three pre-war inductees, well I can tell you it was a spine-tingling moment for me.

"I really believe naming Dally Messenger, Dave Brown and Frank Burge was one of the greatest things the game has done in recent times.

"To see those great players included into the Hall of Fame was so special. The whole night showed the real identity of Rugby League.

"It was about the things that were important, about how Mums and Dads scrape by and spend hours in cars making sure their kids got a chance to play in our wonderful sport."

Pictures: Courtesy News Queensland



Petero Civoniceva and his wife Bonnie arrive for the 2018 NRL Hall of Fame ceremony

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Tallisha Harden of the Maroons tackles Nita Maynard of the Blues



Ali Briginshaw of the Maroons runs the ball

FOGS BACKING OUR HISTORY-MAKING WOMEN ALL THE WAY

Pictures: Courtesy News Queensland

JUNE 22 will be a day that Queensland's Women's team looks back on with mixed emotions.

It was a historic occasion for Women's rugby league.

After 19 years of Queensland and New South Wales meeting in an interstate challenge, they were finally playing under the State of Origin banner for the first time – a moment many players thought they might never see.

In front of a 6824-strong crowd at North Sydney Oval, and with a peak television audience of 1.01 million, the two rivals clashed in a stunning and gritty spectacle that won over fans across the nation.

For Queensland skipper Karina Brown, it was something she had waited nearly a decade for.

But, in a heartbreaking blow to the women in maroon, it was their third consecutive loss to the dominant NSW side, who clinched a 16-10 victory in the final five minutes of the action-packed match.

Brown said after the game that both sides had showcased the women's game exactly how they had imagined but "it certainly doesn't feel great right now".

Months later, the talented winger knows how special that

night was for the Women's game. But the burning desire to get one back over NSW has not disappeared either.

"There were so many highlights, aside from the fact we lost," she said.

"It was anyone's game. If we score, we win, but they got it in the last five minutes.

"What really stood out for me was the build up to the game.

"The promotion from the NRL was outstanding ... people knew there was a Women's State of Origin happening. It was the first time it was even called Origin.

"That's always what it was in our heads. But to actually have the iconic naming rights, that was pretty special.

"What was also special was running out in front of over 6000 fans at North Sydney Oval. They were so excited for the game and there were so many young girls there.

"They were chanting for NSW for the last five minutes, which wasn't a standout for me, but it was a great moment to see how exciting the future is for the game.

"We're really excited for 2019 now. We have a great group of girls, a great team we can build on. There's new talent from the NRLW

"THE FOGS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT IMPROVING RUGBY LEAGUE IN QUEENSLAND"

competition which will only strengthen our side in 2019.

"Hopefully it comes back to Queensland."

Queensland was coached by FOG #106 Jason Hetherington, who brought in fellow FOGS Trevor Gillmeister and Allan Langer as assistants.

Hetherington had help from some Maroon greats of the women's game as well, with Karyn Murphy and Nat Dwyer acting as assistant coaches, so there was a strong focus on what it meant to be a Queenslander.

But the contribution of the FOGS went further than the contributions of Hetherington, Gillmeister and Langer – the Former Origin Greats as an organisation were also one of the major sponsorship backers of the girls in Maroon.

"The FOGS has always been about improving Rugby League in Queensland for



Tallisha Harden of the Maroons tackles Nita Maynard of the Blues



Annette Brander of the Maroons is tackled during the Women's State of Origin

everyone that aspires to wear the Maroon jersey, so coming on board as a major sponsor of the Queensland Women's team was a natural fit," said FOGS General Manager Marty Rowen.

"These girls have to make so many enormous sacrifices to play the game that they love, so we are pleased that we were able to help out and give them the best opportunity to perform well and do the jersey proud.

"They certainly did that, even though NSW got the win. But no one would deny that the girls played with the skill and spirit we have come to expect from teams representing Queensland in Rugby League."



NEW QRL DEAL PUTS FOGS IN HANDS OF LEAGUE'S FUTURE

IT was the dream of Dick "Tosser" Turner when creating the Former Origin Greats that the legacy of Queensland's State of Origin spirit would be able to touch as many people as possible involved in Rugby League in this great state.

Thanks to a new partnership between the FOGS and the Queensland Rugby League, Tosser's dream is becoming a reality.

For three years from 2019, the FOGS will become the official ball sponsor of the QRL, meaning the FOGS logo will appear on match balls from junior level all the way through to seniors – excluding the Intrust Super Cup and Hastings Deering Colts competitions.

Now every player coming through the ranks in Queensland will get their hands on the FOGS logo as part of their Rugby League journey.

"The sponsorship became available, and that was something we were very keen on because we think it is a high-impact, highly visible way to reinforce our involvement in the game – especially at grassroots level," FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles said.

"That is something we have been heavily involved in over the past few years with our sponsorship of the FOGS Cup and the FOGS Colts Challenge.

"But this new opportunity means that the FOGS logo will feature on the game ball for all years from Under-7s right through to the Brisbane Rugby League.

It is great brand awareness for the FOGS, because every footballer coming through the system aspiring to make it to the top will now symbolically be in touch with the FOGS logo.

"Tosser's dream was for the FOGS to be able to be a part of Rugby League for

every young Queenslanders wanting to grow up to play for the Maroons. With this deal we are able to do that."

Miles said the most important part of the deal was the chance for FOGS to help spread the Rugby League gospel in the most important areas – in junior footy and the bush.

"The FOGS do a lot of great work in areas like Indigenous education, but the betterment of Rugby League in Queensland is still major part of what we are about – particularly in the country, where the game needs to be looked after and nursed back to full health," he said.

"The bush never gets its fair share of the funding they need, and this is our way of showing that we are committed to the growth of the game at all levels and in all areas of the state.

"We've had so many footballers from the country represent Queensland over the years, and we want to make sure that tradition continues.

"People will see the logo, know who we are, and see that we are involved with the game and care about the game, and that was all Tosser really wanted.

"He always wanted to support Queenslanders, because they had supported him and supported the Maroons.

"The driving force behind the FOGS is repaying that support with the programs we run, donations, sponsorships, and functions to help out Queenslanders who need a hand.

"That is Tosser's legacy, and we are committed to maintaining that for many more years to come."



FROM THE COACH'S DESK

WITH KEVIN WALTERS



IT is always difficult to look back on a losing State of Origin series with feelings of positivity and optimism, but that is pretty much where I stand after Queensland's campaign in 2018.

There were a lot of positives to take out of the series.

It was always going to be a year of massive transition for us with Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk and Johnathan Thurston all missing for the first time in over a decade.

On top of that, we had Matt Gillett missing for the entire series, and Michael Morgan – a future long-term Maroons leader in my view – missing for the last two games.

Billy Slater was missing for Game 1, and then obviously we were without Greg Inglis for Game 3.

Each game came with its own challenges.

State of Origin is a tough, intense arena anyway. So to have such a major disruption not only in key positions, but to the core of our leadership group, was always going to be a major challenge for us.

That is why I was so pleased with the effort and performance of the squad this year.

I think the new players that we introduced, both this year and over the past couple of seasons, handled the job well.

Unfortunately we weren't quite good enough in a couple of those clutch moments – particularly in Games I and II.

Things just did not seem to go our way.

But if I cast my mind back 10 years, I can remember when it was the likes of Smith, Thurston and Cronk making those little errors.

Those great players only became so good at handling Origin with time and experience.

They became great players after 20 Origins, not two.

This new generation of players will establish themselves the same way.

