



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 / 2018

CONTENTS



17,000

SUPPORTERS PART OF
THE 'BE A SPORT' SIDELINE
CAMPAIGN



33

CLUBS

INVOLVED IN THE CHAMPION CLUB
PROGRAMME WHICH INCLUDED 15 CLUBS
UNDERTAKING THE 'STATE OF MIND' WORKSHOP



50%

INCREASE

VOLUNTEER
REGISTRATIONS



459,200

**FACEBOOK
FANS**

UP BY
8,200



27,100

**TWITTER
FOLLOWERS**

UP BY
2,800



30,100

**INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS**

UP BY
4,900

CONTENTS

From the Chairman & Acting CEO.....	4	League 4 Life.....	32
New Zealand Kiwis.....	6	Physical Disability Rugby League	33
Kiwi Ferns.....	9	New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League.....	35
Junior Kiwis	10	New Zealand Defence Force Rugby League	37
Development	12	New Zealand Police Rugby League	38
New Zealand Schools Selection.....	13	Coaching	39
New Zealand Resident 16s	14	Referees	40
New Zealand Secondary Schools	16	Commercial	42
Youth	17	Communications.....	43
Women	18	2017 Awards.....	44
Premiership	19	Financial Statements.....	46
Community	20	Auditor's Report.....	60
Wellbeing.....	24	Life Members.....	61
Zones.....	26	Our People	62
Museum.....	30	Sponsors & Partners	63
Māori Rugby League	31		



Reon Edwards



Hugh Martyn

“The Castle Report has driven changes that are in play at the time of writing this report which include recruiting a new CEO and recruiting an experienced, qualified High Performance Manager.”

FROM THE CHAIRMAN & ACTING CEO

The last twelve months have been a challenging time for New Zealand Rugby League. The Kiwis exiting the Rugby League World Cup in the quarter finals was a particularly low point. The many achievements during the year were, in large part over shadowed by the disappointing result in the Rugby League World Cup.

The outcome of the Rugby League World Cup and the findings of The Castle Report that followed that campaign, have been a catalyst for substantial change within NZRL. That said some of the changes at NZRL preceded the Rugby League World Cup in that The Board has a new Chairman and three new Directors have joined the Board. The Board is absolutely focused on growing the game from the grassroots level right through to the elite level.

We have already made some changes as a result of The Castle Report with the opening up of the Kiwis Head Coach position to non-New Zealand residents and with the appointment of a specialised recruitment panel both for the selection of the Head Coach and to assist in player selection.

The Castle Report has driven changes that are in play at the time of writing this report which include recruiting a new CEO and recruiting an experienced, qualified High Performance Manager. The Board is also looking to recruit a Board member with experience in implementing high performance programmes. We believe that with these additional resources we will have the skill-set to implement all the recommendations of The Castle Report. The bulk of those recommendations will be implemented by the end of the 2018 calendar year.

The Board has also chosen to revisit the draft Strategic Plan that had been circulated earlier in the year. We want to ensure that the Strategic Plan adopts the recommendations of The Castle Report. Just as importantly we want to take some more time to engage with our Zones so

that we are confident that the plan best reflects the direction that our communities want for our great game and all those involved in it.

As stated earlier there were many positives during the year. They include to mention but a few: The Kiwi Ferns making the final of the Rugby League World Cup, the opportunity to expand our game into North America, new sponsorship agreements with Save My Bacon and Mainstream, and many more that will be highlighted throughout this report.

We finish the year with a sense of optimism that we are making changes that will deliver better outcomes at all levels. We are conscious that this can take time but we can say there is a heightened spirit of wanting to further and better engage with the rugby league community for better outcomes. There is also a confidence that with the changes being made, we will have better resources, and be better positioned to help in delivering those outcomes.

Reon Edwards
NZRL CHAIR



Hugh Martyn
NZRL DEPUTY CHAIR





NEW ZEALAND KIWIS

A cold and disappointing night in Canberra saw old foes, the Kangaroos come out on top with a 30-12 victory. The battling Kiwis defence was tested and stretched on many occasions and despite racking up more metres run than their opposition, they couldn't convert their early attempts on attack into points.

Leaving the anguish of the ANZAC Test behind, the Kiwis embarked on their 2017 Rugby League World Cup campaign in high spirits. Playing on home soil for the first time since 2014, their campaign started with the much anticipated match-up against Samoa. The buzz of the home crowd gave the Kiwis the edge as they scored five unanswered tries in the second half to blow the scoreline out to 38-8 on the final whistle.

After an evenly matched 18-all draw when the two teams last went head to head in Workington, the Kiwis were not about to show mercy against Scotland. In front of a roaring Christchurch stadium, the boys in black and white amassed a staggering 14 tries, both Peta Hiku and Te Maire Martin collecting hat-tricks, - final score, 74 -6.

Then came the clash that would see traffic jams from Auckland to Hamilton as Kiwis and Tongan supporters packed into FMG Stadium. Fans watched on as New Zealand took a 16-2 lead in the opening 40 minutes, but a relentless

Tongan side fought back. They managed to bridge the gap to 16-12 and with a surge, found themselves in the lead a few minutes out from the siren where they would stay - the Kiwis going down 28-22.

A much needed comeback from the Kiwis was not to be. In a gruelling quarter-final against Fiji, both teams were kept tryless, one penalty goal being the difference that sent Fiji through to the semi-final. While they couldn't crack the Kiwis brick wall defence, a 4-2 victory was enough.

The 2017 Rugby League World Cup saw the first time a Kiwis team hasn't appeared in a World Cup semi-final and following this result, a full review of the campaign was conducted by Tim Castle and Raelene Castle (not related). This identified the need to provide more high performance expertise to the head coach ahead of the ground-breaking Test in Denver set to take place on 23 June. This Test will showcase the highest level of rugby league to the North American market at the 76,000 capacity Mile High Stadium.



