

ATHLETE LEGACY PROFILE

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PIETTER
IRYAN



LEGACY
PLAYBOOK

PETER RYAN

LEGACY PLAYBOOK

A LIFE IN RUGBY LEAGUE, RUGBY UNION AND BEYOND.



**"I ONLY
GOT
THERE
THROUGH
HARD
WORK"**

— PETER RYAN.

ORIGINS

Every career has an origin. Very few begin where people think they do.

Long before Peter Ryan played in grand finals, represented his state or crossed the divide between rugby league and rugby union, the foundations of his identity had already been laid.

It wasn't forged under stadium lights or measured by premierships.

It was formed in quieter places, where no one was keeping score. In a family where everyone contributed. In the routine of daily responsibility. In the expectation that if something needed doing, you simply did it.

Ask Peter Ryan about his career and he rarely begins with football.

He begins with the people who shaped him long before football ever could.

Family. Community. Work.

They were the first environments that taught him what commitment looked like, what responsibility felt like and what was expected of him.

Those lessons never appeared on a scoreboard. They couldn't be measured in appearances, tries or trophies. Yet they became the foundation beneath everything that followed, remaining long after the cheers had faded and the crowds had gone home.

Sport eventually gave Peter a stage. It didn't give him his character. That had already been earned.

Every athlete is remembered for moments. The moments that fill highlight reels, statistics and record books. They are the moments we celebrate because they are easy to see. Careers, however, are rarely built in those moments.

They are built years earlier, through habits no one applauds, values no one records, and ordinary days that quietly shape extraordinary lives.

Peter Ryan's story begins there. Not with football. With the foundations that made football possible. Everything else came later.

Growing up in Laidley, west of Brisbane in Queensland's Lockyer Valley, Peter was the youngest of six children raised by his mum, Judy, and dad, Gerry, alongside his older siblings Julie, Kath, Gerry, Pat and Paul. In the Ryan family, contribution wasn't encouraged—it was expected.

Surrounded by farmland and a close-knit community, it was the kind of place where people knew one another, where your reputation travelled quickly and where work was simply part of everyday life.

The Ryan family butcher shop sat at the centre of that rhythm. Before school there was work to be done. After school there was more waiting.

Beyond the shop, the family cattle property demanded the same commitment. Helping wasn't viewed as a chore or an achievement. It was simply part of belonging.

Everyone carried responsibility because everyone mattered.

Life in Laidley moved at a different pace to the stadiums Peter would later play in. Success wasn't measured by applause or recognition.

It was measured by whether you kept your word, whether people could rely on you and whether you did your share without needing to be asked.

Those weren't lessons delivered in conversation. They were absorbed through repetition, quietly becoming part of everyday life.

Looking back now, Peter doesn't remember those years through hardship or sacrifice. He remembers family. He remembers routine. He remembers everyone pulling together.

The values that would later define his football career were already taking shape, long before football became the vehicle through which the world would come to know him.

There was nothing remarkable about those days while they were being lived. They looked much like the lives of countless other young Australians growing up in country towns.

Yet, looking back, it becomes clear that the ordinary routines of Laidley were quietly preparing Peter for the extraordinary opportunities that lay ahead.

Years later, people would see a determined footballer willing to outwork those around him.

Few of them ever saw Laidley.

Yet so much of the man they admired had already been formed there.



COMMITMENT

Long before Peter Ryan found himself marking international rugby forwards or standing shoulder to shoulder with State of Origin stars, he had already developed something that couldn't be taught by any coach.

He was fiercely competitive.

Not in the loud, confrontational sense often associated with elite athletes. It was quieter than that. More deeply ingrained. It came from growing up surrounded by family, cousins and constant activity, where every game, every race and every challenge became an opportunity to test yourself.

Competition wasn't reserved for Saturday afternoons. It was woven into everyday life.

P OR

Just as important was loyalty.

When Peter reflects on the person he was as a young boy, one characteristic surfaces almost immediately. If one of his mates was in trouble, he was in it too. Whether it was the right decision or the wrong one almost seemed beside the point. Standing beside the people who mattered was simply part of who he was.