But people need to give them the same time to develop that was afforded to the generation before.

You have to learn what is right and wrong, what works and what doesn't in Origin. The only way to do that is to get out

**“IT IS SUCH A PRIVILEGE
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and do it.

We learnt some great lessons this year about what it takes to be successful at Origin level.

Game III showed what we had learned in the first two games of the series, and we put together a great performance that showed everyone what the team is capable of.

To win Game III in the convincing manner we did was a just reward for the effort that had gone in from so many people over the course of the series.

That was very satisfying for many reasons, not the least

of which was sending out Billy Slater as a winner in his final game for Queensland as a winning Maroons captain at Suncorp Stadium.

Billy is such a big part of what this Queensland team has been about for so many years, and we don't want to lose that.

So we are looking at ways that we can get him involved in some capacity with the Maroons in the years ahead.

So while he will no longer be out there influencing things on the field, we hope to have him around and helping to shape the Queensland team for a few more years to come.

The first game of the 2019 series is a big target for us.

We have lost the first game of the past two series, and we just can't afford to do that – especially with the first game next year being at Suncorp Stadium.

We are looking for ways to improve everything that we do to make sure we are at our peak right from the start.

I know my name gets mentioned a lot when NRL coaching jobs become available, but one thing that seems to get lost in all of that

2018 ORIGIN SERIES





commotion is the fact that I genuinely love coaching Queensland.

It is such a privilege and tremendous honour to be involved and play a small role in the sporting history of this country. It is a great passion of mine.

We lost the series this year, and that still doesn't sit well with me.

But we are always working

hard to find ways where we can improve and evolve as a team.

That continues on, win or lose.

Sometimes they say you can learn more from a loss than a win.

They are not the most enjoyable lessons, but we will make sure we learn everything we can to come back bigger and stronger next year.



Pictures: Courtesy News Queensland





LEADING BY EXAMPLE



NEW MAROONS SKIPPER CARRIES ON LEGACY OF THE GREATS

IN his time as Queensland coach, Kevin Walters has had to endure his share of unpleasant phone calls.

As coach, Walters has the ultimate say on who gets picked in the team – and who doesn't.

That sometimes means bruising egos, rattling friendships and, at worst, ending someone's representative career when Walters has to ring and deliver the news to a player that they have missed the cut. The flipside to that though is the type of phone call Walters got to make in May this year, when he called Greg Inglis to ask whether he would succeed Cameron Smith as Queensland captain.

Inglis himself explained he was overcome with emotion when his coach called to tell him he was the new captain of the Queensland Maroons State of Origin team. "When I got the phone call I was quite shocked to be quite honest," Inglis told NRL.com before the first game of the series.

"I don't know if (Walters) heard the trembling in my voice when I got off the phone, but I told the boys last night that the lump was in my throat and tears started rolling down from my eyes.

"It was quite emotional. Never in my wildest dreams had I thought I'd be named captain of Queensland ... captain of the state."

Walters said the reaction from Inglis only reinforced that the Maroons had chosen the right man.

"A phone call like that is one of the real joys of the Queensland coaching job," Walters said.

"He has been a great player for Queensland, and now he gets to grow again to be a great captain for Queensland.

"The respect that he has amongst the group is a really important thing, and so is the way he goes about his leadership.

"He is a different style of captain compared to what we have become used to in recent times with Darren Lockyer and Cameron Smith.

"But he can influence a game just as heavily – with the ball or without it.

"I am really excited about seeing him back next year as captain, and seeing him play all three games of the series so we can see what sort of person and what sort of captain he is at this level."

Inglis was at his devastating, dynamic best

in his first two games as Maroons leader, giving everything he had to try to inspire Queensland to victory.

That victory finally arrived in Game 3 of the series – but Inglis was missing. The Maroons' 13th captain ruled out of the Suncorp Stadium clash with injury.

In his absence, Billy Slater stepped up to inherit the captaincy – becoming just the 14th man to lead the Maroons into battle. Like Queensland's first Origin captain, Arthur Beetson, Slater took the reins of the Maroons in his final Origin appearance.

And, like Beetson, Slater walked into retirement with a clean-slate as Queensland captain after inspiring the Maroons to a convincing 18-12 win. Like Beetson, and like Inglis, Slater was inspirational as captain – winning the man of the match award and the Wally Lewis Medal for player of the series.

"No one has excelled more in Origin over the past decade or more in Origin than Billy Slater," Walters said. "It was great for him to finish on a high like we did in Game 3, allowing him to walk away from Origin as the victorious captain of Queensland at Suncorp Stadium."

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK WILL BE HARD TO STOP

QUENSLAND coach Kevin Walters says the future for the Maroons is bright after bleeding a host of rookies with the aim of spearheading another decade of Origin dominance.

The Queensland conveyor belt is in top gear with Walters handing debuts to a staggering 12 players in the past two series, including four rookies in the Maroons' 2-1 series loss to NSW this year.

The inevitable representative retirements of Maroons icons such as Johnathan Thurston, Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk

and Billy Slater has cleared the path for an exciting new wave of hungry Queenslanders.

Last year, Walters welcomed Anthony Milford (FOG #186), Dylan Napa (FOG #187), Valentine Holmes (FOG #188), Jarrod Wallace (FOG #189), Coen Hess (FOG #190), Tim Glasby (FOG #191), Cameron Munster (FOG #192) and Ben Hunt (FOG #193) to the Maroons' family of FOGs.

This year, there was more fresh blood, with hooker Andrew McCullough (FOG #194), back-rower Felise Kaufusi (FOG #195), ironman forward Jai Arrow (FOG #196) and attacking sensation Kalyn Ponga (FOG #197) injected into Rugby League's toughest arena

– and inscribed on the honour board at FOGs HQ.

"We had done a lot of planning around if and when our core of senior players did retire, but it was still a big blow for us," Walters said. "It was always going to be that way, but you still have to overcome it."

"The most pleasing thing was that the team was still able to perform consistently despite that massive turnover of players."

"It wasn't just the retirements – we had a lot of guys missing for some or all of the series, and that eroded our depth even more."

"But that presents opportunities for fresh faces."

Felise Kaufusi came in for Matt Gillett and did a tremendous job for us in his first Origin series.

"It was the same with Kalyn Ponga, Andrew McCullough and Jai Arrow. They all stepped up to the next level with Origin footy, and I think they proved they will be members of this Queensland team for many years to come."

So while the Maroons will again be without the fabled "Big Four" in 2019, it is the rise of Queensland's "Fantastic Five" that will have Maroons fans confident and excited about what is to come.



1. KALYN PONGA

"Kalyn can be an Origin player for 10 years for sure," says Billy Slater.

"I'm super proud of the way he came into the Queensland team. He is just a fantastic individual, not only as a player but as a person. "I can't speak highly enough of him. He is willing to listen and willing to learn ... he is going to go a long way in this game."

2. CAMERON MUNSTER

"He is one of those special players, he can be a long-term

Origin player," Walters said.

"Cameron has only played four Origin games. When he understands how good he can be, he will be an ever better player."

3. JAI ARROW

"It was a massive spin-out to be called up for Origin," Arrow admitted. "I never thought I would play one NRL game, let alone an Origin game."

"Watching Origin as a kid, you think, 'Oh my god, I want to be out there' and now I've had the experience which is just incredible."

"My Origin hero was Gorden

Tallis, I love the way he played. He was aggressive and that's the sort of player I want to be. I want the Queensland boys to know I won't ever let them down."

