

YOUR RUGBY EXPERIENCE

First Issue 13th February 2026

Inside: NSW Suburban Rugby Season Review of 2025

List of Proposed Divisions for 2026

NSW Waratahs Team Lists for 2026





Welcome to Your Rugby Experience

Who is the Duck Man and what is **Your Rugby Experience** all about? Well, Your Rugby Experience was born from my lifetime of passion and involvement with rugby, mainly at a suburban rugby level where I played for Penrith Emus, Hawkesbury Valley, Western Union Titans, Blue Mountains and was a player coach at Blueys, Rouse Hill Renegades, Hawkesbury Valley, Western Raptors and Blacktown. I could see a need for a dedicated digital magazine to promote everything good about subbies rugby and the 48 clubs who participated in the 2025 men's and women's competition.

Your Rugby Experience aims to provide a weekly wrap of everything that is happening in the world of suburban rugby throughout the 6 divisions and Halligan Cup, the Joy Johnson women's competitions and provide a detailed wrap up of the match of the round for the weekend, and a wrap-up of all other 1st grade performances in every division, scores and tables all in one location, that can be easily accessed and referenced.



Your Rugby Experience aims to provide you the information that you are looking for about the clubs you love, news updates about clubs, and will include Premier Rugby scores and tables, Jack Scott Women's Rugby scores and tables, a wrap up of Country Rugby scores and tables, Super Rugby updates including scores, tables and insights into the teams, and cover the international matches and scores which will give people some insight into the international rugby game.



This is made for you to enhance Your Rugby Experience! Enjoy your 2026 season of rugby and this is the home of NSW Suburban Rugby and Your Rugby Experience.

I hope that you have found what you are looking for in this first edition of Your Rugby Experience. This will be a weekly digital publication throughout the 2026 season and beyond.

If you would like to subscribe to receive this weekly, you can email Duck Man Sports Media at admin@duckman.com.au

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Keep on Duckin'





NSW Suburban Rugby Men's Rep team 2025 (top)

NSW Suburban Rugby Women's Rep team 2025 (bottom)



Grand Final Highlights



Hunters Hill Rugby Club 2025 Kentwell Cup Premiers

Left - Gabriel Amos Viiga – Credit Blue Mountains Rugby
Right - Hunters Hill with the Kentwell Cup – Credit Hunters Hill Rugby





Top – Mosman vs Newport Colts Grand Final – Credit Cameron Greaves
Bottom – Newport crowd at Colts Grand Final 2025

**Division 1**

Blue Mountains

Colleagues

Drummoyne

Hunters Hill

Lindfield

Mosman

Petersham

Waverley

Division 3 - TBC

Beecroft

Blacktown

Colleagues

Hills

Hornsby

Knox

Lane Cove Old Ignatians

Old Barker

Division 5 - TBC

Canterbury

Colleagues Convicts

Epping

Hawkesbury Valley

Maccabi

Redfield

Rouse Hill Renegades

Sydney Harlequins

Chifley Chiefs

Division 2 - TBC

Briars

Forest

Newport

St Patrick's

Sydney Irish

UNSW

Division 4 - TBC

Balmain

Brothers

Chatswood

Macquarie Uni

St Ives

Kings

Wakehurst

Division 6 - TBC

Burraneer

Georges River

Manly Savers

Merrylands

North Cronulla

Oatley

Penrith Emus

Sydney Harbour



Women's Xs

Joy Johnson Cup Blue

Colleagues

Hornsby

Hunters Hill

Lindfield

Merrylands

Northern Suburbs

Sydney Irish

Uni of Wollongong

Joy Johnson Cup Yellow

Brothers

Forest

Macquarie Uni

Newport

Oatley

Old Barkers

St Patrick's

UNSW

2025 Season Review

2025 Clubs of the Year

Div 1 – Hunters Hill

Div 2 – UNSW

Div 3 – Hornsby



Top – Hornsby Women's Joy Johnson Cup Winners 2025. Credit Hornsby Rugby Club
Below – Hawkesbury Valley Rugby Club McLean Cup Champions 2025. Credit Brett Kenna



