



GAME DAY PROGRAM 2025

SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025
PASSMORE OVAL

DADS & LADS'



SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025 - PASSMORE OVAL

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A MESSAGE FROM JOCKY

DADS & LADS CREATOR

It is with immense pride that I witness the Dads and Lads rugby grow into a larger community event involving now five rugby clubs. Wanderers and University have joined Merewether Carlton, Hamilton and Maitland to reinforce the values of the day.

I am extremely happy that Hamilton rugby club have offered to host the day at Passmore oval and they have taken on with new energy that has been overwhelming, Hamilton entering two squads Blue and Gold Teams.

Thanks again to all that have been involved in the background, special mention to Chris Neader again taking the lions share and to Lesa Mason the Hamilton president picking up the registration and merch workload.

Also thanks to the refs, the participants, the sponsors and our photographer Stewart Hazell now in his fifth year of supporting the event

This year we will be cared by Doctor Jonathon Young on the sideline, a big thankyou to you for giving up your afternoon.

To all the supporters thanks for being involved and I hope the event continues to provide support for our chosen charities and in turn help to those in need.

Jocky
Dads and Lads Rugby

The 2025 edition of Dads and Lads is an evolution that has now been embraced to include other Hunter Rugby Clubs, this year being Hamilton, Maitland Wanderers and University.

Originally the brainchild of Greens Stalwart, Jocky Wilson, as a way of getting the Merewether Carlton Rugby Community together to have a run/walk/stroll on the paddock and raise money to support worthy charities to assist the Community. The day is important as it keeps past players involved and allows the Friends and Relatives to see their Rugby skills come to the fore, i.e. lean on the back of a few rucks and pretend to be involved.

The current incarnation of Dads and Lads started in 2021 where we saw the interesting sight of the First Grade Coach. Jamie Lind battling it out with First and Second grade players, possibly a bit too eagerly for Golden Oldies rules. Fortunately, the last few games have been a bit easier on everyone.

This year the day has moved from Townson Oval to Passmore Oval and the Rugby Community thanks Hamilton Rugby Club for hosting the day and we look forward to enjoying the games and the festivities, there is no truth in the rumour that Merv Hughes and Ben Emmett are going to organise a bus trips for the Greens and Blacks respectively.

The day is an important event on the Rugby calendar and big thanks go to the organisers of this year's day: Lesa Mason, Gerry Mason, Ben Emmett, Andrew Corks, Richard Tait, Jocky Wilson, Christine Neader and Merv Hughes for getting it all sorted. Here's hoping the Weather Gods do the right thing.

See you on the paddock.

Gordon Dryburgh
Merewether Carlton Life Member

The Maitland Rugby Club has been a part of the community since 1877 and has seen the world change around it.

Society's values, customs and norms have changed considerably in this time and will continue to evolve and we would hope in a positive manner which is why we are partnering with Carrie's Place to support a local charity supporting the community of Maitland and surrounds.

The Maitland Rugby Club believes that DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE! Women and children deserve better and should never, ever be placed in circumstances of abuse and homelessness to escape it.

We are proud to represent our community in partnering with such an incredible organisation as Carrie's Place and all monies raised through our Dad's & Lad's experience will be donated to them.

Ben Emmett
Maitland Rugby Club

Wanderers are proud to be involved for the first time in the Dads and Lads day. We acknowledge the Carlton Club (and especially Jocky Wilson) as the driver of this great concept.

What a concept it is, you not only get to play with your lad/s but also mates you haven't played with for 20 plus years. It doesn't get better! Apart from this great camaraderie the concept has been underpinned by raising money for charity. Wanderers charity is RUN DIPG, a charity dedicated to improving outcomes of patients facing 'diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma' (DIPG).

I would also like to acknowledge the Hamilton Rugby Club for hosting the day and its President, Lesa Mason for her help leading up to the event.

Look forward to seeing you all out on the paddock and with a bit of luck I might see my old friend Jocky Wilson at the bottom of a ruck where I can express my appreciation to him personally.

Taity
Wanderers

When approached to participate in this community event, the University of Newcastle Rugby Union Club (UoNRUC) enthusiastically embraced the opportunity. Our Uni Rugby “Dads & Lads” team proudly features players past and present—four fathers with their sons and even uncles with their nephews coming together to share some game time.

