

# THERE'S SOMETHING

# ABOUT SAINT MARYS

## Unstoppable production line of talent

Fatima Kdough

Jarome Luai will be a Wests Tiger next year but the Luai name will live on not only at Penrith but another Western Sydney powerhouse: St Marys Saints.

Luai, a three-time premiership winner, is one of 11 current NRL stars to have played their junior footy at St Marys Saints.

Luai's brother Calvary, 15, is following in the same footsteps as the Panthers and NSW five-eighth. A student at Patrician Brothers Blacktown, Calvary is rising through the ranks at St Marys as a centre, who is set to join Penrith's Harold Matthews squad next year.

"He's a centre. He's a bit like a Bizza (Brian To'o) build. A traditional Samoan build. I didn't get all that muscle," Luai laughed. "I think he is going to Harold Matthews next year. Hopefully he goes all right."

Soon another Luai will be running in St Marys colours in his young son Israel. Luai had hoped that Israel would one day be a Soccerroo, but the six-year-old has other plans.

"We want him to play soccer, he names all the (soccer) players, he knows it all. But he's just keen to get into footy now," Luai said.

"He's obviously around it a lot and he wants to play footy next year. I'm taking him back to St Marys and it would be good for me as well just to connect back to the junior roots, to see the kids there and some of my old trainers there as well."

St Marys has garnered a reputation in Sydney's west as being a talent factory for the Panthers. Of 11 NRL players, only three - Parramatta's Bryce Cartwright, Cronulla's Liam Ison and Roosters centre Michael Jennings - are no longer at the Panthers.

Other Western Sydney clubs have made big contributions to the NRL talent pool overall, like St Clair (five NRL players), Glenmore Park (five) and Minchinbury (six).

But the Saints are unmatched as a breeding ground for the Panthers, with Luai, To'o and Izack Tago headlining their list of NRL players.

"It's (St Marys) a powerhouse club. They are doing really well (off the field) with the Leagues club," Luai said.

"They look after their juniors, they subsidise head gear and things like that."

St Marys Junior Rugby League president Peter Bowler said the Saints had now reached the limit for the num-

## WESTERN SYDNEY



### PANTHERS 48

#### ST MARYS SAINTS ..... 11

- ← Jarome Luai (Panthers)
- Brian To'o (Panthers)
- Bryce Cartwright (Eels)
- Izack Tago (Panthers)
- Lindsay Smith (Panthers)
- Moses Leota (Panthers)
- Soni Luke (Panthers)
- Harrison Hassett (Panthers)
- Liam Ison (Sharks)
- Billy Scott (Panthers)
- Michael Jennings (Roosters)
- BROTHERS PENRITH..... 6**
- Nathan Cleary (Panthers)
- Mavrik Geyer (Panthers)
- Izack Tago (Panthers)

- Jake Tago (Eels)
- Brendan Hands (Eels)
- Shawn Blore (Storm)

#### MINCHINBURY JETS ..... 6

- Spencer Leniu (Roosters)
- Taylan May (Panthers)
- Terrell May (Roosters)
- Robert Jennings (Dolphins)
- Nick Lui-Toso (Dragons)
- Zac Cini (Eels)
- ST CLAIR COMETS..... 6**
- Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Warriors)
- Stephen Crichton (Bulldogs)
- BROTHERS PENRITH..... 6**
- Joe Chan (Storm)
- Tepai Moeroa (Storm)
- Zach Dockar-Clay (Roosters)
- Luron Patea (Panthers)

#### GLENMORE PARK BRUMBIES5

- Joseph-Aukuso Suaalii (Roosters)
- Isaiya Katoa (Dolphins)
- Sean O'Sullivan (Dolphins)
- Danny Levi (Raiders)
- Terrell Kalo Kalo (Rabbitohs)
- WINDSOR WOLVES..... 4**
- Mitch Kenny (Panthers)
- Hohepa Puru (Raiders)
- Niwhai Puru (Sharks)
- Harrison Hassett (Panthers)
- DOONSIDE KANGAROOS..... 3**
- Josh Addo-Carr (Bulldogs)
- Joe Chan (Storm)
- Casey McLean (Panthers)
- HAWKESBURY CITY HAWKS. 1**
- Mason Teague (Dolphins)