Div 4 – Balmain

Div 5 – Hawkesbury Valley

Div 6 - Merrylands



Kentwell Cup 1st Division

It was a very competitive season in the Kentwell Cup. Newport was promoted back to the Kentwell Cup for the first time in over 20 years after winning the Cowboy Cup and Division 2 Reliance Shield in 2024. Blue Mountains had won consecutive Kentwell Cup competitions against Hunters Hill in 2023 in a tight grand final that went down to the final bell, then again in 2024 against Waverley, where they once again claimed the victory on the big day. It was a different Hunters Hill this team though who were brutal and went 16 matches undefeated throughout the season earning a total maximum of 80 competition points from 16 wins and 16 bonus point games which is the most in the history of Sydney Suburban and metropolitan rugby stretching back to 1875 for a first grade first division team. But it wasn't all their own way in the GF and they picked up the win after the bell with a try under the posts to win 45-41 against the gallant defending champions Blue Mountains.

Hunters Hill won everything – The Cowboy Cup for the Inter-Divisional Club Championship, the Bruce Graham Shield for

Division 1 Club Champions, Kentwell Cup – Undefeated, Kentwell Medallist – Lachie Camroux, Kentwell GF Man of the Match Lachie Camroux, Joy Johnson Medallist Alex Bellamy, Subbies Coaches of the Year with Jake Henwood and Andrew Newson. It was clinical.

They have set a very high bar for all future competitions in the Kentwell Cup, and they are looking forward to taking on all comers in 2026.



Barraclough Cup 2nd Division

In a division that has classically tough competition and has seen the recent dominance of Newport Breakers be rewarded with promotion to the Kentwell Cup for 2025, the competition was open to all comers. And they didn't disappoint throughout the season. The competition saw the promotion of Sydney Irish to Div 2 following a successful 2024 season winning the Clark Cup and Farrant Cup in Division 3 and



rightfully earning their spot in the competition against former Div 1 clubs such as Forest and St Patrick's and a very strong Petersham club chasing promotion back to the Kentwell Cup and powerful mainstays UNSW who have been so close in the last few seasons to winning the Barraclough Cup and Briars who went down 31-29 in the previous Barraclough Cup grand Final to Newport.



Shammies vs UNSW GF 2025. Credit NSW Suburban Rugby

There was no doubt that the competition was going to be red hot with every club having a genuine chance to win the prize jewel that could see them earn promotion to Kentwell Cup. After the regular season, Petersham were on top heading into the finals on 58 points, clear Minor Premiers from UNSW who finished back on 50 points, and Briars back in 3rd on 40 with the newly promoted Sydney Irish flexing their muscle to make the finals in 4th place on 33

points. Poor weather saw the finals structure changed with the Shammies taking on Sydney Irish, and the Students taking on Briars in a winner takes all showdown. The results saw the Shammies book a date for the grand final with UNSW who were up for the challenge. It was tight but the match saw UNSW win a close game 26-24 against Petersham to win their first top grade premiership in 27 years.



Clark Cup 3rd Division

There were many changes to the competition last season which saw the Division 3 and Clark Cup champions Sydney Irish promoted to Division 2 to compete in the Barraclough Cup, Sydney Harbour Oysters, Manly Savers and Sydney Harlequins all went down to lower divisions, Old Barker withdrew late from the senior grades due to a lack of grade players in the club, and Blacktown stepped up from



winning Division 6 in 2024 to fill the gap in the grade spots that Old Barker. Hills Rugby Club had also dropped down from the Barraclough Cup 2nd Division after having a reduction in numbers to their playing ranks for 2025.

The competition was tight throughout the regular season with Beecroft having the ascendancy in the regular season only losing to Hills and Hornsby throughout the regular season finishing 1 point ahead of Hills with 62 points to 61.



