

# Q

Official Magazine of Queensland's Former Origin Greats

# QUEENSLANDER MAGAZINE

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FORMER ORIGIN GREATS

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Gene Miles » FOG #28

As 2023 comes to a close, the Queensland rugby league landscape has been a rollercoaster of emotions, marked by extraordinary performances and memorable moments. From the glitz of the FOGS Annual Charity Lunch to the adrenaline-pumping State of Origin clashes and the remarkable success of NRL Queensland teams, the year has been nothing short of spectacular.

The FOGS Annual Charity Lunch, a cornerstone in the rugby league community, took centre stage early in the year. In a spectacular event, former players, legends, and enthusiasts gathered to support charitable causes. The Queensland spirit shone brightly as funds were raised for the Carl Webb Foundation, Royce's Big Walk, and the support of our great mate Sam Backo, solidifying the sense of community that defines the fabric of FOGS Queensland.

As the State of Origin season unfolded, the Maroons roared with a renewed sense of determination. The battleground was set by Billy and his team,

and Queensland showcased resilience, skill, and sheer determination. In a series that electrified fans, the Maroons left an indelible mark. Rising stars emerged, veterans displayed unwavering commitment, and the Queensland spirit prevailed. The State of Origin was not just a battle on the field; it was a testament to the heart and soul of Queensland rugby league.

Adding to the triumph, the NRL Queensland teams enjoyed a successful year, with the Brisbane Broncos coming tantalizingly close to winning the grand final. Their stellar performance is a testament to the talent and dedication within the state, setting the stage for an exciting and promising future in 2024. The Broncos' impressive campaign will undoubtedly boost the morale of Queensland rugby league enthusiasts, instilling a sense of pride and anticipation for the upcoming season.

Debutants became the heartbeat of the Maroons, injecting fresh energy through FOG

#229 Reece Walsh and FOG # 230 Corey Horsburgh. The Queensland jersey, worn with pride, saw new faces etching their stories into the annals of rugby league history. The future looks promising as these young warriors embraced the challenges of representing their state.

A standout success story of 2023 at FOGS HQ was the ARTIE Academy, a beacon of hope and opportunity for our young First Nations youth. The academy continued its mission to empower and uplift, creating pathways for young students to thrive and continue the legacy of the great Arthur Beetson. As the year comes to an end, these initiatives underscore the commitment of FOGS Queensland to building a stronger and more inclusive community for the generations to come.

Merry Christmas, and a happy new year to all.



# CHAMPIONS RISE

## Queensland's Dominance in the 2023 Series

The 2023 State of Origin series will be long remembered in Queensland rugby league history for its moments of determination, resilience, and Maroon pride. From thrilling highlights to notable victories, the series showcased the indomitable spirit of the Queensland Maroons.

The series kicked off in spectacular fashion at the iconic Adelaide Oval, where the Queensland Maroons faced the New South Wales Blues in a battle that would set the tone for the entire series. In a moment that will be remembered for years to come, Lindsay Collins emerged as the unlikely hero for Queensland. With the game hanging in the balance and the score deadlocked, Collins executed a breathtaking charge down that would be etched into State of Origin folklore.

As the clock ticked down, Collins chased a kick with unbridled determination, blocking the ball with perfect timing, and pouncing on

the loose ball to score a try that would prove to be the difference-maker. The roar of Maroon supporters echoed through the Adelaide Oval as Queensland secured a 26-18 victory in Game 1, setting the stage for an exhilarating series.

Daly Cherry-Evans, the seasoned halfback and leader of the Maroons, entered the record books on this occasion. Having reached the impressive milestone of 20 State of Origin appearances for Queensland, DCE was honored with the prestigious FOGS Dick "Tosser" Turner Medal.





Cherry-Evans' leadership, tactical acumen, and clutch performances over the years has not only endeared him to the Maroon faithful but has now solidified his place among Queensland legends.

