



## **REGINALD GASNIER**

### **Class of 1955**

Reg Gasnier was an Australian Rugby League player who played for St George from 1959 to 1967 and represented Australia in a (then) record 36 tests and three World Cup games, captaining the national team on eight occasions.

Reg was a local Mortdale lad and came to Sydney Technical High School for his last year after completing his Intermediate Certificate at Sutherland Intermediate High School. While at tech he became a champion sportsman in cricket, rugby union and rugby league, achieving CHS state representative honours in all three sports. He played 1<sup>st</sup> grade cricket for St George DCC before deciding on a professional Rugby League career.

Aged 18, and only after six games in third grade, he was selected for 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and again, after only five games there, he was selected to represent NSW. Before the end of his initial season, he was selected to play in his inaugural Test Match against New Zealand in Sydney, playing all three games of that series. He then toured Great Britain with the Kangaroos, scoring a hat-trick of tries in the 1<sup>st</sup> Test Match at Swinton.

Reg Gasnier became Australia's youngest ever Rugby League Immortal, and in December of that year he was inducted into the Australian Sports Hall of Fame, replicating this in 1982 he was inducted into the Australian Sports Hall of Fame. Selected as one of the seventeen players in the *Australian Rugby League Team of the Century*, Gasnier also received an AM (Order of Australia Medal) and in 2010, he was commemorated with a Bronze Sculpture in the ground of the Sydney Cricket Ground.

For ever known as "Puff the Magic Dragon", Reg Gasnier died in 2014, aged 74, at Gympie.