Those qualities would eventually become hallmarks of his football. Teammates would come to know him as someone willing to absorb difficult moments, confront bigger opponents and do the work others often avoided. Yet none of those traits appeared overnight. They had been quietly developing long before anyone handed him a football jersey.

Like many country kids, Peter never saw those qualities as unusual. They were simply normal. Only years later, looking back across an elite career, is it possible to recognise that what seemed ordinary at the time was, in fact, laying the foundations for something extraordinary.

There is a tendency to assume elite athletes become competitors when they enter professional sport. For Peter Ryan, the competitor had arrived long before the contracts, representative jerseys and grand finals.

Football simply gave him somewhere to express it.

**"IF THEY
THINK
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WAIT 'TIL
MY NEXT
TACKLE"**

FOOTBALL FINDS HIM

Talent may open a door. Character determines whether you walk through it.

There is a temptation to believe elite sporting careers begin with a defining moment. A phone call. A representative jersey. A coach recognising exceptional talent.

Peter Ryan's story feels different.

By the time football began opening doors, much of what would define his career was already in place. The work ethic had been forged growing up in Laidley. The competitiveness had been sharpened through family, friends and everyday life. Loyalty wasn't something he learned in professional sport. It had been part of who he was for as long as he could remember.

Football simply became the place where those qualities could flourish.

As his ability developed, opportunities followed. School football exposed him to stronger competition and bigger expectations. Every new level demanded more discipline, more resilience and more belief. Rather than changing who Peter was, the game kept revealing another layer of the person he had already become.

One opportunity would change everything.

Through family connections and the close-knit nature of country Queensland, Peter's name found its way into conversations with Wayne Bennett and the Brisbane Broncos. It wasn't a carefully planned pathway or the result of relentless self-promotion.

Like many sporting journeys, timing, relationships and readiness converged at exactly the right moment. When the opportunity arrived, Peter was prepared to take it.

Looking back, it is easy to see the significance of those early breakthroughs.

At the time, they simply felt like the next challenge.

That perspective would become one of the defining characteristics of Peter Ryan's career. Every achievement was quickly followed by another standard to reach, another opponent to test himself against and another opportunity to earn rather than expect.

Football had finally found him.

The competitor, however, had been there all along.

PROVING HE BELONGED

Every athlete receives an opportunity. Very few convince others they deserve it.

The transition from country football to elite environments rarely feels as smooth as it appears from the outside.

Every new dressing room brings uncertainty. Every training session is another opportunity to be judged. Every teammate has already earned the right to be there.

For Peter Ryan, this wasn't intimidating.

It was motivating.

Throughout his life, he had never expected recognition before effort. Whether it was school, family or football, his instinct was always the same: work first, let everything else take care of itself. That mindset travelled with him into every new environment he entered.

There were more naturally gifted footballers.

Peter knew that.

Rather than worrying about what others possessed, he focused on what he could control. Preparation. Physicality. Reliability. Every tackle. Every training session. Every opportunity to contribute.

Slowly, coaches began to trust him.

Teammates did too.

Not because he demanded attention, but because he consistently earned it.

Looking back, this period wasn't simply about becoming a better footballer.

It was about discovering that character could compete with talent.

For Peter Ryan, that lesson would shape the rest of his career.



The opportunity had arrived. The work was only beginning.

EAR NING

Talent earned him an opportunity. His attitude earned him a career.

His first sessions revealed exactly how he intended to stay.

Peter entered the system at seventeen, earning almost nothing, surrounded by the players he had idolised growing up—Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Greg Dowling and other Queensland and Australian representatives.

He wasn't the biggest player, nor the most established. His instinct wasn't to impress people with words. It was to tackle harder than anyone else.

RIES PECT

During one of those first training sessions he put a heavy tackle on one of the senior players. He remembers hearing voices behind him.

"This kid goes hard." For many young athletes, that moment might have been enough. For Peter, it became the standard.

His response wasn't satisfaction. It was simple.

"If they think that's hard, wait 'til my next tackle."

That mindset would define everything that followed. He wasn't chasing recognition. He was chasing the next effort.

The Broncos had opened the door.

Peter Ryan was determined to prove he belonged there.

LEGACY INTELLIGENCE

TURNING POINT:

THE SUMMER THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

The most important moments in an athlete's career rarely happen in front of a crowd.

