



## Education activity — ‘The league kicks off’



This photograph shows the Annandale rugby league team of 1912 (Annandale is in Sydney).

*Photograph courtesy New South Wales Rugby League*

The establishment of rugby league is a major part of Australia’s sporting history. Here are some activities for your students that relate to the early days of the game.

- Have students try this activity: It is 1912; you are a rugby union fan living in Sydney. Write a letter to a Sydney newspaper expressing your opinion in regard to the development of rugby league. Alternatively they might like to take the position of a fan of the new rugby league in their letter to the paper. Have them do some research into the language of the time before they write their letters so they can give it an authentic voice. Ask them to compare letters with each other; discuss as a class the opinions and arguments for or against rugby league.
- Rugby league had its beginning in a meeting of rugby union players and supporters at Bateman’s Hotel in Sydney in 1907. They discussed the formation of a New South Wales Rugby Football League, which included the notion of paying the players. Working in groups, students can write a drama performance that recreates that meeting. Encourage them to consider the main topics that would have been discussed at the meeting, the characters involved, their voices, clothing and the language of the time. If possible, have them create some props and scenery to add to the effect of the performance. If the school has a suitable drama performance stage, the students may like to use that instead of classroom space. Videotape the performance if possible for later viewing .

*A travelling exhibition developed and presented by the*

**NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF  
AUSTRALIA  
CANBERRA**

*Partner – Official exhibition of the Centenary of Rugby League*

