



A **Stan.** ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY SERIES

THE WALLABIES

INSIDE RUGBY WORLD CUP 2023



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LOGLINE

The inside story of one of the biggest gambles in Australian sporting history.



ALTERNATE LOGLINE

Behind-the-scenes with the Wallabies and coach Eddie Jones as they battle for Rugby World Cup 2023.

SHORT LOGLINE

The exclusive behind-the-scenes story of The Wallabies, and coach Eddie Jones, at Rugby World Cup 2023. Jones took over as coach just 9 months before the tournament. He promised a smash and grab job to steal the trophy, instead the Wallabies crashed out in the most controversial World Cup campaign Australian Rugby has ever seen.

SYNOPSIS

The Wallabies campaign at Rugby World Cup 2023 will go down as one of the most memorable in Australian sporting history, for all the wrong reasons. With highly credentialed coach Eddie Jones taking over the team just 9 months out from the tournament, hopes were high the Wallabies could perform the ultimate 'smash

and grab' and steal the World Cup. Instead, the team crashed to an historic exit early in the tournament. Granted unprecedented access we go behind the scenes to witness the pride, passion, and pain of the most controversial World Cup campaign Australian Rugby has ever seen.

ONE PAGER

This is the inside story of one of the biggest gambles in Australian sporting history.

2023 was the year Australian Rugby rolled the dice. Desperate to arrest the Wallabies' steady decline over the past twenty years, Rugby Australia sacked their incumbent coach just nine months out from the Rugby World Cup. In his place, they appointed Eddie Jones. He coached Australia and England to World Cup finals, guided Japan to a historic victory over South Africa, and was part of South Africa's victorious coaching team in 2007. If anyone could win the World Cup, it was Eddie. Our cameras were granted exclusive access to players and coaching staff, as the whole controversial story unfolded.

In January, Eddie arrived to the whirl of press cameras. He instantly demanded attention, saying that over the few short months available, he would rebuild this struggling team into a crack outfit capable of the ultimate smash and grab heist – stealing the World Cup. His optimism was intoxicating, it was the message Australian rugby fans had been waiting to hear, and few questioned his ability to deliver. Among the players, there was cautious optimism – Eddie was renowned as a hard task master and a workaholic – but he got results. Life was about to change for everyone.

The optimistic glow didn't last. The Wallabies had four lead-up games before heading to France for the World Cup and lost them all. During those matches, Eddie decided the existing players weren't good enough. When he announced his squad, experienced and revered players like Michael Hooper and Quade Cooper had been replaced with untried rookies. It was the youngest ever Wallabies World Cup squad. The public reaction was disbelief – as the squad flew out to France, Eddie launched an extraordinary attack on reporters, accusing them of being too negative.

In France, the results didn't improve. Cursed by key injuries, and hurt by inexperience, the Wallabies lost to Fiji and Wales. Despite it all, Eddie remained committed to his youth strategy, but the public was angry and vocal. Fans walked out of stadiums. Amid it all, a media report that Eddie was looking to jump ship to coach Japan. In the end, the Wallabies found themselves knocked out in the pool stages, for the first time in their history.

Embedded with the players and coaching staff, "The Wallabies - Inside Rugby World Cup 2023" is a unique, inside view of unfolding sporting drama. Witness the raw passion, emotion and heartbreak, as national and personal pride go on the line at one of the world's biggest sporting events.



EPISODE ONE



LOG LINE

In the biggest gamble in Australian sporting history, Rugby Australia sacks its coach and appoints Eddie Jones, just nine months out from Rugby World Cup 2023.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Returning Wallaby Coach Eddie Jones has just nine months to prepare a winning team for Rugby World Cup 2023. What he lacks in time he makes up for in confidence, declaring a smash and grab heist to steal the greatest prize in rugby. It's a huge promise, but can he deliver?

LONG SYNOPSIS

It is a breathtaking all-or-nothing play to win the greatest prize in world rugby. Just nine months out from Rugby World Cup in France, Rugby Australia sacks Wallaby coach Dave Rennie, and appoints the controversial Eddie Jones in his place. Few can rival Jones' coaching record, and he arrives with a bang, promising a smash and grab heist to steal the World Cup. But once the fanfare dies down, reality sets in. Australia is beaten soundly in its first matches, and Eddie decides radical change is needed. To the disbelief of fans, tried and true players are dumped in favour of untested youth. Conventional wisdom says experience wins World Cups, but Eddie is anything but conventional. Question is, will his radical move pay off?