4. VALENTINE HOLMES

Holmes has scored eight tries in just five games – including a hat-trick in just his second game for Queensland in the 2017 series. Remarkably, Holmes has scored at least once in every Origin game he has played.

"I couldn't ignore him any longer," Walters said. "Val is one of those rare players who

just has a knack of finding the tryline. He is a remarkable talent and he can kick goals as well which is very handy."

5. DYLAN NAPA

EVERY great Origin team needs an old-fashioned hard-head in the front row – and Napa wants the job.

"I've got to be a leader for Queensland. I'm wearing the No.8 jersey for a reason," Napa said.

"I'm a front-rower. I'm in the front of the line so whether I like it or not, I have to lead. I'm going to do what's best for the Maroons."

FOGS CHARITY LUNCH

Continues to deliver for Queenslanders

THE Former Origin Greats' Annual Charity Lunch continues to boom in popularity, with another massive crowd on hand for this year's event at Suncorp Stadium.

ANOTHER capacity crowd jammed into the Suncorp Stadium function room on the eve of Origin III for an afternoon celebrating all that is good about being a Queenslanders.

Another \$100,000 was raised for Queensland charities on the day, with presentations made to three worthy causes with the proceeds from last year's lunch.

Smart Pups, who provide assistance dogs to children with special needs, received a donation of \$28,000.

The MND and Me Foundation, which runs support and research programs for Queensland families living with Motor Neurone Disease, received \$20,000.

HeartKids, which assists children, teens and adults affected by congenital heart disease, also received a

donation of \$20,000.

"This is how it works every year – whatever money is raised at the lunch is spread between three charities the next year," said FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles.

"It was another great day all round. (Former Test Cricketer) Greg Ritchie was the entertainment and he was hilarious, as we knew he would be, and the atmosphere was terrific for the entire afternoon.

"The lunches serve two purposes. Firstly, it is a celebration of Rugby League in Queensland. We know that State of Origin still means so much to the people of Queensland coming up to 40 years since that first game at the old Lang Park.

"The FOGS Annual Charity Lunch is a way of celebrating that pride and passion by

getting people together to enjoy that excitement around Origin time.

"Every year we host the lunch on the day before the game at Suncorp Stadium, and you can feel there is a real buzz about the place as people come in for the function.

"Just getting the chance to be inside Suncorp Stadium so close to a State of Origin game is a huge buzz for a lot of people, and it is something they really enjoy.

"But the other side of it is getting Queenslanders who share a common passion for Rugby League to become involved in helping some of the great charities that work so hard to make life better for people in this state.

"Often people aren't willing to donate to these charities because they don't know what they do, or maybe don't even know they exist at all.

"By putting the charities in touch with these generous Queenslanders, we can help spread their message and give people a reason to understand the work that is being done and help out how they can."

Miles said this year's lunch was a perfect example – with

Ben Taylor, representing HeartKids, delivering an emotional address that brought the entire room to a standstill.

"That is a tough room to talk to for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that a lot of people are there to have a good time and they can make a bit of noise. But by the end of Ben's speech, you could have heard a pin drop," Miles said.

"What he said really struck a chord with everyone in that room I think, and if you didn't have a bit of a tear in your eye at the end of it, then you are a tougher person than I am.

"He spoke so warmly and emotionally about the challenges his family had been through, and what a difference charities like HeartKids make to the lives of the people that need them the most.

"I am sure everyone in that room left feeling a little bit luckier about their own lives, and more appreciative of the work that charities like HeartKids do in the Queensland community, helping out families like Ben's."

"Another \$100,000 in donations were raised for Queensland charities on the day"





XXXX AND FOGS SAY CHEERS

To a new three-year partnership

QUEENSLAND spirit is built on a sense of family, and a new three-year sponsorship deal between the Former Origin Greats and brewers Lion – makers of the legendary XXXX – ensures the FOGS family stays together.

Lion and XXXX have been long-time and high-profile supporters of the FOGS and of Rugby League in Queensland, including major sponsorship of the Maroons State of Origin team in a relationship

extending back to 1991.

While XXXX continue to support our current Maroons, they will also continue to support our former Maroons as well, with the new three-deal a vote of confidence in the work FOGS is doing in the Queensland community.

"This is a great deal for the FOGS – one born out of long-term relationships and enormous respect between Lion and the Former Origin Greats," said FOGS General

Manager Marty Rowen.

"XXXX is as synonymous with Queensland as the Maroon jersey, so having Lion on board with the FOGS over so many years is a natural partnership for both organisations.

"XXXX and FOGS has always been more of a partnership that just a sponsorship, and we really do cherish the support they have given us over so many years, and the passion for Rugby League and Queensland that we share.

"This new deal is a three-year agreement that means through to FOGS, because it provides certainty around all our key events, but also gives us the flexibility to take the FOGS brand into new areas and platforms and create new opportunities.

"It is a deal that focuses on growth for FOGS, and that is a terrific thing to have in a partnership like the one we have with XXXX and Lion."



FOGS

QUEENSLAND

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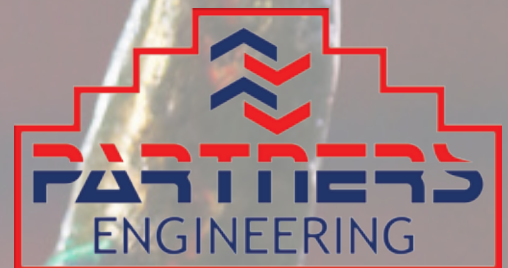
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LIFE IS GRAND FOR OUR FOGS IN FINALS

ADAM Mogg was already a cult hero in Queensland after his State of Origin heroics on the wing with the Maroons in the watershed 2006 series.

But FOG #160 can now add another title to his Rugby League resume: Premiership-winning coach.

There was no stopping Mogg's Redcliffe Dolphins as they raced their way into the history books with the 36-22 win over Easts Tigers in front of a 7504-strong crowd at Suncorp Stadium on September 23.

For Mogg, the victory was a reward for a tough season that saw the Dolphins churn through their players but never take a backwards step.

Like the Maroons' victory in the 2006 series, the Dolphins had to battle their way through a mountain of adversity to get the job done.

"I'm just really proud," Mogg said after his team's emphatic win.

"It's been a long season for us in many different facets.

"We had blokes out there that had come back after missing half a season, two-thirds of the season, three-quarters of the season and turned up and just got themselves together at the back end of the season.

"They've had torn pecs, shoulders, broken jaws ... we just hung in there all year and they worked really hard for each other. I've never seen a group of players work that hard.

"We played games where we had 10 of our top 25 out and won them. It's been a real squad performance."

The Dolphins were led strongly by Duncan Hall Medal winner Toby Rudolf,

while fullback Trai Fuller provided plenty of spark from the back to bag two tries for his side.

Earlier in the day, the Norths Devils claimed a stunning, last-gasp 20-16 win over the Townsville Blackhawks in the under-20s Colts grand final.

In the NRL grand final between the Storm and Roosters, it was FOG #168 Cooper Cronk who wrote his name into the record books, redefining words like commitment and courage with his role in the Roosters' 21-6 win over Melbourne.

Cronk has been herculean in his performances for the Maroons many times during a stellar 22-game Origin career, but his inspirational showing for the Roosters in the grand final was another level again.

Cronk carried a 15cm fracture across the full width of his shoulder blade into the grand final, an injury his club doctor described as consistent with those suffered in motorcycle crashes.

