

YOUR RUGBY EXPERIENCE

Second Issue 20th February 2026

Inside: Club Profiles – Division 1

What's happening in the pre-season for 2026

NSW Waratahs off to a cracking 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 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.

It's great to see the 2026 NSW Suburban Rugby is back in full swing with most clubs back on the park training and plenty of activity happening around coaching appointments, building squads, planning and dreams of success on the field which drives us all to play and be involved in rugby.



Throughout the coming weeks in the lead up to the start of the competition, I thought that it would be a great opportunity to do a short profile on each of the clubs participating in the 2026 NSW Subbies competition which will include the men's and women's teams, so if your club fields a women's team, I will provide some detail to give everyone some insight into what is happening right across the whole game. Of course, the best source of information is from you, the clubs, players, administrators and fans of the game.

There will be a new podcast coming out in the coming weeks that is open to all clubs to participate in as well. This will also be called **Your Rugby Experience**. 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.



The last big announcement for the week will be that I will also introduce a section called **Blast from the Past** in the coming weeks looking each week at some of the previous clubs who used to compete in the competition. So, for all the club historians and passionate fans in the game, I am happy to take on board some suggestions and even details about former clubs to assist with this process.

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

Have a fantastic weekend and go the mighty Waratahs!

Keep on Duckin'



The Rugby Club
Foundation



sideline
sport



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**

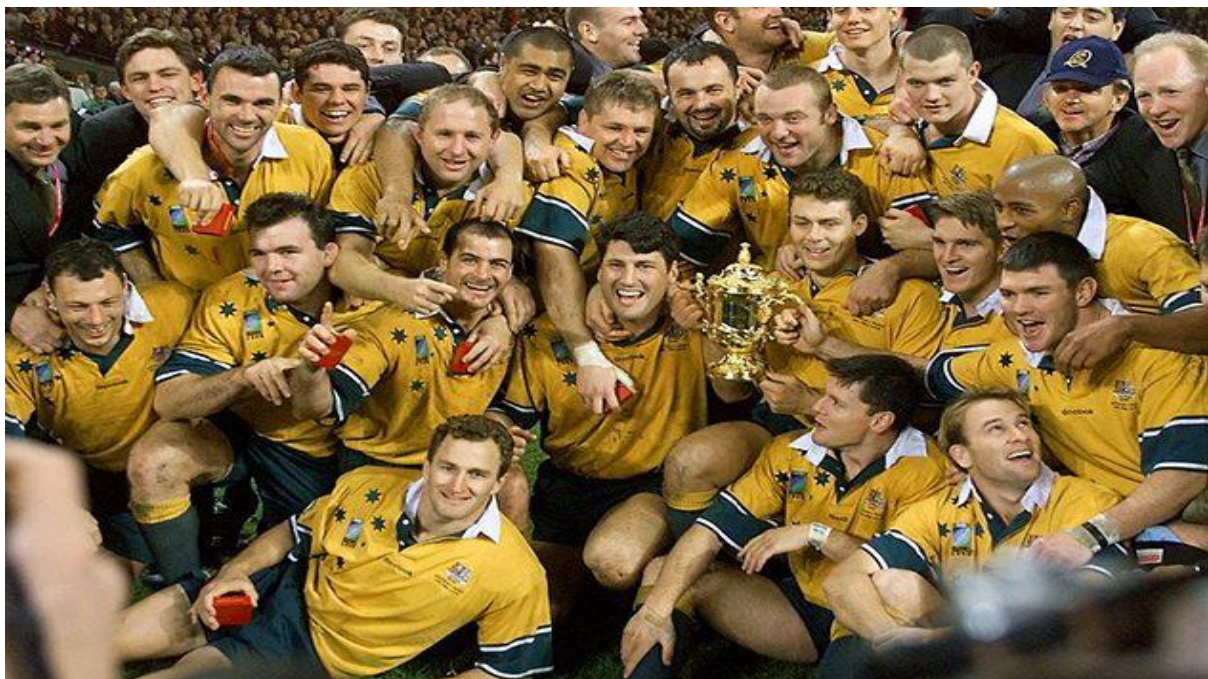
***T&Cs apply**

Chris Moloney, Tim Richards and Luke McCormack on the Subbies BBQ





William Webb Ellis Trophy



Top – William Webb Ellis Trophy on display in Newcastle

Bottom – Wallabies win 1999 RWC – Credit Rugby Australia



NSW Based 2027 RWC Matches

MEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2027

MATCH SCHEDULE STADIUM AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY | WANGAL