ANZAC TEST 2017

**5 May, Canberra Stadium,
Canberra, Australia**

NZ KIWIS 12 (Mannering, Tuivasa-Sheck tries; Kahu 2 goals)
KANGAROOS 30 (Dugan, Ferguson, Chambers, Frizell, Trbojevic tries; Thurston 5 goals)

Team:

Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Russell Packer, Martin Taupau, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Bradley Takairangi, Joseph Tapine, Addin Fonua-Blake, Kodi Nikorima, Danny Levi, Te Maire Martin, Gerard Beale, Jordan Rapana, Peta Hiku, Kenny Bromwich, Elijah Taylor, Dean Whare, Shaun Johnson, Thomas Leuluai, Adam Blair (Captain), Jason Nightingale, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Simon Mannering, Isaac Liu

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2017

**27 October, Mt Smart
Stadium, Auckland**

NZ KIWIS 38 (Rapana, Johnson, Takairangi, Nikorima, Liu, Tuivasa-Sheck, Asofa-Solomona tries; Johnson 5 goals)
SAMOA 8 (Maumalo, Paulo tries)

**4 November, Christchurch
Stadium, Christchurch**

NZ KIWIS 74 (Hiku 3, Martin 3, Nightingale 2, Bromwich, Tapine, Packer, Whare, Johnson, Taylor tries; Johnson 9 goals)
SCOTLAND 6 (Thomas try; Addis goal)

**11 November, Waikato
Stadium, Hamilton**

NZ KIWIS 22 (Tuivasa-Sheck 2, Rapana, Watene-Zelezniak tries; Johnson 3 goals)
TONGA 28 (Fusitua 3, Hopoate, Lolohea tries; Taukeiaho 3, Lolohea goals)

**18 November, Wellington
Stadium, Wellington**

KIWIS 2 (Johnson Penalty Goal)
FIJI 4 (Apisai Koroisau 2 Penalty Goal)

Team:

Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Russell Packer, Martin Taupau, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Bradley Takairangi, Joseph Tapine, Addin Fonua-Blake, Kodi Nikorima, Danny Levi, Te Maire Martin, Gerard Beale, Jordan Rapana, Peta Hiku, Kenny Bromwich, Elijah Taylor, Dean Whare, Shaun Johnson, Thomas Leuluai, Adam Blair (Captain), Jason Nightingale, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Simon Mannering, Isaac Liu

Coach: David Kidwell

Assistant Coach: Ben Gardiner

Team Manager: Nadene Conlon



CONTENTS

KIWI FERNS

ANZAC TEST 2017

**5 May, GIO Stadium,
Canberra, Australia**

KIWI FERNS 4 (Tupaea try)
JILLAROOS 16 (Kelly, Kunst,
Temara try; Moran goal)

Team:

Corrina Whiley, Va'anessa Molia-Fraser, Crystal Tamarua, Krystal Rota, Nora Maaka, Madison Bartlett, Langi Veainu, Lilieta Maumau, Annetta Nuuausala, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Laura Mariu, Bunty Kuruwaka-Crowe, Atawhai Tupaea, Alexandra Walker, Sarina Clark (Captain), Hilda Peters, Ngatokotoru Arakua, Georgia Hale

Coach: Tony Benson

Assistant Coach: Michael Linton

Manager: Elizabeth Richards

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2017

**16 November, Southern Cross
Group Stadium, Cronulla,
Australia**

KIWI FERNS 50 (Hireme 2,
Fotu-Moala 2, Maumau 2,
Tupaea, Murray, Nicholls-Pualau
tries; Nati 7 goals)
CANADA 4 (Pakulias try)

**20 November, Southern Cross
Group Stadium, Cronulla,
Australia**

KIWI FERNS 76 (Hireme 6,
McGregor 2, Woodman 2, Murray
2, Maumau, Maynard tries; Nati 10
goals)
COOK ISLANDS 0

**23 November, Southern Cross
Group Stadium, Cronulla,
Australia**

KIWI FERNS 52 (Mariu, Hireme
3, Peters 2, Murray 2, Fotu-Moala,
Woodman, Feterika; Nati 4 goals)
ENGLAND 4 (Stanley try)

**2 December, Suncorp
Stadium, Brisbane, Australia**

KIWI FERNS 16 (Hireme 2,
McGregor tries; Nati 2 goals)
JILLAROOS 23 (Kelly 2, Moran,
Walton tries; Moran 3 goals,
field goal)

Team:

Raquel Anderson, Ngatokotoru Arakua, Sharlene Atai, Maitua Feterika, Teuila Fotu Moala, Louisa Gago, Georgia Hale (VC), Honey Hireme, Amber Kani, Bunty Kuruwaka-Crowe, Laura Mariu (C), Lilieta Maumau, Nita Maynard, Raecene McGregor, Krystal Murray, Kimiora Nati, Apili Nicholls-Pualau, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Hilda Peters, Kahurangi Peters, Krystal Rota, Aeshaleigh Smalley, Atawhai Tupaea, Shontelle Woodman

Coach: Tony Benson

Assistant Coach: Michael Linton

Manager: Elizabeth Richards



JUNIOR KIWIS

2017 JUNIOR KIWIS V JUNIOR KANGAROOS

5 May, GIO Stadium, Canberra, Australia

JUNIOR KANGAROOS 46 (Roberts-Davis 2, Robson 2, Stone, Radley, Field, Su'A, Allan tries; Field 5 goals)

JUNIOR KIWIS 22 (Marsters, Aukafolau, Luai, Nikora tries; Herbert 3 goals)

Team:

Briton Nikora, Caleb Fuimaono, Chanel Harris-Tavita, Dane Aukafolau, Emry Pere, Erin Clark, Fabien Puletua-Kiri, Greg Leleisiua, Isaiah Papali'i, Jarome Luai, Manase Fainu, Moeaki Fotuaika, Patrick Herbert, Reimis Smith, Sione Katoa, Siosifa Talakai, Sitili Tupouniua, Steven Marsters

Head Coach: Nathan Cayless, **Assistant Coach:** Kelvin Wright,

Manager: Doug Murray





DEVELOPMENT

The innovative new Talent Development Programme (TDP) has been designed to better prepare players working towards a professional career, while keeping players closer to home and playing in local competitions longer. In recent years the week long National Youth Tournament (inter-zone competition for 15s and 17s) has identified the best 80 players who progress to a four day High Performance Camp, with the best of that group selected for New Zealand 16s and New Zealand 18s teams to play against Australian or Pacifica sides of a similar age.

New Zealand has a strong talent pool, with NRL clubs recruiting from across the country. The potential pathways for players overseas is huge. The TDP engaged with over 176 players nationwide, covering on and off-field development areas. The TDP was initiated to setup players long term career success, provide resource and links around health and well-being, promoting the importance of education, exposed to a higher level of training whilst being surrounded with family support to help better develop the aspiring players for the challenges ahead.

