



# **The Rabbitoh**

**2023 State Championship Edition**

**South Sydney v Brisbane Tigers**

**Stadium Australia, Sun Oct 1**



## Editorial

Welcome to a special 2023 State Championship edition of The Rabbitoh.

What a day last Sunday was, as South Sydney brought home our 21<sup>st</sup> Reserve Grade Premiership.

To celebrate our return to a State Championship game., we have put together another magazine on our club's history.

The modern-day State Championship began in 2014 with South Sydney coaches Jason Demetriou and Joe O'Callaghan having success at that level.

But challenge games used occur before this and South Sydney were a big part.

After a premiership victory, teams would sometimes issue a challenge to the Sydney premiers. These games were against some of the best across teams in NSW Country, Queensland or in New Zealand.

So, it's time to tell the history of when South Sydney were challenged by clubs after winning the premiership.

This is another chapter in the glorious history of the South Sydney club.

Sit back and enjoy this "challenge" edition of The Rabbitoh brought to you by Mark Sivis from the SSR Almanac.

Many thanks to my guest contributors who have added their insight.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Reserve Grade Premiership

Steve Mavin

The South Sydney Rabbitohs won the NSW Cup Grand Final on Sunday defeating the North Sydney Bears 22- 18 at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta.

An early try to winger Alfred Smalley put the Bears in front but it wasn't long until the Rabbits hit back. A short pass from hooker Peter Mamouzelos sent Shaquai Mitchell barging over next to the posts to score. Big Shaq was on a mission and could easily have been named man of the match. In the 25th minute Bears number 6 Jesse Marschke burst through and left red and green defenders in his wake to score and regain the lead for his team. Souths kept their composure and minutes later captain 'Footy' Dean Hawkins put the ball on the toe for back rower Ethan O'Neill to slam the ball down and score. A Bears penalty goal just before half time saw the teams go into the sheds locked at 12 all.

The 2nd half produced 2 classic Rabbitohs tries that would decide the game. The first was scored by flying winger Tommy Carr after some brilliant lead up work from his teammates. A try in the 68th minute to powerful Bears forward Reuben Porter put the Bears in front again and left Souths fans wondering if the dream would turn into a nightmare. They needn't have worried because South Sydney were playing with a never say die attitude. With 5 minutes remaining and the Bunnies down by 2 points the ball was shifted to the right. Decoy runs by Shaq Mitchell, Ethan O'Neill and Jacob Gagai created diversions that the Norths defenders had no answer for. The football went out to 'Footy' Dean who rifled a long ball to Blake Taaffe in space. Blake then used his 2 on 1 overlap to draw and pass, sending Tyrone Munro over to score untouched for the game winner. This was a perfectly executed play used at the exact time it was needed. It was a glorious way to win a title.

Big 'one on one' tackles during the match by Buddy Gordon and Jaxson Rahme deserve special mention as does the try saver by 'Footy Dean' and the long break made by Matt French. A Ben Lovett knee injury was a sad end to his year but Benny was in good spirits after the game and will be back in 2024 once his recovery is complete. All 17 players who took the field did the club proud as did their amazing coaches and staff. After the game Buddy Gordon told fans on the sideline that when he made his NRL debut in 2005, Tyrone Munro was just 5 months old!

This Sunday the Rabbitohs do it all over again on NRL Grand Final day in the State Championship title game v Queensland champions the Brisbane Tigers. The game kicks off at 1.20pm and will be live on Nine, Foxtel and Kayo.



# Blake Taaffe – The Last Dance

*Chris Isouard*

Every Friday afternoon a group of men gather around their usual table at The Shakey. One-by-one they 'bundy on' with a quick nod but before they reach the bar their drink is poured.

The conversation always focuses on rugby league, and it's been going on for decades. No one remembers how it started but it's their outlet from the rat race.

A recurring theme is their frustrations about the modern-day footballer, the consensus is they're 'over coached, robotic and too scared to take risks'. Some at the table played a bit of footy while others grew up watching but they all have an opinion on how the game should be.

A footy player that doesn't fit this mould is Blake Taaffe – he plays what's in front of him and doesn't die wondering.

The way most NRL clubs operate their pathway systems is to produce clones of their first grade team. Players are trained and developed to play the same way which beats the instinct out of some. Thankfully Blake fell through the cracks.

From age 11 the La Perouse junior played in the Central Coast competition representing them in Harold Matthews and SG Ball. In 2018, the live-wire Taaffe progressed to the Sydney Roosters' Jersey Flegg squad but received little opportunity – you can't fit a square peg into a round hole. During the season, Blake's former coach Mark O'Meley could see what the Roosters couldn't and recommended him to North Sydney – a foot in the door, that's all Blake needed.

The next year Blake returned home to the Rabbitohs playing in their Jersey Flegg team while staying with relatives. It was another gamble Blake took to chase his dream. The season turned out to be Blake's breakout starring in Jersey Flegg, NSW Cup and representing NSW U20s. The best was yet to come, Blake won Man of the Match in the 2019 Jersey Flegg Grand Final for an outstanding performance which included two tries and two conversions. A star is born.

We can fast forward the next few years which includes in 2021 Blake making his NRL debut and playing in the NRL Grand Final by now he's caught the attention of the Friday table and the hearts and minds of many in rugby league.

Blake is a breath of fresh air to the modern game, he's a dream to coach if you're a man manager. To get the best out of Blake you show belief and let him play what's in front of him. History shows coaches who favour stats and systems over simplicity struggle with players like Blake. The table rattles off names of coaches and players that weren't compatible and those who were.

When Blake ran out in last Sunday's NSW Cup Grand Final you could fit what coach Joe O'Callahan told him pre-game onto a beer coaster from The Shakey, maybe even a postage stamp. The belief and trust is there and that's all Blake needed as he combined with Dean Hawkins to deliver the match winning moment via a Tyrone Munro try. It was an instinct play and as the table would say 'you can't coach that!'. As a result, Blake picked up another Man of the Match Award in another winning grand final.

Earlier this season Blake's departure from Souths was determined. not on his terms though – you can't fit a square peg into a round hole. This Sunday's State Championship is The Last Dance and when Blake takes the field, he won't die wondering.



# 1918 – Merthyr & Queensland

Mark Sivis

## Prelude

Rugby League was still in its early years and South Sydney had undertaken on some landmark tours of New South Wales country areas. Playing games in Newcastle, Maitland, Bathurst and in West Wyalong. Clarrie Horder led the way in 1914 when he would go play in the Brisbane competition for Valleys. And then in 1917 he returned to play for Brisbane Western Suburbs, instead of playing in the City Cup. This helped in the growth of the game in Brisbane.

## 1918 Merthyr – Australian Club Championship

In 1918 with Great War nearing its end South Sydney embarked on the first club tour of Queensland. Their first game was against Brisbane premier club Merthyr, who played in sky blue. Merthyr had recently come across to Rugby League in 1917 and were one of the premier club's in the Brisbane Rugby League. Merthyr would go on to become Past Brothers. The match against South Sydney was deemed the "**Club Championship of Australia**" by the Brisbane press. Merthyr were Brisbane competition leaders, having won the first round and leaders in the knockout stage. The game opened with a break from the halfway mark where Blair whipped it to Clarrie Horder, who fooled opposing centres, then passed to his brother Harold Horder who bounded for the corner with astonishing speed, before running around for an easy conversion for Oxford. Then from a scrum Blair sent Sheehan cleverly down the sideline beating several tacklers with ease. Blair did it again sending Harold Horder streaking away before linking with brother Clarrie Horder and Sheehan touching down.

Merthyr were able to hit back and by halftime it was 14-7 to South Sydney. They scored again soon after the break, before South Sydney took full control with Horder Harold and Clarrie scored and so did Blair and Kerwick to win the game 28-10. A young Percy Horne debuted this day.

1918 v Merthyr	
	5-0
	5-2
	8-2
	11-2
	11-7
	14-7
HT	14-7
	14-10
	17-10
	22-10
	25-10
	28-10



### 1918 Might of Queensland

Midweek South Sydney ventured up to Rockhampton to help in the township recovering the mid-year floods, winning the match 18-7. To finish the tour, a final challenge was issued by all of Queensland playing in red and white as a full state team was to take on the premiers of South Sydney. The Victorian professional sprint champion would race Harold Horder at halftime, even though Horder was also

playing in the game. It was a sensational game where Queensland came from behind and were lucky to snatch a 19 all draw. The opening try came from Blair

1918 v Queensland	
	5-0
	8-0
	8-3
	11-3
	11-6
	16-6
HT	16-6
	19-6
	19-9
	19-12
	19-14
	19-17
	19-19

South Sydney v. Queensland	
(Cardinal and Green)	(Red and White)
Referee: J. ROCHE	
(13) H. HALLETT	Full-backs: (13) T. SWEENEY
(15) V. SHEEHAN	Three-quarters: (12) N. BROADFOOT
(9) W. K. ROWLEY	(11) J. P. FLYNN
(16) J. VAUGHAN	(10) W. SMITH
(11) H. HORDER	(9) W. PATEN
(7) A. BLAIR	Half-backs and Five eights: (8) C. THOROGOOD
(8) J. ANDERSON	(7) J. SWEENEY
	(6) W. BRERETON
(2) G. MOORE	Forwards: (5) S. KREUTZER
(5) C. O'DONNELL	(4) W. WACKER
(4) W. GROVES	(3) N. POTTER
(1) A. OXFORD	(1) S. KEOGH
(3) J. KERWICK	(2) E. M'GRATH
(14) A. HORNE	
(10) D. LINDSAY	Reserves: (14) R. CORNEY
(c) J. DAVIS	(15) J. GOUGH
	(16) W. W. M'KINNON
	(17) N. JOHNSON
	(18) W. RICHARDS
	(19) S. HAMILTON

cutting into the forwards who sent to O'Donnell who sent to Hallett who scored under the posts. The second try came after Hallett secured near the centre, passed to Harold Horder who outpaced all opposition to score. South third try came after a hack passing movement, followed by some scrumming play before Horder went over. Before the break half-back Dutchy Anderson scored, and Souths led 16-6. After the break saw Souths score again, with Rowley crossing in

the corner putting South Sydney up 19-6. The final quarter was dominated by Queensland as came home strong scoring three tries to snatch a draw.

