

THE POST-BRONCOS BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

Club football in Brisbane
from 1988 to 2021



From the Brisbane premiership
to the Queensland Cup



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The following is a collection of appendices giving a brief history of the local BRL competition and the Queensland Cup following the birth of the Broncos in 1988.

They were originally written with the hope to have them included in Steve Haddan's book "Our Game" covering the history of the Brisbane Rugby League up to 1987.

Due to the costs of adding extra pages they were not included. The 3 appendices included in this document include:

- The BRL competition from 1988 to 1997 (the last 2 years were just a final series)**
- The Queensland Cup from 1996 to the present (2019)**
- A list of all grand final scores from 1909 to the present for the BRL, State League, Queensland Cup and the State Championship as well as a listing of the years that each club has won a premiership.**

APPENDIX ONE

THE POST BRONCOS BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

When the Brisbane Broncos and the Gold Coast Giants entered the NSWRL competition in 1988 it marked a point of no return for the Brisbane Rugby League competition. The BRL went from being a top tier to a second tier competition much to the disappointment of many diehard Queensland rugby league fans. Before the entry of the Brisbane Broncos the top national talent was shared between the Brisbane and Sydney competitions with more playing in the Sydney competition thanks to the bigger money offered by clubs that could benefit from poker machine profits which weren't introduced in Queensland until 1992.

With the entry of the Brisbane Broncos all the top national talent would now be in the NSWRL competition. A player could no longer be picked straight from any BRL club to play for Queensland or Australia like you could in the years before the Broncos came along. From now you had to play in the "Sydney" competition to ever be picked for Queensland or Australia.

The Brisbane Broncos needed the agreement of the BRL and the BRL clubs to enter into the NSWRL. When a meeting involving the Broncos and BRL delegates to vote on the issue was held the initial vote was 6-4 against. Their issues of key concern for BRL clubs were potential loss of sponsorship, dwindling attendances and a mass exodus of players. Gary Balkin was convincing as the next day they voted 10-0 to put a team into the Sydney competition.

Jack Gallaway in his book "The Brisbane Broncos – The Team to Beat" (p.17-19) wrote that the Broncos promised the BRL a 30% share of profits and that this ongoing annual return was a deciding factor in why the Broncos were chosen ahead of the Norwood-McKay consortium that was reported to have been favourites and had offered a one-off lumpsum of \$2 million to the BRL. There is some controversy over what became of this agreement.

The BRL clubs saw very little of such promised money and most of the BRL clubs had to survive on very minimal revenue. Interest in the competition and attendances at BRL club games plummeted as the Broncos took centre stage and the BRL went from a top tier to a second tier competition. Financially the fortunes for clubs such as Easts, Redcliffe and Wynnum improved considerably when poker machines were allowed in Queensland clubs from 1992. Redcliffe, in particular, would become a powerhouse club after winning their second premiership in 1994, winning all three grades (only the second team after Souths in 1945 to do it) and they would repeat that feat two more times in the Queensland Cup era which they would dominate.

Initially it would be Valleys who would dominate the post-Broncos BRL competition completing a hat-trick from 1988 to 1990. Easts would win their most recent premiership in 1991 before Wests completed a double in 1992 and 1993 with the return of Tony Currie in his final playing years. In 1994 Redcliffe won their first premiership since 1965 and in the following year Wynnum Manly won against Easts in an entertaining grand final which saw them win the last BRL premiership in 1995 before the QRL boldly took the step to expand the competition to a statewide premiership in 1996 with the Queensland Cup.

1988

In 1988 the Logan City Scorpions based out of Meakin Park in Slacks Creek, entered the BRL competition. The country teams became more competitive in the State League at the start of the season with the 'weakening' of the BRL clubs due to introduction of Brisbane and Gold Coast into the NSWRL.

Toowoomba won all 5 of their games against the BRL sides and North Queensland won 4 out of 5. Easts Tigers and the Seagulls-Diehards were also undefeated beating those country sides in the semis before the Seagulls-Diehards won the final 26-10.

Valleys had formed a brief joint venture with the Tweed Heads Seagulls in 1987 that only lasted until the end of 1988. With Tweed Heads being so close to Brisbane and poker machines illegal in Queensland until 1992 the Tweed Heads Seagulls were the richest club in Australia for a time.

Souths had a brief resurgence finishing the BRL competition as minor premiers, 3 points ahead of Valleys. Souths bowed out in straight sets in the finals, first, losing to Valleys 25-14 and then being beaten by the Ipswich Jets 20-16 who qualified for their first grand final in their 3rd season "back" in the BRL (they won in 1910). The Seagulls-Diehards, beat Ipswich in an exciting grand final 17-14.

STATE LEAGUE:

Semi-Finals: Easts 20 def. North Qld 12;
Valleys-Tweed Heads 28 def. Toowoomba 20

FINAL:

VALLEYS-TWEED HEADS 26 def. EASTS 10



Back Row (l to r): K. OVERELL (Treasurer), G. WORKMAN (Trainer), R. PEARCE, K. EGAN, T. FULLER, T. CREEVEY (First Aid), D. MOORE (Selector), C. WEST (Co-Manager).
Third Row (l to r): BOB REED (Gear Steward), W. CULLEN (Vice-Captain), T. CATTON, B. HOLMES, S. BOYS, L. WILLIAMS, BILL REED (Gear Steward), K. BIFFIN (Vice-President).
Second Row (l to r): R. BOULT (Secretary), N. BUCHESTER (Manager), P. FITZGERALD, D. PITT, G. WALKER, S. HEGARTY, D. SPILLMAN, R. HENRICK (Coach).
Front Row (l to r): S. BUCKLEY, P. SHIELDS, Z. STRASSER, B. FIEN (President), P. COYNE (Captain), B. DAUNT, R. BOYS, RANALD SIMMONDS

Above: The Seagulls Diehards team for the 1988 BRL season.

Minor Semi-Final: Ipswich 11 def. Easts 10

Major Semi-Final: Valleys-Tweed Heads 25 def. Souths 14

Preliminary Final: Ipswich 20 def. Souths 6

BRL GRAND FINAL:

VALLEYS-TWEED HEADS 17 (Tries: S. Buckley, P. Shields, S. Kelly, Goals: S. Hegarty 2, Field Goal: B. Daunt) **def. IPSWICH 14** (Tries: D. Ponting, R. Ovens, K. Robertson, Goal: E. Hunter)

THE POST BRONCOS BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

1989

The 1989 season began with the State League and, like in 1988, two country sides made the semis. Central Queensland became the first country side to make a State League final after beating Toowoomba 32-18 in their semi-final. Valleys, now a stand alone club again, after their brief joint venture with Tweed Heads, played Easts in the other semi-final and were beaten 14-8. Easts easily accounted for Central Queensland in the final 30-4.

Valleys and Easts finished the regular season at the top of the table on 28 points. Norths finished 3rd and Ipswich finished in 4th place just behind them on the table. The Ipswich Jets were in good form in the semi-finals beating Norths 27-18 and then had a strong win against Easts in the preliminary final to advance to their second grand final against Valleys, who only just beat Easts 20-18 in the major semi-final.

Based on those results it looked like Ipswich would seriously challenge the Diehards. The Diehards, coached by Ross Henrick, ran rampant in the grand final winning 28-4. They scored 5 tries with doubles to Shane Buckley and Murray Fiechtner and another try to Ziggy Strasser. Peter Coyne at five-eighths had a blinder having a hand in 3 of the tries.

Valleys became the first side since Easts in 1977-1978 to win back-to-back premierships.

STATE LEAGUE:

Semi-Finals: Central Qld 32 def. Toowoomba 18;
Easts 14 def. Valleys 8

FINAL:

EASTS 30 def. CENTRAL QLD 4



Fourth Row (l to r): PETER COYNE, CAMERON GREIG, BOB PFINGST (Strapper), DARRYL PITT, ROSS NEUMANN (Treasurer).
Third Row (l to r): LEN SHANAHAN (Selector), SHANE BUCKLEY, PETER SHIELDS, DAVID BOURKE, ROB KNIGHT, MICK McSWEEN (Assistant Manager).
Second Row (l to r): VINCE BUCKLEY (Assistant Manager), LINDSAY WILLIAMS, TONY CATTON, SUE JOHNSON (Trainer), BRETT DAUNT, TONY O'NEILL, MURRAY FIECHTNER, ROD BOULT (Secretary).
Front Row (l to r): GLEN FIEN (Manager), ZIGGY STRASSER, STEVE HEGARTY, BILL FIEN (President), BILL HOLMES, RICHARD BOYS, ROSS HENRICK (Coach).
RANALD SIMMONS STUDIO

Above: The Valleys Diehards team for the 1989 BRL season.

Minor Semi-Final: Ipswich 27 v Norths 18

Major Semi-Final: Valleys 20 v Easts 18

Preliminary Final: Ipswich 24 v Easts 6

BRL GRAND FINAL:

VALLEYS 28 (Tries: S. Buckley 2, M. Fiechtner 2, Z. Strasser, Goals: S. Hegarty 4) **def. IPSWICH 4** (Tries: S. Smith)

1990

Only one country side made the 1990 State League semi-finals. In the first semi-final North Queensland led 30-26 with a minute to go when Easts on their last tackle scored a miracle "Hail Mary" try that went through many hands before a kick was put through. With two North Queensland players converging on the ball a wild bounce saw the ball bounce straight back into the hands of an Easts player giving them a try with an easy conversion to seal a 32-30 win. Easts couldn't stop Valleys in the final (34-26).

Valleys were clear BRL minor premiers finishing 4 points ahead of Redcliffe who they defeated 34-16 in the major semi-final. Third placed Norths beat Easts 20-17 and then beat Redcliffe in extra time 12-6 to advance to the grand final.

Just like in the minor semi-final, the grand final also featured a wild all-in brawl early on that went on for a couple of minutes as rain came down briefly. As the game went it turned out to be one of the greatest BRL grand finals ever played in front of 13 000 fans.

An upset was on as Pat Cleary made up for an earlier dropped ball that cost a try with a sideline run that led to Troy Evans scoring and Norths leading 16-10 with 10 minutes to go. Valleys kept the ball alive which led to a try by Fiechtner before Peter Coyne sealed the game 17-16 with a field goal. It gave the Valleys Diehards a rare three premierships in a row, including a second State League/BRL double.

STATE LEAGUE

Semi-Finals: Easts 32 def. North Qld 30;
Valleys 32 def. Brothers 22

FINAL:

VALLEYS 34 def. EASTS 26



VALLEYS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.
FIRST GRADE 1990
PREMIERS, MINOR PREMIERS, STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
POINTS FOR 557, AGAINST 337. NOW 19 LOST 3.
BACK ROW W. Reed, D. Gray, T. O'Riell, S. Polzin, M. Cleary, R. Boys, B. Daunt, T. Schodel, P. Fitzgerald, L. Menzies (Treasurer).
2ND ROW R. Boulton (Secretary), P. Anderson, M. Fiechtner, S. Rubensname, F. Rolis, R. Pfingst (Trainer), K. Tweedie, S. Strasser, P. Coyne, S. Hegarty.
FRONT ROW R. Henrick (Coach), C. Greig, P. Shields, T. Gatten, M. Fien (President), W. Holmes (Captain), S. Buckley, D. Bourke, M. McSween (Manager).

Minor Semi-Final: Norths 20 v Easts 17

Major Semi-Final: Valleys 34 v Redcliffe 16

Preliminary Final: Norths 12 v Redcliffe 6

BRL GRAND FINAL:

VALLEYS 17 (Tries: P. Shields, M. Fiechtner, P. Coyne; Goals: P. Coyne 2; Field Goal: P. Coyne) **def. NORTHS 16** (Tries: I. McKenzie, T. Evans; Goals: G. Harvey 4)

THE POST BRONCOS BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

1991

The State League changed its format in 1991 and 1992 when it became a representative competition. Brisbane Metros and Capitols competed instead of the BRL clubs and the Northern Territory entered the competition for those two years making the semi-finals in 1991. North Queensland became the first country side to win the State League defeating Central Queensland 44-30 in the final.

Under coach John Lang, Easts dominated the BRL premiership finishing as minor premiers losing only 2 games and drawing 1 game out of 18 games leading into the finals. They thrashed Norths 30-10 in the major semi-final. Wests won both the minor semi-final 21-16 against Redcliffe and the preliminary final 35-24 against Norths to make their first grand final in 15 years.

Bruce Crosby got the ball rolling for Easts in the grand final with a dummy-half run that led to a try similar to a try set up by his coach in the 1972 grand final. After a very soft try, Easts fullback Ken Jackson rifled an amazing 51 metre field goal that was almost still climbing when it went through the posts. Kurt Wrigley scored a double including a magnificent sideline run eluding several defenders including Adrian Lam. Easts went on to win 25-10 giving coach Johnny Lang success as a player in the 1970's (1972, 1977 & 1978) and as a coach in both the 1980's (1983) and 1990's (1991).

STATE LEAGUE

Semi-Finals: North Qld 14 def. Brisbane Capitols 12; Central Qld 38 def. Northern Territory 12

FINAL:

NORTH QLD 44 def. CENTRAL QLD 30



1991 Eastern Suburbs Rugby League Chairman's Trophy Winners and Premiers. Front Row: Mike Kopittke (Pepsi - Sponsor); Steve Hermann; Steve Dowden; Ian Stains (Captain); John Lang (Coach); Gavin Payne (Vice Captain); Andrew Neave; Ken Jackson; Shane Richardson (Selector). Second Row: Brian Smart (Secretary); Ray Grieshaber (Selector); Pat O'Brien (Manager); Rob Duncan; Andrew McGown; Rob Raiteri; Scott Neilson; Kurt Wrigley; Bruce Crosby; Mike Batch (Conditioner); Terry Jacks (Skills Coach); Graham McComb (Kicking Coach). Back Row: Jeff Evans (Trainer); Dan Penman (Trainer); Paul Lusk; Greg Street; Darren Wolens; Darren Winnill; Darren Crothers; Trevor Catchpole (Trainer); Noreen Wheatley (Trainer).

Minor Semi-Final: Wests 21 v Redcliffe 16

Major Semi-Final: Easts 30 v Norths 10

Preliminary Final: Wests 35 v Norths 24

BRL GRAND FINAL:

EASTS 25 (Tries: K. Wrigley 2, S. Dowden, A. Neave; Goals: K. Jackson 4; Field Goal: K. Jackson) **def. WESTS 10** (Tries: P. Weaver, C. Bowen; Goal: G. Duncan)

1992

The State League was again played as a representative competition with the Brisbane Capitols easily defeating North Queensland 30-10 in the final held as a curtain raiser to the State of Origin that year.

Easts were again BRL minor premiers finishing only a point ahead of their grand final opponents from the previous year, Wests. Wests got the better of Easts in the major semi-final beating Easts 25-14 but made the grand final after beating Norths 32-16 in the preliminary final.

Wests, with plenty of support from fans at the Caxton Street end of Lang Park, put on a masterful display to thrash Easts in the grand final and win their first BRL premiership in 16 years. It was Easts Peter Anderson who opened the scoring with a simple try after a poor tackle. Wests hit back with a try to Schuler before Gavin Duncan set up a great try to Sam Smith with a kick and regather. The conversion made it 14-4 to Wests at half time.

Craig Bowen, Sam Smith and John Green combined well for the next two tries scored by John Green which extended the lead to 28-4. After a scrum win against the feed, Gavin Duncan skirted the sideline to score the next try. Further tries on the right side saw Wests win the 1992 BRL grand final 40-10, the second biggest BRL grand final winning margin.

STATE LEAGUE:

Semi-Finals: Brisbane Capitols 34 def. Central Qld 0; North Qld 26 def. South-West Qld 8

FINAL:

BRISBANE CAPITOLS 30 def. NORTH QLD 10



WESTS 1992—Front Row: Niel Connors (President), Wayne Treleaven (capt), Gary Geinke (coach), Craig Bowen, Peter Liddell, Chris Goddard (Secretary). Second Row: Bob Taylor (Selector), Mick Milliner (Delegate), Paul Fitzgerald, Darren Shaw, Sam Smith, Graham Strutton, Cameron Roper, Mick Spencer (Treasurer), Bob Foster (Selector). Third Row: Graham Adams (Asst. Trainer), Jason Baldwin (Asst. Manager), Gavin Duncan, Mark Maguire, Steven Weiss, Scott Tye, Shane Johnston, Craig Green, John Baldwin (Manager), Christine Sonsearay (Physio). Back Row: Dave Ryan (Trainer), Wayne Wilson, John Green, Steven Mills, Brent Gannon, David Liddel, Mark O'Rielly, Brad McDonald (Doctor). Mascot: Joel Ryan

Minor Semi-Final: Norths 18 v Wynnum 12

Major Semi-Final: Wests 25 v Easts 14

Preliminary Final: Easts 32 v Norths 16

BRL GRAND FINAL:

WESTS 40 (Tries: J. Green 2, G. Sutton 2, S. Smith, G. Duncan, P. Schuler; Goals: J. Green 6) **def. EASTS 10** (Tries: P. Anderson, G. Street; Goal: G. Payne)

THE POST BRONCOS BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

1993

In 1993, the State League competition returned back to the old club format. However, the country areas were split up into many more localised teams. Only two Brisbane clubs and four country teams advanced to the final two pools where three teams played each other once. There were no true semi-finals with this format used for the last three years of the State League. The highest placed from each of the two pools of three teams advanced to the final. In the final played at Lang Park as a curtain-raiser to the State of Origin, Mackay upset last year's BRL premiers, Wests, to win 18-12.