KEY BEATS

- **Desperate to win the rugby World Cup, Rugby Australia sensationally sacks incumbent coach Dave Rennie just nine months out from the event and replaces him with the controversial and high-profile Eddie Jones.**
- **Jones sets about rebuilding rugby's profile in Australia, promising a smash and grab raid on the tournament to steal the World Cup.**
- **Despite the optimism Eddie brought with him, Australia gets the year off to a poor start, suffering three defeats from their first three matches.**
- **Eddie decides the existing team will not be good enough to win the World Cup, and begins replacing the old guard with new, young, untested players.**

EPISODE TWO



LOG LINE

Returning Wallabies coach Eddie Jones sparks huge controversy when he leaves some big names out of a hugely inexperienced World Cup squad.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Desperate for a win, returning Wallabies coach Eddie Jones springs some major selection shocks as Australia's winless Wallabies fight to be a force at Rugby World Cup 2023. But injuries to key players threaten to derail their campaign before it begins.

LONG SYNOPSIS

The Eddie Jones experiment is off to a rocky start. The returning coach was touted as a saviour but with the Rugby World Cup rapidly approaching, Eddie's Wallabies have not won a game. The rugby world is stunned when Eddie leaves some big names out of his official World Cup squad, and there's growing unrest with his leadership style. Under the glare of dubious fans – and an increasingly hostile media – the under-pressure Wallabies must turn their fortunes around quickly. But will injuries to key players cripple their chances in the World Cup cauldron?

KEY BEATS

- Eddie announces his squad for the World Cup, controversially omitting long term stalwarts Michael Hooper and Quade Cooper. Instead, he'll be taking one of the youngest ever Wallabies teams to the World Cup.
- After massive public backlash to the squad selection, on the day of the team's departure Eddie holds a pugnacious airport press conference, blasting the media as negative, and telling them to "give themselves an uppercut".
- On arrival in Paris, the team is feted with a reception at the Australian embassy, and visits Villers-Bretonneux, where the sacrifice of Australian soldiers in WW1 is commemorated.
- The Rugby World Cup gets underway, with Australia winning their first match against Georgia – the team's first victory under Eddie Jones.

EPISODE THREE



LOG LINE

The Wallabies World Cup campaign is off to a winning start, but injuries and inexperience are taking their toll, and a baptism of fire awaits Australia's young squad.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The Wallabies are fighting for their lives in the Rugby World Cup. Between injury and inexperience, pressure is mounting on the team. Then, before their must win game against Wales, news breaks claiming that coach Eddie Jones has applied to coach Japan. It's the worst possible timing, and the Wallabies campaign could soon be over.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Wallabies coach Eddie Jones has selected the youngest team at Rugby World Cup 2023 in France. Their talent and commitment is beyond question, but in the cauldron of the game's biggest tournament, experience counts too. The young Wallabies are found wanting against a rising Fiji team, and the pressure mounts. On the morning of their must win clash against Wales, a massive story breaks. Eddie Jones is accused of interviewing for the head coaching role with Japan. It's a distraction the team didn't need, and the Wallabies World Cup bid which began in a blaze of optimism and promise, looks to be headed off the rails.

KEY BEATS

- Injury starts to hit the inexperienced Wallabies hard. Captain Will Skelton, and key forward Taniela Tupou, both succumb to training injuries, and are ruled out for the remainder of the pool matches.
- Australia's campaign begins to come off the rails, defeated by a physical and committed Fiji side for the first time since 1954. There's a chorus of media complaints about Eddie's selections.
- On the morning of their must win game against Wales, a newspaper report claims Eddie Jones has been interviewed for Japan's head coaching job, despite having signed a five-year deal with Australia. Eddie denies the story.
- Australia's young Wallabies are completely exposed by the more experienced Wales, defeated by a record margin of 40 - 6. Fans leave the ground early as the Wallabies are effectively knocked out at the pool stages for the first time in the team's history. The players are devastated, the media and fans angry, and Eddie Jones resigns three weeks later.

FEATURED PLAYER BIOS

JAMES SLIPPER

With 134 test appearances to his name, loose-head prop James Slipper is the second most capped Wallaby of all time, behind World Cup winning halfback George Gregan (139). France 2023 was Slipper's fourth Rugby World Cup, and he was easily the most experienced player in Australia's youthful squad. Slipper is considered the ultimate team man. As injuries took their toll on the Wallabies, he was called on to overcome injury himself and play out of position at tight-head prop – as one journalist observed, when a coach asks, Slipper always says yes.