NATIONAL TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

24 March, Cornwall Park, Auckland

16s Grand Final

COUNTIES 31 (Jarney Proctor-Harwood, Vailangi Kepu, Taniela Otukolo 2, Shade Shepherd tries; Sione Moala 4 goals; Sione Moala Penalty Goal; Sione Moala Drop Goal)

NORTHERN 26 (Seeti Kusera-Tovao, Naufahu Whyte, Kiardyn Hatch, Leyton Finau, T.J. Devery tries; TJ Devery 2 goals; TJ Devery Penalty Goal)

16s Third and Fourth Playoff

CENTRAL 26 (Tipene Reweti, Daeon Amituanai, Terrance Graham, Dayna Bidois 2 tries; Terrance Graham 2, Jaxyn Tufala goals)

SOUTHERN 18 (Evander Tere-Rongotaua, Blaine Betham-Taape, Heilyn Tuia tries; Nikau Waikato 3 goals)

Awards: MVP - Dayna Bidos, Central

Resident 16s squad:

Central: Dayna Bidois, Legacy Katene, Pita Wilson, Chesire Carson;
Counties: Quinnlan Tupou, Jarney Proctor-Harwood, Jeremiah Margraff, Sione Moala, Vailangi Kepu, Otukinekina Kepu, Taniela Otukolo, Semisi Sikei, Josiah

Karapani; Northern: Leyton Finau, Lani Graham-Taufa, Moala Graham-Taufa, Kiardyn Hatch, T.J. Devery, Samuel McIntyre, Aso Fretton, Naufahu Whyte;
Southern: Uriah Tuli, Evander Tere-Rongotaua, Blaine Betham-Taape, Ilai Tuia

18s Grand Final

NORTHERN 22 (Joseph Onyeke 2, Matagi Blade Kamulemu, Jyris Glamuzina tries; Samuel Kamu 3 goals)

CENTRAL 14 (Tyrese Ratahi, Kayin Katene, Tamati Taylor-Tupaea tries; Brooklyn Herewini goal)

Third and Fourth Playoff

COUNTIES 40 (Stanley Karapani, Mathew Palu, Paea Fotu, Tutuki Kamana-Pou, Talitua Salima 2, Etuale Lui-Toeava, Loritana Leifi tries; William Fakatoumahi 2, Soakai Taufu 2 goals)

SOUTHERN 26 (Jack Skipper, Fabricius Su'a, Griffen Neame, Levi Pascoe, Isiah Tuari tries; Jordan Coleman 3 goals)

Awards: MVP – Brooklyn Herewini, Central

Resident 18s Squad:

Central: Shae Gray, Brooklyn Herewini, Jhai Makiri, Taylor Leef;
Counties: Tutuki Kamana-Pou, Junior Pua, Daylee Dutton, Antonio Aufai, Potusa Fuilala, Penehuro Richard Toa'i, Uneuku Malesala; Northern: Temple Kalepo, Caleb Pese, Victor Afoa, Aiden Aue, Isaiah Vagana, Joseph Onyeke, Deighton Ieriko, Zeniff Asa, Bonowai Baledrokadroka, Leroy Ferguson; Southern: Caius Fa'atilli, Fabricius Sua, Maui Wallace, Dallas McEwan



NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS SELECTION

NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS TEAM V NSW COMBINED HIGH SCHOOLS

October 4, Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TEAM 44 (Kayal Iro, Starford To'a 2, Awatere Kiwara, Sione Moala 2, Tom Ale, Nitoe Kairau tries; Sione Moala 6 goals)
NSW COMBINED HIGH SCHOOLS 4 (Tremayne Chatfield try)

October 7, Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TEAM 52 (Selesitino Ravutaumada 3, Christian Tuipulotu, Awatere Kiwara, Jordan Riki, Samuel Nati, Starford To'a, Jonathon Aumua-Falelua-Malio, Patrick Elia tries; Konrad Tu'ua 5 goals)
NEW SOUTH WALES COMBINED HIGH SCHOOLS 6 (Franklin Pele try; Chris Holten goal)

Team:

Konrad Tu'ua (Kelston Boys' High School), Jonathan Aumua-Falelua-Malio (Kelston Boys' High School), Aiden Aue (Kelston Boys' High School), Awatere Kiwara (Manukura), Javvier Pitovao (Mt Albert Grammar School), Kayal Iro (Mt Albert Grammar School), Hayze Perham (Rotorua Boys' High School), Selesitino Ravutaumada (Rotorua Boys' High School), Tom Ale (Rotorua Boys' High School), Tukimihia Simpkins (Rotorua Boys' High School), Samuel Nati (Southern Cross Campus), Nitoe Kairau (Southern Cross Campus), William Fakatoumahi (Southern Cross Campus), Star To'a (St Paul's College), Sione Moala (St Paul's College), Christian Tuipulotu (St Paul's College), Lewis Sio (St Paul's College), Caius Fa'atili (St. Thomas of Canterbury), Patrick Elia (St. Thomas of Canterbury), Jordan Riki (St. Thomas of Canterbury), Mateaki Inisi (Westlake Boys' High School)

Coach: Duane Mann, **Assistant Coach:** Phil Gordan, **Manager:** Alana Lockhurst



NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT 16S V NEW ZEALAND MAORI 17S

22 July, Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT 16S 32 (Nathaneal Sasagi 2, Temple Kalepo, Caius Fa'atili, Caleb Pese tries; Tuinamo Tepulolo 5 goals; Tuinamo Tepulolo penalty) **NEW ZEALAND MAORI 17S 28** (Te Mana Te Maari, Wipere Takitumu, Tyrin Ona Murphy, Jordan Riki, Tane Wiki tries; Samuel Kamu, Leighman Hohaia Katene 3 goals)

New Zealand Resident 16s team:

Akarana: Christian Tuipulotu, Jyris Glaumuzina, Nathaneal Sasagi, Temple Kalepo, Jona Polota-Kopa, Junior Tuleisu, Tuinamo Tepulolo; Counties: Aamon Dean, Diaz Taihia, Kaya Cuthers, Marco Talagi, Semisi Tapa, Xavier Stevens-Teo; Southern: Caius Fa'atili, Griffin Neame, Leroy Ferguson; Upper Central: Rayna Whakaari; Auckland Vulcans: Caleb Pese

Head Coach: Andrew Aumatagi, **Assistant Coach:** Cody Walker, **Manager:** Mel Mather

NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT 18S V TAURAHERE

23 September, Bruce Pulman Park, Auckland

NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT 18S 28 (Hayze Perham 2, Mike Williams, Jordan Riki, Seth Tauamiti tries; Dylan Tavita 4 goals) **TAURAHERE 10** (Kea Pere, Jackson Paulo tries; Mawene Hiroti goal)

New Zealand Resident 18s team:

Upper Central: Hayze Perham, Sheldon Rogers; Akarana: Mikey Williams, Matt Timoko, Emanuel Gerard Tuimavave, Soane Hufanga, Lewis Sio, Javvier Pitovao, Tyler Slade, Kayal Iro; Mid Central: Awatere Kiwara, Wesley Veikoso; Counties Manukau: Dylan Tavita, Dredin Sorenson-McGee; Southern: Seth Tauamiti, Jordan Riki, Daniel Sakisi; Northland: Paul Turner

Head Coach: Moehewa Armstrong, **Assistant coach:** Alan Ettles, **Manager:** Ben Vaipaata,

Taurahere team:

Brisbane Broncos: Dre Ngatui-Woe; Cronulla Sharks: Fine Kula; Gold Coast Titans: Darius Farmer, Jackson Paulo; Manly Sea Eagles: Zaane Weatherall, Mark Tepu-Smith; North Queensland Cowboys: Peter Hola, Sean Mullany; Parramatta Eels: Joseph Taipari, Vallance Harris; South Sydney Rabbitohs: Mawene Hiroti; St. George Illawarra Dragons: Steven Marsters; Melbourne Storm: Kelma Tuilagi, Kea Pere; Sydney Roosters: Baylee Bentley-Hape, Phillip Makatoa; Canberra Raiders: Ranapiri Baker, Aublix Kaharoa-Tawha

Head Coach: Rangi Hiroti, **Assistant Coach:** Tim McIntyre, **Manager:** Antony Bosley

NEW ZEALAND 18S SELECT V AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS

26 September, Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

NEW ZEALAND 18S SELECT 18 (Dray Ngatuere-Wroe, Lewis Sio, Seth Tauamiti tries; Baylee Bentley-Hape 2 goals)

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 26 (Ky Rodwell, David Fifita, Luke Huth, James Roumanos tries; Zac Lomax 4 goals; Zac Lomax penalty goal)

Awards:

Australian Schoolboys Most Valuable Player of the Match – David Fifita

New Zealand 18s Select Most Valuable Player of the Match – Dredin Sorensen

New Zealand 18s Select:

Upper Central: Sheldon Rogers; Akarana: Mikey Williams, Emanuel Gerard Tuimavave, Lewis Sio, Javvier Pitovao, Kayal Iro; Mid Central: Awatere Kiwara, Wesley Veikoso; Counties Manukau: Dredin Sorensen-McGee; Southern: Seth Tauamiti, Daniel Sakisi; Brisbane Broncos: Dre Ngatui-Woe; Manly Sea Eagles: Zaane Weatherall, Mark Tepu-Smith; South Sydney Rabbitohs: Kea Pere; Sydney Roosters: Baylee Bentley-Hape; Canberra Raiders: Ranapiri Baker, Aublix Kaharoa-Tawha

NEW ZEALAND 18S V AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS

30 September, Trust Arena, Henderson, Auckland

NEW ZEALAND 18S 8 (Mawene Hiroti, Dylan Tavita tries)

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 40 (Campbell Graham, Bronson Xerri, Tanah Boyd 2, David Fifita 2, Jesse Cronin tries; Zac Lomax 6 goals)

Awards:

MVP New Zealand 18s - Dylan Tavita

MVP Australian Schoolboys - Tanah Boyd

New Zealand 18s:

Upper Central: Hayze Perham; Akarana: Matt Timoko, Tyler Slade, Soane Hufanga; Northland: Paul Turner; Southern: Jordan Riki; Counties Manukau: Dylan Tavita; St George Illawarra Dragons: Steven Marsters; Gold Coast Titans: Jackson Paulo, Darius Farmer; South Sydney Rabbitohs: Mawene Hiroti; Parramatta Eels: Joseph Taipari, Vallance Harris; Cronulla Sharks: Fine Kula; North Queensland Cowboys: Peter Hola, Sean Mullany; Melbourne Storm: Kelma Tuilagi; Sydney Roosters: Phillip Makatoa



NZRL NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT AWARDS 2017

IT'S NOT OK BEST AND FAIREST - PREMIERSHIP

*Jonathan Aumua-Falelua-Malio
(Kelston Boys' High School)*

FAIR PLAY TEAM

Wesley College

TRAINER OF THE TOURNAMENT

*Tana Aumua
(Manukura)*

COACH OF THE TOURNAMENT

*Safotu Filipo
(Onehunga High School)*

BEST CULTURAL SALUTE

James Cook High School

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

*Tom Ale
(Rotorua Boys' High School)*

MORE THAN JUST A GAME TEAM AWARD

Marcellin College

MANAGER OF THE TOURNAMENT

*Brian Stevenson
(Marcellin College)*

IT'S NOT OK BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS – DEVELOPMENT

*Blake Patterson
(Trident High School)*

NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

NZRL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

4 September – 8 September, Pulman Park, Auckland

PREMIERSHIP FINAL - SOUTHERN CROSS CAMPUS 44 (Nitoa Kairau 2, Fua Schwalger 3, Paea Fotu, Samiuela Fisiitalia, Dawson Mele tries; Samuel Nati 6 goals) **KELSTON BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 0**

DEVELOPMENT FINAL - HAEATA COMMUNITY CAMPUS 8 (Elijah Brennan, Tama Keelan tries) **MARCELLIN COLLEGE 30** (Emanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard, Leo Fo'ou, Elijah Etuale, Tevita Po'ese, Vito Tevaga tries; Emanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard 5 goals)

FINAL PLACINGS

Premiership

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Southern Cross Campus | 9 Aorere College |
| 2 Kelston Boys' High School | 10 Westlake Boys' High School |
| 3 St Paul's College | 11 Wesley College |
| 4 St Thomas of Canterbury | 12 Manurewa High School |
| 5 Rotorua Boys' High School | 13 James Cook High School |
| 6 Tokoroa High School | 14 Southern Cross Campus B |
| 7 Mt Albert Grammar School | 15 Papatoetoe High School |
| 8 Manukura | 16 Dargaville High School |