Holmes' achievement was not only a personal triumph but also a symbol of his consistent excellence on the Origin stage. His try and clinical goal-kicking played a pivotal role in Queensland's dominant 32-6 victory, securing the series win and sending the Suncorp faithful into a frenzy of celebration.

shield for their state for another year.

In a fitting conclusion to the 2023 State of Origin series, Queensland may not have claimed victory in the final battle, but their overall performance showcased their trademark grit and determination. As the curtain fell on the series, the Queensland Maroons stand tall, their legacy enriched by unforgettable moments and the indomitable spirit that defines State of Origin football.

With the series already clinched, the final encounter at Accor Stadium in Sydney was a celebratory lap for the Queensland Maroons.

The memories created in this series will be cherished by Maroon supporters for generations, a testament to the enduring magic of rugby league's greatest rivalry.

The medal presentation was a poignant moment, with DCE acknowledging the weight of the honour and expressing gratitude to the fans who had supported him throughout his illustrious Origin career.

The action then shifted to Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, where the Maroons aimed to capitalize on their Game 1 success. Valentine Holmes, a stalwart of the Queensland side, reached a historic milestone in this encounter.

The dynamic fullback surpassed the 100 Origin points mark, etching his name alongside the Queensland greats.



Despite New South Wales claiming a 24-10 victory in Game 3, it was a mere footnote in the overall triumph of the Maroons. The loss did little to diminish the Queensland spirit, and the team left the field proud in the knowledge they had retained the



# MAROON MAESTRO

## Three More Years of Slater's Leadership

**By Wayne Heming**

Billy Slater will continue to guide Queensland's State of Origin fortunes until 2026 after agreeing to a three-year coaching extension with the Queensland Rugby League today.

A proud Queenslander, who represented his state 31 times, Slater understands what wearing the Maroon jumper means to all Queenslanders and what it should mean to anyone who pulls it on.

"I believe they are only getting started. From the very beginning, I was drawn to this role because I deeply understand the importance of this team to all Queenslanders.

Queensland, described Slater's decision to extend his coaching contract as: "a brilliant outcome" for the Origin program and for the future.

**"I'm a proud Queenslander and this team means a lot to me."**

"It has been a massive part of my life and I'm extremely grateful to get the opportunity to help other people, not only fulfill their dream but inspire our state."

After taking the Maroons to back-to-back series wins in his first two years, the QRL was eager to tie Slater down to the coaching role on a multi-year deal.

Slater's re-signing is a huge boost for the QRL who went all out to get their man.

Recently appointed QRL Chief Executive Ben Ikin, who played 17 games for



"It's an incredible honour to be the Queensland coach. I'm excited about the journey that this current group of players and staff have embarked upon," Slater said of his re-signing.





“Over the past two years we’ve witnessed a team that has made Queenslanders immensely proud and it is Billy’s vision and leadership driving that,” said Ikin.



**Our players are not only going to new levels on the field, but their commitment to engaging with the fans across the state has been first class.**



The 40-year-old former Melbourne, Queensland, and Australia fullback took over the job on short notice in 2022, clinching his first series with a 22-12 third-game victory at Suncorp Stadium.

This year, he won the opening two games of the series to go back-to-back.

Slater, who was a key part of the Maroons record eight-straight series wins, has wasted little time putting his own stamp on Origin, bleeding nine players in his first two years at the helm.

He debuted Selwyn Cobbo (FOG#222), Reuben Cotter (FOG#223), Pat Carrigan (FOG#224) and Jeremiah Nanai(FOG#225) in game one, Murray Taulagi (FOG#226) in game two and Tom Gilbert (FOG#227) and Tom Dearden (FOG#228) in



game three of the 2022 series and Reece Walsh (FOG#229) in game one and Corey Horsburgh (FOG#230) in game three this year.

Slater’s Origin rival remains uncertain with the NSW delaying a decision on whether Penrith legend Brad Fittler will keep the reins of the Blues again following two straight series losses.