TANIELA TUPOU

Weighing in at 135kg, Taniela Tupou is known as a big man, with a big personality. Born in Tonga, his size and prodigious speed brought him to international attention at age 15, playing for the national schoolboy side, where he earned the nickname "Tongan Thor". Ultimately, he decided to come to Australia and joined the Queensland Reds, where his idol Quade Cooper played. He's known as the joker within the Wallabies team, but on the field, few props can match his speed and power. Tupou has had an unlucky run with injuries. He overcame a torn Achilles suffered in 2022 in time to make the Rugby World Cup squad but was hampered during the campaign by further injuries to his ribs and hamstring.



NIC WHITE

With 66 test appearances to his name, 33-year-old scrum half Nic White is one of the elder statesmen of the Wallabies squad. He was born in the NSW Hunter Valley, playing for Australia's under 20 team, before moving to Canberra to join the Brumbies. He's also spent time overseas playing in France and England. His first Wallaby cap came in 2013, and since then has been a regular in the Australian squad. He's known for his handlebar moustache and high energy on the field, where he herds the forwards around the paddock. He and wife Mel have three young sons, and in 2024 the family will move to Perth where White will play for the Western Force. His aim is to continue playing through to the British and Irish Lions tour in 2025.



CARTER GORDON

The 22-year-old Queenslander with the blonde mullet became the most watched Wallaby at Rugby World Cup 2023. A remarkable talent in the pivotal number 10 position, he was expected to understudy to veteran fly-half Quade Cooper. Instead, he was selected ahead of Cooper, and had a baptism of fire against far more experienced opposition. Despite the torrid start, most observers agree Carter is a star in the making, with comparisons being made with all-time great Wallaby number 10, Stephen Larkham.



ALLAN ALAALATOA

Rugby runs in Allan's veins – his father represented Western Samoa, playing in that team's famous victory over Wales in Rugby World Cup 1991. A tough tight-head prop, Alaalatoa joined the ACT Brumbies in 2014, and made his Wallaby debut in 2016. He played in the 2019 World cup, and in 2022, captained Australia against Italy. He was considered a certainty to play in the 2023 World cup, before snapping his achilles tendon in a lead up match against the All Blacks. Allan is passionate about his Christian faith and being a role model in the Samoan community. He and his wife Filo have three young children.



MICHAEL HOOPER

Michael Hooper is regarded as one of the greatest Wallabies of his generation. Having played 125 matches for Australia, the openside flanker has a hard-earned reputation as one of Australia's toughest and most committed Wallabies. Making his debut in 2012 at just twenty, two years later he was named Wallabies captain, a mantle he carried in 69 tests – the most of any Australian. Despite playing in one of the most physically demanding positions on the field he rarely missed a game through injury. Having retired from the 15-man game after being dropped for Rugby World Cup 2023, he set his sights on making the Olympics with the Australian Rugby Sevens team.



NICK FROST

Young gun Nick Frost was a shining sporting talent from an early age, competing at elite level in track and field, beach sprinting, basketball, and gymnastics. His hardest decision was choosing which sport would become his profession, and in the end he landed on rugby. Standing 205cm tall, the second rower has the speed of many wingers, and has a highlight reel full of long range tries, where he out-sprinted the opposition. Such is his athleticism, he's drawn favourable comparisons to former Wallaby great, John Eales.





COACHING STAFF BIOS

EDDIE JONES

Eddie Jones is one of the world's most experienced, and controversial, rugby coaches. Having coached the Brumbies to a Super Rugby title in 2001, later that year he became Wallabies coach. He guided the Australian team to the Rugby World Cup final in 2003, before moving to South Africa, where he was part of the coaching team that saw the home side win the World Cup in 2007. After that, a successful stint with Japan, before taking over as England coach - the first foreigner in the role - and in 2019 they made the World Cup final. At the start of 2023, Jones agreed to return to the Wallabies and helm their World Cup campaign. Renowned as intensely hard working and demanding of staff and players, he arrived back in Australia optimistic the Wallabies could win the World Cup. With just nine months to put his mark on the team, it would be a "smash and grab heist". In the end, it was the least successful World Cup campaign in Australian history, and Jones resigned from the job a few weeks later.

DR SHARRON FLAHIVE

Sharron Flahive is widely experienced in the field of sports medicine and has been team doctor for the Wallabies since 2021. Her job is to keep the players healthy on the field, and help them recover if injury takes them off it. It is, she admits, an emotional role. Careers, hopes and dreams are at stake for professional athletes, and she's often the first person on scene when players are hurt. In addition to her work in rugby union, she's chief medical officer with the National Rugby League, club doctor with the Sydney Swans, and chief medical officer with Equestrian Australia.

