

QUEENSLAND REDS

MATCH DAY

P R O G R A M

SUNSHINE
SUPERKIDS
ROUND



ROUND 4

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH, 2023, 3:00PM | SUNCORP STADIUM



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This partnership mindset is behind our relationship with Queensland Rugby Union, Buildcorp Reds Academy and the Buildcorp Emerging Reds Cup.

**Get in touch to learn more
about the value we could
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Mike Currie, General Manager, QLD
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Buildcorp

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An entertaining afternoon awaits Queensland Rugby fans as the Queensland Reds play their maiden match at Suncorp Stadium this year.

Sunday arvo rugby returns to this great venue for the first time since 2019 at the family-friendly time of 3pm in what's set to be a fun-filled day as Super Rugby Pacific celebrates its inaugural Kids Round.

Fresh off their inspirational victory over reigning champions the Crusaders, the Fijian Drua come to Brisbane full of optimism as they battle the Reds in just the pair's second-ever encounter in Super Rugby Pacific.

Following a hard-fought loss in Canberra last week, Queensland will search for their second victory of the season and will have the full support of the home crowd behind them.

I would like to welcome the Drua, their coaching staff and team management to Suncorp Stadium today in what shapes as an expansive and free-flowing afternoon of running-rugby.

Reds head coach Brad Thorn has made three changes to his XV for this afternoon's clash with James O'Connor returning to the starting side at flyhalf following a successful comeback from injury via the bench.

Jock Campbell also returns to run-on

team at fullback while Reds Academy product Taj Annan will make his starting debut at inside centre with Hunter Paisami ruled out with concussion.

O'Connor will reprise his halves partnership with co-captain Tate McDermott, while fellow skipper Liam Wright, Fraser McReight and Harry Wilson make for a settled backrow trio.

Seru Uru will once again combine with Ryan Smith in the second row and will look to recreate his heroics in last year's fixture, with the Fijian lock scoring a crucial try and snatching a lineout steal in the final minutes to secure the win over the Drua in 2022.

Dane Zander, Matt Faessler and Zane Nonggorr will all start in the front row for a fourth straight week as the Reds will look to improve to a 2-2 season record after four rounds of competition.

Knowing they represent all of Queensland when they pull on the maroon jersey, these current Reds players are primed for a big season in what shapes as a historic year for Queensland Rugby as we celebrate our 140-year anniversary in 2023.

Thank you all for your attendance and I hope you enjoy this afternoon's game.

Go the Reds!

Roger Gould – QRU President



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KIDS ROUND IS A THEME EVERY RED CAN RELATE TO



CAPTION: A YOUNG TATE MCDERMOTT (LEFT) AND JOCK CAMPBELL PLAYING FOR INVERELL HIGHLANDERS (RIGHT)

WRITTEN BY JIM TUCKER

The power of Kids Round is that every Queensland Reds player can share a story of where their own love of rugby sprouted from in junior days.

Every Reds player will also tell you how important it is to keep the flame burning in a new and bigger generation of youngsters. As many young eyes as possible in the crowd will stir the vibe at Suncorp Stadium for Sunday's family-friendly 3pm kick-off against Fijian Drua.

Being a magnet for kids isn't just about one 80-minute game and a round of selfies and autographs after this high-appealing Super Rugby Pacific clash.

It's about feeling the responsibility all season. That's why Reds co-captain Liam Wright was part of the enthusiastic roll-up to the juniors sign-on day for the Tiger Cubs at his Easts club on February 19. The club is rightly proud that they'll have

a massive turnout of more than 900 juniors this season.

"It's really important to get kids interested in the game and keep breeding that interest. They are the next generation...from those boys and girls you'll have the players wearing Reds jerseys in 15 years," Wright said.

"I always find it really cool seeing kids getting around in club and Reds kit and showing what rugby means to them."

Wright's juniors journey was more colourful than most. He rocked a little Sharks T-shirt in his birth city of Durban before his family migrated to Australia. He's now a "Tiger For Life" and perhaps scarred for life, he joked, by losing grand finals in Under-13s, Under-14s and Under-15s.

Reds backrowers Harry Wilson and Fraser McReight devoured lolly snakes at half-time like any youngster in their junior days.

Wilson made his start in country

NSW with the Gunnedah Red Devils under headgear, of course. McReight was non-stop during his junior years with the Albany Creek Brumbies. A Reds backrow joined by a love for the game fuelled by the fun of junior footy.

Lock Ryan Smith got himself on the sidelines at Suncorp Stadium as a young fan in 2007 when he was a proud Caboolture Snake. More than a decade later, he revelled in running on as a Reds player. Halfback Kalani Thomas was never the biggest kid but those pistons pumped when he ran for Souths juniors.

For the young Jordan Petaia, his role model was close at hand. He grew up with Wallaby Matt To'omua, another old boy of Brisbane State High.