Today is about like-minded people uniting through their love of rugby while supporting the vital cause of men’s mental health awareness and community wellbeing. Our Club has chosen to split funds raised between The University of Newcastle Welfare Program and Talk2MeBro, a local suicide prevention and mental health charity with the mission:

“Through early intervention, we aim to create societal change—reducing the stigma in attitudes towards suicide, and empowering people to take control of their mental health”.

Our partnership with Talk2MeBro continues to strengthen, building on last year’s successful collaboration. Earlier this year, we hosted a Mental Health Awareness Day in conjunction with our sponsor, The Willow Tree Clinic, for players, staff, and alumni. The UoN Welfare Program provides funding to improve mental health awareness among all players, ensures access to mental health support services, funds player participation in club functions and team-building activities, and supports students in getting the most from their Seahorse Rugby experience. For more information about our welfare initiatives, please contact our Player Welfare Officer, Andrew Serhan (current Seahorse - #1825 and trained psychologist), who leads this program. Email: support@uonrugby.com.au

We extend our sincere appreciation to all sponsors, players, and the broader rugby community for supporting this annual event. Special thanks to The Hawks for hosting, and to the Greens—particularly Jocky—for spearheading the organisation. We also acknowledge the referees, without whom the games couldn’t take place.

Best wishes for a successful day, and remember—rugby is always the winner. See you in the third half!

Andrew Cork
Current Player and Old Boy - #988
University of Newcastle Rugby Union Club

Hamilton Rugby is thrilled to host the 2025 Dads and Lads tournament at our beloved Passmore Oval and proudly welcome you into our brand-new Richard Cusick Room for the after-match function.

This year’s event sees strong representation from our local rugby community, with teams from Hamilton (x2), Merewether, Maitland, and – for the first time – Wanderers and University joining the fun.

We remain incredibly proud of our close partnership with tournament organisers Jockey Wilson and Chris Neader, and we’re honoured to continue supporting this fantastic event. I would like to congratulate Jocky Wilson for his vision back in 2021 and look forward to our association for year and years to come.

Thanks also to Chris Neader for her tireless work behind the scenes, chasing clubs for team registrations, organising the food, the program and all the other details that happen behind the scenes to make the tournament the success it is. Thanks Chris.

Huge thanks to the referees who are giving up their time to assist in the running of the day. We couldn’t do it without you.

The Hawks will once again be fielding two sides – Gold and Blue – and are proudly supporting Headspace Newcastle as our Mental Health Charity in 2025. With youth and men’s suicide rates tragically high, our club reaffirms its commitment to mental health awareness and support. We want every player, supporter, and family member to know: you’re never alone – your club is always here for you.

We’re keeping our fingers crossed that the recent rains hold off for a dry and brilliant day of rugby at Passmore.

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors: Jacob Blenkinsop and Hunterlink Newcastle, Graham Crozier and Nova Credit Risk, and Frank & Jan Bynon of HIC Services, who proudly sponsor our ‘Old Guys Shorts’ program. Here’s to a memorable day of mateship, footy, and community spirit – let’s make 2025 our best Dads and Lads yet!

Lesa Mason
Hamilton Rugby President
Hamilton Hawks Rugby Club

Blood, Sweat & Banter

The Hamilton Hawks' Dads & Lads Tradition Soars into Year Three. This year marks the third installment of the now sacred Dads & Lads charity match for the Hamilton Hawks, and once again, my family's fielding a full squad: myself, my dad, and my brother. For us, this match is about more than just rugby. It's about tradition, community, and the annual realization that there's nothing quite like lining up next to family, shoulder to shoulder, knowing full well one of us will cramp up around the 12th minute... yet somehow we'll finish the game grinning ear to ear.

The Dads & Lads match isn't just a laugh (though there are plenty of those) it's a celebration of rugby, of family, of enduring friendships and comically slow ball movement. Best of all, it raises funds for causes that matter far more than the scoreboard.

So here's to another year, another round of bruises and another shared schooner after full time.

The legs might not be what they used to be for some, but the heart? That's Hawks through and through.

Oscar Mason **Hamilton Hawks Club Co-Captain/Lad**

I have taken part in Dads & Lads for the past few years, and it is a great day out! It is awesome to see club old boys/girls take to the pitch with their kids in what very few get the chance during the normal competition.