Wests were the minor premiers finishing 3 points ahead of Easts and a resurgent Souths who thrashed Ipswich 36-4 in the minor semi-final. Easts got the jump on Wests in the major semi-final winning 22-6 and then Wests overpowered Souths 15-2 in the preliminary final to advance to their third grand final in a row against their great rival Easts.

Wests were a formidable side and included future stars, Adrian Lam and Broncos mountain man, Brad Thorn, as well as Queensland legend Tony Currie who returned from Sydney to play for Wests.

Currie made a break that led to their first try scored after a great Easts try to future star Paul Green. Wests scored 4 tries to 2 with doubles to Mark Maguire and David Mills to win 18-12 and claim back-to-back premierships for Wests to emulate their famous back-to-back double of 1975 and 1976.

**STATE LEAGUE FINAL:
MACKAY 18 def. WESTS 12**



WESTS 1993 - Front Row: Neil Connors (President), Robert Campbell, Gary Geinke (coach), Paul Schuler (capt.), John Baldwin (Manager), Mark Maguire, Chris Goddard (Secretary). **Second Row:** Mick Spencer (Treasurer), Christine Sonsearay (Physio), Adrian Lam, Craig Bowen, Bob Foster (Selector), Graham Strutton, John Little, Brad McDonald (Doctor), Mick Milliner (Delegate). **Third Row:** Graham Adams (Asst. Trainer), Tony Currie, Sam Smith, Paul Tanks, Gerrard Kerr, Steele Retchless, Cameron Roper, Craig Green, Wayne Treleaven, **Back Row:** Dave Ryan (Trainer), Shane Vivian, Tat Whaleboat, Dave Mills, Steven Mills (club capt.), Brad Thorn, Jason Baldwin (Asst. Manager). **Absent:** Aldwin Tong, Wayne Seaby, Wayne Wilson, Gavin Duncan **Mascots:** Joel Ryan, Sam Green

BRL Minor Semi-Final: Souths 36 v Ipswich 4
BRL Major Semi-Final: Easts 22 v Wests 6
BRL Preliminary Final: Wests 15 v Souths 2

**BRL GRAND FINAL:
WESTS 18 (Tries: M. Maguire 2, D. Mills 2; Goal G. Kerr) def.
EASTS 12 (Tries: P. Green, P. Sinclair; Goals: R. Cannon, P. Green)**

1994

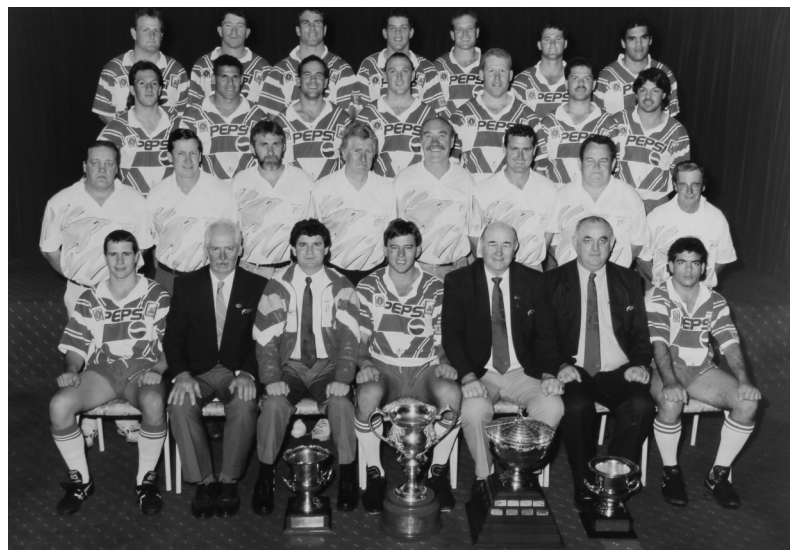
The State League continued the format of the previous year and surprisingly with such a high number of teams the same two teams, Mackay and Wests contested the final. Just like the year before Mackay upset Wests in the final at Lang Park with an even bigger win of 34-14.

Contesting both the State League and the BRL in 1994 were the Brisbane Broncos and South Queensland Crushers. Between the Broncos fielding a reserve grade side in the NSWRL and this season many Broncos fringe players played for Brothers but they then decided to field a full lower grade in the BRL. The Crushers had been given approval to enter the ARL competition in 1995 and chose to also field a side in the BRL bringing the number of BRL teams up to 12 for this year and the next. The Broncos finished low and Crushers finished middle of the pack and missed the semi-finals.

With 12 teams there were an extra two semi-finals contested by the top 5 teams. Redcliffe were minor premiers ahead of Souths who lost to Wests, then thrashed Ipswich 36-4 before losing to Wests 21-10 in the preliminary final.

This, though, was the year of the Dolphin. Having last won a premiership in 1965 with Arthur Beetson before he went to Sydney they won all three grades (previously only done by Souths in 1945) and beat a gallant Wests 24-18 with tries to McGrady, Adamson, Pike and Schick. It was a grand spectacle for the newly upgraded and renamed Suncorp Stadium.

**STATE LEAGUE FINAL:
MACKAY 34 def. WESTS 14**



Above: The 1994 Redcliffe team that won their first premiership since 1965.

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final: Ipswich 40 v Easts 22
Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Wests 14 v Souths 8
Minor Semi-Final: Souths 36 v Ipswich 4
Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 28 v Wests 20
Preliminary Final: Wests 21 v Souths 10

**BRL GRAND FINAL:
REDCLIFFE 24 (Tries: R. McGrady, G. Adamson, B. Pike,
A. Schick; Goals: W. Miller 4) def. WESTS 18 (Tries: S. Smith;
S. Vivian, M. Maguire; Goals: M. Maguire 3)**

THE POST BRONCOS BRISBANE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

1995

The final State League competition was won by Rockhampton who beat the Gold Coast 26-22. Its success in terms of country teams competing well against Brisbane clubs would lead to a momentous expansion to a full season statewide competition the following year. In Brisbane Wynnum Manly would win the last true Brisbane premiership in 1995 before it was expanded to a statewide competition in 1996 with the successful Queensland Cup.

It would be Easts, though, who set the pace and were minor premiers by a point over Brothers and Wynnum followed by Redcliffe. In 5th place was Souths with a better for-and-against than the Broncos and Crushers on the same number of points. Valleys, who would be the first BRL club in the post-Broncos era to drop out of the competition and missed entry in the next year's Queensland Cup, finished last with only 3 wins for the season.

Easts thrashed Wynnum in the major semi-final 44-16 and were favourites to win the grand final against Wynnum who beat Brothers 26-16 in the preliminary final. Easts captain Graham Strutton opened the scoring with the first of his 3 tries from an intercept. Both teams exchanged tries in a high-scoring and attacking game. Within the last 10 minutes Easts hit back to only trail 26-24 before a Ricky Taylor try following his chip and regather sealed the 32-24 victory for Wynnum in front of 12 176 fans to witness the end of the BRL premiership before the competition would go statewide.

STATE LEAGUE FINAL:
ROCKHAMPTON 26 def. GOLD COAST 22



Above: Wynnum-Manly celebrate winning the 1995 BRL premiership trophy.

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final: Souths 16 v Redcliffe 4
Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Wynnum 22 v Brothers 20
Minor Semi-Final: Brothers 30 v Souths 0
Major Semi-Final: Easts 44 v Wynnum 16
Preliminary Final: Wynnum 26 v Brothers 16

BRL GRAND FINAL:
WYNUM-MANLY 32 (Tries: D. Chapman, M. Olszewski, R. Taylor, K. Larsen, K. Lawton; Goals: M. Olszewski 6) **def.**
EASTS 24 (Tries: G. Strutton 3, D. Williams, M. Jenkins; Goals: M. Sessarogo 2)

1996

In 1996 a new era began with the Queensland Cup involving both Brisbane and country teams took over from the BRL premiership just involving the Brisbane clubs. The QRL, though, were still keen to keep the tradition of crowning a club BRL premiers.

They scheduled an additional and separate finals series for the Brisbane premiership title with all 9 Brisbane clubs (minus Valleys who had dropped out) based on where they placed on the Queensland Cup ladder. It was played as teams dropped out of the Queensland Cup finals with the BRL grand final played after the Queensland Cup final where Toowoomba beat Redcliffe 8-6. The number of finals over 5 weeks for the Queensland Cup were crazy in the first years compared to today's more sensible final series and this series was duplicated with the BRL finals which was sheer overkill.

Redcliffe consoled their loss in the Queensland Cup Grand Final by beating Souths 16-12 in the BRL Grand Final even though Souths scored 3 tries to 2. A dropped ball out wide cost Souths a great chance to level or beat Redcliffe in the dying seconds.

Elimination Semi-Finals: Wynnum 28 def. Ipswich 22; Norths 28 def. Logan City 20
Preliminary Semi-Finals: Brothers 28 def. Wynnum 4; Easts 20 def. Norths 14
Minor Semi-Final: Brothers 19 v Easts 18
Major Semi-Final: Souths 24 v Brothers 16
Preliminary Final: Souths 22 v Wests 16

BRL GRAND FINAL:
REDCLIFFE 16 (Tries: G. Cotter, D. Smallhorne; Goals: W. Miller 4) **def. SOUTHS 12** (Tries M. Brimble, S. Buckley, G. Benson)

1997

The separate final series for the Brisbane Rugby League was scaled back in 1997 involving the top 7 Brisbane clubs based on how they placed in the Queensland Cup.

Redcliffe beat Easts 18-16 to win the Queensland Cup Grand Final and then the same two sides faced off in the BRL Grand Final. Redcliffe put on a commanding display of attacking football to win the last BRL Grand Final 35-6 to win the Queensland Cup / BRL double. They also won all three grades and performed another clean sweep to replicate what they achieved in 1994.

Due to a lack of public interest after the 1997 BRL Grand Final was played between the same two teams that played in the Queensland Cup Grand Final the separate BRL final series was scrapped.

Given that the crowds for the grand finals of the post-Broncos BRL era were almost all over 10 000 and only one Queensland Cup Grand Final has hit this mark an opportunity has been missed due to playing too many final games. A more sensible option, which could still be used today, is to play just a BRL Grand Final (and maybe a preliminary final) only if a country team wins the Queensland Cup.

Elimination Semi-Final: Souths 31 def. Brothers 10
Preliminary Semi-Final: Norths 20 def. Souths 10
Minor Semi-Final: Norths 16 def. Wynnum 10
Major Semi-Final: Norths def. Wests
Preliminary Final: Easts 22 def. Norths 16

BRL GRAND FINAL:
REDCLIFFE 35 (Tries: A. Douglas 3, C. Hurren, B. Canning, A. Mogg; Goals: A. Singleton 5; Field Goal: I. Graham) **def. EASTS 6** (Tries S. Sipple; Goals: S. Sipple)

APPENDIX TWO

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

In 1996 the QRL boldly introduced a new statewide competition called the Queensland Cup that superseded the Winfield State League. From 1982 to 1995 the State League was played over about the first third of the season followed by the regular BRL-competition. It was essentially expanded to become a new full season statewide competition.

Based on various financial and other criteria, clubs from across the state were invited to participate. A total of 16 teams from Brisbane and across Queensland began this new expanded competition. The pioneer teams of this new competition were Norths, Souths, Easts, Wests, Redcliffe, Wynnum-Manly, Brothers, Logan City, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Central Queensland, Mackay, Cairns and the Port Moresby Vipers who were given assistance to compete to help boost rugby league in Papua New Guinea. A notable exception was that grand old club that had won more premierships than any other team, Valleys, who folded after the 1995 season and only briefly re-emerged for a year in 2004 when they merged with Brothers.

For the 1997 season of the Queensland Cup the number of teams dropped back from 16 to 14 with Sunshine Coast, Mackay and Bundaberg dropping out and the Gold Coast Burleigh Bears added. In 1998 the Queensland Cup expanded back up to 16 teams. There were two Gold Coast teams in 1998—the Burleigh Bears and the Gold Coast Vikings. Also competing, just for the 1998 season, were the Townsville Stingers and Bundaberg Grizzlies. Dropping out were the Port Moresby Vipers.

There were 12 teams in 1999 with the Gold Coast Vikings, Townsville Stingers, Bundaberg Grizzlies and Brothers all dropping out. The Queensland Cup lost another team in 2001 dropping down to 11 teams when the Cairns Cyclones dropped out of the competition. Another Cairns-based team would return in 2008 under the name, Northern Pride. A North Queensland team was added in 2002 bringing the number of teams back to 12. In the 2003 season Souths and Logan City merged to become the Souths Logan Magpies and the Tweed Head Seagulls from just over the NSW border were added. Wests dropped out at the end of 2003 and, in their place, Brothers Valleys Diehards came in for the 2004 season. After a poor season they also dropped out. Sadly, there was little support and no great outcry at the loss of these great old clubs, Wests, Valleys and Brothers, as there was when South Sydney was temporarily dropped from the NRL.

After making their fourth grand final in 2006, the Darling Downs copped a major blow when Toowoomba folded after major financial difficulty. The Aspley Broncos took over as the Broncos feeder club for 2007 before also dropping out at the end of that season. In 2008 Mackay was brought back into the competition and the Northern Pride replaced North Queensland. In 2009 a Sunshine Coast team was re-admitted bringing the number of clubs back up to 12 again. More expansion occurred in 2014 with the introduction of the PNG Hunters and in 2015 the Townsville Blackhawks were admitted to the competition taking the number of clubs up to their current number of 14.

The QRL is eager to see a re-introduction of a Toowoomba side in the competition to fill a major hole in the competition in the state's south-west which has been a major nursery for rugby league talent for decades. There is also speculation that some Pacific Island teams may join down the track. Many old timers would love to see a return of Valleys, Brothers or Wests, if financially feasible.

The inaugural Queensland Cup grand final was contested by Toowoomba and Redcliffe with Toowoomba winning a tough defensive game 8-6 seeing a country team win the first Queensland Cup. In 1997 Redcliffe beat Easts 18-16 to claim the first of their record 6 Queensland Cup titles (1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2018). They fought their great Queensland Cup rivals Toowoomba in four grand finals with Toowoomba winning their only two Queensland Cup grand finals against them (1996, 2001). The second most successful team has been Burleigh Bears who have won 4 titles (1999, 2004, 2016, 2019). Norths (1998, 2021), Northern Pride (2010, 2014) and Wynnum Manly (2011, 2012) have each won 2 titles.

With there being no NRL reserve grade following the Super League war, many NRL and Queensland Cup teams would form feeder relationships. Dual registration would allow fringe NRL players to play in the Queensland Cup and improved the standard of the competition. Many future great NRL players could be seen at times playing in the Queensland Cup. In 2002, for example, playing for Norths were Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk, Billy Slater and Dallas Johnson. Greg Inglis played for them in 2005. In that 2005 season a young Matt Scott played for the North Queensland Young Guns who won the competition that year.

In addition to that, some former Queensland and Australian players who retired from the top NRL level but still wanted to, or were persuaded to play a level down in the Queensland Cup, have played for Queensland Cup teams. Some of those include Darren Smith and Steve Renouf who played for Easts in the 2004 grand final and Petero Civenoceva who played for Redcliffe for a couple of seasons after retiring from the NRL.

The Queensland Cup competition was initially branded the Channel Nine Cup until 1998 when Channel Nine discontinued their sponsorship, and the competition simply became known as the Queensland Cup. From 2000 to 2001 it was sponsored by Bundaberg Rum and known as the Bundy Gold Cup. Wizard Home Loans became naming-rights sponsor for the competition from 2005 to 2008. The next naming-rights sponsor of the competition was Intrust Super who have sponsored the competition since 2010. Currently the competition is officially referred to as the Intrust Super Cup.

