



Annual Report 2018/2019

**800**

COMPLETED

VOLUNTEERS COMPLETED
LEAGUESMART ONLINE**4 in 5**

MEMBERS

INTEND TO REJOIN THEIR CURRENT CLUB
(VoP OCT 2018)**27%**

INCREASE

ACCREDITED
VOLUNTEERS**459,854**

FACEBOOK FANS

UP BY

654**30,400**

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

UP BY

3,300**42,000**

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

UP BY

11,900

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Reon Edwards
NZRL CHAIR



Greg Peters
NZRL CEO

‘The Kiwi Way’ is how we work to implement our ‘More Than A Game’ philosophy, where we strive to transform the lives and wellbeing of our communities through rugby league.

From the Chairman & CEO

The last twelve months has seen New Zealand Rugby League go through a period of rebuild, restructure and re-focus. The vast majority of the recommendations from the Castle Report have been implemented, and as a result, we approach 2019 with excitement and optimism.

A significant culture shift has been felt across the board due to the new appointments of CEO, Greg Peters; Kiwis Head Coach, Michael Maguire; and a new reshaped leadership team.

The Trans-Tasman Triple Header saw the Kiwis win against Australia for the first time in three years. Not only a momentous occasion but a reflection of some of the key changes that have taken place - a sign of what's to come in this new Kiwis era. Our Kiwi Ferns fought to the very end in a tough battle against the Jillaroos. Unfortunately, they couldn't withstand a last-minute Australian try, however, we were immensely proud of their on-field performance.

We now have a well-balanced Board of directors, all of whom are engaged at a grassroots level and across all facets of the business. Our NZRL team continue to grow in strength and diversity, with 45% of our staff now female and 50% of our staff of Māori or Pacific descent. This reflects our organisational ethos ‘The Kiwi Way’ where values such as diversity and inclusiveness remain at the forefront of all that we do.

‘The Kiwi Way’ is how we work to implement our ‘More Than A Game’ philosophy, where we strive to transform the lives and wellbeing of our communities through rugby league. Our NZRL community initiatives and wellbeing

programmes have received strong acknowledgement from our Government agencies and partners. Thank you to the Ministry of Education and ACC for your ongoing and invaluable support.

Congratulations also to our Wellbeing and Women's Development Manager, Luisa Avaiki, who was named a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in this year's New Year Honours, for her services to league. The last three years have seen our women's game grow exponentially with numbers doubling to now represent 12% of the rugby league playing population. We envisage this momentum continuing in the years to come.

Even against the backdrop of promising organisational growth, 2018 was not without its challenges. Growth within our domestic game has been slower than expected and due to budgeted funding lines not being met, and less revenue than expected from international fixtures, we've had a disappointing year financially, resulting in a consolidated deficit of \$704,000 for 2018/19.

However, we continue to build on our positive working relationships between the seven zones, management and the NZRL Board. Following an extensive consultation process that commenced with the Conference of League

in October 2018, a new strategic plan has just received Board approval. This will result in a direct and improved focus on our clubs, districts and zones, whilst continuing to emphasise well-being, commercial and high-performance initiatives.

We continue to strengthen our relationships with the Australian Rugby League Commission, Pacific Nations, the Asia Pacific Rugby League Confederation and English Rugby Football League. Our representation on the Rugby League International Federation Board has enabled us to push for a stronger international calendar, ensuring greater opportunities for players, fans and our current and future partners.

Our growth and success is a testament to the consortium of stakeholders that are dedicated to improving the game on and off the field. We'd like to thank our affiliates and partners such as Sport NZ and High-Performance Sport NZ, as well as our principal sponsor partners such as Pirtek, ISC Sport, Mainstream, Revera CCL, Save My Bacon and our support partners. We'd also like to congratulate and thank our NZRL Directors, staff and life members, coaches, managers, zone staff and boards, referees and volunteers across the game – your support is and will continue to be invaluable.

2019 will showcase rugby league in a way we haven't seen for a long time. We look forward to the inaugural Oceania Cup and the Great Britain Lions Tour, as we prepare to shine a bigger spotlight on the code, in which we're hopeful, will provide enduring long-term grassroots and commercial benefits.

As we reflect on the calendar year 2018, we look forward to implementing our strategic plans against the backdrop of a busy international calendar. We are excited about what lies ahead.



Kiwis

The Kiwis kicked off their 2018 season in front of a 19,320 strong crowd at Denver's Mile High Stadium, marking the first international rugby league test match ever played on American soil. The Kiwis showcased a refreshed attacking brand of football in their first Test under new Head Coach Michael Maguire, however, couldn't follow up their dominant first-half performance, as a determined England side came out on top, 36-18.

Despite the loss, the young Kiwis side, including seven (of the 10) debutants for the year, showed signs of a promising new era.

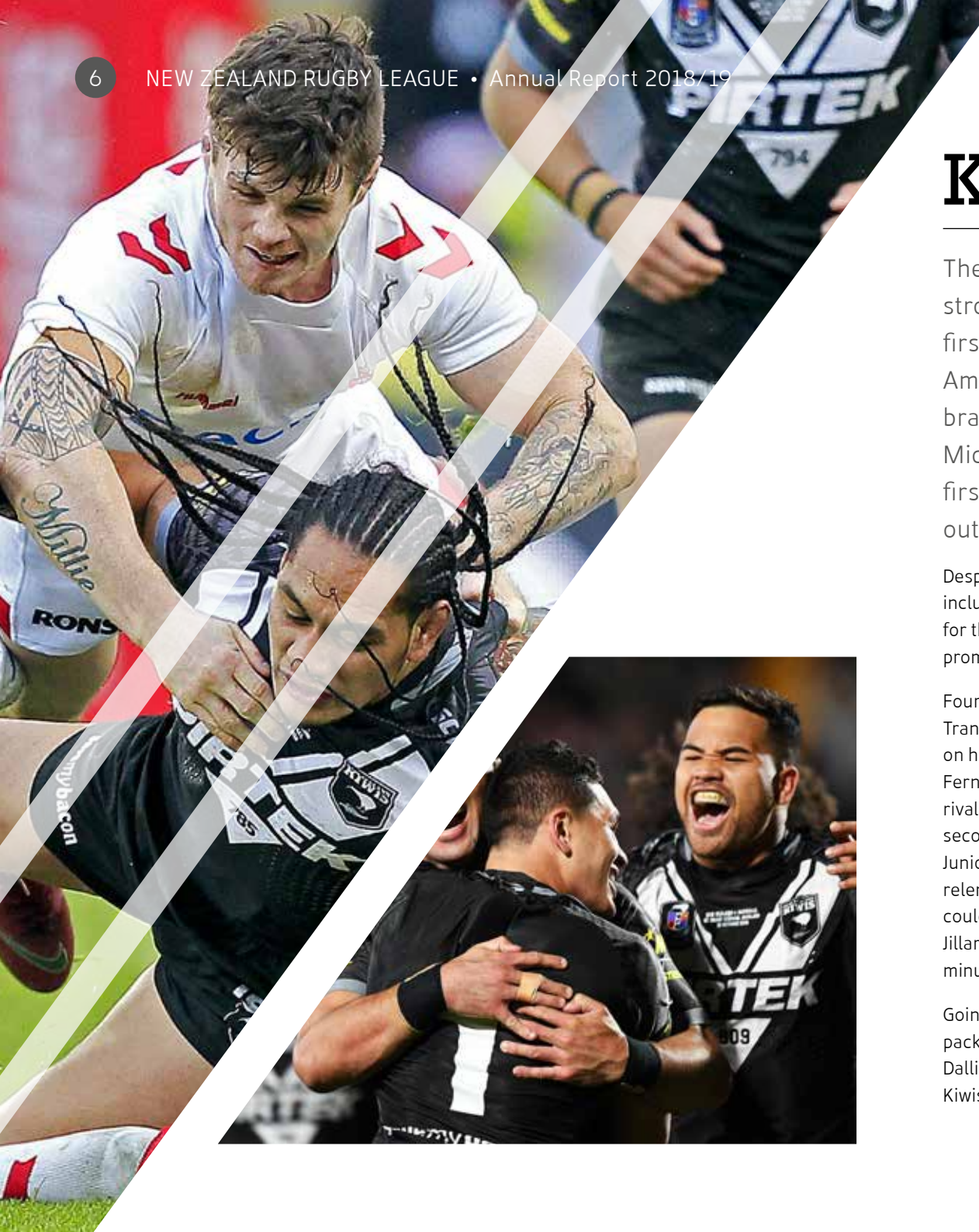
Four months later, the first-ever Trans-Tasman Triple Header took place on home soil that saw the Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and Junior Kiwis take on old rivals Australia at Mt Smart Stadium. A second-half Australian surge saw the Junior Kiwis go down 40 - 24, whilst our relentless Kiwi Ferns fought hard, yet couldn't withstand a final steal from the Jillaroos, falling 26 - 24 in the last five minutes.

Going in as underdogs, in front of a packed home crowd, debutant captain Dallin Watene - Zeleznjak, lead the Kiwis on to Mt Smart Stadium for the

first time since 2010. A tough second half battle and tireless goal line defence resulted in a 26 - 24 victory for the Kiwis, their first win against the Kangaroos since 2015 - a momentous occasion for the game.

Just over two weeks later, the boys in black and white embarked on their England Tour. England finished strong on home soil, defeating the Kiwis in the first two tests of the series, 18 - 16 and 20 - 14, both close, hard-fought battles. The Kiwis, however, dominated the third and final test, scoring 34 unanswered points to end the series on a high.

2018 was just the beginning of what's shaping out to be an exciting new Kiwis era with Head Coach Michael Maguire at the helm.



Denver test

23 June 2018
Mile High Stadium, Denver,
Colorado, United States of America

NZ KIWIS 18 (Dallin Watene-Zelezniak 2 & Esan Marsters tries; Jamayne Isaako 3 goals)

ENGLAND 36 (Elliott Whitehead 2, John Bateman, Ryan Hall, Jake Connor & Thomas Makinson tries; Gareth Widdop 2 penalty goals; Gareth Widdop 4 goals)

Team: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Jamayne Isaako, Esan Marsters, Peta Hiku, Ken Maumalo, Te Maire Martin, Kodi Nikorima, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Issac Luke, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Joseph Tapine, Martin Taupau, James Fisher-Harris, Slade Griffin, Herman Ese'e, Leeson Ah Mau

Debutants: Jamayne Isaako, Esan Marsters, Ken Maumalo, Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Slade Griffin, Herman Ese'e & Leeson Ah Mau



Tran-tasman test

13 October 2018
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland,
New Zealand

NZ KIWIS 26 (Ken Maumalo, Joseph Manu, Brandon Smith, Esan Marsters & Jordan Rapana tries; Shaun Johnson 3 goals)

AUSTRALIA 24 (Valentine Holmes, Dane Gagai, Felise Kaufusi & James Tedesco tries; Valentine Holmes 4 goals)

Team: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Captain), Ken Maumalo, Esan Marsters, Joseph Manu, Jordan Rapana, Shaun Johnson, Kodi Nikorima, Jesse Bromwich, Brandon Smith, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Kevin Proctor, Isaac Liu, James Fisher-Harris, Kenneath Bromwich, Leeson Ah Mau, Martin Taupau, Adam Blair

Debutants: Joseph Manu & Brandon Smith



England tour

28 October 2018
KCOM Stadium, Hull,
England

NZ KIWIS 16 (Esan Marsters & Dallin Watene-Zelezniak tries; Shaun Johnson 2 penalty goals; Shaun Johnson 2 goals)

ENGLAND 18 (Oliver Gildart, Jake Connor & Sam Tomkins tries; Jake Connor penalty goal; Jake Connor 2 goals)

Team: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Captain), Ken Maumalo, Esan Marsters, Joseph Manu, Jordan Rapana, Shaun Johnson, Kodi Nikorima, Jesse Bromwich, Brandon Smith, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Kevin Proctor, Isaac Liu, James Fisher-Harris, Kenneath Bromwich, Leeson Ah Mau, Martin Taupau, Adam Blair

5 November 2018
Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England

NZ KIWIS 14 (Dallin Watene-Zelezniak & Ken Maumalo tries; Shaun Johnson penalty goal; Shaun Johnson 2 goals)

ENGLAND 20 (Thomas Makinson 3, Jake Connor tries; Jake Connor penalty goal; Sam Tomkins goal)

Team: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Captain), Ken Maumalo, Esan Marsters, Joseph Manu, Jordan Rapana, Shaun Johnson, Kodi Nikorima, Jesse Bromwich, Brandon Smith, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Kevin Proctor, Isaac Liu, Adam Blair, Kenneath Bromwich, Leeson Ah Mau, Martin Taupau, James Fisher-Harris

12 November 2018
Elland Road Stadium, Leeds, England

NZ KIWIS 34 (Ken Maumalo 2, Isaac Liu, Kodi Nikorima, Jesse Bromwich & Joseph Tapine tries; Shaun Johnson 4 & Isaiah Papali'i goals)

ENGLAND 0

Team: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Captain), Ken Maumalo, Esan Marsters, Joseph Manu, Jamayne Isaako, Shaun Johnson, Kodi Nikorima, Jesse Bromwich, Brandon Smith, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Kevin Proctor, Isaac Liu, Adam Blair, Kenneath Bromwich, Leeson Ah Mau, Isaiah Papali'i, Joseph Tapine

Debutants: Isaiah Papali'i



Kiwis Ferns

Head coach – Kelvin Wright

The thrilling Trans-Tasman Triple Header match saw our Kiwi Ferns come back from an early 0-12 deficit only to succumb 24-26, thanks to a 74th-minute Jillaroos' match-winning try. A courageous effort that had fans on the edge of their seats until the very end.

After assisting with the Kiwi Ferns Triple Header preparation, former Parramatta, Canberra and Warriors forward, Justin Morgan, was confirmed as Kiwi Ferns head coach through to the 2021 Women's Rugby League World Cup. His appointment comes at a time when the Kiwi Ferns prepare to face the Pacific Islands and the Jillaroos in confirmed 2019 end-of-season tests.