The halfback was injured the week before after being flattened in a tackle by South Sydney forward Sam Burgess in the preliminary final.

It is an injury that normally requires a four to eight-week recovery period.

Cronk not only played out the second half of the preliminary final, but took the injury into the grand final the next week as well.

His left arm dangled by his side like a deflated balloon for most of the match, but the severe pain did not blunt his

football brain.

Former premiership coach Phil Gould said in commentary that the Roosters "were playing with 12 men, and an on-field coach", and that is exactly the role Cronk delivered – directing teammates, calling plays, steering traffic.

Grand final folklore is built on players pushing through the pain barrier – John Sattler with his broken jaw, Shane Webcke with his barely healed broken arm, and Burgess himself with a fractured eye socket.

But no one has ever carried such a severe pre-existing injury into a grand final before.

And his Roosters teammates responded to the halfback's bravery, delivering a brutal and relentless performance that rattled the normally unshakeable Melbourne Storm.

But while Cronk's grand final was a classic tale of heroism, on the other side of the field, the marvellous career of his long-time friend and teammate Billy Slater petered out with a disappointing loss.

Slater himself had been under a cloud leading into the grand final, narrowly escaping suspension for a shoulder charge in the preliminary final.

But not even the presence of the brilliant Slater could prevent the Storm dishing up one their worst performances in recent memory, and FOG #142 was denied the premiership fairytale he richly deserved to finish his career.



FOGS DONATIONS THAT SUPPORT QUEENSLAND SUPPORT QUEENSLANDERS

ANY player lucky enough to have worn the Maroon jersey will tell you how valuable it is.

But for the average Queenslander, the chance to wear the famous jersey into battle in State of Origin will be something they never get to experience.

So the chance to own a little slice of Maroons history is still a big attraction for Queensland footy fans, and helps explain why donations of memorabilia from the Former Origin Greats are so prized among charities looking to raise funds to continue their work in the community.

The Maroons' status as the team of the Queensland people is unmatched and unchallenged, so when charities get the chance to auction some memorabilia from the FOGS, they always know it will be one of their best supported items.

Shaune Watts is a long-time fund-raiser for the Leukaemia Foundation and Mater Little Miracles, and says the ongoing generosity of the FOGS makes a big

difference for organisations supporting the community.

"I have had a relationship with the FOGS now for seven or eight years, since the early days of our fundraising when we were looking donations for auctions," Watts said.

"Every time I reach out to the FOGS

**"We are excited that
we can use these funds
to also give back
to the community in
providing access to
sport at no cost."**

they are always happy to help out how they can. Being a community organisation themselves, the FOGS understand how a little bit of help can go a long way.

"I know they have a lot of people and organisations that support them, but the FOGS pay it forward by helping out charities like us and it makes a big difference.

"It is always appreciated but never expected. When you go back asking for help from the same organisations every year, you kind of expect that not everyone will be able to help you out on every occasion.

"But the FOGS are one of many that continually support both of our events through the year.

"We are always very thankful, because the items they donate are always sought after and we use them in the live auctions to ensure they raise as much money as possible."

This year FOGS donated one of



Johnathan Thurston's signature headgear pieces for Shaun's annual golf day, and a signed 2018 Maroons jersey for his high tea fundraiser.

"Both of those items did very well for us," Watts said.

"We raised \$84,000 between the golf day and the high tea this year, which is a record for both events.

"The golf day raised just over \$40,000, which beat the old record by about \$7,000, and the high tea raised just under \$44,000 which was about on par with last year."

As well as memorabilia, FOGS were also fortunate enough to donate money back into the community this year.

On top of the three charities that were beneficiaries of donations at the FOGS Annual Charity Lunch this year (Pages 14-15), money from the 2017 lunch was also donated to support the Bowen Seagulls Junior Rugby League Club.

Club secretary Monika Piggott said the money donated from FOGS would go a long way towards keeping Rugby League

alive in the region.

"Without your contribution to our club, we would not have been able to offer all our under-6, under-7, and under-8 (players) free registration, and the under-9s through to the under-17s a registration fee of \$77 (reduced from \$160) for the 2018 season," she said.

"We are excited that we can use these funds to also give back to the community in providing access to sport at no cost."

The FOGS also donated a Maroons jersey to support fundraising for "Cairns Biggest Sign-on Day" - a major initiative to encourage junior participation in sport in the region - and organiser Ross Steele said the FOGS' support had been invaluable.

"We had the jumper framed and it took pride of place as the major prize on the day, where over 2100 people met with 80 different junior sporting organisations promoting healthy living by participating in sport," he said.

"Overall the day was a great success and we had the Department of Sport

representatives draw the major prize winner for your jersey, which re-enforced to them the great work the FOGS do for our community."

FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles said donations to charities and junior league clubs would always remain part of the organisation's agenda, as a way of saying thanks to Queenslanders.

"Every player that has represented Queensland in State of Origin will tell you that they are blown away by the amount of support that the Maroons receive from the people of this state," Miles said.

"By donating to worthwhile causes like these, we are able to repay that support by helping out the people and organisations in the community that are out there helping everyday Queenslanders.

"We are always pleased to hear how well the donated items are received, because it shows that the passion for the Maroons among the Queensland people carries on."



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FAREWELL TO THE GREATS WHO ARE CALLING IT A DAY



THEY were the sensational six who helped create the most successful dynasty in State of Origin history.

BETWEEN them, Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk, Johnathan Thurston, Billy Slater, Darius Boyd and Sam Thaiday amassed a staggering 189 Origin games, spearheading Queensland's remarkable reign that saw the Maroons charge to 11 series wins in 12 years between 2006-17.

But now, Queensland's champions have left the Origin building.

Three of the quintet – Thurston, Slater and Thaiday – announced their retirements from the NRL at the end of the 2018 season. We will never see them on a footy field again.

Smith, the most-capped player in Origin

history with 42 matches, made the shock decision to walk away from the Maroons on the eve of this year's campaign in a bid to prolong his club career with Melbourne in 2019.

Cronk quit representative football after last year's successful World Cup campaign, while Boyd elected to call time on his rep career after missing selection in the Queensland team for the first game of this year's series.

A seventh Maroon, Jacob Lillyman, has also joined Thurston, Slater and Thaiday in NRL retirement.

The veteran prop may lack their profile,

but Lillyman was no less valued by the Maroon family, playing 14 games as Queensland's quiet achiever.

Lillyman was part of Queensland's breakthrough win in 2006 and 11 years later, the no-nonsense toiler was part of the class of 2017 that gave coach Kevin Walters his second consecutive series win as Mal Meninga's successor.

Together, they all brought their strengths to help build the Queensland juggernaut.

And now Queensland is carrying on without a group of players that have been foundation stones for the Maroons' greatest era.

Thurston provided peerless instinct and competitive fire. Lillyman gave grunt and reliability.

Thaiday was the forward pack's spiritual leader. Slater had backfield brilliance. Boyd brought unbreakable dependability. Cronk was the peerless and professional puppeteer.

Smith – smart, clever and cool – was the conductor of Origin's greatest orchestra, bringing all the pieces together to deliver Queensland a decade of sweet symphony.

While Thurston did not want his 37-game Origin game to end midway through the 2017 series due to a busted shoulder, his booming match-winning sideline conversion to steal an 18-16 victory and keep the series alive crystallised his greatness.

Slater had a happier finale, receiving a glorious lap of honour after Queensland's 18-12 defeat of the Blues in Origin III this year.