Peter Ryan had spent his first season learning what professional football looked like. He had trained alongside the players he had idolised growing up, earned the respect of senior teammates through his physicality and begun

to understand the standards of the Brisbane Broncos.

Then the season ended. Like many young athletes, he relaxed.

When pre-season arrived, Peter returned carrying a significant amount of additional weight.

The consequences were immediate.

IDENTITY SHIFT

Before

Training started at pre-season.

Fitness was something to regain.

Effort was reactive.

A talented young footballer.

After

Preparation became year-round.

Fitness became something to protect.

Preparation became proactive.

An elite professional.

Every running session became a struggle. Every fitness drill reminded him how quickly elite standards disappear when preparation stops.

He would later admit he felt as though he was "going to die" trying to keep pace with teammates.

For six weeks, he trailed behind the training group. But it wasn't embarrassment that stayed with him.

It was clarity.

Peter realised that elite performance wasn't built during the season. It was built in the months when nobody was watching.

Standing in the middle of that difficult pre-season, he made himself a promise.

He would never again return underprepared.

From that day forward, every off-season became an opportunity rather than a holiday.

Every pre-season became a chance to arrive stronger than when he had finished the previous year.

It was a decision that shaped the remainder of his career, not only as a player, but later as a coach responsible for preparing others.

LEGACY LESSON:

Preparation is a decision, not a season.

The lesson wasn't about fitness.

It was about ownership.

Peter stopped seeing preparation as something coaches demanded and started seeing it as a personal responsibility. That shift in mindset became one of the foundations of his longevity in both rugby league and rugby union.

Peter Ryan:

"I promised myself from that moment onwards, I would never, ever not train over my downtime, and make sure that I came back in a stronger physical shape than I had left."

REWARD FOR THE WORK

Preparation creates opportunity. Consistency earns trust.

Peter returned from that pre-season a different footballer.

The physical changes were obvious, but the deeper transformation was in his mindset. He no longer prepared because coaches expected it. He prepared because he understood what elite performance demanded.

That commitment began to show.

Training became an opportunity rather than an obstacle. Confidence grew with every session. Coaches noticed his consistency. Teammates trusted his reliability. Slowly, the young player who had once been trying to survive a Broncos pre-season was becoming someone the Brisbane Broncos could depend upon.

Nothing arrived overnight.

Every season added another layer of experience.

Every challenge reinforced the habits that had been forged during those difficult weeks.

Looking back, Peter's career wasn't built on one extraordinary performance.

It was built on hundreds of ordinary days where he chose to prepare well, compete honestly and contribute to the team.

Those choices would soon be rewarded on the biggest stage.



THE PLAYER THEY WANTED.

Peter Ryan did not arrive at belonging in one dramatic moment. Even after he had played his part in Brisbane's 1992 season, he still carried the sense that he was standing near the team rather than fully inside it.

In 1993, that changed. He played more regularly, scored in the semi-final against Canberra and finally played in a grand final.

The minutes were brief. The meaning was not. He could no longer explain his place as good timing or somebody else's generosity.

There had always been voices outside the team who questioned whether he belonged.

Wayne Bennett told him so. But when the coach took the same question to the players, their answer was consistent: they wanted Peter in the side.

The people inside the work understood what the statistics could not show.

They knew the tackle after the missed tackle. They knew the effort when the game had moved away from him.

They knew that when the line bent, 'Ryno' would be there trying to hold it together.

For the first time, belonging stopped feeling like permission. It became something he had earned.

**"I KNEW I
DESERVED
TO BE THERE
BECAUSE OF
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— PETER RYAN.

LEADER

Consistency did more than keep Peter in the team. It gave him a voice.

Peter never thought of himself as the leader. He was a leader within the group—one of the players whose value lived in repetition.

Wayne Bennett knew what he would get from him each week: tackles made with intent, carries taken honestly, detail protected and a voice used when it was needed.

That reliability changed his position in the room. During defensive reviews, Peter would sit quietly until he believed something was wrong.

Then he would say so. He didn't challenge Wayne for effect. He worked the problem through: if this happens, then A, B and C follow; if we choose the other option, the field opens somewhere else.

