

YOUR RUGBY EXPERIENCE

Third Issue 27th February 2026

Inside: Club Profiles – Division 2-6 A to Z of Suburban Rugby Clubs

What's happening in the pre-season for 2026

NSW Waratahs 2 wins in 2 matches to start in 2026





Welcome to Your Rugby Experience

Who is the Duck Man and what is **Your Rugby Experience** all about? Well, Your Rugby Experience is a dedicated digital magazine to promote everything good about subbies rugby and the clubs who will be participating in the 2026 men's and women's competition.

Leading into a men's home RWC in 2027 and a women's home RWC in 2029 is an exciting time to be involved in NSW Suburban Rugby Union and supporting the Waratahs, Wallabies and Wallaroos in 2026.

You always hear in the local public and the mainstream media that rugby can do better. Most people unfortunately only have an outside view of what is happening in the game of rugby from what media broadcasters want to tell you. Rugby as a game in whole, but also NSW Suburban Rugby Union has taken massive steps forward to promote the game in recent years.



Prior to 2020 and there were no matches broadcast on TV outside of the Shute Shield, Super Rugby and International rugby. Now the competition provides livestream coverage across all 6 divisions and the Joy Johnson Cup women's competition. This was previously unheard of the amount of coverage which started back with Cluch in 2020 and is now proudly livestreamed with NSW Suburban Rugby broadcast partners Sideline Sport who have helped give coverage of all the matches and turn some local club knockabout players into local heroes and heroines throughout the competition into household names and global superstars.

I announced last week that the podcast **Your Rugby Experience** will be up and running shortly. I have reached out to some specific people to participate, but there is an open invitation to clubs, players, coaches and officials of clubs and the game to contribute to the podcast from time to time or even a semi regular or regular basis. I would love to put together an



A team of contributors who would like to participate on a regular basis, but I will leave this up to the individuals as I know everyone is busy in the fast-paced world we currently live in.

If you would like to subscribe to receive this weekly, you can subscribe via my Patreon:

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Have a fantastic weekend and go the mighty Waratahs!

Keep on Duckin'





Around The Fields



SUBBIES 10'S 2026 VOLUNTEERS WANTED

WARRIORS WILL BE HOSTING WOMENS
AND COLTS SUBBIE'S 10'S - A FULL DAY OF
RUGBY AND WE NEED YOUR
HELP...LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR
SET UP, PUT DOWN, BBQ AND CANTEEN ON
THE DAY.



SATURDAY 7TH MARCH |



TBC |

ALWYN LINDFIELD RESERVE

PRESEASON CONTINUES



6:30PM TUESDAY & THURSDAY
GREENLEES PARK, CONCORD

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN THE BRIARS!



Balmain Rugby

Preseason

BRING A FRIEND - JOIN THE WOLFPACK

J-Mac Sports Photography

Training Schedule

Leichhardt # 2 - Tues & Thurs
7pm - Joggers and boots
Colts and Men's players wanted



ALL SUBBIES CLUBS WELCOME
GREAT PRIZES - MEN'S AND WOMEN'S



Hassell Park
Saturday 11th
April 2026

Prize Pool*

- Men's Champions: **\$1,000**
- Women's Champions: **\$1,000**
- Men's Runners-Up: **\$500**
- Women's Runners-Up: **\$500**