NEW ZEALAND  **V**  **AUSTRALIA**
SAT, 9 OCT | 17:10 KICK OFF

ENGLAND  **V**  **WALES**
SAT, 16 OCT | 19:45 KICK OFF

QUARTER-FINAL
SAT, 30 OCT | 16:45 KICK OFF

QUARTER-FINAL
SUN, 31 OCT | 20:00 KICK OFF

SEMI-FINAL
FRI, 5 NOV | 20:00 KICK OFF

SEMI-FINAL
SAT, 6 NOV | 20:00 KICK OFF

BRONZE FINAL
FRI, 12 NOV | 19:45 KICK OFF

FINAL
SAT, 13 NOV | 20:00 KICK OFF

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
 

ALL KICK OFF TIMES ARE IN LOCAL TIME. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



MATCH SCHEDULE SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM

SYDNEY | GADIGAL

IRELAND  **V**  **PORTUGAL**

MON, 4 OCT | 17:15 KICK OFF

ITALY  **V**  **ROMANIA**

MON, 11 OCT | 19:45 KICK OFF

FRANCE  **V**  **SAMOA**

SUN, 17 OCT | 19:45 KICK OFF

ROUND OF 16

SAT, 23 OCT | 14:15 KICK OFF

ROUND OF 16

SUN, 24 OCT | 14:15 KICK OFF



ALL KICK OFF TIMES ARE IN LOCAL TIME. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.





MEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2027

MATCH SCHEDULE
NEWCASTLE STADIUM
NEWCASTLE | AWABAKAL-WORIMI

JAPAN **V** **SAMOA**
SUN, 3 OCT | 12:15 KICK OFF

FIJI **V** **SPAIN**
MON, 4 OCT | 14:15 KICK OFF

URUGUAY **V** **PORTUGAL**
MON, 11 OCT | 17:15 KICK OFF

ITALY **V** **GEORGIA**
SUN, 17 OCT | 12:15 KICK OFF

OFFICIAL PARTNERS
Emirates | Etihad

ALL KICK OFF TIMES ARE IN LOCAL TIME. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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7
Host Cities

24
Teams

\$20+
From

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Club Preview 2026 – Division 1



Blue Mountains Rugby Club

Not many sides in rugby have the quality of what the Mountain Goats have had over the last 3 seasons. Blue Mountains are proud of their history earning promotion back to the Kentwell Cup in 2019 on the back of winning the Reliance Shield in 2018 and seeing all 5 grade teams which included First to Fourth Grade and Colts all make the finals for the first time in their 62-year history at the time.

They headed into 2019 replacing Hunters Hill who went back to Division 2, and the Mountain Goats found the competition was a steep learning curve, but one which they relished. They have made numerous grand finals including 3 Kentwell Cups in a

row, including winning their first ever Kentwell Cup premiership in 2023 against Hunters Hill which was a cliff hanger winning 44-40, and they followed that up with a 21-18 win in 2024 against a very strong Waverley team. When they made the 2025 Grand Final against Hunters Hill, they looked like they would claim their 3rd straight title before going down 45-41 after the bell to a try right next to the posts. There is plenty of hope at Blue Mountains for 2026 they will continue on with the form of the last 3 years, and will be hoping to get the best out of Amos Viiga again this year with Gary Tunks coming in as Head 1st grade coach to work with Pete Richey, and Luke Raams is back as Colts Head Coach, and Luis Musson is a new addition as Director of Rugby.



Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Club

Woollahra Colleagues have been a dominant force in the NSW Suburban rugby competition since the 1930s. They are a massive club with plenty of numbers fielding sides in all 5 senior grades and Colts in division 1 subbies, plus a Halligan Cup side which again won the competition, and they fielded an extra Colts team in the Division 3 Nicholson Cup, and they fielded a women's team every week in the Joy Johnson (Blue) competition.