Trans-Tasman test

13 October 2018

Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland, New Zealand

KIWI FERNS 24 (Langi Veainu 2, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Maitua Feterika & Amber Kani tries; Api Nicholls 2 goals)

AUSTRALIA 26 (Isabelle Kelly 2, Julia Robinson, Ali Brigginsshaw & Tazmin Gray tries; Chelsea Baker 3 goals)

Team: Api Nicholls, Karley Te Kawa, Honey Hireme (Co-Captain), Maitua Feterika, Langi Veainu, Raecene McGregor, Kimiora Nati, Aieshaleigh Smalley, Nita Maynard, Ngatokotoru Arakua, Onjeurlina Leiataua, Teuila Fotu Moala, Laura Mariu (Co-Captain), Georgia Hale, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Masuisuimatamoalii Tauasa Pauaraisa, Amber Kani

Debutants: Onjeurlina Leiataua & Masuisuimatamoalii Tauasa Pauaraisa



Junior Kiwis

Head coach – Ezra Howe

Our Junior Kiwi talent was certainly on display when they came up against longtime rivals, the Junior Kangaroos, at the Trans-Tasman Triple Header in October.

The test was full of dazzling attack from both sides with our Junior Kiwis scoring five tries against the visitors, however, a late Australian surge saw the Junior Kangaroos take it out seven tries to five.

Nevertheless, it was an entertainment-packed match that showed exciting signs of what's to come for our young Kiwi talent.

Trans-Tasman test

13 October 2018

Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland, New Zealand

JUNIOR KIWIS 24 (Sean Mullany, Isaiah Papali'i, Jackson Ferris, Joseph Vuna & Steven Marsters tries; Chanel Harris-Tavita 2 goals)

AUSTRALIA 40 (Tino Faasumaleau 2, Enari Tuala 2, Louis Geraghty, Thomas Flegler & Corey Allan tries; Zac Lomax 6 goals)

Team: Hayze Perham, Steven Marsters, Morgan Harper, Jackson Ferris, Mawene Hiroti, Dean Blore, Chanel Harris-Tavita, Emry Pere, Sean Mullany, Tom Ale, Isaiah Papali'i (Captain), Joseph Vuna, Kelma Tuilagi, Paul Roache, Peter Hola, Lucky Ta'avale, Jordan Riki







New Zealand Resident 16s

New Zealand Resident 16s vs. TOA Resident 16s

**Thursday 12 July 2018, 6pm kick off
Puketawhero Park, Rotorua**

The New Zealand Resident 16s came back from a 6-2 deficit at halftime to beat the Toa Resident 16s, 24-10.

It was a double act from the twins, Lani and Moala Graham-Taufa, who both bagged four pointers aided by tries from both Jarney Proctor-Harwood and Mase Carson. However, only one twin took home bragging rights with Lani Graham-Taufa picking up Most Valuable Player for the NZ 16s side.

If the first 20 minutes were anything to go by, the NZ 16s were in for a tough run against a firing Samoan side. The first set saw the Toa Resident 16s five metres out from New Zealand's try-line due to their powerhouse forwards providing the muscle up front, but close wasn't close enough and New Zealand regained possession to make up the metres they lost earlier.

Nerves and jitters plagued New Zealand's first attempt at crossing the line when the ball was finally lost forward one metre out from the line. Fortunately, five minutes later, the boys in black and white put the first points on the board with gun half, Sione Moala, kicking a successful penalty

goal. That was matched minutes later with a penalty goal to Samoa, booted over by Joshua Setefano.

Two points turned into six when the Toa Resident 16s crossed the line for the first try of the match when Evander Tere-Rongotaua scored off the back of his left-winger's groundwork, punching a hole in the home side's defence.

New Zealand had the opportunity to score another two penalty points right on the halftime hooter but Moala's kick was unsuccessful sending his team into the sheds with the score sitting at 6-2 to Samoa.

The words that Head Coach Bejay Hewitt said to his team at halftime must have worked as New Zealand came out with a vengeance. The team crossed for the first try of the second half with Mase Carson, bringing the score to 6-all. With a conversion from Sione Moala, New Zealand took the lead for the first time, 8-6 and never looked back.

After a break on the bench, local Pikiāo hooker, Dayna Bidois, got a hometown cheer as he stormed back on the field to bring his team home.

The lead gave the NZ 16s the boost they needed to take intensity levels up a notch. Some fantastic work from New Zealand's right edge saw them cross the line three more times to push their lead out to 24-10 come the final whistle.

2018 New Zealand Resident 16s listed by zone/district:

Akarana: Asolelei Fretton, Lani Graham-Taufa, Lleyton Finau, Luani Tavake Naufahu Whyte, Samuel McIntyre, T.J. Devery, Moala Graham-Taufa; **Counties Manukau:** Quinnlan Tupou, Sione Moala, Mase Carson, Jarney Proctor-Harwood, Jeremiah Margraff, Otukinekina Kepu, Taniela Otukolo, Valingi Kepu; **Bay of Plenty (Upper Central Zone):** Dayna Bidois, Legacy Katene; **Wellington:** Blaine Betham-Taape.

Head Coach: Bejay Hewitt

Assistant Coach: Chris Langley

Assistant Coach: Eugene Davis

Manager: Wayne Boyes

Trainer: Sean Witanga

Physio: Emile Vollenhoven

New Zealand 16s: 24 (Lani Graham-Taufa, Moala Graham-Taufa, Jarney Proctor-Harwood, Mase Carson tries; Sione Moala three goals; Sione Moala Penalty Goal) **Toa Resident 16s:** 10 (Evander Tere-Rongotaua, Jeff Tatapu Leilua tries; Joshua Setefano Penalty Goal)

Evander Tere-Rongotaua – Toa Resident 16s MVP

Lani Graham-Taufa – New Zealand 16s MVP



New Zealand Resident 18s

New Zealand Resident 18s v TOA Samoa U18s

Saturday 6 October 2018, 12pm kick off

Pulman Park, Auckland

A passionate New Zealand Resident 18s haka and Toa Samoa U18s Siva Tau set the tone for what was a hefty battle up front. It was the New Zealand Resident 18s who capitalised off the first set, with Paul Turner crossing the line for the first try.

Only minutes later – and in front of a packed out crowd at Pulman Park – 2017 New Zealand 16s Player of the Year Christian Tuipulotu put four more points on the board for the NZ Resident 18s, making the score 8-0.

When looking at the scoreboard, it may have seemed one-sided after the first 15 minutes, but the Samoans pushed the Kiwis back to their own line on several occasions, but the black and white defence was too strong.

To add salt to the wound, an intercept from Emmanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard saw the Samoans hard work unravel as they were once again forced back to their own 10 metre mark.

Kakoi Togoia came off the bench with his impact certainly felt. Much like his teammates in the Toa Samoa U18s forward pack, facing his tackles was not too dissimilar to coming up against a brick wall – spine-tingling.

As the minutes ticked by, Samoa forced more and more mistakes from the home side, with their defence getting stronger as halftime loomed.

In the black and white jersey, Paul Turner had extra incentive

to impress with Junior Kiwis Coach, Ezra Howe, watching on. Both teams stayed scoreless in the final 20 minutes of the first half hitting the sheds with the score at 8-0.

A very composed Toa Samoa U18s side looked promising to score the first four points of the second half, but a classy New Zealand defence took them into touch five metres out from the line. The Samoans fought their way back to the same spot, their mounting pressure forcing an uncharacteristic dropped ball from New Zealand fullback Kayal Iro.

On the back of the hard yards done by the Samoans forward pack, the boys in blue put their first points on the board with Devontai Seumanutafa crashing through the NZ Resident 18s defence, with the score sitting at 8-4 following an unsuccessful conversion.

Only minutes later a second try looked imminent, but a double movement called for a line drop out instead.

On the back of a few mistakes, New Zealand came up with the ball in hand, Temple Kalepo seeing space to score under the posts, and 12-4 turned into 14-4 when converted by Emmanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard. Paul Turner then joined in



on the fun scoring his second try of the day, once again converted by Tuimavave-Gerrard taking the score to 20-4.

Errors plagued both sides in the final 15 minutes bringing countless turnovers.

Then, just what the Toa Samoa U18s were hoping for, a crossfield kick sent fullback Jonaiah Lualua across the chalk, the score remaining 20-8 following an unsuccessful conversion.

Their last minute efforts weren't enough to overtake the NZ Resident 18s who put another four points on the board just before the final whistle, the NZ Resident 18s triumphant with the final score reading 24-8.

2018 New Zealand Resident 18s listed by Zone/District:

Akarana: Isaiah Vagana, Aiden Aue, Caleb Pese, Deighton Ieriko, Emmanuel Tuimavavae Gerrard, Kayal Iro, Tyler Slade, Temple Kalepo;

Counties: Antonio Aufai, Antonio Poua, Christian Tuipulotu, Junior Pua, Potusa Fuilala, Semisi Tapa, Tevita Mikaele;

Mid Central: Brooklyn Herewini;

Northland: Paul Turner;

South Island: Patrick Elia;

Upper Central Zone: Tukimihia Simpkins

Head Coach: Tusa Lafaele

Assistant Coach: Cody Walker

Assistant Coach: Daniel McEwan

Manager: Tania Harris

Trainer: Jasen McCarthy

Trainer: Lee Paru

Physio: Allan Horn

NZ Resident 18s: 24 (Christian Tuipulotu, Emmanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard, Paul Turner - 2, Temple Kalepo tries; Emmanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard - 2 goals) **Toa Samoa U18s:** 8 (Jonaiah Lualua and Devontai Seumanutafa tries)

Paul Turner - **NZ Resident 18s - MVP**





2019 Talent Development Programme

Wednesday 23 – Friday 25 January 2019 (Three-day camp)

St. Peters College, Cambridge

The Talent Development Programme (TDP) camp brings together the most talented 16s (16-years-old or under) and 18s (18-years-old or under) age-group rugby league players from around New Zealand.

The TDP was initiated to setup player's long-term career success, while providing those who dream of playing professional rugby league with resources around health and wellbeing, education and higher levels of training, all to help better prepare aspiring players for the challenges ahead. The TDP engaged with 76 players nationwide, covering on and off-field development areas.

The 2019 TDP consisted of a three-day camp during the January school holidays which aimed to enhance the development of players and management staff in attendance, through a series of coaching sessions and well-being seminars that prepare the players for their trial on the final day. One of the objectives of camp was to ensure the players are better prepared for the rigours of the NRL, not only on the field, but in their educational and career aspirations.

Specialist Coaching Sessions – Guest Coaches

Players and management staff were exposed to the coaching of Kiwis Assistant Coaches Ben Gardiner and

Nathan Cayless (Kiwi #673). Alongside Brisbane Broncos Game Development Manager, Paul Dyer; Elite Player Development Manager, Simon Scanlan and New Zealand Warriors JFC coach and head of Future Warriors Programme, Greg Boulous.

An additional 12 players were invited to attend the specialist coaching clinic with Ben Gardiner, based off their performances at the 2018 National Youth Tournament or National Resident teams in 2018.

Wellbeing sessions – Guest Speakers

New Zealand Warriors Wellbeing and Education Manager, Kiwi #692 Jerry Seuseu and Player Wellbeing and Education Manager Kiwi #783 Ben Henry, took the New Zealand 16s & 18s hopefuls through the NRL Careerwise workshop which encourages players to plan for life after rugby league. They also ran a session on concussion creating awareness and educating the camp around the seriousness of concussion awareness.

Players and management staff heard from Brisbane Broncos Game Development Manager, Paul Dyer, and Elite Player Development Manager, Simon Scanlan, about recruitment; what clubs are looking for in a person, personal brand and how it can help or harm their careers. Carmen Taplin from the New Zealand Warriors, discussed the challenges around relocating. Former Kiwi, Paul Whatuira (Kiwi #705) spoke to the players about mental health and the way he navigated mental illness throughout his journey in professional rugby league.

2019 TDP 16s players:

Akarana: Paaupa Papuni-Abbott, Benaiah Ioelu, Tevita Tafea, Pita Wilson, Zyon Maiu'u; **Counties Manukau:** Ali Leiataua, Kavan Thompson-Campbell, Francis Manuleleua, Ben Peni, Carlos Tarawhiti, Salesi Ataata; **Mid Central:** Arama Kite, Tuhokairangi Miller, Fatiauma Moeahu-Leota; **Northland:** Esmonde Parangi, Tea-Rani Woodman Tuhoro; **Southern:** Felix Fa'atili, Jaedon Wellington, Jack Campbell, Uriah Tuli, Nikau Waikato, Unafato Uasi, Ethan Faitaua; **Auckland Vulcans:** Nathaniel Cama, Filipo Whitehouse-Opetaiia Tovio, Nathaniel Tangimataiti, Stanley longi, Heneli Luani, Michael Angelo Taufau, Sione Fotuauka, Sione Latoa Vaihu, Demitric Sifakula; **Upper Central:** Tome Poona, Cassius Cowley, Te Wano Ngamotu-Tahana, Manaia Ngataki-Matthews; **Wellington:** Poto Akavi, Joshua Williams.

2019 TDP 18s players:

Akarana: Caleb Pese, Jyris Glamuzina, Lani Graham-Taufa, Matthew Palu, Moala Graham-Taufa, Luani Tavake Naufahu Whyte, Temple Kalepo, Tj Devery, Totive Junior Tuileisu; **Counties Manukau:** Albert Talakai, Eteru Ropati, Feao Tongia, Josiah Karapani, Otukinekina Kepu, Paea Fotu, Semisi Sikei, Simisi Tapa, Sione Moala, Soakai Taufu, Tyrone Waipouri, William Fakatoumafi, Quinnlan Tupou, Peesi Vailangi Pasi Kepu; **Mid Central:** Brooklyn Herewini, Daeon Amituanai, Tyson Chase; **Southern:** Caius Fa'atili, Elijah Tuhura, Jordan Coleman, Levi Pascoe, Thomas McKenzie; **Auckland Vulcans:** Konrad Tu'ua; **Upper Central:** Sean Field, Tukimihia Simpkins, Maui Carroll; **Wellington:** Dallas Mcewan, Maui Wallace.



Tournaments Report

It was an exciting year on the field as our tournaments showcased exceptional Rugby League from up and down the country.

Kelston Boys' High School were crowned National Secondary School winners after a hard-fought battle with St. Paul's College. The Auckland Vulcans took home the 15s National Youth Tournament title and the Akarana Falcons were victorious winning the 17s National Youth Tournament title. Counties Manukau reigned supreme winning their ninth successive National Women's Tournament, Akarana took home the National Premiership title for the third year in a row and the Northern Swords took out the National Championship competition.

This year, the depth of New Zealand's rugby league talent was certainly on display. Thank you to all those who dedicated their time towards making these tournaments a success.