***T&Cs apply**



NSW RUGBY
COACHING COURSE
DATES

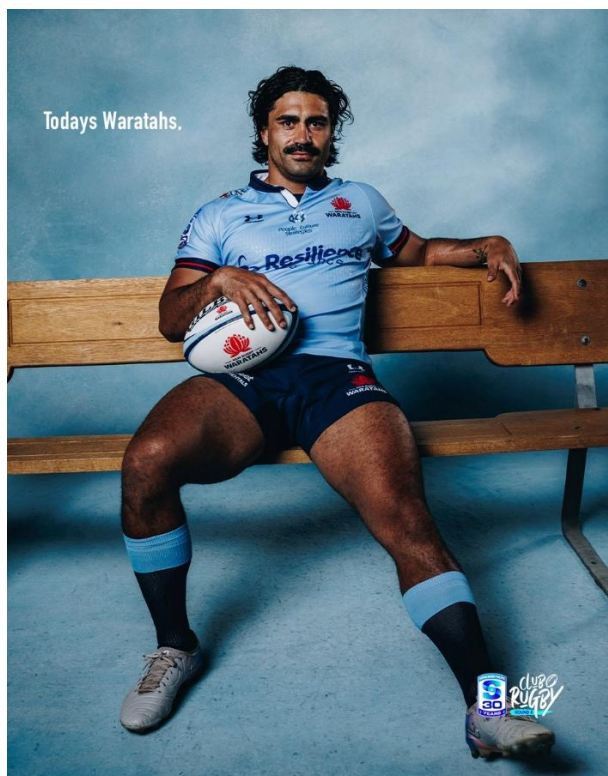


COMMUNITY COACH COURSES

28 February– 1 March - Orange
7–8 March - Wollongong & Central Coast



Charlie Gamble



Once a Shammie

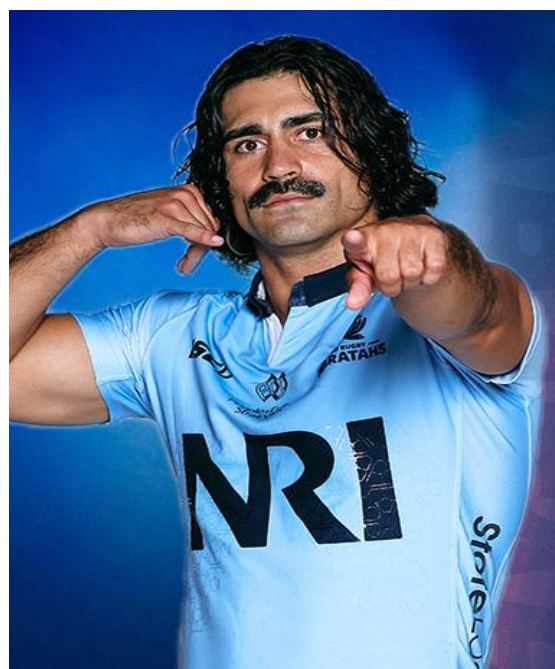


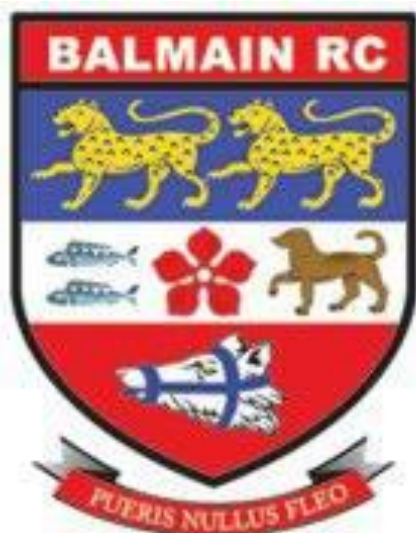
Charlie Gamble has an interesting rugby story. The NSW Waratahs player didn't always think that he was going to make it in and was extremely athletically gifted in track and field specialising in shot put and discuss throw. The former St Bede's College, Christchurch student represented New Zealand in athletics and was a competitor at the 2013 Australian Youth Olympic Festival and the IAAF World Youth championships in Athens. He finished 18th in the world in the IAAF event which took place in Donetsk, Ukraine and he held multiple athletic records for St Bede's College including the U14 and U19 5kg shot put and the 1.25kg discuss throw in U14s and U16s. He started playing at St Bede's College at 14 and after 3 years in the 1st XV, he took up an invitation to play in the Crusaders Academy in 2013. He played for the Crusaders B Team and was called up to the New Zealand U20 side for a trial game under Scott Razor Roverson, but he did not earn an international cap for the team. A long term foot injury prevented him from playing rugby and he contemplated a return to athletics. Gamble decided it was best to try something different so he moved to Sydney to play for Petersham after being approached on Facebook once he had put his impressive CV online.