An event that was long overdue was the State Championship game played as the main curtain raiser to the NRL Grand Final between the winners of the Queensland Cup and the NSW Cup. The Queensland Cup winners won the first two (2014 Northern Pride, 2015 Ipswich) and the NSW Cup winners (Illawarra 2016, Penrith 2017, Canterbury 2018, Newtown 2019) won the next four.

The ABC telecast games on Saturday afternoons up until 2011. From 2012 Channel Nine took over as telecaster and have telecast games on Sunday afternoon before their NRL Sunday afternoon game which has helped to improve the profile of the competition. Hopefully Foxtel will see value in the competition and seek to televise an additional Queensland Cup game each weekend.

The competition has continually developed and improved and provides high quality entertainment each week throughout the rugby league season and deserves to be better funded by the ARLC and supported by the rugby league public here in Queensland. Even though it is no longer a top tier competition like the old BRL competition, it is still a high quality second tier competition that delivers great entertainment and deserves to be well supported.

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

1996

In 1996 the QRL boldly introduced a new statewide competition called the Queensland Cup that superceded the Winfield State League.

A total of 16 teams from Brisbane and across Queensland began this new expanded competition. The pioneer teams of this new competition were Norths, Souths, Easts, Wests, Redcliffe, Wynnum-Manly, Brothers, Logan City, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Central Queensland, Mackay, Cairns and the Port Moresby Vipers who were given assistance to compete to help boost rugby league in Papua New Guinea.

Two country clubs made up the top six in 1996 - Toowoomba, who finished minor premiers ahead of Redcliffe, and Cairns who finished 5th. Easts, Wests and Souths were the other finalists that competed in a very drawn out 5 week final series.

Redcliffe were the first team to make the grand final when they beat Toowoomba 6-0 in a low scoring major semi-final. After beating Souths 21-8 in the minor semi-final Wests were soundly beaten by Toowoomba 19-8 in the preliminary final.

The grand final was between Toowoomba and Redcliffe in front of 6 500 fans at SunCorp Stadium and was another tough, defensive game. Toowoomba led 2-0 at half time. Shawn Lawson scored the first try for Toowoomba after throwing a big dummy pass. Redcliffe hit back with a great sideline run by Mark Shipway to make it 8-6 to Toowoomba. Peter Robinson and Cameron Hurren both came tantalisingly close to score for Redcliffe but somehow Toowoomba held on to win 8-6 and claim the inaugural Queensland Cup.



Above: Toowoomba celebrates winning the inaugural 1996 Queensland Cup.

Elimination Semi-Final: Easts 16 v Cairns 12

Minor Qualifying Final: Wests 22 v Souths 15

Major Qualifying Final: Toowoomba 12 v Redcliffe 10

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final: Souths 34 v Easts 6

Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Redcliffe 30 v Wests 10

Minor Semi-Final: Wests 21 v Souths 8

Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 6 v Toowoomba 0

Preliminary Final: Toowoomba 19 v Wests 8

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

TOOWOOMBA 8 (Tries: S. Lawson; Goals: S. Kuhnemann 2) **def.**

REDCLIFFE 6 (Tries: M. Shipway; Goals: T. Gould)

1997

For the second season of the Queensland Cup the number of teams dropped back from 16 to 14. Dropping out were Sunshine Coast, Mackay and Bundaberg. They would re-emerge in later seasons but Bundaberg's return was just a one season cameo in 1998. Coming into the Queensland Cup was the Gold Coast Burleigh Bears.

Wynnum-Manly were the minor premiers finishing just ahead of Redcliffe followed by Easts but, come finals time, the wheels fell off for the Seagulls as they went out in straight sets losing all three of their final games against Redcliffe (17-12), Easts (14-8) before being eliminated in the minor semi-final by Wests 12-6.

The major semi-final was a sign of things to come with Redcliffe beating Easts in a tight game 18-14. Easts faced Wests in the preliminary final. Travis Baker opened the scoring with a couple of exciting tries but the game became a sloppy affair after that with both sides making a mountain of errors—65 in total. Easts won 22-14 to make it to the grand final.

In the grand final Easts made the most of a strong wind behind them and some poor defence to go out to an early 12-0 lead with fullback Leon Yeatman breaking several tackles to score his try. A try for Easts by Sessarago and another by Singleton for Redcliffe saw Easts lead 16-6 late in the game. James Hinchey became the hero for Redcliffe when he scored two tries. The second was scored in the final minute. Singleton's sideline conversion saw Redcliffe sneak home to win the first of their record five Queensland Cup premierships. They would also win the separate and last BRL Grand Final and beat Easts in all three grades to win their second clean sweep.



Above: Redcliffe celebrates winning the 1997 Queensland Cup.

Elimination Semi-Final: Wests 38 v Central Qld 10

Minor Qualifying Final: Easts 14 v Gold Coast Burleigh 8

Major Qualifying Final: Redcliffe 17 v Wynnum 12

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final: Wests 23 v Gold Coast Burleigh 8

Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Easts 14 v Wynnum 8

Minor Semi-Final: Wests 12 v Wynnum 6

Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 18 v Easts 14

Preliminary Final: Easts 22 v Wests 14

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 18 (Tries: J. Hinchey 2, A. Singleton; Goals:

A. Singleton 3) **def. EASTS 16** (Tries: L. Yeatman, D. Williams, R. Braun; Goals: S. Sipple 2)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

1998

In 1998 the Queensland Cup expanded back up to 16 teams. Dropping out was the Port Moresby Vipers. It would not be until 2014 before another PNG team would re-enter with the PNG Hunters.

The Gold Coast would have two teams in 1998. As well as the Burleigh Bears, a Gold Coast Vikings team would compete just in this year and, based from Carrara Stadium, would be the feeder team for the Gold Coast Chargers NRL team. Also competing just for the 1998 season would be the Townsville Stingers and Bundaberg Grizzlies.

In 1998 the newly-formed NRL was picking up the pieces from the Super League war. Melbourne would get the pick of players from the Western Reds and Hunter Mariners and, as there would be no NRL reserve grade, Norths Devils would form a feeder relationship with them that would bear immediate fruit and become a model for other feeder relationships between NRL and Queensland Cup teams. Dual registration would allow fringe NRL players to play in the Queensland Cup and help improve the standard of the competition.

Norths were the minor premiers just ahead of Brothers, who had a strong year, then Wests, Redcliffe, Gold Coast Vikings and Wynnum making the finals. The long drawn out 5 week final series format was used for the third and last time.

The grand final was watched by 4 300 fans, a poor turnout for a highly entertaining game that deserved better support. Wests raced to a 16-0 lead after 24 minutes but from there Norths powered away for the rest of the game scoring 6 tries with the Storm's Matt Geyer scoring a triple as Norths, under coach Mark Murray, won the grand final 35-16.

1999

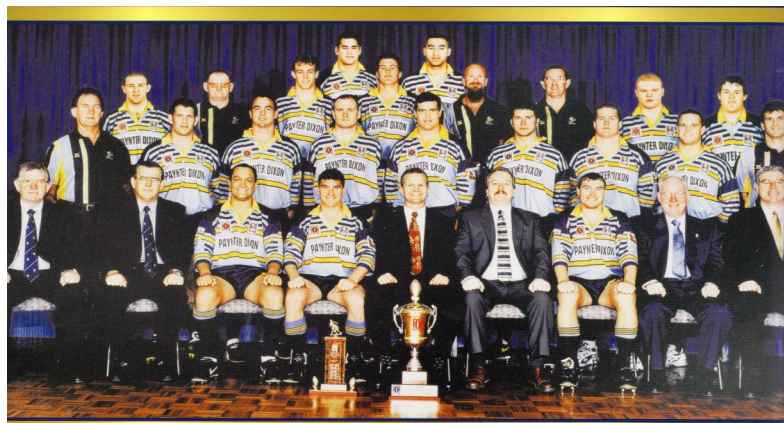
Just as the NRL was rationalising the number of teams at the top level of the game a similar dropoff in the number of teams was happening at the Queensland Cup level.

Dropping out was the Gold Coast Chargers feeder club, the Gold Coast Vikings, as well as the Townsville Stingers, Bundaberg Grizzlies and one grand old Brisbane club, Brothers. Brothers would make a one season cameo later in 2004 in a joint venture with Valleys. Financial pressures would sadly see these great clubs brimming with history fade from top level rugby league in Brisbane. This brought the number of Queensland Cup clubs back to 12 for 1999.

It was another tight race for the minor premiership with Redcliffe finishing on top ahead of Norths and Burleigh with Toowoomba and Easts finishing further back to make up the top 5 who qualified for the finals. A more sensible 4 week finals format was adopted with the reduced number of teams.

In the major semi-final Redcliffe went to an early 12-4 lead against Burleigh before Darren Anderson scored two tries as Burleigh powered home 24-18. Redcliffe earned a grand final re-match after a hard fought 26-22 win against Norths.

In the grand final Redcliffe led 10-8 with 12 minutes to go before Bears fullback Jamie Mahon scored the winning try on the back of some determined defence by Burleigh. Redcliffe were denied a clean sweep of all three grades when huge Burleigh prop Shane O'Flanagan came from nowhere to bundle Trent Leis into touch after a great attacking run. Burleigh beat Redcliffe 12-10 in the grand final to win the 1999 Queensland Cup.



Northern Suburbs Rugby League Football Club
1998 Premier Grade – Queensland Cup
Premiers, Minor Premiers, Pre Season Championship

FRONT ROW: (L to R) Wes Smith (Sponsor), Peter Fraser (Treasurer), Ricky Paul, Kevin Carmichael (Capt.), Mark Murray (Coach), Ray Tweedale (President), Paul Hubbard, Peter Ney (CEO), John McCafferty (Sponsor).
SECOND ROW: (L to R) Greg Watts (Manager), Wade Fenton, Andrew Hamilton, Steve Bell, Anthony Bonus, Dale Williams, Daniel Frame, Mark Protheroe, Michael Runge (Trainer).
THIRD ROW: (L to R) Matt Geyer, John Bluey Martin (Trainer), Matthew Dux, Craig O'Dwyer, Nick Laws (Trainer), John Baldwin (Manager), Ben Anderson, Ryan Gundry
FOURTH ROW: Matt Rua, John Wilshere
ABSENT: Tristan Brady-Smith

Elimination Semi-Final: Gold Coast 30 v Wynnum 10

Minor Qualifying Final: Redcliffe 20 v Wests 10

Major Qualifying Final: Norths 28 v Brothers 10

Minor Preliminary Semi-Final: Wests 18 v Gold Coast 16

Major Preliminary Semi-Final: Redcliffe 28 v Brothers 24

Minor Semi-Final: Wests 18 v Brothers 16

Major Semi-Final: Norths 16 v Redcliffe 12

Preliminary Final: Wests 27 v Redcliffe 14

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTHS 35 (Tries: M. Geyer 3, A. Bonus, K. Carmichael, C. O'Dwyer; Goals: J. Wilshere 4, K. Carmichael; Field Goal: A. Hamilton) **def. WESTS 16** (Tries: J. Twist 2, M. Maguire; Goals: T. Devlin 2)



Back Row (LtoR): Cleve Brown (Trainer), Shane O'Flanagan, Ali Brown, Tony Priddle, Brad Middlebosch, Darren Anderson, Ali Davys, Frank Johnston, Justin Bryant.

Middle Row: Bob Clark (C.E.O.), Laurie Oar (Chairman), Michael Kerwick (Manager), Adam McKenzie, Dean Allen, Grant Adamson (c), Craig Freer, Meti Noovao, Frank Napoli, Wayne Clifford, Darrell Madge (Trainer), Pat Walker (Selector).

Front Row: Rod Bathe (Trainer), Peter Lima, Ben Lythe, Faron Anderson, Aaron Douglas, Graham Lyons, Jamie Mahon, Brock Anderson, Rick Stone (Coach)

Absent: Reggie Cressbrook, Hamish Smith, Blair Tonkin

Elimination Semi-Final: Toowoomba 22 v Easts 6

Qualifying Semi-Final: Burleigh 34 v Norths 30

Minor Semi-Final: Norths 24 v Toowoomba 18

Major Semi-Final: Burleigh 24 v Redcliffe 18

Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 26 v Norths 22

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

BURLEIGH 12 (Tries: D. Anderson, J. Mahon; Goals: B. Lythe 2) **def. REDCLIFFE 10** (Tries: T. Leis, R. Hewinson; Goals: T. Leis)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

2000

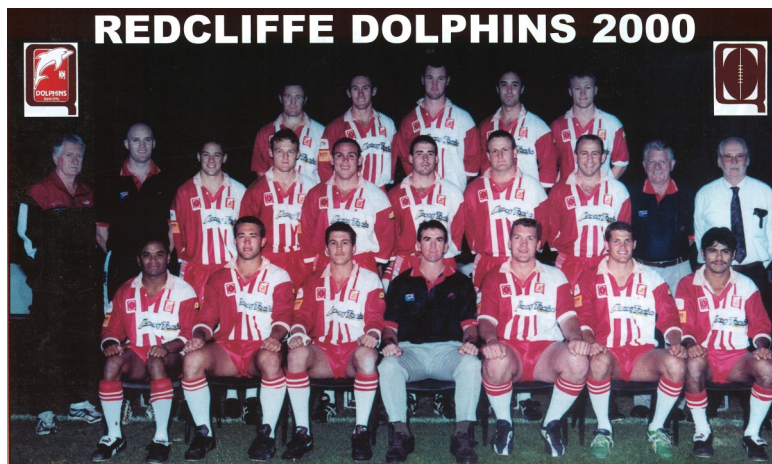
The same 12 teams as 1999 lined up again for the 2000 Queensland Cup season. As far as team line-ups go, the biggest change was with the Toowoomba side who became the sole feeder club for the Brisbane Broncos which gave them a major advantage. So many Broncos played for them that they earned the nickname "Bronco-woomba".

Despite this advantage Redcliffe had a strong enough season to finish as minor premiers ahead of Easts and then Toowoomba followed by Burleigh and Norths making up the final five.

In finals week one Burleigh eliminated Norths with a 38-12 win and Toowoomba had a big win over Easts 36-20. Easts recovered to beat Burleigh 36-10 in the minor semi-final. In the major semi-final Redcliffe didn't know what hit them when they were hammered 46-12 by Toowoomba. Redcliffe recovered with a powerful 40-6 thrashing over Easts to meet Toowoomba in the grand final.

In Toowoomba's grand final side were a host of future Broncos and NRL stars such as Justin Hodges, Brent Tate, Chris Walker, Corey Parker, Kerrod Walters, Nathan Friend and Carl Webb.

It was Redcliffe who started off strongly with 2 tries from Trent Leis and Troy Lindsay in the first 20 minutes. Just before half time Justin Hodges scored a blockbusting try stepping around four defenders. The only other try was scored by Redcliffe's Craig O'Dwyer, via a dummy pass, 5 minutes into the second half. Redcliffe's defence spoiled Toowoomba's usual free-flowing attack. Their execution was also poor. Redcliffe held on to win 14-6 against their more fancied opponents to be the first team to win the Queensland Cup twice.



BACK ROW: James Hinchey, Damien Richters, Adam Starr, Adam Mogg, George Wilson.
MIDDLE ROW: Gary Worden (Trainer), Sean Cassidy (Strength & Conditioning coach), Grant Flugge, John Olzard, Luke Scott, Russell Lahiff, Troy Lindsay, Tony Gould, Jack Barton (Manager), Henry Holder (Manager).
FRONT ROW: Barry Denduck, Danny Burke, Craig O'Dwyer (Captain), Neil Wharton (Coach), Robert Campbell, Trent Leis, Troy Mitchell.

Elimination Semi-Final: Burleigh 38 v Norths 12

Qualifying Semi-Final: Toowoomba 36 v Easts 20

Minor Semi-Final: Easts 36 v Burleigh 10

Major Semi-Final: Toowoomba 46 v Redcliffe 12

Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 40 v Easts 6

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 14 (Tries: T. Leis, T. Lindsay, C. O'Dwyer; Goals: D. Richters) **def. TOOWOOMBA 6** (Tries: J. Hodges; Goals: P. Warwick)

2001

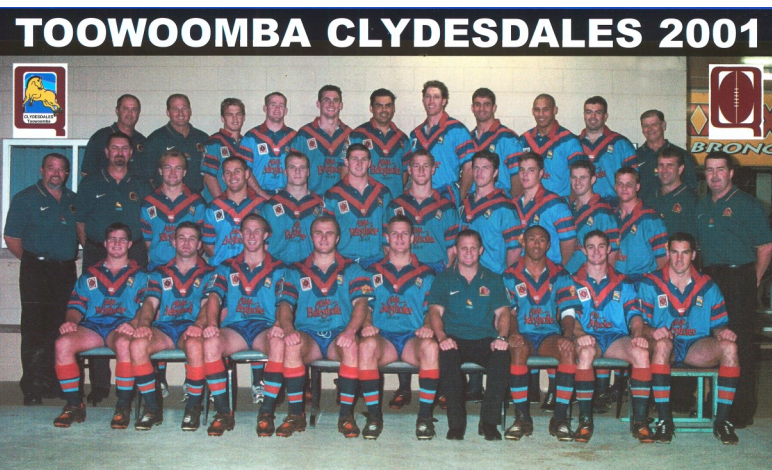
The Queensland Cup lost another team in 2001 when the Cairns Cyclones dropped out of the competition. Another Cairns-based team would return in 2008 under the name the Northern Pride. Central Queensland would be the only team competing north of Redcliffe before the North Queensland Young Guns would enter next season. The loss of Cairns brought the number of teams down to 11 for 2001.