Development

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 17 Marcellin College | 23 Tai Wananga |
| 18 Haeata College | 24 Papakura High School |
| 19 Trident High School | |
| 20 Onehunga High School | |
| 21 Francis Douglas Memorial College | |
| 22 Nae Nae College | |



YOUTH

NZRL NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT

2 October – 6 October, Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

15S FINAL – AKARANA 10 (Sione Tapuosi 2 tries; T.J. Tevery goal)
AUCKLAND VULCANS 8 (Dominic Elliot try; Sefa Roach 2 goals)

FINAL PLACINGS

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

AWARDS

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

Auckland Vulcans

FINAL MVP

Benjamin Kosi

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Benjamin Kosi (Auckland Vulcans)

FAIR PLAY AWARD

Northern Swords

MANAGER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Dan Pinn (Akarana)

TRAINER OF THE TOURNAMENT

John Hansen (Akarana)

COACH OF THE TOURNAMENT

Daniel McEwan (Wellington)

REFEREES CHOICE – REFEREE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Daniel Price

REFEREE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Rochelle Tamarua

17S FINAL - COUNTIES MANUKAU 26 (Penehuro Richard Toai, Paea Fotu, Tyrin Ona-Murphy, Daylee Dutton, Tevita Mikaele, Etuale Lui-Toeava tries; Tevita Mikaele 4 goals) **AKARANA FALCONS 18** (Caleb Pese, Matagi-Blade Kamulemu tries; Regan McClennan 2 goals)

FINAL PLACINGS

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

AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Semisi Tapa (Auckland Vulcans)

FAIR PLAY AWARD

Northern Swords

COACH OF THE TOURNAMENT

Tusa Lefala (Counties Manukau)

MANAGER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Junie Shelford (Northern)

TRAINER OF THE TOURNAMENT

John Tuala (Mid Central)

REFEREES CHOICE – REFEREE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Daniel Price

REFEREE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Rochelle Tamarua



WOMEN

NZRL NATIONAL WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

3 June – 5 June, Cornwall Park, Auckland

FINAL – COUNTIES MANUKAU STINGRAYS 18 (Atawhai Tupaea, Krystal Rota, Hilda Peters, Joephy Daniels tries; Kimiora Nati goal) **AKARANA 14** (Madison Bartlett, Shontelle Woodman, Crystal Tamarua tries; Laishon Jones goal)

FINAL PLACINGS

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

AWARDS

FINAL MVP

Lilieta Maumau (Counties Manukau)

BEST BACK

Apili Nicholls-Pualau (Counties Manukau)

BEST FORWARD

Kailey Thompson (Akarana)

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Sharlene Atai (Akarana)

FAIR PLAY AWARD

Mid Central

COACH OF THE TOURNAMENT

Rod Ratu (Counties Manukau)

MANAGER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Jackie Tuala (Mid Central)

REFEREE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Antoinette Watts

TRAINER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Lazir Mischewski (Mid Central)



PREMIERSHIP

NZRL NATIONAL PREMIERSHIP

7 October, Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland

NATIONAL PREMIERSHIP FINAL - AKARANA FALCONS 30 (Siliga Kepaoa, Daniel Reuelu-Buchanan, Taylor Daniels, Philip Kingi, Cole Waaka tries; Mark Graham 5, goals) **WAIKATO 4** (Eric Taiulu try)

AWARDS

FINAL MVP – Taylor Daniels

NZ RESIDENTS V NZ MAORI

14 October, Pulman Park, Auckland

NZ RESIDENTS 16 (Cole Waaka, Jordan Tuarae 2 tries; Aaron Jolley 2 goals)

NZ MAORI 22 (Dean Kouka-Smith, Royden Gillett, Manaia Osborne, Piki Rogers tries; Patrick Herbert 3 goals)

Team:

Philip Kingi, Sala Falelua-Malio, Joseph Price, Daniel Reuelu-Buchanan, Polima Siaki, Jordan Tuarae, Zac Tippins, Cole Waaka, Jeremy Siulepa, Uila Aiolupo, George Edwards, John Vuetibau, James Baxendale, Erwin Sauni, Reuben Te Amo, Aaron Jolley, Darren Kingi, Dana Ratu



COMMUNITY

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

In its final year, the 'More Than Just a Game' agreement with the Ministry of Education, ACC, Health Promotion Agency and Ministry of Social Development continued to develop.

The focus of the agreement was to see the rugby league community more engaged, connected and leading within their communities. During the year NZRL contracted Denise Bijoux, from Inspiring Communities, to undertake an appreciative inquiry. This report, in which feedback was taken from participants, reported against the key deliverables in the agreement: NZRL Playgroups, the 'Champion Club' programme and 'League Wise' education of representative players.

RESULTS FROM THE INQUIRY INCLUDED:

- Community Playgroups have seen approximately 1,000 children enrolled and go through 16 playgroups based at sports clubs. Over 70% of families feel that their children are better prepared to transition to another form of education (kindergarten or school)
- The 'Be a Sport' programme was released nationally in 2017 to six Zones, 12 Districts, 61 Venues. More than 17,000 spectators have been sideline at either an event or a weekly rugby league game to see this in action (see below in legacy section for more information)
- The Champion Club programme is now being implemented into 33 clubs. Many other clubs have some form of social programme and connection to health providers and NZRL and the Zones now have a better ability to connect and link clubs and Districts with the right organisations to address the social needs within each community
- League Wise had a large reach with over 6,000 players being involved in a workshop that educated them in the areas of career, character and health. The ethnic breakdown of players that attended these workshops was: 30% Maori, 30% Samoan, 20% Other Pacific Islander, 15% Pakeha, 5% Other

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

- Everyone who participated in the discussion groups suggested rugby league represents a reason to be proud of the game, the local club, District, Zone and the people involved. This pride is also about increased community connection, cohesion and caring for one another beyond the field and club
- Community support for activities happening in league clubs, such as playgroups and State of Mind, is bringing a wider range of people to the clubs and to play the game
- Positive experiences of sideline and after match behaviour are contributing to an improved atmosphere at games and in clubrooms, and this is changing experiences of league as well as perceptions of the game among those not directly involved

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

- Some areas require more education about what the 'More Than Just A Game' programme contributes to the strategic focus of rugby league in New Zealand
- Some participants suggested that focusing investment at a club level, with support from NZRL, would yield strong results. This would allow them to build on existing strengths, assets and people who often have deep personal connections and local knowledge as well as a desire to improve local people

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUPS

In four years, the community playgroups programme has grown, from the initial two clubs in South Auckland, to 16 clubs spread from Northland to Taranaki managed by Community Playgroups Manager, Marissa Holland.

