



HARRIGAN FORD GROUP 7 MAGIC ROUND

SATURDAY APRIL 11TH

KIAMA SHOWGROUND



South Coast Group 7 Rugby League kicks off the 2026 season in style with the return of Magic Round, a full day of footy, entertainment, and community at one iconic venue..

On Saturday April 11th, Kiama Showground will host 5 games featuring all 10 First Grade teams, bringing the entire competition together for one massive day. From the first whistle at 11:30AM through to the final clash under lights, it's non-stop action on Group 7 soil. 5 GAMES OF BACK TO BACK ACTION

Off the field, there's something for everyone bar, canteen, food trucks, coffee van, DJ, and a dedicated kids zone, making it the perfect day out for families, fans, and the wider community.

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MAGIC ROUND

GROUP 7

To our Group 7 Clubs, Directors, Life Members, Stakeholders and Supporters, welcome to the 2026 Harrigan Ford South Coast Group 7 Rugby League Magic Round here at the stunning Kiama Showground.

It's fantastic to see this event continue to grow in just its second year and there's no better way to launch what is shaping as an incredibly competitive First Grade season. Every Club enters today with genuine belief of their chances in '26 and an early win here can set the tone for the months ahead.

From an Football Operational perspective, days like today are incredibly rewarding. They represent more than just fixtures on a schedule, they are the outcome of planning, collaboration and a shared commitment to elevating our competition. Our focus remains clear which is to create an environment where Rugby League not only operates strongly but continues to evolve and lead across the South Coast.

In 2026, the Harrigan Cup returns to a 10-team competition, with the welcome return of the Warilla Lake South Gorillas. This strengthens the depth of the competition and adds another layer of intrigue to what already promises to be a tightly contested premiership race, all building toward the ultimate goal which is lifting the Artie Smith First Grade Premiership Trophy.

One of the most pleasing aspects of our competition continues to be participation. Across both Junior and Senior Leagues, we are now seeing 5,487 registered players, reflecting a 2.7% increase on last season. This positions Group 7 as one of the largest Rugby League competitions in New South Wales. More importantly, it highlights the outstanding work being done at Club level which is our Volunteers helping create environments where players of all ages feel welcome, supported and motivated to be involved in our game.

Events of this scale are only possible through strong partnerships. We extend our sincere thanks to Harrigan Ford as our naming rights sponsor, along with the efforts of Wes Dawson and Ashleigh Larkin in bringing this partnership to life. We also acknowledge our valued Platinum Partners Remondis, React Facility Solutions, Better Beer, Kiama Leagues Club, and the St George Illawarra Dragons whose continued support allows us to reinvest into the competition and strengthen our Clubs.

Finally, and most importantly, we recognise the people who make this competition what it is our Clubs. From players and Coaches To Trainers, Volunteers, Committee Members and the many individuals working behind the scenes each week, THANK YOU. Your contribution is the foundation of Group 7 Rugby League, and it does not go unnoticed.

Magic Round is more than just a day on the calendar, it's a reflection of our growth, it's a reflection of our community and it's a celebration of the strength of our game.

Let's enjoy the occasion and kick off the 2026 season the right way.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