Eventually, the question began arriving before the argument: 'Ryno, what do you think?'

Defence had become more than the part of football he performed best. It was the part he could see.

He understood how a defender's movement could steal time, close space and force an attack into a decision it did not want to make.

His measure was not individual perfection.

A missed tackle did not automatically mean failure.

If the system held and the next player arrived, the team had done its job. Responsibility belonged to the individual, but confidence belonged to the collective.

“I was a leader in the group—not the leader, but a leader in the group.”



JOB DONE

Later in his career, Peter learned to judge a performance without demanding a spectacular moment from himself. Some days there was no match-turning tackle, no break, no public proof. There were only the duties that kept the team intact.

He made his tackles. He took his carries. He communicated when the line needed him. He finished the work he had prepared to do.

That was not a lesser performance. It was professionalism without theatre.



THE YEAR IT CAME TOGETHER

1997

Ask Peter Ryan now which moments remain clearest from his playing career, and he quickly returns to 1997.

He doesn't begin with the premiership. He begins with a tackle.

Four years before, Peter was on the field for only the last minutes of Brisbane's 1993 Grand Final win. He never saw himself as less a part of that team. Wayne Bennett had a way of making every player feel their part mattered. Still, 1997 felt different.

This time, Peter played the entire Grand Final.

During the game, he made a tackle that has never really left him. On a statistics sheet it would appear like countless others across his career: another defensive action, another job completed. Peter remembers it differently. He believes it changed the momentum of the game.

After the win came another moment.

Wayne Bennett stood beside him with an arm around his shoulder.

Peter had known Wayne long enough to understand the gesture.

Over the years he had noticed that after Grand Final victories, Wayne would sometimes stand with an arm around a particular player. To everyone else it could look like part of the celebration. Peter came to see something else in it.

It was recognition.

Someone had given the team something important that day.

Decades later, Peter can still picture Wayne standing beside him.

"I still get chills down my spine now if I think about it."

By the end of that season, another form of recognition arrived. Peter was named Brisbane's Player of the Year.

He doesn't talk about the award as proof of talent. When he looks back, he talks about the effort, the energy he put his body through just to reach that point.

That distinction matters.

There was a time when Peter wasn't sure he belonged in the Broncos team. He'd seen what happened when his preparation slipped.

He had to rebuild, earn trust,
become someone Wayne could
count on.

By 1997, those qualities weren't
new. They had been there, growing
quietly.

That year, they just became harder
to miss.

The premiership, the Player of the
Year award—those went into the
record books.

But the memory Peter still feels
is quieter, and it sits somewhere
deeper.

An arm around his shoulder.



THE STANDARD TRAVELLED

After eleven years at Brisbane, Peter Ryan walked into a different game.

By the end of his time at the Broncos, Peter could feel something changing. He had arrived there at seventeen and was now twenty-eight.

The unfamiliar environment that had once challenged him had become home. He had played in premierships, earned the trust of Wayne Bennett and his teammates, and established himself within one of the strongest sporting cultures in the country.

But he was getting stale.

Warrington was one possibility. Then another opportunity appeared. Peter had represented Australian Schoolboys in rugby union and had always loved the game. When the chance came to join the ACT Brumbies, he decided to find out what might still be there.

Canberra demanded that he become a student again. The language was different. The pictures were different. Peter no longer possessed the instinctive understanding of the game that years of rugby league had given him.

What he did understand was work.

Not long after arriving, Peter completed what the Brumbies regarded as one of their hardest training sessions. He walked into Eddie Jones's office, closed the door and gave him an assessment that required no interpretation.

"I said, 'You're not going to win anything.'"

Peter had done rugby league warm-ups he considered harder.

It wasn't toughness for the theatre of it. At Brisbane, Peter had learned that training existed to prepare a player for the moment when the game became least comfortable. He would later illustrate it with a simple question: who would sprint forty metres to stop a try?

Hands went up.

What if it was the seventy-ninth minute?

Hands came down.

Where Peter had come from, that was precisely when the sprint mattered. Gradually, something deeper travelled with him too.

Wayne Bennett had taught his players that they did not have to like the person beside them to play for them. Once they entered the contest together, personal preference became irrelevant. Responsibility to the group took over.

“We crossed the line together. We’re going together.”