Seriously, who wouldn't want a player that was in the Crusaders Academy squad coming down to play subbies with your club and building the culture and getting a feel of the Subbies experience. Following a highly successful 2018 season with the Shammies which included winning the Kentwell Cup, Gamble was headhunted by the Beasties Head Coach Pauli Taumoepeau to play in the back row of an injury depleted team, and he was once again a standout performer for Eastern Suburbs. In August 2019, Gamble was named in the 33-man Sydney squad ahead of the 2019 National Rugby Championship (NRC). He made 5 appearances throughout this tournament, but it was a springboard to bigger and better things. In October 2019, the NSW Waratahs announced the signing of Gamble for the 2020 season on a 1-year contract but unfortunately was not a part of the cancelled January to March 2020 season or the newly created Super Rugby AU for the remainder of 2020. Gamble finally made his debut against the ACT Brumbies at the SCG in Round 7 on 2nd April 2021. Charlie has since kicked on and has played over 50 Waratahs games in Super Rugby, and has yet to make his international debut for the Wallabies, but is hopeful with Joe Schmidt in charge and QLD Reds coach Les Kiss taking the

reigns at the conclusion of the Super Rugby season that he might well find himself in the Wallaby Gold jersey representing Australia with a busy test match schedule ahead for the coming season with 13 tests throughout the year including a 3 test Spring tour in the UK in November. Joe Schmidt's team play 3 matches against Ireland who are current world number 3, France the world number 4 and then world number 10 Italy before Schmidt hands the baton to Kiss. This is a prime opportunity for the former Shammie to stamp his claim at a Wallabies spot, and Charlie will be carrying the luck and well wishes of Waratahs fans and all of the NSW Sydney Suburban players who ever dreamed of one day having an opportunity to play professional rugby and one day maybe represent the Wallabies.





Balmain Rugby Club

Balmain Rugby Football Club founded in (1873) was one of the foundation clubs of Australian rugby when one year after its creation the Southern Rugby Union was created. The NSWRU (The Southern RU) was established in 1874, well before the Unions of Ireland (1879), Wales (1880), South Africa (1889) and New Zealand (1892).

Balmain won its first premiership in the first year of competition; 1875 when captained by Australian cricket captain Billy Murdoch & in the early days its playing ranks included NSW Premiers, Governor Generals, gold diggers, boiler makers & rabbitohs alike. For those of you not akin to what a rabbitoh actually is (I needed to confirm this myself), it is a person or butcher who sells rabbits for food. The original uniform of Balmain was a dark blue and white striped jersey and

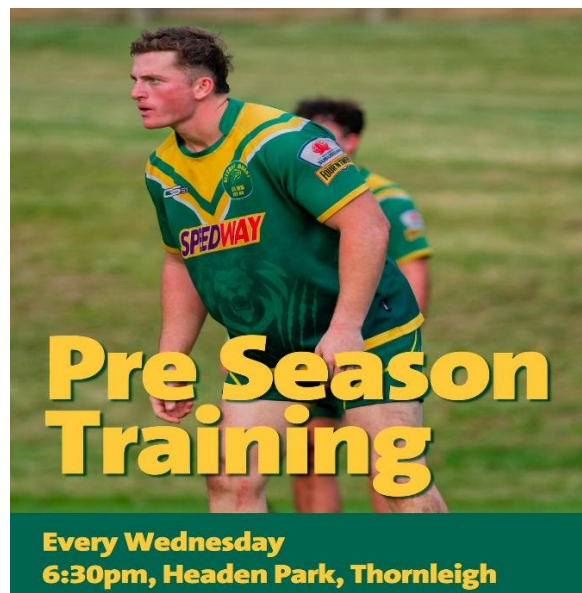
stockings, white flannel pants, and scarlet cap and the matches were played at Birchgrove Oval of which Sir Henry Parkes and Sir John Kerr attended. In 1900 when the district scheme started Balmain District Club was founded and the Club adopted a black jersey with a 6-inch single gold bar. In 1919, Balmain merged with Glebe to become Glebe-Balmain RFC. From 1919 till 2004 Balmain did not have it's own rugby club until a couple of fans decided to re-establish Balmain Rugby Club. In 2005 they were re-admitted into the NSW Suburban competition, and along the way they built and grew club numbers and in 2010 signed Wallabies Drew Mitchell and Matt Giteau and won the 1st and 2nd grade premierships. And then picked up the club championship in Division 2 in 2012 and the 1st grade and 2nd grade premierships as well as signing French star Sebastien Chabal. They also won the Cowboy Cup and in 2013 were joint premiers in the Kentwell Cup 1st Division 1st grade. Balmain have had some lean years but are in the process of rebuilding post-Covid and in 2025 Balmain di win the Jeffery Cup 4th division 1st grade and went down 40-36 vs Wakehurst in the Radford Cup Colts competition. 2026 promises to be an exciting year for the Muzzled Wolves.



