

# COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER



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## Tarsha Gale, Harrold Matthews and SG Ball 2021 Jersey Presentations

*Marata Niukore and Maika Sivo*

On the eve of the Parramatta Eels juniors first game, Eels players Maika Sivo and Marata Niukore presented future stars with their game day jerseys.

Sivo presented the 2021 Tarsha Gale team their jerseys in an intimate presentation held at Eels HQ, Kellyville Park. While Niukore presented the Harrold Matthews and SG Ball squad their jerseys. Both players shared some insight into the sacrifices they made to become a professional athlete as well as shared some encouragement and words of wisdom.

Eels Coaching director, Joe Grima said that "its great for the young boys and girls to be presented their jerseys by the stars of our game. Its exciting for them and reinforces that we are one club and a development club".



## Junior League 'Come Try'

*David Hollis, Waqa Blake and Charbel Tasipale*

On Thursday 11<sup>TH</sup> Feb, 3 Eels players attended the Kellyville Park 'come try' clinic. With over 30 kids present at the clinic, Charbel, David and Waqa participated in the clinic by assisting the organiser's in skills and drills.

The aim of the 3 week clinic is to allow for your males and females to try Rugby League and encourage them to participate in their local competition.



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## Eels Blitz local Schools 2021 NRL squad

The Parramatta Eels held their annual School Blitz on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February with the Blue & Gold venturing out to over 25 schools in the local Parramatta region spreading some important messages around belonging, respect, inclusiveness, nutrition and how to get involved in rugby league. Players participated in clinics and assemblies in a COVID safe environment.

The 2021 squad was split into groups of 3 to 4 players along with an NRL Game Development officer. Thanks to the Eels partnership with SEDA, some groups had an extra hand from students who attend the school giving them first hand experience of working in the sports industry.

Some of the schools visited include the support class at Toongabbie PS, St Anthony's Girraween, Caddies Creek PS, Seven Hills West PS, Sherwood Grange PS, Fairvale PS, Merrylands PS, Lalor Park PS, Westmead Christian Grammar School, Kings Langley PS, Parklea PS, William Stimson PS, OLOR Fairfield, Hilltop Road PS, Holy Trinity, Granville, Toongabbie East PS, OLA Rousehill, Carramar PS, Maronite College Of Holy Family, St Monica's Primary, Granville South PS and Christ the King Primary school at North Rocks.



"The field clinic was excellent and the Q&A session was honest and humorous. The players should be commended for their active engagement. It was great to have a mix of experience and youth attend. Please pass on my thanks to them.

These sorts of day not only promote the game of Rugby League but inspire our kids to do better in their daily lives."

-Michael Roberts

Caddies Creek Public School

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## Eels in the NT

When the Parramatta Eels held their round 7 game v the Raiders at TIO Stadium, Darwin, the Eels had a presence at many events with in the area including Darwin, Katherine and Mataranka.

Eels cup was held during the trip with both Female and means team being the curtain raiser to the NRL game later that night.

Through the Eels partnership with Deadly Choices, an organisation promoting healthy life choices within the Indigenous community, Willie Tonga, Brenton Bowen and Bo Delacruz assisted with facilitating clinics in the Katherine region over the 2 days.

The Eels attended a come and try session for Wheelchair rugby league on the Saturday morning. Eels legend Peter Wynn and Current Eels star Waqa Blake attended the morning.

Check out more of the pictures here:  
<https://www.parraeels.com.au/news/2021/04/22/eels-community-visit-to-katherine/>



## Men of League Golf Day

It was great to have Eels players, Reagan Campbell- Gillard, Mitch Moses, Junior Paulo and Clinton Gutherson represent the Parramatta Eels at the recent Men of League Golf Day.





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## Eels continue support of Tiwi College

In 2021, the Eels have continued their support of the Tiwi College Rugby League team, see what Tiwi College HPE teacher, Callan Newman had to say here:

*"On reflection of our latest sporting trip to Darwin, staff and students are extremely grateful to the Parramatta Eels for their support. They were able to provide us with financial support for travel, 40 GA tickets to the upcoming Eels vs Broncos game and 2 signed Parramatta Eels Guernseys. This allowed us to take 2 amazingly talented teams over to experience the game of NRL (Which we have now been told, is the first time Tiwi College has participated in a rugby competition)."*

*The boys arrived on Wednesday afternoon, and after a few stops to grab boots & food, we arrived at the stadium for a training session before the big day (Massive shout out to Darren Manaway for his support). Our boys spent most of the afternoon practising their new found skills in kicking a ball off a stand. On Thursday, the boys were up early and started the day well, winning the first two games, although lacking practise and organisation, their ability got them across the line. Unfortunately we lost our remaining two games, coming up against two well drilled teams."*

