



# RUGBY LEAGUE ACADEMY

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## NEWSLETTER



### Success in 2022, bring on 2023!

This year has brought a lot of success to our Rugby League Academy. Some key highlights include:

- The year 8s finishing the season on top of the Struddy Cup table. Qualifying for the grand final and taking out the silver medal.
- The year 9s finishing the season in second place (Struddy Cup), qualifying for the final and claiming the silver medal.
- The year 10s winning the district championship.
- The opens winning the district championship.
- The year 7s having a good first year, to finish middle of the table (Struddy Cup).

These are some fantastic results which gives some of our teams a great opportunity next year. Based on 2022 results, our 2023 year 9 and 10 teams are invited to trial for the Broncos Cup. Next year's competitions include:

Year 7 – Struddy Cup

Year 8 – Struddy Cup

Year 9 – Trial for the Walters Cup, if they miss out on qualifying they will play Struddy Cup.

Year 10 – Trial for the Hancock Cup, if they miss out on qualifying they will play in the De Vere Cup

Opens – Have the possibility of playing in Gala days, Titans Cup or the Schoolboys Development Cup.



### Welcome a new sponsor for 2023

The Rugby League Academy is proud to announce a new sponsor for 2023. Betta Auto Hire at Cleveland.

Cameron and the team from Betta Auto Hire were excited to support our program, saying that hearing of our successes on and off the field is extremely promising for our young student athletes.



Betta Auto Hire has been operating out of Cleveland, for over 20 years, hiring vehicles to locals and tourists alike. Their Car Hire, Ute Hire and Truck Hire services for local residents and businesses see their vehicles operating in Alexandria Hills, Capalaba, Thornlands, Ormiston, Redland Bay, Victoria Point and all throughout Brisbane's Bayside suburbs.

They pride themselves on having competitive rates and an extensive range of passenger and commercial vehicles, and will always strive to give you not only the best hire vehicles but the best service and experience too.

Along with our current sponsors Alex Warrilow from Freedom Property and MTB Builders and Design, 2023 is set to be another big year. Sponsorship money has gone to many aspect of our program to enhance student opportunities and learning.

We are excited to announce that we have purchased a Veo ball tracking camera. This state-of-the-art technology is a game changer! Coaches will be able to record games using the 4m high tripod, which will then be used to complete video analysis sessions. The program offers not only great quality images but also player stats, heat tracking field maps and can be used to capture highlights throughout the game.

This type of purchase is only possible, thanks to our sponsors!



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## Individual Accolades

While Rugby League is a team sport and we build a culture of teamwork, there are times when particular individual success needs to be celebrated.

Cooper Benvenuti (year 9) won player of the year for the Struddy Cup 2022. This is an enormous achievement due to the fact that opposing coaches allocate the points after each game. In order to be crowned player of the year, you have to play extremely well consistently throughout each round. Cooper did exactly that! Congratulations Cooper.



Nathan Phelps (year 8) Runner Up for Player of the year Struddy Cup 2022. Like Cooper, Nathan had a very successful season individually. Narrowly missing out on being named player of the year. However coming runners up is a great achievement. Well done Nathan.

A number of players were also recently selected for the Cyril Connell Cup for either Wynnum or Easts. These players include:

Nathan Phelps  
Kai Thomas  
Ethan Hoare  
Kaide Bowman-Ivers  
Cooper Benvenuti  
Thomas Croker

Congratulations and good luck to all of the boys.

## The 2022 Sports Awards Breakfast

Our end of year awards was very different this year, with the change in time and venue meant sport award recipients and their parents were invited to the Alexandra Hills Hotel for breakfast. Our Rugby League Award winners are:

### The Freedom Property Best and Fairest:

Year 7 – Mak South  
Year 8 – Tedd Black  
Year 9 – Cooper Benvenuti  
Year 10 – Torrell Ahu

### The MTB Building and Design Best Forward:

Year 7 – Toby Purcell  
Year 8 – Reihana Kelly  
Year 9 – Cooper Benvenuti  
Year 10 – Zeke Curtis

### The MTB Building and Design Best Back:

Year 7 – Blair Dobbie  
Year 8 – Nathan Phelps  
Year 9 – Deklan Keenan  
Year 10 – William Anderson

### Junior Player of the Year:

Joint winners, Nathan Phelps and Cooper Benvenuti

### Senior Player of the Year:

William Anderson

### The Freedom Property Team of the Year:

Fullback – William Anderson  
Wingers – Jailan Fels and Hezekiah Wyllie  
Centres – Blair Dobbie and Jarvis Henderson  
Five Eighth – Kai Thomas  
Half Back – Nathan Phelps  
Hooker – Sire Drinnan  
Props – Zeke Curtis and Cooper Benvenuti  
Second Row – Cooper Allen and Dayle Salut  
Lock – Thomas Croker  
Interchange – Deklan Keenan, Mak South, Ethan Hoare and Ted Black.





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## Thank you Mr McRae

As most of you already know, Mr McRae is leaving at the end of the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for everything he has done for the students within the Academy.

Not only did Mr McRae provide extensive knowledge on the game but he was also a great mentor for our students off the field. A lot of his time was spent not only making great footballers, but good young men. He will be missed by students and staff at Alexandra Hills SHS, but we wish him the very best with his future plans.



## Mr Neighbour Wins Hostplus Cup with the Devils!

More success on the field, this time it is our very own Mr Neighbour. Who also coaches the North Devils in the Hostplus Cup.

His side went on to win the premiership to claim back to back titles! His side went on to play the NSW Cup premiers, the Penrith Panthers on NRL Grand Final day.



Congratulations Mr Neighbour on such a remarkable achievement. Our boys are extremely fortunate to have you coaching them.

## What is New in 2023?

With the departure of Mr Barclay earlier in the year. Mr Powell stood in as Rugby League Coordinator to assist with the continuation of the program. This appointment means Mr Powell looks after the organisation of excursions, competitions, paperwork, sponsorships and general communication with parents. With this role taken care of, it allows our Rugby League coaches to focus on what they do best! Coaching and mentoring our boys to become not only better players but become the best version of themselves.

With Mr McRae's departure at the end of this year, we will have a new Rugby League coach joining our ranks. We have already secured an experienced Rugby League coach who is eager to get involved with our program. He has often coached against us in the Struddy Cup! We look forward to welcoming him to our staff in 2023.



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**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