Buy-in and on-going support from the club committee continues to be the key to success. Where the support is strong, and the committees see the benefit of the community connectedness, the members of the playgroups are more comfortable in their environment and secure in their sense of belonging. This then leads to higher attendance rates in these clubs.

On top of the benefits from social interactions, NZRL staff have linked health and well-being organisations such as the Ministry of Education Early Reading Together, New Zealand Mental Health Foundation, Waipera Trust and Bader Health Clinic, to support both children and their caregivers or parents involved in playgroups.

“Our club whakapapa is our history and our future. Looking after each other is not a new concept, it’s what we’ve always done and that helps make the future brighter [for our members]”

“More Than Just A Game’ provides a point of difference for the sport, no one else has picked up on the fact that sport is all encompassing and can enhance communities”

“We drink water now, all of us. He [small child] was hard out into fizzy at the start of the year but not now, we all drink water. It’s changed the way we drink stuff. And I heard about that at league, I never knew that before.”

LEVERAGE AND LEGACY PROGRAMME

NZRL implemented a strong legacy plan for the Rugby League World Cup 2017. Its key strategy was to grow the game and strengthen our community while leveraging National and Zone events to promote the RLWC2017 tournament nationally. National Legacy Manager, Kirsty Sharp, supported by the Zones and the Development Officer network, achieved outstanding results towards the following objectives:

OBJECTIVE ONE:

To promote the RLWC2017 to the wider rugby league community

19 Festival Days run throughout New Zealand which attracted approximately 3,800 participants and 13,500 estimated spectators. These Festival Days were attached to existing Zone events, meaning there was a wide range of participants and variety in delivery; from primary and secondary schools, junior through to senior, club, regional, Zone and national tournaments.

OBJECTIVE TWO:

Strengthen relationships between schools and clubs by providing clear pathways and support for youth

The RLWC2017 Education Pack was developed to include a classroom resource which aligned to several subject areas within the Year 5-8 curriculum and a practical resource Backyard League (BYL), which contains messages about warm-ups and hydration. This was promoted by Development Officers within their Zones working specifically on establishing clusters where schools can easily be aligned to clubs. The Backyard League resource was also used through Sport New Zealand's 'Play Sport' pilots which provided learnings for expansion in 2018.

OBJECTIVE THREE:

Enhance volunteer experience and capability on and off the field

Throughout 2017, a stronger link was established with the Development Officers' network and a resource was developed to assist them with building volunteer and club capability over a twelve month period, with different focuses every two months to align with club activities.



OBJECTIVE FOUR:**Develop a sustainable plan addressing sideline behaviour**

In 2016, NZRL made a commitment to address the sideline behaviour at junior league games. The 'Be a Sport' (BAS) programme was developed by Auckland Rugby League in 2014 and in 2017, was launched by NZRL (supported by Southern Trust) in all junior league programmes and along with its four national tournaments it is estimated within the first year it reached 90 clubs, 500 teams and over 10,000 spectators per week. The next stage is to build a 'Be a Sport' education programme which will help grow consistency in its implementation and a greater understanding of why it is so important to our game. The next step is to ensure a consistent product is delivered nationally.

OBJECTIVE FIVE:**Support the increase of quality club and playing facilities**

As a result of hosting the RLWC2017 and discussions held with various councils and funders, three facility upgrades were fast tracked:

- Christchurch - both Aranui and Hornby grounds were scheduled for maintenance work within the next five years. These were both completed in 2017 and used by the tournament teams in their game preparations
- Auckland – Mt Smart, scheduled council upgrade included higher specifications to fulfil international standards for the RLWC2017 games
- The Facilities Group created off the back of hosting the NRL 9's in Auckland, secured \$2 million in funding over a three year period to support the priority plan for upgrades of Auckland Clubs



WELLBEING

2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT – WELLBEING AND EDUCATION

The NZRL not only wants players and officials to be proud of the game they play and love, but also balanced in their approach to life. We want all those who are a part of the rugby league family to achieve success on the field, as well as off it. The NZRL, in partnership with the NRL, is committed to a Wellbeing and Education Pathways Programme that helps develop our athletes and officials into people of character and integrity who are respectful and ethical decision-makers and become strong leaders in the community.

- The CAREERWISE programme has been designed to enhance performance, to help our athletes, male and female, play a better game on the field and in every area of life, including work, school and further education.
- The CHARACTERWISE programme has been designed to help turn our talented athletes into people of integrity and character; who are good teammates, respectful of themselves and others; and wise and ethical decision-makers
- The HEALTHWISE programme takes a holistic approach to well-being by promoting social, spiritual, psychological and financial health and by providing ongoing support in these areas into retirement from professional rugby league.

Close to 100 Workshops have been delivered to players and staff throughout New Zealand in 2017 to Districts, Zones and National representative teams. Working in partnership with experts in their respective fields, including Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ), LeVa and the NRL, workshops were delivered at camps, tournaments and during representative campaigns. These included (amongst others) ethical decision-making, resilience, mental health, career and education, goal-setting, relocation and elite pathways, agents, recruitment, financial literacy and cultural identity.

Our New Zealand Secondary Schools teams and junior representatives were part of the new Good Clean Sport Youth initiative by DFSNZ with a new workshop developed specifically for rugby league athletes delivered by rugby league ambassadors. These included former Kiwis Ali Lauitiiti, Henry Fa'afili, David Faiumu and Francis Meli.

The Kiwi Ferns ran a 10 week Wellbeing and Personal Development programme leading into their World Cup campaign. The Kiwi Ferns and Kiwis at the 2017 RLWC included Wellbeing Managers as part of their World Cup staff, the only nation to do so.