JON "JC" CLARKE

Jon Clarke is the Wallabies Strength and Conditioning Coordinator. A former rugby league player, he took on coaching roles after hanging up his boots in 2014. He worked with Eddie Jones for five years with the England team, before joining him at the Wallabies in 2023. In addition to his physical work with the team, during matches he's responsible for running messages from Eddie onto the field. It is, he says, like a PHD in coaching.





PRODUCTION BIOS

CJZ & KARLINBERG ENTERTAINMENT

CJZ is Australia's largest locally owned production company, producing more original primetime series than any other independent production group in Australia and New Zealand. The company works across all genres - specialising in factual, entertainment, comedy and drama.

Signature documentary programs include the ABC's highest rating series for the last five years: **Gruen**, Ten's longest-running primetime show, **Bondi Rescue**, the highest rating Sunday night show of 2020, the crime series **Murder in the Outback**, true crime series **The Good Cop**, winner of the 2019 Factual Logie, **Undercurrent**, **Shaun Micallef's On The Sauce**, **Russel Howcroft's MOJO** documentary, **Jimmy Barnes - Working Class Boy**, and the

ground-breaking format **Go Back to Where You Came From** which won an International Emmy Award, and the top TV award in the world, the Rose d'Or.

KarlinBerg Entertainment was established in 2020 by **Karl Stefanovic**, Australia's most prolific television presenter, and **Richard Weinberg**, partner at Hollywood production company Material (together with **Tobey Maguire**), which is widely known for such films as Sundance Winner - **Brittany Runs a Marathon**, SXSW Winner **Get Duked** and the soon to be released **The Violent Heart**. KarlinBerg's core focus is the production of high-end factual entertainment TV and feature documentaries.

PRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - ANDREW FARRELL

As a writer and producer for Australian & US networks his work has had an eclectic range from science & technology with **Beyond 2000** & **Mythbusters** to the pioneering years of reality on **Big Brother** & **My Restaurant Rules**, and the boom in true crime on US series **Deadly Women**, **Behind Mansion Walls**, **Dark Minds** & **Facing Evil**.

He was Executive Producer for the AACTA nominated feature documentary **Jimmy Barnes - Working Class Boy**, and Executive Producer of **Ron Iddles: The Good Cop** which won the 2019 Logie award for the most outstanding factual or documentary program. In 2019 he also wrote and directed the hit documentary **How Australia Got its Mojo with Russel Howcroft**.

In 2020 he was Executive Producer of the hit true crime series **Murder in the Outback: The Falconio & Lees Mystery** which won the AACTA award for best documentary or factual program. His series **Shaun Micallef's On The Sauce** was also nominated in the same category.

SERIES PRODUCER POST - MARK BARLIN

Mark Barlin is the master writer and storyteller quietly sitting behind some of the most successful shows on Australian television - from **Alone Australia** to **Masterchef** to **Lego Masters**, **Survivor**, **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here** and **Australian Ninja Warrior**. His shows have picked up multiple AACTA awards along the way and he is one of the most sought-after post-producers in the business.

SERIES PRODUCERS FIELD
TIM VINCENT & MATT BATH

SHOOTING PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
ROB GUNN

LINE PRODUCER
KATIE CATTELL

POST PRODUCER
ANTHONY GRIFFIS

EDITORS
JEREMY MATHER & DAVE RUDD





Stan.

ORIGINALS

Stan is Australia's leading local streaming service and unrivalled home of original productions.

Stan's original production slate includes hit thriller series *BLACK SNOW* starring Travis Fimmel; *TEN POUND POMS* starring Michelle Keegan; the Stan Original Dating series *LOVE TRIANGLE*, a modern take on the struggle for love; *BUMP*, a modern parenthood drama starring Claudia Karvan; *RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE DOWN UNDER*, hosted by RuPaul, Michelle Visage and Rhys Nicholson; *C*A*U*G*H*T*, a satirical comedy series from Kick Gurry and starring Sean Penn and Matthew Fox; *WOLF LIKE ME*, a genre-bending drama series starring Isla Fisher and Josh Gad; and countless other acclaimed original series and films.

Stan's studio partnerships include NBCUniversal, Starz, Lionsgate, AMC, Paramount, Sony, Warner Bros, Disney, all3media, BBC, MGM and more. Through these partnerships, Stan offers Australians unlimited access to thousands of hours of premium entertainment - with an outstanding lineup of exclusive premieres and blockbuster movies.

For more information, visit stan.com.au.