The finals were looking like we would see Hornsby take on Knox in the minor semi-final and the 2 competition heavyweights

Beecroft and Hills play off for the right to host the GF. But weather intervened which saw Beecroft draw Knox and Hills draw Hornsby. But the script didn't go to plan with Hornsby causing a boil over against Hills to book a spot in the Clark Cup against Beecroft who were too good for Knox.

Beecroft were too strong across the park where and when it mattered at the grand final and won 45-14 against Hornsby, although Hornsby take some consolation out of being Division 3 Club of the Year.



Jeffrey Cup 4th Division

There were big changes in the 4th Division competition for 2025 which saw the Jeffrey Cup 1st grade teams host the Radford Cup Colts competition for the first time. The competition saw Wakehurst, Kings, Balmain, Chatswood and Macquarie Uni all enter 1st grade sides in the Jeffrey Cup and Colts in the Radford Cup, and St Ives merged forces with



Brothers Rugby Club which saw St Ives enter a side in the Jeffrey Cup and Brothers field a Radford Cup Colts team. The competition was tight in the top half with Wakehurst picking up the Minor premiership with 63 points ahead of Kings in second on 58 and Balmain in 3rd on 53 all going to the wire. The grand final ended up seeing Wakehurst take on Balmain who caused a big upset to win 22-7 against the team who had beaten them only 4 weeks prior 50-7. It was an emphatic win for the Balmain side.



McLean Cup 5th Division`

Division 5 is another division that saw major changes in clubs competing throughout 2025. The competition saw high flyers of division 2 and 3 from past seasons Hawkesbury Valley and Sydney Harlequins, along with Division 2 Stockdale Cup and Richardson Cup premiers Epping also joining the fold in a competition packed

with quality including the very competitive Redfield College, Western Raptors, Renegades Rugby, Canterbury and a joint merger between Maccabi and Colleagues Convicts which saw Maccabi field their team in the McLean Cup. I had the luxury of calling a few matches for the red hot Hawkesbury Valley side who were in it to the end against some quality opposition which saw the Raptors pull off an amazing come from behind 36-35 win against Valley at McQuade Park in round 9 which was one of the most inspiring comebacks I had seen in a long time. Redfield were dispatching some much-fancied opposition throughout the season to keep the foot on the pedal leading the competition in the run for the title before a double points match up against Valley in Round 13 that would ultimately decide the minor premiership with Valley taking the honours 27-21 in a tightly contested grand final preview. The competition finished tightly contested right through to the end with Valley finishing on top on 59 points ahead of Redfield on 52, Sydney Harlequins on 47 and Epping on 43. The semi finals affected by weather saw a straight-out showdown with Valley taking on and beating Epping 21-5



and Redfield beating Harlequins 43-20.

This saw a showdown at McQuade Park between 1st and 2nd Valley vs Redfield going head-to-head Mano a Mano. The game started off in Valley's favour taking the lead early with a converted try followed by another try before Redfield could get on the scoreboard. Valley was able to add another converted try before Redfield came home with a wet sail, but the Valley boys claimed their first ever 1st grade grand final victory taking out the win 19-10.

This was a landmark season for Hawkesbury Valley and shows promising signs for the future.



Meldrum Cup 6th Division

2025 was a landmark season for the subbies competition with Penrith Emus making their presence felt again in the competition for the first time since 1994. Division 6 saw the return of former Meldrum Cup champions Manly Savers and Merrylands, along with a very strong Sydney

