



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT



# INTRODUCTION

2023 has been a record-breaking year for the Foundation as we invested \$1.4M back into our Rugby For Good programs.

I would like to thank all our generous supporters, donors, and Government Partners as none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for you – Thank You.

We are committed to acting in the best interests of our Rugby Communities and to support the Strategic direction of NSW Rugby. We are focused on strong corporate governance as it is essential to protect our donors, partners, stakeholders, and our Rugby communities' interests.

## ABOUT US

The NSW Positive Rugby Foundation was established in 2017 as the official charity, social impact program and fundraising vehicle for NSW Rugby. We raise funds through Private Coterie groups, building long-term partnerships with Government, Corporate, and Philanthropic organisations.

## OUR VISION

Supporting the health and well-being of our communities through Rugby.

## WHAT WE DO



Use rugby as a vehicle for promoting positive health and wellbeing.

Create more opportunities for people to experience the positive values, life skills and opportunities unique to rugby.

Improve access to high quality grassroots resources and programs.



# RUGBY FOR GOOD

**Rugby isn't just a game. It's a way of life. It has the power to bring communities together, to inspire and empower individuals, and to create lasting change. At the NSW Positive Rugby Foundation, we believe in the transformative power of rugby, and we're committed to harnessing it to create positive change in our communities**

## RUGBY TACKLE LIFE



Rugby Tackle Life is a transformational 20-week program where high school students are taught life skills such as resilience, negotiation, self-awareness & conflict resolution. We use rugby as the tool to engage the students. They are also taught how to coach and then put these skills into practice coaching local primary school children. This program has positive outcomes including increased attendance at school and employment outcomes for some students. This program has been running in 13 disadvantaged schools in Western Sydney for the last 3 years, now with thanks to our partnership with NSW Government, we are rolling this program out in indigenous communities across Western NSW using our Dubbo Hub as the servicing centre of this program and its associated community activations.



# DUBBO HUB

In 2023 we officially opened the Dubbo Hub with Angus McDonald driving its success. Since we started the concept of establishing a Hub in Dubbo some 18 months ago, we have generated substantial growth in the West of NSW.



Photo: Paul Doorn, Duguld Saunders, Angus McDonald

One full time staff member is servicing the whole of Western NSW has grown to 7 full time staff and 10 casual employees (all employed from local communities and rugby clubs) delivering Rugby For Good programs across 3 zones.

Western Plains registered players from 140-1500 in 2023

7 new or restarted junior rugby clubs (the centrepiece of their community)

School & Community gala days growing from 20 per year to 80 per year

Establishment of the Western Plains Representative Academy pathway for Far West Juniors

A brand new emerging High schools Competition in the West of NSW

4 communities being delivered the Rugby tackle life 20-week program in partnership with Creating chances & regional NSW

96 School Holiday Camps and 8 Get Talkin' Mental Health programs delivered across Central North, Western Plains & Central West Zones.





**FREE HOLIDAY CAMPS**

**CENTRAL WEST RUGBY**

**NSW RUGBY UNION**

- JULY 8 - DUBBO 8:40 AM
- JULY 10 - FORBES 9:00 AM
- JULY 11 - COWRA 10:00 AM
- JULY 12 - MOLONG 10:00 AM
- JULY 13 - MUDGEE 10:00 AM
- JULY 14 - WELLINGTON 4:00 PM

- ALL PLAYERS, MALE AND FEMALE 12 - 24 YEARS
- LEARN NEW SKILLS
- ALL INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

**NSW RUGBY UNION**

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS

A program partnership with Regional NSW we provide an enjoyable and inclusive Rugby For Good School holiday break camps in regional and remote communities.

To date we have delivered 50 camps with over 980 kids attending across Central west, Western Plains and Central North zones.

# NORTHERN HUB

Off the back of the success of the Dubbo Hub we have established the Northern NSW Hub based in Coffs Harbour, with Joey de Dassel heading up the hub.