#### CAMBRIDGE PARK..... 1

- Vena Patuki-Case (Raiders)
- LOWER MOUNTAINS EAGLES 1**
- Tom Eisenhuth (Dragons)
- COLYTON COLTS..... 1**
- Tepai Moeroa (Storm)
- ROOTY HILL DRAGONS..... 1**
- Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Eels)
- ST PATRICKS, BLACKTOWN.. 1**
- Matthew Lodge (Sea Eagles)
- WARRAGAMBA WOMBATS... 1**
- Jed Cartwright (Knights)
- WESTERN CITY TIGERS..... 1**
- Robert Jennings (Dolphins)
- EMU PLAINS EMUS..... 1**
- Corey Waddell (Sea Eagles)

## EELS 44

### WENTWORTHVILLE MAGPIES. 9

- Haumole Olakau'atu (Sea Eagles)
- Matt Eisenhuth (Panthers)
- Ryan Matterson (Eels)
- Haze Dunster (Eels)
- Oregon Kaufusi (Sharks)
- Michael Gabriel (Sharks)
- Blaize Talagi (Eels)
- Sam Tuivati (Eels)
- Dean Matterson (Sea Eagles)
- ROUSE HILL RHINOS..... 6**
- Will Penisini (Eels)
- Jake Arthur (Sea Eagles)
- Samuel Lolzou (Eels)

### Sean Russell (Eels)

- Toni Mataele (Eels)
- Matt Arthur (Eels)
- CABRAMATTA TWO BLUES..... 5**
- Junior Paulo (Eels)
- Stefano Utoikamanu (Tigers)
- Trey Mooney (Raiders)
- Matt Doorey (Eels)
- Blaize Talagi (Eels)
- HILLS DISTRICT BULLS... 5**
- Luke Keary (Roosters)
- Will Penisini (Eels)
- Josh Curran (Bulldogs)
- Luke Sommerton (Panthers)
- Ethan Sanders (Eels)



### GUILDFORD OWLS..... 4

- Daniel Tupou (Roosters)
- Samuela Fainu (Tigers)
- Sione Fainu (Tigers)
- Latu Fainu (Tigers)
- DUNDAS SHAMROCKS..... 4**
- ← Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)
- Nathan Brown (Roosters)
- Adam Doueih (Tigers)
- Alex Seyfarth (Tigers)
- FAIRFIELD UNITED..... 3**
- Moses Suli (Dragons)
- Pasami Saulo (Raiders)
- Viliami Fifita (Dragons)
- MERRYLANDS RAMS..... 2**
- Josh Curran (Bulldogs)

### Jason Saab (Sea Eagles)

- ALL SAINTS TOONGABBIE TIGERS..... 2**
- David Klemmer (Tigers)
- Jeremy Marshall-King (Dolphins)
- SEVEN HILLS KANGAROOS... 1**
- Tepai Moeroa (Storm)
- MOUNT PRITCHARD MOUNTIES 1**
- Josh Schuster (ex-Sea Eagles)
- PARRAMATTA CITY TITANS. 1**
- Alex Twal (Tigers)
- CARLINGFORD COUGARS..... 1**
- Mitchell Moses (Eels)
- CANLEY VALE KOOKAS..... 1**
- Tony Francis (Titans)

## TIGERS 27

### HOLY CROSS RHINOS..... 4

- Luke Brooks (Sea Eagles)
- Mitchell Moses (Eels)
- Tevita Tatola (Rabbitohs)
- Bayley Sironen (Warriors)
- CONCORD BURWOOD WOLVES... 3**
- Brandon Tumeth (Tigers)
- Krystian Mappapalangi (Knights)
- Tony Sukkar (Tigers)
- LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB..... 3**
- Jordan Miller (Tigers)
- Kit Laullili (Tigers)
- Luke Laullili (Tigers)
- STRATHFIELD RAIDERS..... 2**
- Adam Doueih (Tigers)
- Tony Sukkar (Tigers)
- CAMPBELLTOWN CITY KANGAROOS..... 2**
- Justin Matamua (Tigers)
- Rua Ngatikaura (Tigers)
- EAST CAMPBELLTOWN EAGLES 2**
- Tallyn Da Silva (Tigers)
- Lachlan Galvin (Tigers)