Beecroft Rugby Club

Beecroft Rugby Club was formed as an entity in 1998. Indeed, it has proved to be a highly competitive and progressive club and grew as a logical extension of a highly successful junior clubs that have provided sporting opportunity through Rugby for generations of boys and young men in the Hills district. The club has excellent relations with all local junior clubs including Beecroft Barbarians and is committed to sport and social integration for the youth of the area. Beecroft Rugby Club had its origins in the St Leo's Old Boys RUFC, which thrived for years until the school changed focus and its player stream dried up. Over time it became obvious that there were too many suburban clubs on the north shore for the number of available players. The club then moved to Hills area, where the Beecroft Rugby Club was born and thrives to this day. The best

measure of the club's success has been the numbers of players it attracts, the players it develops and the opportunity it provides for good quality sport in an amateur environment. But for those who measure success only by the win-loss balance, the record there is impressive, too. In 2006 whilst in 2nd Division the 1st Grade team won the Barraclough Cup and the 4th Grade team the Richardson Cup. In 2007 the 1st Grade team again winning the Barraclough Cup and In 2008, the club was promoted to 1st Division and had a successful season with the 1st Grade team reaching the Kentwell Cup grand final fourth place on the Club Championship table, a truly outstanding result for the club. In 2015 the club won the Cowboy Cup and even in 2025, Beecroft won the Clark Cup Division 3 first grade competition. 2026 looks to be another good season at Headen Park.





Blacktown Rugby Club

The history of Blacktown Rugby begins way back to 1960. It was then that people like Alwyn Lilly, Blacktown's inaugural 1st Grade coach, and Jack Murray, the first President formed the Seven Hills Junior Rugby Union Club. Twelve years later one of those original juniors, Steve Jones helped to start a Seven Hills sub-district side. This team was to form the nucleus of Blacktown Rugby Club that joined the Sydney Third Division competition in 1979. The people mentioned previously, Alwyn Lilly, Steve Jones and Jack Murray were vital to the club's formative years. While the club had the usual teething problems in its first year, it did manage to win the fourth-grade premiership with the U/19 side. The team was coached by Frank Duck. They also had their first representative player in 1979, in past president,

Bruce Fowler. The club prospered in subsequent years with second grade setting records when they won one game 156-0, scoring 30 tries in 1982. Blacktown also had further representative players with Daryl Carle, in 1980, and Stuart Lockard, in 1980, 83 & 84, representing Sydney Third Division. Blacktown have won multiple premierships over their long and esteemed career including the 2010 Radford Cup, the Inaugural Cowboy Cup competition back in 2010 which they also won the Division 3 Club Championships and repeated this feat in 2016 winning all 3 grades in 4th division including the McLean Cup, Grose Cup and Walker Cup, and they became only the 2nd club in NSW Suburban Rugby history to win 2 Cowboy Cup Club Championships behind St Patrick's and they were also the first club to win 2 that were not a 1st division club at the time. It is a remarkable feat. The club went through some lean years, and I was the Head Coach in 2023 and helped the club survive and thrive and passed on the baton to Ten Toroma in 2024 who led them to win their first Meldrum Cup competition and build the momentum that helped get them back into Division 3 in 2025. 2026 promises to be an exciting year for Blacktown Rugby Club at Alwyn Linfield Reserve



Briars Rugby Club

The Briars Sporting Club, being a remarkable Club, had a remarkable birth. Fourteen boys, aged from 9 to 13 years, met on the disused fowl-yard at Bob Clark's place on the 7th August 1918. They were there to inaugurate the Club, which had been the idea of Jack Stone. The first major decision of this distinguished gathering was to name the Club. After much debate, someone suggested the name of Jack's place. Jack being the President, thus a person of dignity, the suggestion had to be considered seriously. The name of the house was "The Briars". Thus, the brand-new Club was named "The Briars Sporting Club". The Club's first source of revenue was a Swear Box. Briars motto "Virtus Animusque Praesens" which means Virtue and Intellect is present, was suggested in 1920 by Mr Dennis, Deputy Director of