Their families are so close they regard each other as cousins. Petaia wasn't so long out of school when he made his Test debut beside To'omua against Uruguay at the 2019 World Cup in Japan.

"Pretty cool. It's ironic, he calls me 'Pup' and he's 10 years younger than me," To'omua said at the time.

"Jordie was always very talented when he was young. He was always a little tough kid as well because he'd always like to mix it with me and my older brother."

Kids finding the spark for rugby can be just that, pick-up games in the backyard, two-on-two and no TMO interruptions.

Those stories are timeless down the generations. Berrick Barnes had goalposts of PVC piping made on the vacant lot beside his childhood home in Kingaroy so he could practice his goalkicking.

The Lucas brothers, Ben, Tom, Matt and Isaac, had enough troops in the family for full-on games of footy in their Mt Gravatt backyard.

Reds fullback Jock Campbell

played for the Inverell Highlanders as a kid with sister Tina on the wing.

For Tina, it was a grounding she never forgot when she returned to rugby later in life and earned her Queensland Reds cap in Super W.

Young Jock was sidetracked by wrestling dreams of a WWE “career” at times in the backyard. He’s been rugby’s gain.



CAPTION: Fraser McReight playing for Albany Creek Brumbies



CAPTION: Jordan Petaia (left) with Matt Toomua



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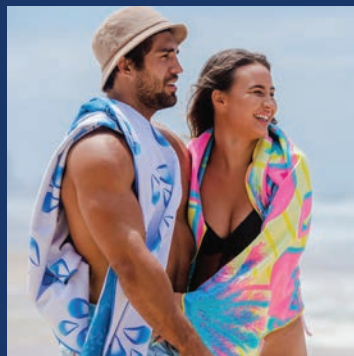


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An advertisement for HopgoodGanim Lawyers. On the left is a black vertical banner with the 'hg' logo at the top, followed by 'HopgoodGanim' and 'LAWYERS' in white. Below this, the text 'Exceptional Outcomes' is written in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom of the banner, it says '/ Brisbane | Perth' and 'hopgoodganim.com.au'. To the right of the banner, three male rugby players in maroon Queensland jerseys and white shorts are standing on a grassy field. The player in the middle is holding a blue and white Gilbert rugby ball. The background shows a park-like setting with trees and a clear sky.

A vibrant advertisement for TACO FUSION. The background is a collage of various Mexican dishes, including burritos, tacos, pizza, and guacamole. In the center, the words 'TACO FUSION' are written in large, bold, stylized letters. 'TACO' is in red with a white outline, and 'FUSION' is in green with a white outline. Above the text is a circular logo for 'LA BANDERITA AUTHENTIC TORTILLAS' featuring a white bull on a red and green background. To the right of the text is a small logo for 'LA BANDERITA .TV' featuring a red television set with the brand name on it. Below the .TV logo is a QR code.



TEAM LIST

STARTERS

1	DANE ZANDER
2	MATT FAESSLER
3	ZANE NONGGORR
4	RYAN SMITH
5	SERU URU
6	LIAM WRIGHT (CC)
7	FRASER MCREIGHT
8	HARRY WILSON
9	TATE MCDERMOTT (CC)
10	JAMES O'CONNOR
11	FILIPO DAUGUNU
12	TAJ ANNAN*
13	JOSH FLOOK
14	JORDAN PETAIA
15	JOCK CAMPBELL

RESERVES

16	RICHIE ASIATA
17	SEF FA'AGASE
18	PENI RAVAI
19	CONNOR VEST
20	JAKE UPFIELD
21	KALANI THOMAS
22	TOM LYNAGH
23	SULIASI VUNIVALU

HEAD COACH

BRAD THORN

*STARTING QUEENSLAND AND SUPER RUGBY PACIFIC DEBUT



TEAM LIST

STARTERS

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | MELI TUNI |
| 2 | TEVITA IKANIVERE |
| 3 | SAMUELA TAWAKE |
| 4 | ISOA NASILASILA |
| 5 | TE AHIWARU CIRIKIDAVETA |
| 6 | JOSEVA TAMANI |
| 7 | KITIONE SALAWA |
| 8 | MELI DERENALAGI (C) |
| 9 | FRANK LOMANI |
| 10 | TETI TELA |
| 11 | ERONI SAU |
| 12 | APISALOME VOTA |
| 13 | IOSEFO MASI |
| 14 | SELESTINO RAVUTAUMADA |
| 15 | ILAISA DROASESE |

RESERVES

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 16 | MESULAME DOLOKOTO |
| 17 | EMOSI TUQIRI |
| 18 | JONE KOROIDUADUA |
| 19 | LEONE ROTUISOLIA |
| 20 | ELIA CANAKAIVATA |
| 21 | PENI MATAWALU |
| 22 | KEMU VALENTINI |
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