But with such a young group of players coming through of the calibre of fullback Reece Walsh, winger Selwyn Cobbo, and forwards Cotter, Nanai, Flegler, Gilbert, Horsburgh, Harry Grant, and Pat Carrigan the Origin future looks very strong for Queensland.





# THURSTON'S TRIUMPHS

## A Closer Look at JT's Record-Breaking Career

**By Wayne Heming**

FOG#148 Johnathan Thurston has joined such rugby league luminaries as Dally Messenger, Clive Churchill and fellow Queensland legends Arthur Beetson, Wally Lewis, Allan Langer, Mal Meninga and Darren Lockyer in the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Thurston joins sporting icons such as the first male and female inductees in 1985, cricketer, Sir Donald Bradman and swimmer, Dawn Fraser.

He is just the 24th rugby league player spanning 115 years to be afforded one of the country's highest sporting honours.



The 40-year-old Brisbane-born indigenous Australian played 37 games for Queensland – including 36 straight – and all 24 of the Maroons record eight-straight series victories against the Blues between 2006-2013.

He holds the record for points scored for Queensland (220) and totalled 382 points in 38 games for Australia.

Thurston won premierships with the Canterbury Bulldogs in 2004 and with a memorable field goal which steered North Queensland to their maiden title in an epic grand final against Brisbane in 2015.

All up he played 323 NRL games, 294 of them for the Cowboys.

His tireless work within the Aboriginal community has also been widely recognised and acknowledged through his own indigenous academies and other various charities which he supports.

"To be recognised along with some of the greats of our sport like Cathy Freeman, Nova Peris, The Don and Dawn Fraser is a huge honour, Thurston told Channel 9's Today Show.

"It's a huge honour to be inducted into the Hall of Fame."

Thurston found it difficult to split his 2015 grand final-winning field goal in extra time and his involvement in every game during Queensland's eight-straight series streak and his most cherished memory as a player.

"I'd have to say the 2015 grand final was my greatest memory on the footy field.

"To be co-captain of the Cowboys with one of my best mates, Matt Scott, was probably number one, closely followed by the eight-in-a-row."

When Thurston struck the winning field goal to sink Brisbane, legendary commentator Ray Warren screamed into his microphone: "he's got the field goal; he's gone from a captain to a legend".

"I grew up listening to Rabs (Warren) call grand finals and the big matches," said Thurston who is now part of Channel 9's rugby league commentary team.

"That he named that as his number one moment in his documentary blew my mind. He has done it all, rugby league all sports, Olympics, horse racing.

"To be recognised as his favourite memory is huge and very humbling.

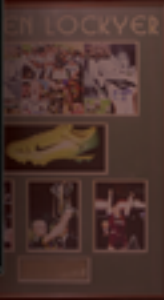
**I played with some of the best. I was very blessed to have the career that I had.**





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# DCE JOINS THE DICK "TOSSER" TURNER CLUB

## 20 Origin Games for Queensland

**By Wayne Heming**

The opening game of this year's interstate series against NSW in Adelaide was very special for Queensland Origin captain Daly Cherry-Evans.

The 34-year-old halfback, who also achieved 300 NRL club games for Manly in 2023, joined an elite group of Queensland players who are already recipients of the prestigious FOGS Dick "Tosser" Turner Medal.

Gaining membership to the 20 game club — formed to honour the contributions of the legendary Queensland team manager is a goal of every player who pulls on a maroon jumper and represents his state.

It's an emotional award named after a man known fondly as "Tosser" who not only instilled the culture and ethos into Queensland rugby league players but also contributed greatly to the Maroon's early success.

Considered the "Godfather" of Queensland Origin, Turner created the FOGS (Former Origin Greats) and was the founding chairman until his death.

While he never scored a try or made a tackle for Queensland, Turner provided the inspiration for many of their finest victories.

"Often when you look at Origin you mention player's names and coach's names, they get all the credit and the glory that goes with it," said close friend and Queensland immortal, Wally Lewis.

"I truly believe, if we didn't have Tosser (Turner) that the early success and domination Queensland enjoyed may not have happened.