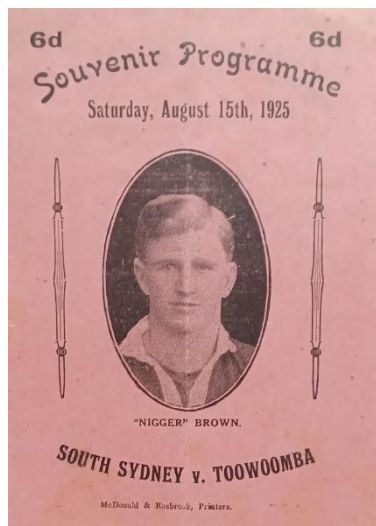


The team that toured Queensland

# 1925 – Toowoomba

## Prelude

In 1925 Toowoomba were at their height as a township, having beaten English and New South Wales touring teams and took out the Bulimba Cup. After 12 successive victories they issued a challenge to the undefeated premiers South Sydney.



## 1925 Toowoomba

After the success of 1918 and the season being stopped in Sydney a match was quickly arranged up in Toowoomba. The match was billed as the **“Australian Championship Challenge.”** South Sydney boarded a express train at 3:30pm Tuesday for the long trip to Queensland. They finally arrived in Toowoomba Wednesday afternoon. The tough game between two unbeaten giants got off to a tight start with Wearing playing very well in the first half, but Toowoomba dominated the half and skipped away to a 7 nil halftime lead. South Sydney’s first try came soon after the break when Alec Johnston passed to Lapham, one of the fastest t forwards in the game swerved and ran from half-way to score. Blair kicked a penalty goal. The last twenty minutes was scientific and scintillating but scoreless, it wasn’t enough on the day.

1925 v Toowoomba	
	0-5
	0-7
HT	0-7
	3-7
	3-12
	5-12

# 1926 – Far North Coast

## Prelude

In 1926 the NSW Far North Coast was the next team to issue a challenge. They had just beaten New South Wales and wanted to test themselves against the premiers South Sydney. A challenge match was arranged for Bank Holiday Monday. They were billed as the undefeated team of the Country.



## 1926 – Far North Coast

The match was played at the SCG and South Sydney were having a bye that weekend. Far North Coast were guaranteed £250 for the match. The match got underway in heavy conditions with Alby Carr almost scoring. After scoring a penalty goal, Souths got on the scoreboard when Thompson picked up, passed to Trewick who passed on to Root who ran smartly and scored. Souths scored again after they combined in a

1926 v Far North Coast	
	2-0
	5-0
	10-0
HT	10-0
	15-0
	15-5
	18-5

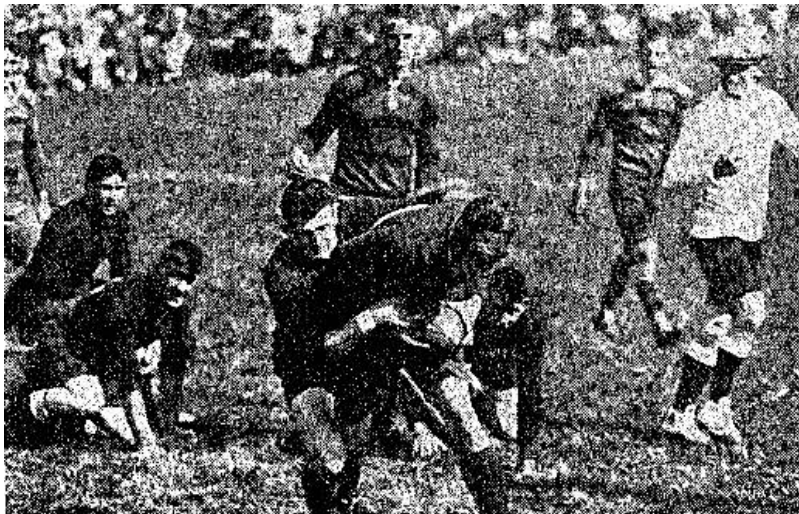
excellent movement in which Finch, Lapham, O’Connor, Trewick handled before Carr scored. It would remain like this till halftime. In the second half it was Lapham with a great individual effort kicked and was interfered with and the referee awarded a penalty try. Far North Coast hit back with a try. Then right on the bell Wearing picked up the ball on his 25 and raced the length of the field to score. South Sydney unofficial state champions. South Sydney would go on to play Far North Coast twice in 1927 winning both encounters. The first at the SCG 41-20 and the return clash in Lismore 22-15.

# 1929 – New Zealand Challenges

## Prelude

During the 1928 season seeds had been planted for the first ever club tour to New Zealand. It finally came to fruition at the end of the 1929 season, when challenges were arranged between the two premier clubs of the Auckland region. After winning 5 premierships in a row, South Sydney wanted to take on the world. The NZ Rugby League agreed to split the expenses 60-40. And players in to pay for their own boat fares. South Sydney left our shores with five Kangaroo tourists and a young Percy Williams was called up into the squad.

## 1929 - Huntly



While this wasn't the first game on tour it was a challenge I will discuss first. The challenge came from the winners of the South

1929 v Huntly	
	5-0
	10-0
	15-0
	20-0
HT	20-0
	25-0
	30-0
	30-3

Auckland league Huntly. It was played midweek. South Sydney got off to a good start with the forwards pressing following by a good dash from Wearing saw Eggen score. Next up was Alf

O'Connor who scored off a Binder pass. Blair in full command swept into a movement passed to Eggen who outpaced his opposition to score. Quinlivan accepted a pass from Stewart who beat several defenders before sending Evers over to score. Halftime 20 nil. Racing at top speed Wearing snapped up a rolling ball, passed to Evers who crossed under the posts. Stewart then passed to Blair who brilliantly beat the opposition to score a great try. Huntly hit back with a consolation try, before Wearing made a spectacular run but was bundled into touch after running 3 quarters of the field. Fulltime Souths win 30 to 3.





**1929 – Marist Old Boys Match One**

Marist Old Boys were the premier team in Auckland, having just won the premiership. In a packed Carlaw park 15,000 crammed in to see the best of Auckland and South Sydney play. And they were not disappointed. South Sydney had arrived by boat a few days before this game. They took the field in the famous 5-man scrum formation, playing two 5/8's. Marist hustled South Sydney early on but a intercept by Jack Why turned the momentum of the game and Marist were caught offside as South Sydney took a early lead. A long-range goal by Quinlivan saw South Sydney extend the lead. But Marist hit back with a clever try between the posts as the led into the break 5-4. An arm wrestle of game eventuated in the second half, with Alf O'Connor losing the ball in the action of scoring. A penalty to Marist eventuated. South hit the front when Wearing made a break. Eggen the broke away from the same attacking play who passed o Jack Why to gathered and scored under the posts, with Souths leading 9-7. Marist hit back with a try and won the first challenge game 9-10. A young Percy Williams debuted in this game.

1929 v Marist Old Boys	
	2-0
	4-0
	4-5
HT	4-5
	4-7
	9-7
	9-10



**1929 – Marist Old Boys Match Two**

The return match against the Marist Old Boys was played a week later. And after a good midweek victory over Huntly, they were ready for the rematch. A few changes were made, with Watson and Reg Williams pulling out injured and South Sydney were ready for the second clash. 15,000 again thronged their way to Carlaw Park. They saw a brilliant opening to the game, but the teams were not able to score. Wearing opened the proceedings with a penalty goal. The O'Connor brother then rushed, where Quinlivan made a brilliant opening passed to Frank O'Connor who handled to Eggen who scored. Blair then cut through nicely for Wearing to score. The teams then traded penalty goals before going into the break with South Sydney leading 12-2. A kick from Marist saw Quinlivan break through the line, with Frank O'Connor passing to Eyers to score. Marit then hit back with a try. A clearing kick from Blair saw Marit fail to field and Eggen scored. After Percy Williams gained good ground, Binder dived over to seal the match, 21-5.

1929 v Marist Old Boys	
	2-0
	5-0
	10-0
	10-2
	12-2
HT	12-2
	15-2
	15-5
	18-5
	21-5



# 1931-32 – Group 9

Mark Emery

## Prelude

When I was a young bloke I went to R.C.A.E. college in Wagga Wagga to become a teacher. A lovely place. The local football ground was called Eric Weissel Oval. Weissel was a brilliant five-eight who played for NSW and toured with the Kangaroos in 1929. Despite generous offers to come to Sydney he stayed in the Riverina area. He was a member of arguably the best ever Group 9 team from the country - Group 9.