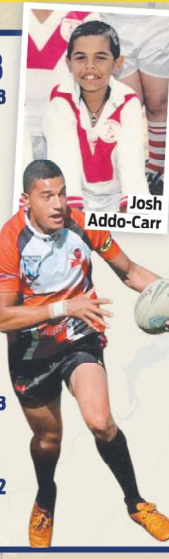
### FIVE DOCK RSL..... 1

- Nathan Brown (Sea Eagles)
- LEICHHARDT WANDERERS. 1**
- Lachlan Ilias (Rabbitohs)
- ENFIELD FEDS..... 1**
- Tony Sukkar (Tigers)
- EAGLE VALE ST ANDREWS... 1**
- Lachlan Galvin (Tigers)
- ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE, CAMPBELLTOWN..... 1**
- Jack de Belin (Dragons)
- NARELLAN JETS..... 1**
- Sean Keppie (Rabbitohs)
- ALL SAINTS LIVERPOOL..... 1**
- Taniela Paseka (Sea Eagles)
- CAMDEN RAMS..... 1**
- James Tedesco (Roosters)
- LEICHHARDT JUNIORS..... 1**
- Aaron Woods (Sea Eagles)
- NEWINGTON COLLEGE RUGBY UNION..... 1**
- Lachlan Koula (Sea Eagles)
- THIRLMERE ROOSTERS..... 1**
- Heath Mason (Tigers)

## BULLDOGS 28

### BERALA BEARS..... 8

- Tevita Tatola (Rabbitohs)
- Apsai Koroisau (Tigers)
- Haumole Olakau'atu (Sea Eagles)
- Aaron Pene (Storm)
- Sunia Turuva (Panthers)
- Jack Cogger (Knights)
- Daniel Tupou (Roosters)
- Joseph O'Neill (Bulldogs)
- MOOREBANK RAMS. 4**
- Jake Averillo (Dolphins)
- Tommy Talau (Sea Eagles)
- Bronson Xerri (Bulldogs)
- Kurtis Morrin (Bulldogs)
- ST JOHN'S EAGLES..... 3**
- Jacob Kiraz (Bulldogs)
- Joash Papalii (Bulldogs)
- Dion Teapua (Rabbitohs)
- BANKSTOWN BULLS..... 2**
- Marcelo Montoya (Warriors)



### Gordon Chan Kurn Tong (Sea Eagles)

- MILPERRA COLTS..... 2**
- Jayden Okunbor (Bulldogs)
- Paul Alamoti (Panthers)
- BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB..... 2**
- Jake Averillo (Dolphins)
- Chris Patolo (Bulldogs)
- GREENACRE TIGERS..... 2**
- Martin Taupau (Broncos)
- Bailey Hayward (Bulldogs)
- EARLWOOD SAINTS..... 1**
- Josh Addo-Carr (Bulldogs)
- REVESBY RHINOS..... 1**
- Kane Bradley (Storm)
- CHESTER HILL HORNETS.. 1**
- Sione Katoa (Sharks)
- EAST HILLS BULLDOGS..... 1**
- Aidan Sezer (Tigers)
- PADSTOW PANTHERS..... 1**
- Martin Taupau (Broncos)

## SYDNEY NORTH

### SEA EAGLES 20

- Beacon Hill Bears ..... 5
- Albert Hopoate (Raiders)
- Freddy Lussick (Warriors)
- Joey Lussick (Eels)
- Josh Felely (Tigers)
- Lehi Hopoate (Sea Eagles)
- Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles)
- Jake Trbojevic (Sea Eagles)
- Ben Trbojevic (Sea Eagles)
- CROMER KINGFISHERS..... 3**



### ← Clint Gutherson (Eels)

- Savelio Tamale (Dragons)
- Jamie Humphreys (Sea Eagles)
- HARBORD UNITED DEVILS 2**
- Bailey Simonsson (Eels)
- Jack Johns (Knights)
- NARRABEEN SHARKS..... 1**
- Dylan Coutts (Sharks)
- NARRABEEN TIGERS..... 1**
- Savelio Tamale (Dragons)
- BELROSE EAGLES..... 1**
- Jacob Preston (Bulldogs)

### AVALON BULLDOGS..... 1

- Sam Verrills (Titans)
- MANLY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS..... 1**
- Brad Parker (Sea Eagles)
- ASQUITH MAGPIES..... 1**
- Kaero Weekes (Raiders)
- NORTH SYDNEY RUGBY UNION..... 1**
- Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Roosters)

## CITY OF SYDNEY

### RABBITOHS 28

- MASCOT JETS..... 7**
- Addin Fonua-Blake (Warriors)
- Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs)
- Dylan Walker (Warriors)
- Keaton Koloamatangi (Rabbitohs)
- Emre Guler (Raiders)
- Siosifa Talakai (Sharks)
- Reimis Smith (Storm)
- SOUTH EASTERN SEAGULLS..... 6**
- Toby Rudolf (Sharks)
- Bronson Garlick (Storm)
- Shaun Lane (Eels)
- Nat Butcher (Roosters)
- Egan Butcher (Roosters)
- Connor Watson (Roosters)
- ALEXANDRIA ROVERS..... 3**
- Adam Reynolds (Broncos)

