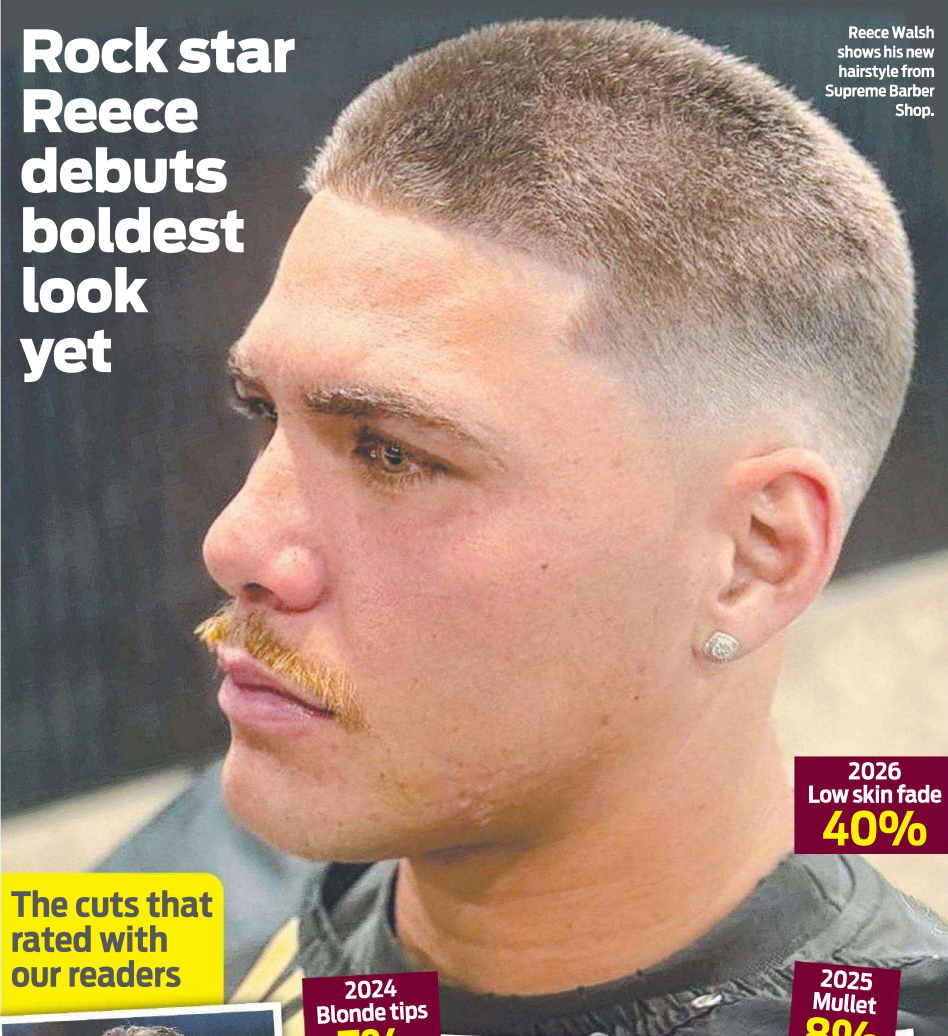


Rock star Reece debuts boldest look yet

Reece Walsh shows his new hairstyle from Supreme Barber Shop.



The cuts that rated with our readers

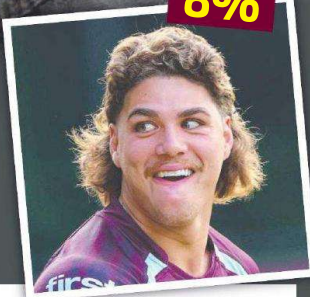
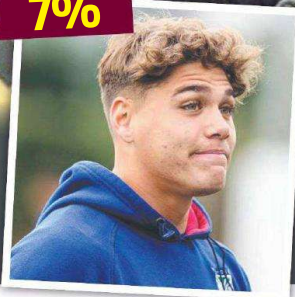
2026
Low skin fade
40%

2024
Blonde tips
7%

2025
Mullet
8%



2023
Layered top
10%



Georgia Clelland

Reece Walsh has shocked fans by debuting a dramatic new look, ditching his trademark flowing locks just weeks out from the Brisbane Broncos' 2026 NRL campaign.

The 23-year-old Broncos superstar unveiled the transformation on Instagram on Friday, revealing his shortest haircut yet: a low skin fade bordering on a buzz cut, paired with a matching blonde moustache.

"Did a thangggg," Walsh captioned

the post, showing off the fresh cut completed at a Camp Hill barbershop.

The surprise makeover comes ahead of the Broncos' official season launch on February 9, with Brisbane set to open their 2026 campaign against the Sydney Roosters on March 6.