*Our girls arrived on Thursday and were also straight to training, joining Darren and a local team for a quick session before the competition on Friday. They also, showed an abundance of ability and loved the experience, winning their first game. With further practise and training moving forward, we are excited about what our students are capable of. This amazing experience is a great foundation for our boys and girls moving forward. With excitement already from other students for 2022."*



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## Eels Support Annual Giant Steps Golf day

*Mitchell Moses, Clinton Gutherson, Reagan Campbell- Gillard and Reed Mahoney*

The Eels were proud to play a role in the annual Giant Steps Golf Day located at Bonnie Doon Golf club.

Giant Steps, a Top Tier Community Partner for the Eels provides an education for children with Autism.

Giant Steps ambassador, Reed Mahoney as well as Clinton Gutherson, Reagan Campbell- Gillard and Mitchell Moses all participated on the day.

The day was such a success with over \$105,000 raised on the day.

You can support all the amazing work Giant Steps do in the community by donating here :

<https://giantsteps.net.au/donate-sydney/>



## Remember Ashton?

In 2020, We bought cancer survivor Ashton out to our new facilities so he could watch the boys in action completing a rehab session themselves.

(<https://www.parraeels.com.au/news/2020/06/17/eels-dream-comes-true-for-cancer-survivor/>)

It was great to catch up with Ashton and his family at our round 5 game where the Marsh family watched squad warm up on the field and see the amazing progress Ashton has made in his road to recovery.

Everyone here at the Eels are so proud of your determination, Ashton! We are your biggest supporters!



**Eels dream comes true for cancer survivor**  
Cancer survivor Ashton Marsh is surprised with a trip to Eels HQ, where he meets his idols, sees the team gear and meets the family. Thanks to the Club's First Family partnership with the Marsh of League Foundation. Please note, this video was filmed in early 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic.  
2021 Jan 2021



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## Sneak peak of Eels 2021 Indigenous jersey for indigenous students

As we lead in to Indigenous round, the Parramatta Eels along with Indigenous artist, Danelle Mate- Sullivan attended Toongabbie East Public school to give students a sneak peak at the Eels 2021 Indigenous Jersey.

Students not only had a sneak peak at the design but also had the opportunity to create their own artworks using indigenous symbols and paints.

The school which falls in the Parramatta district with a high percentage of indigenous students jumped at the opportunity earlier in the year.

Danielle along with the students discussed their indigenous heritage, the



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## Deadly Choices partnership allows for meet and greet in Brisbane

During Magic Round, the Eels held a meet and greet in partnership with community partner, Deadly Choices to reward some of the indigenous community on their healthy lifestyle choices. It was great to see the players and young boys and girls mingling in QLD!





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## Eels partnership with SEDA sees students gain valuable work place experience

The Parramatta Eels partnership with SEDA College allows for students to gain valuable work place experience.

Ashlee recently completed her placement in the Football department assisting with our junior representative programs.

On conclusion of the placement, Ash stated that "My first thought when coming to Parramatta to do work placement was that I would be given boring desk jobs to do, but never did I once receive one. By the time I first arrived my thoughts of what I would be doing had already changed. Everyone was up and moving around and having lots of conversations. Everyone was so friendly and inviting and really made me feel welcomed. I felt apart of the team."

*After my first day, I was so eager to come back. I learnt so much more than I ever thought I would learn here, I learnt more about coaching and what they look for in their rep players, I learnt about the logistics and I learnt about how the club are trying to connect more with the community. It's sad that my term here is over but I really hope that I will be back again soon."*

The Parramatta Eels are excited to continue to host students for the remainder of the year. Departments including Membership, merchandise, Community, Marketing, Football and corporate partnerships departments.



## SEDA in the NT

When the Eels took on the Brisbane Broncos in Darwin, 2 SEDA College students were lucky enough to attend Ellah and Will.

The students, along with their teacher, accompanied Eels representatives on the trip visiting numerous schools and camps the spread the game of Rugby League.

The club funded the trip for the students as a reward for their dedication to learning throughout the year allowing them gain a greater insight into the activities that the club assists with within the community.

Students not only met the Current Eels squad but met Eels legends who a part of the traveling party on the trip.





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## Eels and PCYC launch 3 year Partnership

*Junior Paulo, Michael Oldfield and Waqa Blake*

The Parramatta Eels today confirmed a new three-year community partnership with PCYC NSW that will see the Club align with an expert partner in the health & well-being space.

