



RUGBY LEAGUE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – Term 1, 2021

STRADBROKE ISLAND TRIP

The start of the Term saw all Rugby League Academy Students from Years 7-12 head across to North Stradbroke Island for a day of training and team bonding. The day consisted of a series of skilled based rotations followed by a few games, then finished off with a swim to end the day. All students had a fantastic day and represented the Rugby League Academy and the School with pride.



NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The Rugby League Academy are proud to welcome 2 new staff members to the team this year.

Mr Kevin Neighbour who comes to us with a wealth of Rugby League experience in the UK, New Zealand and Australia. He is currently working at the Norths Devils as their Mal Meninga Cup Coach as well as Assistant Coach to the Intrust Super Cup Team. Mr Neighbour is coaching the year 7 and 10 teams in 2021.

Mr Ronaldo Tago, has also joined the program this year as a coach. He attended Alexandra Hills SHS and was a part of the Academy when it first started and brings with him plenty of experience on what it takes to be a great young person and what it means to be a LORI. Mr Tago will be assisting with the year 8 team this year as well as looking after the Interschool Sport Teams.

REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY LEAGUE - SCHOOLS



METROPOLITAN EAST



Term 1 saw trials held for Bayside in 12yrs, 14-15yrs and 16-18yrs age groups and the Rugby League Academy has again had a great showing in all these age groups with a total of 36 representing bayside at Met East Regional Trials.

The 14-15 and 16-18yrs trials saw 4 students selected to represent Met East at the upcoming QSS State Carnival on the Sunshine Coast in late May. These students are **Te Anau Graham-Papali'i** (yr 11) **Jaycob Kingston-Francis** (yr 10), **Jacob Landers-Hill** (yr 10) and **Jack Pascoe** (yr 9). In the 12yrs **Kya Elkington** (yr 7) was successful in being selected, meaning he is off to Cairns for the QSS State Carnival at the end of Term 2. The Rugby League Academy and School wish you all the best at the Carnival.



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BAYSIDE REPRESENTATIVES

12yrs – Christian Williams, Hayden Hardy, Bronson Jamie, Kya Elkington, Oakley Lofipo, Sire Drinnan, Ted Black

14-15 yrs – Jacob Landers-Hill, Hezekiah Wyllie, Jaycob Kingston-Francis, Caleb Holley, Corey Crawford, Jack Pascoe, Caden Frame, Duke Dakers, Memphis Theuerkauf, Aidan Murphy, Jack Harman, Torrell Ahu, Kapua Pokai, Typz Herlihy, Caleb Carkeet

16-18yrs – Kyle Precoma, Jasper Graham, Alex Graham, Dante Nia Nia, Max Ross, Trey McPherson, Tyrone Lealiki, Gary Herlihy, Kendre Wood, Jeremy Crawford, Tieran Ross, Zavier Wood, Te Anau Graham-Papali'i

REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY LEAGUE – CLUB



The Rugby League Academy also had a number of students play in the Cyril Connell and Mal Meninga Cups throughout the course of Term 1 for both the Wynnum-Manly Seagulls and the Brisbane Tigers. These competitions are regarded as the top junior representative competitions in the state.

Tieran Ross and **Jeremy Crawford** were both apart of the Wynnum-Manly Mal Meninga squad the progressed through to the Semi-Finals but were unfortunately beaten by the Tweed Seagulls. **Te Anau Graham-Papali'i** also starred for the Brisbane Tigers in their Mal Meninga Cup campaign.

In the Cyril Connell Cup we saw a number of Alexandra Hills students take the field. **Gary Herlihy** and **Zyroam Herlihy** both stepped out for the Brisbane Tigers, the team only losing 1 game throughout their season. **Cooper Hersom** captained the Wynnum-Manly Cyril Connell side that also included **Jaycob Kingston-Francis**, **Jacob Landers-Hill**, **Jack Pascoe**, **Joshua**

Croker, **Caden Frame**, **Elijah Freeman-Ngakoti** and **Jerome Freeman-Ngakoti**.

COACHES REPORTS

Year 7

Term 1 has provided a great starting point for our newest members of the Rugby League Academy. The trip to Stradbroke Island in week three provided a great bonding opportunity for year 7 before the first of three trial games. Visiting Ipswich in trial one provided, the realisation that we are no longer the biggest or fastest boys in the competition. Trial two against Beenleigh and trial three against Sandgate provided much more confidence going into the qualifying tournament. On the day the boys performed to their best and came second best in three games out of six by one try, while scoring a great 16-10 victory over Coombabah having been 10-nill down. All these experiences are providing valuable learning opportunities heading into the Struddy's cup in term 2.

Year 8

The Year 8 Rugby League group is a combination of 2 classes. Mr McRae and Mr Tago are the 2 Coaches working with the boys. Tom Farr is our Teacher Aide and does a magnificent job with the squad.

The pre-season has been hectic, yet full of enjoyment and learning. Who can forget the wonderful training day at North Stradbroke Island in week 3? It was a tremendous opportunity for all teams to practice, bond and share great memories.