A portable standard is expressed through behaviour rather than slogans: prepare beyond comfort, protect the person beside you, and complete the effort when fatigue offers an exit.

Peter played a pivotal role as the Brumbies reached three consecutive Super 12 finals, helping the club convert a rising standard into its first championship in 2001.



THE PLACE THAT STAYED

Thinking again about the places his career had taken him, Peter spoke about a season with the Southland Stags in New Zealand. It was his first year back in rugby union. A mate had originally agreed to play for Southland, only to be injured.

Peter went instead.

Years later, the way he described what followed was strikingly simple.

“One of the best experiences I ever had in sport.”

There were bigger stages in Peter's career. Premierships. Grand finals. Representative football. Eleven seasons with the Broncos. A championship with the Brumbies.

But when I asked him what made Invercargill different, his answer had little to do with any of that.

“The people of Invercargill and the rugby community.”

Southland had not won a game in two years. Peter arrived alongside fellow Brumbies player Graeme Bond. They played well. Southland began winning.

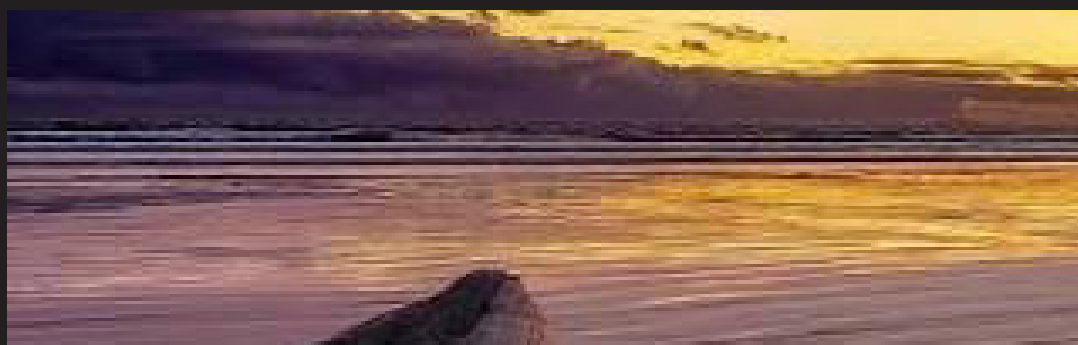
“We won several games. They loved us.” Perhaps that is why the memory has endured.

Peter still describes his former coach and team manager as great mates.

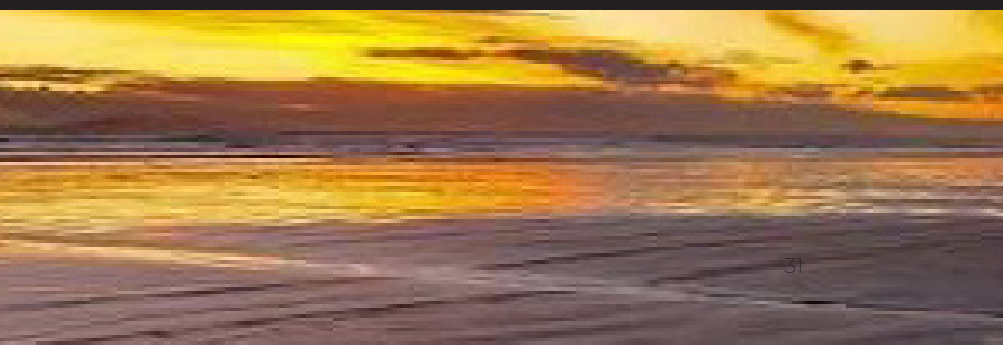
The season didn't need to become one of the most celebrated chapters of his career to become one of the most meaningful. Somewhere along a career defined by professional standards, demanding environments and constant movement, Peter found a place where playing well mattered because of what it meant to the people around him.

He went to Invercargill to play rugby.

What stayed with him was Invercargill.



**"ONE OF
THE BEST
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RYAN.**



FROM INSTINCT TO SYSTEM

What Peter once understood through feel became something he learned to break down, demonstrate and pass on.

Peter Ryan was still establishing himself as a first-grade footballer when Wayne Bennett began asking him to help younger Broncos with their tackle technique.

