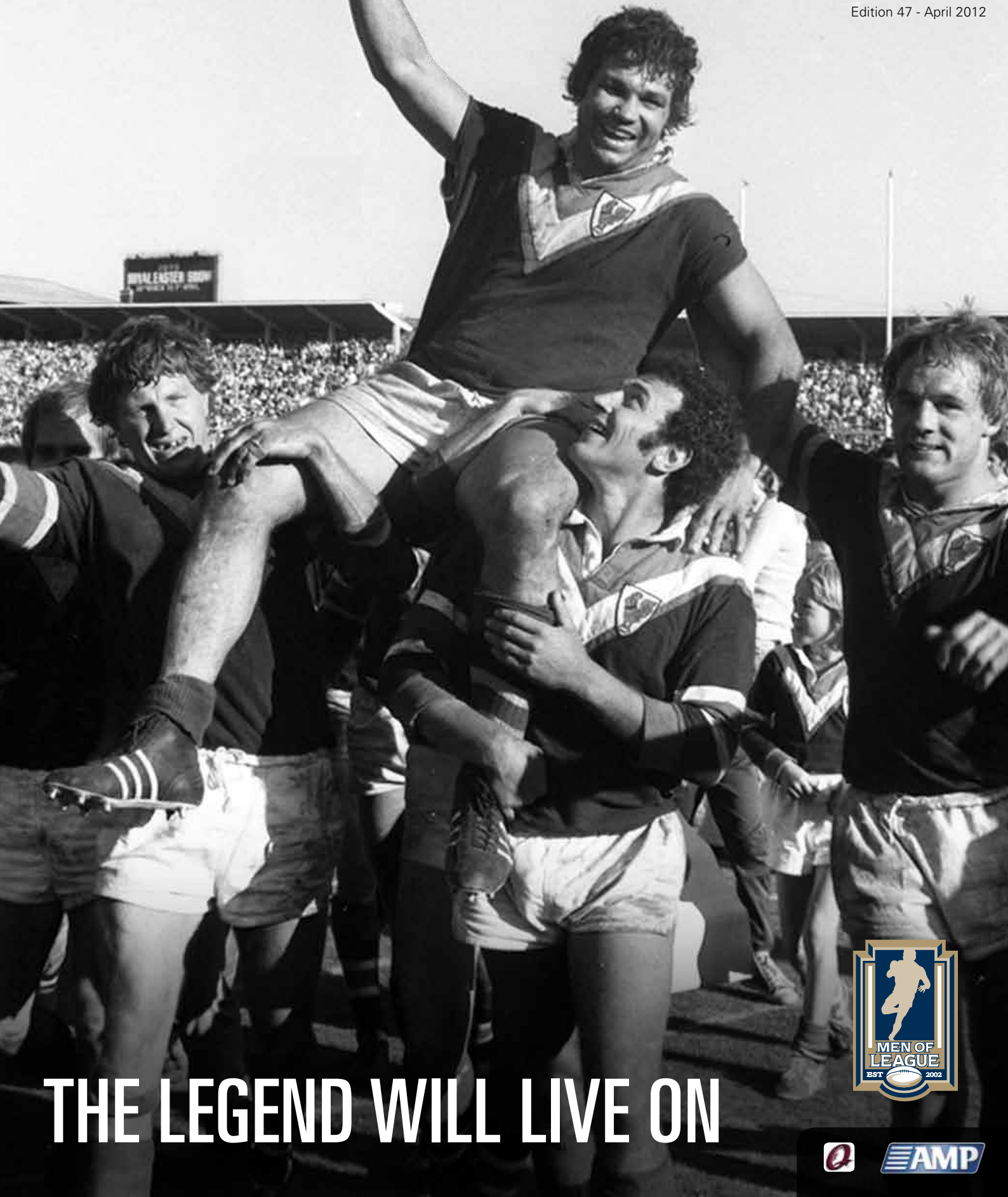


# MEN OF LEAGUE

C A R I N G F O R T H E G A M E

Edition 47 - April 2012



## THE LEGEND WILL LIVE ON



# ARTHUR BEETSON

## Foundation Announced







## “The Arthur Beetson Foundation will provide assistance to indigenous Australians in education, health, sport, and life skills.”

BY DARRYL FLACK

The family of the late Arthur Beetson has announced that they have set up a foundation in their father's honour to assist indigenous Australians in all aspects of life. Speaking on behalf of the family that includes Arthur's sons Mark, Scott, and Kristian, their eldest brother Brad Beetson explained that the foundation will follow the precepts and values instilled by his father. The Arthur Beetson Foundation will provide assistance to the next generation of indigenous Australians in the areas of education, health, sport, and life skills.

“A couple of the key cornerstones of the foundation will be Education and Health”, Brad said. “Naturally, sport will play a role but when we decide which candidates receive scholarships, they won't necessarily go to the best footballer or the best sports person. A candidate's attendance record at school will be a key criterion. Tony Currie's indigenous program sets its entry at a minimum 90 percent school attendance level, and the Arthur Beetson Foundation will be following that benchmark.”

Brad envisages that the foundation will have a national reach, given that for decades his father's name crossed state boundaries and all sporting codes. “We received messages of condolence from right around country, as far as Western Australia, so it is certainly our intention to make programs and incentives initiated by the foundation to be available around Australia.”