With their feeder relationship with the Broncos, the Toowoomba Clydesdales dominated the 2001 season finishing 6 points clear of Burleigh followed by Redcliffe, Norths and making up the fifth spot in the finals was Easts.

In the minor semi-final Burleigh knocked out Easts 30-23 while in the major semi-final Redcliffe had an upset win over Toowoomba 20-10 who recovered to beat Burleigh 34-20 in the preliminary final. Redcliffe and Toowoomba would compete again in the third grand final between the two sides.

The QRL moved the grand final from Suncorp to Dolphin Oval which would host it for 3 years. This gave Redcliffe a big home ground advantage in front of 7 000 fans, mostly Dolphins fans.

The grand final was a try feast with the lead sea-sawing between the two sides as they exchanged tries. With 10 minutes to go it was 22-all and then Luke Scott steamrolled through for Redcliffe but the conversion was missed. In the last minute a reverse of play sent Casey Maguire into a hole. He placed the ball short and then momentum took him over the line. Quinn converted and Toowoomba had their revenge from the year before to win 28-26 and claim their second Queensland Cup title.



BACK ROW: Lindsay Trigar (Physiotherapist), Glen Bailey (Trainer), Nathan Murphy, Michael Ryan, Steve Irwin, Ken McGuinness, Paul Carige, Michael Coorey, Justin Hodges, Mark Corvo, Graeme Pryor (Trainer).
MIDDLE ROW: Terry Gray (Trainer), Murray Stalley (Manager), Casey McGuire, Stuart Kelly, Neale Wyatt, Ben Czirowski, Brent Tate, Christian Robertson, Josh Hancock, Gus McKellar, Shane Wilson, Russell Weber (Manager), Peter Nolan (Assistant Coach).
FRONT ROW: Nathan Friend, Darren Ingram, Damien Quinn, Kirk Reynoldson, Damon Keating (Captain), Kevin Walters (Coach), Elia Tugiri, Tony Duggan, Aaron Hohn.

Elimination Semi-Final: Easts 52 v Norths 10

Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 40 v Burleigh 8

Minor Semi-Final: Burleigh 30 v Easts 23

Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 20 v Toowoomba 10

Preliminary Final: Toowoomba 34 v Burleigh 20

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

TOOWOOMBA 28 (Tries: M. Ryan, D. Quinn, C. Maguire, T. Duggan, K. Reynoldson; Goals: D. Quinn 4) **def. REDCLIFFE 26** (Tries: C. O'Dwyer, J. Webber, G. Wilson, A. Wynyard, L. Scott; Goals: M. Roberts 3)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

2002

The 2002 Queensland Cup was contested by 12 teams with the addition of a North Queensland side which helped to restore the competition back to a truly statewide competition. This season and the next would mark the high point of the golden age for the Redcliffe Dolphins who only lost 4 games leading up to the finals and were minor premiers three points clear of Easts.

Norths that year included future stars Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk, Billy Slater and Dallas Johnson (Greg Inglis played for them in 2004-2005). They easily beat Burleigh in the elimination semi-final 42-20 and met Easts who were beaten 28-22 by Ipswich in the other week one final game. Norths rose to the challenge to bundle Easts out of the finals winning a tight minor semi-final 18-16 after play was suspended for 30 minutes at the 45 minute point due to a massive hailstorm. The major semi-final between Redcliffe and Ipswich went into extra time before a field goal from Shane Perry saw Redcliffe win 17-16 and make their 4th grand final in a row. Ipswich just got the better of Norths in the preliminary final 29-26 after being down 26-10.

Again the grand final was played at Dolphin Oval and 10 000 fans, mostly supporting the Dolphins, packed the ground. After a massive brawl in the first minute that saw a player each from both sides given 10 minutes in the sin bin, the Dolphins were clinical racing to a 22-0 lead at half time. Aaron Barba opened the scoring with 2 tries while Barry Berrigan and Shane Perry were brilliant in the halves for Redcliffe. Redcliffe were absolutely dominant to win the grand final 34-10 against a gallant Ipswich side to be the first team to win three Queensland Cup titles.

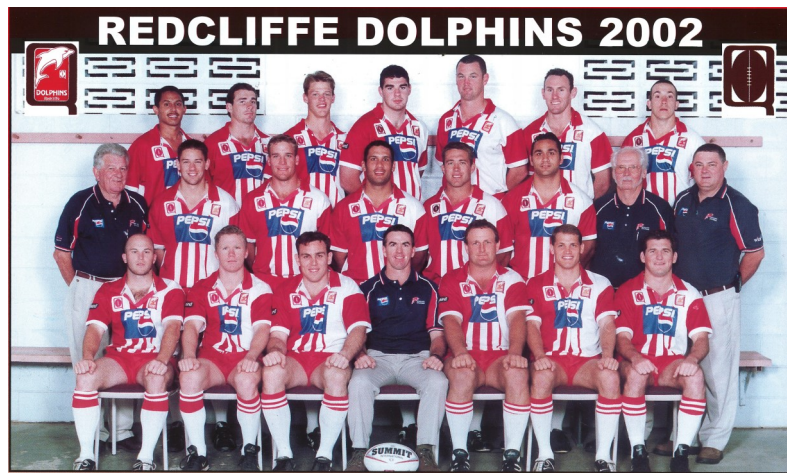
2003

In the previous two seasons Souths Magpies and Logan Scorpions finished at or near the bottom of the table and were desperately struggling financially. A joint venture with financial assistance from the Canberra Raiders was initially going to be called the Souths Logan Raiders but, thankfully, the name Souths Logan Magpies was agreed upon for season 2003. The club split its home games between Davies Park and Logan's Meakin Park. The Logan Scorpions licensed club folded and all games were then transferred back to Davies Park. Souths chose to continue with the merged name of Souths Logan Magpies.

Filling the vacancy for a 12th team was the Tweed Heads Seagulls, a somewhat controversial addition given they hail from across the border in NSW and share the same Seagulls nickname as Wynnum.

Burleigh and Redcliffe finished on the same number of points but Burleigh had a better for-and-against to be minor premiers. Tweed Heads, in their first season, finished 5th but were knocked out by Wynnum 40-22 who beat Ipswich 42-12 in the minor semi-final. Burleigh beat Redcliffe 26-24 in a tight major semi-final before Redcliffe qualified for their 5th grand final in a row beating Wynnum 46-26 in the preliminary final.

Again Redcliffe enjoyed the home ground advantage of a Dolphin Oval grand final in front of 8 000 fans. After Burleigh's Reggie Cressbrook scored an intercept try Aaron Barba set the game alight with 3 tries in the first half. Redcliffe took control and sealed their 4th Queensland Cup title with a 31-18 win. Redcliffe also scored their 3rd clean sweep of all three grades to emulate their previous clean sweeps of 1994 and 1997.



Front Row: Michael Roberts, Barry Berrigan, Luke Scott (captain), Neil Warton (Coach), Troy Lindsay, Trent Leis, Shane Perry.

Middle Row: Jack Barton (Manager), Grant Flugge, Phil Shilcock, Andrew Wynyard, Danny Burke, Brian Jellick, Henry Holder (Manager), Colin Richardson (Stats).

Back Row: Aaron Barba, Russell Lahiff, David Stagg, Shane Tronc, Adam Starr, Damien Richters, Jason Webber.

Elimination Semi-Final: Norths 42 v Burleigh 20

Qualifying Semi-Final: Ipswich 28 v Easts 22

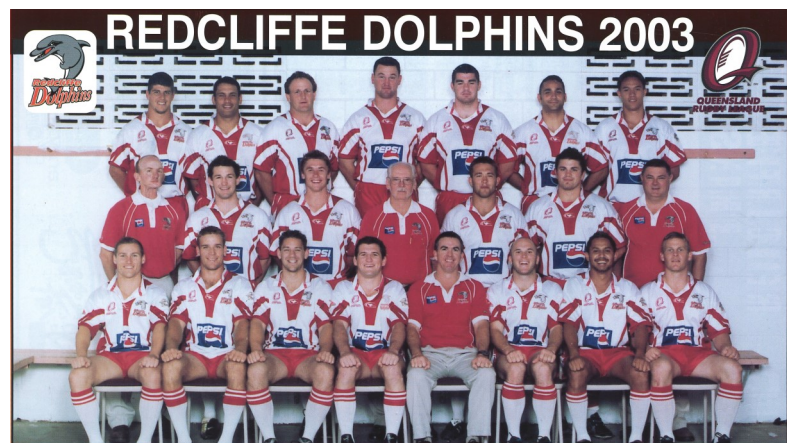
Minor Semi-Final: Norths 18 v Easts 16

Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 17 v Ipswich 16

Preliminary Final: Ipswich 29 v Norths 26

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 34 (Tries: A. Barba 2, D. Richters, B. Berrigan, P. Shilcock, T. Leis; Goals: D. Richters 5) **def. IPSWICH 10** (Tries: S. West, A. Bulow; Goals: S. West)



Back Row Left to Right: Ben Jones, Andrew Wynyard, Troy Lindsay, Adam Starr, Shane Tronc, Brian Jellick, Charles Viz.

Second Row Left to Right: Jon Sloan (Manager), Justin McKay, Daniel Green, Henry Holder (Manager), Danny Burke, Greg Cameron, Col Richardson (Statistician).

Front Row Left to Right: Matt Anderson, Phil Shilcock, Grant Flugge, Shane Perry, Neil Wharton (Coach), Michael Roberts, Aaron Barba, Jason Campbell.

Elimination Semi-Final: Wynnum 40 v Tweed Heads 22

Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 28 v Ipswich 22

Minor Semi-Final: Wynnum 42 v Ipswich 12

Major Semi-Final: Burleigh 26 v Redcliffe 24

Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 46 v Wynnum 26

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 31 (Tries: A. Barba 3, B. Jellick, B. Jones; Goals: J. Mackay 5; Field Goal: S. Perry) **def. BURLEIGH 18** (Tries: R. Cressbrook, T. Purdon, T. Gray; Goals: R. Cressbrook 3)

2004

The end of the 2003 season and the end of this 2004 season would see the end of three great historic Brisbane rugby league clubs. Wests lost every game of the 2003 season and pulled out of the competition due to financial difficulty. Season 2004 would mark the end for two historic clubs that made a cameo return after forming a joint venture. The Brothers Valleys Diehards only managed 1 draw and had 1060 points scored against them for the season, a rather ignominious way to bow out of top grade football in Brisbane. Sadly, there was no great outcry at the loss of these great old clubs, Wests, Valleys and Brothers, as there was when South Sydney were dropped from the NRL.

Burleigh finished as minor premiers. Wynnum made a miraculous comeback from 38-22 down to score 3 tries in 12 minutes and then scored another in extra time to win the elimination semi-final 42-38. Burleigh pipped Easts 17-16 in the major semi-final before a big 50-24 win over Wynnum gave Easts another shot at Burleigh in the grand final which returned to an upgraded Suncorp Stadium and what a grand final it was!

Easts were captained by Darren Smith and included the great Steve Renouf and Darren Lockyer's brother, Matt, on the bench. Adam Hayden scored the first and set up the next try for Burleigh to take them to a 12-0 lead. After another try each, Steve Renouf scored a classy try out wide and then bombed another by spilling the ball as he was sliding towards the line which proved very costly. A last minute chip and regather try by Easts' Steve Beattie sent the game into extra time. After many field goal attempts, Burleigh's Shane O'Flanagan crossed over to give Burleigh a 22-18 win.



Front Row Left to Right: David Hicks, Adam Hayden, Ryan Gundry, Ali Brown (captain), Rick Stone (coach), Kris Flint, Nick Shaw.
 Middle Row Left To Right: Tony Gray, Martin Griese, Jason Webber, Adam Cook, John Flint, Aseri Laing, Adam Fielder.
 Back Row Left to Right: Brent McConnell, Trent Purdon, David Connelly (Manager), Paul Anoleck.
 Absent: Shane O'Flanagan, Reggie Cressbrook, Robert Apanui.

- Elimination Semi-Final:** Wynnum 42 v Toowoomba 38
- Qualifying Semi-Final:** Easts 35 v Norths 18
- Minor Semi-Final:** Wynnum 36 v Norths 18
- Major Semi-Final:** Burleigh 17 v Easts 16
- Preliminary Final:** Easts 50 v Wynnum 24

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

BURLEIGH 22 (Tries: A. Hayden, N. Shaw, J. Flint, S. O'Flanagan; Goals: R. Cressbrook 3) **def. EASTS 18** (Tries: T. Young, S. Renouf, S. Beattie; Goals: M. Pearce 2, D. Campbell)

2005

The sad demise of the Brothers Valleys joint venture reduced the number of Queensland Cup teams down to 11 for the next few years.

Finishing at the top of the table going into the finals as minor premiers were the North Queensland Young Guns who included future Cowboys and Queensland prop Matt Scott. Just behind them were Norths who included the electrifying Greg Inglis. Burleigh, Redcliffe and Toowoomba were the other top five teams. It was the first season that "country" teams outnumbered Brisbane teams in the finals.

Redcliffe just pipped Toowoomba 23-22 in the elimination semi-final and Burleigh beat Norths 26-18 in the qualifying semi-final. The following week Redcliffe won the minor semi-final 33-10 to see Norths bundled out of the finals in straight sets while North Queensland had a strong win against Burleigh beating them 22-6 to advance to their first grand final. They would play Burleigh again after they beat Redcliffe 24-19 in the preliminary final.

It was the first "all-country" grand final though the Gold Coast, represented by Burleigh, could hardly be considered a country town. Despite the lack of any Brisbane clubs in the decider at Suncorp Stadium there was a solid crowd of just under 7 000 fans. North Queensland raced to a 12-0 lead with tries to Myles and Muspratt before Burleigh struck back with a try to Leis set up by a break by Reggie Cressbrook at fullback. Sweeney scored for North Queensland just before half time. The scored remained 18-6 until 10 minutes to go when Clint Amos went over from dummy half. Another two late tries gave North Queensland a record 36-6 grand final win and the 2005 Queensland Cup.



Front Row L to R: Jaiman Lowe, Gavin Cooper, Shane Muspratt, Daniel Strickland (c), David Myles, Mark Dalle Cort, Dean Limpus.
 Middle Row L to R: Grant Bell (coach), Leigh McWilliams, Jason Barsley, Brent McConnell, Dean Payne, Clint Amos, Todd Wilson (manager), Gary Sleep (trainer)
 Back Row L to R: James Anderson, Wallace Solomona, Charles Vis, Matt Scott, Scott Bolton, Rory Bromley, Neil Sweeney.

- Elimination Semi-Final:** Redcliffe 23 v Toowoomba 22
- Qualifying Semi-Final:** Burleigh 26 v Norths 18
- Minor Semi-Final:** Redcliffe 33 v Norths 10
- Major Semi-Final:** North Qld 22 v Burleigh 6
- Preliminary Final:** Burleigh 24 v Redcliffe 19

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTH QLD 36 (Tries: D. Myles 2, J. Barsley, N. Sweeney, S. Muspratt, C. Amos; Goals: N. Sweeney 6) **def. BURLEIGH 6** (Tries: T. Leis, Goals: R. Cressbrook)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

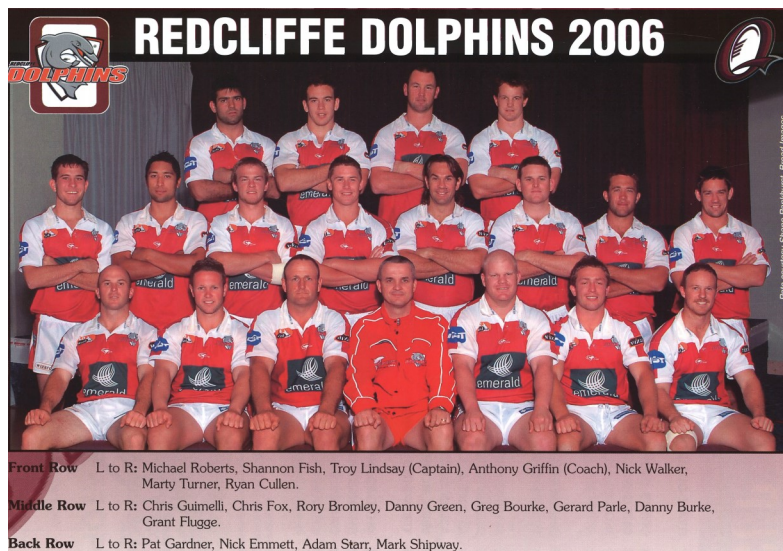
2006

In the 2006 Queensland Cup the same 11 teams competed as did the previous season.