The boys continue to work hard on the field, in the gym, and in the classroom.

Mr Tago and I have attempted to give all players some playing time in the trials leading up to the Qualifying Day, which due to inclement weather and a lock down in the area, wasn't played until the start of Term 2.





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Trials were played against Ipswich SHS, Sandgate SHS, and Beenleigh SHS which enabled some match conditioning and formation of combinations that set us up nicely for the Qualifying tournament.

We played Coombabah SHS in the first game and lost 16-0, and then won games against Beenleigh SHS and Bellbird Park SHS to qualify in 2nd position which then put us into the final against a very slick Palm Beach Currumbin SHS team that beat us 20-0.

We now look forward to playing regular Rugby League in the Struddy's Cup competition and the Interschool 9-aside competition starting in term 2.

Year 9

Term 1 proved to be a frantic start to the year with trial games and training a plenty. The trip to Stradbroke Island was a great start to the year allowing the whole program to combine and build relationships. Three trials against Ipswich, Beenleigh and Sandgate set the team up well for Broncos Cup Qualification with all three games being very competitive. Qualification Day was scheduled for the end of the term however multiple changes occurred due to weather and COVID. The boys went through the pool stage undefeated and had played some fantastic footy across the day. Unfortunately in the final game of the day too much drop ball in crucial times of the game proved costly, meaning the group missed out on qualification. The team now turns their attention to the Struddys Cup in Term 2, the competition we were runners up in last year.

Year 10

Having changed the way we approach our training this term, we have begun to see instant despite a heavy



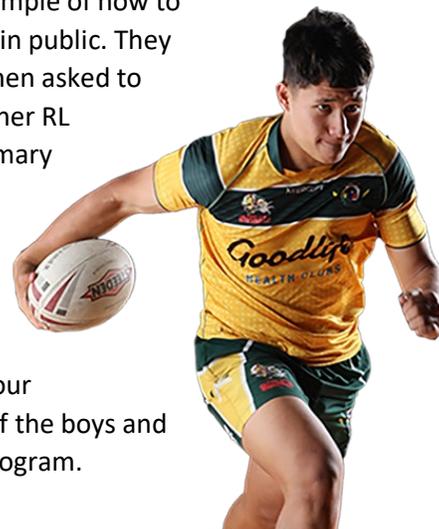
opening trial game defeat to Ipswich. Skills have had a heavy focus involving the ball which has seen individuals build confidence in the style of football we are trying to coach the group. The group have enjoyed their indoor conditioning and weights with Mr Farr and are beginning to see the benefit of not doing the 1.2k test every week. Solid team performances against Beenleigh and Sandgate have built a team ethic that will be vital heading into term 2 qualifying.

OPENS

The Open Rugby League Team has had limited opportunities so far this year with quite a few of our players already ruled out long term due to injury and others on restricted training loads due to them being selected in Cyril Connell (16's) and Mal Meninga (18's) squads either at Easts RLFC or Wynnum Manly RLFC.

We played in 3 trials against Ipswich SHS, Sandgate SHS and Beenleigh SHS trying different combinations and trying to get as much conditioning as possible in order to be ready to take on Redcliffe SHS in Week 3 of Term 2 in our first qualifying game for the Broncos Cup.

The boys very much enjoyed their day in week 3 at North Stradbroke Island with the rest of the RL year groups. They were fantastic in helping the other boys in setting a good example of how to conduct themselves in public. They continue to do so when asked to officiate/coach at other RL competitions for Primary School or Club tournaments. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents/carers for your wonderful support of the boys and the Rugby League program.



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COMPETITIONS UPDATE

The Academy's year 7, 8 and 9 teams have all qualified for the Struddys Cup Competition. All 3 grades were unlucky on their respective Broncos Cup qualification day not to make it into the top competition.



However, the students will still play in a high level Struddys competition against schools from all over South East Queensland, with trips to St Mary's in Toowoomba and Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast to look forward to.



SCHOOLBOYS CHALLENGE

Our year 10 and Opens teams begin their qualification process in the coming weeks in the hope of playing in the Walters Cup (yr 10) and Langer Trophy (Opens). These competitions are the highest level School Rugby League

Competitions in South East Queensland. The year 10 team play will need to win 3 games in order to Qualify starting on Wednesday Week 2, 28th of April against Stretton SC. The Opens begin their qualifying a week later, Wednesday week 3, 5th of May, and will need to win 2 games in order to progress through. The first game against Redcliffe SHS at Kougari Oval.

SPONSORSHIP

Finally, a huge thank to our sponsors for the 2021 school year. The money and vouchers given to the program help to subsidize program fees and ensure we can purchase new equipment when needed. Reach out to these businesses if ever you require their services.



We are looking for the support of local businesses to help build our program through financial or product-based sponsorship.



If you know of someone or a company who may be interested, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Rugby League Academy Coordinator, Jake Stanton, by email at jstan310@eq.edu.au for a 'Sponsorship Info Pack'.



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