There was no formal transition from player to teacher. It was already happening.

By 1992–93, Peter was working as a development officer for the Broncos, visiting primary and secondary schools and teaching young players the game. Tackling became his speciality. At Red Hill, a sandpit beside the training field became known as the tackle zone. The resistance of the sand forced players to drive their feet harder through contact. Peter would use it with players and even visiting coaches who came to observe the Broncos.

Teaching something he had learned to do instinctively required Peter to look at the skill differently.

Knowing how to tackle was no longer enough. He had to understand why it worked—and then find a way of making somebody else understand it.

Over time, that became a system.



Peter realised that telling a player what to do might work for one person and fail completely with another.

Some needed an explanation. Some needed to see it. Others needed Peter to physically position their body so they could feel the difference. Then came video, review and another question: did you feel what happened at that moment?

His approach became almost sequential.

TELL IT.

SHOW IT.

PLACE IT.

REVIEW IT.

“I can get ninety per cent of people across the board because of the fact that I cover all learning gambits when I teach someone how to tackle.”

What began as expertise was becoming something else.

Peter was learning that coaching wasn't simply transferring information. The responsibility remained with the person doing the teaching. If an athlete repeatedly failed to understand an instruction, Peter became frustrated when the athlete was automatically blamed.

His response was blunt.

“Who's not getting it—you or him?”

For most of his playing career, Peter had been judged on whether he could do the job himself.

Teaching reversed the responsibility.

Now the measure was whether he could help somebody else do it.

LEGACY INTELLIGENCE

TURNING POINT:

BACK WHERE IT BEGAN

In 2006, a call reached Peter Ryan while he was playing rugby in Japan.

Brisbane had the talent. What the group needed, he was told, was “some old school back here.”

Peter understood what that meant. It was not toughness for its own sake.

It meant winning the contact, recovering quickly, protecting the space beside you and refusing to leave the next man alone.

He returned to Wayne Bennett’s

staff as an assistant coach with responsibility for defence.

The first week was physical.

Then Peter took the forwards into the old clubhouse and placed the evidence in front of them.

He compared Brisbane’s tackle speed with Melbourne’s, connected the players’ strength measures to what they produced in contact and explained what a four-second tackle gave the defensive line: time to recover, turn, number up and communicate.

IDENTITY SHIFT

Before

Standards lived in Peter's actions.

Instinct shaped how he defended.

Leadership came from within the line.

Influence depended on his presence.

After

The standard became repeatable.

Instinct became method.

Leadership prepared others to act.

Influence outlasted his presence.

Peter was no longer relying on instinct alone. He could show the players what was happening, explain why it mattered and give them a method for changing it.

The old standard had acquired a new language.

On the day before the 2006 grand final, Peter ran a defensive drill Wayne had used during his playing years.

He had adapted it for the modern game, placing greater emphasis on communication and each player understanding his role.

The execution was the best Peter had ever seen.

The movements were precise. The communication arrived early.

Each player trusted the person beside him. Peter walked across to Wayne and told him they were going to win.

Brisbane claimed the premiership the following day.

Peter had returned to the place where he had learned to meet a standard and helped another group make it their own.

LEGACY LESSON:

Experience becomes legacy only when it can be transferred.

Peter did not return to reproduce the past. He translated its standard for a new group and a changing game.

The turning point was not simply becoming a coach.

It was recognising that what he once demonstrated through his body could now be carried through language, evidence and trust.

Peter Ryan:

“I said to Wayne, I don’t care what happens tomorrow, mate. We’re going to win this game. I’ve never seen that drill done so precisely and efficiently, with the communication they had. These guys are on.”

LEADERSHIP EVOLUTION

FROM VOICE IN THE LINE TO A STANDARD IN OTHERS

Peter's leadership never depended on a title.

It evolved as his responsibility moved outward: from doing the work himself, to directing the people beside him, to preparing others to carry the standard without him.



01

HE DID THE WORK

Peter's earliest influence came through repetition.

The next tackle. The difficult carry. The refusal to leave a teammate alone.

The standard was visible before it was spoken.

02

HE GAVE IT A VOICE

Reliability earned Peter the right to speak.

Get off the line. Move. Stop walking. Protect the space.