They know how to run a club and have the numbers to show for their administration and use of resources. Plus, playing down at Rose Bay, only a stone's throw from Bondi every Saturday isn't the worst place in the world to play either. Colleagues have won 16 Kentwell Cups, with their first premiership in 1941 and the most successful period of the club coming between 1955 and 1970 where they picked up 8 titles in 16 seasons. Their most recent premiership was prior to Blue Mountains winning streak in 2022 winning 22-13 against a spirited Hunters Hill. Colleagues have plenty of fire power across the park with Theo Strang finishing as leading try scorer in Kentwell on 6 tries, and Hugo Collett added 29 conversions and 15 penalty goals throughout the year to see them finish a respectable 5th. The club also won the 3rd grade Whiddon Cup, 4th grade Judd Cup and Halligan Cup in their 2025 season.

The women's team in their first season on the paddock finished on 6th but picked up some good wins and unearthed some stars in try machines Lily Hall who finished with 7, Freya Regan and Alex McLaughlin who both finished with 5 tries a piece. 2026 promises to be an exciting year for Colleagues with more success on the horizon.



DRUMMOYNE RUGBY

Drummoyne Rugby Club

The Dirty Reds are steeped with tradition. Their history and origin go back directly to the beginning of the game of rugby in Australia when in 1874 the Southern Rugby Union was formed to establish the game in Australia. Their predecessor club Balmain RUFC, founded in 1873, took part in the very first competition structure and won their very first premiership back in 1875. In 1889 Glebe Rugby club was formed and soon became famous as “The Dirty Reds” from their scarlet jerseys and vigorous style of play. In 1919 Balmain and Glebe merged and in 1932 Glebe-Balmain FC became renamed Drummoyne District Rugby Football Club. The Dirty Reds have picked up 9 Kentwell Cup’s in their very long esteemed history with the first being in 1947 post-World War 2, with the club going through

a significant period of success from 2000 when they picked up their 2nd Kentwell Cup through to 2012 winning 7 competitions including 3 in a row in 2006-2008. Their most recent Kentwell Cup was in 2020 when they beat Waverley 33-27 in a phenomenal game of rugby.



Drummoyne finished in 6th place in the 2025 season on 23 points ahead of Lindfield and Newport but are actively strengthening their squad and would like to get back into the Kentwell Cup winning circle and win the Battle of the Bridge against fierce local rivals Hunters Hill this season. The club have some major potential coming through the club with Joe Colley leading the club try scoring with 7 tries, with Kentwell player Rusiate Loganimasi in a tie for 2nd on 6, with Fionnlagh Call kicking 14 conversions in Kentwell, and hot prospect Benjamin Howarth adding 23 in the Barbour Cup. This looks certain to big a big year ahead for the Dirty Reds in 2026.



Hunters Hill Rugby Club

Facta Non Verba – Actions not words say it all really. Hunters Hill did something remarkable this year that I can't find any comparison close to. The Hillies played 16 matches and had 16 wins which is remarkable on its own. But to finish with 16 bonus point wins as well is unbelievable. Hunters Hill started their rugby journey back in 1892 although some of the early records of the club are scant due to the fire which destroyed most of the records of the Rugby Union in 1973. In 1977 their Kentwell Cup side became the first undefeated team since Moore Park Playground Club in 1951, and they won their first club championship, and when they won 1978 and 79 as well, they became the first club ever to have won the Sub District Cup 3 years in a row which is a remarkable feat. Hillies have

picked up 9 Kentwell Cup victories over their history with the first coming in 1972, with the 1970s being a great period for the club with 5 Kentwell Cup wins coming between 1972 and 1981. In the last 4 seasons Hillies have been in 3 GF's with a loss to Colleagues 22-13 in 2022 after being promoted from Div 2, 2023 they went down in a shootout 44-40 to Blue Mountains and 2025 they won the big one, after the bell 45-41 vs Blue Mountains with a try to Loose Head Prop Simon Latham who will be etched into history forever at Boronia Park. They went down in a close one in the Burke Cup grand Final, and the women's side struggled throughout the year in the first season of the expanded Joy Johnson X's competition. Several Hunters Hill players made the men's and women's suburban squads including Tom Callaghan, Lachie Camroux, Cooper Henwood, Alex Lynch, Steve Morton, and Mason Wheelhouse and Kate Mattefy. It was an exceptional season for Hillies and they will be hard to beat in 2026.