90 or so years ago country football was very strong. All the NSW country groups would once a year come to Sydney and play against the Sydney clubs. The Sydney v Country teams would be selected from these teams and play off at the SCG.

In 1931 and 1932 Group 9 was very strong. Jack Fifield was another brilliant player in the Group 9 team.

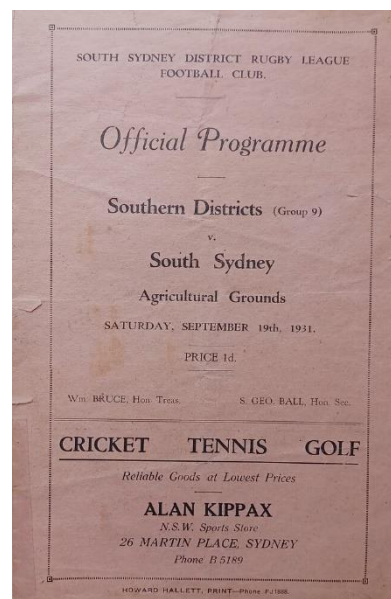
## 1931 – NSW Southern Districts(Group 9)

In 1931 the Sydney premiers were crowned as South Sydney. Group 9 were the Country champions so, just like this year, the coach of South Sydney told his team that, even though you are premiers, you cannot celebrate yet as you have to gear up for yet one more challenge.

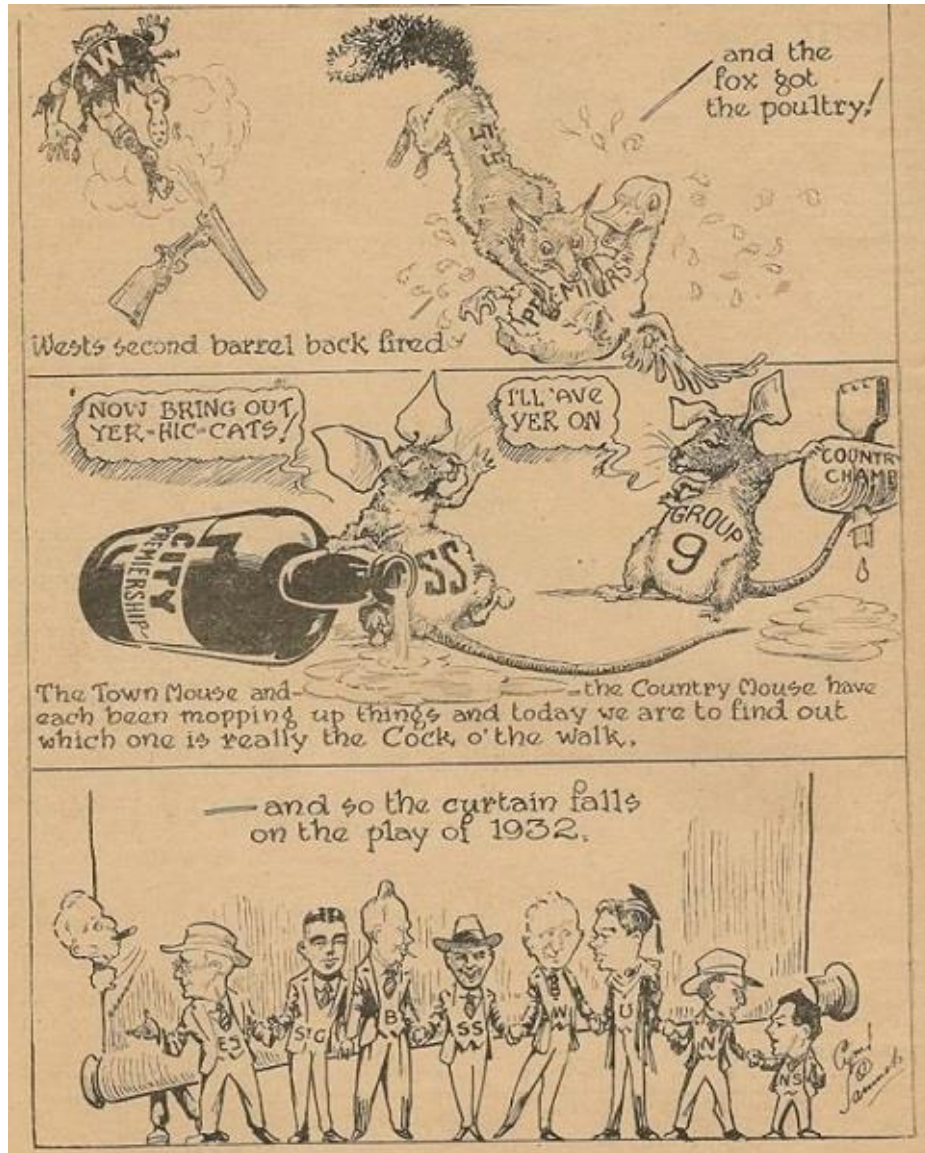
It is interesting to note that Group 9 had already beaten the 1930 premiers, Western Suburbs, at the Sports ground on the Bank Holiday weekend earlier that year and the public's appetite had been whetted for this challenge. So it was on September 19th at the old Agricultural ground that the two teams faced off in front of 20,100 patrons.

Group scored first in the match. Deeley then passed to Curran and to Treweek who ran like a back scoring between the posts. A drop ball by Spillane gave Group 9 another try. From the scrum Williams in-passed to Treweek for another try. Treweek put the team on the attack. Then from a scrum Williams created a gap for Wearing who scored to give Souths a slender 11-10 halftime lead. After the break Williams broke away from a scrum, passed to O'Connor, who passed to Curran who scored under the posts. O'Connor was again in the clear, he passed to Root, to Deeley but before Mortimer could get him the ball went to Why to score. Why then passed to Curran who brushed tacklers aside to score. Soon after it was Williams to Maher who offloaded to Eyers who scored again. The game ended with a late try to Group 9. So South Sydney had added to the laurels they had achieved that year by winning handsomely 31 points to 15.

An interesting sidelight came after the game was over. The two teams made a circle to farewell two great players. One going overseas and one retiring. The retiring one was Benny Wearing from Souths. Except Benny must have had second thoughts over the off season and came back the following year. In fact, he played on until 1934.



1931 v Group 9	
	0-5
	5-5
	5-10
	8-10
	11-10
HT	11-10
	16-10
	18-10
	23-10
	28-10
	31-10
	31-15



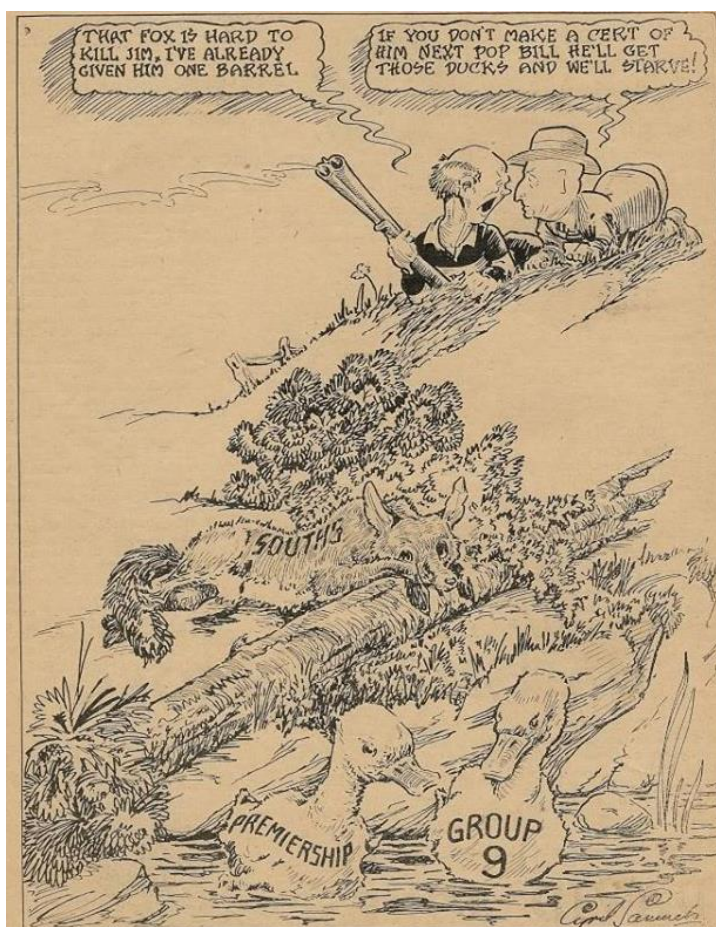
## 1932 – NSW Southern Districts(Group 9)

A suggestion was made that the Sydney premiers should be challenged by the top country group after the Grand Final to determine the State Champions for that year. The men in charge of the rugby league in NSW thought that was a good idea so a game was formalised for 1932.