Harbour Oysters team competing with 2024 Jeffrey Cup Minor Premiers Georges River Drop Bears bringing a strong presence to the field again in 2025 along with North Cronulla and Oatley, and the long-term powerhouses of Division 6 Burraneer. As a former Penrith Emus player, it was exciting to see the Emus back and a good crowd at Nepean rugby park for their first match against Merrylands in which they ended up going down 20-7 against a very strong Wolves team. It was great to see the Emus finally break the ice in round 6 with a solid 24-20 win at home against the Sea Lice. The competition was very willing throughout the year with Sydney Harbour, Merrylands and Manly Savers all flexing their muscle in a race to the top, with the battle for final spots going down to the wire. The Drop Bears pipped the Emus on the last day of the season to gain 4th spot by 1 point with the table finishing with the Savers on top on 62 points ahead of Merrylands on 58, Sydney Harbour on 40, Georges River 38 and the Emus finishing with a very respectable 37 points. Cronulla, Oatley and Burraneer rounded out the table. The semi-finals saw the Savers take on the Drop Bears and pick up a solid 23-19 win which is



not unusual for the Savers who booked themselves another very accustomed Grand Final date, and the Wolves flexed their muscles against Sydney Harbour which saw the other semi final finish 27-20. It was a showdown of the titans in the grand final with the Wolves streaking away to a 14-0 lead before the Savers picked up their first try and conversion which closed the gap before Dan Talitiga



Lelevaga kicked a Merrylands penalty to give the Wolves a 10 point lead. Manly were able to claw a try back through Andrew Thomson but it wasn't enough as the Wolves held on to claim another Meldrum Cup winning 17-12 against the spirited Savers.

Joy Johnson Cup Blue

The women's competition continues to go from strength to strength with growth in numbers of the Joy Johnson Cup seeing 2 divisions of 8 teams compete for Joy Johnson Cup Blue and Yellow. The structure of the competitions saw Norths, Hornsby, Lindfield,

Sydney Irish, Uni of Wollongong, Colleagues, Hunters Hill and Merrylands all compete in the Blue competition. Throughout the season teams played between 11 to 13 games with Norths coming home with a wet sail throughout the comp finishing on top on 55 points ahead of a very strong Hornsby team who had a points differential of 560 points finishing 2nd on 50, Lindfield finished 3rd on 37, and Sydney Irish wrapped up 4th with 33 points. The semis saw Norths clean up Sydney Irish 47-5 and Hornsby were too good for Lindfield winning 48-0. The grand final didn't follow the hymn sheet though and saw Hornsby cause a boilover winning 14-12.



Joy Johnson Cup Yellow

The Joy Johnson Cup Yellow competition saw Newport, St Patrick's, Oatley, UNSW, Macquarie Uni, Old Barker, Forest and Brothers strap on the boots and mouth guards in a competition with some



newcomers to women's rugby competition. Newport proved too strong throughout the year with side having many years of experience competing in women's competitions now finishing on top undefeated with 68 points ahead of St Patrick's on 52, Oatley on 48 and UNSW rounding out the top 4 on 41 points. It was good to see the presence of Mac Uni, Old Barker, Forest and Brothers who will improve with the experience and continue to grow into the future.

The semi finals saw UNSW dispatch Oatley in the minor semi 17-12 and Newport won the major semi 24-21 against St Pats to book a grand final appearance. The preliminary final saw St Pats prove too strong winning 12-0 against the Students to book a showdown with the Breakers. In the big dance Newport skipped out to a 7-0 lead early with a converted try before St Patrick's turned it on and brought the contest to the Breakers with 2 converted tries one to Holly Sheridan and one to Eden Sheridan with Charlotte Heath converting both to take the lead 14-7 before Breakers player Bethany Lever scored a try to bring it back within 2 points, but St Patrick's held on to beat the previously undefeated Breakers.

It is a very positive sign with the 2029 WRC being hosted in Australia. Women's rugby is definitely on the rise.



Halligan Cup

The Halligan Cup saw 27 different teams competing for honours throughout the season with Colleagues once again proving to be very strong with big numbers seeing them add 2 teams to the comp. Colleagues 6th finished on top with 42 points ahead of Hills 3rds who finished 2nd on 37 and Kings 2nds finished 3rd on 32. The grand final saw Colleagues beat Hills 38-14 to add another Halligan cup to their trophy cabinet.





2025 proved to be a strong season for NSW Suburban rugby with a growth in clubs from 2024 going up from 44 to 48, player numbers grew from 5125 to 5326, the number of teams rose from 149 to 155, Colts teams rose to 26 from 24, and the women's teams almost doubled from 9 to 16.