New Zealand Secondary Schools

NZRL Secondary Schools Tournament

3 September – 7th September, Pulman Park, Auckland

National Sec School Premiere Tournament 17s 1st & 2nd 2018 - 07/09/18			
St. Paul's College - 14		Kelston Boys High - 16	
Coach		Coach	
Try scorers		Try scorers	
Name	Tries	Name	Tries
Jonah Palota-Kopa	1	Raymon Tuaimalo Vaega	1
Daetyn Tanuvasa	1	Konrad Tuua	1
Antonio Aufai	1	Elam Payne	1
Goals	Number	Goals	Number
Sione Moala	1	Konrad Tuua	2

Award	Name	School
Its Not Ok Best and Fairest	Shae Grey	Manawatu College
Fair Play Team		Whangarei Boys
Trainer of the tournament	Dallas Courtney	Whangaparoa
Coach of the tournament	Dave McDermott	St. Paul's College
Cultural Salute	Manukura	Manukura
Player of the tournament	Sione Moala	St. Paul's College

Final Placings

- 1 Kelston Boys' High School
- 2 St Paul's College
- 3 Mt Albert Grammar School
- 4 Rotorua Boys' High School
- 5 Wesley College
- 6 Manurewa High School
- 7 St Thomas of Canterbury
- 8 Manukura
- 9 Southern Cross Campus
- 10 Westlake Boys' High School
- 11 Otahuhu College
- 12 Tokoroa High School
- 13 James Cook High School
- 14 Whangarei Boys High



New Zealand Youth

NZRL National Youth Tournament

1 October – 5 October 2018, Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

Final Placings

- 1 Akarana Falcons
- 2 Counties Manukau Stingrays
- 3 Auckland Vulcans
- 4 Southern Scorpions
- 5 Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions
- 6 Wellington Orcas
- 7 Mid Central Vipers
- 8 Northern Swords



National Youth Tournament 17s 1st & 2nd 2018 - 05/10/18			
Akarana Falcons - 30		Counties Manukau Stingrays - 26	
Coach		Coach	
Try scorers		Try scorers	
Name	Tries	Name	Tries
Seeti Kuresa	3	Paea Fotu	1
Asoleilei Fretton	2	Semisi Sikei	1
		Tyrone Waipouri	1
		Sione Moala	1
		Xavier Stevens-Teo	
Goals	Number	Goals	Number
Sefa Roach	2	Tyrone Waipouri	3
Kenneth Seth Henry-Taua	3		

Award	Name	School
Manager of the Tournament	Junie Shelford	Wellington
Final MVP	Jyris Glamuzina	Akarana
Trainer of the Tournament	Sheldon Akavi	Wellington
Coach of the tournament	Bejay Hewitt	Akarana
Player of the tournament	Konrad Taua	Auckland Vulcans

Merit Team:

Akarana Falcons: Aso Fretton, Naufahu Whyte, Tj Devery, Jyris Glamuzina, Moala Graham-Taufa; **Counties Manukau Stingrays:** Semisi Sikei, Sione Moala, Feao Tongia, Paea Fotu; **Mid Central Vipers:** Tyson Chase; **Southern Scorpions:** Caius Fa'atili, Griffen Neame; **Auckland Vulcans:** Okustino Lui, Konrad Tu'u'a; **Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions:** Sean Field; **Wellington Orcas:** Maui Wallace, Dallas Mcewan.

New Zealand Women

NZRL National Women's Tournament

2 June – 4 June 2018. Cornwall Park, Auckland

National Women's Tournament Grand Final 1st and 2nd 2018 4/06/18			
Counties Manakau - 14		Akarana Falcons - 4	
Coach: Rodd Ratu		Coach: Ross Uele	
Try scorers		Try scorers	
Name	Tries	Name	Tries
Onjeurlina Leiataua	1	Billy-Jean Ale	1
Sarah Filimoeatu	2		
Goals	Number	Goals	Number
Kimiora Nati	1		

Award	Name	School
MVP (final)	Crystal Tamarua	
Player of the tournament	Onjeurlina Leiataua	Vulcans
"More than just a game" Team	CANTERBURY	
Coach of the tournament	Rod Ratu	Counties
Manager of the tournament	Sabrina Manu	Northern
Trainer of the tournament	Vili Johnson	Auckland
Referees Choice		
Referee of the tournament	Nigel Williams	Auckland

Final Placings

- Counties Manukau Stingrays
- Akarana Falcons
- Canterbury
- Auckland Vulcans
- Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions
- Wellington Orcas



New Zealand Men's

NZRL National Premiership

NZRL National Premiership 1st & 2nd 2018 - 05/10/18			
Akarana Falcons - 51		Counties Manukau Stingrays - 20	
Coach:		Coach:	
Try scorers		Try scorers	
Name	Tries	Name	Tries
Kitiona Pasene	1	Nicholas Wilson	1
David Bhana	1	Nicholas Halalio	1
Chase Bernard	1	Emiliano Mikaele	1
Dylan Tavita	2	Rahiri Witehira	1
Francis Leger	1		
Chaz Brown	1		
James Tuamata	2		
Goals	Number	Goals	Number
David Bhana	3	Drew Radich	2
Francis Leger	3		
Dylan Tavita	Drop goal		

Award	Name	School
MVP (final)	Dylan Tavita	Akarana

Merit Team:

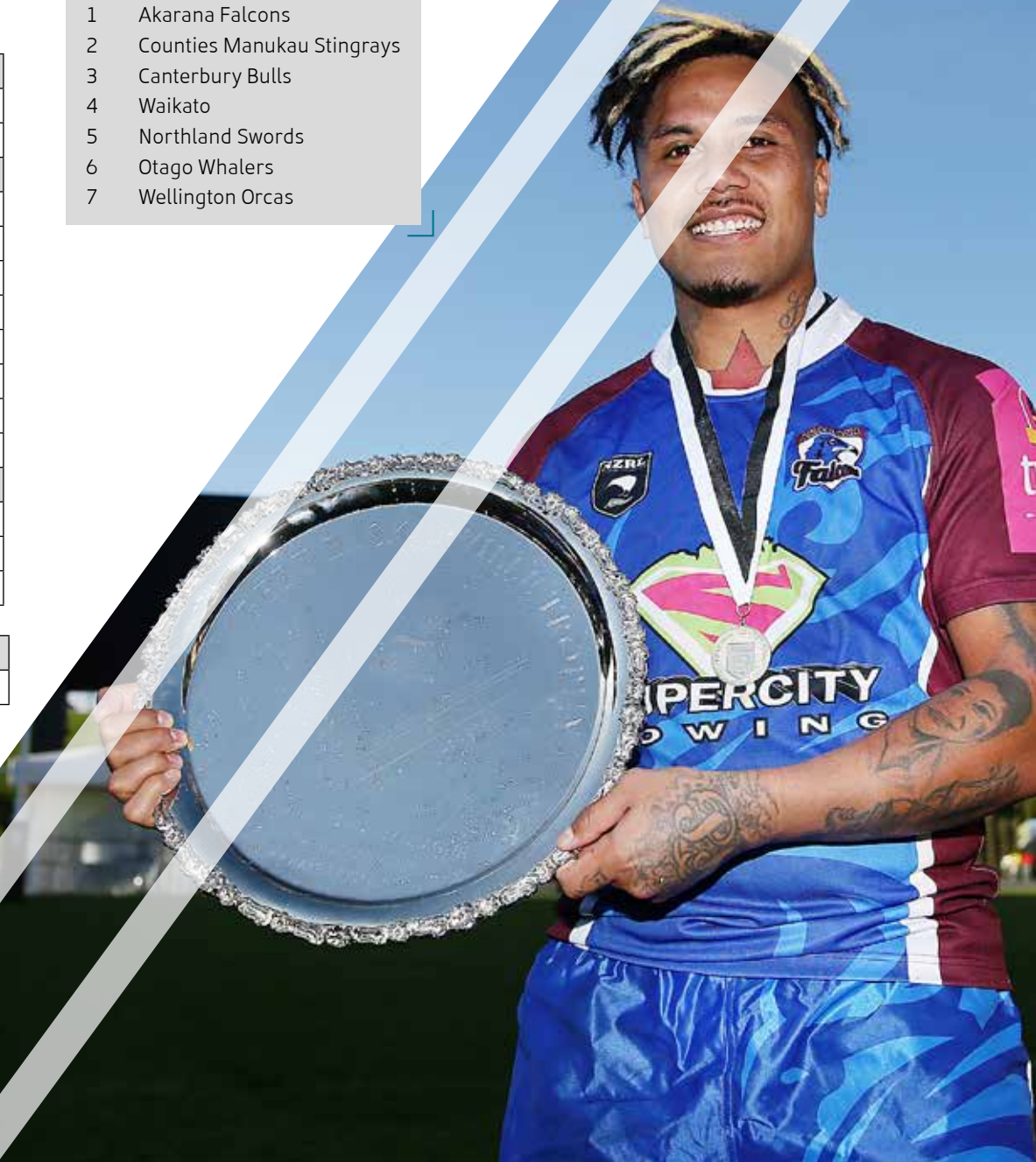
Counties Manukau: Geronimo Doyle, Setu Tu, Edward Kosi, Drew Radich, William Stowers, Connor Purcell, Rahiri Witehira;

Akarana: Chaz Brown, Francis Leger, Sioeli Makau, Salafulauli Falelua-Malio, Matti Tuitama, Daniel Reulu-Buchanan, Kouma Samson;

Canterbury: Ben Ilalio, Rulon Nutira, James Baxendale

Final Placings

- 1 Akarana Falcons
- 2 Counties Manukau Stingrays
- 3 Canterbury Bulls
- 4 Waikato
- 5 Northland Swords
- 6 Otago Whalers
- 7 Wellington Orcas





Community

More Than A Game

Over the past 12 months the Community team have seen significant personnel changes with a new team for 2019 headed up by General Manager of Football and Wellbeing, Nigel Vagana.

In 2018 we continued to strengthen our relationships with the Ministry of Education and ACC. The Voice of the Participant survey was undertaken for a third year, in conjunction with SportNZ, providing valuable data. ACC conducted it's Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviours (KAB) survey for another year showing some pleasing results. Insights gained from the surveys will positively impact our decision-making and help shape programmes delivered in the community.

A legacy plan for the upcoming Oceania cup has been developed with the key strategy to grow the game and strengthen our community while leveraging National and Zone events to promote the 2019 Oceania Cup nationally.

Results from the surveys:

What is working well?

- ACC report a reduction in rugby league related injury claims attributed to 62% of coaches having completed the annual NZRL LeagueSmart course in 2018. LeagueSmart will be promoted to the wider volunteer groups and senior players in 2019.
- Across all information types there have been increases amongst those who would like to access information via their sport association website and smart phone applications. As a result of these findings we have introduced online registrations with 65% of both player and volunteer registrations for 2019 being received via our online registration process providing us with an accurate picture of who is involved in our game.

What have we learnt?

- The 'Be a Sport' programme was released nationally in 2017. Half (51%) of respondents have witnessed or experienced inappropriate side-line at least occasionally while they/their child played in the last 12 months. This is slightly higher than the average for other sports measured in VOP winter 2018 (47%). When asked if they have heard of 'Be a Sport', almost half (48%) of respondents could at least recall the programme. When a description of 'Be a Sport' was provided, this figure increased to two-thirds (66%). This may indicate a lack of awareness about the campaign despite the actions taking place.
- "*Allowing me to fulfil my potential*" should be an area of focus due to the relatively low performance and above-average importance on a respondent's likelihood to recommend their rugby league club.





Community playgroups

NZRL Playgroups is an extension of our service to the Rugby League community, what it has done for the communities and those that participate, is allow children who may not have had the opportunity to engage in early learning. For many, participating and engaging in a NZRL playgroup is the first step of any type of formal education. The impact that this project has is evident in some of the feedback from our surveys:

“I’m a first time mum and always worried if I’m doing the right thing or not for my baby – it’s nice to get support and advice from other mums”

“I am a single dad of a 18month old girl, new to the raising a child situation and don’t know what I’m doing, my neighbour invited me to the playgroup, my daughter absolutely loved her time there and the people were so nice and welcoming, being able to talk to others about what I am going through has been amazing, and everyone sharing advice is going to help me along the way, we look forward to coming back next week”

Our current agreement with the Ministry of Education will expire at the end of May 2019. At the time of writing this report, a new proposal for a three year agreement will enable us to roll out a new and improved playgroups programme, providing tamariki and whānau with learning experiences they may not ordinarily have access to.