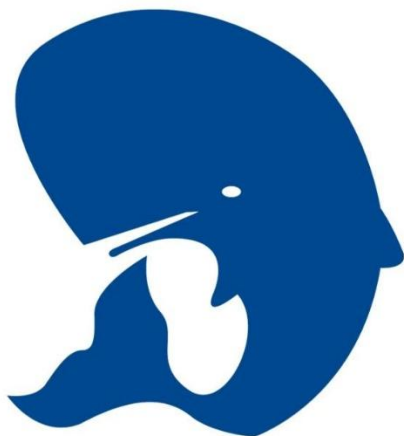
Lindfield Rugby Club

The Old Soldiers history can be traced back over 100 years to the WW1 battlefields of France. The bonds and friendship of a group of young men from Lindfield solidified and against the odds they survived to return to Tryon Road. Established in 1919 by soldiers returning from battle the players constructed the Gates of Remembrance for their fallen comrades at the oval's entrance by volunteer labour with assistance from the council. The club continued to compete in local competitions from 1920 until 1948 when the club made their first appearance in the Sub-district competition. The side entered a team in the Burke Cup and won the minor premiership. Following a disastrous 1986 season the club were relegated to the 2nd division for the first time in their history and in 1987 the club

saw a major resurgence becoming the first club in sub-districts history to be relegated and promoted in consecutive seasons. Lindfield have had several Wallabies play at the club over the years including Bruce Taafe the club's first Wallaby in 1969, Stirling Mortlock, Cameron Blades and Andrew Blades all played for the Old Soldiers. The club have yet to win a Kentwell Cup but have been building with a good mix of younger players coming through.



Lindfield also had several players make the NSW Suburban Rep teams for 2025 including Josh Christy, Zac Lomas, Sam Reimer, Nikita Swanson Manuel and Emma Van Koesveld. Scrum half Sam Reimer and lock Zac Lomax along with Gus Partington and loose head prop Josh Christy add a dynamic tight 5 and middle game with super boot Sean Grace, and Meli Cibicibivalu scorching the turf with 10 tries in Kentwell and Nikita Manuel lighting up the women's with 13 tries for the year.



Mosman Rugby Club

Mosman Rugby Club was established in 1893 and is one of the oldest rugby union clubs in Australia, with a long proud history forged on mateship and camaraderie. Also known as the Mosman Whales, after the whaling station at what is now Mosman Bay, their home games at Rawson Park, the Whales won their first Kentwell Cup in the inaugural 1923 season. The Whales' most successful period to date occurred in the 1970's when the Club captured 4 Club Championships and 24 premierships, including four 1st grade premierships. Mosman won promotion to 1st division (modern day District Premiership) in 1977, however declined the invitation after an overwhelming vote of the players decided that it was in the Club's long term interest to remain in 2nd Division, that no doubt was proven correct given the fate of

other clubs that ventured into the cut-throat world of premiership rugby. In 1989 they completed a refurbishment of their home ground facilities at Rawson Park affectionately known as The Whalehouse. During seasons 2007-11, the Whales took home a whopping 8 Premierships. They were also named NSW SRU Club of the Year in 2007, and Division 1 Club of the Year on two further occasions. From 2015 until 2020, most had its most successful period since returning to Division 1. The club had 7 grades and 3 colts teams and appeared in 22 grand finals, winning 12 premierships. This included the Kentwell Cup (1st Grade), which had not been won by Mosman since 1954. The club also won 2 club championships in Division 1 and 3 Cowboy cups. The club have won 5 Kentwell Cups the last being in 2019 and they will be hoping to improve on their 5th place finish in the Cowboy Cup and were only 2 bonus points away from a second-place finish in 1st grade. 2026 will be a big year for the Whales.





Waverley Rugby Club

Waverley Rugby Club was founded in 1971 by ex-students of the neighbouring Waverley College and their friends from other local schools. Some of those who played for the Club in those early years were the sons whose fathers as schoolboys, had won the 1932 Kentwell Cup - being the first to inscribe the name "Waverley" on the sterling silver cup of the NSW Suburban 1st Grade, 1st Division, trophy. The Club also in 2001, fielded a women's rugby team. The initial dream of those who founded and supported the Club, was realised in 1989, when the Club's 1st Grade brought the Kentwell Cup back to Waverley. This was repeated in 1990 and 1991 with Waverley becoming only the second Club to achieve a "three peat" in Kentwell Cup wins and winning the 1st Div Club

