

N.S.W. ALL-SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS



Back Row L-R: Connor Corbett, Harry Kennedy, Ollie Fitzgerald, Cohen Welsh.

Middle row: Mr Ben Lawler (Coach), Jaxon White, Tyler Lane, Ben Ennis, Gus Single, Mitchell Martin.

Front Row: Connor Laverty, Ash Angel, Beau Harper, Rielly Laverty (Captain), Quinn Cooper, Kirby Welsh, Aston Pike. Absent: Toby Batten (N.S.W. Representative duties).

St Patrick's Primary School Macksville has a proud tradition of Rugby League success stories, however, its Open Rugby League team has recently achieved the ultimate recognition and accolade possible in school competition. After many campaigns, they have captured the N.S.W. Rugby League Championship and claimed the title of State Champions. They defeated a much larger Nurrawa Public side from Canterbury, in the final of the N.S.W. All-Schools Carnival at St Mary's Stadium on Wednesday 7th August.

The 17 players have staked their claim in NSW All-School's history by winning 16-6 in front of an enthusiastic crowd of supporters at Penrith. Once again a large crowd of supporters travelled the long distance to the city to offer their support. The team played an almost faultless game of football against their sizeable opposition going to the half time break with the scores locked at 6-6.

Two more tries in the second half ensured that this year's championship would go to the Nambucca Valley. It would be the first time in the school and in Group Two's history.

What made this victory all the more remarkable? It was that, due to a player shortage, the side almost didn't compete. Four of the players recruited were only U10 and one player was playing in his second day of Rugby League ever. The team's halfback was away on representative duties. Our U10s team, who were Group Two champions, also competed in an extremely difficult pool that contained former U10 State Champions Noumea and the eventual winner Banksmeadow. They should be proud of their efforts and their experience will no doubt bolster future efforts of St Patrick's teams for another attempt at the title.

Many thanks go to past and present coaches, parents and players from St Patrick's Macksville. Foremost in our minds is the reality that each year's successes, especially this year's, are built on the back of previous year's achievements and disappointments. To borrow a phrase from a current parent, "The school teams have been knocking on the door of the title for years now," and the dream is now a reality. Congratulations boys and girls.

St Patrick's U10 Group Two Champions



Back Row L-R: Daniel Smith, Archie Wood, Matthew Recklies, Ethan Harper, Bailey Pickvance, Kirby Welsh, Connor Laverty, Mr Matt Harper (Coach)
Front Row: Cooper Trisley, Aston Pike, Sam Harper, Chris Woods, Poppi Flanders.