With indigenous health in crisis, Brad said that the foundation will provide incentives for indigenous families to undergo regular health check-ups. He added that naming the foundation after his father will give it the best chance of gaining support from both the public and corporate sectors to deliver much-needed assistance to indigenous people, and to provide opportunities that will sustain them into the future.

Brad revealed that the foundation will conduct a fundraising event in the lead up to the 2013 Indigenous All-Star match on the Gold Coast, and will have an involvement with the Queensland FOGS (Former Origin Greats).

He also revealed that the foundation has started lobbying for a national indigenous museum to be established in order to honour the contribution that the indigenous people of Australia have made to the nation.

"Yes, there are indigenous cultural centres around Australia, but there is no national museum dedicated to displaying the many aspects of aboriginal existence that have helped shape our nation," Brad said. He confirmed that a statue of his father will be unveiled at the third State of Origin match at Suncorp Stadium on 4 July, 2012.

He also said that the foundation will be conducting a competition for interested web designers to build the foundation's first website. Interested parties should contact Brad Beetson at: [bbeetson@iprimus.com.au](mailto:bbeetson@iprimus.com.au). ■



### **BEN BARBA**

*My greatest memory of Arthur Beetson is watching replays of when he played for Queensland and he got into a fight and punched his own teammate (Mick Cronin, who was playing for NSW). That demonstrated his passion for his people and the game. Those images really stuck in my mind.*

### **NATHAN MERRITT**

*I remember him running onto the field for Queensland in a match towards the end of his playing career. Later in that game he got into a stink. I remember him throwing upper cuts; he looked pretty dangerous and he knew how to throw them.*

### **SAM THAIDAY**

*I still remember the first time I met him. I was a 17-year-old school boy and I had come to Gympie for a sports carnival. He was sitting in the stands eating a meat pie and he came up and introduced himself to me. I remember he was such a big man, his hand took up my whole hand when he shook it and I learnt how to shake hands from that day on. He told me to play a little bit better in the next game because he had his eye on me.*

### **JHARAL YOW YEH**

*This concept of All Stars makes me think of Artie Beetson and what he has done not only for Rugby League, but also for the Indigenous community as well. I think it is really important we encourage to Indigenous people to really make something of themselves and one of the ways is speaking*

## **STORIES FROM THE 2012 LEARN EARN LEGEND!**

Indigenous All Stars players talk about how Artie inspired them

### **GREG INGLIS**

*Arthur's untimely death was a shock to me. About a month before he died I was sitting with him in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza in the UK leading up to the Four Nations final against England. We just sat talking for a good hour-and-a-half about life in general. He wasn't giving me advice; he seemed more interested in my life than anything else. The amount of work he did in the community is something I want to do and I have a great opportunity to do that. He is one of the greats of the game who will be remembered not just for what he did on the field, but for what he did in the community.*

### **JOHNATHAN THURSTON**

*Definitely the 1980 State of Origin game, inspirational.*

through Rugby League and I think he did that really well. I think you ask a lot of Indigenous players and they would all say that they would want to follow in the footsteps of Artie.

### JUSTIN HODGES

I lived with Artie for a year when I first went to the Roosters when I was 19. It was the first time that I had moved away from home, so I was really lucky to have Artie step in as another father-figure. We would sit around the dinner table playing cards, having conversations and eating pizzas. These moments had a big impact on my life. For me it was the fun times away from the footy field; they're the moments that I cherish. I got to know him as Artie Beetson the person and that is a big highlight in my life.

### MATT BOWEN

I think every time I saw him he had a smile on his face and always said hello. I met him in Origin camps and also in the All Stars camp. He was such a good bloke.

### GREG BIRD

The respect and presence he had it was easy to see. I always remember watching the footage of him running out for his first State of Origin.

### CORY PATERSON

The way he was such a down to earth person. Artie broke down barriers and was a massive inspiration.

### ANDREW FAFITA

I was playing SG Ball for the Roosters and he was one of the selectors. He told me I was too big to be a winger - he was right. I grew up playing on the

wing because I was quite skinny; but by 18 I started getting bigger all of a sudden.

### ANTHONY MITCHELL

Seeing him poke his head around for talent at the Queensland trials when I was growing up. I have always admired what he has done for the Aboriginal people in the Rugby League community.

### NATHAN PEATS

When he ripped into his own Sydney team-mates because he was playing for Queensland. No friends on the field.

### SCOTT PRINCE

Watching him run out at the 1st State of Origin as team captain - obviously on video tape!

### GEORGE ROSE

The first time I met Artie he knew my name and I was in shock. He took me car shopping one day, and while I looked at cars he ate pies in the cafe at 8.00am. Love it! What a great bloke.

### CHRIS SANDOW

A lovely bloke. I always wanted to hug when I saw him. He was such a great player and a lot of people looked up to him. He always told me just to do my best and prove to the doubters I can do it.

### TRAVIS WADDELL

Probably just having the honour of meeting him at a Queensland Cup game.

### TOM LEAROYD-LAHR

Seeing replays of him leading Queensland out for the first-ever State of Origin game in 1980.



Indigenous All Stars Team.