Ashton Sims

Football Operations Manager
South Coast Group 7 Rugby League



MAGIC ROUND

GROUP 7



1 DAY
1 VENUE
5 GAMES
10 TEAMS

Saturday April 11th

@ KIAMA SHOWGROUND

BAR
CANTEEN
FOODTRUCKS
COFFEE VAN

FIXTURES

	VS	
	11.30AM	
	VS	
	1.10PM	
	VS	
	2.50PM	
	VS	
	4.30PM	
	VS	
	6.10PM	

DJ
KIDS ZONE
UNLIMITED ACTION



Kiama Showground - 11.30am

Referee: D Chamberlin Touch Judges: S Munro & C Jones



Shellharbour
Sharks



Jamberoo
Superroos

1	Jacob Seabrook	1	Jacob Maher
2	Vinnie Scotti	2	Riley Plekan
3	Donte Efaraimo	3	Darnel Te Ahuru
4	Jye Brooker	4	Luke Carey
5	Jaxon Manukonga	5	Jaxon Clarke
6	Jordy Vergis	6	Jake Hay
7	Harry Rudd	7	Toby Peters
8	Bryce Magnone	8	John Suli
9	Toby Hurford	9	Mason Phillips
10	Jayden Morgan (c)	10	Dill Johnston
11	Matt Delbanco	11	Ron Leapai
12	Wayde Aitken	12	Vita Suli
13	Hudson Bailey	13	Nye Matu
14	Kade Sampson	14	Thomas North
15	Wil Patison	15	Moreketai Moananu
16	Martin Cramp	16	Joel Carrol
17	Joey Elton	17	Jake Wilkins
18	Rivah Jago	Coach	Jono Dallas

Riverina pair in halves mix as Jamberoo prepares to roll out new-look side

The Jamberoo Superroos will field a new-look team in 2026 after the retirement of several players opened up spots in the club's first grade line-up for the new Group 7 season.

One of the biggest areas of change will be in the halves, with four players in the mix to take over from Jonno Dallas and 2022 Michael Cronin Medallist Mark Asquith after a successful long-term playmaking partnership.

First grade coach Dallas said that any combination of the four could take the field against the Shellharbour Sharks in round one at Kiama this weekend.

"We've got four blokes in there at the moment, Jake Hay's definitely one of those, Toby Peters and Thomas North are two young guys who were at the club last year and have been training there, and then Jacob Maher is a guy who was at Cootamundra last year," he said.

"Those are the four guys in our side who have been running in the halves, so it will be two of those.

"We literally haven't picked our side yet, we'll probably do it this weekend, because we didn't get any trials."

Of the four halves hopefuls, Dallas said that it is the experienced Hay that has set the standard at training over the pre-season.

"Jake Hay's been a standout at training, all four of them have been really good," he said.

"He was at the [Shellharbour] Sharks years ago, and he's from Gundagai.

"Last year he played reggies at Albion Park, I don't think he was all in with footy, I just think he was playing for a bit of fun.

"Then he got pretty committed this year and he's dropped a heap of weight and has been unreal for us."

The change at Jamberoo doesn't stop in the playmaking roles, with a number of new players putting their hands up for spots across the field.

Amongst changing of the guard at the club this season, there has been a Riverina flavour, with several players from clubs across the Group 9 competition in addition to Hay and Maher also joining the Superroos, while a number of established lower grade players are also set to move up to the first grade team.

"There's been a few new players that have moved to the club, a couple of guys from out at Cootamundra have moved up that are playing for us, which is cool," Dallas said.

"A couple of boys from South City have moved up, so a few Group 9 players, which has been handy, but again they're young, they're all under 25, which is really good.

"There's a fair few young guys like Riley Plekan, Jake Wilkins, like they've been here for a few years, Luke Carey, Thomas North, all these guys that have been in our club for quite a while but haven't been in the first grade squad, they've all been elevated.

"Our side last year was quite post-30, a lot of the dudes, so we have a lot of new guys in our squad now."

After finishing last season in second-last place with just four wins from 16 games, the Superroos missed the finals once again in a disappointing campaign.

When asked about his goals for the season ahead, Dallas said that a top five finish and a return to playoffs is the target that the rejuvenated squad is aiming for.

"Inside the year, it's always to play finals and win as many games as you can," he said.

"If you're in first grade and you're not trying to win, you're in the wrong grade, first grade is trying to win.

"Ultimately, my main focus is that the club's got a bit refreshed with younger players that are keen.

"The boys have been training hard, they love it, they're really committed, everyone's happy, and ultimately my philosophy in team sport is if everyone's happy and wants to be there, then generally you get good results on the back of it as well.

"We didn't get a trial, which was irritating, and our team will be completely new, so going into the start of the year we've just got to see where we start.

"If we start great, that's awesome, and if we don't, well then we've just got to make sure we accelerate our learning as quick as we can."

