



Country Rugby League  
Level 5, 165 Phillip St  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Phone: 02 9232 5867  
Website: -  
[www.crlnsw.com.au](http://www.crlnsw.com.au)



Any CRL clubs interested in playing against the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs U19 Development Squad on either a bye or wash out weekend, please contact Bulldogs Recruitment and Development Manager Peter Mulholland on 0419 981 992 to discuss further details.



## Parramatta Go Back to Back at Nyngan

Parramatta once again showed their class by defending their titles in the Straits Opens Boys and ITT Water and Wastewater 15's divisions at the 2010 Nyngan Easter Rugby League Challenge. Parramatta outclassed Penrith in the final 48 – 12 to win the Straits Open Boys. While in the ITT Water and Wastewater 15's Parramatta just scrapped home defeating the CRL Far West Academy 10 – 6.

Ten teams from across the state travelled to Nyngan to take part in the fourth Nyngan Easter Rugby League Challenge. NRL Junior Development sides Parramatta and Newcastle attended for the fourth consecutive year while Penrith and Western Suburbs attended for the second year in a row. Representing the country areas were Group XI, Group XIV, Macquarie Raiders and CRL Far West Academy. The teams converged on the Nyngan Showground on Friday night where they were welcomed by local Aboriginal elder, Kenny Leigh, from the Wongaibon tribe, and Bogan Shire Council Mayor, Ray Donald. Ray commented on how proud and honoured that the community of Nyngan are able to host this great event in the Far West of NSW. Following the formalities the teams had to display their bush skills participating in the Golden Tusk Games. Players had to cook damper, boil billy's, milk cows and herd and shear sheep. It was obvious that some had never been over the Blue Mountains while some displayed some good bushman skills. Newcastle were named the winners of the Golden Tusk Games. The challenge kicked off on Saturday morning with the CRL Far West Academy taking on the Newcastle Knights in the Straits Open Boys. Despite a nervous start, where the Academy dropped the ball from the kick off and let in a soft try in the first set, the Academy side competed well against their more fancied opponents. Going in to halftime they were down only 12 – 4. After the break Newcastle put on two more tries to win 24 – 4. Penrith and Newcastle played in the game of the day on Saturday. Newcastle looked they had booked their place in the final leading Penrith 14 – 4 with less than 8 minute remaining. Wests came home strongly scoring two late tries to tie the scores up at 14 all at fulltime. The match of the day on Sunday was in the ITT Water and Wastewater 15's, where Parramatta took on the CRL Far West Academy side. It was a very physical match and at halftime Parramatta led 10 – 0. The Academy side were the dominant side in the second half but could not convert that into enough points going down 10 – 6. Sean Hampstead, NRL Official, once again attended the event for the third consecutive year. Sean spent the weekend educating and working with the local officials and refereed several games over the weekend including the final of the Straits Open boys. At the conclusion of the Challenge each team was asked to nominate the Most Valuable Player (MVP) throughout the Challenge:

- CRL Far West Academy Opens – Ray Ebsworth
- CRL Far West Academy 15's – Khaleb Whitehurst
- Parramatta Opens – Ethan Tangeria
- Parramatta 15's – Matthew Whitehouse
- Newcastle – Felise Taufaa
- Western Suburbs – Jye Karam
- Penrith Panthers – John Tusa
- Macquarie Raiders – Jye Chapman
- Group XI – Kyle Baxter
- Group XIV – Mitchell Squire

At the presentations Col Wright, CRL Far West Academy Head Coach and event organiser, was once again honoured that teams have travelled to Nyngan to participate in the 2010 event. Col was the driving force in starting up the Challenge back in 2007. "I would like to congratulate all teams on their performance both on and off the field over the weekend. There was some great rugby league played over the weekend, and I believe that the standard has once again improved this year. There were also some highlights off the field with the players participating in the Golden Tusk Games" said Mr Wright. "It was a great experience for our Far West Academy sides to play against some of the best junior talent in the state, and I know they had been looking forward to the challenge. Our Opens team were competitive in every match they played and had a good win over Macquarie, while the 15's only lost one match all weekend which was to Parramatta by four points"

"An event of this magnitude would not be possible without the support of volunteers, associations and most importantly sponsors. I would like to thank ITT Water and Wastewater and Straits for their sponsorship. The support from the Bogan Shire Council, Nyngan Senior and Junior Rugby League committees, Far West Academy of Sport, New South Wales Rugby League and Country Rugby League has been invaluable. Most importantly I would like to thank the Nyngan community and all the volunteers who assisted in hosting the event" added Mr Wright. The Nyngan community looks forward to holding the fifth installment of the Challenge over the Easter Long Weekend in 2011.