"He was priceless."

"He was widely respected because he was an absolute gentleman. He was prepared to do whatever was necessary to ensure his players were always happy and having fun."

Not long before he died, aged 76 in 2008, Turner dictated a letter to his devoted wife Jan about what Queensland meant to him, and what it should mean to every player, to proudly represent their state.

Team manager Steve Walters had tears rolling down his face as he read Turner's impassioned letter out to the playing group before the Maroons beat NSW 30-0 at Suncorp

Stadium in June 2008, setting up a series decider in Sydney.

A frail Turner was pushed into the Queensland dressing room for one last celebration but sadly passed away before he could see his beloved Maroons clinch the series with an emotional 16-12 win at ANZ Stadium – a bogey ground where they had won just one of their previous 12 Origin games.

Cherry-Evans, FOG#176, is the 32nd player from 230 who have worn the maroon jumper to earn membership to the club.





**As a young fella milestones were all I ever wanted to chase, to be honest**



“As an older guy, I am grateful for them and really humbled by them.

“But they are no longer the whole purpose of me playing anymore, they are just a part of my journey.

“However, I’m definitely going to embrace this one and enjoy the moment with my family.”

Cameron Smith heads the list with a record 42 games, followed by Darren Lockyer (36), Allan Langer (34), Peter Civoniceva (33), Mal Meninga (32) Nate Myles (32), Johnathan Thurston (32), and current coach Billy Slater (31).

Lewis, a member of Arthur Beetson’s 1980 Origin Originals also retired with a record eight man-of-the-match awards from his 31 games.

Mark Coyne, who finished off Origin’s “miracle try” in game one of the 1994 series, and Corey Parker, a key player in Queensland’s golden era when they won eight series straight between 2006 and 2013, both came painfully close to earning membership playing 19 games each.

The NRL Rookie-of-the-year in 2011, Cherry-Evans made his Origin debut off the bench in 2013 helping Queensland register a record eighth-straight series win over the Blues.

He captured the Clive Churchill medal the same year in Manly’s grand final loss to the Sydney Roosters, confirming his standing as one of the game’s best players, as only two

other players in history had previously won the award from a losing side.

Cherry-Evans was recalled to Origin duty for the third game of the 2018 series to help cover injuries with halfback Ben Hunt used off the bench.

He scored a crucial try in the 18-12 win at Suncorp Stadium as the Maroons averted an embarrassing series whitewash.

The following year the boy from Redcliffe where Turner was a legend, was made the 15th player to captain Queensland, a great honour given another Redcliffe great, Arthur Beetson, was the very first man to lead the Maroons into battle at Lang Park 39 years earlier.

Cherry-Evans has been part of four series wins in 2013, 2015, 2020, and last year and has played 18 games for Australia.

Former Queensland player and team manager, Chris Close, who was man-of-the-match in the first two Origins played in 1980-81, described the FOGS Dick “Tosser” Turner Medal as a “very special” honour given what he meant to the team and what he did in the early years to improve conditions for players.

“The players all loved him and he loved the players,” said Close, who Turner hand-picked and transitioned into his replacement as Queensland team manager before his 14-year run ended due to illness.

Close said Turner’s most endearing feature was that he was a “good bloke”.

“He was a good person, a kind person, but a tough person as a businessman who expected a lot from people but always gave a lot of himself,” said the man called Chippy.



**He had a sharp sense of humour and had a lot of fun in him**



**“  
Even when he got older, he was still the world’s oldest, most annoying teenager  
”**

Turner was a people person, but it wasn't just rugby league players who looked up to him.

He was a man who could cut through the bull and have those “hard talks” when they needed to be had.

there are hundreds, was when the Queensland team was staying at the Swiss Grand Hotel at Bondi Beach, a regular Sydney base from where the Maroons enjoyed great success.

On this particular day, a crew of Council workers suddenly arrived outside the team’s hotel and fired up the jackhammers while the Queensland players were trying to rest.

