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PNGRFL NAMES JUNIOR KUMULS AND JUNIOR ORCHIDS SELECT SIDES AHEAD OF 2026 PM'S XIII

PORT MORESBY, 23rd September 2026: The Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League (PNGRFL) has named the Junior Kumuls and Junior Orchids select sides for their respective clashes against Australia on Saturday, 03rd October at Santos National Football Stadium in Port Moresby.

“PNGRFL Chief Executive Officer, Stanley Hondina, said: “The Prime Minister’s XIII is an important opportunity for our young players to experience representative football and test themselves against Australia.

“We have invested in our national youth competition over the last couple of years and this is the testament of the return that has been yielded. We have been close to a good match in the last two seasons, and I believe this year will be more exciting.

“Through this initiative, we are delivering on our vision of ‘Better People Better Sport Better Nation’ both on and off the field, something the game holds its head high on and prides itself on.

“Congratulations to all the players selected in the Junior Kumuls and Junior Orchids, as well as their coaches and support staff. This can be your pathway - look at some players who’ve played on with these jerseys twelve months ago - you can be the next one.”

JUNIOR KUMULS SELECT SIDE

The Junior Kumuls select side will be coached by Joe Grima, PNGRFL’s Academy and Pathways Manager, who has been closely involved in developing structured pathways for young players across Papua New Guinea.

18-PLAYER SQUAD

1. Araga Eresi – Port Moresby Vipers
2. Ellyjeh Brive – Panthers
3. Geordan Amaiu – Raiders
4. Gibson Karini – Central Dabaris
5. Issac Puan – Mt Hagen Eagles
6. Jack Gasey – Goroka Lahanis
7. James Ken – Port Moresby Vipers
8. Jason Daniel – Mt Hagen Eagles
9. Joseph Martin – Kandes
10. Manase Watt – Port Moresby Vipers
11. Manua Dau – Cowboys
12. Manuel John – Mt Hagen Eagles
13. Nathaniel Apa – Mt Hagen Eagles
14. Otto Thomas – Goroka Lahanis
15. Philape Miale – Kandes
16. Remexson Jocky – Port Moresby Vipers
17. Tai Kapaith – Mabel Park State High School
18. Taula Taulani – Dolphins

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Grima has also previously coached the Junior Kumuls and continues to play a key role in the development of young PNG players.

Grima said: "Being selected in the Junior Kumuls is an important step for these young players and a reward for the work they have put into their development.

"Our role is to give them the right environment to develop, compete and understand what is required to progress through the pathway.

"We have players coming through different parts of the system, including the Academy, National Youth Competition, and domestic competitions, as well as players gaining experience overseas.

JUNIOR ORCHIDS SELECT SIDE

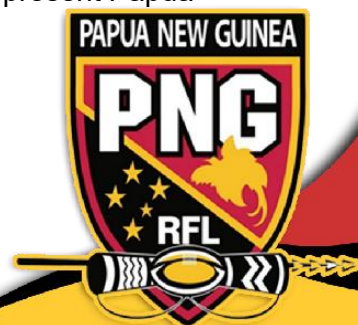
The Junior Orchids select side will be coached by Godfrey Luke, who guided the Moni Plus NCD Port Moresby Vipers U-19 side to the 2026 National Youth Competition grand final mid this year, where they finished runners-up to the Gas Resources Central Dabaris U-19 side.

18-PLAYER SQUAD

1. Angela Nane – Northern Pride
2. Bridgit Movoa – Central Dabaris
3. Christine Raim – Port Moresby Vipers
4. Daniella Max – Mt Hagen Eagles
5. Georgina Michael – Port Moresby Vipers
6. Jafita Ropra – Goroka Lahanis
7. Janique Mili – Pine Central Hornets
8. Jarishama Fonataba – ENB Gurias
9. Kala Kup – Mt Hagen Eagles
10. Linda Daure – Central Dabaris
11. Lucy Kodana – Central Dabaris
12. Martha Wal – Mt Hagen Eagles
13. Meriso Jomino – Goroka Lahanis
14. Miharna Artango – Northern Pride
15. Miriam Ekinye – Port Moresby Vipers
16. Miriam Sailas – Port Moresby Vipers
17. Sheteyah Han – Wynnum Manly Seagulls
18. Ukeray Sabumei – Goroka Lahanis

Luke will now lead the Junior Orchids as they prepare to face Australia, with the side featuring young players from the Vipers, Eagles, Lahanis, Gurias, Dabaris and overseas competitions. This will be his second consecutive year in the same role.

Godfrey Luke said: "This is a great opportunity for these young players to represent Papua New Guinea and test themselves against Australia.





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“Many of these players are coming through our domestic competitions and development pathways, while others are gaining experience overseas. Bringing them together is an important part of their development.

“I’m looking forward to working with the group and seeing them take this opportunity to learn, compete and represent PNG with pride.”

“Playing Australia gives this group an important benchmark and an opportunity to learn from the experience. Most importantly, we want them to enjoy the occasion, represent PNG with pride and continue building towards the next level of their careers.”

ENDS!

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