With this level of continued growth and rising interest in the game, this can only be good for the sustainability of NSW Suburban Rugby particularly heading towards the men's RWC in 2027 being hosted in Australia with many major matches in Sydney, and a women's home RWC in 2029 helping to boost the participation levels and interest in the game across the broader community.

Super Rugby

The NSW Waratahs are back in action for the 2026 with a new look side for Dan McKellar following an 8th placed finish in 2025 on 26 points with 6 wins. The Waratahs will be hoping to get away to a good start this season and have had some solid pre-season form, but the big test will be this weekend when they take on the QLD Reds at Allianz Stadium on Friday 13th February at

7.30pm The new look Waratahs squad includes:

2026 NSW Waratahs Squad

Props

Apolosi Ranawai

Dan Botha

Isaac Kailea

Jack Barrett

Siosifa Amone

Tom Lambert

Will Goddard

Hookers

Ethan Dobbins

Folau Fainga'a

Ioane Moananu

Locks

Angus Blyth

Ben Grant

Eamon Doyle

Matt Philip

Miles Amatosero

Back Row

Austin Durbidge

Charlie Gamble

Jamie Adamson

Lachlan Hooper

Leafi Talataina

Pete Samu



- Scrum Halves
- Jake Gordon
- Michael McDonald
- Teddy Wilson
- Fly halves
- Jack Bowen
- Jack Debreczeni
- Lawson Creighton
- Midfield
- George Poolman
- Joey Walton
- Joseph-Aukuso Suaalii
- Outside Backs
- Andrew Kellaway
- Archie Saunders
- Harry Potter
- James Hendren
- Leo Jaques
- Max Jorgensen
- Sid Harvey
- Triston Reilly

2026 promises to be an exciting season for the Tahs 1 year out from Australia hosting the 2027 Men’s Rugby World Cup.

The squad for the first match against the Reds is:

RUGBY COM.AU SUPER PACIFIC

FRI, FEB 13 | 7:35PM AEDT | ALLIANZ STADIUM

NSW
WARATAHS

- 1 TOM LAMBERT
- 2 ETHAN DOBBINS
- 3 DAN BOTHA
- 4 MATT PHILIP (C)
- 5 MILES AMATOSERO
- 6 CLEM HALAHOLO
- 7 CHARLIE GAMBLE
- 8 PETE SAMU
- 9 JAKE GORDON
- 10 LAWSON CREIGHTON
- 11 MAX JORGENSEN
- 12 JOEY WALTON
- 13 JOSEPH-AUKUSO SUAALII
- 14 HARRY POTTER
- 15 JAMES HENDREN

SUBSTITUTES

16. FOLAU FAINGAA | 17. ISAAC KAILEA
18. SIOSIFA AMONE | 19. ANGUS BLYTH
20. LEAFI TALATAINA | 21. TEDDY WILSON
22. JAKE DEBRECZENI | 23. TRISTON REILLY

QUEENSLAND
REDS

- 1 AIDAN ROSS
- 2 MATT FAESSLER
- 3 ZANE NONGGORR
- 4 JOSH CANHAM
- 5 LUKHAN SALAKAIA-LOTO
- 6 JOE BRIAL
- 7 FRASER MCREIGHT (C)
- 8 VAIUTA LATU
- 9 LOUIS WERCHON
- 10 HARRY MCLAUGHLIN-PHILLIPS
- 11 TIM RYAN
- 12 HUNTER PAISAMI
- 13 JOSH FLOOK
- 14 LACHIE ANDERSON
- 15 JOCK CAMPBELL

SUBSTITUTES

16. RICHIE ASIATA | 17. GEORGE BLAKE
18. JEFFERY TOOMAGA-ALLEN | 19. SERU URU
20. JOHN BRYANT | 21. JAMES MARTENS
22. FINN MACKAY | 23. XAVIER RUBENS