Leadership became responsibility for the whole line.

03

HE GAVE IT AWAY

When Brad Thorn and Shane Webcke eventually pushed back against Peter's constant direction, he recognised that the standard had become their own.

Soon, he heard his language coming from theirs.

They were no longer following the standard.

They had taken ownership of it.

THE INSTRUCTION

HAD BECOME OWNERSHIP.

THE WORK CHANGED

Early in his career, Peter could tell whether he had done his job by what happened in front of him.

A runner stopped.

A line held.

The work took Peter into different dressing rooms and across different codes. Words that connected in one environment sometimes failed in another.

One player understood when he saw the picture. Another needed repetition. Another needed Peter to physically place him in the position so he could feel the difference.

Whenever the message failed, Peter returned to the same uncomfortable question:

“Who’s not getting it—you or him?”

Experience was not enough. Knowing the answer was not enough. Peter had to find the form in which another person could receive it.

Eventually, the clearest evidence of his work appeared somewhere else:

A line moving together.

A player correcting the space beside him.

One voice becoming several.

By then, Peter’s best work was becoming harder to see.

It lived in decisions made by other people.

**"WHO'S NOT
GETTING IT—
YOU OR HIM?"**

**— PETER
RYAN.**

LEGACY FOR HIS FAMILY

Peter grew up in a family where love was rarely separated from contribution.

It appeared in early mornings at the butcher shop, work on the property and six children learning that everybody carried something because everybody belonged.

Nobody called it legacy.

It was simply how the Ryan family loved one another.

Years later, the public came to know the outward expression of those lessons: the footballer who prepared relentlessly, protected the person beside him and refused to leave the work unfinished.

Peter's wife, Jane, and kids, Jordan, Wilson and Katie know the part no record book can hold.

They know the man beyond the tackles and premierships. The loyalty beneath the hardness. The care behind the standards.

The person who remained when the crowd disappeared and the jersey was folded away.

Sport saw what Peter was prepared to endure. His family knows who he was doing it for.

Peter cannot choose which parts of his career his children will remember.

Perhaps it will be a photograph, a story told around the table or the sight of their father standing beside people with whom he once shared something extraordinary.

But he hopes they look beyond what he won.

He hopes they see a man who used what he had fully. Who never mistook recognition for worth. Who understood that strength meant little unless it could protect, support or prepare somebody else.

Hard work was never only Peter's path into professional sport.

It was how he honoured an opportunity. How he stood beside his teammates. How he carried the family name.

And, eventually, how he built a life with the people he loved most.

Peter's legacy did not begin when his career ended.

It began in the family that raised him and continues in the family he and Jane created together.

Their children and grandchildren are not simply the inheritors of Peter's legacy.

They are the heart of it.



WIA LAST

Every career has an ending.

Very few finish where people think they do.

The record gives Peter Ryan's career a clear shape: a first-grade debut, Queensland jerseys, premierships in two codes, a final game and another chapter marked coaching.

Memory is less orderly.

It returns in fragments.

Voices behind him during an early Broncos training session. Six weeks spent trailing the pre-season running group. Teammates telling Wayne Bennett they wanted Peter beside them. An arm across his shoulder in 1997. The people of Invercargill making somewhere unfamiliar feel like home.

PTS

A defensive line moving together on the eve of the 2006 Grand Final.

None of those moments looked like legacy while they were happening. They looked like work.

Peter spent much of his career believing the next effort mattered more than the last.

That instinct carried him from Laidley to Brisbane, across codes and into coaching rooms. Each environment asked something different of him, but his response kept returning to what he had learned before professional sport entered his life.

Prepare properly. Do your share. Protect the person beside you. Finish the work. Over time, the work changed hands. Preparation became trust. Trust gave Peter a voice. His voice became a method. The method became something others could carry.

That is where Peter Ryan's career continues.

Not only in the games he played or the trophies bearing his name, but in people who prepare more honestly, stand more firmly and refuse to leave the person beside them alone.

The record will always show what Peter achieved. What lasts in others shows us who he is.



LEGACY PLAYBOOK

THE STORIES ELITE SPORT FORGETS.

ATHLETE LEGACY PROFILE

001

PETER RYAN • 2026