Turner immediately sensed foul play.

He went outside, found out who the foreman was, and asked him how much the men were being paid for the day.

“When the foreman told him, Turner said: ‘I’ll double it if you pack up and go home now’,”

“Tosser thought it was hilarious.”

Turner also loved taking the players out to see one of his favourite club acts Phil Cass — a handy rugby league player for Brisbane Souths in his day, but a wonderful comedic magician who claimed many entertainment awards.

“Wherever Cass was performing his magic show, Tosser would take the team for dinner,” recalled Close.

“After the show, he’d come back to the team hotel and try doing all of Cass’s magic tricks, like cutting the player’s ties in half and trying to put them back together.

“None of it ever worked, but he loved it.

“As annoying as Tosser was, he was also as loving as he could be. He was a thorough professional.

Turner’s other great love was sailing boats and driving, very badly according to Close, his prized Rolls Royce Silver Ghost.

“He thought he was the skipper of the S.S. Minnow off Gilligan’s Island,” joked Close.



“He always showed a genuine interest in your life and your family. He wasn’t boisterous or bombastic, he spoke with great clarity and he was a remarkable mentor,” said Close, adding Turner had had a profound influence on his life.

“He was a man well ahead of his time.”

Close said it should never be forgotten how instrumental Turner was in fighting for better conditions and wages for Queensland players.

“He cut through a lot of early crap and made it rewarding for the players.

“He made them all want to play for Queensland by removing the stigma that they should consider themselves lucky” to be involved.”

Close said Turner loved being with the players but at times could be “an annoying bastard”.

“I remember coming back to my room one night in camp and he had crushed and emptied every packet of biscuits, chips, and peanuts and scattered them all over the bed and the floor.

**“  
I was so embarrassed, I just went and got a vacuum cleaner and cleaned it up myself, because I didn’t want anyone to know  
”**

**“  
All the stories you hear about Tosser, including a wild night of Go Carting before a big game, are true. He made it fun to be part of the camp  
”**

Cherry-Evans was presented with his special jumper, which this year featured a symbol of Turner’s hat, he rarely was seen out without a hat, in camp before game one in Adelaide.

His QRL team blazer also had the symbol on it.

Much like the US Masters green jacket hand-over, Cherry Evans was presented with his jumper by the last Queensland player to reach 20 games, Dane Gagai.

One of the most popular Turner stories, and

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# NAVIGATING SUCCESS

## First Nations Youth Drive Change in Queensland

In a groundbreaking success story, the Driver Licensing Program supported by RACQ has proven to be a driving force of positive change for First Nations students across Queensland, empowering them to achieve significant milestones on the road to obtaining their driver's licenses.

RACQ, Transurban and Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Recognising the importance of supervised driving hours in building confidence and skills, the program further guided and supported these students through the required 100 hours of supervised driving. The commitment to inclusivity and accessibility has resulted in 45 students successfully earning their provisional licenses, marking a pivotal moment in their journey toward full driving independence.

it is clear that Driver Licensing Program is not just a program; it is a catalyst for change, opening doors to new opportunities and brighter futures for First Nations students throughout Queensland.



This innovative program, designed to break down barriers and provide essential support, has witnessed a remarkable impact in 2023. A total of 80 First Nations students in the ARTIE Academy successfully obtained their learner's licence, thanks to the assistance and resources provided by

The success of the Driver Licensing Program goes beyond the statistics, reflecting a commitment to fostering empowerment and opportunity within First Nations communities. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the road safely, the program not only enhances individual lives but also contributes to building stronger, more resilient communities.