Seeing the spirit of rugby bring together so many clubs and players in support of mental health is a massive achievement.

The bond and friendships rugby allows men to form is now an avenue to be able to talk about the tough topic of mental health.

Tim Walker **Referee** **Dads and Lads Rugby**



CHARITIES SUPPORTED

HEADSPACE

Headspace is Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation, providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds.

Each year, headspace helps thousands of young people access vital support through our headspace centres in communities across Australia, our online and phone counselling services, our vocational services, and our presence in schools. headspace can help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, and work and study support.

We support young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, as well as work and study support. With a focus on early intervention, we work with young people to provide support at a crucial time in their lives – to help get them back on track and strengthen their ability to manage their mental health in the future.

In everything we do, we aim to meet the evolving and unique needs of young people and those who support them. That's why our youth reference groups are at the heart of our work, and they play an active role in designing, developing and evaluating our programs.

CARRIE'S PLACE

Providing services in the Maitland and Lower Hunter area since 1979. Carrie's Place provides a range of culturally appropriate services for people experiencing domestic and family violence, and/or homelessness. Carrie's Place also provides a range of services to vulnerable people to support recovery and build resilience.

TALK2MEBRO

Talk2mebro was established with the goal of reducing the number of males who die from suicide. Through early intervention initiatives, the aim was to create societal change by reducing the stigma in male's attitudes towards suicide and empower men to take control of their mental health. We have recently started to train female facilitators and deliver events for females as we believe the core message of Talk2mebro is important, not just for men, but our whole community. Since 2018, Talk2mebro has facilitated our unique programs and seminars in schools, workplaces, sporting clubs and within the general community.

Talk2mebro's Major Hubs:

- Wollongong (Illawarra Region)
- Newcastle (Newcastle, Hunter Valley, Lake Macquarie)
- Sydney (Sydney, Sydney Southwest)
- Central Coast
- Pacifika Initiatives

Talk2mebro's Impact Since 2018:

Talk2mebro has ran Programs and Facilitated to over 65,000 people face to face, predominantly in NSW and the major hubs mentioned above. We have also delivered events inland and rural NSW, to Aboriginal Communities and a hub that supports the Pacific Communities. In 2023 alone, Talk2mebro facilitated to 25,000 people which shows the rapid expanding growth of the Charity.

RUN DIPG

We are a charity dedicated to improving outcomes for patients and their families impacted by the deadliest form of childhood cancer – brainstem cancer, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) also known as diffuse midline glioma (DMG). It is our mission to raise awareness of this disease, and to generate funding to support the advancement of DIPG/DMG research.

With no treatment options currently available, except palliative radiotherapy, we advocate for the timely and innovative development of anti-DIPG/DMG therapies, and, improvement to current standard-of-care management.

RUN DIPG will be recognised as a go-to source of DIPG/DMG information for patients, families and communities alike. We believe in generating vital funding to support the most innovative research across the globe.

We will contribute to the cost of improving the treatment of DIPG/DMG via the funding of scientific and clinical research as well as equipment to increase the clinical relevance of research. RUN DIPG's advocacy, collaboration and financial support will make a documented contribution towards improved outcomes for DIPG/DMG patients.

FIXTURES



Game 1 - 1.00PM
HAMILTON HAWKS GOLD
vs
MAITLAND BLACK PLAGUE



Game 4 - 2.15PM
MEREWETHER CARLTON
vs
HAMILTON HAWKS GOLD



Game 2 - 1.25PM
MEREWETHER CARLTON
vs
WANDERERS



Game 5 - 2.40PM
MAITLAND BLACK PLAGUE
vs
UNIVERSITY



Game 3 - 1.50PM
HAMILTON HAWKS BLUE
vs
UNIVERSITY



Game 6 - 3.05PM
HAMILTON HAWKS BLUE
vs
WANDERERS



MATCHES WILL BE FULL FIELD - 10 MINUTE HALVES WITH 5 MINUTE BREAKS
 THE SPIRIT OF GOLDEN OLDIES, EPITOMISED IN THE MOTTO OF
 FUN, FRIENDSHIP, AND FRATERNITY.