Wellbeing

Women's National Tournament – Women's Wellbeing

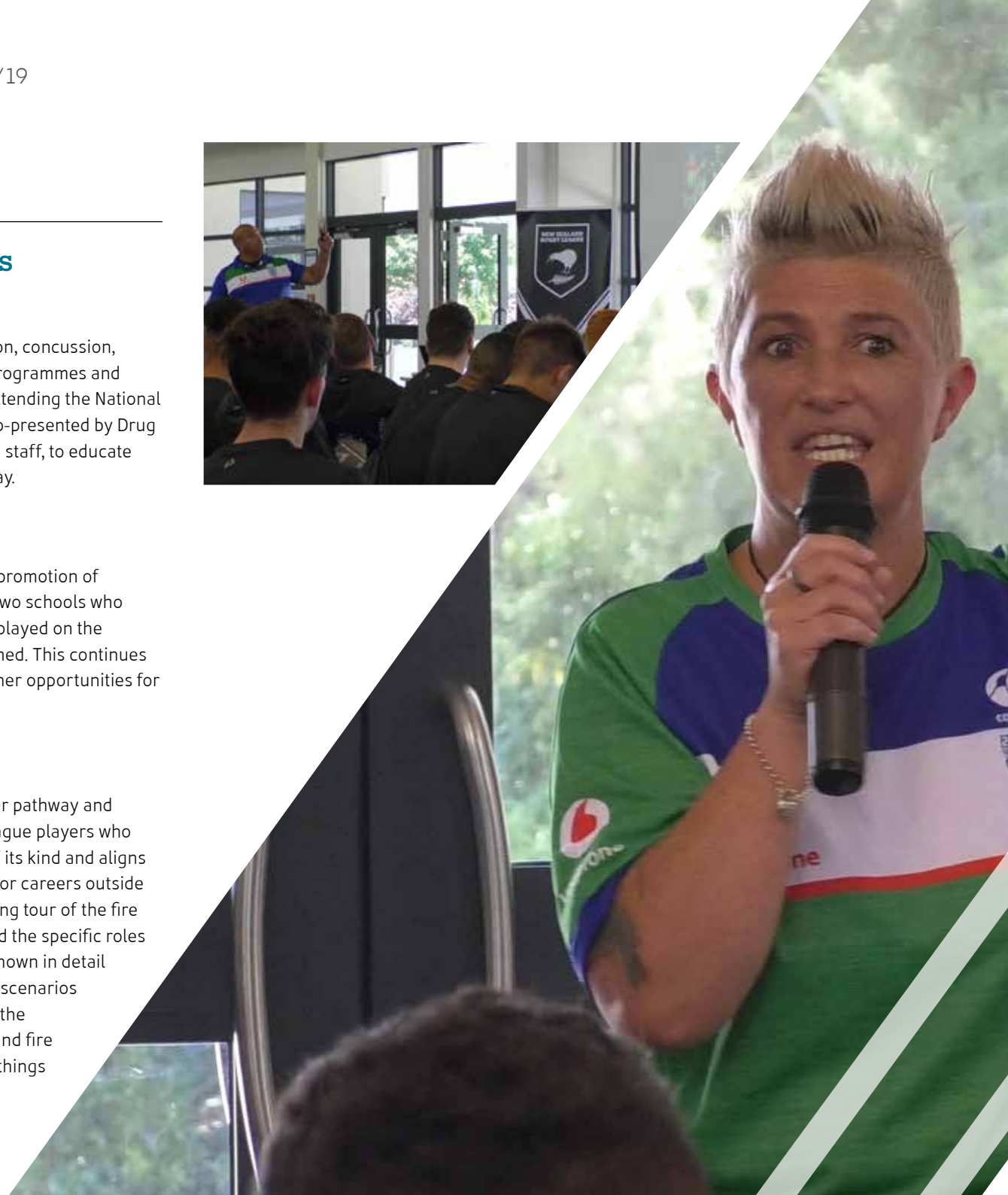
Educating players around wellbeing topics such as Drug Free Sport education, concussion, mental wealth, anxiety, resilience, preparing for representative level, elite programmes and pathways were topics covered by NZRL to all provincial teams and players attending the National Women's tournament. There were also mandatory workshops which were co-presented by Drug Free Sport NZ and their ambassadors and our NZRL Wellbeing manager and staff, to educate around off field topics that will assist players with their rugby league pathway.

Secondary Schools Exhibition Game

To support growth within in the female game, NZRL continue to support the promotion of secondary school girls rugby league by holding an exhibition game for the two schools who finished top in the Auckland secondary schools tournament. The game was played on the number one field prior to the boy's semi-final match and was also live streamed. This continues to be a well-supported fixture that NZRL would like to grow and provide further opportunities for going forward.

Fire & Emergency NZ Pilot

New Zealand Rugby League and Fire and Emergency NZ trialled a new career pathway and wellbeing initiative as a new approach to engaging and supporting rugby league players who may be interested in a vocation in the fire service. The initiative is the first of its kind and aligns with the career wise component of wellbeing to encourage athletes to plan for careers outside of football. The day session was divided in two parts, starting with the morning tour of the fire station, which involved introducing players to different fire trucks on site and the specific roles they play. Participants were able to hold and try apparatuses, whilst being shown in detail the functions of the machinery and trucks. They went through the different scenarios a fire fighter could be faced with on any given day. The practical element of the session also gave players an opportunity to ask very specific questions around fire processes, the roles of each truck, whilst also being given the chance to try things out for themselves.



The afternoon session was a presentation on the recruitment process and the requirements and attributes a person would need to be considered. This was a great opportunity for players to understand the application process and what an applicant would undergo when partaking in the programme. Overall, it was a very positive experience and a real chance to gauge whether the fire service could be a future career option. The players that attended found the experience enjoyable, helpful and very insightful. Fire service and emergency staff were really positive towards the rugby league players and mentioned that the athletes already displayed attributes that made them good possible candidates for their department.

NRL Pacific Players Leadership Camp – Manly, NSW

Each year the NRL run a Pacific Player's Leadership camp for nominated Pacific Island players from each NRL club. This year, female players from the New Zealand Kiwi Ferns and Jillaroos of Pacific Island and Māori decent, were invited to take part.

Three Kiwi Ferns players Annetta Nuuausala, Raecene McGregor and Apii Nicholls and Wellbeing/Women's Development manager Luisa Avaiki attended the camp. Two players from the Jillaroos also attended. The NRL Wellbeing team ran leadership workshops and activities, ambassador talks, invited guest speakers and provided opportunities to connect and talk to other players about their cultural identity, leadership qualities and values. The camp helped players think of their influence and position within the

game and in their respective teams, as well as set the tone for their upcoming year, as they begin to address their goals for 2019.

NZ Kiwi Ferns Wellbeing

Wellbeing support for our Kiwi Fern players continues to be vital. The Kiwi Ferns programmes are supported by our Wellbeing Manager who is dedicated to the support of all Kiwi Fern players on and off the field. The Kiwi Ferns also receive suitable female specific wellbeing programmes that help to mitigate possible wellbeing issues players may face as the female game grows to new heights.

NZRL's support for the women's programmes include wellbeing for players introduced initially at the National Women's Tournament and then for the wider selection squad, as well as the team selected for the Trans-Tasman Triple header game at Mt Smart stadium in October 2019.

Internal Workshops

There have been internal wellbeing workshops to raise awareness around the training that players receive and to further strengthen internal resources and understanding when it comes to player care. In the continued spirit of friendship with the Warriors, NZRL staff were invited to attend workshops at Mt Smart Stadium, organised by Warrior's Wellbeing Manager, Jerry Seuseu. The workshops covered topics such as work-life balance and respectful relationships, for example not getting caught up in the cycle and system, as well as understanding appropriate and respectful relations between work colleagues, players and interactions with members of the public.



Zones

Northland

2018/19 was a busy yet successful year for Northland, with over 61 club teams playing from nursery to premier grades in Rugby League Northland competitions. 1402 primary to secondary school students participated in festivals, backyard league and Secondary School competitions.

Congratulations to the Otangarei Knights who won the Rugby League Northland Premier Grand Final, after a hard-fought battle against the Takahiwai Warriors.

Rugby League Northland was well represented at the North Island Championship by our 13s, 15s, and 17s boys, as well as our 13s and 15s girls. Congratulations to the 13s boys for winning their division.

Rugby League Northland was also well represented at the Junior Nationals, with our 15s and 17s boys both achieving wins for the first time in a couple of years. What's also important to note, is that each team was only made up of Northland players.

Congratulations to our Rugby League Northland Premiership team, the Northern Swords, for winning the NZRL National Competition (Championship) after a hard-fought battle against the Otago Whalers. The Northern Swords also took home Sports Northland Team of the Year.

Some individual highlights include:

- Junie Shelford named as Under 16s NZRL Manager.
- Tea Rani Woodman-Tuhoro named in the Under 16s NZRL Team.
- Neville Rogers won the Sports Northland Coach of the Year.
- Former Kiwis Captain, Adam Blair, was awarded Sports Northland Homegrown Athlete of the Year and the Tai Tokerau Māori Sportsperson of the Year.

Going forward, Northland will continue to grow and develop as we work to become the sport of choice for all Northlanders.

Akarana

The Akarana zone has had a successful 2018, starting with some impressive on field results. The Akarana Men's Premiers were victorious over Counties Manukau, winning the National Championship once again, for the third year in a row. Players, Kitona Pasene and Polima Siaki have played all three premierships, under the leadership of Coach Keith Hanley and Assistant Coaches Phil Gordon and Cody Walker. Our Premiers were also victorious over Canterbury at home, for the first time in Akarana's history.

The Akarana Women's team made the final of the National Women's Tournament, to take home second place after a hard-fought battle with Counties Manukau.

The Under 17s took out the NZRL National Youth Tournament with the Under 15s receiving fourth place. This year, we also welcomed new coaches for both our Under 17s and 15s teams.

Akarana's community involvement continues to rise with the addition of two more league clubs to the NZRL Community Playgroups programme. Akarana now has seven clubs involved, with attendance continuing to grow.

65 managers received their Level One Manager's certificate, becoming more aware of League Wise safety requirements, learning more effective ways to communicate with children, and gaining more knowledge about their clubs. 89 coaches obtained their level one and two certificates.

Akarana is now receiving player development levies from professional clubs. A priority focus for us going forward continues to be our representative programme and improving the pathways for our players to reach higher honours.

Counties Manukau

2018/2019 provided another action packed year of Rugby League across the Zone which all of our Clubs, volunteers, funders and NZRL can be very proud of.

Counties Manukau Rugby League (CMRL) has continued to prioritise its focus on the Community game, growing exposure of Rugby League in schools, increasing the strength of our Clubs and ensuring a strong player development pathway via the Counties Manukau Stingrays.

Community

Our community programme has seen CMRL staff in 144 schools (101 Primary, 33 Intermediate, 10 Secondary) delivering coaching programmes and game opportunities to over 20,000 young people.

In a tough funding environment, the Clubs have continued to deliver a strong grassroots programme and in many cases are vital community hubs within their communities fulfilling a role beyond the games being played each week. In particular, the collective Zone can be extremely proud of its development and growth in its ethnic communities and in the women's game which continues to go from strength to strength.

Representative Programme

The Counties Stingrays programme had another exceptional year across all age groups with our women's team leading the way. The Women's Stingrays took out their 8th consecutive National Premiership title and were also recognised at The Counties Manukau Sports Awards as the regions team of the year. Our ladies efforts were well recognised with 13 players going on to represent the Kiwi Ferns.

Other notable results were our 17s Youth and Premier Men's sides losing in tough fought finals against a well organised Akarana side. Eight (8) Youth and 7 Premier Men players were selected for NZRL Residents teams.

Our 'Live local, Play local' philosophy means that when a player represents his/her local club and/or representative team they are authentically 'representing' their family and community members who have all contributed to their successes. They become people who local future Kiwi and Kiwis Ferns can look up to and emulate. Congratulations to all our representative players, coaches and team staff.



Governance

Significant changes occurred at board level this year with the introduction of a non-voting Club Liaison position added to our board meetings. John Davis-Rawiri (JD) was voted as the representative and makes an invaluable contribution to Zone matters. We also co-opted Willie Māea (Otago Scorpions) on to the Board to strengthen our connection to our community game.

Three Board member rotations occurred during the year and thus we must thank Cathy Friend, Tony Kemp and Nick Bakulich for their contribution to the governance of CMRL. We welcome Sally Va'afusuaga and Emile Va'afusuaga to the board. Sally brings great passion for the driving the women's game forward in Counties and Emile brings strong connections to our community game and our Māori and Pacific player base.

Bill McEntee retired his position as Zone President to accept a position on the NZRL Board. We thank him for his service and congratulate him on his new role.

Whilst the Zone continued to deliver on its community-based mandate, it has undoubtedly been a challenging year financially. Two key factors impacted our financial result; the Zone moved its financial year to align with NZRL (1 April to March 31) thus operating for a 15 month financial year in 2018/2019 and disappointingly, under new leadership the Auckland Rugby League withdrew \$50k of community funding from the Akarana and Counties Manukau Zones.

I conclude with a few special mentions and thank-you's. Firstly to all of our Club Chairs, club volunteers and funders who without we would not be able to deliver the benefits of our great game to the next generation of league lovers and future Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns.

We thank Cathy Friend for her collective years of service to CMRL and for being a stalwart of the Rugby League community. Former CMRL Chair Tony Kemp has recently been elected by the clubs of Auckland onto the ARL Board and we congratulate him on his appointment.

We thank Kasey and our staff for continuing to put our community and game first. We would like to recognise the work of NZRL and ARL staff who are committed to delivering rugby league every day and every week.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge former Counties Manukau Stingray, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck for being awarded the NRL's highest award, the Dally M Medal. It is an amazing achievement and one which will no doubt inspire many young athletes across Counties Manukau to chase their dreams.

Upper Central

He mihi maahana teenei ki a koutou katoa.

Kua hinga ngaa totara I te wao nui a Taane.....e tautoko ana ngaa koorero kua koorerohia. Moe mai koutou.

As a Zone we faced some challenges in terms of change and diversity.

A number of events happened throughout the 2018 season including the Youth Development Hub, North Island Districts Tournament, Womens Nationals, Youth Nationals, U13 and U14 Wai-Coa-Bay Rep campaign, Womens 9s, and also the new Coaching Hub involving the Brisbane Broncos.

Our Staff also continued to work in Clubs and Schools providing various tournaments, festivals, workshops and courses throughout the region.

I would also like to acknowledge the numerous successes:

- A number of our players from our Districts and within our Wai-Coa-Bay system gaining contracts and trials in Australia
- Numerous players representing the TDP and New Zealand for the 16s, 18s, Secondary Schools, Residents, NZ Māori and KiwiFerns
- Ngongotaha, and Taniwharau winning their respective Premier Competitions in Bay of Plenty and Waikato
- Honey Hireme, captaining the Kiwi Ferns
- Chris Langley, and Eugene Davis – Coaching Staff in the New Zealand 16/18 TDP Programme and Residents sides
- Nickie Tane, Manager in the TDP Programme

A huge thank you to our Districts and Clubs – BOPDRL, Coastline, Hauraki, GTRL and Waikato. To all of our Volunteers, we would be nothing without your support and continued mahi in the community.

We acknowledge and thank our departing Board Members/Staff – Maxine Moana-Tuwahangai, Koroki Waikai, and Brent Jones. To our Board Members – Megan Cleverley (Chair), Sam Fellows (Vice-Chair),

We also welcomed our new Operations Manager, Hamana Amoamo in April of 2018.

Thank you to our funding partners and sponsors for 2018 – Fi-Ta, NZCT, Lion Foundation, Sport BOP, Trust Waikato, Toi Ohomai, NZRL, TECT, Sport Waikato, Southern Trust, and Pub Charity.

We would lastly like to acknowledge NZRL and the outgoing and incoming Staff throughout the duration of 2018, and we look forward to working in collaboration in 2019.

Mid Central

Our community – Our people:

- Mid Central Zone (MCZ Board) have a newly elected member Tony Kemp who was also elected as their Chairperson. The zone's focus moved to 'Community Connection' strengthening the operating processes and governance of the districts whilst working to help build local delivery and capability.
- The NZRL Community Playgroup within the Taranaki club of Western Suburbs Tigers has seen some of the highest number of participants throughout the country - "its success is its community connection and the heightened enthusiasm of its awesome volunteers" says Lisa Reweti, Mid Central Zone's General Manager.
- The Zone continues to support the districts and its ability to build capacity both on and off the field.