While fans were quick to react to the bold change, early signs suggest the new look has been well received.

A Courier-Mail poll showed 40 per cent of readers preferred Walsh's shorter haircut over any of his previous longer styles.

But while supporters appeared to embrace the makeover, it was Walsh's four-year-old daughter Leila who was less convinced.

Walsh later shared a screenshot from a FaceTime call with his daughter, showing the four-year-old sobbing as she reacted to her father's shock haircut, captioned: "Never seen me with short hair hahah."

The new look marks a major departure from the longer hairstyles that has become synonymous with the premiership winner.

Trial tick for 'holy grail' pill a big win

Alzheimer's drug promise

Zoe Smith

A once-a-day pill that helps slow the course of Alzheimer's disease is a step closer to becoming a reality in a win for the Australian team behind the drug.

An independent committee of experts from across Australia, Europe and the US has recommended that the phase three XanaMIA clinical trial, which is investigating the effectiveness of the drug Xanamem, continue without amendment.

Top-line final results of the trial of the drug, which is being assessed for its ability to slow or halt cognitive decline, are due in November and will be part of a key Alzheimer's scientific presentation and publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The drug is being trialled across 35 sites in Australia and the US.

After the results of the trial were released to the ASX on Friday, Steve Gourlay, chief executive of Actinogen Medical, the biotech company behind the drug, said he had ploughed \$2m of his own money into the treatment he describes as the "holy grail".

"I have people in my family and everybody's got a friend or a family member with this terrible disease and really the existing therapies, which include the older therapies, are oral drugs that sort of rev up your neurotransmission a little bit - they don't really alter the course of the disease," he said.

"The newer therapies, which are the injectable antibody therapies, slow the disease a fraction, but we've designed this trial to show that the oral Xanamem is at least twice as good as those approved antibody therapies."

Mr Gourlay said the drug could potentially be prescribed by GPs.

"The future of Alzheimer's is that we have good blood tests for it and hopefully we have a safe and effective therapy like Xanamem that can be used quickly and patients are diagnosed hopefully as early as possible - that can significantly stabilise the disease," he said.

Leading dementia expert Associate Professor Michael Woodward welcomed the decision to continue the trial.

"It is a response to the huge need for an effective oral drug to treat Alzheimer's disease and shows their confidence so far in the safety of their drug," he said.

"I am greatly hopeful that the unique action of this product, targeting cortisol in the brain, will lead to a significant effect on the symptoms of Alzheimer's."

"And it is a testimony to Australian biotech that this product has been tested mainly here, in Australia. We punch well beyond our weight."

Dr Dana Hill, chief medical officer of the committee of experts, said: "Xanamem has the potential to be a game-changer for Alzheimer's patients."

Mr Gourlay said the committee's recommendation was an important milestone.

"We look forward to November when we can report final top-line results for the full dataset of 247 participants. In the meanwhile, we hope that as many XanaMIA participants as possible take up the opportunity for a longer period of active Xanamem therapy in the new open-label extension phase of the trial, which will run for approximately two years."

Wildlife park upgrade

Ipswich's popular Queens Park wildlife centre will receive a major upgrade, including improved biosecurity facilities.

From March to December, staged closures in sections of the 90-year-old park - which attracts more than 160,000 visitors a year - will allow work to be carried out alongside partial public

boardwalk will be rebuilt with more durable composite material, ensuring people of all ages and abilities can view the centre's exhibits," councillor Paul Tully said.

"We are also improving the centre's zoological capabilities with a new back-of-house facility supporting animal husbandry and

Cyclone threatens as flood risk continues

Alexandra Feiam

Queenslanders are on high alert as towns are smashed with floods and heavy rain, with the threat of a cyclone looming as other states continue to battle out-of-control bushfires and a heatwave.

Locals in the Gulf of Carpentaria are already being inundated with floodwaters, which

ening to make landfall, with a moderate chance of developing further in a matter of days.

It's tracking over the water in the western Gulf of Carpentaria, but the Bureau of Meteorology said there was about a 25 per cent chance of tropical low 18U intensifying and developing into a tropical cyclone.

"The low will most likely lin-

for several days," the bureau stated.

The intense weather system is forecast to bring heavy rainfall for the Gulf Country, the adjacent NT and Far North Queensland, which is already battling extreme flooding.

The bureau warned that more rainfall could lead to rapid river rises and flash flooding in much of the area.

"Catchments in northern Queensland remain wet to saturated with areas of flooding already occurring following recent rainfall," it said.

Rivers on flood watch include Lockhart, Coleman, Edward, Holroyd, Kendall, Archer, Coen, Waston, Emley, Mission, Wenlock, Stewar, Normanby, Jeannie, Endeavour, Settlement Creek, Leich-