It was fitting that Slater should finish at the very ground that witnessed his incredible chip-and-chase try in just his second Origin game in 2004.

It was also fitting that Slater should finish with 31 games for the Maroons –equalling the number of matches played by Queensland's first great Origin superstar, "The King" Wally Lewis.

"It was a great ride," Slater said. "A lot of thanks has to go to the Queensland

selectors, they put faith in me when I was just 20 years old and gave me the opportunity to fulfil my dream and play for Queensland.

"All my coaches for Queensland, Michael Hagan, Mal Meninga and Kevvie and my teammates were great supporters for me.

"Never letting your mates down is a trait of Queenslanders. That's what Queensland is always about."

If anyone personified Queensland's never-say-die spirit, it was Thaiday.

The kid from the Torres Strait drew the curtain on his Broncos career this year after 304 games that began with a nervous debut as a teenager in 2003.

And while Thaiday finished just one match shy of Queensland's elite 30-game FOGS Statesman Award club, his aggression and commitment in the Maroon jumper will never be forgotten.

Boyd finished with 28 games for the Maroons, a remarkable haul given the majority of them were played out of position on the wing.

But his incredible haul of 17 tries



for the Maroons between 2008 and 2017 underlines just how valuable and reliable the Broncos skipper was to the Queensland chemistry.

The unflappable Cronk incredibly has seen his stocks rise even higher in Origin retirement after lifting the Sydney Roosters to the 2018 NRL Premiership despite playing the entire grand final with a broken shoulder blade.

But perhaps the biggest blow of all for the Maroons was the surprise retirement of Smith.

Blooded by former Queensland coach Wayne Bennett way back in the final game of the 2003 series, Smith became the driving force in the Maroons' ruthless, year-on-year dominance.

He succeeded Darren Lockyer as skipper for the 2012 series and never looked back, becoming not only Origin's most-capped player, but arguably the greatest man to pull on a Maroon jumper.

In 15 Origin campaigns, he missed just one match – the 2010 series opener due to injury. Incredible.

"He was a great player for us," Walters said. "But even more, Cameron is a great person. Respect and humility – he shows that every day.

"One of the great things I respect about Cameron is how he conducts himself in every aspect of his life.

"His performance in Game III of (the 2017) State of Origin series was one of the best I've seen of anyone at that level and he was 34 years of age.

"To me, that speaks volumes of the person and character that he is."





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FOGS WELCOMES NEW FACES TO OUR GROWING FAMILY



GREATER awareness of the work and results achieved by the Former Origin Greats is leading to an increase in corporate partnerships, says FOGS General Manager Marty Rowen.

In 2018, they were joined law firm giant Gadens, who have joined the FOGS family as the organisation's official legal services provider.

GROUND-BREAKING new partnerships such as these are becoming more common as corporate Queensland begins to understand the work of FOGS extends well beyond the goalposts of a Rugby League field.

"This will happen more and more, and it is very exciting for the FOGS going forward that we are able to attract and establish partnerships with firms of this calibre," Rowan said.

"Rightly or wrongly, a lot of people still have a misconception about what it is the FOGS do.

"They think we are an organisation similar to the Men of League, that was established to assist and support former Rugby League players or members of the league community who have fallen on hard times.

"But as we all know, that is not what we do. The work of the FOGS is far broader and wide-reaching than that.

"Part of my responsibilities at FOGS is to make sure that the wider community understands and has an appreciation of what it is that the FOGS do and what our programs are achieving.

"Through those engagements and conversations, more of these

opportunities start to evolve. Companies like Gadens then want to get involved because they understand the work we do is not just about Rugby League.

"It is about using Queensland's great passion for the game and their pride in the Queensland jersey to drive real change in the community."

Gadens Queensland and National Chairman Paul Spiro said the combination of State of Origin's standing in Queensland and the FOGS' work in programs such as the ARTIE Academy had made the decision to partner with FOGS an easy one.

"Gadens is a firm with international reach, but our Brisbane office is proudly owned by Queenslanders and it was an easy decision when the opportunity arose to assist the FOGS," Spiro said.

"State of Origin is one the most iconic brands in the Australian sporting landscape and it is a privilege to give back to the community through our pro bono program.

"Gadens prides itself on supporting both Indigenous law interns and local Indigenous artists and we see exciting synergies with the 'ARTIE Academy' run by the FOGS."



NEW FRIENDS HELP ARTIE STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE IN CQ

RHIANNON Revell-Blair has become used to making an impact.

The Maryborough product became the youngest person to play State of Origin when she was selected on the wing for Queensland in this year's inaugural Women's Origin clash in Sydney at just 17 years of age.

The niece of former NRL star Maurice Blair, Rhiannon this year also played for the Prime Minister's XIII in their clash with the Papua New Guinea Women's team in Port Moresby – where she was swamped by fans who made her an idol after her Origin exploits.

She was just as big a hit in Rockhampton in November when she and Queensland teammate Chelsea Baker were special guests at the ARTIE Academy's Central Queensland Fun Day.

"Rhiannon wasn't chosen as a special guest by chance," said ARTIE Academy Program Manager Steven Page.

"Obviously being a similar age to a lot of the students in the ARTIE Academy program, she is a terrific role model and example for the students about what can be achieved when you work hard on achieving your goals.

"It was quite motivating for the students

to spend some time with her, whether they were looking to continue their own sporting careers or go into other areas of the workforce.

"She was very well received up there."

The Fun Day is an annual event for ARTIE students in Rockhampton schools who are successful in the Term 3 Attendance Challenge.

Pleasingly, this year more than 60 per cent of students qualified, and were rewarded with a huge day of fun.

Students enjoyed lunch at Hog's Breath Café before heading over to the Rocky Bowl and Leisure for an afternoon of lasertag, bowling, dodgem cars and arcade fun.

But Rhiannon and Chelsea weren't the only new faces at this year's CQ Fun Day – family restaurant chain Hog's Breath Café were also new guests as the latest members of the ARTIE Academy sponsorship team.

"We are very pleased to welcome Hog's Breath Café into the family as ARTIE Academy supporters," Page said.

"The rewards that we are able to offer the students to keep them motivated are a big part of the ARTIE Academy's success.

"While we are very grateful for the Federal Government funding that allows us to run the ARTIE Academy to the level we do today, we are also very appreciative of the support we receive from our corporate partners who are crucial to the program's success.

"Our private partners, like the Government, see the value in the program and the results we are achieving.

"Because of their support, we are able to reward the students for their positive results, and that really gives the students something to strive for. It makes a big difference."

Page said the CQ Fun Day had been another enormous success, and would ensure those in attendance maintained the motivation to improve their academic careers.

"The Fun Day is the biggest reward that we offer during the year, and it means the students are able to enjoy something that they have worked hard for during the year," he said.

"It is all about them having fun and enjoying the day.

"They get to see that their hard work will be rewarded and they certainly enjoy themselves doing it."





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HOW GREAT THOU ARTIE

Federal Government investment in FOGS means ARTIE Academy doubles in size

THE Federal Government has given a million-dollar endorsement of the results achieved by the Former Origin Greats' ARTIE Academy and the difference it is making to the lives of young Indigenous Queenslanders.

In July, then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the Federal Government was extending its investment in the ARTIE Academy for another two years, saying he was delighted at the program's ability to "transform lives and empower young Queenslanders to achieve their dreams".

"Artie Beetson believed that education was the key to advancement and he was absolutely right," Mr Turnbull said. "And so mentorship and leadership is vitally important.

