

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Luai lands at Saints Stadium with summer water safety message for the SAINT Marys community**

An excited crowd of 100 Saints juniors met their NRL idol Jarome Luai this morning [Thursday] as he touched down in the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter in the grounds of Saints Stadium to raise awareness about water safety.

Literally still flying high after the Panthers' history making four-peat NRL Grand Final win, the former Saint returned to his home-ground at St Marys ahead of the summer season to spread the water safety message at a special photo-call.

The star five-eighth spent time meeting, signing autographs and taking pictures with the young players at the Forrester Road stadium, while delivering an important safety message to young children.

“It was a no brainer to team up with the Westpac choppers today ... no matter where you are or how familiar with the water you are, you need to think safety first,” Jarome said.

“A few months ago I was in a situation which really was a wakeup call for how quickly things can go wrong in the water. It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, Australia's coast and waterways can be dangerous even if you're an athlete.

“Hopefully I can help our community out here in Penrith, particularly young Aussies, to understand how to keep themselves safe when they're out enjoying the water this season.”

Coaches, parents and staff were thrilled by the visit, which saw the juniors proudly kitted out in their Saints gear. Jarome met with every player which highlighted the passion and bond that thrives in junior league.

The visit was followed by a water safety education session in the stadium.



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The sessions are part of a series of coordinated workshops being staged by Westpac, in partnership with the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter Services, across Australia to help educate the community ahead of summer.

Jarome, who said he “had a lot of respect for these guys” in the rescue service was joined by Shane Daw, general manager at Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter Service, Southern; Diana Diab, state general manager at Westpac and the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter crew to deliver the “plan ahead, put safety first this summer” message.

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**Issued by: Maryann Callaghan**

**For more information, contact: Giulia Barron | Marketing Manager | St Marys Rugby League Club**

**Phone: 9677 7747 | Mobile: 0415 355 141**

**Email: [gbarron@saintsrl.com.au](mailto:gbarron@saintsrl.com.au)**