

## MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT FOR WOOLGOOLGA RUGBY LEAGUE

In a major development for local sport, it has been announced by Wyong Leagues Group that Woolgoolga Junior and Senior Rugby League Clubs have officially agreed to become part of its Group. Since the Wyong Leagues Group amalgamated with Woolgoolga Diggers and Safety Beach Golf Club in 2021, there has been a strong alignment between the Seahorses and the Group. This relationship has been a very positive one for all parties and it is believed that this latest move is part of a natural evolution that will result in a stronger and brighter future for Rugby League throughout the district.

This recent move will see some very positive initiatives implemented, including the provision of more coaching and administrative support as well as further strengthening the ties with a very well-established Rugby League operation in the Wyong Roos who were established in 1910. One new "tradition" will be an annual friendly match played between the Wyong Roos and the Seahorses in the pre-season, allowing both groups of players to showcase their early form and share their experiences.

Wyong Leagues Group CEO Ben Coghlan says "Our origins are as a Rugby League Club, so it is particularly satisfying to be able to bring another Club into the fold and ensure we continue to grow our great game across the state. We have been directly involved with the teams since arriving in Woolgoolga from day one so we were thrilled to see the Seahorses capture their first Group 2 Premiership in 54 years in 2023."

Gavin Hann President - Woolgoolga Seahorses says

"We could not be more excited about the future of Woolgoolga Rugby League, and the opportunity of being a part of the hugely successful Wyong Leagues Group. If the last 3 years of support is an example of things to come, the Woolgoolga Seahorses have a real opportunity to progress as one of Country Rugby Leagues more successful outfits. We cannot thank the entire Wyong Group enough for the ongoing support of both the Juniors and Seniors here in Woopi".

## **BIG BOOST FOR JUNIORS**

In a further show of support for the newly acquired Juniors Wyong the Group will be extending their Central Coast Rugby League Subsidy Program to those families registering players in Woolgoolga Juniors U5 – U13s. This will provide a \$100 subsidy to each child that is registered to play for Woolgoolga. With the recent changes to the Active Kids program which has in most instances has limited funds available to parents. The Group has taken the view that if registration fees are the difference between a child getting to play Rugby League or not then it had to act. Ben Coghlan adds "For the future health of the Sport in the community we must do all we can to encourage participation at the Junior level. We know that plenty of families are finding it tough right now and with so many feeling the pinch, we believe, as a major player in Rugby League, that we should do all we can to remove barriers for involvement. The benefits to this Community of kids participation in team sport are way too important for us to ignore."

For further information on the Junior Rugby League Subsidy program, visit www.woolgoolgadiggers.com.au/jrlsubsidy