Communications:

- Using a robust, inclusive process MCZ consulted with its districts to create a comprehensive calendar that allow clubs, districts and the zone to understand the pathways and opportunities on offer.
- The Zone has utilised Facebook and Zoom platforms to keep connected across our districts.
- The Zone has held regular district meetings to help our local game grow.

Our game:

- Manawatu club teams within the Taranaki men's competition made for some of the best football the zone has seen in past years.
- Introduction of the MCZ Judiciary





Committee Manual within the districts has allowed for clear alignment in this space.

- The Zone operational staff continue to deliver meaningful programmes and support across each of our districts.

Pathways programme:

- The Lower North Island Youth Competition was born out of a need to keep our youth players engaged until the start of the representative season. Club teams from Wellington, Manawatu, Taranaki, and

Whanganui participated which lead to the players eligibility to play for district and zone teams of Wellington Orcas and MCZ Vipers.

- With the introduction of the NZRL Talent Development Programme a large number of MCZ coaching staff participated in roles such Co-Head Coach, trainers, team Manager and Central Hub Manager within the Central Hub. The knowledge gained by our staff and players was substantial with some processes and developments now being used at local level.
- MCZ staff have been instrumental in creating the newly established North Island Championship Competition supported by NZRL & competing zones to kick off in 2019.

Increased participation

- The districts of MCZ have substantial increase of participation numbers in the Mini & Mod age grades with new events in Hawkes Bay included.
- MCZ had an increase of NZRL accredited volunteers throughout the zone and the MCZ staff facilitated large numbers of coaching courses in the Wellington Zone also on behalf of NZRL.
- The Mid Central Zone has secured the rights to hold a NZ based mini mod tournament in our Zone.

Effective administration and governance

- The zone has been instrumental in assisting its districts with new constitutions to align with MCZ & NZRL.
- MCZ staff have delivered all operational tasks within the district in support of the newly appointed Taranaki RL Board who have completed the great job of getting the organisation out of insolvency.

Financial sustainability

- Through strengthened efforts within the zone the financial report for the year showed a financial net surplus of \$2648.00 for 15 months to 31 March 2019.

Wellington

In the past year Wellington Rugby League has appointed Phil Roache as General Manager and has focused on rebuilding and reestablishing the Zone/District from the grassroots level and assisting it's clubs to continue to function in a challenging climate.

The goal has been to provide consistency and leadership and to build resilience through our club competitions, representative teams and ensuring that our coaches, managers, trainers, refs and volunteers are given the opportunity to become certified in their fields.

Part of demonstrating resilience is reforming relationships with a variety of stakeholders such as New Zealand Rugby League, NZ Warriors, funding organisations, local councils, our clubs, our communities, schools and other sporting codes, with a view to strengthening our reputation and leveraging off these relationships for best practice outcomes.

New Zealand Rugby League has offered a solid partnership with Wellington Rugby League and has supported the Zone with much needed financial and governance expertise as well as mentoring and staff support, including organising the courses needed for our members.

Wellington Rugby League continues to work collaboratively with Mid - Central Zone to provide opportunities for our young players in the wider area. This has led to the creation of a Lower North Island Youth Competition where the 15s and 17s sides from clubs in Taranaki, Manawatu and Wellington play each other.

Wellington Rugby League Zone are very proud to have had 5 of our own represent our national men's team the Kiwis, not to mention local coach Daniel McEwan who had come through the NZRL coaching pathways and was appointed as assistant coach of the NZ Resident 18s team that played Toa Samoa 18s

2018 also saw 2 of our women represent the NZ University Women's team that toured Canada and another selected in the wider training squad for the Kiwi Ferns.

With one of Wellington's sons at the helm of the New Zealand Warriors, Wellington are happy to have secured two New Zealand Warriors home games, one in 2019 and the other in 2020, this will go a long way towards raising the profile of rugby league in the region and help continue to grow the game here in the capital.

Southern

The introduction of the Backyard League programme into primary and intermediate schools is proving very popular and we have seen interest in the game grow. The fundamental skills programme, delivered as part of Backyard League, and the tournament at the end of the programme saw a rise in participant numbers.

The focus on clubs and their capabilities continued in 2018 with hands-on support offered to Clubs and Districts across a range of initiatives. These include the Be A Sport programme, league net registration and competition management.

In Canterbury, coaches received ongoing support and key messages as part of their coaching development introduction to the Good Sports philosophy and Chew the Fat sessions.

Support was given to referees through the work of Glen Black, which was well received through assessments and coaching key components.

Implementation during the year of the NZRL Talent Development Programme, based in Christchurch, proved beneficial for talented teenage players from all of the Districts in the Southern Zone, and for those from Wellington. This programme also provided a pathway and an experience at a high level for the team's management.

The performance of the Scorpions (15s & 17s) in 2018 was a high point. Both teams made the top four in their grades, which was the best result achieved by the Zone within these teams. The contribution of team management has been a huge factor in the success achieved and the ongoing player development programme that is in place. The Scorpions Premier team entered the Pacific Series for the first time and were finalists.

The introduction of the inaugural Southern Zone 13s and 14s Tournament in Dunedin was exciting, not only because of the opportunity it created for the boys, but that two Districts were able to field girls' teams. We have a high level of interest for this to expand in 2019.

Last year was the start of a three-year plan for the growth of the game in Central Otago. The programmes initiated in Queenstown and Arrowtown have created so much interest that this programme will now expand to other areas.

The Southern Zone Board started consultation with Clubs and Districts to prepare a new strategic plan for implementation in 2019 and beyond. Feedback from stakeholders was very valuable in this process and has given a voice to participants that will help set strategies for the future.



Museum

The Rugby League Museum Committee has seen another successful year. One highlight in particular was the setting up of an official website (www.nzrl.museum.co.nz), which includes a history of the New Zealand game, interviews with players of the past, tests dating back to the 1940s and history of the Museum itself.

The All Gold's cabinet is finished, which has gained a lot of interest as it completes this section of how the game of league began in New Zealand. The photo gallery displays to all visitors photos of Kiwi teams that were not previously on display - they are now set out for reference by decades.

Visitor numbers increased by 14.8% on the previous year, which was assisted by opening on Warriors play days to capture new and previous visitors who came to view the new displays.

We are excited to see the museum used for functions by other sectors of the league family, while we've also seen an increase in private use.

The aim of the Museum Society is to: celebrate, preserve, educate and inspire. With this in mind, we will focus on a number of new projects to further educate and inspire visitors to the museum.

As mentioned in last year's Annual Report, communication with other sectors of the game such as the Warriors, Auckland Rugby League and Carlaw Trust Board are continuing to help our sector of New Zealand Rugby League.

Committee members of the museum are: John Bray (Chairman), Kevin Bailey, Jason Baker, Allen Gore, Ray Haffenden, Don Hammond, Brian Keane, Simon Watson, Gary Whittle, Kasey King, and Alan Messenger (Curare).



Māori Rugby League

This year, New Zealand Māori Rugby League's four tournaments continued to thrive from tamariki to teina and rangatahi through to the tuakana tournament. 2018 saw over 130 teams take the field, showcasing the best of Māori league talent from up and down the country.

A stand out highlight for 2018 was when our Māori All Stars took on Australia's Indigenous All Stars in front of 18,000 fans at AAMI Park in Melbourne. A fantastic occasion for our culture as Māori were recognised and celebrated at the highest level. Representing the Māori All Stars is the most prestigious accolade a NZ Māori player could receive, outside of playing in the World Cup. Although our boys went down 34 – 14, it was the beginning of what looks to be an exciting annual clash that will have long-term benefits for the growth and development of Māori Rugby League.

We celebrated 25 years of the National Tuakana Tournament in Rotorua. Te Arawa, won the wahine toa division defeating Ngāti Umutahi in the final. He Waka Eke Noa defeated Te Puaha o Waikato in the waka final, and Raukawa ki Runga won the rohe section beating Kotahitanga in the final.

Other 2018 highlights include:

- Chairman John Devonshire was awarded NZ Māori administrator of the year due his to dedication to growing and developing NZ Māori Rugby League in New Zealand
- 14 kotiro teams took the field at the Youth Grade tournaments
- 130 teams performed Haka
- Te reo Māori used in communications and whanaungatanga fostered
- Three national representative teams fielded - Māori 17s, Māori Ferns and the Māori Invitation 13s
- Four successful Māori tournaments – Tuakana, Rangatahi, Teina & Tamariki

At the core of our kaupapa is our taha Māori. NZMRL remains a strong unifying force and a key vehicle for whanaungatanga – where members can make connections with whānau and friends; where te reo Māori is encouraged; where haka is an integral part of our tournaments and any match that NZMRL representative teams participate in, and where our kaupapa continues to underpin the strategy to preserve and strengthen our unique cultural identity.

As we look ahead, NZMRL will continue to foster and grow the profile of Māori Rugby league within Aotearoa and internationally.





League 4 Life

League 4 Life is about empowering, equipping and encouraging the rugby league community affected by injury, illness and disability.

We provide grants to individuals, families and organisations to ensure our community is supported through difficult times. Our two main focus areas for these grants are as follows:

Creating Opportunities

To provide financial support for people involved in rugby league that would otherwise be improbable due to injury, disability or hardship.

Health & Recovery

To provide financial support for rehabilitation after injury, including towards medical bills and in-home equipment

We would like to thank all involved for their support in making League 4 Life a New Zealand Rugby League community success. As a result, we have been able to help a number of people in the rugby league community from up and down the country.



Physical Disability Rugby League

2018 was a rewarding year for Physical Disability Rugby League New Zealand (PDRLNZ). Our selfless volunteers continued to put in an amazing effort to ensure our athletes' physical disabilities didn't stop them on and off the field. This led to great success with two international tournaments for Physical Disability Rugby League and a curtain raiser to the Vodafone Warriors match at Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland.

History was made in February as the inaugural PDRLNZ squad was selected to travel to Brisbane and take on PDRLA and PDRL All Stars in a world first tri-series event at the 2018 Rugby League Commonwealth Championships. Despite the 0-0 golden point loss to Australia in the final, the event represented a celebration of athletes with a physical disability competing at an international event, which was live streamed to millions around the globe and winning a silver medal.

On the back of this, the PDRLNZ Board found the support and sponsorship needed to establish a New Zealand squad to meet their Australian counterparts again – this time in Sydney at the 2018 Rugby League Emerging Nations World Championships in October. The New Zealand squad included Che Fornusek (C), Gary Endacott (VC) Bruce Cross, Matthew Williams, Jason Gilmour, Junior Leaupepe, Garry Kingi, Joshua Hyde, Philip Milne, Freeman Hickey, Michael Kulene, Timothy Ragg, Uturei Toparea, Josh Dench, Jeremy Hendrix Harris, Ben Tuimaseve, Jim Doolan and Paul Mulipola. Coaching and team staff included Head Coach Rodney Hall, Manager Bruce Milne, Hydration and Support David Kingi, Camp Mothers Janessa Dench and Rachel Kingi, and Media Manager Joe Faga from Choca Joe Media.

The emotional singing of the New Zealand national anthem and the passionate hakas led by Ben Tuimaseve and Garry Kingi set the tone for some intense battles on the field in the inaugural appearance of Physical Disability Rugby League at the Emerging Nations World Championships.

“Nothing stood in their way, nothing was held back as the New Zealand team rose to the occasion and gave their all for their families, teammates and country,” Sandra Hickey –founder PDRLNZ

The loss by one try in the final was a nail-biting end to a truly magnificent event. Despite the disappointment, the players and supporters held their heads up high knowing everything was left on the field. Physical Disability Rugby League was the winner on the day.



Topping it all off, PDRLNZ opened the closing ceremony with a rousing haka that sent shivers down the spines of everyone attending. The thunderous applause and cheers for the team was truly humbling. Five PDRLNZ athletes were named for the 2018 Rugby League PDRL Emerging Nations squad: Che Fornusek, Jason Gilmour, Garry Kingi, Phil Milne and Uturei Toparea.

We acknowledge the generous support of so many, including Autex, NZRL, Auckland Rugby League, Cerebral Palsy Society, Kelston Boys' High School, Onu Sportswear and individual player sponsors – Sir Peter Leitch, DNI Electrical, Ideal Air, Debtworks New Zealand, Fresh Choice Mangere, Parceline Express, Construction NZ, Ryman Health and a private donor.

PDRLNZ is working hard to ensure people with a physical disability are not sidelined on the sports field. We are excited to see how we can, with the help of our wider rugby league whanau, continue to close the gap between sporting opportunities afforded to our non-disabled peers and those who have a physical disability.

The year ahead looks promising with some big events coming up, however overall our focus remains to keep delivering quality experiences, and to build on the success we have had to support our athletes to live the life they want.

Masters Rugby League

The Masters of Rugby League Inc is a wonderful success story, with the goal of promoting fun football for over 35s who no longer take part in serious competition.

The Masters has players up to 70 years old taking part and playing games, all in the spirit of having fun, promoting good will and sportsmanship, reliving old glories and bringing people back to football clubs with a wealth of experience and knowledge to pass on.

The game is growing in popularity with Auckland boasting 32 teams, and the Manukau Magpies fielding three teams. Other districts include Canterbury with eight teams, Wellington, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu and Waikato.

The 2018 Masters of Rugby League Nationals were held 3-7 September at Petone Recreation Ground, with 20 teams from around New Zealand battling not only each other, but the Wellington wind and rain. Despite this, everyone was in

great spirits and players even wore beanies and thermals during the games to combat the cold.

On 27 May 2018, the Patea Warriors from South Taranaki travelled to New Plymouth to play against the Western Suburbs Tigers in an intriguing Masters of Rugby League game. Heavy rainfall was forecast, but that wasn't going to stop the players of yester-year partaking in a physical match in the "Battle @ Ngamotu".

This game was played with immense passion, but what else would you expect from these two legendary teams. Although Patea took the win, you could sense the wairua from the Western Suburbs Tigers who never gave up and showed a lot of mana on the field throughout the game. To see past players come out of the woodwork from both sides to give it their all was an awesome experience to witness.

All clubs get the chance to host through a roster system, and it is our policy that every team entering the masters is affiliated to a league club so all profits can return to that club.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, players and referees who make this version of our great game a success.

Seeking to capitalise on the foundations laid by Phil Campbell, Masters of Rugby League's main goals are to find more players and formalise the Masters format across New Zealand. We are also looking to strengthen the game internationally with regular test matches and grow the Masters women's game.