Jamberoo will start its Group 7 campaign against the Shellharbour Sharks in the opening game of the competition's Magic Round at Kiama Showground on Saturday at 11:30am.

By Tallon Smith



Kiama Showground - 1.10pm

Referee: W Drury Touch Judges: S Munro & C Jones



Milton Ulladulla Bulldogs



Berry Shoalhaven Heads Magpies

- 1 Blake Jones
- 2 Andrew Riley
- 3 Reece Manasseh
- 4 Luke Millard
- 5 Cody Lee
- 6 Jayden Millard
- 7 Jayde Tooth
- 8 Blake Mackey
- 9 Riley Wooden
- 10 Tommy Woodward
- 11 Sam Ballinger
- 12 Kye Lynch
- 13 Blake Halls
- 14 Steine Lofts
- 15 Harry Tan
- 16 Simon Harris
- 17 Thomas Nelson
- 18 Liam Henry

Coach Andy Lynch

- 1 Jarrad Thomas
- 2 Charlie Jefferies
- 3 Ned Cooper
- 4 Joel Etherington
- 5 Cooper Barrett
- 6 Tyson Walker
- 7 Jordan Xureb
- 8 Ollie Parrish C
- 9 Jake Simpson
- 10 Louie Chilliver
- 11 Henry Parrish
- 12 Taj Barrett
- 13 Joey Bailey
- 14 Wyl Brandon
- 15 Lachie Nellistein
- 16 Riley Simms
- 17 Ky Simms
- 18 Noah Watson

Coach Gavin Walsh
Craig Simon

Consistency the goal for Milton-Ulladulla in 2026 as young Bulldogs prepare to take centre stage

The Milton-Ulladulla Bulldogs are hoping for greater consistency heading into the new Group 7 season as they look to build on a strong finish to their 2025 campaign.

After five consecutive losses in the second half of the year, the Bulldogs finished the season with two wins over Jamberoo and Berry to finish in sixth position, eight points adrift of fifth-placed Gerringong.

Milton-Ulladulla coach Andy Lynch said that despite the fact his side missed the finals last year, he was happy with the progress they made over the course of the season, with the Bulldogs being competitive in the vast majority of matches.

"Even though we lost out on the five last year, I was very happy with how they went," he said.

"In previous years we played in patches, we'd play well for a little bit and then we'd drop off, but I actually thought last year, there was probably four of five games that we definitely should have lost, a couple of scores blew out, but I thought the rest of them we hung in there right until the end where it could have gone either way.

"That's all I ask of them, to play for that full 80 minutes and be committed, don't let heads drop, and just play what's in front of you."

On the recruitment front, the Bulldogs have had a quiet off-season, with just one addition to last year's squad in Mitch Simington, who returns to the side after a year out of the game with injury.

Lynch said that Simington's experience will be invaluable for the squad, offering a chance for younger players to learn from playing alongside the former Australian Defence Force representative player.

"He's had a year off, he had a couple of injuries last season so he didn't play at all, but he has come back to us this year," he said.

"Just having Mitch around the place, obviously he's a little bit older than the younger guys we've got now, so just the experience and direction, will help these young kids throughout the year."

"We've had just the one major signing, but we've got some good kids coming through in the reggies system so it's going to be an exciting season." In terms of emerging first graders, the Bulldogs are spoiled for talent, with Harry Tan, Chayce Brown, Koby Windshuttle, Blake Jones, and coach Lynch's son Kye all expected to play increased roles in the top grade this season.

The former Great Britain international said that he has been impressed by what he has seen from players such as Tan and Lynch over the off-season, while also highlighting a returning player who he also expects will see some first grade action.

"Harry, he's obviously had his fair share of problems with injuries, but this pre-season he's turned up and he's absolutely ripping it up, he's one of the standouts to be fair, so he'll be definitely one to watch this year," Lynch said.

"Kye Lynch, he played a fair few games last year, and he'll be up there this year playing from the under 18s last year.