"What they're doing is providing the mentoring that is encouraging young Indigenous kids to get ahead, to study, to go on to further education and get on with their lives ... It's so important, economic advancement is absolutely critical.

"We're delighted to support it and thank you for your work."

FOGS Executive Chairman Gene Miles said the additional funding from the Federal Government meant the FOGS were able to double the size of the ARTIE Academy.

"We'd like to thank the Australian Government ... for allowing us to spread the legacy of the great Arthur Beetson," he said.

"Currently we have 1000 Indigenous students in the Academy, and this funding

will allow us to increase that by another 1300 which will take the total to 2300 – not only here in south-east Queensland, but far-north Queensland as well."

The ARTIE Academy is now being rolled out in three new schools on the northside of south-east Queensland – at Bribie Island State High School, Deception Bay State High School and Pine Rivers State High School.

The expansion will continue into North Queensland and further north into Far North Queensland.

ARTIE Academy Program Manager Steven Page said the Government's commitment and subsequent expansion of the program was a tremendous victory for FOGS and for Indigenous education throughout Queensland.

"For the Federal Government to make such a large commitment to the program – it has basically doubled – definitely shows that we are doing something right with the ARTIE Academy," Page said.

"The results that the program has been achieving speak for themselves. It means that now we are able to reach more students, more schools, more areas and keep building on that success.

"The Government sees the value in what the ARTIE Academy is achieving, and wanted to see it expanded into the north of Queensland again.

"There are now another 1300 students across these new schools who will be able to make positive changes to their lives because they will have access to the ARTIE Academy.

"That is all down to the hard work and results that the program has already achieved in our other areas."

Page said the return of the ARTIE Academy into North Queensland after an

absence of several years was a significant milestone for FOGS.

"The ARTIE Academy is obviously a well-established and very successful program, so it has been unfortunate that North Queensland and Far North Queensland have not had access to it for a number of years," he said.

"The whole of Queensland now has access to the ARTIE Academy, and that is great news for the program.

The news of the expansion was welcomed by Natasha Lyndon from Atherton State High School who feels very fortunate that they were chosen to be included in the program to assist their long-term goal of increased attendance and academic outcome among their students.

Speaking with ARTIE Academy Program Manager Steven Page, Natasha was enthralled with the immediate effect at Atherton State High School after the launch of the program in Term Four, with their average attendance of each year level reaching the highest it has been all year.

"When deciding on which new schools would join ARTIE, we do a bit of research around the Indigenous population within schools, the percentage of Indigenous students, and the other Indigenous learning programs that already exist.

"The schools that have been selected for full program roll out in 2019 are a little out of the major cities, and currently do not have a lot of support programs in place.

"So there is a great opportunity there for us to implement the ARTIE Academy into these schools and create an identity there, and particularly get the ARTIE Academy brand out there in those northern-region schools."



NEW FACES ALREADY KNOW THE ARTIE ACADEMY ROPES

THE ARTIE Academy's newest recruits did not need to be convinced of the effectiveness of the program they are working in - they have already lived it.

The unbridled success of the ARTIE Academy has led to a rapid expansion of the program, meaning FOGS has brought on board more Education Coordinators to keep up with the demand from Queensland schools wanting to be a part of it.

Joining current Education Coordinator Andrea Warren, are new recruits Program Manager Steven Page and

Education Coordinators Coen Oates, Phil Dennis, Jacob Johnson and Kobe Nona.

Jacob can tell you exactly how much difference the ARTIE Academy can make to the life of a young student - he went through the program himself while at Marsden State High School.

"I think I can share my experiences going through the ARTIE Academy, and it helps me with my role because I know where the students are at in their education," Jacob said. "That helps a lot."

"I wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for the ARTIE

Academy."

"ARTIE played a major role in turning my life around... (and) I wanted to give back and do something like this."

"It is a very rewarding career. I know how much it means to the kids, because I used to be one of them myself."

Kobe too has seen the impact of the ARTIE Academy from close quarters - her sister was part of the program at Cavendish Road State High School.

She says the program's impact on her sister, combined with her own

desire to work with children, made the opportunity to work at FOGS with the ARTIE Academy too good to ignore.

"The ARTIE Academy was a good incentive for her to go to school, and it was good seeing her enjoy the rewards that came with it," Kobe said.

"It is an enjoyable workplace. Everyone around us is really supportive and helpful."

"It is a big job, but it is very rewarding when you see the students get so excited for their rewards and enjoying something good at school."



RACQ AND FOGS HELP TO PUT STUDENTS IN THE DRIVERS SEAT

A NEW partnership with RACQ is helping ARTIE Academy students stay on the road to success.

After a positive pilot program, the ARTIE Academy Driver Licence Program will be extended for 2019 and 2020, with RACQ coming on board to help get young Queenslanders safely behind the wheel.

ARTIE Academy Education Coordinator Andrea Warren said the Driver Licence Program was keenly anticipated by the students.

"We offer the program to students enrolled in years 10 and 11, and they have to be 16 years old by the end of the year," Andrea said.

"They get 10 hours of driving instruction, and then at the end of that, we also pay for them to get their provisional licence.

"We have had about 70 students go through the program since its inception, and the success rate is very high.

"Some students take a little longer than others, but the students are very keen to take advantage of the program."

Like other reward elements of the ARTIE Academy, their participation in the Driver Licence Program is dependent on satisfactory academic results and attendance records.

"They do have to meet certain criteria to be a part of the program," Andrea explained.

"They have to achieve at least 90 per cent in

attendance to be able to go through to complete the program as well as a good behaviour record with no suspensions."

The benefits of the program are enormous for the successful students.

While a driver's licence obviously increases their freedom and responsibilities as young adults, practically speaking, the ability of being able to attend job interviews, work or education with a licence to drive was invaluable.

"There are a lot of students whose parents just can't afford to pay for a driver's licence, or for driving instruction," Andrea said.

"When you are looking at \$50 an hour for a lesson, that is a lot of money for someone who is not working.

"One of the reasons the program was created was not just to help out those families, but to enable Indigenous students to get into the workforce a little bit quicker.

"With a driver's licence, they are able to get themselves to job interviews, or to work.

"In the past, not having a licence and not being able to get around quickly might have been something that was getting in the way of them doing those things.

"This program is a huge opportunity for students."

RACQ Sponsorship Coordinator Carolyn Gibbs said working together with FOGS to spread the message about road safety, and changing the lives of young Indigenous Queenslanders was a perfect fit for RACQ.

"RACQ is proud to partner with FOGS to support the ARTIE Academy Drivers Licence Program," she said.

"Road safety is at the core of what we do every day, and this partnership will increase the safety message delivered in Queensland Schools.

"We are excited to deliver our award winning Docudrama program at ARTIE schools throughout 2019.

"This partnership can change the trajectory of these students' lives and help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian students.

"We couldn't think of a better fit between RACQ and the ARTIE Academy Drivers Licence Program."



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AFTER SUCCESS WITH ARTIE, IT'S TIME TO PARTY

THE true measure of success is being able to celebrate your victories.

After working hard as a team to achieve your goals, there is no better feeling than celebrating as a team after a job well done.

More than 80 students from Waterford West State School and Eagleby South State School were able to do just that in November when they came together for the ARTIE Academy Primary School Fun Day.

The Waterford West and Eagleby South students were joined by 10 special guest students, who travelled all the way from Aurukun in the state's far north to take part in the festivities.