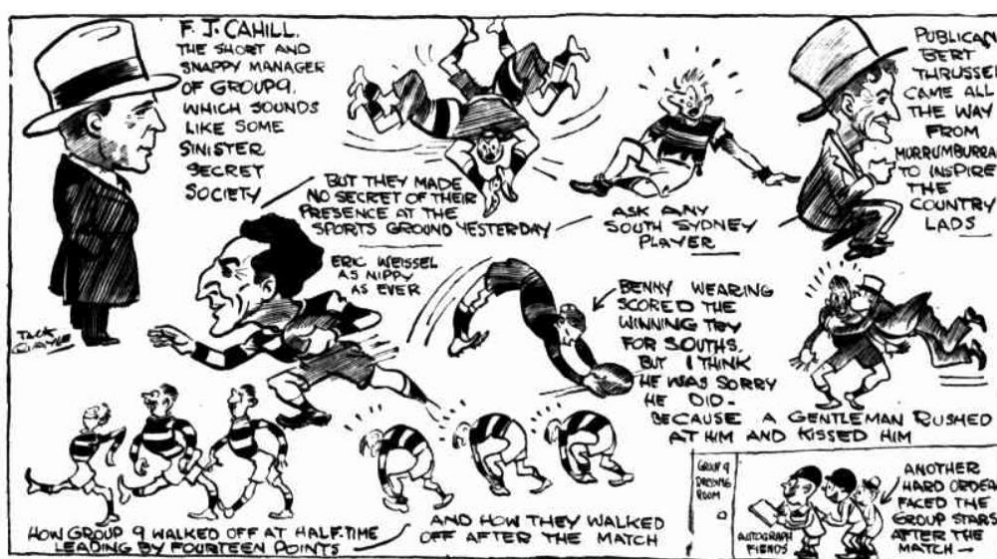
In 1932 it was on again. South Sydney won the premiership in the Grand Final against Western Suburbs 19-12. They again played Group 9 before 8,000 people playing in the early days of October.

The game was much closer. Group 9 played sensational football in the first half scoring two tries. L. Cooper was in fine kicking form and kicked 5 goals for a 2-16 lead at half time. Those in the crowd who had never seen Souths play before might have been lulled into the false assumption that the game was effectively over.

Alas, that is a poor assumption as Souths are never beaten. For 20 minutes Group 9 held South Sydney out. Then a country player took a swing at Wearing a brawl erupted, in the end Root and Gray(Group 9) were sent off. To get South Sydney moving Deeley finally beat Weissel to score a great try. crossed. Souths then swarmed the country line. The ball worked its way to Spillane who passed a low pass to Wearing who snapped it up to score. With three minutes to play South Sydney were still behind. Wearing then scooped up a loose ball and scored in the corner. They fought back magnificently in the second half and despite desperate defence from Group 9 were able to snatch victory only a few minutes before full time. They won by 19-16.



1932 v Grpup 9	
	0-2
	0-4
	0-9
	2-9
	2-11
	2-16
HT	2-16
	4-16
	6-16
	11-16
	14-16
	19-16



# 1950's Toowoomba Again

Mark Sivis

## Prelude

After World War II Rugby League had a big resurgence in Sydney, and the same was occurring again in Queensland. The premier inter-city competition in Queensland was the Bulimba Cup. Between 1951 and 1956 were Bulimba Cup winners, and once again they issued challenges to South Sydney in the 1950s during their premiership winning era.

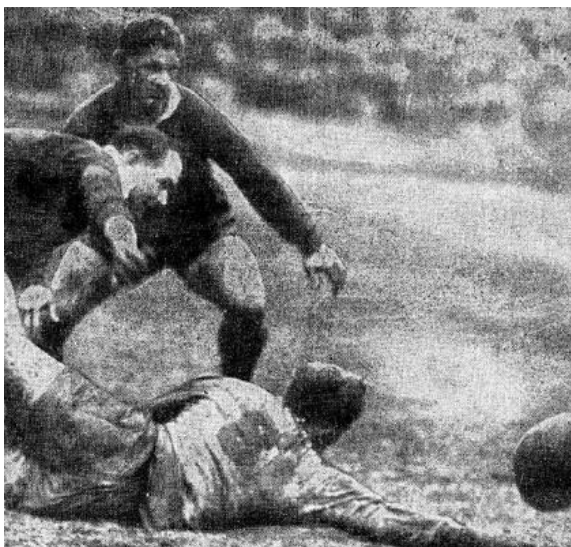
## 1951 - Toowoomba



Toowoomba had just won the Bulimba Cup and wanted to reclaim the Australian wide title so they issued a challenge to South Sydney the 1950 premiers. But this challenge was too hastily arranged. It was being played on a Sunday after the Saturday round of football. South Sydney boarded a plane at 6:15pm after their 3:00pm game and flew to Brisbane before taking the bus to Toowoomba. They finally arrived at Toowoomba at 12:30am. The match captured the imagination of the locals, and was billed again as the Australian Championship Challenge. Churchill took the field at five-eight, Souths got off to a lethargic start and it wasn't long before Toowoomba were ahead 2-16. Then in the final three minutes of the half Neilson cut through scoring two tries to get South Sydney back into the game. From there it was a high point scoring game, with Harry Wells scoring two tries and Harwick scored for South Sydney. But in a frantic finish handling let South Sydney down as Toowoomba hung on for a 27-34 victory.

## 1952 – Toowoomba Match One

In 1952 Toowoomba once again were Bulimba Cup winners and South Sydney were 1951 premiers. So for 1952 it was decided to make the contest a two match series. The first match would be held in Sydney. The first match at Redfern Oval had South Sydney get off to a good start leading 13-2 at halftime. Toowoomba fought back to make it 13 all, before South Sydney pulled away to win the game 26-19. The stars that day was Johnny Graves and Chika Cowie who both scored 2 tries.



## 1952 – Toowoomba Match Two

The return match in 1952 was played in Toowoomba. With the weekend competition round being washed on Saturday, playing on Sunday was not as a significant issues as in 1951. South Sydney got off to great start in the match leading 23-8, before Toowoomba came home strong to be only one point behind with five minutes to go, But South Sydney after a late penalty goal hung on to win 25-22 and win both games in the 1952 Australian Challenge series.

### 1954 – Toowoomba Match One

In 1954 Toowoomba once again were Bulimba Cup winners and South Sydney were again premiers, so the two game Australian Challenge was once again arranged. After two trips to Toowoomba the day after a competition round, 1954 was much better organised and played on the weekend Sydney were playing Great Britain. Only two players Jack Rayner and Johnny Dougherty would be backing up. The first match in 1954 was a high scoring encounter with South Sydney getting away to a early lead before Toowoomba came back. Les Brennan was the star that day scoring 4 tries, spelling danger every time he got the ball. While Bernie Purcell scored a try and kicked 10 goals to score 23 points in the 41-33 victory.



### 1954 – Toowoomba Match Two

The 1954 return match was played at Redfern, and it was a quagmire. Both teams threw the ball around despite the greasy conditions. Frequently ambulance men were called in to wash the mud from the players eyes. Toowoomba would go to win 2-11, with the Championship ending in a drawn series.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME. PRICE 6d.

SOUTH SYDNEY DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

**SOUTH SYDNEY**  
v.  
**TOOWOOMBA**

**SUNDAY, JULY 17th, 1955**

**REDFERN OVAL**  
MAIN MATCH COMMENCING AT 3 P.M.

EARLY MATCHES—

Alexandria Rovers v. Waterloo—C Grade—12.30 p.m.  
Coogee v. Chelsea—C Grade—1.45 p.m.

**:: WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS ::**

We have pleasure to-day in extending to our visitors from Toowoomba a cordial welcome to Redfern and hope that their brief stay amongst us will be as happy as on previous occasions that they visited us.

Toowoomba over the years has been renowned for the excellence of their players and they have won many stirring matches and have defeated England, New Zealand, France, Brisbane, Ipswich, South Sydney, Balmain, North Sydney and Northern N.S.W.

Great players have represented the Darling Downs amongst whom can be mentioned the following, viz.: Duncan Thompson, Nigger Brown, Tommy Gorman, W. Spencer, H. Steinhort, Jim Bennett, Vic Armbuster, Dan Dempsey, etc. It is fairly claimed that the players of yester year were amongst the greatest that have represented Queensland and Officials now claim that the present day players are on a par with the giants of other days. Hereunder will be found brief sketches of the careers of the players with us this afternoon.

G. W. HANSEN,  
Hon. Treasurer.

S. GEO. BALL,  
Dist. Hon. Secretary,  
165 Phillip St., Sydney.

### 1955 – Toowoomba Match One

In 1955 Toowoomba once again were Bulimba Cup winners and South Sydney were again premiers. But the appeal of the matches had dropped. Again, South Sydney would play the game a day after a match their country carnival match in Sydney. The country carnival was losing its appeal and the Australian Championship was heading in the same manner. Again South Sydney flew up overnight. The burden of playing a very tough game against Newcastle the day before and then flying took its toll Souths In a tough first half Toowoomba led 7-10, but ran away with game in the second half winning 17-45.

### 1955 – Toowoomba Match Two

The return match at Redfern would prove to be last encounter between these two great teams. Souths started well going out to a 19-5 lead on the back of two tries to Moir. But injuries to Hawick and Rayner saw South Sydney finish the game with 11 men, holding on to win 22-17 on the back of the boot of Bernie Purcell. Another drawn series

This match saw the end of these challenges for a number of years.

# 1968 – Australasian Challenges

*Mark Sivis*

## **Prelude**

After a return to success in 1967 South Sydney fielded challenges from over in New Zealand. 1967 Auckland premiers issued a challenge. With the expanded competition, mid year matches were no longer viable so when South Sydney won again in 1968 a Australasian Challenge in New Zealand was arranged.