Education. The Club entered a rugby team in the 1923 2nd Grade N.S.W. Junior Rugby Union. The first football premiership was recorded in the 1925 season by our 1st XV. Of the sixteen matches played that year, 13 wins and a draw were recorded. In that year, a second rugby team was formed. The 2nd XV contested the 2nd Grade Junior and the 1st XV, the 3rd Grade Senior or Burke Cup Competition. 1925 also saw the Club's first members making it to higher honours. Mal Blair and Stan McGregor played in Wests' First Grade District Teams. Mal went on to play for Australia along with Billy Mann on a tour of "The Old Country and America. Briars have an amazing history of success throughout their 123-year rugby history winning 5 Kentwell Cups (1940, 49, 52, 64 and 65), 1 Barraclough in 1997 and 2 Clark Cups in 1995 and 2006. The Briars have also won an amazing 10 Division 1 Club Championships in 1930, 1940, 1948 through to 1953 (6 in a row), 1964 and 1966, and Div 3 in 1995 and 2006. It was a promising season finishing 3rd in the Barraclough and 3rd in Div 2 club championships, but The Briars set a high bar with a history steeped in success. 2026 looks like it will be an exciting season at Rothwell Park for The Briars and their fans.



Brothers Rugby Club

Brothers Rugby Club Sydney is a NSW Sub-districts rugby club based in the northern suburbs of Sydney. They were formed by Old Boys of St Pius X College Chatswood in 1947 and have a long and proud history in the Sydney suburban rugby union competition with a long list of premierships won over the years including in their first season. This is a testament to the strength of the club, from its formative years, through to the modern era. Brothers are affiliated to the other Brothers clubs in Australia as well as the Marist Rugby Federation in New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, and Samoa, numbering approximately 40 clubs in all. They are affectionately known as CBOBs. CBOBs also offers a number of competitive education scholarships each year to women and U21 men who commit to

playing for the club. These scholarships are offered to students of Australian Catholic University, Notre Dame University, and Campion College. A separate scholarship in memory of Mark Egger, a St Pius X College student and Brothers Rugby player is available to former students of St Pius X College Chatswood who are also members of Brothers Rugby and is administered by the Old Boys Association. Two education scholarships are available to students from Australian Catholic University (one male, one female), and one each to Notre Dame University and Campion College – these may go to a male or female player/student. Brothers have also won 19 premierships in all grades and divisions including most recently a joint Barraclough Premiership in 2014 with Newport. Brothers or CBOBs have won 4 Barraclough Cups (Div 2 - 1st Grade), 2 x Clark Cups (Div 3 – 1st grade) a Burke Cup in 1951 (Div 1 – 2nd grade) and Judd Cup in 1970 (Div 1 – 4th Grade). Brothers picked up Premierships every season from 2011 till 2014 winning 5 of their 19 competition wins and will be hoping to build on their numbers of 1 Radford Cup Colts team and 1 Women's Joy Johnson Cup team in 2025. There are blue skies ahead for the women and men of Brothers Rugby Club.



Burraneer Seniors Rugby Club

Founded in 1996, Burraneer have built a reputation as one of Subbies' most hospitable and welcoming family clubs. Located down in the Sutherland Shire, their traditional "third half" is a great chance to demonstrate their respect for the opposition, the officials, and fans of both sides. This is where we they on a feed, share some drinks and no matter the outcome of the match, help keep rugby's greatest core value alive: respect. They also strive for success both on and off the field! Burraneer openly invite people to after match festivities or one of their functions and they are sure you will want to join the Burrhood. Over their career Burraneer have won 6 Jeffrey Cups claiming their first title in 1999 and picked up their 6th in 2024. They

won 2023 Jeffrey Cup undefeated, and I had the opportunity to put my Blacktown team up against them and Burraneer were comprehensive winners. The club has had multiple Jeffrey Cup medal winners including David Witt in 1999, Matt Ward in 2001, Boysie Wihare in 2005, and Vinnie Wihare in 2023. The club also picked up the Noice Cup in 1999, 2001. Burraneer used to be located for several years down at John Dwyer field on Oleander Parade in Caringbah for years, but a change in direction saw them move to AH Hurst oval at Sylvania. Although Burraneer didn't have the greatest season last year going through a rebuild losing several players to rugby league and Southern Districts, they are rebuilding and confident that they will see some of the success that made them a formidable opponent down in the Shire. Burraneer are looking forward to the 2026 season.