**NSW POSITIVE RUGBY FOUNDATION**

**RUGBY FOR GOOD**

**RUGBY IN THE PARK**

5 Week Program  
Mondays from 11am  
Brelsford Park  
Fun game's & physical activity  
BBQ Lunch

**Pete's Place**  
Special Work of the St Vincent De Paul Society  
Supporting People Experiencing Homelessness in Coffs Harbour

## RUGBY IN THE PARK

Our Rugby in the park is new this year. It's a Rugby For Good program in partnership with a local community centre in Coffs Harbour for the Homeless & Socially disconnected members of the society where we use Rugby & physical activity to connect people.

Over 30 participants have attended during the 5 week program, with two being linked to local clubs as volunteers.

The model is being developed to be rolled out in various locations across NSW subject to additional funding partnerships.

## KICKSTART

A program that has been developed to deliver in Youth Justice centres. It uses rugby to engage with young men and encourages powerful discussions about male behaviours.

# MENTAL HEALTH

## START TALKIN

Via our Rugby For Good Mental Health program we recognising the importance of mental health in overall well-being, we continue to raise awareness and provide support in the mental health space. Through partnerships with our mental health partners and the implementation of mental wellness programs – Start Talkin & Get Talkin, we are working to break down stigma and ensure that all members of the rugby community have access to the resources they need to thrive.



## GET TALKIN

For a number of years, we have been committed to our Rugby For Good Mental Health program – Start Talkin, Get Talkin & Keep Talkin. Our vision is to support every club to be a safe, inclusive and positive environment where everyone is welcomed and supported throughout their lifetime. Clubs have access to, and awareness of mental health resources and all coaches will have gone through some mental health training. The highlight of the year has been the 'Get Talkin' tour of New England / North West Zones where 600 kids from Narrabri, Wyallda, Moree, & Inverell, participated in our Building Resilience & Mental Health through Rugby program.



### Mental Health Round – April 28-30

We asked all community rugby participants to get behind Mental Health round.

We're again partnering with our referees to raise awareness and become the most inclusive sport of all

# GIRLS & WOMEN'S RUGBY

The Positive Rugby Foundation is committed to raising funds to help ensure systems are in place that encourage and support female participation at a local level right through to elite. In 2023 we received a grant from the NSW Office of Sport to deliver Our Turn / Your Time program. The program aims to address the issue of adolescent girls dropping out of Sport and provides both an On-field Rugby component matched with an Off Field Health and Well-being session.

- Facilitate player development opportunities including education and employment
- Assist with medical cost of players, physiotherapy, massage etc
- Fund camps and training opportunities for regionally based players from across NSW
- Provide meals for players after training and Matches
- Contributed to player out of pocket expenses such as travel and rehab costs



This program aims to address the issue of adolescent girls dropping out of sport and provides both on field rugby components matched with an off field health and well being sessions.



# WARATAHS TRUE BLUE LUNCH

This year's Waratah True Blue lunch (Wednesday 22nd March) was a great success. The lunch is a networking event with the goal to attract, engage, connect, and inspire like-minded high net worth rugby supporters who can support the game. For the first time the lunch focused on both the Men & Women.



## RUGBY FOR GOOD CHARITY ROUND

On Saturday 15th April Waratahs v Western Force game, we celebrated with our Rugby For Good Charity Partners. We used the game to raise awareness of all our Charity Partners while doing some fundraising. This is now a yearly fixture where we celebrate all our Charity Partners who in turn support our Rugby For Good strategy.





# SCHOOLS AND JUNIORS

Rugby is a great educational vehicle for young boys and girls. It plays a unique role in the development of vital life skills which also contribute to a young person's social, emotional, and physical wellbeing. The Positive Rugby Foundation is working to ensure this sport, rich in life lessons and life skills is adequately supported in both traditional and non-traditional rugby playing schools, as well as local Junior clubs with the goal of broadening the availability, quality, and impact of rugby. Throughout 2023 we have invested time and funds across the following initiatives:



## 1ST EVER FEMALES/ 7S SCHOOL EDUCATION DAY

To continue to build the quality of Sports High School programs we held a Coach and S&C professional Development Day with the Aus 7s Men's and Women's Coaches.