The Primary School Fun Day was the reward for these students for achieving their Term Three ARTIE Academy Attendance Challenge.

Attendance Challenges are a key element of the ARTIE Academy program.

By beginning that concept in

primary school, the students learn good habits for their academic futures.

As you can see from the photos, the positive message about the importance of attendance and education is getting through!

THERE IS NO BETTER FEELING THAN CELEBRATING AS A TEAM AFTER A JOB WELL DONE.





SPIRIT OF ARTIE LIVES ON AS OUR ACADEMY STUDENTS CELEBRATE

THE great Arthur Beetson was a very proud man. A proud Queenslander, a proud Maroon, a proud Australian and very proud of his Indigenous heritage.

It is now seven years since the great man passed away, but there is no doubt that Beetson would be proud still looking down and seeing the legacy he left behind with the ARTIE Academy that was named in his honour.

Like with so many players on the Rugby League field, the name "ARTIE" continues to inspire young Queenslanders to reach new heights, embrace their identity and set themselves on the path to a better life.

This year's South East Queensland ARTIE Academy Fun Day was the celebration of that legacy.

This year, more than 500 primary and high school students from around South East Queensland were invited to attend the annual ARTIE Fun Day at WhiteWater World on the Gold Coast.

The Fun Day was part of the students' reward for achieving a 90 per cent record in physical attendance in the Term Three ARTIE Academy Attendance Challenge.

A day of fun on the waterslides and in the

pools was a great reward for the students' hard work, but the day also serves as a tribute to Beetson and the influence he continues to have on the young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who participate in the the Academy named in his honour.

It was on the morning of the 2011 Fun Day that Beetson suffered a fatal heart attack while riding his bike, just hours before he was to be the guest of honour at the event.

While the great man may have gone, his name continues to be synonymous with the success that can be achieved through hard work.

Beetson's influence on some of the greatest players Queensland has produced is well known, but it is his impact on young Queenslanders like Tamara from Redbank Plains State High School that may be even more meaningful.

Tamara is one of the star ARTIE Academy students at Redbank Plains SHS, with outstanding results in attendance and behaviour, and ARTIE Academy Education Coordinator Kobe Nona says she in turn is now inspiring other students with her leadership.

"Tamara is a great all-round student who

is consistent with everything, including her attendance," Kobe said.

"This year, she only had one day where she missed school – for the entire year – and even then she produced a medical certificate to show that her absence was genuine.

"She is a lovely student who always pops in to say hello, and she always drops in to visit at the ARTIE Room at Redbank Plains.

"She has always loved school, she always tells me how much she loves it. She is very fortunate that she has a good circle of friends and she is a really good student."

Kobe said the Fun Days continued to be a big motivator for the ARTIE Academy students to maintain their attendance records, because no one wanted to miss out on what is always a fantastic day.

"The Fun Days are a big motivator for them. They are always asking about when the Fun Day is, and what it is going to be like," Kobe said.

"There is a lot of excitement around it, and it is a very good incentive to make sure their attendance levels stay where they need to be if they are going to be a part of it."



ARTIE HELPS GEORGINA TAKE CONTROL OF HER OWN DESTINY

THE great Rugby League players are the ones that can coach themselves.

Experience and the taste of success has taught them over many years what is required to succeed at the top level so, late in their careers, they automatically know what it is that they must work on to keep improving their game.

It is the type of behaviour we have seen in recent times among our greatest State of Origin players like Cameron Smith, Johnathan Thurston and Cooper Cronk.

Their desire to become better continues to drive them, even after extended periods at the top of the Rugby League food chain.

It is a quality only found in the best players. Among high school students, it is even more rare.

Georgina, a Year 9 student from Redbank Plains State High School, is one of those rare examples.

A student in the ARTIE Academy, Georgina was mature enough to take a step back and look at her academic performance. She quickly realised something had to change.

In 2017, Georgina struggled with her behaviour in class which led her down the

path to become disengaged with school.

Georgina knew it was time to change. If she was going to do better, she knew she had to be better.

At the start of Term One this year, Georgina sat down with her ARTIE Academy Education Coordinator Hayley, and constructed a plan to improve her behaviour at school and get back on track.

With the support of the ARTIE Academy and the lure of the ARTIE rewards to keep her motivated, Georgina dramatically improved her in class behaviour.

With better behaviour leading to less time missing school, Georgina attained a perfect attendance record and was rewarded with the ARTIE hoodie in Term One and the ARTIE backpack in Term Two.

"Georgina has always demonstrated good attendance, however it was her behaviour that caused her to miss school causing her to be unsuccessful in the ARTIE Academy challenges," said ARTIE Academy Program Manager Jess Cuthbertson.

"She is a bright student and because of this was able to identify within herself that she needed to make some changes to better



her schooling life.

"She knew the ARTIE incentives and used them to motivate herself. She would have weekly meeting with the ARTIE Coordinator to keep her on track, and she had a lot of people supporting her in making those changes.

"She was very determined to make a change and to start succeeding.

"She not only improved her attendance, but maintained it for the year.

"The success she has had this year in the ARTIE Academy is just the start of her continued growth and achievement at school."



YOUNG GUN BEN SHOWS WAY FOR ATTENDANCE SUCCESS STORIES

IT is never too early to get into good habits, and Benjamin from Eagleby South State School is proving that with his attendance results with the ARTIE Academy.

Benjamin may only be in Year 1, but he has been leading the way for other students at Eagleby South State School as an example of how the ARTIE Academy can transform a student's approach to learning.

ARTIE Academy Education Coordinator Jacob Johnson said Benjamin's success was in turn inspiring other students to improve their results in school work and attendance.

"Benjamin is very young, but you have to start at the bottom, mould them, and set

them off in the right direction," Jacob said.

"To be able to work with them at such a young age really helps set them up for their future.

"It is the 'shiny' parts of the program that get them engaged, but once they are in it, they see clearly what we are talking about and can see how it helps them.

"The ARTIE Academy is something they can engage with. It is an identity for them. They are proud to be an ARTIE student. It gives them something to strive towards and to want to be better.

"They want to be a better student because they are an ARTIE student."

There have been many other success stories, like Tricia – a Year 7 student from Beenleigh State High School, who had previously never achieved a "B" score in her core subjects.

After the ARTIE Accelerate Challenge, Tricia was set the task of achieving two "B" results for term three.

She did even better than that – taking

home four "B" results on her report card.

Latfia is another success story out of Beenleigh State High School, with the Year 9 student acting as a role model for other Indigenous students at her school.

Latfia, like Benjamin and Tricia, achieved over 90 per cent in all term three challenges.

"I am really proud of all the kids across both the schools," Jacob said. "They are a very strong community, and that has helped the kids a lot with the way they have got behind them and supported them through the program.

"It has been a real community approach.

"The old saying about how it takes a village to raise a child is so true. It has helped at both of the schools.

"It has not just been about the ARTIE Academy going to these schools. It is about the parents wanting to have better futures for their kids and that has helped really shape the success."

A full-page photograph of Steve Price, a former Queensland rugby player, wearing a maroon jersey with 'AAMI' and '200' logos, and a straw hat. He is holding a Steeden rugby ball. The background is a blurred red stadium.

PROUD PRICEY RIGHT AT HOME AGAIN

STEVE Price always thought there would be no prouder moment for him than representing Queensland in State of Origin, and Australia in Test football.

His mother knew better.

After one of the great Rugby League careers that netted 313 first grade games with the Bulldogs and Warriors, two premierships rings, 28 Origins and 16 Tests, Price is finally settled back in Queensland enjoying his best role yet – proud father.