Canterbury Rugby Union Club

Canterbury Rugby union Club are interesting when they started in 1959 as a junior club and then in 1966 they were invited to join the Sydney 2nd division. They did have a Colts under 21s team and were trying to find extra players to meet the requirements of fielding 4 grades. Rick Morris was there in 1966 and was an original back in that first season and the club was very family orientated. Canterbury bought the Wills Ground and paid it off over many years. They captain and the club bought the old Hordinian Oval that was owned by Anthony Hordern, and the club had a house on the field with Joe Amos who lived there and was groundskeeper and a lower grade coach. Rick said that he believed the club made their last

payment on the ground in 1984 and have owned the ground ever since. From the U21s team, they were the nucleus of the club and many of these players and their fathers were the original players who helped Canterbury kick on and build the club and culture. Rick tells me a story that his first game was as a 3rd grade halfback against Hornsby and then played against Warringah at Naremburn. Rick said a lot of players who came to the club were from league and many had missed the formative junior rugby years. The club built a strong family and community culture, and he worked with Basil Harris the First-Grade prop, Geoff “Tiger” Landrey was the club captain. Canterbury was absorbed into NSW Suburban Rugby comp in 1993. Harry Maniatis took over as Secretary at the club during their stint in 2nd division. Canterbury have won the Barraclough Cup in 1994, Clark Cup in 1998, McLean Cup in 1997, 2007 and 2017, the Jeffrey Cup in 2006 and they won the Meldrum Cup in 2023. Canterbury have also won the Herily Shield Division 4 Club Championship in 2017 and 2019 and the Keith “Doc” Harris Shield Division 3 Club Championship in 1998. They made the Grose Cup Grand Final in 2025 in Div 5 second Grade and will be hoping to build on this for 2026 for their 60th anniversary.



Chatswood Rugby Club

Chatswood Rugby Club has been a fixture of Sydney's rugby scene for over a century. Chatswood Rugby Club formed in 1912 as a Borough club in the 3rd Grade of the District Competition and continued until World War I. It was re-formed in 1925, for the first time since 1914, when it entered the Burke Cup and was runners-up to Hunters Hill in the following year. A picture of C Bradley's house, the secretary of the day's, residence at 24 Neridah St is in the clubhouse. This was used as the first clubhouse. In 1927 the club changed colours to Black and Gold (4 in bars). Rugby was once again held in abeyance over the second world war and the club reformed in 1947. Minutes of the first AGM and club financial report for the year of 1947 are framed in the clubhouse. In this year the club won premierships in under 21's and 1st and 2nd grades.

Chatswood achieved the status of the largest junior rugby club in the southern hemisphere at one stage. 1966 saw the team as Whiddon Cup premiers being undefeated playing and winning 17 games Statistics being 311 for and 31 points against. 1977 was a highlight for Chatswood, winning the division 2 Club championship with all four sides in the finals and 3 being grand finalists but being unable to secure a single premiership. 1987 saw a Whiddon team coached by John Adam win premiership titles being captained by Ian Williams with Graham (Womp) Sherwin managing. This side played 20 games losing 3 games and drawing 2, points for 259 and 108 against. This was to be the last year for a decade in Kentwell Cup as despite the wins the club was relegated to 2nd Division. 1990 realised premierships in 2nd Division in Stockdale and Blunt Cups. They also won the 1993 Stockdale Cup. The Stags have had a great deal of success winning the 1998 Barbour Cup and in 2018 relaunched their Colts and won the 2019 and 2020 Radford Cup competitions. There are plenty of green shoots for the Stags in Division 4 making the semis in Colts in 2024 and 2025 and these young Stags are the future for the Chatswood club moving into 2026 and beyond at Beauchamp Park.