PCYC NSW is Australia's leading youth charity, working in partnership with community and Police to transform young lives.

With Junior Paulo as the partnership ambassador, the Parramatta Eels support will be focused on Physical Activity/Nutrition and Mental Health through the Fit For Life Program and the soon to be launched Growth-mindset, Resilience, Intervention for Teenagers (GRIT) Mental Health Program.

Parramatta Eels CEO Jim Sarantinos said, "With three PCYC NSW Clubs across the Eels catchment based in Parramatta, Blacktown and Fairfield-Cabramatta, this partnership gives us a great opportunity to connect with the Western Sydney community and deliver positive social change."

PCYC NSW CEO Dominic Teakle said it is appropriate that an iconic NSW charity is linked with an iconic National Rugby League team like the Parramatta Eels.

"There are many areas where our community programs overlap with the great work being done by the Parramatta Eels," he said.

"We look forward to maximising the shared opportunities in the areas of youth development and well-being. We have many Eels fans at our clubs and amongst our members, and three thriving clubs in the Eels' heartland – PCYC Parramatta, PCYC Blacktown and PCYC Fairfield-Cabramatta.

"Our grassroots connections to the local community are a solid base for this partnership to grow and deliver even greater programs and opportunities for young people."

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## Legends show support for Grassroots

Eels Legends Neville Glover and Brett Kenny were down to support their local Junior Rugby League Club the Blue Haven Raiders. Both were proudly wearing the local jersey and were mingling with the next generation of NRL and NRLW stars!



## Legends amidst the Magic

Eels Legends, Brett Kenny and Ray Price were in attendance at the NRL's Magic round for round 10 of the NRL Telstra Premiership. Both did a Q&A at the Parramatta Eels member event with Eels CEO, Jim Sarantinos.





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## School 2 Work students presented with Polo's and tickets

The NRL Indigenous Youth Leadership Summit will be held in Sydney later this month. Four Indigenous Representatives have been selected from the NRL School to Work program to represent the Eels at the Youth Summit.

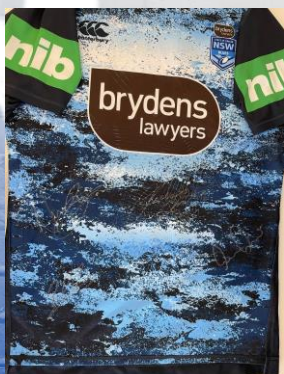
Congratulations to the four selected Eels representatives, Claudia Brown, Darcy Claveria, Jada Papa, Kobi Hurford. All participants are highly aspirational and have demonstrated their commitment to study, connection to culture/ willingness to learn and leadership qualities.



## Players unite for one of their own 2021 NRL Squad

Parramatta Eels top 30 squad member, David Hollis and his family sadly lost their home in the recent floods that sadly effected so many people.

The 2021 Squad kindly organised a fundraiser where they donated a range of items and experiences for Members and fans to purchase with the funds going back to the Hollis Family.



Items included, Lunch with the leadership team, Golf with Junior Paulo and Reagan Campbell- Gillard and Mitch Moses and Clint Gutherson as well as a training experience with Nathan Brown and Ryan Matterson. Many players also donated signed jerseys and boots.



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## Eels launch partnership with Heroes with Ability

Heroes with Ability and the Parramatta Eels will partner for 3 years under the inclusion pillar of the clubs community strategy. The partnership allows for Rugby League programs to be delivered in schools within the local Parramatta area, to children with a disability.

The organisation aims to ensure that no child misses out from learning and participating in Rugby League through a no cost program. The club will assist in covering the costs of schools within the local Parramatta area including Merrylands High school, Fairfield High School, Arthur Phillip High School

Ryan Matterson will be the ambassador for the program and spoke highly of the program

For more information on Heroes With Ability, visit [Heroes With Ability | Australia | Rugby League](https://www.heroeswithability.com)



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## Eels hold unofficial Indigenous Round

In round 11 of the 2021 Telstra premiership, the Parramatta Eels Celebrated indigenous Round a week prior to the NRL's dedicated round.

The Eels took on the Sea Eagles at Bankwest Stadium with Indigenous Eels legends, Steve Ella and David Iddiard in attendance.. the theme for the game was "Ngalawa" meaning welcome in the local Indigenous language.

The club wore their 2021 Indigenous jersey for the game. The jersey was designed by local Indigenous artist Danielle Mate Sullivan with some assistance from Eels utility, Will Smith

the club again wore their Indigenous jersey in the NRL's official Indigenous Round the following week against the Rabbitohs at Stadium Australia.



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