## 4TH ANNUAL COACHING DIRECTORS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY DAY

This was our best PD Day to date with 83 coaches attending from Private and Public Schools. Having the day held at our new HQ with the following High Performance coaches taking part: Darren Coleman, Chris Whitaker, Jason Gilmore, Shannon Fraser, and David King (Mindset coach) all present throughout the day.

## SPORTS HIGH SCHOOLS 7S

We have worked with the Sports High Schools again throughout Term 1 running 3 x 7s tournaments hosted by Hills Sports High, Hunter Sports High, and Matraville Sports High for both Boys and Girls

# WARATAH JERSEY SPONSOR

We were extremely honoured to be on the NSW Waratahs jersey for the remainder of the 2023 Super Rugby Season. Paul Doorn, CEO NSW Rugby/Waratahs said - *"To be the leading the provincial rugby organisation in the world. Not only do they raise significant funds to support the game across all levels, but they also develop and assist in implementing 'Rugby For Good' programs, which truly impact the lives of people in our rugby communities"*.





# THANKYOU

## 2023 SPONSORS

### DONORS

Andrew Swan, Kevin Maloney, John O'Brien, Chris Shaw, David Paradise, David Harrison, Trevor Folsom, Alex Abrahams, Peter Eichhorn, Nick Thane, Bob Lee, Paul Chadwick, Mark Gray-Spencer, Scott Gray-Spencer, John O'Neil, Steve Nugent, Ian Rea, Oscar Done, Tony Crawford, Phil Garling, David Horsfield, Amanda Hetherington, Arvind David, Ben Edwards, Brad Harrison, Brenham Jones, Chris Cooper, Christine Jones, David Royle, David Sanders, Ed Layton - Knox Black & Blue, Gerry Filgate, Jeremy Hassall, Joshua Whittaker, Luke McCormack, Michael Coffey, Nick Waterworth, Nicole (Nicky) Williamson, Peter Tiffin, Sarah Davis, Tim Wedlock, Tony King.

### CORPORATE COTERIE



### CORPORATE PARTNERS



### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



### CHARITY PARTNERS



### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Angus Wilson, Arvind David, Brad Harrison, David Mason-Jones, Hayden Rorke, James Godfrey, Kerry Chikarovski (Chair), Ryan Holloway

# GET INVOLVED

## CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP



NSW Positive Rugby Foundation Corporate Coterie members are a community of passionate rugby supporters committed to contributing both ideas and funds towards the growth and positive impact of rugby. Our members also enjoy intimate and exclusive Inner Sanctum experiences, high levels of engagement with other Corporate Coterie members and high net-worth donors, plus premium match day hospitality to all NSW Waratahs home games. We are all about better opportunities to invest in our Rugby For Good programs while building better B2B & high net-worth donor engagement.

## COTERIE MEMBERSHIP



The NSW Positive Rugby Foundation Coterie members are a community of passionate rugby supporters committed to contributing both ideas and funds towards the growth and positive impact of rugby at grassroots. Our members also enjoy intimate and exclusive inner sanctum experiences, high levels of engagement with NSW Waratahs players and staff, plus premium match day hospitality to all NSW Waratahs home game.

## 1ST XV MEMBERSHIP



As the original rugby union club in the largest rugby state in Australia, the New South Wales Waratahs have enjoyed a rich heritage of progression and triumph since their very first club game in 1874. Proud of their past and enthusiastic about their future, the Waratahs are focused on success. The Waratah 1st XV is a passionate group of investment partners committed to the continued progression and prosperity of the Waratahs.



# CONTACT

## Contact the NSW Positive Rugby Foundation

### GENERAL ENQUIRIES



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**NSW Positive  
Rugby Foundation**



**@rugby\_for\_good**

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