FUNCTION - 4.00PM
 CELEBRATION OF RUGBY, FAMILY AND MATES

GOLDEN OLDIES LAWS

All players must be correctly attired for Golden Oldies Rugby, including footwear - (low profile stud football boots or grass sport shoes).

These Golden Oldies rules do not permit offside play, unsportsmanlike behaviour and are designed to increase enjoyment of the game while eliminating over-vigorous play and minimising the chance of injury.

The laws of Rugby as per the international Rugby Board shall apply with the following variations;

1. There is to be no 'cleaning out' around the rucks and mauls.
2. All 8 forwards must remain bound in the scrum until the ball has been cleared.
3. There shall be no striking against the head by the hookers or front row. There must be no pressure in scrummaging or movement of the scrum.
4. The half back must not follow the ball around the scrum
5. From a penalty there shall be no quick tap and all players shall retire 10 metres.
6. Players must observe the offside rule, particularly that of remaining behind the hindmost foot rule at rucks and mauls.
7. Players are to be onside and observe the 5 metre rule at scrums and 10 metres at lineouts
8. Unlimited substitution of players and substituted players may return for injured players.
9. Teams scoring a try shall also restart the game by kicking the ball to the non-scoring team.
10. In lineouts, all 8 forwards must take part. There shall be no supporting in the lineout.
All lineouts shall be set (no quick lineouts)
11. Coloured Shorts - All players must strictly observe the restrictions on the tackling of players wearing coloured shorts. The wearing of coloured shorts does not give a player the right to tackle other players wearing shorts of the same colour. A player wearing red shorts may attempt to tackle players wearing club shorts if they feel confident and comfortable about doing so.
12. No kicking in general play. Players caught kick the ball will receive yellow card.

AGE GROUPS FOR COLOURED SHORTED PLAYERS

18 to 59 years /Club Shorts or Red Shorts

Players wear red shorts in matches involving this age group to indicate that they do not want to be tackled to the ground or pushed off their feet. A player in red shorts may be "claimed and held" in the spirit of Golden Oldies Rugby but NOT tackled to the ground.

To avoid confusion, teams should avoid using the colours red, gold, or purple or colours similar to those for their "normal club shorts".

60 – 64 years/Red Shorts

Can be claimed and held. Must not be taken to the ground in a tackle.

65 – 69 years/Gold Shorts

Not to be tackled or touched. May run with the ball for up to 10 metres in total before passing to a team mate wearing club shorts or red shorts.

70 – 79 years/Purple Shorts

Not to be tackled or touched. May run with the ball for up to 10 metres in total before passing to a team mate wearing club shorts or red shorts.

80 years and older/Special Committee Shorts

Not to be tackled or touched. May run with the ball for up to 10 metres in total before passing to a team mate wearing club shorts or red shorts.

Claim and Hold – an explanation:

The player carrying the ball is wearing red shorts and cannot be taken to the ground in a conventional tackle. However, an opponent wearing either club shorts or red shorts may claim and hold him by wrapping his arms around the ball carrier's body. Although the ball carrier has not been taken to the ground, in terms of the Golden Oldies Laws he is now considered to have been tackled. That being so, the opponent who has "claimed and held" the ball carrier must now release and move away from that player to allow him to exercise one of the options required of any tackled player to pass or release the ball. As an alternative to "claiming and holding" a red shorted opponent or to avoid touching an opponent wearing gold, purple or special committee shorts, a defender may decide to stand in front of that player to prevent further forward progress. This allows the ball carrier time and space in which to play the ball.

MEREWETHER CARLTON



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bill Clifton | 11. Kenneth Hill |
| 2. Brendon O'Donnell | 12. Luke Tresidder |
| 3. Christopher Walsh | 13. Nathan Forshaw |
| 4. David Keeling | 14. Paul Hughes |
| 5. Drew Bogdanovs | 15. Samuel Clifton |
| 6. Gareth Palamo | 16. Edward Clifton |
| 7. Gordon Dryburgh | 17. Kristopher Tusagi |
| 8. Greg Milton | 18. Sam Milton |
| 9. John Wilson | |
| 10. Jonathon Missingham | |