## **1968 – Ponsonby**

Ponsonby were the 1967 Auckland Fox Memorial shield winners, while played midweek, it was the 1967 championship game. The original challenge was issued against the 1967 premiers that had to be delayed., but now got a chance to played as South Sydney were back-to-back premiers South Sydney dominated that game with Alan Heiler and Bob McCarthy both scoring a hatrick of tries.



## **1968 –Mt Albert**

The next game was against 1968 Auckland premiers Mt Albert who had just won the 1968 Fox Memorial Shield. In a tight contest in the first half Mt Albert led South Sydney 7-8 by a point. But with McCarthy and Bob Honan scoring two tries each and Simms kicking 6 goals, South Sydney went on to win the match 27-13. The secretary of the NZRL had glowing comments about the game, "South Sydney gave the best exhibition of Rugby League I have witnessed. The speed and variation of play was a lesson to New Zealand football"





**1968 – Past Brothers Brisbane**

On the way back from New Zealand Brisbane premiers Past Brothers issued a challenge to play for the **Australasian Club Championship**. So instead of heading home South Sydney headed once again to Brisbane to play a 3<sup>rd</sup> challenge match in 1968. Past Brothers had just beaten St George and felt they had a good chance of a win. The match was played at Lang Park with 20,000 people in attendance. Cleary who had missed the New Zealand leg of the tour joined the team in Brisbane. The match got underway after handshakes and South Sydney had raced to a 21 nil lead after 25 minutes. But Brothers hit back late in the half to bring the scoreline back to 21-10 at the break. After the break, South Sydney reverted to the famous 5-man pack with Paul Sait acting as a second five-eighth. South Sydney went to dominate the second half with double tries to Cleary, Ray Branighan, Bob Honan, Sait and Pittard, with South Sydney winning 55-15, shattering not only the Brisbane premiers but Brisbane Rugby League. And claiming undisputed title of Australasian Club Champions.



It would take 26 years before another Sydney premiers v Brisbane premiers challenge match was ever arranged again.

It would take 26 years before another Sydney premiers v Brisbane premiers challenge match was ever arranged again.



## Players Song

*And now that we're all round the bar  
and the captain's declared it a quorum  
we're drinking our way through the night  
and we're having the time of our lives  
throw the empties away, start again - start again  
for the boys of South Sydney are together  
and we'll drink till dawn breaks again  
and may the sessions of South Sydney last forever.*

*Oh! we never stagger, never fall  
We sober up on pure alcohol  
Our royal sons go marching up for more*

*We'll guzzle, guzzle, guzzle and we'll tip it down our muzzle  
And we'll sing out the order loud and clear: More beer!  
And we'll drink all night until we're very tight  
At the shades of wherever we are*

*Six hefty forwards and seven greasy backs  
And plenty rabbit barrackers to keep the bludgers back  
When the skin and hair is flying and the slaughter has begun  
Three cheers for the good, old Rabbitohs  
For the victory we have won*

*Up the Rabbitohs!*

Players remind us that the song has been around a long time. It would be sung on the team bus, at the old end of season South Sydney annual balls. Not just after the game. Today the song is sung loud and fast. But that wasn't always the case.

Talking to former players, you quickly find out that it pre-dates the modern era. The tune and original words even pre-date World War II. It was adapted by Bill Hinson in 1931 (brother of 1930's player Eddie Hinson) after hearing the song sung.

The melody was a popular melody in British pubs at the turn of 18th-century. It was based upon a tune from Anacreontic Society, a 18th-century club of amateur musicians in London. That society was dedicated to ancient Greek poet Anacreon, who was renowned for his drinking songs. The melody became famous when the tune was also picked up as the "The Star-Spangled Banner".

# Shaquai Mitchell

*Grant Chappell*

Shaquai Mitchell played 11 games in the NRL this year with Rabbitohs.

He also played 9 games in the NSW Cup winning on 8 occasions.

The 27 years of Taree Red Rover Junior was dominant in the opening exchanges of the NSW Cup Grand Final. He was rewarded with the 1st Rabbitohs try of the game next to the posts. Running onto a pass from dummy half Peter Mamezoulus with a classic hit n spin try.



# Ethan O'Neill

One of the most consistent players in the NSW Cup squad in 2023 was 24 year old Ethan O'Neill.

A Souths Junior who played for Matraville Tigers and the Coogee Wombats. Ethan got his 1st senior football game for the Tweed Seagulls and Central Queensland Capra's in the Queensland Cup competition. The son of former Rabbitoh Julian O'Neill. Who played for Souths from 97"-99".

The back rower plays 80 mins every week. He was also a noted try scorer. Crossing the stripe on 9 occasions including a try in the 2023 decider against foundation club the North Sydney Bears. Latching onto a Dean Hawkins grubber in the 1st half to score ten Rabbitohs 2nd try of the match.

## Tom Carr

Veteran NSW Cup player Tom Carr lead the team in try scoring with 16 tries for the season. Playing his 94th New South Wales cup game. Carr scored the Rabbitohs 3rd try off a backline sweep from right to left. The former North Sydney Bear was able to get some revenge on his former team. leading 16-12 mid way through the second half.



## Peter Mamouzelos

Pistol Pete – is a real star of our Reserve Grade squad/ He has played nearly every game and manages the direction of the team. A South Sydney junior from Maroubra, he had great success on the international stage with Greece helping lead them into Rugby League World Cup.

## **2023 State Championship - Rabbitohs**

**Venue** - Stadium Australia (Accor Stadium)  
**Date** - Sunday, October 1  
**Kickoff** - 1:20pm NSW

**Fbck** 1 – Taaffe, Blake  
**Wing** 2 – Carr, Tom  
**Cntr** 3 – Tu’itupou Thompson, Izaac  
**Cntr** 4 – Gagai, Jacob  
**Wing** 5 – Munro, Tyrone  
**5/8** 6 – Teaupa, Dion  
**Half** 7 – Hawkins, Dean (c)  
**Prop** 8 – Mitchell, Shaquai  
**Hook** 9 – Mamouzelos, Peter  
**Prop** 10 – Gray, Brock  
**SRow** 11 – French, Matt  
**SRow** 12 – O’Neill, Ethan  
**Lock** 13 – Duncan, Tallis

**Int** 14 – Gardiner, Shannon  
**Int** 15 – Rahme, Jaxson  
**Int** 16 – Skelton, Leonard  
**Int** 17 – Gordon, Yileen  
**Int** 18 – Alvarado, Tristan  
**Int** 19 – Chapman, Chase  
**Int** 20 – Bentley-Hape, Bayleigh  
**Int** 21 – Subloo, Jarrett  
**Int** 22 – Swann, William

**Coach** – O’Callaghan, Joe



	M	S	I	T	G/A	FG	2FG	Pts	
Alvarado, Tristan	6	-	(6)	-	-	-	-	-	
Bentley-Hape, Bayleigh	2*	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Carr, Tom	27*	26	(1)	16	4/6	-	-	72	
Cartwright, Jed	4	4	-	2	-	-	-	8	
Chan-Foon, Maila	16	10	(6)	2	-	-	-	8	
Champman, Chase	7*	3	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	
Chee Kam, Michael	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cook, Romano	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Duncan, Tallis	19	9	(10)	3	-	-	-	12	
Ferguson, Ethan	1*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
French, Matt	10	-	(10)	3	-	-	-	12	
Gagai, Jacob	26	26	-	7	-	-	-	28	
Gardiner, Shannon	22	5	(17)	2	-	-	-	8	
Giles, Thomas	5	2	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	
Gordon, Yileen	24	12	(12)	-	1/1	-	-	2	
Gray, Brock	26	11	(15)	3	-	-	-	12	
Grossemy, Louis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[squad]
Hardman, D'Arcy	3	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	
Havili, Siliva	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hawkins, Dean	22	22	-	5	61/80	-	-	132	
Hodge, Cody	3	3	-	2	-	-	-	8	
Hodge, Tyson	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kalo Kalo, Terrell	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Karapani, Josiah	19	19	-	7	-	-	-	28	
Kennar, Richard	11	11	-	4	-	-	-	16	
Kaho, Carson	1*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Knight, Liam	5	3	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	
Lovett, Ben	22	22	-	2	-	-	-	8	
Makelim, Zac	5*	-	(5)	2	1/1	-	-	10	
Mamouzelos, Peter	25	24	(1)	10	-	-	-	40	
Milne, Taane	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Miller, Kaylen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[squad]
Mitchell, Shaquai	9	7	(2)	3	-	-	-	12	

Moale, Davvy	3	3	-	2	-	-	-	8
Moretti, Marco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- [squad]
Munro, Tyrone	6*	6	-	7	-	-	-	28
O'Neill, Ethan	25*	22	(3)	9	-	-	-	36
Patterson, Hugo	5	2	(3)	-	-	-	-	-
Rahme, Jaxson	16	11	(5)	-	-	-	-	-
Skelton, Leonard	12*	12	-	3	-	-	-	12
Spyroulias, Chaise	1	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
Subaloo, Jarrett	1*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suluka-Fifita, Daniel	13	12	(1)	2	-	-	-	8
Swann, William	2*	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
Taaffe, Blake	13	13	-	6	23/35	-	-	70
Te Hau, Leon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- [squad]
Teaupa, Dion	21*	21	-	6	3/7	-	-	30
Tu'itupou Thompson, Izaac	9	9	-	10	-	-	-	40



# Season 2023

## CyberView From The Hill

*A weekly blog of season 2023*

### Off Season

**Shaq ad Thompson rewarded** - Two standout players in 2022 have been rewarded with promotion into our Top 30. Both players have worked extremely hard to break into the NRL squad. Their transformation from 140kg has been a great off field story in 2022. But now its about getting fitness and strength needed for a long season ahead. Well done to both players as the move into the Top 30 squad, as I expect the best yet to come for both players. One player who immediately impressed in his first hit out in the U19s was flyer Tyrone Munro who was on the end of 4 tries including a great length of the field effort.