Despite their Broncos connection Toowoomba had struggled to be a premiership contending team since their Queensland Cup Grand Final win in 2001. That changed in 2006 when they surged to be minor premiers. Rounding out the top five teams were North Queensland, Redcliffe, Easts and Tweed Heads. Given their dominance it would come as a shock that this would be Toowoomba's final season in the competition.

In week one of the finals Easts knocked out Tweed Heads 12-4 and Redcliffe upset North Queensland 22-8 to advance to the major semi-final. North Queensland bowed out in straight sets when Easts beat them 28-18 in the minor semi-final. In what seemed to be a repeat of what happened in 2000 the Toowoomba Clydesdales thrashed Redcliffe 56-22 to advance to the grand final. Redcliffe set up a re-match against their great Queensland Cup rivals beating Easts 30-16 to set up the fourth grand final between Toowoomba and Redcliffe.

Like in 2000 Toowoomba would be hot favourites and, like in 2000, the underdogs would again triumph. Coached by future Broncos coach, Anthony Griffin, Redcliffe corrected their poor defence from 2 weeks earlier and defended stoically including holding Toowoomba out for 4 repeat sets. Ben Vaeau powered over for Toowoomba to open the scoring but two tries to Turner and Cullen saw Redcliffe lead 12-6 at half time. After a Roberts field goal with 13 minutes to go two identical tries to Bromley and another to Shipway saw Redcliffe win their record 5th Queensland Cup title.



Elimination Semi-Final: Easts 12 v Tweed Heads 4

Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 22 v North Queensland 8

Minor Semi-Final: Easts 28 v North Qld 18

Major Semi-Final: Toowoomba 56 v Redcliffe 22

Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 30 v Easts 16

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 27 (Tries: R. Bromley 2, M. Turner, M. Shipway, R. Cullen; Goals: G. Bourke 3; Field Goal: M. Roberts) **def.**

TOOWOOMBA 6 (Tries: B. Vaeau; Goals: N. Parfitt)

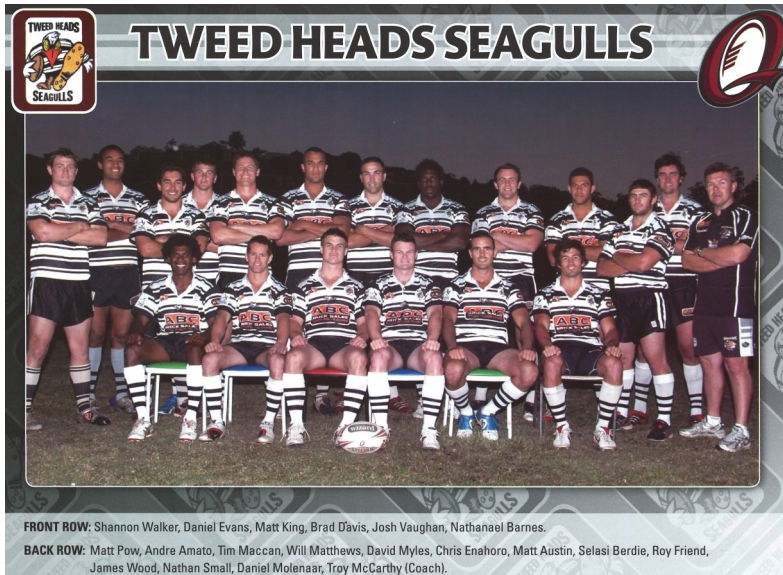
2007

After making their fourth grand final in 2006 Toowoomba folded after major financial difficulty. The Aspley Broncos were put into the Queensland Cup to act as the main Broncos feeder club for the 2007 season but this would be their only season.

North Queensland finished as minor premiers ahead of other finalists Redcliffe, Tweed Heads, Ipswich and Easts. The wheels fell off again like the previous season for North Queensland when they were bundled out in straight sets in the finals.

Ipswich knocked out Easts 18-16 and Redcliffe advanced to the major semi-final when they beat Tweed Heads 22-18 in extra time in week one of the finals. Tweed Heads thrashed Ipswich 40-14 in the minor semi-final and similarly knocked out North Queensland 34-10 in the preliminary final to advance to their first grand final. Their opponents would be Redcliffe who beat North Queensland 28-18 in the major semi-final and would contest their 9th grand final in 11 seasons of the Queensland Cup (Their 10th premiership grand final in 13 years counting from the 1994 BRL season).

Redcliffe opened the scoring with a try to halfback Chris Fox but Tweed Heads attacked well with the next three tries to Brad Davis and a double to David Myles to lead 18-6 at half time. A try to Emmett brought it back to 18-12. Tweed Heads' livewire fullback Shannon Walker then put the game out of Redcliffe's reach with 2 tries in 4 minutes, the second being a sizzling 80 metre try. Redcliffe fought back with a late try but in the end Tweed Heads won the grand final 28-18 to shock fans by taking the Queensland Cup south of the border into NSW for the first time in its history.



Elimination Semi-Final: Ipswich 18 v Easts 16

Qualifying Semi-Final: Redcliffe 22 v Tweed Heads 18

Minor Semi-Final: Tweed Heads 40 v Ipswich 14

Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 28 v North Queensland 18

Preliminary Final: Tweed Heads 34 v North Queensland 10

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

TWEED HEADS 28 (Tries: D. Myles 2, S. Walker 2, B. Davis; Goals: B. Davis 4) **def. REDCLIFFE 18** (Tries: C. Fox, N. Emmett, R. Bromley; Goals: A. Simpson 3)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

2008

The 2008 Queensland Cup season would be the 100th season of rugby league in Brisbane following the start of the Brisbane competition in 1909. Fittingly, it would be won by the last remaining foundation club in the competition. The Aspley Broncos and North Queensland dropped out. In their place Mackay were re-admitted along with a new Cairns-based team, the Northern Pride.

Ipswich were minor premiers ahead of Souths Logan who, after finishing 10th in 2007, were finally receiving Canberra fringe players to bolster their side. One reporter noted that they had changed quicker than Superman in a phone booth. Northern Pride finished in 3rd place going into the finals and thrashed Souths Logan 40-16 in the Qualifying semi-final. Souths Logan bounced back in the minor semi-final to beat Redcliffe 16-14. Souths Logan had a great 16-12 victory against the Northern Pride in extra time to make their first Queensland Cup Grand Final against Ipswich.

In front of a passionate crowd of nearly 7 000 at North Ipswich Reserve, Souths Logan got off to a blistering start with 3 tries which saw them shoot to an early 18-0 lead. Ipswich stormed back to level scores 18-all with 10 minutes to go. On the last tackle in the last minute, halfback Alby Talipeau ran the blind side and passed to centre Kyle Lodge, who had scored the try in extra time against the Pride. He surged to the line and was almost tackled but slipped the tackle just before they both came to the ground. That brief release saw him then put the ball over the line. After what seemed an eternity, a try was awarded to give Souths Logan victory over Ipswich 24-18 to win the 2008 Queensland Cup - a great way to celebrate 100 years.



SOUTHS LOGAN 2008—Front Row: Rodney (Bugsy) Wynne, Ben Jones, Phil Dennis (capt.), Mal Long (Manager), Tim Cannard (capt.), Paul Bramley (coach), Brad Cross (capt.), Al Parker (Trainer) Chad Grintell, Jim McClelland (CEO) **Second Row:** Damien Cocciolone (Physio), Cy Lassock, Chris Daly, Sean McBride, Nigel Plum, Daniel Joyce, Josh White, Matthew Templeman, Barbara McClelland. **Back Row:** Nick Colley, Brogan Gibson, Liam McDonald, Quentin Laulu-Tongagae, Kyle Lodge, Pere Williams, McKanah Gibson, Shea Moylan, Lewis Balcomb, Mohammed Allouche (President)

Elimination Semi-Final: Redcliffe 50 v Wynnum 16

Qualifying Semi-Final: Northern Pride 40 v Souths Logan 16

Minor Semi-Final: Souths Logan 16 v Redcliffe 14

Major Semi-Final: Ipswich 34 v Northern Pride 16

Preliminary Final: Souths Logan 16 v Northern Pride 12

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

SOUTHS LOGAN 24 (Tries: C. Lassock, M. Gibson, M. Templeman, K. Lodge; Goals: T. Cannard 2, J. White) **def.**
IPSWICH 18 (Tries: M. Ryan, D. Malone, A. Sweeney; Goals: J. Lewis 3)

2009

The Sunshine Coast were re-admitted to the Queensland Cup in 2009 taking on the colours and nickname of the NRL team they were a feeder club to - Manly Warringah. NRL feeder relationships, where fringe NRL players could be fielded in Queensland Cup teams, were now becoming increasingly important. The North Queensland Cowboys had feeder clubs in the Northern Pride and Mackay and in 2015 Townsville would become their prime feeder club. The Brisbane Broncos would feed several clubs—Wynnum Manly, Redcliffe, Norths, Easts and more recently Ipswich and Souths after the breakdown of their Canberra affiliation which had helped Souths finish as minor premiers in 2009 and 2010. The Gold Coast Titans would feed players to Burleigh and Tweed Heads. Easts would later be fed players from Melbourne which helped them make the 2013 Grand Final.

There were 12 teams this season and the finals changed to having a top 6 play over 3 weeks instead of 4 weeks. The winners of the 3 qualifying semi-finals and the highest placed loser played in the two preliminary finals and the winners of those would then contest the grand final. Sunshine Coast was the highest placed loser of week one and then upset minor premiers Souths Logan 30-26. Northern Pride beat Central Queensland 22-10 in the other preliminary final. With another “all-country” grand final, the QRL moved the grand final to the Sunshine Coast who made the most of the home ground advantage where 2 500 fans saw them go to a 12-6 half time lead and then power away led by future NSW half, Trent Hodkinson. In their first season back they beat the Northern Pride 32-18 to become 2009 Queensland Cup premiers.



Front Row: Steve Bofinger (Physio), Gary Martin (First Aid), Adam Cuthbertson, Trent Hodkinson, Cameron Joyce, Jon Muir, Vic Mauro, Jon Grieve, Shane Neumann, Rob Godfrey, Simon Allen, Andrew Suniula, Brandon Costin (coach), Jason Thomas (Manager) **Back Row:** Justin Vievers (CEO), Aldo Loi (Team Manager), Ross Wright (First Aid), Aaron Wheeler (Strength & Conditioning), Heath L'Estrange, Mark Page, Dennis Sandow, Ryan Walker, Michael Chapman, Tim Browne, Junior Palau, Tony Williams, Phil Moorwood, Andrew Gray, Paul Cohen, Steve McPhee, Gerald Thompson (First Aid), Kelvin Grant (Manager), Mark Brown (Doctor)

1st Qualifying Semi-Final: Northern Pride 44 v Norths 16

2nd Qualifying Semi-Final: Central Qld 21 v Sunshine Coast 14

3rd Qualifying Semi-Final: Souths Logan 16 v Tweed Heads 8

1st Preliminary Final: Northern Pride 22 v Central Qld 10

2nd Preliminary Final: Sunshine Coast 30 v Souths Logan 26

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

SUNSHINE COAST 32 (Tries: S. Neumann 3, M. Chapman, R. Walker, T. Williams, T. Hodkinson; Goals: T. Hodkinson 2) **def.**
NORTHERN PRIDE 18 (Tries: J. Frizzo, R. Jensen, T. Humble; Goals: T. Humble)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

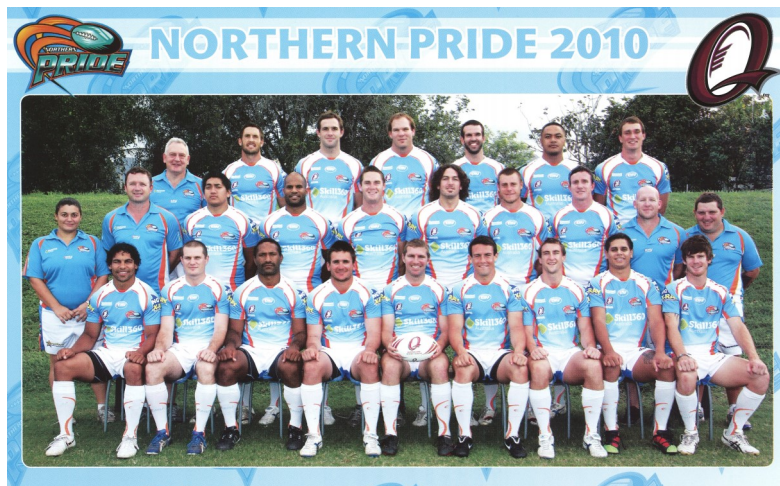
2010

The same 12 teams as 2009 competed for the 2010 Queensland Cup title. Souths Logan had another strong season to finish minor premiers for the second season in a row. They would rue that they would miss another great opportunity to add to their 2008 title win when they lost the only semi-final that would count for them.

The finals format changed for 2010. It was again played over 3 weeks by the top 6 but, instead of 3 qualifying finals, there were 2 elimination semi-finals played by teams 3 to 6 to meet teams 1 and 2 in the preliminary finals. An additional semi-final in week one between teams 1 and 2 was utterly meaningless and simply served as match practice before the preliminary finals.

In the elimination semi-finals Mackay defeated the Sunshine Coast 14-4 and the Northern Pride had a 28-12 win over Wynnum. In the preliminary finals Norths had a huge win over Mackay 56-12 to make their first grand final in 12 years while, in the other preliminary final, the wheels fell off for Souths Logan as a dominant Northern Pride powered away 28-8 to knock the Magpies out of the finals.

Norths and the Northern Pride returned to Suncorp Stadium to contest the 2010 Grand Final in front of 6 300 fans. The Pride had a near perfect first half and led 18-6 at half time and went ahead to 24-6 following a barnstorming Rod Griffin try. Norths then scored two tries within 5 minutes. Pride captain, Chris Sheppard put Nick Slyney over in the 65th minute to take the Pride to a 30-16 lead. A late Norths try wasn't enough as the Northern Pride won 30-20 to take their first Queensland Cup which humourously happened to fall apart as Chis Sheppard went to raise it in front of their fans.



FRONT ROW: Rod Jensen, Jason Roos, Rod Griffin, Joel Riethmuller, Chris Sheppard (c), Ryan Stig, Clint Amos, Noel Underwood, Ben Fitzpatrick.
MIDDLE ROW: Kristie Scikluna (trainer), David Maiden (head coach), Kaine Manihera, Michael Bani, Brett Anderson, Mark Dalle-Cort, Ben Spina, Chey Bird, Scott Callaghan (strength & conditioner), Cameron Miller (assistant coach).
BACK ROW: Rob White (Manager), Mark Cantoni, Ben Lally, Alex Starmer, Jamie Frizzo, Aisea Namos, Nick Slyney.

- 1st Elimination Semi-Final:** Mackay 14 v Sunshine Coast 4
- 2nd Elimination Semi-Final:** Northern Pride 28 v Wynnum 12
- Major Preliminary Semi-Final:** Norths 20 v Souths Logan 16
- 1st Preliminary Final:** Norths 56 v Mackay 12
- 2nd Preliminary Final:** Northern Pride 28 v Souths Logan 8

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTHERN PRIDE 30 (Tries: N. Underwood, R. Jensen, M. Bani, R. Griffin, N. Slyney; Goals: C. Bird 5) **def. NORTHS 20** (Tries: L. Samoa 2, B. Gibb, G. Mzembe; Goals: T. Watene 2)

2011

If you had told most Queensland Cup fans that Wynnum Manly would win the 2011 Queensland Cup after round 6 following their 6th loss in a row they would have laughed at you. Wynnum recovered to just scrape into the final six. The runaway minor premiers were Tweed Heads who only lost two games going into the finals.

The Northern Pride finished 2nd and in 3rd place, just behind, were Souths Logan. It was a courageous back half to their season after being cruelly cut from their Canberra affiliation midway due to a very poor NSWRL ruling. More bad luck would befall the Magpies in week one of the finals.