### Paul Momirovski (Roosters)

- Solomone Saukuru (Tigers)
- LA PEROUSE PANTHERS. 2**
- Alex Johnston (Rabbitohs)
- Blake Taaffe (Bulldogs)
- COOGEE-RANDWICK WOMBATS..... 2**
- Campbell Graham (Rabbitohs)
- Davy Moale (Rabbitohs)
- MATRAVILLE TIGERS..... 2**
- Daniel Suluka-Fifita (Bulldogs)
- KENSINGTON UNITED..... 1**
- Adam Reynolds (Broncos)
- KENSINGTON SAINTS..... 1**
- Billy Smith (Roosters)
- MAROUBRA LIONS..... 1**
- Peter Mamouzelos (Rabbitohs)

### REDFERN ALL BLACKS..... 1

- Alec Tu'itavake (Dragons)
- COOGEE DOLPHINS..... 1**
- Tevita Taumoepeu (Eels)
- BOTANY RAMS..... 1**
- Cameron McInnes (Sharks)
- ROOSTERS 7 CLOVELLY CROCODILES..... 4**
- Victor Radley (Roosters)
- Taane Milne (Rabbitohs)
- Tallis Duncan (Rabbitohs)
- Luca Moretti (Eels)
- PADDINGTON COLTS..... 2**
- Tallis Duncan (Rabbitohs)
- Ethan Roberts (Roosters)
- SYDNEY ROOSTERS..... 1**
- Asu Kepaoo (Panthers)

## SOUTHERN SYDNEY/ILLAWARRA

### DRAGONS 35

- WESTERN SUBURBS RED DEVILS, ILLAWARRA..... 5**
- Jayden Sullivan (Tigers)
- Talatau Amone (Dragons)
- Tristan Sailor (Broncos)
- Jackson Hastings (Knights)
- Alex Lobb (Tigers)
- GERRINGONG LIONS..... 5**
- Jackson Ford (Warriors)
- Reuben Garrick (Sea Eagles)
- Tyran Wishart (Storm)
- Dylan Egan (Dragons)
- Hamish Stewart (Dragons)
- ALBION PARK OAK FLATS EAGLES..... 5**
- Adam Clune (Knights)
- Josh Coric (Dragons)

### James Walsh (Dolphins)

- Dylan Lucas (Knights)
- Drew Hutchison (Bulldogs)
- THIRROUL BUTCHERS..... 4**
- Aaron Schoupp (Sea Eagles)
- Ryan Couchman (Dragons)
- Toby Couchman (Dragons)
- Connor Muhleisen (Dragons)
- ST GEORGE DRAGONS..... 3**
- Corey Ackers (Dragons)
- Laitia Moceidreke (Knights)
- Lipoi Hopoi (Bulldogs)
- KINGSGROVE COLTS..... 2**
- Izaak Thompson (Rabbitohs)
- Hame Sele (Dragons)
- HURSTVILLE UNITED..... 2**
- Luciano Leilua (Dragons)
- Apisalome Saukuru (Tigers)

### DAPTO CANARIES..... 2

- Blake Lawrie (Dragons)
- Tyrell Sloan (Dragons)
- RENOWN UNITED..... 1**
- Jacob Host (Sydney Rabbitohs)
- SHELLHARBOUR SHARKS..... 1**
- Euan Aitken (Dolphins)
- SHELLHARBOUR STINGRAYS 1**
- Jack Bostock (Dolphins)
- CORRIMAL COUGARS..... 1**
- Tyson Frizell (Knights)
- HELENSBURGH TIGERS..... 1**
- Damien Cook (Rabbitohs)
- BERKELEY EAGLES..... 1**
- Jack Bird (Dragons)
- COLLEGIANS, WOLLONGONG 1**
- Jesse Colquhoun (Sharks)

## SHARKS 20

### DE LA SALLE CARINGBAH..... 7

- Sam Hughes (Bulldogs)
- Connor Tracey (Bulldogs)
- Kade Dykes (Sharks)
- Jaeman Salmon (Bulldogs)
- Reece Robson (Cowboys)
- Sam Stonestreet (Sharks)
- Jamie Humphreys (Sea Eagles)
- AQUINAS COLTS..... 6**