**jersey numbers are subject to change*



SUPPORTING

Talk2mebro

MAITLAND BLACK PLAGUE



- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ben Caple | 11. Chris Mills |
| 2. Murray Clarke | 12. Rory Mills |
| 3. Toby Fry | 13. Stathis Moraitis |
| 4. Peter Fry | 14. Callan Munro |
| 5. Ben Emmett | 15. Hamish Munro |
| 6. Darcy Emmett | 16. Neil Munro |
| 7. Patrick Emmett | 17. Bruce Perkins |
| 8. Peter Santarossa | 18. Mathew Perkins |
| 9. Brian Hope | 19. David Rathborne |
| 10. Troy Little | 20. Tim Reeve |

**jersey numbers are subject to change*



SUPPORTING



HAMILTON BLUE



- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3. Jacob Blenkinsop (JB) | 3. Iain Gardner (BUBBA) |
| 8. Paul Brenton (BRENNO) | 6. Bill Hesketh (HESKETH) |
| 6. Harry Brett (HAZZA) | 42. Aidan Holey (HOLEY) |
| 4. Martin Brett (MOOSE) | 99. Jay Holey (HOLEY) |
| 12. Billy Clay (B.CLAY) | 78. Ryan Holey (HOLEY) |
| 10. Lee Clay (CASSIUS) | 9. Matt Stevens (STEVO) |
| 5. Dave Cooper (COOPS) | 2. Tony Stevens (STEVO) |
| 5. Jonothan Cooper (MINI COOPS) | 8. Lachlan Summers (SUMMERS) |
| 10. Matt Dan (CHARLOTTE DAN) | 7. Keelan Waldron (WALDRON) |
| 9. Paul Dan (GEORGIE DAN) | 5. Mark Waldron (WALDRON) |
| 12. Rob Dan (ROB DAN) | |

**jersey numbers are subject to change*



SUPPORTING



HAMILTON GOLD



- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 15. Justin Bryde (JB) | 9. Nathan McKelligott (NATH) |
| 3. Dan Campbell (CAMPBELL) | 13. Stephen Podgorelec (PODGE 1) |
| 6. Ben Clifford (GUNNY) | 14. Bayley Podgorelec (PODGE 2) |
| 7. Chris Clifford (ZIPPA) | 7. Neil Robinson (ROBBO) |
| 11. Gavin Cross (CROSS) | 2. Russell Robinson (RUSS) |
| 75. Bevan Leach (BEVAN) | 4. Ryan Robinson (RYAN) |
| 98. Deacon Lewis (LEWIS) | 4. Ryan Walsh (BUMSY) |
| 99. Justin Lewis (LEWIS) | 7. Paul Walsh (WISHY) |
| 1. Gerry Mason (MASON) | 7. Adam West (BATMAN) |
| 4. Oscar Mason (MASON) | 15. Jacob West (WESTY) |
| 5. Lewis Mason (MASON) | |

**jersey numbers are subject to change*



SUPPORTING



UNIVERSITY



WW. Warren Watson	00. Twin Gabrielides
AC. Andrew Cork	G. Dad Gab
SA. Scott Atkinson	HB. Hamish Brakell
LA. Lorcan Atkinson	MB. Mark Brakell
JA. Jake Ayliffe	LWB. Liam Wales Brown
MA. Michael Ayliffe	RS. Ryan Scott
BA. Ben Ayliffe	DN. Dylan Nagle
JF. Jackson Faulkner	A. Greg Duff
OF. Oscar Faulkner	B. Harrison Duff
SF. Stuart Faulkner	C. Tim Davis
CG. Chris Gabrielides	D. Davyd Wall

**jersey numbers are subject to change*



SUPPORTING

Talk2mebro

WANDERERS



1. Jeremy Sargeant	10. Richard Tait
2. Tom Sargeant	11. Lachlan Earp
3. Andrew Sargeant	12. Angus Tait
4. Nathan Richardson	13. Dean Carayannis
5. Lachlan Richardson	14. Archie Bennett
6. Tobey Forshaw	15. David Earp
7. David Turner	16. Les Bennett
8. Eoin Turner	17. Julian Morton
9. Peter Fallon	18. Richard Earp

**jersey numbers are subject to change*



SUPPORTING







Goosey Sports is proud to supply the apparel for this year's Dads & Lads event.

We are based in Mayfield and rooted in the heart of Newcastle Rugby, we enjoy supporting our local community clubs.

As a family-run business , we're grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a fantastic local initiative, helping to bring families together through sport.