The finals format returned to what was used in the 2009 season over 3 weeks with three qualifying finals in week one with the winners and highest placed loser going into the preliminary finals. After a narrow loss to the Dolphins 22-20, the Magpies found themselves bundled out of the finals as Wynnum Manly, who finished 6th, beat the minor premiers Tweed Heads 24-12. Sanity would prevail next year with a return to a fairer 4 week finals format but it would be too late for Souths Logan.

Tweed Heads bounced back to beat the Pride 26-10 while Wynnum clicked into high gear to thrash Redcliffe 36-0 to set up an epic battle of the two Seagulls teams in the Grand Final. Tweed Heads shot out to a 10-0 lead before future Cowboys hooker, Jake Granville, dived on a grubber to score just before half time. Wynnum scored next from a bomb and then a try from a brilliant 20 metre run by Shea Moylan sealed the fairytale win 16-10 for coach Paul Green's Wynnum Manly Seagulls to claim the 2011 Queensland Cup title.



FRONT ROW: Matt Seamark, Shaun Cottar, Shea Moylan, Steve Darby, John Te Roo, Luke Dalziel-Don (captain), Reece Blayney, Vinnie Sihuku, Jimmy O'Brien, Jake Granville, Jayden Mauai.
SECOND ROW: Paul Green (coach), Craig Hodges (assistant coach), Tim Natusch, Tyson Brookes, Willie Scanlan, Josh Jerome, Casey Rogers, Jake Ryalls, Danny Grimley (assistant coach), Kerry Crosbie (manager).
THIRD ROW: Anthony Woods (strength & training coach), Sam Te'o, Jason Moon, Dane Carlaw, Ben Shea, Rowhan Campbell (head trainer).
BACK ROW: Willie Taukafa, Matt Grieve, Charlie Gubb.

- 1st Qualifying Semi-Final:** Redcliffe 22 v Souths Logan 20
- 2nd Qualifying Semi-Final:** Wynnum 24 v Tweed Heads 12
- 3rd Qualifying Semi-Final:** Northern Pride 30 v Ipswich 6
- 1st Preliminary Final:** Tweed Heads 26 v Northern Pride 10
- 2nd Preliminary Final:** Wynnum 36 v Redcliffe 0

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

WYNNUM MANLY 16 (Tries: J. Granville, S. Moylan, M. Seamark; Goals: M. Seamark 2) **def. TWEED HEADS 10** (Tries: T. Maccan, C. Nelson; Goals: B. Davis)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

2012

The two teams that would lead the way in the 2012 Queensland Cup would be the two teams that would share the bulk of the fringe NRL players from the Broncos. Season 2012 would be contested by the same 12 teams as 2011 and the competition would receive a major boost following the latest NRL broadcast deal. The ABC telecast games on Saturday afternoons up to 2011. From 2012 Channel Nine took over as telecaster and have telecast games on Sunday afternoon before their NRL Sunday afternoon game which has helped to increase the profile and interest in the competition.

Sanity would prevail this season with a return to the fairer 4 week finals format used in the seasons up to 2009 when it changed to a 3 week format for 3 seasons. Tweed Heads scored an upset win over last year's premiers Wynnum Manly 19-16 in the Qualifying semi-final. Wynnum reversed the result over Tweed Heads in the preliminary final winning 30-4 after Tweed Heads lost to the minor premiers Redcliffe in the major semi-final 32-16.

The Grand Final was a battle of the Bayside—Redcliffe v Wynnum. The two well supported Brisbane sides drew a crowd just under 10 000. After Georgetown scored for Redcliffe, Wynnum put on three tries to Faud, Moon and Peter Gubb to go to a 14-6 lead before a sensational Redcliffe try by Berryman. A late Charlie Gubb try converted by retiring former Bronco, Dane Carlaw, sealed the victory 20-10 to Wynnum to be the first team since Redcliffe nine years earlier to score back-to-back Queensland Cup titles under coach Paul Green. He would go onto to coach the North Queensland Cowboys to their first NRL premiership with Jake Granville who played in Wynnum's double.



QLD Intrust Super Cup PREMIERS 2012

Back Row(LtoR):- Dylan Eggins, Graeme Kirk, Matt Smith.
 Third Row(LtoR):- Darren Bain, Junior Togia, Charlie Gubb, Dane Carlaw, Jason Moon, Andrew Clayton, Anthony Woods (Strength & Conditioning).
 Second Row(LtoR):- Mitchell Moore, Tyson Brookes, Mitchell Stevens, Jason Carroll (Assistant Coach), Kerry Crosbie (Manager), Dan Wallace, Matt Grieves, Ben Garcia.
 Front Row(LtoR):- Jacob Faud, Nathanael Barnes, Tim Natusch, Peter Gubb, Luke Dalziel-Don (Captain), Paul Green (Coach), Sean Loxley, Ben Shea, Jon Grieve, Jake Granville, Matt Seamark. Absent:- Rowhan Campbell (Head Trainer), Mitchell Dodds, John Te Ree.

Elimination Semi-Final: Norths 26 v Ipswich 20
Qualifying Semi-Final: Tweed Heads 19 v Wynnum 16
Minor Semi-Final: Wynnum 30 v Norths 22
Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 32 v Tweed Heads 16
Preliminary Final: Wynnum 30 v Tweed Heads 4

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

WYNNUM MANLY 20 (Tries: P. Gubb, J. Moon, J. Faud, C. Gubb; Goals: M. Seamark, D. Carlaw) **def. REDCLIFFE 10** (Tries: D. Berryman, L. Georgetown; Goals: L. Georgetown)

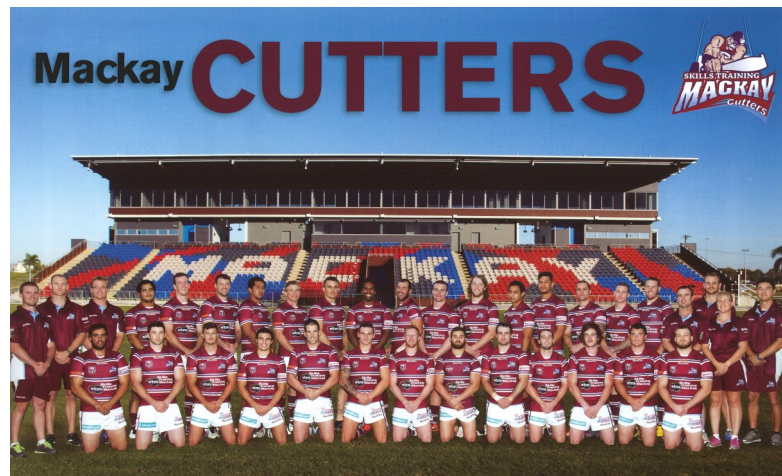
2013

The runaway minor premiers the 2013 season were the Northern Pride. The next two teams, Mackay and Easts met in Mackay and it was Easts that blitzed the Cutters winning 31-18 after leading at one stage by 26-0. Ipswich knocked Wynnum out of the finals race beating them 33-6 to put an end to the Seagulls hopes of winning three premierships in a row. Easts continued their red hot form beating the minor premiers, Northern Pride, 29-16.

Given the dominance of the Northern Pride throughout the season it came as quite a shock to see them bow out in straight sets when Mackay proved very solid in their 20-6 defeat of them in the preliminary final.

Easts were strong favourites to win the Grand Final which was moved out to North Ipswich Reserve which created a great carnival atmosphere with the near 7 000 fans. The Tigers scored first when Junior Sa'u scored following a Tom Butterfield break. Two quick tries from winger Bureta Faraimo sparked a comeback for the Cutters with his second try being quite impressive. Junior Sa'u was on the spot to claim his second try after a ball was allowed to bounce. The Tigers reclaimed the lead with the conversion from Cody Walker giving them a 14-10 lead at halftime.

The sides exchanged tries in a highly entertaining game including an impressive try to Mackay by future Cowboys star, Michael Morgan. Easts levelled the game 20-all with 11 minutes to go. Matt Minto scored a field goal for Mackay before a dummy half run by Mitchell sealed the game 27-20 to Mackay who claimed their first Queensland Cup to go with their 1993 and 1994 State League titles.



Front Row: Jason Shirnack, Luke Young, Liam Taylor, Dave Petersen, Joel Clinton, Jordan Grayston, Dan Murphy, Kevin Nielsen, Matt Constantinou, Andy Gay, Corban Duffy, David Milne, Dean Webster. **Back Row:** Chad Bucky (Assistant Coach), Mitch Cook (Strength & Conditioning), Glenn Otway (CEO), Bureta Faraimo, Michael Comerford, Jason Netherton, Pulou Vaituutu, Chris Getch, Tyson Andrews, Jardine Bobongie (capt.), Jake Cooley, Sam Miles, Karl Davies, Chris Ulugia, Michael Koko, Tyson Muscat, Matt Minto, Zac Dalton, Kim Williams (coach), Michael Wedel (Physio), Kerri Proctor (FAO), Jim Wilson (Strength & Conditioning).

Elimination Semi-Final: Ipswich 33 v Wynnum 6
Qualifying Semi-Final: Easts 31 v Mackay 18
Minor Semi-Final: Mackay 27 v Ipswich 16
Major Semi-Final: Easts 29 v Northern Pride 16
Preliminary Final: Mackay 20 v Northern Pride 6

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

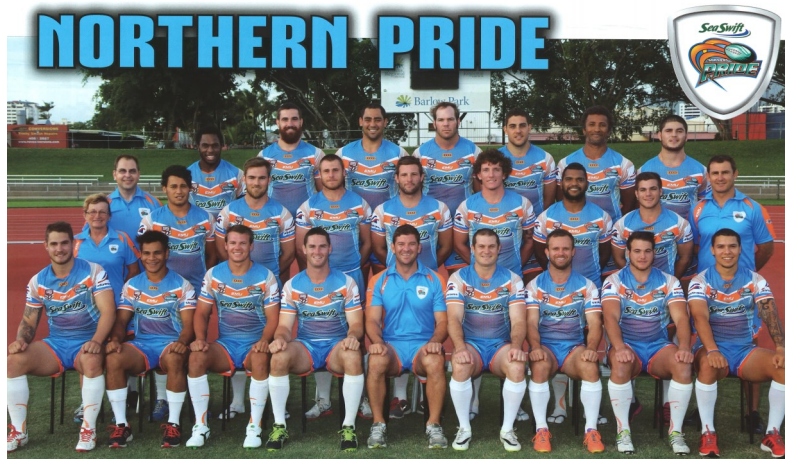
MACKAY 27 (Tries: B. Faraimo 2, M. Morgan, D. Milne, A. Mitchell; Goals: L. Taylor, D. Milne, M. Minto; Field Goal: M. Minto) **def. EASTS 20** (Tries: J. Sa'u 2, M. Garbutt; Goals: C. Walker 4)

2014

In 2014 the Queensland Cup expanded to 13 teams with the introduction of the PNG Hunters who had enormous crowd support wherever they played. They started very strongly only to just fall short of making the finals in their first season. The Northern Pride were minor premiers for the second season in a row. In week one of the finals Ipswich knocked out Tweed Heads winning the elimination final 28-10. Easts beat Wynnum in the qualifying final 18-12 and advanced to play the minor premiers Northern Pride who they came within a whisker of beating in the major semi-final going down 8-7. Wynnum beat Ipswich 34-22 to have another crack at Easts in the preliminary final. Cody Walker was on fire and scored 2 tries as the Tigers beat Wynnum 30-12.

It looked like Easts would seriously challenge the Pride in the Grand Final but it was one to truly forget for the Tigers fans as Easts slumped to their 7th grand final defeat since their last premiership in 1991. The Northern Pride brought their A game to thrash Easts 36-4 with Javed Bowen scoring a double and the Northern Pride scoring 6 tries to 1 in a record biggest ever grand final win to win their second Queensland Cup title.

They advanced to the first ever State Championship game against the NSW Cup winners Penrith which was highly entertaining. One freakish play in the game was when Penrith's Wes Naiqama looked certain to be bundled into touch by two Pride defenders, then spun around with the defenders going into touch and then passing for Capewell to score. Javed Bowen went one better than the week before to score 3 tries for the Pride to win 32-28 and take the inaugural State Championship.



Back Row: Dr Anthony Kresevic, Eddie Daniels, Tyrone McCarthy, Latu Filita, Alex Stamer, Justin Castellaro, Semi Tadulala, PJ Webb
 Middle Row: Deb Gallop (FAO), Jordan Blondi-Odo, Tom Hancock, Ben Spina, Blake Leary, Sheldon Powe-Hobbs, Davin Crampton, Maddie Oosen, Ben Rauter (assistant coach)
 Front Row: Jack Swendsen, Keelan White, Ryan Ghietti, Brett Anderson, Jason Demetriou (head coach), Jason Roos, Sam Obit, Brent Oosen, Shaun Nona
 Absent: Jared Allen, Joe O'Callaghan (assistant coach)

Elimination Semi-Final: Ipswich 28 v Tweed Heads 10
Qualifying Semi-Final: Easts 18 v Wynnum 12
Minor Semi-Final: Wynnum 34 v Ipswich 22
Major Semi-Final: Northern Pride 8 v Easts 7
Preliminary Final: Easts 30 v Wynnum 12

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTHERN PRIDE 36 (Tries: J. Bowen 2, B. Anderson, D. Crampton, R. Ghietti, K. Feldt; Goals: S. Nona 6) **def. EASTS 4** (Tries: J. McNally)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

NORTHERN PRIDE 32 (Tries: J. Bowen 3, T. McCarthy, S. Tadulala, B. Leary; Goals: S. Nona 2, J. Bowen 2) **def. PENRITH 28** (Tries: K. Moss, K. Moseley, W. Blake, E. Nabuli, L. Capewell; Goals: W. Naiqama 4)

2015

The Queensland Cup expanded again in 2015 with the inclusion of the Townsville Blackhawks who would be the prime feeder team for the North Queensland Cowboys. The Blackhawks stunned everybody with their dominance during the regular season easily finishing at the top of the table as minor premiers. Also impressing was the new side from last year, the PNG Hunters who improved enough to finish the regular season second behind the Blackhawks. In the major semi-final Townsville booked themselves a place in the final beating the PNG Hunters 26-12. After the PNG Hunters led 8-6 in the preliminary final, Ipswich scored 3 quick tries and dominated the remainder of the game to win 28-12 to advance to the grand final.

After some early nerves, the speed of Marmin Barba lit up the game in the favour of the Jets, with his bust down the sideline and pass inside to Dane Phillips. He scored one of his own soon after following an awful error from the Blackhawks. Townsville scored another try before Carlin Anderson scored just before half time to have the Jets ahead 16-8. The Jets started the second half with one of their customary short kick-offs leading to a try to Keiron Lander before another by Valekapa. Townsville's Robert Lui's try brought the score back to 26-20 before Matt Parcell sealed the game with a late try. Ipswich won 32-20 to take their first Queensland Cup title after four losing grand finals since their 1986 admission to the BRL.

They made it 2 out of 2 for Queensland sides in the State Championship. Ipswich, coached by Ben and Shane Walker, won 26-12 against Newcastle (who won the NSW Cup from 7th place) with Ipswich hooker Matt Parcell the man of the match.



Back Row: Josh Seage, Haydan Lipp, Gerico Cecil, Pat McCallum
 Third Row: Brandon McGrady, Fakahoko Teutau, Rod Griffin, Sam Martin, Liam Capewell, Kurt Capewell, Tyson Lofpo, Kurtis Lingwood, Billy McConnachie
 Second Row: Jessica Crear (trainer), Chris Ash, Carlin Anderson, Joshua Chandler (welfare officer), Phil Brady (trainer), Wade Glass (manager), Justin Holland (strength & conditioning trainer), Landon Hayes, Josh Clelland, James Devin (strength & conditioning trainer)
 Front Row: Marmin Barba, Chris Walker, Rickie Dodd (strength & conditioning trainer), James Landy (assistant manager), Shane Walker (co-coach), Keiron Lander (c), Wayne Wendt (Lands CEO), Dane Phillips, Ben Walker (co-coach), Dean Arbutnot (head trainer), Richard Pandia
 Absent: Wes Conlon, Matt Parcell, Nemani Valekapa, Daniel Vidot, Joe Ofahengaua

Elimination Semi-Final 1: Ipswich 54 v Northern Pride 26
Elimination Semi-Final 2: Easts 32 v Wynnum 24
Minor Semi-Final: Ipswich 44 v Easts 18
Major Semi-Final: Townsville 26 v PNG 12
Preliminary Final: Ipswich 28 v PNG 12

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

IPSWICH 32 (Tries: C. Anderson, M. Barba, N. Valekapa, D. Phillips, M. Parcell, K. Lander; Goals: C. Anderson 2, M. Barba, K. Lander) **def. TOWNSVILLE 20** (Tries: J. Hughes, Z. Santo, T. Humble, R. Lui; Goals: R. Lui 2)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

IPSWICH 26 (Tries: M. Barba, M. Parcell, R. Griffin, B. McConnachie; Goals: C. Anderson 5) **def. NEWCASTLE 12** (Tries: J. Feeney, G. Ndaira; Goals: G. Ndaira 2)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

2016

The 2016 Queensland Cup season included the same 14 teams as the previous season. Redcliffe were the minor premiers. Burleigh, Townsville, PNG Hunters and Sunshine Coast also made the finals. Easts and Souths duked it out to make the 6th spot with Easts prevailing. That's as far as they went with Townsville smashing them out of the finals with a 46-4 demolition. In the other elimination final a beefed up Sunshine Coast Falcons eliminated the PNG Hunters from their 2nd finals appearance in 3 seasons.