Championship 1989 to 92. Waverley have won 3 Kentwell Cups with the most recent success being the 3rd of the 1989, 90 and 91 glory run of the club, although they made the 2024 grand final against Blue Mountains and went 1 game away from back-to-back grand finals last season being beaten in the Preliminary final by Blue Mountains again. Waverley had a great deal of success as a club finishing 2nd in the club championship to Hunters Hill; they won the Burke Cup and won the Sutherland Cup. Waverley are building strength and depth of quality across the whole club, and they have the ambition of fielding a women's side again in the 2026 season in the Joy Johnson Cup. Right lock Ben O'Sullivan and Hooker Ollie Rossi represented the NSW Suburban men's rep team for 2025 as well to show the depth and quality of their players in a red hot 2025 competition. Watch out for Waverley in 2026. They will be up there again when the whips are cracking.





Petersham Rugby Club

The Shammies are very proud of their history. Since the Shammies started back in 1883, Petersham RUFC has always been at the heart of grass roots rugby in Australia. They were part of Australia's first ever junior rugby competition, being founding members of what is now the NSW Suburban Rugby Union and introduced their inaugural women's rugby team in 2022. They've done it all and they are proud to tell everyone about it winning Subbies Rugby's biggest prize, the Kentwell Cup, on four occasions, and through it all they've held fast to the true spirit of rugby. In all the years I've played rugby, I personally don't remember ever beating the Shammies in a team I played in at Camperdown Oval. When it rains, it's not a great day for the visitors.

The Shammies welcome everyone. They tour the world. They play for love, not money and they're the best of mates and the toughest of foes. Their Social calendar is pretty good too. The Shammies are back in the Kentwell Cup after being promoted from Division 2 and have the hunger and drive along with some quality players to make a real fist of the Kentwell Cup. Their 4 Kentwell Cup titles came in 1973 and 74 and the last two were in 2017 and 2018. Despite being in Division 2 last season, the signs of quality shone through with Colts fullback Jonas Cook, 1st grade number 8 Bryn Jago, Outside Centre Max Lindsey, 1st grade fullback Stuart Martin and fly half Taylor Phillips all making the NSW Suburban Rep teams for 2025. Max Lindsey and Open Side flanker Kassapian Charlie picked up 7 tries a piece to be the clubs leading try scorers, and Taylor Phillips was a dead eye with the boot kicking 36 conversions and 12 penalty goals for the year. Look out for the Shammies in 2026.





Super Rugby

What a cracking start to the 2026 Super Rugby Pacific in round 1 with 5 great matches, particularly if you are a NSW Waratahs fan! Everything tied in with Friday 13 has the perception of fear or bad luck, but that wasn't the case this time for the Waratahs who were taking on the incoming Wallabies Coach Les Kiss QLD Reds team. Dan McKellar's team were ready for the fight and wanted to avenge their 28-21 loss in May last year at Allianz where they should have picked up the win. The Waratahs went up 7-0 early through a try to debutant blindside flanker Clem Halaholo in the 7th minute opening the scoring for the Waratahs and fly half Lawson Creighton converted. The Reds were able to strike back with a try from Tim Ryan to bring the score back to 7-5 in the 19th minute, and the game was tight until shortly before halftime when Creighton slotted an easy penalty goal in the 37th minute to stretch the lead to 5.



On the stroke of halftime, Max Jorgenson took a pop pass 59m out, put the dance moves on the fullback and stepped inside him, beat the attempted ankle tap from the flanker and raced away to score on the stroke of half time. Just when you thought it was time to go and get a beer, Joe Brial ripped the ball out and scored an overlap try to stay in the contest right at half time with the score sitting at 17-12.



It was a dour start to the second half and the Reds were not giving anything away, and definitely wanted to retain the Bob Templeton Cup, and then in the 65th minute former Melbourne Rebels prop Isaac Kailea smashed his way over the tryline close to the posts which saw the Waratahs



add the extras to go to 24-12 and stretch the lead to a very handy 12 points. Charlie Gamble does a lot of work for a 7 and Jack Debreczeni, the impressive fly half from Otahuhu put the ball on a platter for Gamble who stayed in and flicked the ball back inside for Max Jorgenson who crossed for a double to take the score to 31-12. Teddy Wilson inflicted the final cut on the Reds as the scrum half darted away to grab a try and secure the bonus point victory to set the Tahs 2026 season off with a bang. But it was Max Jorgenson who starred and picked up maximum points form the Tahs in the player points with 9.