### Bronson Xerri (Bulldogs)

- Jordan Samrani (Bulldogs)
- Jayden Brailey (Knights)
- Kyle Flanagan (Dragons)
- Blayke Brailey (Sharks)
- Declan Casey (Tigers)
- CRONULLA-CARINGBAH SHARKS..... 2**
- Tyrone Peachey (Panthers)
- Scott Sorensen (Panthers)
- YARRAWARRAH TIGERS..... 1**

### Chad Townsend (Cowboys)

- KURNELL STINGRAYS 1**
- Chevy Stewart (Raiders)
- ST JOSEPH'S JRLFC..... 1**
- Kitione Kautoga (Bulldogs)
- ST PATS, SUTHERLAND..... 1**
- Franklin Pele (Bulldogs)
- GYMEA GORILLAS..... 1**
- Siteni Taukamo (Sharks)

# Seagulls the runaway leaders in Queensland football nursery

Travis Meyn

A Gold Coast rugby league club has upstaged some of its big name rivals to be crowned the kings of the NRL production line in Queensland.

Runaway Bay Seagulls are celebrating a momentous occasion after providing the most current NRL players of any junior club in Queensland.

Nine current NRL players have emerged from the northern Gold Coast nursery.

The Seagulls products are

headlined by Titans star AJ Brimson, Tigers phenom Jahream Bula, Broncos duo Jesse Arthars and Blake Mozer, and former Maroons prop Jarrod Wallace.

They are also celebrating a new addition to the top grade with Cronulla hooker Jayden Berrell to make his NRL debut against the Cowboys on Saturday.

Seagulls treasurer and coach Darryl Fisher said the club was happy to see so many former players in the NRL.

"As a club we are super proud of them all, it's a fantastic achievement," he said.

"We are a reasonably big club, one of the biggest on the Gold Coast, but we are very proud of the boys that have made it."

"It is really cool for the kids to see. They get a real buzz out of it."

Runaway Bay pipped fellow Seagulls - Wynnum-Manly (seven players) - for the top spot in Queensland while the Nerang Roosters, Logan

Brothers and Easts Tigers have six products currently playing in the NRL.

Of the 159 current NRL players from Queensland, the Brisbane district (53) has generated the most following by North Queensland (20), Gold Coast (28), Central (25), regional southeast Queensland (16) and the Sunshine Coast (seven).

Titans halfback Tanah Boyd regularly pops down to Runaway Bay while young gun Jye Gray made his NRL debut for South Sydney this year.

"We've got some connections to those guys coming through too," Fisher said.

"Jye Gray's younger brother is playing in our under-15s so there's a lot of people closely connected to them."

"It's a great aspirational viewpoint for the kids. They can see that their older brothers or friends have gone on and done it for themselves."

Junior grades start at under-6s and progress through to the open A-grade ranks.

Fisher said the club's priority

was for players to enjoy the game and if they made it to the NRL, that was a bonus.

"Everything we are doing at the moment is in line with the player development framework," he said.

"There is no magic wand to create an NRL player. What we are trying to do is make sure we create an environment where kids want to play rugby league."

"If we are doing that, and the kids keep playing, then some of them will go on to become elite."



St Marys Saints juniors Noah Nanai, Harlan Daniela, Jayden Xerri, Sia'a Taveuveu, Naioka Tuipulotu, Brooklyn Williams, Mahlie Frew and Grace Bowler. Picture: Max Mason-Hubers

the law," Bowler said. "Here at St Marys we try to keep them on the side whenever we can. We have kids that are in trouble all the time, and footy is their only outlet. I know one coach, the mother loves the coach because her kid does whatever the coach tells him to. When he's playing up at home, the mum is on the blower to the coach and he's on to the kid like 'you need to pull your head in'."

"And this kid can play footy. We just want to give every kid the best chance to succeed."

ber of teams each club was allowed to field on a Saturday.

"In the Penrith district there are now over 9000 players in the junior league," Bowler said.

"We are at the cap for how many players we can take. You can have 45 teams on a Saturday and one team in each of the girls' age groups but we are at the cap on the Saturday. On Sundays we have first division only."

Penrith's premiership success is having a flow-on effect at the grassroots level.

"Yeah there definitely has been more interest since Penrith started winning titles,"

Bowler said. "But we also pride ourselves on the development we can give to young players."

Bowler, who has been involved with St Marys for 25 years and been the club's president since 2018, had a front-row seat to Luai's rise.

"I remember Romy got the player of the year in the under 12s and I remember thinking 'this kid can play'. Sure enough he went on to bigger and better things," Bowler said.

To Bowler, a club like St Marys doesn't just help develop the next crop of future NRL stars but plays a vital role