The Sunshine Coast proved their win was not a fluke by beating the highly fancied Townsville Blackhawks 18-10 in the minor semi-final. Burleigh stunned the minor premiers with a big 40-24 win against the Dolphins to advance first to the grand final. Redcliffe fought back and thumped the Sunshine Coast 38-16 in the preliminary final to set up a rematch against the Burleigh Bears.

Redcliffe were in their 11th Queensland Cup grand final but going against them was the extraordinary fact that only once in the past decade have the minor premiers gone on to win the Queensland Cup. Kurtis Rowe scored first for Burleigh in the 12th minute. Not long after, a slicing run by Cameron Cullen set up another try. Redcliffe stayed in the game all the way until Cullen, who's father Wayne was in Souths 1985 premiership team, scored the winning try in the 70th minute for Burleigh to take their 3rd Queensland Cup title.

The following week was a forgettable game for the State Championship as Illawarra strengthened by quite a number of Dragons NRL players thrashed Burleigh 54-12 as they became the first NSW team to win the State Championship.

2017

The 2017 Queensland Cup season included the same 14 teams as the previous season. In the two elimination finals Sunshine Coast got off to a big start against Souths and held on to win 26-18 while Easts staged a remarkable comeback from 16-nil down to win 20-16 against Townsville. Easts were then beaten by the Sunshine Coast Falcons 26-22. The PNG Hunters won a low scoring major semi final 6-4 against Redcliffe. Redcliffe were thrashed by Sunshine Coast 34-8 in the preliminary final.

The PNG Hunters after securing the minor premiership for 2017 were into their first Queensland Cup grand final and had the expectations of 8 million people in Papua New Guinea on their shoulders. Their rugby league mad followers made up the bulk of the record Queensland Cup grand final crowd of 11 260.

In the Grand Final Sunshine Coast got off to a flyer exposing some poor defence out wide going out to an early 10-0 lead. The Hunters held on, defended their hearts out and went to the break 10-0 down. Early in the second half Ase Boas scored for PNG from a grubber kick which was converted. Despite some awful handling by both sides, the rest of the game was intense and gripping. Willie Minoga became the hero for PNG when he pounced on a kick through to score with just over a minute to go which was converted for the PNG Hunters to win 12-10 and their first title and be the second non-Queensland team to win the Queensland Cup.

Unfortunately poor defence from PNG and great attack by Penrith, saw PNG thrashed 42-18 in the State Championship game levelling up the number of titles that NSW Cup winners had won 2-all.



Front Row: Cameron Cullen, Oliver Regan, Rhys Duke, Hayden Schwass, Jamal Fogarty (Co-Captain), Jamie Dowling (Co-Captain), Josh Berkers, Daniel Schwass, Kurtis Rowe, Waka Wanani.
Middle Row: Jeff Lynch, Brent Conn (Trainer), John Newton (Head Trainer), Jimmy Lenthall (Head Coach), Robert Campbell (Assistant Coach), Chris Mikkelson (Assistant Strength & Conditioning), Ben Jansen (Club Doctor), John Melrose (Physiotherapist), Jamie Winsley (Trainer), John Davis (Manager), Matt Keating (Assistant Coach), Josh Kilgallon.
Back Row: Pat Pollock, Lachlan Burr, Parahi Wilson, Connor Broadhurst, Sami Sauluma, Luke Page, Darren Griffiths, Paterika Vaivai, Louis Fanene, Tyler Chadburn, Jarrod Tua, Anthony Gray.
Absent: Simon Bruxton (Head Strength & Conditioning)

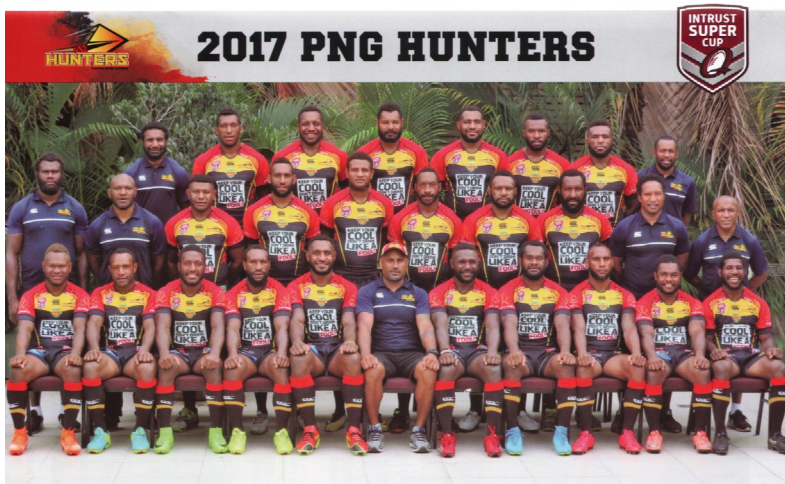
Elimination Semi-Final 1: Townsville 46 v Easts 4
Elimination Semi-Final 2: Sunshine Coast 18 v PNG 12
Minor Semi-Final: Sunshine Coast 18 v Townsville 10
Major Semi-Final: Burleigh 40 v Redcliffe 24
Preliminary Final: Redcliffe 38 v Sunshine Coast 16

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

BURLEIGH 26 (Tries: K. Rowe 2, S. Sauluma, C. Cullen; Goals: J. Fogarty 5) **def. REDCLIFFE 16** (Tries: J. Pearson, T. Cleal, D. Nicholls, Goals: D. Nicholls 2)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

ILLAWARRA 54 (Tries: S. Wakeman, D. Sironen, A. Quinlan, J. Host, C. Lewis, D. Hutchinson, S. Havili, K. Mann, T. Milne; Goals: S. Nona 9) **def. BURLEIGH 12** (Tries: J. Allaomai, K. Rowe, Goals: J. Fogarty, L. Page)



Front Row (From left): Wariovo Puaa, Wawa Paul, Watson Boas, Adev Wires, Wellington Albert (Vice-Captain), Michael Marum (Head Coach), Ase Boas (Captain), Ester Momo, Stargroth Arman, Glen Githuru, Willie Minoga.
Middle Row: Joe Bruno (Trainer) Nigel Hukuta (Assistant Coach), Brandy Peter, Moses Meninga, Bland Abanu, David Loko, Esau Suro, Willie Minoga, Toua Kohu, (Physiotherapist), Arnold Kewarby (Manager).
Back Row: Roger Laka (Assistant Manager), Nevan Pulu, Enock Mak, Koro Koroa Jr, Stanton Albert, Maku Peter Kulu, Randy Brown, Solomon Kuluwasi (Head Trainer)

Elimination Semi-Final 1: Sunshine Coast 26 def. Souths 18
Elimination Semi-Final 2: Easts 20 def. Townsville 16
Minor Semi-Final: Sunshine Coast 26 def. Easts 22
Major Semi-Final: PNG 6 def. Redcliffe 4
Preliminary Final: Sunshine Coast 34 def. Redcliffe 8

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

PNG 12 (Tries: W. Boas, W. Minoga; Goals: A. Boas 2) **def. SUNSHINE COAST 10** (Tries: M. Soper-Lawler, J. Stimson; Goals: J. Stimson)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

PENRITH 42 (Tries: T. Satini 4, D. Nicholls, V. Kikau, C. Chricton, M. Sivo; Goals: D. Nicholls 5) **def. PNG 18** (Tries: A. Wera, B. Abavu, A. Boas; Goals A. Boas 3)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

2018

The 2018 Queensland Cup season included the same 14 teams as the previous season. In the two elimination finals there was no joy for North Queensland as Ipswich had a big 32-12 win against Townsville and Easts thrashed the Northern Pride 32-0.

Easts unleashed another thrashing on Ipswich 50-20 in the minor semi final while in the major semi final Redcliffe had a tight 13-6 win against Burleigh to advance to their 12th Queensland Cup grand final. In the preliminary final the fairytale run for Easts continued as they beat Burleigh 36-26 to set up another grand final against their old rivals Redcliffe. The two grand old clubs would meet in their fifth grand final (They had previously played 3 BRL grand finals and one Queensland Cup grand final).

Both clubs had played a number of unsuccessful grand finals since their last premiership. Though Redcliffe had won the most Queensland Cup titles winning 5 titles, they had been beaten in their last 3 grand finals. For Easts the pain has been much longer. Since their last title in 1991 they have lost 4 BRL grand finals and 4 Queensland Cup grand finals (one in extra time) and sadly for Tigers fans it was about to become 5 losing Queensland Cup grand finals without a Queensland Cup title.

Easts had a magical run winning 3 big games after finishing 5th on the table but it would be the minor premiers Redcliffe who would break their 12 year premiership drought with a convincing 36-22 win over a gallant Easts side. Dolphins fullback Trai Fuller was the standout in the grand final scoring two breathtaking solo tries. Further tries early in the second half to Nathan Watts, Tom Opacic and Kotoni Staggs put the game beyond the Tigers reach who made a late burst. The Dolphins held on to win their 6th Queensland Cup title, twice as many as Burleigh with the next most titles.

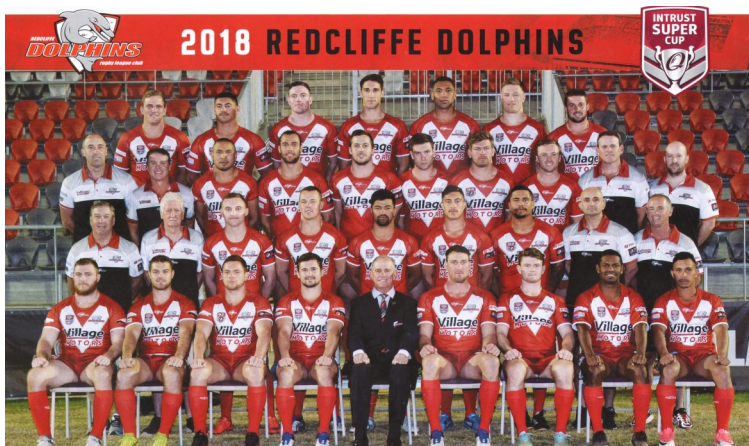
Unfortunately for Redcliffe they were outgunned by NSW Cup winners Canterbury 42-18 in the State Championship game that saw NSW Cup winners take a 3-2 lead over Qld Cup winners in the annual playoff game. Ironically the score was the same as the defeat inflicted last year by Penrith over PNG.

The 2019 Queensland Cup season included the same 14 teams as the previous season but the biggest change to the format of the competition was the decision to expand the finals to a top 8 and playing an identical finals series like the NRL.

The Sunshine Coast Falcons were totally dominant up to the finals winning 21 out of 23 games (Lost one and drew one game) to take the minor premiership finishing 7 points clear of second placed Wynnum Manly with Burleigh and Townsville rounding out the top 4. During the regular season the Falcons racked up 6 cricket scores of 50 points or more. The biggest of them were beating Souths Logan by 72-4, Ipswich by 62-8 and PNG by 60-6. It looked like the minor premiers curse had gone away in the last two seasons when the minor premiers won the competition but it would strike back again this year.

The two elimination finals went down to the wire with Redcliffe pipping Tweed Heads with a late field goal to win 25-24 while Easts knocked out Norths winning 24-20. Burleigh also just pipped Wynnum Manly 34-30 in their qualifying final but the real shock in the first finals week was Townsville beating the minor premiers Sunshine Coast by 20-12. In week 2 Wynnum beat Redcliffe 20-16 while Sunshine Coast got back on track knocking out Easts 22-14. In the preliminary finals Wynnum advanced to their first grand final since their double premierships in 2011/12 defeating Townsville 26-14. Burleigh provided the biggest shock of the season knocking out the minor premiers, Sunshine Coast, by 24-6.

With the completion of the new stands at Dolphin Oval it was decided it would be the new Queensland Cup grand final venue. A good crowd of 7784 of mostly Wynnum supporters saw Burleigh dominate the first half going ahead at the break by 12-4 with tries to Tyrone Roberts-Davis and Kurtis Rowe. Wynnum scored the first try after the break bringing the score back to 12-10 but a few minutes later Burleigh began to dominate with a second try to Burleigh fullback and man of the match, Kurtis Rowe, a great dummy half try by Pat Politoni and finally an 80 metre special from halfback Jamal Fogarty in the final minutes to seal a 28-10 win for Burleigh's 4th Queensland Cup title and second in four years. Unfortunately they were pipped at the post by Newtown 20-16 in an exciting State Championship game the week after. Newtown won the NSW Cup from 7th place.



Front Row: James Taylor, Josh Beleigh, Shelton Phipps, Cameron Cullen (Captain), Bob Jones (Chairman), Nick Sperry (Vice-Captain), Hugh Pratt, Josh Fooks, Trai Fuller
 Second Row: Gordon Adams (Player), Gary Walker (Manager), Tristan Hogg, Sam Anderson, Tony Curran, Kotoni Staggs, Bobby Butler, Michael Costello (Head Trainer), Peter Robinson (Assistant Coach)
 Third Row: Adam Mogg (Head Coach), Scott Murray (Assistant Coach), James Hoggins, Tony Ruskoff, Tom Grayby, Tom Opacic, Samson Oduro, Jason Turner, Gerard Pate (Head Strength & Conditioning), Michael Walsh (Rehab Coordinator)
 Back Row: Nathan Watts, Jeremy Hawkins, Jake Sperry, Scott Strath, Moseley Pongas, Aaron Whitechurch, Bryce Donovan

Elimination Semi-Final 1: Ipswich 32 def. Townsville 12

Elimination Semi-Final 2: Easts 32 def. Northern Pride 0

Minor Semi-Final: Easts 50 def. Ipswich 20

Major Semi-Final: Redcliffe 13 def. Burleigh 6

Preliminary Final: Easts 36 def. Burleigh 26

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

REDCLIFFE 36 (Tries: T. Fuller 2, J. Hawkins, K. Staggs, N. Watts, T. Opacic; Goals: K. Staggs 6) **def. EASTS 22** (Tries: C. Carey, M Seve, J. Foster, S. Drinkwater; Goals: B. Torpy 3)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

CANTERBURY 42 (Tries: J. Clelland 2, R. Martin, C. Smith, R. To'omaga, J. Okunbor, F. Brown; Goals: R. Martin 5, G. Eastwood, J. Clelland) **def. REDCLIFFE 18** (Tries: K. Staggs 2, J. Taylor; Goals: B. Donovan 2, K. Staggs)

2019



Front Row: Andrew Horoska (Head Strength & Conditioning), Reece Summer, Aji Noema-Melangi, Jordan Scott, Hayden Schwass, Jimmy Lenthain (Head Coach), Luke Page (Captain), Kurtis Rowe,
 Middle Row: Ben Jansen (Doctor), Josh Rogers, Darius Farmer, Reece Tapine, Jeff Lynch, Jack Buchanan, Dylan Kelly, Dylan Prynham, Jacobo Hind, Oliver Percy, Jodie Benkers (Manager),
 Back Row: John Newton (Head Trainer), Josh Adams, Blake Lissy, Sam Saalima, Matthew Robinson, Josh Benkers, Troy Leo, Fyrrone Roberto-Davis, Sam Coster, Kyran Fitzpatrick

Elimination Semi-Final 1: Redcliffe 25 def. Tweed Heads 24

Elimination Semi-Final 2: Easts 24 def. Norths 20

Qualifying Final 1: Townsville 20 def. Sunshine Coast 12

Qualifying Final 2: Burleigh 34 def. Wynnum 32

Preliminary Semi-Final 1: Wynnum 20 def. Redcliffe 16

Preliminary Semi-Final 2: Sunshine Coast 22 def. Easts 14

Preliminary Final 1: Wynnum 26 def. Townsville 14

Preliminary Final 2: Burleigh 24 def. Sunshine Coast 6

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

BURLEIGH 26 (Tries: K. Rowe 2, T. Roberts-Davis, P. Politoni, J. Fogarty, Goals: J. Fogarty 3, T. Roberts-Davis) **def. WYNNUM 10** (Tries: S. Scarlett, E. Burns; Goals: P. Templeman)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

NEWTOWN 20 (Tries: S. Katoa 2, J. Ferris 2; Goals: G. Eastwood, B. Trindall) **def. BURLEIGH 16** (Tries: A. Don 2, J. Fogarty; Goals: J. Fogarty 2)

THE QUEENSLAND CUP

2020

The **2020 Queensland Cup season** was to be the 25th season of Queensland's top-level statewide rugby league competition run by the Queensland Rugby League. On 27 March, the competition, known as the **Intrust Super Cup** due to sponsorship from Intrust Super, was cancelled after one round due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the first time the competition would not be played out since its inaugural season in 1996.

