



MEDIA RELEASE

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP SQUADS CONFIRMED

Port Moresby, 07th October 2026: The Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League (PNGRFL) is proud to name the final squads for the PNG LNG Kumuls and Santos PNG Orchids, who will represent Papua New Guinea at the 2026 Rugby League World Cup.

The selections mark another significant moment for Papua New Guinea rugby league, with both national teams preparing to take on the world's best on the international stage.

PNGRFL Chief Executive Officer Stanley Hondina said the naming of the two squads was an important step in the teams' World Cup preparations and congratulated all players selected to represent the country.

"We are proud to name our PNG LNG Kumuls and Santos PNG Orchids squads for the 2026 Rugby League World Cup. Representing Papua New Guinea at a World Cup is one of the highest honours a player can achieve, and we congratulate every player selected.

"These squads reflect the talent, hard work, and commitment of our players, as well as the work being done across our pathways, clubs and competitions. We look forward to seeing both teams carry the pride of Papua New Guinea onto the world stage."

PNG LNG KUMULS

Head Coach: Jason Demetriou

The PNG LNG Kumuls will be represented by the following 26 players:

PNG KUMULS SQUAD

1. Bailey Biondi-Odo — New Zealand Warriors
2. Jack De Belin — Parramatta Eel
3. Robert Derby — North Queensland Cowboys
4. Dudley Dotoi — Townsville Blackhawks
5. Joshua Feledy — Manly Warringah Sea Eagles
6. Finley Glare — London Broncos
7. Liam Horne — Leigh Leopards
8. Edwin Ipape — Leigh Leopards
9. Zev John — Central Queensland Capras
10. Epel Kapinias — London Broncos
11. Zac Laybutt — North Queensland Cowboys
12. Nene Macdonald — St Helens
13. Rhyse Martin — Hull Kr
14. Robert Mathias — London Broncos
15. Morea Morea — London Broncos
16. Luca Moretti — Parramatta Eels
17. Sylvester Namo — PNG Hunters
18. Nixon Putt — Central Queensland Capras
19. Rodrick Tai — Central Queensland Capras
20. Valentine Richard — Central Queensland Capras





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21. Gairo Voro — London Broncos
22. Sanny Wabo — Png Hunters
23. Khaiya Waiembi — Png Hunters

SHADOW PLAYERS

24. Kyle Laybutt
25. Alex Max — London Broncos
26. Jacob Taulani — Newcastle Knights

SANTOS PNG ORCHIDS

Head Coach: Craig Sandercock

The Santos PNG Orchids will be represented by the following 23-player final squad:

SANTOS PNG ORCHIDS SQUAD

1. Therese Aiton — Ipswich Jets
2. Elsie Albert — Parramatta Eels
3. Essay Banu — North Queensland Cowboys
4. Annika Butler — Maitland Pickers
5. Jenny David — Brisbane Tigers
6. Fleur Ginn — Parramatta Eels
7. Belinda Gwasamun — Mt. Hagen Eagles
8. Josephine Howard — Central Dabaris
9. Jasmine Joe — Port Moresby Vipers
10. Naomi Kelly — Central Dabaris
11. Shellie Long — Northern Pride
12. Mala Mark — Central Dabaris
13. Tia Molo — Brisbane Broncos
14. Mya Muller — Penrith Panthers
15. Vanessa Nakkas — Central Dabaris
16. Cynthia Peters — Rabaul Gurias
17. Ua Ravu — South Sydney Rabbitohs
18. Jafinda Sap — Central Dabaris
19. India Seeto — Brisbane Tigers
20. Emily Vievers — North Queensland Cowboys
21. Gemma Walker — Western Clydesdales
22. Ivania Wong — Act
23. Relna Wuruki-Hosea — Canberra Raiders

DEVELOPMENT PLAYERS

24. Gian Kaupa — Lae Snax Tigers
25. Jacinta Garry — Mt. Hagen Eagle
26. Joyce Hobert — Port Moresby Vipers





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The 2026 Rugby League World Cup will provide both teams with the opportunity to showcase Papua New Guinea's growing strength and depth in rugby league while representing the nation on one of the sport's biggest stages.

For the players selected, the tournament will be an opportunity to wear the national colours with pride and build on the strong history and legacy of the Kumuls and Orchids.

PNGRFL Chairman Sandis Tsaka said the selection of the two squads was a proud moment for the players, their families, clubs, and the wider rugby league community.

"To represent Papua New Guinea at a Rugby League World Cup is a tremendous honour, and we are incredibly proud of the players selected to wear the PNG LNG Kumuls and Santos PNG Orchids jerseys.

"We know what these teams mean to our people. They carry the hopes and pride of a nation, and we encourage Papua New Guineans at home and abroad to get behind our players as they prepare to take on the world.

"On behalf of the PNGRFL Board, we congratulate the players, coaches, support staff, families and everyone who has contributed to their journeys. We wish both teams every success at the 2026 Rugby League World Cup."

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