"Then you've got another group in the reggies, we've got a guy called Ben Russell who's been overseas for a couple of years now and he's come back and he's experienced, and he will be playing first grade at some point.

"It's exciting all across [the park with] them young kids coming through, the future's looking very bright down at Milton for us."

Meanwhile, the club has also had four losses over the off-season, with Kye Farmilo, Lleyton Roach, Blake Osgood and Jake Walsh all set to miss the 2026 campaign.

Lynch said that while the loss of five-eighth Walsh is a big blow for the Bulldogs he is excited about the opportunities that await players willing to step up and fill the void this season.

"We've actually lost Jake Walsh through injury this year, he started training on his own probably four weeks before we started the pre-season and he actually did his achilles, so he's out for the majority of the year [and] he will be a big loss for us," he said.

"I know it's disappointing for him, but it's an opportunity for someone else to step up and take control.

"It's going to be a challenge, but it's one that everyone is looking forward to."

As for whether he thinks Bulldogs will secure a top five finish this year, Lynch said that he is confident that should things go to plan his side will be thereabouts come September.

"I have no doubt if they can be consistent in what they do week in week out, I have no doubt we'll make finals footy and get Milton back on the map," he said.

"Once you get into the finals, you never know what can happen."

Milton-Ulladulla will begin its season with a clash against Berry-Shoalhaven Heads at the Group 7 Magic Round on April 11.

By Tallon Smith



Kiama Showground - 2.50pm

Referee: J Geordan Touch Judges: P Hadfield & D Chamberlin



Albion Park Oak Flats
Eagles



Nowra Bomaderry
Jets

1	Leroy Murray	1	Keagan Solberg McGuinness
2	Mitchell Potts	2	Tyreace McGuinness
3	Billy Hayburn	3	Matori Atunaisa
4	Jiye Ellis	4	Ryan James
5	Dallas Harrison	5	Daniel Pender
6	Jack Walsh	21	Dylan Farrell
7	Drew Hutchison	7	Nicky Hasu
8	Matthew White	8	Tomasi Baravilala
9	Vili Mahe	9	Dylan Mitrovski
10	Rhys Kennedy	10	Philemon Kimisive
11	Rydge Smith	11	Thomas Latta
12	Zaan Weatherall	12	Shallom Bire
13	Josh Sainsbury	13	Zac Kershaw
14	Brock Skelly	14	Cohan Simpson Brown
16	Jarryd King	15	Matthew Rouen
17	Jesse Prinsse	16	Austin Thompson
18	Brodie Breakspear	22	Jonah Longbottom
19	Mase Hillcoat		
20	Vaenuku Vatuvei		

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Hutchison and Kennedy give Albion Park reason to dream of drought-breaking title in 2026

With new recruits Drew Hutchison and Rhys Kennedy on the training paddock, the Albion Park-Oak Flats Eagles are dreaming big heading into the 2026 season. The two South Coast NRL exports join the Eagles following a promising past two seasons in which the club returned to finals football after a decade-long absence with consecutive preliminary final appearances.

Eagles first grade coach Josh White said that the pair have already had a profound positive impact on the club, with players eager to learn what they can from them about NRL systems and structures.

"They've set the platform, they come back with a lot of experience and they talk about the standards we've got to meet," he said.

"It takes a bit of pressure off of me because they've come back out of that system and they're leading from the front which is good for me and good for the club.

"The boys are loving it, they're bouncing and you can see after training, they're still here, everyone's goal kicking, having a beer and they're enjoying each other's company which is the main thing."

While the Eagles have lost Kane Ball and Toataua Porima to Group 9's Young Cherrypickers over the off-season, the club has retained the majority of its key first grade talent for the upcoming campaign.

With the foundation built over the past two campaigns and the addition of Hutchison and Kennedy, White said the team has already set the goal of getting to finals, and is hoping for a little luck with injury when they get there this time after a few setbacks in previous years.

"We've already spoken about it, every year you aim to get to the finals and when you get there it's a different comp," he said.