ZONES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ZONES

AKARANA

- Akarana has five league clubs in the NZRL Community Playgroups programme with attendance on the rise. This continues to build upon the Zone's positive community environment
- The Akarana Premiers once again won the Premiership against Waikato, winning all of their pool games
- The Akarana Women's team lost in the finals in the last 60 seconds against Counties Manukau
- 85 managers obtained their Level One Manager's certificate becoming more aware of LeagueWise safety requirements, learning more effective ways to communicate with children, and gaining more knowledge about their clubs

NORTHLAND

During 2017 the Rugby League Northland (RLN) Board engaged with Governance representatives from other sports organisations to discuss how sports can collaboratively address issues held in common. Across all sports there is a heavy reliance on volunteers, so it is beneficial to be collaborative and connected in how we address the challenges all organisations collectively share.

The Rugby League Northland team saw the addition of Valarie Uilou to the staff in January 2017 bringing 10 years of valuable experience from the game in Sydney, Australia.

The Development staff in their second year as a team, enhanced club development conducting the Coaching courses around cluster

Club areas. With the departure of General Manager Duane Fyfe, Phil Marsh joined the team as the new General Manager.

Highlights for the Zone included:

- A number of RLN Clubs continued with the Club Champions status project that was started late 2016. This is a New Zealand Rugby League (NZRL) led programme designed to enhance the capability levels of the participating clubs
- 65 volunteers were upskilled at coaches' and managers' courses with a new administration course being developed to assist club administrators in the LeagueNet database system
- The number of representative programmes doubled from 2016 with the addition of 16s and 18s entering in the New Zealand Warriors run Ruben Wiki Cup competition, the return of the 13s team to the North Island District tournament and a Northern Swords Women's representative team
- A Women's Northern Swords team was entered in the National Women's Tournament for the first time since 1992. This resulted in an influx of 13s and 15s age-group level girls wanting to play in the Secondary Schools Lightning League tournament
- The National Masters tournament in Rotorua introduced a Women's grade for the first time and Northland was represented by a local team called the Mareikura who won all their games making history in doing so

- Northland's Adam Blair, was named captain for the Kiwis World Cup campaign, while a number of other players who represented Northland in their junior years made waves in the NRL and representative New Zealand rugby league teams
- Chantez Connor, who was the driving force behind the Women's rugby league achievements, also behind the revamp of the Premier competition and helped at the Horahora Broncos, and as such was acknowledged as the NZRL Pirtek Volunteer of the Year

2018 will encompass more of the same with a focus on upskilling volunteers, and recruitment and retention of players and volunteers as we look to grow and develop as a sport of choice for all Northlanders.

MID CENTRAL

- The Mid Central Zone (MCZ) Viper Women's team took home third place at the NZRL National Women's Tournament with a strong competitive edge throughout the tournament
- Confirmation of a second employee, Alan Jackson as Football & Development Manager was a welcomed and experienced addition to the MCZ
- The MCZ Viper Youth 15s and 17s teams showed improvement throughout the NZRL National Youth Tournament resulting from the experienced coaching of Peter Butler (15s) and Haki Herewini (17s). Both coaches will hold the same Head Coach Positions for the 2018 season to build on team culture both on and off the paddock
- The MCZ Coast to Coast Men's Competition allowed for exciting opportunities for the club teams within Manawatu, Hawkes Bay and Taranaki to play in a hard hitting but well executed premier competition which allowed for teams to experience a larger playing pool to attract new players

SOUTHERN

A major focus in 2017 was on clubs and their capability. With a dedicated position based in Dunedin and another in Christchurch. 2017 saw the introduction of

several key programmes and initiatives aimed at assisting clubs. The Develop Your Legacy tool, Health and Safety protocols and self-registration processes are all going to be of help to clubs moving forward. As is the 'Be A Sport' sideline behaviour programme and a continuation of the Champion Clubs programme which has seen clubs in every District introducing initiatives to deal with key health and social issues.

Other highlights for the Southern Zone included:

- In its third year, the Pacific Series was the largest ethnic event in Christchurch received widespread praise, as well as being a finalist in the Sport Canterbury Event of the Year. Involving ethnic groups drawn from the Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Cook Island and Papua New Guinean communities for senior men, women and juniors of all ages. This event was a fantastic lead-in to the Rugby League World Cup quarter final in Christchurch
- The events surrounding the Rugby League World Cup and the supporting resources were a real bonus for the promotion and profile of the game across the South Island. With festivals in each District attracting strong support, a good base now exists to drive interest in the game forward
- The performance of the Scorpions 15s and 17s teams continues to be a feature. A high level of consistency is being achieved with these teams. This has come about because of a continued emphasis on developing players through the summer months through the Southern Zone Youth Development Programme

UPPER CENTRAL

Upper Central Zone faced some challenges in terms of change and diversity, with role changes and the on-going commitment of trying to grow the game across its Districts.

A number of events happened throughout the 2017 season including the Development Hubs, Brisbane Broncos Development Hub, Ruben Wiki Cup, Vodafone Warriors Junior Performance Camp, North Island Districts Tournament, Secondary Schools 9s – Waikato, Secondary School Qualifiers, Women's

Nationals and Youth Nationals. Zone staff also continued to work in clubs and schools providing various tournaments, festivals, workshops and courses throughout the region. Upper Central Zone was also involved with the RLWC campaign for both games that were held in Hamilton in November.

There were a number of successes for the Zone including:

- The Waikato Men's Premier team were finalists in the NZRL Premiership
- Bay of Plenty were in the relegation/promotion game of the NZRL Premiership
- Taniwharau were awarded the NZRL Domestic Club of the Year
- Morgan Kutia was awarded NZRL Domestic Coach of the Year
- A number of players in the Wai-Coa-Bay system gained contracts and trials in Australia
- 12 players were announced in the wider NZRL TDP Programme
- Two Wahine were named in the Kiwi Ferns squad – Raquel Anderson-Pitman and Honey Hireme

COUNTIES MANUKAU

The Counties Manukau Zone has witnessed some significant progress with regards to the establishment of Counties Manukau as both a Zone and a leader for rugby league in the community and across the country. Counties has the largest participant ratio per Zone and has gained recognition throughout the community for rugby league initiatives that have been driven by Kasey King and his small team.

