



2009 NRL Trial Games

South Sydney Rabbitohs V Penrith Panthers at BCU International Stadium in Coffs Harbour on February 14th 2009

Parramatta Eels V Penrith Panthers at Exies Oval, Griffith on February 14th 2009

Canterbury Bulldogs V St George Illawarra Dragons at WIN Stadium, Wollongong 7.30PM kick off on February 21st 2009

Gold Coast Titans V New Zealand Warriors at Lismore's, Oakes Oval on February 28th 2009



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AAMI

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Women's League Tag

ARLD Development Officer, Kylie Hilder is running a Women's League Tag for the Group 3 Area. Each club in the group has been asked to get a Women's side together.

"As far as I know every team at this stage will have one." Hilder said. The game will be Rugby League rules except for: -

- No Tackling take tag instead.
- No Scrums
- 11 aside
- 20min halves

The game will be played between Reserve and First grade.

"The main reason I have pushed for this is to try and get back some crowd numbers to games. Getting Women involved will do this definitely." Hilder said.

Jamberoo Superoos Return

WRITTEN BY DAVID HALL

The excitement is growing at Jamberoo in the lead up to the start of the 2009 South Coast Rugby League season as the club prepares for their return to first grade. According to coach Matt Schubert, the anticipation in the town is incredible and everyone can't wait to get on the field for their first game of the season – the local derby against Kiama Knights at the Kiama Showground on Friday, March 27.

"In our first year back in first grade we are trying to build for the future and attract players who fit into the culture of the club," Schubert said.

"We are looking for players who are relatively young and are keen to stay for the long-term instead of players who come for one season and leave," he added.



Schubert admitted that the first year back in the top grade would be a steep learning curve, but was confident that their relatively young squad – which has made the grand final and semi-finals in the last two years in reserve grade – would 'aim up' once the pressure was on.

"The club has attracted some experienced players in the form of Tim Jones and Josh Cuthbert from Shellharbour City, Josh Elliott from Kiama and Chris Pitt from Wollongong Bulls, while Michal Maslanka, after stints in grade at Gerringong and Albion Park, has also returned home.

"Together with mostly home-grown youngsters like John Dallas, Ben Jones, Tim Shepstone, Bowen Phillips and Daniel Wright, who are just a few who will be looking at stepping up, together with experienced players like Dan Bunt and John Good, I'm confident of fielding strong sides with plenty of depth," Schubert said.

"There are also a few new players who have already turned up at training and look OK, so things are looking pretty good," he added.

Matt has also been impressed with the number of players attending their first two training sessions, with more than 30 in attendance at each.

The Superoos haven't played first grade since they returned for two years in 1988 and '89, but the big thing in their favour this time is that they now have a flourishing junior league behind them.

The junior league reformed in 1997 with three teams and has continued to flourish since. Their teams have always trained the same days as the seniors to help maintain a strong visual presence for the junior players of their senior team.

The club is hoping to arrange trials prior to the start of the season, possibly against Mittagong on February 28 and Port Kembla on March 7, but these are still to be

West Tigers Star Visits Small Country Town of Warren

The small country town of Warren is buzzing after its recent visit by West Tigers star Chris Lawrence, for their presentation day. After being knocked back by some NRL clubs and receiving a "No chance" from another, the members of Warren JRLFC were ecstatic when Chris offered to visit. Young aspiring footballers rarely get to see NRL stars, as one kid described "just madness". Chris is a tremendous ambassador for Rugby League and is looking at his coaching (has completed Level 1 Sports trainer/First Aid, Level 1 Strength and conditioning and Level 1 in his coaching certificate) career after football. Warren and District JRLFC would like to thank Chris and the West Tigers.



Player Movements

The Toukley Hawks RLFC have bought well in the off season, with signings such as Karl Lovell (Eels & Sharks), Jake Fitzpatrick (Eels juniors) Shane O'Grady (Northern Lakes), Scott Fitzpatrick (Woy Woy), Ben Wrigley (The Entrance), Steve Buggy (Ourimbah), Matt Wrigley (Central Coast Storm), Alex Seivl (Knights juniors, Wests Newcastle) Kev Marson, Luke Minshill (Crigglegstone, UK) Michael Kelly (Philadelphia, USA) Albert Mackoul (Jacksonville, USA)



Development Officer of the Week

Congratulations to Taree ARLD Development Officer Kylie Hilder who has organised a Women's League Tag competition for the Group 3 Area.