"We've just got to get to the finals this year hopefully injury free like we've struggled [to] the last couple of years, and I think if we get there injury free and we're on song, we're a big chance of winning it."

After an 88-game NRL career across stints at the Dragons, Roosters and Bulldogs, Hutchison was released by Canterbury at the end of last season, after which he wasted no time in signing to return to his junior club in the Eagles.

Now, with his professional days behind him, the 30-year-old said he is enjoying being back around Albion Park and preparing for a return to the local fields of Group 7 in 2026.

"It's been really good actually, I come to training and can't wait to get out of the car and get down here," he said.

"I've got my best mates and my brother playing as well, so it's really good.

"I think we've got a pretty good environment down here at the moment, blokes enjoy being here and I think it makes it really easy to come to training when it's like that.

"Last year just coming down to watch and seeing the boys [and] how much they do enjoy a win when they work hard for it and get a good win, [that's] really something I'm looking forward to."

Over the past two years, the Eagles have shaped as title contenders under White's coaching, only to fall agonisingly short of a grand final appearance due to consecutive preliminary final losses to the Shellharbour Sharks.

Now, with the majority of the side sticking around in 2026, and the addition of himself and Kennedy, Hutchison said the side's focus is on putting themselves in the frame once again to end the club's 14-year first grade premiership drought.

"I think there's no doubt, we've got a good squad here that we can contend for the title," he said.

"We haven't spoken about it a great deal but I think if that's not your goal every time you put on your footy boots, then I don't know what is."

As for what he can add to the team and his goals for the season, Hutchison said that he is focused on just being himself and adding what he can to an already strong line-up.

"I suppose it's just little things I guess, I don't want to try and be anyone that I'm not, and certainly not coming back saying 'this is what we did here, this is what we did there', it's more so just about coming back here, being myself and just being the bloke that [people] remember playing here years ago," he said.

"Personally [my goal is] just getting back here and enjoying it and adding what I can to the team I suppose, that's always something you do when you play footy and it's something that I continue doing."

Albion Park-Oak Flats will open its season with a clash against Nowra-Bomaderry at Kiama Showground as part of the Group 7 Magic Round on Saturday April 11.

By Tallon Smith



Kiama Showground - 4.30pm

Referee: T Jordan Touch Judges: P Hadfield & J Law



Gerringong
Lions



Warilla Lake South
Gorillas

- 1 Wes Pring
- 2 Liam Holland
- 3 Tyrell Taione
- 4 Isaac Laughton
- 5 Tyler Dolenc
- 6 Jarrod Tiyce
- 7 Rixon Russell
- 8 Tom Knox
- 9 Isaac Russell
- 10 Alexander Weir
- 11 Kal Whyte
- 12 Jake Taylor
- 13 Cooper Harrison
- 14 Cameron Miller
- 15 James Kunkler
- Coach Scott Stewart
Daniel Brown

- 1 Sam Kennedy
- 2 Dwayne Longbottom
- 3 Baley Borthwick
- 4 Ben Askew
- 5 Sean Trindall
- 6 Dreau Clark
- 7 Mathias Santo-Hero
- 8 Tonga Mahuta
- 9 Brendan Douglas
- 10 Jacob Flanagan
- 11 Tom Liaina
- 12 Tobi Rosewarn
- 13 Liam Quinn
- 14 Brendan Lonesborough
- 15 Jake Davison
- 16 Terry Conlon
- 17 Brad Ford
- 18 Tim Askew
- Coach Kayne Brennan

Warilla Bowls AND RECREATION CLUB

“Exciting”: Coach Brennan optimistic about Warilla’s return to first grade competition

After sitting out last season, the Warilla-Lake South Gorillas are preparing for a triumphant return to the Group 7 First Grade competition in 2026.

Leading the club’s charge back into the top grade of South Coast footy is former Dragons Under 20s player and Group 7 premiership winner Kayne Brennan, who returns to his junior club as head coach this year.

Brennan said that while the rebuild over the off-season has had its ups and downs, things are beginning to fall into place ahead of the club’s first game against Kiama at the competition’s Magic Round on April 11.