NZ Universities & Tertiary Students Rugby League

After the bitter disappointment of not attending the ninth Student World Cup in 2017, New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League (NZUTSRL) bounced back in its Golden anniversary year with not only an international first, but with a healthy optimism towards its future.

It all kicked off in May 2018, when 19 players and four team officials ventured off to England for a three-match tour, including two Tests against England Universities.

The NZ students played their first Test in Featherstone, which served as a curtain raiser for a Super League match between Featherstone and Leigh. A jet-lagged NZ side did well to hold England Universities out to an 18-0 lead at halftime, before the wheels fell off in the second half, resulting in the home side winning 42-4.

The second international was played at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. England was up 10-8 at halftime, however, the NZUTSRL side had other plans. Despite not having a full team train throughout the week, the visitors were merciless, winning the match 28-10.

In short, the tour was beneficial on many counts, as it provided players with the experience and lessons learned during an overseas trip to England.

In late June the very first-ever NZUTSRL women's side and national women's student league teams went to Canada and the United States for a three-match tour. The side ventured off to Canada and despite some of

the players never having played league before, showed no nerves in the warm-up fixture by scoring nine tries and seven converted goals. This saw them win the match 50-0 against a British Columbia select team.

The only international was held three days later in Calgary when NZUTSRL fronted up against the Canada Ravens, who had finished fourth at the 2017 Women's World Cup. The visitors blew away the home side winning 42-16.

The last match on the itinerary resulted in a comprehensive 84-5 win over a Santa Barbara side in the United States, which gave the inaugural NZUTSRL women's team an unbeaten tour record and huge potential to go far in the future.

In September, the second NZUTSRL 9s tournament was again held in Wellington resulting in Otago University winning the men's final by a narrow 17-14, while in the women's final, the Ta'ahine Tongan team beat NZIS 24-14.

The NZUTSRL Council has reset its goals for the year ahead with the priority being on the 9s tournament in September along with other fixtures leading up to the next SWC.





NZ Defence Force Rugby League

Royal New Zealand Navy

The Navy has had a long standing involvement within the Auckland Rugby League competition with the Navy Dolphins being a regular team and a number of higher achievers running out in the Fox Memorial competition. The Navy hold an annual Inter-ship tournament and represented their service with pride at the 2018 Inter-services tournament. The Royal New Zealand Navy will be hosting the Inter-services Tournament for the next three years in Devonport Auckland starting from April 2020.

Royal New Zealand Air Force

The Air Force had a strong 17/18 season by winning its first Inter-service Tournament and the lead up to the 18/19 season was promising. The Air Force hold an annual Inter-base tournament, where RNZAF Base Ohakea came away with the win, and placed second at the 2018 Inter-services tournament. RNZAF Base Auckland has had a strong presence in the Auckland Rugby League competition with players reaching higher honours. In 2018 CPL Cole Waaka was a member of the NZ Warriors wider Squad; a regular player for the ISP team and he has continued his strong form into the 2019 season for the Canterbury Cup team.
RNZAF Base Auckland 36 / RNZAF Base Ohakea 42

New Zealand Army

The Army continue to have a strong presence within local competitions where a New Zealand Army Base is located; those being: Burnham, Trentham, Linton, and Papakura. Notable highlights were Trentham placing third in the Premier Reserve Grade Competition in Wellington, Burnham

Men's winning the Canterbury Division One Grade and the Burnham Women's team just missing out on the top four. The Army hold an annual Inter Regional tournament but due to national commitments the tournament was reduced to two teams with Papakura taking the win. The Army headed into the 2018 Inter-services tournament with confidence and their strength was shown by winning both matches. Their strength was also recognised by individual honours where a number of trophies were awarded to Army personnel

Papakura 42 / Army Selection 10

Inter-services Results

NZA 70 RNZN 4
RNZAF 46 RNZN 24
RNZAF 8 NZA 56

Inter-services Trophy: New Zealand Army

Most Valuable Player: CPL Sonny Watson, Army

Best Back: PTE Logan Afoa, Army

Best Forward: Mr Devon Scott, Air Force

Rookie: LAC Gene Roberts, Air Force

New Zealand Defence Force

The highlights for the New Zealand Defence Force started with the ANZAC Test between the Australian Defence Force and New Zealand Defence Force on the 25th of April 2018 in Sydney Australia. This was a special occasion for both teams as it signifies the historical bonds that we share and was evident to all those in attendance. The match was run in conjunction with the NRL ANZAC round as a curtain raiser to the Sydney Roosters St. George Illawarra Dragons match.

NZDF 16 / ADF 24

Following on from our great match in 2018 the New Zealand Defence Force was again invited by the Australian Defence Force to front for the NRL ANZAC round in 2019. This occasion was a step above the last as it was a true New Zealand Australian spectacle as the two Defence Force teams led the way for the NZ Warriors Melbourne Storm match in Melbourne Australia on the 25th of April 2019.
NZDF 20 / ADF 32

The New Zealand Defence Force will endeavour to continue the strong relationship with the Australian Defence Force and will strive to not only continue the ANZAC Test but also, bring the match to New Zealand. It is also a strong desire for the Rugby League Executive to grow the game for women in the New Zealand Defence Force, with the Army leading the way. There is a strong presence within the Australian Defence Force and we will work hard to emulate their success.





NZ Police Rugby League

For New Zealand Police Rugby League, the past calendar year has been a quiet one mainly due to operational commitments and outside club commitments especially for those players in Auckland who compete in the Fox Memorial Competition for various clubs.

Auckland saw a growth in the number of players participating in Masters Rugby League with a tri-series tournament allowing players from Counties-Manukau, Auckland City and Waitemata to all enjoy a run around and the social scene that this area of the game provides.

A solitary Test Match against the old foes Australia Police was played at Mt Smart ahead of a Warriors NRL match and whilst Australia were the victors, a significant improvement was noticed in the performance of the New Zealand Police Team. This can be attributed to the number of young players who are playing both club rugby league in the weekends and Police Rugby League when the games are planned.

The 2019 calendar will see a NZPRL men's play against the New Zealand Air Force at Mt Smart Stadium and an invitation to play has been received by the Auckland Police Rugby League Team from the Queensland Police. Planning is also underway for a Police Rugby League 9's tournament in Auckland that will see Open Men, Masters, and Woman's teams compete against

each other in a festival style atmosphere later in the year. It is hoped we will continue to see the growth of the Women competing in Police league as we have in previous years.

New Zealand Police Rugby League wishes to acknowledge the outstanding contribution to not only Police Rugby League but Rugby League in general that Sergeant Simon Taylor and Sergeant Christopher McMillan make. Chris will be seen most weekends running the touch lines in the NRL grade and also in the middle of some of the Canterbury Cup matches. Simon is also at the top of his game with Auckland and New Zealand Rugby League.

Finally, talks are being held with our counterparts in Australia about a planned Tri-Series to be held in Sydney when the Great Britain Police Rugby League Team tours in 2020. Invitations have also gone out to the Fiji Police and Papua New Guinea Police Teams which could then see a Pacific Festival being held.

Tony Feasey
New Zealand Police Rugby League

Coaching

National coaching accreditations are aligned with Sport New Zealand and NRL coaching structures, and 456 coaches completed NZRL accreditations during 2018/19.

The NZRL coaching community is growing with specific focus placed on building growth and development opportunities. Sustained investment to the coaching sector is supporting the coach education network that has further increased opportunities across New Zealand.

2018/19 highlights included:

- Good sports programme embedded into all NZRL coaching accreditations
- Coaching equivalency document created in conjunction with NRL
- Coaching workshops continue to be made available for all Zones and Districts to deliver to their communities
- Coaching courses were delivered to 95% of Zones and Districts
- NZRL coach educator network continues to grow in size (from 6 to 18)
- Three coach developers attended the Sport New Zealand coach developer course and began implementing these learnings into their rugby league communities.



Referees

We had another strong year in 2018/2019 with the NZRL events used as a cornerstone for development.

Within the community, Referee Association numbers remain at a consistent level and continue to provide an invaluable service to our sport. This is evident with more than 95% of club competition games having an official referee appointed.

A key initiative designed to aid education and upskilling referees is the national roll out of 'Referee Methodology' - a framework of how to referee. Both the NZRL and NRL support this resource and it is included in all NZRL referee qualifications. During the year it was delivered in a series of refresher courses throughout the country by NZRL Referee Educators and proved particularly successful for the onboarding of new referees.

Upskilling referees is a focus area of our program and in 2018 we delivered 29 courses involving more than 300 participants. In addition, more than 200 referee assessments were delivered at NZRL events.

NRL Pathways play a vital role in development and NZRL continues to explore RLIF opportunities, including supporting six overseas appointments. The Referee Academy program continues to build links with NRL Pathways with six officials appointed in either the NSW or NRL competitions.

Awards

Referee of Year:

Paki Parkinson

Secondary Schools:

Joseph Green

Secondary Development Referee:

Kevin Ah-Ken

Youth Tournament Referee:

Paki Parkinson

Youth Referee Choice:

Paki Ngaira

Women's Tournament:

Nigel Williams



Major Appointments

Internationals

Denver Test

Touch Judge: Chris McMillan

Ferns Test

Referee: Paki Parkinson
Touch Judges: Joseph Green and Rochelle Tamarua

Jks Test

Referee: Chris McMillan
Touch Judges: Simon Taylor and Nathan Barker Pringle

NZ16s vs Samoa 16s

Referee: Paki Parkinson
Touch Judges: Mack Seymour and Harley Wall

Nz18s vs Samoa

Referee: Paki Parkinson
Touch Judges: Harley Wall and Zane Richardson

RLIF

Samoa Invitational Events:
Sonny Whakarau and Paki Parkinson

Emerging Nations World Cup

Joseph Green

NRL Pathways

NRL

Touch Judge: Chris McMillan

NSW Cup

Touch Judges: Rochelle Tamarua, Chris McMillan and Paki Parkinson

Jersey Flegg

Referees: Paki Parkinson and Nathan Barker Pringle
Touch Judges: Rochelle Tamarua, Paki Parkinson, Joseph Green and Nathan Barker Pringle

NSW Schools Tournament

Joseph Green and Jaxon McGowan

Domestic

National Premiership Final

Referee: Chris McMillan
Touch Judges: Rochelle Tamarua and Nathan Barker Pringle

Squad

Referees: Chris McMillan, Leon Williamson, Jason Wilson, Simon Taylor

Touch Judges: Rochelle Tamarua, Nathan Barker Pringle, Nick Waihi, Jason Wilson, Harley Wall, Paki Parkinson, Manu Varney, Owen Harvey, Phil Reedy, Dave Robati, Glen Mousey, Mike Rangihika, Lindsay Dunlop

National Secondary Schools Final

Referee: Joseph Green
Touch Judges: Paki Parkinson and Tony Arnel

Developing Final

Referee: Kevin Ah Ken
Touch Judges: Greg Shaw and Zane Richardson

National Youth Tournament

17sReferee: Paki Parkinson
Touch Judges: Joseph Green and Justyne Matangi-Lui

15s Referee: Harley Wall

Touch Judges: Jack Haslam and Paki Ngaira

National Women's Tournament

Referee: Nigel Williams





Commercial

We have been very fortunate to retain all our key sponsors for the 2019 season with the only change being ISC replacing Macron as NZRL apparel supplier.

Pirtek remains as our major sponsor on the front of the Kiwis jersey and is joined by Mainstream, IT provider to NZRL, Revera and online credit solution provider, Save My Bacon as the other on-kit family of sponsors.

We are also very fortunate that we have a group of sponsors who continue to look well beyond what is written in contracts to support the game in any way they can. Thank you.

In ISC we gain an internationally recognised apparel company who produce quality gear and have worked very closely with the Kiwis management in establishing some fantastic designs for the 2019 Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and Junior Kiwis season. They have also produced amazing designs for both the Kiwis & Kiwi Ferns International 9's gear which will be on display when both teams take the field in October at Parramatta's new home ground, Bankwest Stadium, Western Sydney. ISC are certainly not new to the NZRL family having been on the Kiwis jersey when they won the World Cup for the first time in 2008, we very warmly welcome them back !!

Whereas all our sponsors are with NZRL through to the 2021 World Cup, we continue to seek new partners who share the same vision and passion that will enable us to take the game to even greater heights.

Communications

The communication and digital technology is for ever changing and the NZRL continues to strive in its goal to provide the best possible platforms to keep all of our stakeholders informed of what is happening from a Rugby League perspective both on and off the field.

To leverage NZRL's ever-increasing social media and online community, we have further developed our livestreaming capabilities which we have tested through various online channels. Livestreams attract a viewing audience of over 150,000, mainly built around NZRL National Tournaments. Viewers are able to be a part of the action without being constrained by geographical boundaries. NZRL will continue to develop this area so that we can provide further ways in which to add value to our sponsors as well as keeping all stakeholders informed.

We also to continue to ensure our website is easy to access and navigate while at the same time, providing a great visual experience with up to date videos, pictures and information. We also continue to generate large numbers through NZRL's Facebook page where our videos were viewed close to 4 million times. While women's rugby league continues to grow, so do the profiles of many of our Kiwi Ferns, and up and coming young stars, male and female, through our social media platforms.



2018 Awards

Jared Waerea-Hargreaves and Honey Hireme reign supreme at the 2018 New Zealand Rugby League Annual Awards announced on Sky Sport's Kiwi League Show tonight.

Waerea-Hargreaves (Kiwi #755) had one of his best seasons in the black and white jersey, accumulating over 130 run metres for all four end-of-season Test matches in England, and proved crucial in the Kiwis historic 26-24 win over Australia.

Michael Maguire says: "As a senior player within the Kiwis camp, Jared put a lot of time into discussing the growth of the Kiwi team. He has immense passion towards where he wants to see the black and white jersey and this is a real quality of his,"

"Off the back of his brilliant season in club land, he was in a good position to play his best footy for the Kiwis and that's exactly what he did. His experience has been invaluable in mentoring younger players to step up into international rugby league," Maguire says.

The powerhouse prop capped off his 2018 NRL season with his second NRL premiership win, a title he was able to share with Kiwis teammate Joseph Manu (finalist for Kiwis Rookie of the Year).

In one of the biggest years to date for women's rugby league, Honey Hireme was hard to go past when it came to crowning the Kiwi Ferns Player of the Year, an award she won back in 2012. As co-captain of the Kiwi Ferns alongside veteran teammate Laura Mariu, she crossed the ditch to play for the St George Illawarra Dragons in the inaugural NRL Women's Premiership, an experience she says has benefitted her game.