Price's daughter Jamie-Lee plays professional Netball for the Greater Western Sydney Giants in the Suncorp Super Netball League, and in October made her debut for Australia against New Zealand in Hamilton.

The daughter of FOG #108 became Diamond #176.

"I am so privileged and so very proud to have played

for Queensland and play for Australia, but when you ask me which moment I was more proud of, I have to say it was watching her," Price said.

"To be able to watch your kids growing up and have their ups and downs, and then set their sights on something and achieve it – it is truly amazing.

"My other daughter is passionate about aged care, and I get the same joy from watching her come home and tell us about how much she loves what she is doing.

"The young fella is really enjoying his footy, so it is the same with him. Your kids are your everything. So, as proud as I am about what I was able to achieve, watching them reach their goals is even better.

"When I first saw 'Jamo' make her debut for the (Waikato Bay of Plenty) Magic when she was 17, I got really

emotional that day. It was weird the feeling I had.

"My Mum wasn't there, but they showed me on the telly and she could tell. She rang me straight away and said: 'Now you know what it feels like – how great it feels when one of your children gets to live their dream'.

"She said 'now you know how I felt when you did it'. It was a really terrific feeling."

After nearly 18 years living in New Zealand, Price and his family are back home in Queensland – living on the Sunshine Coast.

Price is now working as Leadership Development and Performance Manager for health insurance firm Westfund, and remains involved in footy as a Board Member of his beloved Canterbury Bulldogs.

It was with the Bulldogs where Price played in three

grand finals – the 1994 loss to Canberra, the 1995 win over Manly, and the 1998 loss to the Broncos.

Despite that equation, Price still ended up with two premierships rings after one of the most fabled and selfless acts the game has seen following the 2004 grand final.

Bulldogs skipper Price was ruled out of the grand final against the Roosters after tearing his medial ligament the week before.

After the Bulldogs won the grand final 16-13, a young rookie by the name of Johnathan Thurston gave Price his premiership ring in a remarkable display of respect and friendship.

"It was awesome to see Johnno get all the love and accolades from the game in his last season this year," Price said. "I have been privileged to watch him grow from this

STEVE PRICE

FOG #108

RUGBY LEAGUE

POSITION: Prop / second row

CLUBS: Canterbury Bulldogs, New Zealand Warriors

ORIGIN: 28 (1998-2009)

TESTS: 16 (1998-2009)

skinny little shy kid and into the man he is today.

"He changed the landscape of the game.

"He was 20 or 21-years-old when he won his first grand final, and the first thing he does after the game is give his premiership ring to the bloke who didn't play. "He wasn't to know if he would ever play in another grand final, but he didn't think twice. It wasn't important to him. It was

important to him to give that ring to me.

"As his career went on, it was the moments like that that defined him.

"Picking up the tee and giving it to the ballboy or ballgirl after a kick, giving his headgear to a kid in the crowd at halftime and fulltime, or giving his boots to a kid after the game – now you see players doing these things all the time.

"He was the one that started it. He is a leader in more ways than one.

"What I love about him the most is that he is still that skinny little kid that came down from Toowoomba. It is really cool to see him be who he is. He has become so amazing in so many areas just by being him."

And while history shows Price was a key foundation stone in the Mal Meninga dynasty between 2006 and his last game in 2009, the 2004 Ron McAuliffe Medal winner remembers how close his Origin career came to a premature and less-glorious end.

"Mal was straight up with us right from the start in 2006, particularly us old fellas – me, Darren Lockyer and Petero Civoniceva," Price said.

"We were in a scenario of

having lost three series in a row, and and Mal said: 'This will not continue to happen. Either through performance or through selection, we are going to change it'.

"We didn't get the result in the first game, where we lost by a point.

"It was after that game that the questions started coming up about the need for changes, and whether the three of us were too old.

"We were on the cusp of losing four series in a row, which had never been done before. Mal came to us and said he was going to stick with us, but if we couldn't get the job done in the second game, that would be the end of our Origin careers.

"I am sure that was a really hard conversation for him to have with us. But we appreciated the honesty.

"We aren't stupid. We were aware of that anyway. But Mal was at least up front and honest with us.

"The other good thing about it was he didn't say a word about it to the young blokes. He never put pressure on them by saying 'if you guys don't play well, it is the end of the road for these guys'.

"In the second game, all our preparation was about getting our defensive technique right.

"We ended up winning 36-6, but they only scored in the last couple of minutes. It was a really clinical defensive effort from every single player.

"We were under so much pressure, but it was so much easier for us old guys when we hit the field because of the way everyone else played.

"That game was the start of Queensland's great success, because Mal simplified everyone's job. All they had to worry about was getting their job done properly. And when you have 17 blokes doing that, everything else falls into place."





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IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

RUGBY League is changing before our very eyes – and the game has never been stronger because of it.

This year has been a massive 12 months of transition for league, and I have been lucky enough to see a lot of it close-up.

We have seen massive changes at the top level, with some of the greatest players either retiring, or walking away from representative footy.

That in turn has led to massive change at Origin level and with the Australian Kangaroos, with a new group of young stars coming in to take over from the previous generation.

And it is not just with the Australians where international football is changing.

In the past couple of months, we have seen the Kiwis beat Australia, England beat New Zealand, and the amazing success of the first ever Test match between Australia and Tonga.

And then we have had perhaps the biggest revolution of them all with the advancements in women's Rugby League with Origin and the first Women's NRL premiership.

I was honoured to be part of Jason Hetherington's coaching staff with the Queensland Women's team for this year's Origin series, and I couldn't have been more impressed with them.

They all just love playing the game. They

are passionate about what they do, and passionate about that Maroon jersey.

What was really refreshing about them though was the fact they were so eager to learn.

They weren't jaded by routine, or disinterested because they thought they knew everything.

They genuinely wanted to learn everything they could to become better players.

At the end of training sessions, they would come up and say thanks for taking the time to coach them.

They are genuine Queenslanders who just love playing the game.

Being around the girls in camp took me on a bit of a trip down memory lane to when I first started playing footy – back before Rugby League became a full-time job.

When I first started out at Norths, you turned up to training a couple of nights a week after being at work all day, played on the weekend, and went back to work on Monday.

That is where these girls are at now.

They have to make huge sacrifices and go to so much effort just to play the game they love.

A lot of the time, it is hard for them to even train together, because the players are spread so far and wide.

Like with the men's game, it will get better over time as the women's game grows.

Considering how far it has come in the past 12 months, we may not have to wait that long.

As more and more players come through the system, the women's competition will slowly grow and expand, giving our best women players more opportunities to play this great game.

If they needed anymore inspiration, they need look no further than at the Tongan Men's Team.

Rugby League has exploded in Tonga. In 2017, they had 14 teams playing in the country.



After their performance in the World Cup last year, this year they had 28 teams. That is 100 per cent growth in 12 months.

Being at Mt Smart Stadium for Tonga's game against the Kangaroos in October was an unbelievable experience.

Our bus driver, who had been transporting sporting teams for many years – including the All Blacks – said he had never seen anything like it, in terms of passionate support from fans even miles away from the stadium.

The atmosphere inside the ground was amazing – different to Origin, but incredible.

To see a full house in Auckland, with passionate, respectful fans singing and cheering for both teams was an example of everything that is good about Rugby League.

Rugby league's new faces and new frontiers are taking the game in new directions, and it is very exciting to see.





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