“It’s exciting, it’s definitely come with its curveballs and some stressful moments already, but going off last week’s training and also as we get closer to the season, it’s starting to build nicely,” he said.

“Early on definitely the hype was there, we ran a couple of training sessions late last year in November and had really good numbers, which was exciting.

“Everyone enjoys their Christmas break, so some have been a bit slow to come back, but last week was a good indication of where we are in terms of squads, which is a positive, so it’s been exciting.”

After winning the First Grade premiership as recently as 2022, the Gorillas encountered a few difficulties, ultimately leading to the withdrawal of their first grade side last season.

With a number of first graders moving to other clubs to remain in the top competition, the club has had to look to build its squad from scratch this year, with a number of locals returning or being promoted from reserve grade, joining a number of new signings in the side.

One of the new signings coach Brennan has been most impressed with is young forward Brooman Page, who joined the club from the Illawarra League’s Thirroul Butchers over the off season.

“Brooman’s been unreal, I’m only new to the coaching realms, but in terms of what a coach is looking for, and I’m also looking at it as if I was playing with the guy, he is unreal,” he said.

“He stays back for extras, he was there on Saturday doing extras, he’s always wanting to learn, and just his attitude towards life, not just football is something that I really like about him, the way he holds himself as a person.”

Another exciting prospect for the club heading into the 2026 season is talented club junior Dreau Clark.

A member of the club’s 2023 Under 18s premiership-winning team, Clark has been identified by multiple NRL clubs as a player to watch, with Brennan happy to welcome him back after a single season stint with Jamberoo last year.

“Dreau’s a local junior, obviously the club didn’t have a first grade last year and he went out to Jamberoo to at least try and play first grade and stay in the realms of playing at a higher level,” he said.

“I remember Dreau from when I was a junior and he was a little ballboy walking around up and down the sideline like a little polar bear with his blonde hair.

“Same thing [as Brooman], he was down there on Saturday doing extras.

“He’s probably a bit unfortunate, he had a knee injury a couple of years ago that might have set him back there in terms of progressing in the system.

“I know Melbourne Storm were looking at him and I’m told that we’ll have a few Roosters scouts down at our games this year to keep an eye on Dreau, because I think he’s still got what it takes to play NRL or at least give it a good crack, so I hope I can bring that out of him.”

Looking to the upcoming season, first up for Warilla in their return campaign is a Magic Round clash with perennial powerhouse Gerringong Lions, a side that coach Brennan knows well after spending half a decade at the club and even featuring in its 2020 Grand Final triumph over Warilla.

When asked about his goals for the season ahead, Brennan said that he will be taking a leaf out of his round one opponents’ books this season, praising Gerringong’s culture as something he wishes to instill in the Gorillas.

“I want it to be an enjoyable year, not just for myself but for the club and for the players that are there,” he said.

“I guess the big thing is culture, I spent a few years down at Gerringong, and not that I’m trying to make Warilla Gerringong, but I really think that they had the blueprint in terms of culture and how a club is run.

“Instilling that culture within Warilla without losing their DNA and just being competitive every week [is my goal], and that starts at training.

“I’ve said that to the boys from the very first day, that all I ask of you is that you compete in every drill, everything we do we compete, and that should help us win a lot of games.”

The 2026 Group 7 season will begin on April 11.

By Tallon Smith



Kiama Showground - 6.10pm

Referee: T Hoobin Touch Judges: J Geordan & J Law



Kiama
Knights



Stingrays
OF SHELLHARBOUR

1	Brad Killmore	1	Teumuariki Tekere
2	Matt Morris	2	Dom Stephens
3	Max Jennings	3	Tim Lafai
4	Callan Thistlethwaite	4	Jack Walsh
5	Cameron Cornell	5	Dylan Hardy
6	Sam Hooper	6	Jake Stig
7	Cameron Vazzoler	7	Issac Morris
8	Matt Nicholson	8	Liam Scott
9	Ryan Hodgson	9	Tommy Eirth
10	Joshua Hitchins	10	Jalal Bizzaz
11	Toby Lane	11	Tommy Warner C
12	Tom Angel	12	Tuma Te Koi
13	Taj Roberts	13	Trey Barlow
14	Jack McDonald	14	Liam Henry
15	Ashton Thurgate	15	TBA
16	Luke Sutton	16	TBA
		17	Portman Paul
		18	Mitch Harvey
		Coach	Mathew Burke