**Trial v Wests Lidcombe W 44-0**

**Big Reserve Grade Win** - While all of the focus last weekend was on the gripping contest at Redfern, our fringe Reserve Grade team had a hit out against the NSW Cup Western Suburb Magpies at Lidcombe. It was a match we dominated from start to finish as we rattled up 11 tries. While I won't read too much into trials as it looks like the opposition fringe players were clearly below par, it was never the less a good hit out for those players with some of them rewarded with selection this week.

**Rd01 Challenge v Manly Gosford L 28-30**

**Young Guns Hit out** - The year begins with a hit out lead by our fringe NRL squad. The match started well as we led 18-4 but the team faded towards the end of the first half. Fitness was a contributor as many players were playing the first big game after returning from injury. But overall will be better for the hit out and only losing after a try was scored while having on 12 men on the field

**Charity Shield v St George- Illawarra Mudgee W 28-10**

**Strong Warmup** – Team had a strong work out in the heat at Mudgee as a number of players finished their final trials in readiness for the season ahead. Carr was a standout scoring a double, with Subaloo landing 4 from 5 goals

**Round 1 v Newtown Henson Park L 6-26**

**Missing Backup Halves** - We are in a injury crisis in our backup halves at the moment. Dean Hawkins has been recovering from a hamstring injury, while pre-season sensation Dion Teaupa was injured in the final trial. Add to this our U19 five-eighth Jye Gray hurt his hamstring in the final junior trial. Then on the weekend after 25 minutes new recruit Jarrett Subloo went down also. Hopefully this won't last too long as our stocks are being stretched very thin.

**Round 2 v Penrith Penrith Park L 20-30**

**Carr double** - Standin captain Tom Carr helped get us back into game in the second half with his speed. One try off a intercept and the other from a set play. Last years NSW Cup top try scorer continues to find the line.



**Round 3**      **v Syd Roosters**      **Wentworth Park**      **L 16-38**

**Pete Double** - Pistol Pete helped set the scene for a great start to the reserve grade clash with a great support play try followed a trademark burrow over from dummy half as he raked up a double. But then to see him leave the field caused a big issue. Hope the injury is not significant.

**Round 4**      **v Blacktown**      **Stadium Aust**      **W 26-12**

**Gagai strong at the back** - Jacob Gagai continues to do well when he is playing fullback. He had a very strong running game as he ran for 290m and helped steady the ship from the back, as the team held on for their first victory of the season.

**Round 6**      **v Canterbury**      **Stadium Aust**      **L 22-26**

**Duncan super sub** - Tallis Duncan has adopted a super sub role of late in reserve grade. He has been coming off the bench and playing 60 minutes. He scored another try and had another try assist while doing a mountain of defence at lock.

**Round 7**      **v Norths**      **North Sydney Oval**      **L 10-40**

**Skelton opportunity** - A new face in the trials was Leonard Skelton, who has popped again to make his Reserve Grade debut. I will watch with interest on how he goes now he has a opportunity in the team. Overall, the team is struggling and in second last position after 7 weeks.

**Round 8**      **v Penrith**      **Stadium Australia**      **W 18-16**

**Gamble pays off** - 2 points down in the final minute of the game, Hawkins pulls off a great 40-20 kick to put Souths in an attacking position. Then a Penrith is penalised, and sin binned for holding down a player and time wasting. Souths are then given a choice take the safe option and draw the game with a penalty goal. Instead, they go for the win and they create the overlap against 12 men and score a great match winning try out wide to Cody Hodge. A trilling finish that allowed the team to pick up a vital two points.

**Round 9**      **v Canberra**      **Wagga**      **L 16-22**

**Knight returns** - Liam Knight finally made his return from his ACL injury late last season. It was a strong half game performance in reserve grade and his class was immediately evident. So this week he has been recalled to the first grade bench. Just when we need our key troops leading into State of Origin period.

**Round 10**      **v Sydney Roosters**      **North Sydney Oval**      **W 28-26**

**Taaffe Show** - Blake Taaffe had one of his best games in reserve grade on the weekend. He was instrumental on getting the team back into the game with his long range tries and goal kicking. Before he combined with Thompson and Kennar to send Mamouzelos for the match winner. He will be a vital member of the team during the upcoming Origin period.

**Round 11**      **v Wests**      **Stadium Australia**      **W 26-22**

**Thompson hatrick** - Just when the team needed him, Izzac Thompson scored a hatrick of tries as the reserve grade team stormed home to win. The last try to win the win was one of the best wingers tries seen at the stadium. Just as he was finding form, he injured his knee and went in for cleanout surgery.

**Round 12**      **v Parramatta**                      **Sydney Football Stadium**      **L 16-26**

**Duncan call-up** - Tallis Duncan was rewarded for a strong start to the season with a call up onto the bench for this weekend's match. He is a ball playing lock who has a high work rate in defence. He will be a worth fill in for Murray who is on origin duties.

**Round 13**      **v Canberra**                      **Stadium Australia**      **W 26-20**

**Hawkins finds his kicking boots** - Its been a while since Dean Hawkins was the regular kicker in a game, due to his hamstring injury, but with Taaffe stepping up into first grade he took back kicking duties, and this week hit hit form kicking 5 from 5 and notching up 300 career points in the process.

**Round 14**      **v Warriors**                      **Redfern Oval**                      **W 24-22**

**Chan-Foon unsung hero** - Maila Chan-Foon has been a late developer and showing significant improvement as he settles into the vacant reserve grade second row role. He started out as a centre, but his good defence and line speed has made him one of the most consistent players on the edge.

**Round 15**      **v St George-Illawarra**      **Kogarah Oval**                      **W 30-22**

**Munro steps up** - Put a circle around the name Tyrone Munro as a name for the future. This week he stepped up into Reserve Grade and immediately his speed was evident as he sensationally ran down the sideline and was able to setup a try at pace. It won't be long before he gets a NRL opportunity, now he is over his collarbone injury.

**Round 16**      **v Norths**                      **Coogee Oval**                      **W 24-16**

**Forwards Lead Way** - It has taken almost half the season, but on the weekend our reserve grade squad had a full complement of forwards, and it showed what a difference it makes. Norths were one of the highflyers of the competition, but our forward domination allowed the young outside backs to perform as the boys won a hard fought victory. Their 4th on the trot.

**Round 17**      **v Blacktown**                      **Laybutt Field**                      **W 30-16**

**Gagai Another strong game** - Jacob Gagai is stepping out of the shadow of his brother, with another strong performance at fullback on the weekend. He is quick and has a way of finding or creating a gap and scored another try on the weekend. He was rewarded by being called up onto the extended first grade bench.

**Round 18**      **v Warriors**                      **Mt Smart Stadium**      **L 18-21**

**Return of Matt French** - This week we see a familiar name return to Souths reserve grade. Matt is a strong tackling second rower. I look forward to seeing him add to our second rower stocks, and progress as a late bloomer. While over the ditch our reserves suffered their first loss in five weeks in torrential rain.

**Round 19**      **v Canterbury**                      **Stadium Australia**      **L 16-44**

**Makelim double** – With 11 first graders out of action our reserve grade team struggled. Zac Makelim is a name you won't hear much about, but on the weekend the Coff Harbour junior, brought down by Sam Burgess earlier in the year, answered a SOS as we were down on troops. Makelim a hooker came on and impressed in the second half darting and weaving and scoring a double to boot. Good luck in his future opportunity.

**Round 20**      **v Parramatta**                      **Western Syd Stadium**    **W 30-10**

**Cartwright huge game** - With a late call up Jed came into the reserve grade team, and turned in a outstanding performance when he moved out to right centre setting up line breaks and try assists to guide the team to a very important victory. His skills will be needed over the coming months as the team heads into the finals.

**Round 21**      **v Newcastle**                      **Redfern Oval**                      **W 34-16**

**Dean Hawkins dominates** - "Footy Dean" as he is called, has clearly shaken off a injury that has hampered him last year, and is now playing as one of the most consistant reserve grade players, as he leads the team towards the finals. He scored a try, setup two tries and setup three-line breaks. Add to this his classy kicky game and he is now goal kicking from all over the park. His organisation halfback skills are there for people to see.

**Round 22**      **v Wests**                                      **Lidcombe Oval**                      **W 36-18**

**Brock Grack improves** – As the reserve grade team secured the Kelly-Sattler Cup, a unsung reserve grade hero this year has been Brock Gray. He came back to the club and is doing a great job in his work rate at prop. His runs are having a impact and is creating a impact as he comes off the bench, with strong defence. He is a classic forward who is developing later in his career.