"The addition of this year's NRL competition was great for the women's game. The fact that we could all come together in Kiwi Ferns camp following four weeks of competing in the elite space, was hugely beneficial when it came to pulling on the black and white jersey against the Jillaroos,"





“The more we can play at the top level, the better our game gets. I’m grateful for receiving this award but would also like to recognise the efforts of the other finalists (Kimiora Nati and Aieshaleigh Smalley) and our Kiwi Ferns teammates, my family for their undying support, management and coaching staff,” she says.

The Kiwis Rookie of the Year award was picked up by Kiwi #810 Ken Maumalo, a player who earned his Kiwis call-up in June at Mile High Stadium before going on to play in all five 2018 Kiwis Test matches, scoring four tries. His impressive season with the Warriors and Kiwis attracted high praises from coach Michael Maguire and rightfully so, given he amassed 15 tackle breaks and 801 run metres over the three Tests he played against England.

“Both Ken and Jared are two players that are hungry for the Kiwis jersey to reach new heights and that’s pleasing,”

“It has been really enjoyable coaching Ken, the more he plays, the more he grows so I look forward to seeing what he does next year,” Maguire says.

Joining Maumalo in playing her first Test at international level, Onjeurlina Leiataua has been rewarded for her break out season with the Warriors women’s team, and the stellar part she played in the Kiwi Ferns narrow loss against the Jillaroos at Mt Smart Stadium this year. These achievements saw her pick up Kiwi Ferns Rookie of the Year.

Promising youngster, Isaiah Papali’i wins Junior Player of the Year for the second consecutive year, having been awarded Warriors Rookie of the Year and receiving his Kiwis debut in England after leading the Junior Kiwis in their match-up against the Junior Kangaroos in October.

This year’s award winners showcase players and match officials performing at the pinnacle of rugby league, as well as community representatives and volunteers who prove to be the backbone of grassroots rugby league in New Zealand.

Winners of all 13 NZRL Awards

Pirtek Female Volunteer

Karen Gibbons
(Akarana, Auckland)

Pirtek Male Volunteer

Lawrence Erihe (Mid Central,
Manawatu)

Grassroots Club of the Year

South Pacific Raiders
(Southern, Otago)

Domestic Coach of the Year

Keith Hanley (Akarana,
Auckland)

Match Official of the Year

Paki Parkinson (Upper Central,
Bay of Plenty)

NZ 16s Player of the Year

Sione Moala (Counties
Manukau, Auckland)

NZ 18s Player of the Year

Tyler Slade (NZ Warriors)

Domestic Premier Player

of the Year Francis Leger
(Akarana, Auckland)

Kiwi Fern Rookie of the

Year Onjeurlina Leiataua (NZ
Warriors)

Kiwis Rookie of the Year

Ken Maumalo (NZ Warriors)

Kiwis Fern Player of the Year

Honey Hireme (St George
Illawarra Dragons)

Kiwis Player of the Year

Jared Waerea-Hargreaves
(Sydney Roosters)

NZ Rugby League Inc.

Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

DIRECTORS REPORT

The Directors present the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

These consolidated financial statements reflect the overall state of the game controlled by the New Zealand Rugby League Inc. The seven Zones have been consolidated with the Society's results.

The consolidated deficit for the year was \$704,000 (2018: \$1,355,000 deficit) and the consolidated excess of assets over liabilities was \$2,540,000 (2018: \$1,318,000).

New Zealand Rugby League Board Members

The following people held office as a NZRL Director during the year:

Reon Edwards (Chairman from July '17)	Elected June 2015
Hugh Martyn	Appointed June 2017
John Bishop	Resigned June 2018
Andrew Fraser	Appointed January 2018
William McEntee	Elected June 2016
Tawera Nikau	Elected June 2015
Elizabeth Richards (Vice-Chairman)	Appointed June 2017
Motu Tony	Appointed June 2018
	Resigned August 2018
Grant Stapleton	Appointed December 2018

Directors' Interests in Transactions with the Group

Total remuneration and fees paid to Directors and transactions with parties related to Directors are disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements.

Auditors

BDO Auckland were appointed auditors for the year ended 31 March 2019. The audit is conducted on a group basis with one audit fee paid for and recorded in the books of New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated.

For and on behalf of the board



Director
Date: 14.06.19



Director
Date: 14.06.19

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND
EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

	Notes	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
<i>Revenue from exchange transactions:</i>			
Coaching and development		130	126
<i>Revenue from non-exchange transactions:</i>			
Match revenue		1,946	883
Charitable trust grants		1,165	1,098
Other grants		427	228
Sponsorship and funding		3,943	5,054
New Zealand Racing Board		1,065	1,027
Other income		114	66
		8,790	8,482
<i>Expenses:</i>			
Employee benefits expenses	5	(4,611)	(5,274)
Depreciation expense	9	(63)	(69)
General expenses	6	(4,777)	(4,486)
		(9,451)	(9,829)
(Deficit)/Surplus before net financing costs		(661)	(1,347)
Finance income		6	2
Finance costs		(49)	(10)
Net finance income/(cost)		(43)	(8)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		(704)	(1,355)
Other comprehensive revenue and expense			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss			
Gain on revaluation of land and buildings	9	1,926	-
Other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year attributable to owners of the controlling entity		1,222	(1,355)

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS/EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Group	RLWC reserve	Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Balance as at 1 April 2018	-	1,318	-	1,318
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	-	(704)	1,926	1,222
Transfer to RLWC reserve	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2019	-	614	1,926	2,540
Balance as at 1 April 2017	1,000	1,673	-	2,673
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	-	(1,355)	-	(1,355)
Transfer from RLWC reserve	(1,000)	1,000	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2018	-	1,318	-	1,318

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

	Notes	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	302	404
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	8	533	648
Prepayments		79	90
		914	1,142
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,405	1,522
		3,405	1,522
TOTAL ASSETS		4,319	2,664
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Loans		500	-
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	517	590
Deferred revenue	11	599	530
Employee benefit liability		149	193
Goods and service taxation		14	33
		1,779	1,346
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,779	1,346
EQUITY			
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		614	1,318
Revaluation Reserve		1,926	-
RLWC reserve		-	-
TOTAL EQUITY		2,540	1,318
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		4,319	2,664

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH
FLows
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	Notes	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from:			
Coaching and development fees		245	192
Grants, sponsorship, match revenue, and the New Zealand Racing Board		8,518	8,755
Interest received		6	2
Payments to suppliers		(4,627)	(4,959)
Payments to employees		(4,656)	(5,258)
Net GST received / (paid)		(19)	25
Interest paid		(49)	(10)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities		(582)	(1,253)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property, plant and equipment		(20)	(23)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(20)	(23)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Drawdown of loans		500	0
Net cash outflow from financing activities		500	0
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(102)	(1,276)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		404	1,680
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	7	302	404

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 1 – Reporting entity

New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated (the “Controlling Entity”) is a public benefit entity for the purposes of financial reporting in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 2013.

These consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 comprise the controlling entity and its controlled entities (together referred to as the ‘Group’) and individually as ‘Group entities’.

Note 2 – Basis of preparation

(a) Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (“NZ GAAP”). They comply with Public Benefit Entity Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime (“PB Standards RDR”) as appropriate for Tier 2 public benefit entities, for which all reduced disclosure regime exemptions have been applied.

The Group qualifies as a Tier 2 reporting entity as for the current and prior period the group is not publically accountable and is not large (operations expenditure has been between \$2m and \$30m).

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the New Zealand Rugby League Board on 14 June 2019.

(b) Measurement basis

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for revalued land and buildings.

(c) Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (\$) which is the controlling entity’s functional and Group’s presentation currency, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

There has been no change in the functional currency of the Group during the year.

(d) Going Concern

The financial statements at year-end report that the Group has a working capital loss of \$865,000 and a loss of \$704,000 for the year-end 31 March 2019. At reporting date, funding lines were beyond documented facility limits and negotiations regarding formalising revised facilities were ongoing.

Consideration has been given in the approved forecasts, to the on-going funding of the Society and its Zones, the business model under which the NZRL presently operates and the possible outcome of negotiations for additional grants and sponsorships.

The forecasts for the Society report a surplus. The forecast revenue is susceptible and sensitive to the risks that not all sponsorship and grant income can be reliably confirmed and that gate takings are reliant on attendance at events. Furthermore savings and associated costs that maybe forecast arising from any business model restructuring are subject to uncertainty as to timing and impact. Accordingly there is a possibility that actual results do not turn out as forecast.

The Society currently has a bank loan of \$500,000 with the BNZ. Discussions with the BNZ have indicated ongoing support for the Society’s banking requirements, with an offer to increase the term loan to \$1.7million in addition to the normal overdraft facility of \$200,000. The Directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis based on the forecast and the offer from the BNZ. There is a material uncertainty to the going concern assumption should the Group not receive on-going funding and the forecasts not being met.

If the going concern assumption was not valid and NZRL was unable to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, the entity may be unable to realise the value in its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 3 – Significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements and have been applied consistently by the Group, except for:

Revaluation of land and buildings

The Group has adopted the revaluation model for the first time for the land and building asset classes at 31 March 2019. Refer to Note 4 (use of judgements and estimates) and Note 9 (property, plant and equipment).

The significant accounting policies of the Group are detailed below:

(a) Revenue

Revenue is comprised of exchange and non-exchange transactions. Exchange transaction revenue arises when one entity receives assets or services, or has liabilities extinguished, and directly gives approximately equal value in exchange.

Non-exchange transaction revenue arises from transactions without an apparent exchange of approximately equal value. Non-exchange revenue includes grant, sponsorship and other revenue derived from activities that are partially funded by rates.

Revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably and it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Group, and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

The following specific recognition criteria in relation to the Group's revenue streams must also be met before revenue is recognised.

i. Revenue from exchange transactions

Coaching and development

Coaching and development revenue consists of revenue sourced from players' fees and levies. Revenue from these fees and levies will be recognised as the services associated are completed. Amounts received in advance for services to be provided in future periods are recognised as a liability until such time as the service is provided.

ii. Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Charitable trust grants, other grants and sponsorships

Revenue from grants and sponsorship is recognised when it becomes receivable unless there is an obligation to return the funds if conditions of the grant or sponsorship agreement are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when conditions of the contract are satisfied.

Match revenue and New Zealand Racing Board

Match revenue and New Zealand Racing Board revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably and it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Group, and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

(b) Foreign currency transactions

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date. The foreign currency gain or loss on monetary items is the difference between amortised cost in the functional currency at the beginning of the year, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the year, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the year.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 4 – Use of judgements and estimates

Judgements

In the process of applying the Group's accounting policies, management has made judgements, which have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the consolidated financial statements.

Estimates and assumptions

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are described below. The Group based its assumptions and estimates on parameters available when the consolidated financial statements were prepared. Existing circumstances and assumptions about future developments, however may change due to market changes or circumstances arising beyond the control of The Group. Such changes are reflected in the assumptions when they occur.

Key assumptions and judgements relate to:

- Revenue recognition – non-exchange revenue – Management is required to make a judgement on the value received (where the revenue stream is not received in cash or is not easily measurable) and as to the existence of any conditions and restrictions.
- Going concern – Management is required to make a judgement on key inputs and assumptions to cash flow forecasts used to assess the Group as a going concern.

- Revaluation of land and buildings – The Group's land and buildings were revalued as at 31 March 2019 using an independent valuer. Management has judged that the revaluation method is more relevant than the cost method for the Society, as it ensures the carrying value of the land and buildings reflects the market/fair value of the assets at 31 March 2019.

In estimating the fair value of land and buildings, the fair value method of valuation was used under NZ PBE IPSAS 17: Property, Plant and Equipment. The fair value method makes significant use of observable prices in active markets and recent market transactions on an arm's length basis. The revaluation surplus derived as a result of the revaluation was \$1.926m. This has been recognised as a separate equity reserve in the statement of changes in equity. There is no restriction on the distribution of the balance to the members of the Society.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 5 – Employee benefits expense

	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
Short-Term employee benefits	3,078	3,292
Defined employee contribution plan - Kiwisaver	80	84
Match fees, allowances and other employee related costs	1,453	1,898
Total employee benefit expenses	4,611	5,274

Short-term employee benefit liabilities are recognised when the Group has a legal or constructive obligation to remunerate employees for services provided within 12 months of the reporting date, and is measured on an undiscounted basis and expensed in the period in which employment services are provided.

Note 6 – General expenses

	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
General expenses includes:		
Administration and communication expenses	542	473
Doubtful debts	313	2
Coaching and development expenses	85	63
Directors fees	101	115
Event management expenses	783	571
Legal fees	61	171
Other professional service fees	554	683
Team expenses	620	858
Travel expenses	1,718	1,550

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 7 – Cash and cash equivalents

	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Current Account	336	289
Call Account	91	181
Donations Account	344	210
League 4 Life (held on behalf of)	100	147
Oceania GB Lions JV (held on behalf of)	111	-
Overdraft	(710)	(425)
Foreign Currency Accounts	30	2
	302	404

The Society had a \$1,000,000 overdraft facility with the Bank of New Zealand secured against a registered first mortgage over the Society's property at 7 Beasley Avenue, Penrose, Auckland. At balance date the

Society had \$710,000 drawn on this facility (2018: \$425,000). A 6.28% per annum interest rate applies. This facility is repayable on demand.

The Society held a BNZ Loan of \$500,000 secured by first mortgage over certain items of property, plant and equipment.

The Society holds another account with the Bank of New Zealand in trust for the League-4-Life Foundation, which it manages under direction from the Trustees, and hence a liability is recognised to the League-4-Life Foundation.