Hunter to the hunted: Kiama prepared for the challenge of defending Group 7 title

Kiama Knights captain Tom Angel said his side knows they have gone from the hunter to the hunted in 2026 as the club prepares to defend its title and aim for back-to-back Group 7 premierships in 2026.

After missing the finals in 2024, Kiama bounced back emphatically last season, emerging from a congested pack at the top of the ladder to claim the title with victory over the Shellharbour Sharks.

Angel said that the Knights are well aware that they have an Artie Smith premiership trophy-shaped target on their backs this season, but have focused more on building on their success rather than looking at the long-term goal of consecutive premierships after enduring a tougher rebuild heading into last season.

"I don't think we've really touched on the back-to-back factor, I mean it's always there that we've got something now that everyone's wanting to chase, we've got the silverware in our hands, so everyone's going to be at us," he said.

"We're not going to be able to fly under the radar so much this year, but we're very excited in the fact that last year we came into pre-season with a new squad, new gameplay, new structures, and now this year we get to come back and not have to do that again, we get to build on what we built last year.

"We're very excited and we're just going to take it week by week.

"As I said, everyone's going to be coming after us, so it's going to be a tough season, but we're looking forward to it."

After taking out the title, the Knights have had a very quiet season on the recruitment front, with Bega duo Sam Lever and Jasper Kelly the club's first grade signings as of the time of publication.

However, aside from the pair of new signings and the loss of Travis Barrett-Hancock, who has joined Orange CYMS, Angel said that Kiama will field an almost identical team to last year's premiership side.

"We've pretty much got the same side as last year, we haven't actively gone out and tried to buy anyone," he said.

"We've retained the few blokes that we signed last year, and we've got a couple of young blokes coming through the grades, so they'll probably get their chance at some stage throughout the year.

"We're looking good, another good pre-season, we've been getting touched up a bit at training, so we should be fit again, which was the backbone of our season last year."

Looking back at this time last year, there were plenty of questions about the Kiama side, including those surrounding the return of halfback Cameron Vazzoler following a battle with Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

Fast forward to September, and Vazzoler completed the ultimate fairytale, capping his first season back on the field with a premiership victory.

Reflecting on the grand final win, Angel said that it was made all the more sweeter by all the storylines surrounding the side.

"It was obviously an unbelievable feeling, and I guess if you took a flashback to the 12 months prior to that we were in a bit of a 'where do we go from here' situation, after finishing second last," he said.

"I touched on it before, just all the little bits and pieces, all the fairytale stories that came together to make it happen, it was such an unbelievable feeling."

One added bonus of the draw for the Knights is a quartet of blockbuster home games inside the opening six rounds, with the club set to host Stingrays in the season opening Magic Round, Gerringong on Anzac Day, returning first grade side Warilla in round four and the Shellharbour Sharks in the Grand Final rematch in round six.

When asked about hosting Magic Round to open the season, Angel said he is looking forward to returning home to Kiama Showground in front of an expected big crowd to take on the 'Rays.

"I'm very excited for that one, it's a bit of a different one because we usually play our rivalry round [in the] first round of the year, so we usually come up against Jamberoo," he said.

"I'm really looking forward to it, Stingrays are always a strong side, they've got plenty of talent in their squad, and I know that Tommy and the boys at the Stingrays will have their side firing for round one, so it should be a good contest."

By Tallon Smith

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JNRRS SHEDS & TOILETS

GATE

TRAINERS PARKING

GRAND STAND

BENCH

SCOREBOARD

SEATING

PIZZA

BAR

SEATING

AMIGDS

DJ

VIP AREA

VIP PARKING

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