**Round 23**      **v Newtown**                                  **Redfern Oval**                      **W 32-16**

**Shaq rewarded** – Big Shaq Mitchell returned to the NRL this week after another good performance in the NSW cup. His power up the middle was evident, as he crashed over for a try, and how he combined with his outside men. Looking forward to him being a settling role in our team.. Reserve Grade has inched into the Top 5 after winning the last 4 matches.

**Round 24**      **v St George-Illawarra**    **Redfern Oval**                      **W 50-12**

**Thompson & Carr Show** – Reserve Grade team made a statement on the weekend as they pushed into the Top 3. Well, it took a few weeks to shake off the cobwebs from his last injury, but Izaac Thompson proved what a great finisher he is when he scored another hat trick. The way he ran over 50m to support the runner in his last try was great to see. Perfect timing for finals run. And not to be outdone Carr also scored a double.

**Round 25**      **v Newcastle**                                  **Toronto**                                  **W 26-16**

**Moale double** - Up at Toronto our reserve grade team cemented themselves a second-place finish in the finals, on the back of a dominate forward performance in the final 20 minutes. Davvy Moale was part of that scoring two powerful tries up the middle as he helped the team get back into the lead and eventually win the match.

**Finals Week 1**   **v Warriors**                                  **North Sydney Oval**                      **W 26-12**

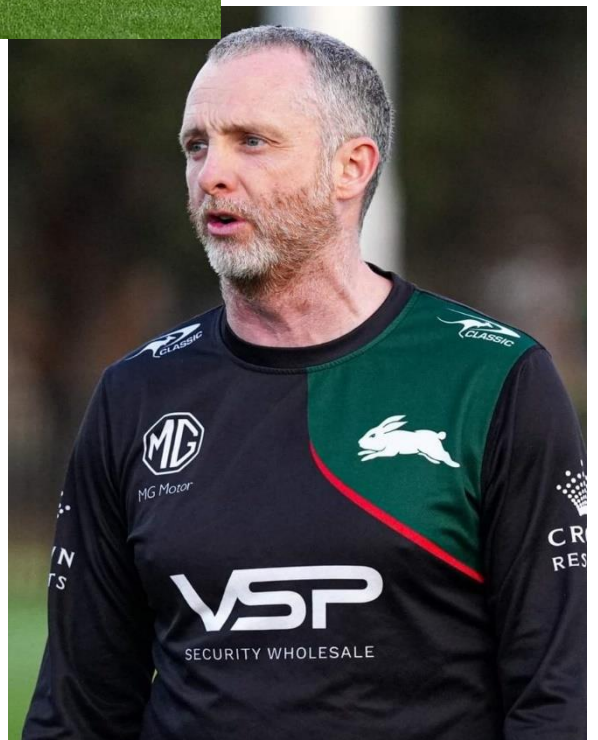
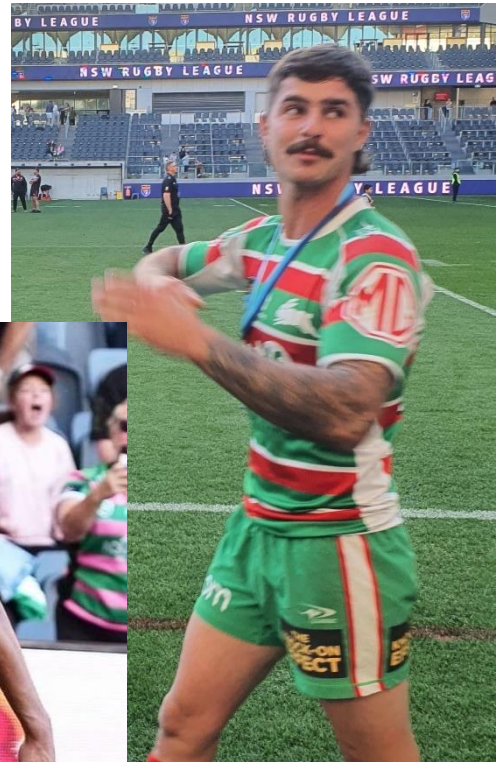
**Mamouzelos dominates** – In a busing encountered that saw Suluka-Fifita out in the first minute, South Sydney fought back on the back of some brilliant dummy half running by Peter Mamouzelos. Pistol Pete attacked a tiring Warriors pack to win. We are just one win away from the Grand Final.

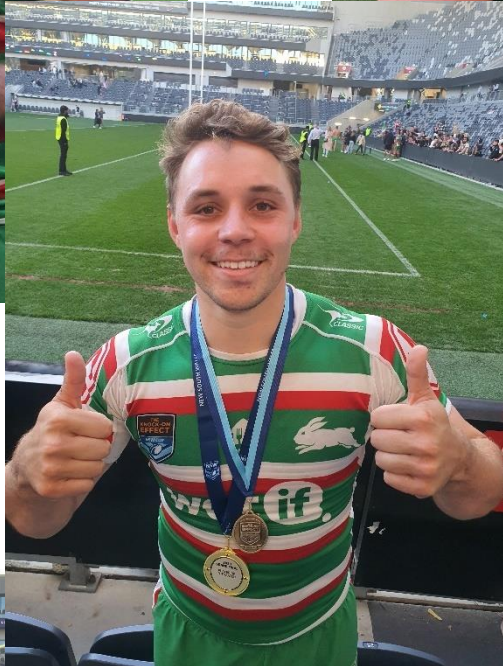
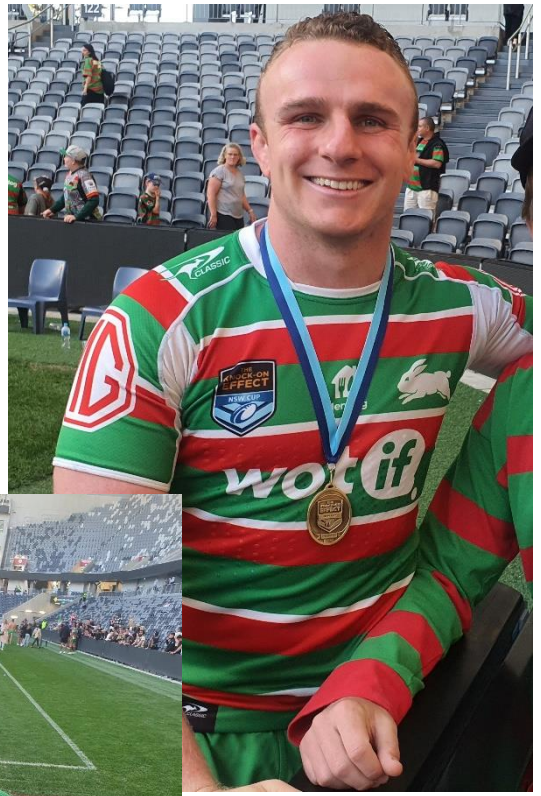
**Finals Week 2**   **v Norths**                                  **Leichhardt Oval**                      **W 30-24**

**Grand Final here we come!** – It's been 40 years but we are back in a reserve grade grand final. In a dominate first half performance led by Shaq Mitchell that saw Munro bag a double and Thompson score. Before they got a fright as the minor premiers came back before Carr clinched the result out wide.

**Premiers!** – What a game. The lead changed six times as South Sydney never gave up. With the game being orchestrated by Hawkins and a man of match performance by Taafe, who set up a fantastic match winning try to Munro. Again, we had to defend strongly at the death to win the game. That's 9 straight victories to win our first reserve grade premiership in 40 years.







# Rabbitoh The Challenges

## **1918 Challenge 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 3:15pm Brisbane Cricket Ground**

HT 14-7 Referee J.Roche

**South Sydney 28** (H.Horder 2, V.Sheehan 2, J.Kerwick 2, C.Horder, A.Blair tries; H.Horder, A.Oxford goals) beat **Merthyr 10**

LineUp (H.Hallett(c), H.Horder, C.Horder, G.Vaughan, V.Sheehan, A.Blair, E.Anderson, J.Kerwick, A.Oxford, P.Horne, W.Groves, C.O'Donnell, G.Moore; Res W.Rowley)  
Coach – H.Hallett

## **1918 Challenge 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 3:30pm Brisbane Cricket Ground**

HT 16-6 Referee J.Roche

**South Sydney 19** (H.Horder 2, E.Anderson, H.Hallett, W.Rowley tries; D.Lindsay, A.Oxford goals) drew with **Queensland 19**

LineUp (D.Lindsay, V.Sheehan, W.Rowley, H.Hallett(c), H.Horder, A.Blair, E.Anderson, A.Oxford, C.O'Donnell, G.Moore, W.Groves, P.Horne, J.Kerwick)  
Coach – H.Hallett

## **1925 Challenge, 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 3:15pm Toowoomba Athletic Ground**

HT 3-7 Referee T.McMahon

**South Sydney 5** (E.Lapham try; Blair goal) lost to **Toowoomba 12**

LineUp (A.Righton, B.Wearing, V.Lawrence, O.Quinlivan, J.Lodge, A.Blair(c), A.Johnston, A.Why, E.Lapham, A.O'Connor, P.Murphy, A.Thompson, H.Cavanough)  
Coach – H.Hallett

## **1926 Challenge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 3:15pm Sydney Cricket Ground**

HT 14-7 Referee T.McMahon

**South Sydney 18** (B.Wearing, E.Root, A.Why, E.Lapham tries; A.Blair 2, B.Wearing goals) beat **Far North Coast 5**

LineUp (A.Righton, B.Wearing, V.Lawrence, O.Quinlivan, H.Finch, A.Blair(c), F.Brogan, A.Why, E.Lapham, A.O'Connor, G.Treweek, A.Thompson, E.Root)  
Coach – H.Hallett