Note 8 – Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)

	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	849	651
Allowance for impairment	(316)	(3)
Net recoverables from non-exchange transactions	533	648

The movement in the impairment allowance for recoverables from non-exchange transactions is presented below:

	Total Impairment \$000s
Balance at 1 April 2018	3
Charge for the year	313
Balance as at 31 March 2019	316

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 9 – Property, plant and equipment

Group	Freehold land \$000s	Buildings \$000s	Motor vehicles \$000s	Plant and equipment \$000s	Furniture and fittings \$000s	Total \$000s
Cost/valuation						
Balance as at 1 Apr 2018	110	1,712	26	266	95	2,209
Additions/Disposals	-	-	(7)	21	-	14
Revaluation	610	888	-	-	-	1,498
Balance as at 31 Mar 2019	720	2,600	19	287	95	3,721
Accumulated depreciation and impairment						
Balance as at 1 Apr 2018	-	402	22	202	61	687
Depreciation	-	26	1	31	5	63
Revaluation	-	(428)	-	-	-	(428)
Depreciation on Disposal	-	-	(6)	-	-	(6)
Balance as at 31 Mar 2019	-	-	17	233	66	316
Net book value						
As at 31 Mar 2017	110	1,337	8	74	39	1,568
As at 31 Mar 2018	110	1,310	4	64	34	1,522
As at 31 Mar 2019	720	2,600	2	54	29	3,405

Recognition and measurement

Property, plant and equipment are initially shown at cost or at fair value in the case where an asset is acquired at no cost or for a nominal cost, less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes any costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the items including the costs of bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended.

Additions

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset if, and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are recognised in surplus or deficit.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment depreciation is based on the cost of an asset less its residual value.

Depreciation is recognised in surplus or deficit on a diminishing value basis over the estimated useful lives of each component of an item of property, plant and equipment. Land is not depreciated.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

The diminishing value depreciation rates are:

- Buildings 2.0%
- Motor vehicles 30.0%
- Plant and equipment 39.0% - 50.0%
- Furniture and fittings 10.0% - 20.0%
- Depreciation methods, useful lives, and residual values are reviewed at reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

Revaluation

Following initial recognition at cost, land and buildings are carried at re-valued amounts, which is the fair value at the date of the revaluation less any accumulated impairment losses. Fair value is determined by reference to market based evidence, which is the amount for which the assets could be exchanged between a willing buyer and a knowledgeable willing seller in an arm's length transaction as at the valuation date.

Any revaluation surplus is recognised in other comprehensive income and credited to the asset revaluation reserve in equity, unless the increase relates to a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in the profit or loss. Any revaluation deficit is recognised in other comprehensive income and debited to the asset revaluation reserve in equity to the extent of the revaluation reserve balance accumulated from previous year gains. When no revaluation reserve balance is available to offset a revaluation loss the revaluation deficit is reported within profit or loss for the year.

Revaluations are completed on an asset basis and movements are evaluated on an asset class basis. Upon disposal, any revaluation reserve relating to the particular asset being sold is reclassified to retained earnings.

Subsequent to revaluation, the building asset is depreciated based on its estimated use lives.

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Note 10 – Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals

	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
Trade payables from exchange transactions	90	244
League 4 Life Payable (refer note 7)	100	147
Other accruals	327	199
	517	590

Note 11 – Deferred revenue

	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
Grant funding received in advance	8	3
Charitable trust donations received in advance	373	323
Other revenue received in advance	218	204
	599	530

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Note 12 – Financial Instruments

Group 2019	Note	Carrying Value (\$)		Total \$000s
		Financial Assets	Financial Liabilities	
		Loans and Receivables \$000s	Amortised Cost \$000s	
<i>Subsequently not measured at fair value</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	302	-	302
Gross recoverables from non-exchange transactions	8	849	-	849
Payables (from exchange transactions)	10	-	(190)	(190)
Balance as at 31 March 2019		1,151	(190)	961

Group 2018	Note	Financial Assets	Financial Liabilities	Total \$000s
		Loans and Receivables \$000s	Amortised Cost \$000s	
<i>Subsequently not measured at fair value</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	404	-	404
Gross recoverables from non-exchange transactions	8	651	-	651
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	-	(391)	(391)
Balance as at 31 March 2018		1,055	(391)	664

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

The Group initially recognises financial instruments when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The Group derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred. Any interest in transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the Group is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

The Group derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled, or expire.

The Group also derecognises financial assets and financial liabilities when there has been significant changes to the terms and/or the amount of contractual payments to be received/paid.

The Group classifies financial assets into loans and receivables, and financial liabilities into amortised cost.

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value less directly attributable transaction costs.

Subsequent measurement is dependent on the classification of the financial instrument, and is specifically detailed in the accounting policies below.

i. Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

Loans and receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

Loans and receivables comprise of cash and cash equivalents, and net recoverables from non-exchange transactions.

Cash and cash equivalents represent highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into a known amount of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value, with maturities of 3 months or less.

ii. Amortised cost financial liabilities

Financial liabilities classified as amortised cost are non-derivative financial liabilities that are not classified as fair value through surplus or deficit financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities classified as amortised cost are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities classified as amortised cost comprise cash and cash equivalents (bank overdrafts), trade and other payables, and loans.

Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost using effective interest method and due to their short-term nature they are not discounted.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 13 – Group entities

The Group consolidated financial statements comprise New Zealand Rugby League Inc. and the following entities:

- Rugby League Northland Zone of NZRL Inc.
- Akarana Zone of NZRL Inc.
- Counties Manukau Zone of NZRL Inc.
- Upper Central Zone of NZRL Inc.
- Mid Central Zone of NZRL Inc.
- Wellington Rugby League Zone of NZRL Inc.
- Southern Zone of NZRL Inc.

All controlled entities have a balance date of 31 March.

There are no significant restrictions regarding to the transfer of loan repayments, and other funds from controlled entities.

The Zones have been established as the delivery mechanism of the national Game Plan working with Clubs and District Leagues. For accounting reporting purposes, the seven Zones are considered to be subsidiaries of New Zealand Rugby League.

Basis of consolidation

i. Controlled entities

Controlled entities are entities controlled by the Group, being where the Group has power to govern the financial and operating policies of another entity so as to benefit from that entity's activities. The financial statements of the Group's controlled entities are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

Subsequent changes in a controlled entity that do not result in a loss of control are accounted for as transactions with controllers of the controlling entity in their capacity as controllers, within net assets/equity.

ii. Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealised income and expenses arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

Unrealised losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 14 – Operating leases

(i) Leases as lessee

The future non-cancellable minimum lease payments of operating leases as lessee at reporting date are detailed in the table below:

	2019 Group \$000s	2018 Group \$000s
Not later than one year	127	128
Later than one year and not later than five years	61	102
Total non-cancellable operating lease payments	188	230

The Group has entered into a number of operating leases with Toyota New Zealand for the lease of motor vehicles.

The majority of the leases are in the name of New Zealand Rugby League, with 2 leases in the name of Mid-Central Zone of NZRL Inc.

Note 15 – Related party transactions

(i) Controlling entity and ultimate controlling entity

New Zealand Rugby League is the ultimate controlling entity.

Related party disclosures have not been made for transactions with related parties that are within a normal supplier or client/recipient relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those that it is reasonable to expect the entity would have adopted in dealing with the party at arm's length in the same circumstances.

Related party transactions required to be disclosed

Funding Support - Zones

During the period the Parent Entity provided its subsidiaries with funding support, and had receivable balances outstanding, as outlined below:

	2019		2018	
	Funding Support \$000s	Current Amount Receivable \$000s	Funding Support \$000s	Current Amount Receivable \$000s
Related Party				
Rugby League Northland Zone	40	3	46	3
Akarana Zone	40	2	48	1
Counties-Manukau Zone	60	3	71	3
Upper Central Zone	45	2	49	6
Mid Central Zone	40	2	50	-
Wellington Zone	60	2	85	2
Southern Zone	62	1	73	2
Total	347	15	422	17

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

(ii) Key management personnel remuneration

The Group classifies its key management personnel into one of two classes:

- Members of the governing body
- Senior executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer

Members of the governing body are paid annual fees of \$12,000 to \$35,000 which is dependent on their role within the governing body.

Senior executive officers are employed as employees of the Group, on normal employment terms.

The aggregate level of remuneration paid and number of persons (measured in 'people' for Members of the governing body, and 'full-time-equivalents' (FTE's) for Senior executive officers in each class of key management personnel is presented below:

	2019		2018	
	Remuneration \$000s	Number of individuals	Remuneration \$000s	Number of individuals
Members of the governing body	101	7 people	115	7 people
Senior executive officers	210	1 FTE's	264	1 FTE's
	311		379	

(iii) Rugby League International Federation Limited

Greg Peters and Reon Edwards are both directors of the Rugby League International Federation Limited (RLIF), a joint venture partner in relation to the GB Oceania Limited Joint Venture (see iv). The RLIF has paid \$154,000 into a bank account managed by NZRL. This is an advance to the JV and will be paid back from any JV surplus.

(iv) GB Oceania Limited Joint Venture:

On 7 May 2019, a joint venture between New Zealand Rugby League Inc., The Rugby League Football Limited and Rugby League International Federation Limited, known as GB Oceania Limited, was incorporated. Greg Peters is a director of this company. NZRL has spent \$44,000 of the funds held in the bank account held on behalf of the JV, to pay expenses incurred by the JV.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 16 – Commitments and contingencies

(i) Commitments

The Group had no commitments of a capital nature as at 31 March 2019 (2018: \$Nil).

(ii) Contingent liabilities

The Group had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2019 (2018: \$Nil).

(iii) Contingent asset

The Group had no contingent assets as at 31 March 2019 (2018: \$Nil).

Note 17 – Subsequent Events

Other than the GB Oceania Limited joint venture entered into on 9 May 2019, as outlined in Note 15 (iv), there are no material subsequent events to report after the year end.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated and its controlled entities (together, "the Group"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 March 2019, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, consolidated statement of changes in net assets/equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2019, and its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime ("PBE Standards RDR") issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) ("ISAs (NZ)"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In addition to the audit services, our firm has provided corporate finance services. We have no other relationship with, or interests in, the Group.

Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 2(d) to the financial statements, which indicates that the Group has a working capital deficit of \$865,000 at 31 March 2018 and a deficit of \$704,000 for the year ended 31 March 2019. As stated in Note 2(d), these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 2(d), indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Annual Report, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Annual Report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we will not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.



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When we read the Annual Report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to the directors.

Directors' Responsibilities for the Consolidated Financial Statements

The directors are responsible on behalf of the Group for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with PBE Standards RDR, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible on behalf of the Group for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the directors and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated



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financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Who we Report to

This report is made solely to the Group's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Group and the Group's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

BDO Auckland
Auckland
New Zealand
14 June 2019

Our people



NZRL STAFF

Left to right: Melanie Kaipō, Ani Cherrington, Toyah Brooking, Luke Watts, Craig Priest, Shanice Wiki, Luisa Avaiki, Ruth Harknett, Motu Tony, Greg Peters, Nigel Vagana, Gordon Gibbons, Nadene Conlon

Absent: David Mcmeeken, Gary Peacham, Harley Wall



David
McMeeken



Gary
Peacham



Harley
Wall

In Memoriam

John O'sullivan (Kiwi # 493) | Tom Hadfield (Kiwi # 375) | Phil Orchard (Kiwi # 475) | Duncan MacRae (Kiwi # 373) | Phil Campbell | Michael Knowles | Gerald Ryan



NZRL BOARD

Left to right: Bill McEntee, Grant Stapleton, Hugh Martyn, Elizabeth Richards (Vice Chair), Reon Edwards (Chair), Andrew Fraser

Absent: Howie Tamati (President), Tawera Nikau



Howie Tamati
(President)



Tawera
Nikau

Life Members

1920 – Stan Brice, 1921 – Duncan McLean, 1926 – Thomas Boswell, William Liversidge, Arthur Schofield, George Wheatley, 1935 – Arthur Harlock, 1937 – Lewis Binns, Cyril Snedden, 1939 – Ernest Stallworthy, 1940 – Wilf Davies, George Bassett, 1941 – Tonga Mahuta, 1942 – Scotty McClymont, 1943 – Lance Hunter, 1946 – Gordon Hooker, 1947 – Edward Chapman, 1948 – Owen Carlaw, 1949 – Thomas Smith, Leslie Bull, 1950 – Ivan Culpan, Harry Rogers, 1953 – Robert Doble, Jack Redwood OBE, 1956 – George Falgar, 1957 – Ernie Asher, 1958 – David Wilkie, William Swift, 1961 – John Watson, Roy Lash, 1962 – Dr Fred Gwynne, 1963 – Bill Moyle, Colin Siddle, 1964 – Tom Skinner KBE, Tom McKenzie, 1966 – “Ted” Knowling MBE, 1968 – George Plant, 1969 – Eric Bennett, 1970 – Dr Leo Cooney, 1971 – Arthur Chapman, Ray Cody MNZM, Doug Wilson, 1972 – Ces Mountford MBE, Ivan Stonex, 1974 – Archie Stuart BEM, 1976 – Trevor Wellsmore, 1977 – Keith Blow, Jack Williams, 1978 – Ron McGregor JP & OBE, 1980 – Ken English, 1981 – Des Barchard, 1982 – Dr Brian Watson, 1983 – Les Huston, 1984 – Bill O'Callaghan JP, Tom Newton, 1985 – Allen Gore*, Mel Clinton OBE, 1988 – Bill Nesbitt, “Bud” Lisle* MNZM, Bill Whitehead* QSM, 1989 – Bob Aynsley, 1990 – Jim Campbell* MNZM, 1991 – Bill Sorensen, 1993 – George Rainey, 1994 – “Ted” Gutberlet QSM, John McKeown, 2000 – Crispin Easterbrook, 2003 – Ray Cranch* MNZM, 2006 – Gerald Ryan ONZM, Don Hammond*, 2007 – Peter Kerridge* JP & MNZM, 2008 – Lory Blanchard MNZM, Bernie Wood MNZM, 2009 – Howie Tamati* MBE, 2010 – John Bray*, 2012 – David Robinson, 2013 – Ray Haffenden* MNZM, Trevor Maxwell*, 2014 – Mrs Cathy Friend* QSM & DSA, 2015 – Jack Fagan, Sel Pearson*, Brian Reidy, 2016 – Sir Peter Leitch KNZM & QSM*, 2017 – Cherie Steele-Shanks*, 2018 – John Coffey *

*current life members

Current Life Members

John Bray, Jim Campbell, John Coffey, Ray Cranch, Cathy Friend, Allen Gore, Ray Haffenden, Don Hammond, Peter Kerridge, Sir Peter Leitch, Bud Lisle, Trevor Maxwell, Sel Pearson, Cherie Steele-Shanks, Howie Tamati, Bill Whitehead.

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Rugby League House

7 Beasley Avenue, Penrose 1061, Auckland

PO Box 12 712, Penrose 1642, Auckland

Phone: +64 9 525 5592

Fax: +64 9 525 5596

email: admin@NZRL.co.nz

website: NZRL.co.nz