It was a great start for the Tahs at home and 2026 looks to be a great season.



In other Super Rugby results:

ROUND 1 RESULTS

FRI 13 FEB

HIGHLANDERS	25 - 23	CRUSADERS
NSW WARRATAHS	36 - 12	REDS

SAT 14 FEB

FIJIAN DRUA	26 - 40	MOANA PASIFIKA
BLUES	15 - 19	CHIEFS
WESTERN FORCE	24 - 56	ACT BRUMBIES

BYE: HURRICANES

ROUND 1 STANDINGS

	W	D	L	PF	PTS
1 ACT BRUMBIES	1	0	0	32	5
2 NSW WARRATAHS	1	0	0	24	5
3 MOANA PASIFIKA	1	0	0	14	4
4 CHIEFS	1	0	0	4	4
5 HIGHLANDERS	1	0	0	2	4
6 CRUSADERS	0	0	1	-2	1
7 BLUES	0	0	1	-4	1
8 HURRICANES	0	0	0	0	0
9 FIJIAN DRUA	0	0	1	-14	0
10 QUEENSLAND REDS	0	0	1	-24	0
11 WESTERN FORCE	0	0	1	-32	0



The draw for round 2 looks like this for Super Rugby Pacific

ROUND 2 FIXTURES

FRI 20 FEB

- 7.05PM NZT: Hurricanes vs Moana Pasifika (SRY STADIUM, WELLINGTON)
- 7.35PM AEDT: Waratahs vs Fijian Drua (ALLIANZ STADIUM, SYDNEY)

SAT 21 FEB

- 7.05PM NZT: Highlanders vs Chiefs (FORSYTH BARR STADIUM, DUNEDIN)
- 4.35PM AWST: Fijian Force vs Blues (MIF HEALTH INSURANCE OVAL, HONOLULU)

SUN 22 FEB

- 3.35PM NZT: Crusaders vs Golden Bulls (MPOLO PROJECTS STADIUM, CHRISTCHURCH)

BVE: REDS

WATCH LIVE ON sky SPORT Stan 100% SKY PACIFIC

Forwards

Fri 20 Feb 2026
Kick Off 7:35pm AEDT
Allianz Stadium
*Denotes Potential Debut

- Tom Lambert
- Ethan Dobbins
- Daniel Botha
- Matt Philip (c)
- Miles Amatosero
- Ciern Halaholo
- Charlie Gamble
- Pete Samu

WARATAHS DRUUA Resilience Insurance

The Waratahs team for Round 2 looks like this as they take on Fijian Drua:

TEAM LIST

Allianz Stadium Waratahs v Drua Kick Off 7:35pm

01 Lambert 02 Dobbins 03 Botha 04 Philip (C) 05 Amatosero
06 Halaholo 07 Gamble 08 Samu 09 Gordon 10 Creighton
11 Jorgensen 12 Walton 13 Suaalii 14 Potter 15 Hendren
16 Moananu 17 Kailsea 18 Arnone 19 Blyth 20 Talataina
21 Wilson 22 Debreczeni 23 Reilly

WARATAHS DRUUA Resilience Insurance

Backs

Fri 20 Feb 2026
Kick Off 7:35pm AEDT
Allianz Stadium
*Denotes Potential Debut

- Jake Gordon
- Liamson Creighton
- Mev Jorgensen
- Joey Walton
- Joseph-Akua Suaalii
- Harry Potter
- James Handran

WARATAHS DRUUA Resilience Insurance



Have a fantastic week and I hope that you enjoy Issue 2 of your Rugby Experience.

Keop On Duckin'



There are some exciting match ups in the Round 2 of Super Rugby Pacific with the Hurricanes opening their season at home against Moana Pasifika, last start winners the Highlanders who beat the Crusaders 25-23 are up against the Chiefs who beat Auckland Blues 19-15. Western Force who received a touch up from a very good Brumbies team host Auckland Blues with both sides looking for their first win of the campaign and the Crusaders travel to Canberra to take on red hot Brumbies team.

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.