'BRING A MATE' DISCOUNT

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Bring a mate and when they also register, receive a discount on both your regos!



HEAD TO TRAINING ON THURSDAY TO LEARN MORE!

\$50 OFF REGO FEES FOR YOU AND YOUR MATE





Super Rugby

Waratahs Win Against Fijian Drua

Max Jorgenson has absolutely turned it on again for the Waratahs as they start the 2026 Super Rugby season 2 wins and 0 losses heading into their first bye week of the season. Jorgenson delivered in spades again, putting on the dance moves that would get a 10 from the judges on Dancing With The Stars, tearing open the Fijian Drua defence after receiving the ball from the scrum inside the 22 and in the 5m channel stepping left then right and burning around the outside of the winger, outsprinting the fullback to beat the tackle and score a diving try into the corner to bring the Waratahs back into the game after trailing 10-7 at the 36 minute mark. Charlie Gamble scored the opening try for the Tahs diving under the posts after finding space around Fijian Drua's defensive ruck, before Taniela Rakuro struck back for Drua. It was a tight first half until Jorgenson broke it open just before halftime and he was denied a double by the TMO after a forward pass was spotted from James Hendren. The second half started much the same as the first with an arm wrestle in the middle and breakdown, but the Waratahs

were showing dominance. Drua hit back with a penalty goal to make it 14-13 before Jake Gordon took a quip tap and sent debutant hooker loane Moananu over for a try to make the score 21-13.



The Waratahs went in again just 5 mins later with Angus Blyth coring a try after a wicked ounce which stretched the Waratahs lead to 13 points. Moananu picked up a 2nd try in the 72nd minute to cap an outstanding debut for the ex Counties Manukau NPC player and Crusaders reserve hooker for the previous 3 Super Rugby seasons. His style has been compared to Kevin Mealamu which is a big wrap for the 25 year old. In the 80th minute the Waratahs sealed the deal with another try to max Jorgenson, after a midfield counter attack



37m out from Fijian Drua’s line and the defence was still sliding and in recovery mode when the Waratahs reserve fly half Jack Debreczeni, the experienced 32 year old from Otahuhu with extensive Super rugby, NPC and Japanese rugby experience dropped a kick from just outside the 22 over the defensive line and sat up in between the 5m and tryline waiting for Jorgenson to pounce and pick us his double for the day. The win sat the Waratahs on top of the ladder heading into the bye which is a great start for Dan McKellar’s men in sky blue.

The upcoming matches for Round 3 look like this:



ROUND 3 FIXTURES

FRI 27 FEB

- MOANA vs HULLERS FORCE (7.05PM NZT, NAVIGATION HOMES STADIUM, PUNEKOHE)
- REDS vs HIGHLANDERS (6.35PM AEST, SUNCORP STADIUM, BRISBANE)

SAT 28 FEB

- DRUA vs HURICANES (3.35PM FJT, CHURCHILL PARK, LAUTOKA)
- CHIEFS vs CRUSADERS (7.05PM NZDT, FMG STADIUM WAIKATO, HAMILTON)
- BRUMBIES vs BLUES (7.35PM AEDT, GIO STADIUM, CANBERRA)

BYE: NSW WARATAHS

WATCH LIVE ON **skysport** **Stan SPORT** **SKY PACIFIC**

NEW RUGBY WARATAHS 2026 MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW




ROUND 2
RESULTS

FRI 20 FEB

	52 - 10	
	36 - 13	

SAT 21 FEB

	23 - 26	
	32 - 42	

SUN 22 FEB

	24 - 50	
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BVE: QUEENSLAND REDS

I hope you enjoy your weekend of rugby. It's a busy week and it's going to start heating up as the competition start to feel each other out.

Have a fantastic week and I hope that you enjoy Issue 3 of your Rugby Experience.

Kepon Duckin'




ROUND 2
STANDINGS

	W	D	L	PF	PTS
1 	2	0	0	58	10
2 	2	0	0	47	10
3 	2	0	0	7	8
4 	1	0	0	42	5
5 	1	0	1	6	5
6 	1	0	1	-1	5
7 	1	0	1	-28	4
8 	0	0	2	-28	1
9 	0	0	1	-24	0
10 	0	0	2	-37	0
11 	0	0	2	-42	0