## **1929 Challenge, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 3:15pm Davies Park, Huntly NZ**

HT 10-0 Referee A.Harlock

**South Sydney 30** (C.Eggen, H.Eyers, A.O'Connor, A.Blair tries; B.Wearing 6 goals) beat **Huntly NZ 3**

LineUp (A.Spillane, B.Wearing, O.Quinlivan, J.Why, M.Manning, A.Blair(c), P.Williams, P.Stewart, F.O'Connor, A.O'Connor, C.Eggen, A.Binder, D.Watson; Res H.Eyers)  
Coach – C.Lynch

### **1929 Challenge Match One, 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 3:15pm Carlaw Park, Auckland**

HT 4-5 Referee A.Harlock

**South Sydney 9** (J.Why try; B.Wearing, A.Blair, O.Quinlivan goals) lost to **Marist Old Boys 10**

LineUp (A.Spillane, B.Wearing, O.Quinlivan, H.Eyers, R.Williams, A.Blair(c), P.Williams, J.Why, F.O'Connor, A.O'Connor, C.Eggen, A.Binder, D.Watson)

Coach – C.Lynch

### **1929 Challenge Match Two, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 3:15pm Carlaw Park, Auckland**

HT 12-2 Referee L.Bull

**South Sydney 21** (C.Eggen 2, B.Wearing, H.Eyers, A.Binder tries; B.Wearing, 3 goals) beat **Marist Old Boys 5**

LineUp (A.Spillane, B.Wearing, O.Quinlivan, J.Why, M.Manning, A.Blair(c), P.Williams, H.Eyers, F.O'Connor, A.O'Connor, C.Eggen, A.Binder, W.Dennett)

Coach – C.Lynch

### **1931 Challenge, 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 3:15pm RAS Showground**

HT 11-10 Referee L.Deane

**South Sydney 31** (F.Curran 2, G.Treweek 2, H.Eyers, J.Why, B.Wearing tries; P.Williams 3, B.Wearing 2 goals) beat **NSW Group 9 5**

LineUp (A.Spillane, B.Wearing, P.Maher(c), J.Morrison, J.Why, H.Eyers, P.Williams, J.Deeley, G.Treweek, F.O'Connor, F.Curran, J.Peterson, E.Root)

Coach – C.Lynch

### **1932 Challenge, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 3:15pm Sydney Sports Ground**

HT 2-16 Referee L.Deane

**South Sydney 19** (B.Wearing 2, J.Deeley tries; B.Wearing 2, J.Jones 2, A.Spillane goals) beat **NSW Group 9 16**

LineUp (A.Spillane, B.Wearing, P.Maher, A.Black, J.Why, J.Deeley, J.Jones, E.Lewis, F.O'Connor, G.Treweek(c), F.Curran, J.Peterson, E.Root)

Coach – C.Lynch

### **1951 Challenge, 1<sup>st</sup> Jul 3:15pm Toowoomba Athletic Ground**

HT 12-16 Referee

**South Sydney 27** (R.Neilsen 2, H.Wells 2, G.Harwick tries; C.Churchill 2, D.Donoghue 2, J.Rayner, B.Purcell goals) lost to **Toowoomba 34**

LineUp (D.Murdoch, N.Spillane, H.Wells, M.Atkinson, C.Smailles, C.Churchill, B.Stewart, G.Harwick, R.Neilsen, J.Rayner(c), N.Nilson, B.Purcell, D.Donoghue)

Coach – J.Rayner



### **1952 Challenge Match One, 25<sup>th</sup> May 3:15pm Redfern Oval**

HT 13-2 Referee G.Bishop

**South Sydney 26** (J.Graves 2, L.Cowie 2, J.Rayner, F.Threlfo tries; J.Graves 4 goals) beat **Toowoomba 19**

LineUp (D.Murdoch, J.Graves, K.Woolfe, F.Threlfo, K.Brogan, N.Spillane, G.Harwick, L.Cowie, B.Purcell, J.Rayner(c), K.Macreadie, W.Moloney, D.Donoghue)  
Coach – J.Rayner

### **1952 Challenge Match Two, 27<sup>th</sup> Jul 3:15pm Toowoomba Athletic Ground**

**South Sydney 25** (F.Threlfo 2, C.Smailles 2, J.Graves tries; B.Purcell 5 goals) beat **Toowoomba 22**

LineUp (D.Murdoch, J.Graves, F.Threlfo, J.Renshaw, C.Smailles, N.Spillane, K.Brogan, L.Cowie, B.Purcell, J.Rayner(c), K.Macreadie, E.Hammerton, D.Donoghue)  
Coach – J.Rayner

### **1954 Challenge Match One, 30<sup>th</sup> May 3:15pm Toowoomba Athletic Ground**

Referee M.Vercoe

**South Sydney 41** (L.Brennan 4, E.Hammerton, D.Dougherty, B.Purcell tries; B.Purcell 10 goals) beat **Toowoomba 33**

LineUp (D.Murdoch, I.Moir, G.Harwick, M.Gallagher, L.Brennan, J.Dougherty, R.Mason, L.Cowie, B.Purcell, J.Rayner(c), J.Richards, E.Hammerton, D.Donoghue)  
Coach – J.Rayner

### **1954 Challenge Match Two, 11<sup>h</sup> Jul 3:00pm Redfern Oval**

**South Sydney 2** (D.Murdoch goal) lost to **Toowoomba 11**

LineUp (D.Murdoch, L.Brennan, M.Gallagher, K.Woolfe, B.Honeysett, C.Healey, R.Mason, L.Cowie(c), R.Sait, R.Moon, J.Richards, E.Hammerton, D.Donoghue)  
Coach – J.Rayner

### **1955 Challenge Match One, 8<sup>th</sup> May 3:00pm Toowoomba Athletic Ground**

HT 7-10 Referee H.Reitmuller

**South Sydney 17** (D.Puren, B.Honeysett, J.Rayner tries; D.Puren 3 goals; C.Churchill fieldgoal) lost to **Toowoomba 45**

LineUp (C.Churchill, D.Puren, M.Gallagher, B.Honeysett, I.Moir, M.Spencer, C.Donohoe, L.Cowie, B.Purcell, J.Rayner(c), J.Richards, E.Hammerton, D.Donoghue)  
Coach – J.Rayner

### **1955 Challenge Match Two, 8<sup>th</sup> May 3:00pm Toowoomba Athletic Ground**

HT 19-5

**South Sydney 22** (I.Moir 2, D.Puren, B.Purcell tries; B.Purcell 5 goals) beat **Toowoomba 17**

LineUp (D.Murdoch, D.Puren, M.Spencer, B.Honeysett, I.Moir, J.Dougherty, C.Donohoe, G.Harwick, B.Purcell, J.Rayner(c), J.Richards, E.Hammerton, D.Donoghue)  
Coach – J.Rayner

**1968 Challenge Match, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 3:00pm Carlaw Park, Auckland**

**South Sydney 31** (R.McCarthy 3, A.Heiler 3, J.O'Neill tries; E.Simms 5 goals) beat **Ponsonby NZ 3**

LineUp (E.Simms, R.Amatto, R.Honan, A.Branighan, A.Heiler, G.Norgard, R.Grant, P.Sait, R.Moses, R.McCarthy, J.Sattler(c), E.Walters, J.O'Neill; Res G.Piggins, K.Longbottom)

Coach – C.Churchill

**1968 Challenge Match, 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 3:00pm Carlaw Park, Auckland**

HT 7-8

**South Sydney 27** (R.McCarthy 2, R.Honan 2, P.Sait tries; E.Simms 6 goals) beat **Mt Albert NZ 13**

LineUp (E.Simms, R.Amatto, R.Honan, A.Branighan, A.Heiler, D.Pittard, R.Grant, P.Sait, J.Sattler(c), R.Moses, D.Lee, E.Walters, J.Morgan Res R.McCarthy, I.Jones)

Coach – C.Churchill

**1968 Challenge Match, 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 3:00pm Lang Park**

HT 21-10 J.Percival(NZ)

**South Sydney 55** (M.Cleary 2, R.Branighan 2, R.Honan 2, P.Sait 2, D.Pittard 2, E.Simms, A.Heiler, R.McCarthy tries; E.Simms 7, K.Longbottom goals) beat **Part Brothers Brisbane 15**

LineUp (E.Simms, M.Cleary, A.Heiler, R.Honan, R.Branighan, D.Pittard, R.Grant, R.Coote, R.McCarthy, J.Sattler(c), E.Walters, J.O'Neill; Res P.Sait, K.Longbottom)

Coach – C.Churchill



*Flag waving fan, Otto Crispe who defied a storm on the hill in the 1932 State Championship victory*

***rabbitohs.com.au***  
***Home of South Sydney DRLFC***  
***What's your membership number?***



*Steve Mavin interviews the playing squad, coaches and broadcasts some pathways games. A must for all Rabbitohs fans as they let us know of all the Rabbitohs scoops.*

*Chaps and Brownny bringing you their unique perspective on the Rabbitohs. A podcast that is a must for Rabbitoh fans.*





# SSR Almanac

*SSRAlmanac.com*

*Where the history of the  
Rabbitoh comes alive*