Local leaders, community members, and program organisers are celebrating this achievement as a testament to the positive impact that targeted support programs can have on the lives of First Nations youth. As the success stories continue to unfold,

**“ This program is a big help for our students. I am a part of an awesome team that really cares for our mob. If it wasn't for the ARTIE Driver Licensing Program our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students would not have been given an opportunity to get their licenses. As an awesome team we are empowering our next generation ”**

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# CULTIVATING CREATIVITY, NURTURING NATURE

Inspiring through Art, Culture, and Sustainability

In a remarkable display of artistic talent, environmental consciousness, and cultural learning a series of ARTIE projects, have been sweeping through 15 schools across Southeast Queensland during Term 3, 2023. From captivating artworks to initiatives focused on caring for the country, learning to weave baskets and understanding the processes of Didgeridoos, these projects are transforming students' perspective and understanding of creativity, sustainability, and Aboriginal Culture.

At Redbank Plains State High School, students have embarked on an awe-inspiring art project that combines cultural knowledge and art techniques. Under the guidance of their dedicated ARTIE Coordinator, the young artists have breathed a new life of art, crafted stunning artworks of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, and expressed their unique perspectives through vibrant paintings.

One student, reflecting on their experience shared, "I'm thrilled I got to be chosen to participate in the ARTIE Art Project because it allows me to tell my story. It was a calming impact on my stressful days at school during lunch times, offering me support and allowing me to be creative with my mind".

This innovative approach to art not only nurtures their creativity but also instils a sense of responsibility towards their environment, through discussion about culture, how to make the most of high school and their education.

Meanwhile, over on the northside, students at Bray Park State School are actively engaging in caring for country. Collaborating with local community,

these passionate young individuals have taken up the responsibility of protecting and understanding the native plants that their school grows in the Native Garden. From organising to clean up their special yarning circle space to actively walking around the school and leaning about the native plants. These ARTIE Students have made it an active role to look after not only their school grounds but also their country that they live on. They have decorated their own pot plants to showcase in the Native Garden to show their appreciation for nature, their efforts are making a tangible difference in their school community and bringing a new perspective to their fellow school peers on the importance of caring for their environment.

The ARTIE Projects extends far beyond the boundaries of any traditional classroom. At Inala State School the students have joined forces with





their ARTIE Coordinator, to create and understand the process of making a Didgeridoo. This project has introduced students to the cultural significance of the Didgeridoo and the special techniques that come with playing the instrument. Throughout the project there have been many engaging workshops and interactive sessions, where students are continuously learning about an important aspect of their culture and also about each other.

On Yugambah Country, a group of girls at Waterford West State School started to learn the art of weaving. They dived straight into making delicate baskets with natural and coloured materials. Weaving is a traditional art form passed down through generations and as the young girls engaged in this craft, they developed valuable skills, and a deeper appreciation for the cultural tradition.



“  
**I enjoy spending time in a space that I feel comfortable to be myself and embrace my culture. I am learning a lot**  
 ”

an ARTIE Student said.

This project has given them the chance to learn how to be patient with their masterpiece and how much effort and care it takes to make a wonderful piece of art. It was also a space where the girls could spend some time together and connect through storytelling and passing on cultural knowledge.

These projects are not only fostering a deep appreciation for the arts and the environment but also nurturing crucial skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving. By providing students with opportunities to explore their creativity and culture while addressing real-world topics, the ARTIE projects are equipping them with the tools they need to become compassionate and loving people while also gaining knowledge about their culture and also about themselves through the reflective yarning throughout the project.

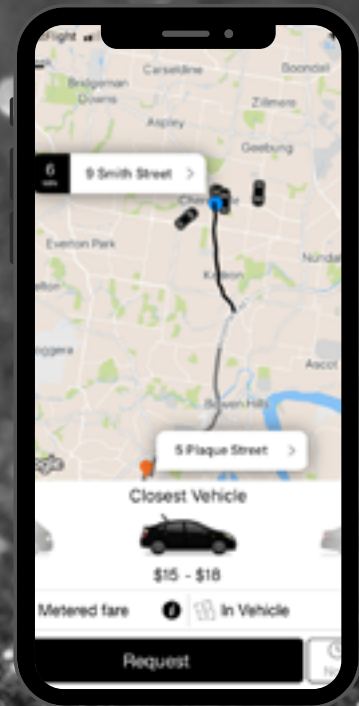
As news of these inspiring initiatives spreads, other ARTIE schools in the region are eagerly joining the projects movement, recognizing the immense value it brings to their students' education. The transformative power of art and the commitment to caring for the country are creating a ripple effect that promises a brighter and more sustainable future for Southeast Queensland.