2021

The 2021 Queensland Cup season included the same 14 teams as previous seasons with 8 teams qualifying for the finals. Norths were clear and away the best team leading up to the finals finishing with 30 points, some 6 points clear of Wynnum and Burleigh.

In the first week of the finals Souths Logan avoided elimination with an exciting 30-24 win against Townsville with Redcliffe winning the other elimination final 40-20 over the Sunshine Coast. In the qualifying finals Norths beat Tweed 22-16 and Wynnum beat Burleigh 22-14 to advance to the preliminary finals. In finals week 2 Tweed Heads beat Redcliffe 41-22 and Burleigh ended Souths Logan's run beating them 16-4.

The preliminary finals were played as a Sunday afternoon double header at Suncorp Stadium. Wynnum and Norths qualified for the grand final with Wynnum Manly beating Tweed Heads 40-18 and Norths beat Burleigh 34-16.

For the 2021 Queensland Cup Grand Final Dolphin Oval (now renamed Moreton Daily Stadium) played host after receiving another grandstand upgrade on its eastern side since it played host to the 2019 grand final.

In a thrilling clash Norths broke their 23 year premiership drought defeating Wynnum Manly 16-10 in front of 7 264 spectators. Norths scored first as Leivaha Pulu barged over in the 7th minute. Norths stretched the lead to 10-0 with a try and Tyrone Roberts in the 32nd minute. A few minutes later teenage sensation Selwyn Cobbo crossed over for Wynnum with the Devils leading at the half time break by only 10-6.

It was solid defence for the next 30 minutes before David Mead scored for Wynnum and the score was locked at 10-all. Man of the match, Michael Molo, after frantic offloads and a grubber kick dived over with 7 minutes to go to score the winning try for Norths. With the NSW Cup cancelled due to COVID there was no State Championship game for 2021.



Elimination Semi-Final 1: Redcliffe 40 def. Sunshine Coast 20

Elimination Semi-Final 2: Souths Logan 30 def. Townsville 24

Qualifying Final 1: Wynnum Manly 22 def. Burleigh 14

Qualifying Final 2: Norths 22 def. Tweed Heads 16

Preliminary Semi-Final 1: Tweed Heads 41 def. Redcliffe 22

Preliminary Semi-Final 2: Burleigh 16 def. Souths Logan 4

Preliminary Final 1: Wynnum Manly 40 def. Tweed Heads 18

Preliminary Final 2: Norths 34 def. Burleigh 16

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL:

NORTHS 16 (Tries: L. Pulu, T. Roberts, M. Molo; Goals: T. Roberts, C. Broadhurst) **def. WYNNUM MANLY 10** (Tries: S. Cobbo, D. Mead; Goals: J. Campagnolo)

NO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME DUE TO NSW CUP COMPETITION BEING CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19.

APPENDIX THREE

BRISBANE GRAND FINAL RESULTS

1909-1997

Year	Premiers	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1909	Valleys	22-4	South Brisbane	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1910	Ipswich	17-2 *FR	Toombul	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1911	Valley-Toombul	13-2 *W	Ipswich	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1912	Natives	10-0 *S	South Brisbane	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1913	West End	5-2	Natives	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1914	Valleys	18-8	West End	Exhibition Ground	2 000
1915	Valleys	10-9 *S	Wests	Exhibition Ground	2 000
1916	Wests	4-2 *S	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	1 500
1917	Valleys	13-5	Merthyr	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1918	Valleys	16-12 *W	Merthyr	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1919	Valleys	28-2 *S	Coorparoo	Davies Park	n/a
1920	Wests	16-8	Brothers	Davies Park	6 000
1921	Carltons	12-10 *S	Coorparoo	Davies Park	n/a
1922	Wests * U	20-9	Coorparoo	Exhibition Ground	n/a
1923	Coorparoo	13-2	Valleys	Exhibition Ground	8 000
1924	Valleys	11-8 *S	Brothers	Exhibition Ground	9 000
1925	Carltons	24-5 *W	Coorparoo	Davies Park	6 000
1926	Brothers	6-5 *S	Coorparoo	Davies Park	10 000
1927	Grammars	13-11	Wests	Davies Park	n/a
1928	University	10-7 *W	Carltons	Exhibition Ground	n/a
1929	University	12-11	Coorparoo	Exhibition Ground	2 000
1930	Carltons	19-8 *S	Valleys	Davies Park	n/a
1931	Valleys	27-9 *S	Grammars	Davies Park	n/a
1932	Wests	8-7 *S	Grammars	Brisbane Cricket Ground	5 000
1933	Valleys	9-3 *W	Wests	Davies Park	n/a
1934	Norths	7-4	Wests	Davies Park	2 500
1935	Brothers	11-9 *ET	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	n/a
1936	Wests	13-12	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	2 000
1937	Valleys	9-7	Wests	Brisbane Cricket Ground	2 000
1938	Norths	16-10	Valleys	Brisbane Cricket Ground	4 500
1939	Brothers	11-9	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	7 000
1940	Norths	17-11	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	5 000
1941	Valleys	13-7	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	4 200
1942	Brothers	20-11	Souths	Oxenham Park	2 000
1943	Brothers	13-7	Valleys	Exhibition Ground	3 000
1944	Valleys	16-12	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	8 000
1945	Souths	21-11	Norths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	10 000

Year	Premiers	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1946	Valleys	5-2	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	10 000
1947	Easts	15-2	Souths	Brisbane Cricket Ground	9 500
1948	Wests	14-8	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	6 000
1949	Souths	22-8	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	6 532
1950	Easts	14-10	Wests	Brisbane Cricket Ground	6 000
1951	Souths	20-10	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	7 000
1952	Wests	15-14	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	9 000
1953	Souths	21-4	Easts	Brisbane Cricket Ground	10 000
1954	Wests	35-18	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	8 000
1955	Valleys * U	17-7	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	14 000
1956	Brothers	17-10	Wests	Brisbane Cricket Ground	14 000
1957	Valleys	18-17	Brothers	Brisbane Cricket Ground	16 151
1958	Brothers	22-7	Valleys	Lang Park	20 000
1959	Norths	24-18	Brothers	Lang Park	18 921
1960	Norths	18-5	Valleys	Lang Park	14 000
1961	Norths	29-5	Valleys	Lang Park	19 824
1962	Norths	22-0	Valleys	Lang Park	17 000
1963	Norths	18-8	Souths	Lang Park	18 000
1964	Norths	13-4	Brothers	Lang Park	21 000
1965	Redcliffe	15-2	Valleys	Lang Park	25 309
1966	Norths	9-6	Brothers	Lang Park	21 499
1967	Brothers	6-2	Norths	Lang Park	31 470
1968	Brothers	21-4	Easts	Lang Park	36 188
1969	Norths	14-2	Valleys	Lang Park	34 752
1970	Valleys	13-11 *ET	Norths	Lang Park	30 000
1971	Valleys	18-10	Easts	Lang Park	37 957
1972	Easts	16-15	Valleys	Lang Park	37 672
1973	Valleys	15-7	Redcliffe	Lang Park	42 000
1974	Valleys	9-2	Brothers	Lang Park	38 000
1975	Wests	26-24	Redcliffe	Lang Park	41 000
1976	Wests	16-1	Easts	Lang Park	37 000
1977	Easts	17-13	Redcliffe	Lang Park	37 000
1978	Easts	14-10	Valleys	Lang Park	30 000
1979	Valleys	26-0	Souths	Lang Park	35 000
1980	Norths	17-15	Souths	Lang Park	32 000
1981	Souths	13-9	Redcliffe	Lang Park	30 000
1982	Wynnum Manly	17-3	Souths	Lang Park	36 000
1983	Easts	14-6	Redcliffe	Lang Park	25 000
1984	Wynnum Manly	42-8	Souths	Lang Park	25 000

Year	Premiers	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1985	Souths	10-8	Wynnum Manly	Lang Park	31 000
1986	Wynnum Manly	14-6	Brothers	Lang Park	25 000
1987	Brothers	26-8	Redcliffe	Lang Park	25 000
1988	Valleys-Tweed Heads	17-14	Ipswich	Lang Park	12 000
1989	Valleys	28-4	Ipswich	Lang Park	11 000
1990	Valleys	17-16	Norths	Lang Park	13 000
1991	Easts	25-10	Wests	Lang Park	n/a
1992	Wests	40-10	Easts	Lang Park	n/a
1993	Wests	18-12	Easts	Lang Park	n/a
1994	Redcliffe	24-18	Wests	Lang Park	n/a
1995	Wynnum Manly	32-24	Easts	Lang Park	12 176
1996 †	Redcliffe	16-12	Souths	Lang Park	n/a
1997 †	Redcliffe	35-6	Easts	Lang Park (Renamed in the 1990's to Suncorp Stadium)	n/a

Key to symbols:

* ET	Extra Time	Game decided in extra time.
* FR	Grand Final Replay	The only drawn grand final was in 1910 when Ipswich and Toombul played a 10-10 draw. Ipswich won the Grand Final replay.
*W	Withstood Challenge	Result of the deciding Challenge Final where a team, other than the minor premiers, withstood a challenge by the minor premiers who were beaten in either the semi-finals or the previous final.
*S	Successful Challenge	Result of the deciding Challenge Final where the minor premiers, after being beaten in the semis or the final, exercised their right of challenge and won.
* U	Undefeated	Undefeated throughout whole season
†	Final series only	In 1996 & 1997 running during (as Brisbane clubs were knocked out) and following the QLD Cup final series, a separate final series was played involving the Brisbane clubs based on their position on the QLD Cup ladder for the Brisbane premiership. This was abolished after the same QLD Cup finalists played the Brisbane Grand Final soon after.

STATE LEAGUE FINAL RESULTS

Year	Winners	Score	Runners-Up
1982	Easts	23-15	Redcliffe
1983	Valleys	21-12	Easts
1984	Wynnum Manly	21-10	Souths
1985	Wynnum Manly	16-0	Brothers
1986	Wynnum Manly	46-10	Redcliffe
1987	Wynnum Manly	36-14	Redcliffe
1988	Valleys-Tweed Heads	26-10	Easts
1989	Easts	30-4	Central Queensland
1990	Valleys	34-26	Easts
1991	North Queensland	44-30	Central Queensland
1992	Brisbane Capitols	30-10	North Queensland
1993	Mackay	18-12	Wests
1994	Mackay	34-14	Wests
1995	Rockhampton	26-22	Gold Coast

QUEENSLAND CUP GRAND FINAL RESULTS

Year	Winners	Score	Runners-Up	Venue	Crowd
1996	Toowoomba	8-6	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	6 500
1997	Redcliffe	18-16	Easts	Suncorp Stadium	n/a
1998	Norths	35-16	Wests	Suncorp Stadium	4 283
1999	Burleigh	12-10	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	n/a
2000	Redcliffe	14-6	Toowoomba	Suncorp Stadium	7 280
2001	Toowoomba	28-26	Redcliffe	Dolphin Oval	7 000
2002	Redcliffe	34-10	Ipswich	Dolphin Oval	10 000
2003	Redcliffe	31-18	Burleigh	Dolphin Oval	8 000
2004	Burleigh	22-18 * ET	Easts	Suncorp Stadium	9 398
2005	North Queensland	36-6	Burleigh	Suncorp Stadium	6 893
2006	Redcliffe	27-6	Toowoomba	Suncorp Stadium	5 538
2007	Tweed Heads	28-18	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	7 000
2008	Souths Logan	24-18	Ipswich	North Ipswich Reserve	6 706
2009	Sunshine Coast	32-18	Northern Pride	Sunshine Coast Stadium	2 500
2010	Northern Pride	30-20	Norths	Suncorp Stadium	6 300
2011	Wynnum Manly	16-10	Tweed Heads	Suncorp Stadium	6 182
2012	Wynnum Manly	20-10	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	9 682
2013	Mackay	27-20	Easts	North Ipswich Reserve	6 706
2014	Northern Pride	36-4	Easts	Suncorp Stadium	7 135
2015	Ipswich	32-20	Townsville	Suncorp Stadium	8 086
2016	Burleigh	26-16	Redcliffe	Suncorp Stadium	6 611
2017	PNG	12-10	Sunshine Coast	Suncorp Stadium	11 260
2018	Redcliffe	36-22	Easts	Suncorp Stadium	7 504
2019	Burleigh	28-10	Wynnum Manly	Dolphin Oval	7 784
2020	CANCELLED DUE TO	COVID-19			
2021	Norths	16-10	Wynnum Manly	Dolphin Oval	7 264

* ET Extra Time

Game decided in extra time.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Year	Winners	Score	Runners-Up	Venue
2014	Northern Pride (QLD)	32-28	Penrith (NSW)	Stadium Australia
2015	Ipswich (QLD)	26-12	Newcastle (NSW)	Stadium Australia
2016	Illawarra (NSW)	54-12	Burleigh (QLD)	Stadium Australia
2017	Penrith (NSW)	42-18	PNG (QLD Cup winners)	Stadium Australia
2018	Canterbury (NSW)	42-18	Redcliffe (QLD)	Stadium Australia
2019	Newtown (NSW)	20-16	Burleigh (QLD)	Stadium Australia

NO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES IN 2020 AND 2021 DUE TO BOTH COMPETITIONS IN 2020
AND NSW CUP IN 2021 BEING CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19.

PREMIERSHIPS BY CLUB

Valleys 24:	Pre-BRL (7) BRL (17) inc 3 post-Broncos	1909, 1911 (shared as part of Valley-Toombul), 1914, 1915, 1917, 1918, 1919 1924, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1941, 1944, 1946, 1955 (Undefeated), 1957, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1979, 1988 (shared as part of Valleys-Tweed Heads), 1989, 1990		
Norths 16:	BRL (14) QLD Cup (2)	1911, (shared as part of Valley-Toombul), 1927 (as Grammars), 1934, 1938, 1940, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964 (Record of 6 in a row), 1966, 1969, 1980 1998, 2021		
Wests 12:	Pre-BRL (2) BRL (10) inc 2 post-Broncos	1916, 1920 1922 (Undefeated), 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1954, 1975, 1976, 1992, 1993		
Souths 11:	Pre-BRL (2) BRL: (8) QLD Cup (1)	1913 (West End), 1921 (as Carltons) 1925 (as Carltons), 1930 (as Carltons), 1945, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1981, 1985 2008 (as Souths Logan)		
Brothers 10:	BRL (10)	1926, 1935, 1939, 1942, 1943, 1956, 1958, 1967, 1968, 1987		
Easts 8:	BRL (8) inc 1 post-Broncos	1923 (as Coorparoo), 1947, 1950, 1972 1977, 1978, 1983, 1991		
Redcliffe 8:	BRL (2) inc 1 post-Broncos QLD Cup (6)	1965, 1994 Not included above are their 1996 & 1997 BRL Grand Final wins as neither were a truly separate season premiership to the Queensland Cup competition won in 1996 by Toowoomba and in 1997 by Redcliffe 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2018		
Wynnum 6:	BRL (4) inc 1 post-Broncos QLD Cup (2)	1982, 1984, 1986, 1995 2011, 2012		
Burleigh 4:	QLD Cup (4)	1999, 2004, 2016, 2019		
Ipswich 2:	Pre-BRL (1) QLD Cup (1)	1910 2015		
University 2:	BRL (2)	1928, 1929		
Toowoomba 2:	QLD Cup (2)	1996, 2001		
Tweed Heads 2:	BRL (1) post-Broncos QLD Cup (1)	1988 (shared as part of Valleys-Tweed Heads) 2007		
Northern Pride 2:	QLD Cup (2)	2010, 2014	PNG:	QLD Cup (1) 2017
North Qld 1:	QLD Cup (1)	2005	Sunshine Coast 1:	QLD Cup (1) 2009
Mackay 1:	QLD Cup (1)	2013	Natives 1:	Pre-BRL (1) 1912