Through the ARTIE projects, South East Queensland schools are proving that creativity, cultural learning and environmental stewardship go hand in hand, igniting a passion for art and a deep-rooted commitment to preserving the land that these students live on. These projects serve as shining examples of what can be achieved when education transcends traditional boundaries, empowering students to make a positive impact on both their communities, the planet and themselves.



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Sporting Wheelies and the FOGS ARTIE Academy worked together this year to deliver the ***I Can, You Can program*** to schools in Indigenous communities.

This program provided students in Marsden, Ingham, Ayr, Yarrabah, and Mareeba with the opportunity to try out para-sports such as Wheelchair Basketball and Goalball. Sporting Wheelies offer this program to schools in Queensland through 'Raising the Bar' with set-ups in South East Queensland and Townsville.

This program is run by **'Game Changers'** who are people with a disability that play these sports on a regular basis and are able to share their real world experiences of living with a disability with your students.

The inclusive sports program provides students with a first hand view of playing an adapted sport. We can adapt all of our sports to accommodate almost any age group and include any students you may have with a disability. Get in contact now to find out how Sporting Wheelies can bring inclusive sports to your school or community.



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# 2023 ARTIE BEETSON FUN DAYS

## Rewarding Students With Some Fun In The Sun

Term 4 has become synonymous with joy and celebration for the ARTIE Academy, as students across South East Queensland (SEQ), Far North Queensland (FNQ), North Queensland (NQ), and Central Queensland (CQ) experienced four unforgettable ARTIE Beetson Fun Days. The festivities finished in SEQ, where students who achieved an impressive 90% and above for the Semester 2 Attendance challenge were eligible to attend the Fun Day held at White Water World on November 24. This marked the 14th consecutive year of the event, attracting over 600 students eager to revel in their successes and honor the legacy of Indigenous legend Arthur 'ARTIE' Beetson.

The SEQ Fun Day opened with a warm Acknowledgement to Country by one of our ARTIE students from Beenleigh SHS, setting the stage for an unforgettable event. The students from Beenleigh State High School, Eagleby State School and Beenleigh State School dazzled the audience with a captivating welcoming dance, showcasing their

dedication after months of practice. Adding to the significance of the day, Arthur's son, Brad Beetson, graced the event. Reflecting on his father's legacy, Brad remarked,



**After everything the world has thrown us and the challenges the students have faced over the past few years, Arthur would be so proud to see over 600 of his people achieve their goal**



Nestled in the stunning landscape of Far North Queensland, the ARTIE Beetson Fun Day brought together students from Atherton and Mareeba Schools at Sugarworld Adventure





Park. Excitement filled the air as they reveled in the thrill of towering slides, engaged in friendly mini-golf competitions, and embraced the refreshing lagoon swims. Amidst the adventure, moments of relaxation allowed for camaraderie and reflection.

In North Queensland, students from Ingham and Ayr embarked on a water-filled escapade at the Townsville Barra Fun Park and the Townsville Strand Water Park. The day unfolded with exhilarating waterslides, inflatable adventure parks, and an abundance of snacks, creating lasting memories in the splashing embrace of aquatic delights.

Central Queensland concluded its regional festivities as Rockhampton schools congregated at the 42nd Battalion Memorial Pools. The day was filled with the thrill of slides, engaging pool activities, and spirited rounds of mini-golf, creating an atmosphere of joyful celebration and camaraderie in the refreshing waters of the memorial pools.

Four regions, four days, and countless memories – the ARTIE Academy Fun Days proved to be a resounding success, embodying the spirit of achievement, community, and the enduring legacy of Arthur ‘ARTIE’ Beetson.