Highlights for the Zone include:

- Participation numbers reached 4,600 (LeagueNet figures) at club level and 8,000 school students including the involvement of 60 primary schools, 38 intermediates, 17 colleges and 14 competitions or tournaments delivered at that level
- 15s Stingrays gained third place
- 17s Stingrays crowned National Champions
- Women's Stingrays crowned National Champions
- Men's Premier Stingrays gained fourth place
- Four Mini/Mod coach courses and five referee courses/workshops delivered





- Representatives included: Seven Kiwis, 15 Kiwi Ferns, three Junior Kiwis, three New Zealand Residents, three 18s Residents, seven 16s Residents, three New Zealand Secondary Schools representatives, two New Zealand Coaches, one New Zealand Manager, two New Zealand Trainers, one New Zealand Physio, 37 NRL players

WELLINGTON

The 2017/18 season for the Wellington Zone saw the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sports Wellington. The importance of this cannot be underestimated and one example of this is how Wellington Rugby League can use this for future funding and grant requests. It ensures Wellington Rugby League has clarity about who they are, what they do, how they operate and how the partnership with Sport Wellington will help to achieve this.

In addition to this, the Wellington Zone identified areas of strength and areas requiring further improvement including:

- Wellington Rugby League was able to arrange having all 2017 Grand Finals played on the same ground on the same day. This allowed supporters and

stakeholders to come to the one venue and watch some scintillating rugby league. The Men's Grand Final was once again taken out by Whiti Te Ra for the second year in a row

- Clubs are eager to lift their efforts for the good of the game across the Zone working alongside the Wellington Rugby League Office and Board. The importance of this is to ensure everyone within the Zone is clear about their contribution, responsibility and accountability to stakeholders. There is a continued desire to increase the support to coaches, managers and volunteer/support staff to build capability within the region
- With the plethora of sports options available to young people, all codes are faced with the challenge of retaining participation numbers. This year Wellington Rugby League has made a deliberate decision to target the 13s Junior grade to promote and celebrate their participation before they move into the secondary school system. The vision is to see these players move onto the 15s and 17s grades and hopefully onto higher honours

MUSEUM

2017 saw the 110th anniversary of rugby league in New Zealand and with that, the 10th anniversary of the Museum Society. With that on reflection, vast advances have happened within the Society both in that time and also over the last year. On the personnel front, Don Hammond has stood aside from the curator role but remains on the committee and he was replaced by Alan Messenger in September 2017.

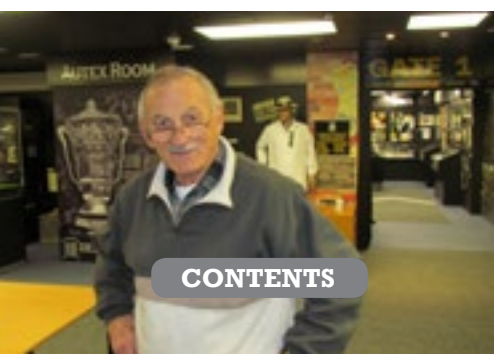
The aim of the Museum Society is to: celebrate, preserve, educate and inspire. To those ends the Museum holds the archives for New Zealand Rugby League and answers numerous enquires annually as to the history of the game in New Zealand.

Visitor numbers to the Museum have increased this year by 12.4% over the last year. Increased opening times, especially in co-ordination with Warriors Games, has helped increase visitor numbers to the Museum.

The Committee has a number of projects underway for the New Year; these include having a new website for the Museum set up and having all Kiwi Test matches, which are currently on disk, available on the site via YouTube. This will give anyone immediate access to any Kiwi Test at any time. Another project involves the preservation and display of an All Gold's section in the Museum; this will encapsulate the beginning of league as a game here in New Zealand.

With further communication with contacts such as The Warriors, Auckland Rugby League and The Carlaw Trust Board, the New Zealand Rugby League Museum will continue to advance.

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 and Alan Messenger (Manager).



MĀORI RUGBY LEAGUE

2017 was a rewarding year for Māori Rugby League. This could not have been achieved without the efforts of its volunteer workforce - the whānau, parents, coaches, supporters, cooks, helpers and administrators who have a key role in ensuring players could take to the rugby league fields for their respective, clubs, waka, rohe and whānau. Kei tēnei tauaki ka whakanui i a koutou katoa... 'ehara te toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini' – these great achievements are not ours alone, but are the results of many contributors.

NZMRL are proud of the continual growth and development of Māori Rugby League reflected in the increased participation of its youth grades, the introduction of the kotiro (girls) sections, the increase in wahine (women's) teams, as well as strong overall representation at tournaments. NZMRL also took advantage of the opportunities that were presented to showcase New Zealand Māori Rugby League players with invitation matches for the Māori Ferns, NZMRL Invitation 13s, the New Zealand Māori 17s and the Kotiro and Tama teams that played Tonga.

Looking to the future - 2018 has already had an exciting start with the joint hosting of the Pacific Youth Cup in Auckland, and two international matches against a National Indigenous Football Championship (NIFC) Men's and Women's representative team in Sydney, Australia. The Rangatahi Tournament is the next key event for our 2018 calendar – Queen's Birthday weekend in Rotorua. Māori culture is what makes New Zealand distinctive in the world, and what

drives the NZMRL kaupapa, strategic direction and future focus.

Other highlights for 2017 include:

- The social media team took the Māori Rugby League profile to another level
- Making international connections with the NIFC to raise the profile of Indigenous Rugby League
- 14 kotiro teams took the field at the Youth Grade tournaments
- 123 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



LEAGUE 4 LIFE

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

League 4 Life supports members of the league community who have experienced injury, illness and disability by providing grants, assistance and support.

In the past year we have helped many people in the rugby league community throughout New Zealand, including Physical Disability Rugby League New Zealand, who achieved a Silver Medal in Australia.

The Foundation thanks all those involved for their support and help in making League 4 Life a New Zealand Rugby League community success.



PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE

2017 was a busy and fruitful year on and off the field for Physical Disability Rugby League New Zealand (PDRLNZ). Off-field our sport rapidly evolved with improvement of our governance and structure. PDRLNZ became an incorporated society, sought NZRL affiliation and set goals for growth of the sport on and off the field. On-field, this new focus led us to great success with the hosting of the inaugural PDRL 9's tournament which was the first international tournament of its kind for Physical Disability Rugby League.

That success was soon followed by the 2018 Rugby League Commonwealth Championships in February this year. The Board were able to find sufficient support and sponsorship to establish an inaugural New Zealand squad to undertake the first overseas tour to play in the Commonwealth Champs in Brisbane.

Members of the New Zealand squad included: Brad Vear (C), Che Fornusek, Bruce Cross (VC), Matthew Williams, Jason Gilmour, Junior Leaupepe, Garry Kingi, Joshua Hyde, Philip Milne, Freeman Hickey, Michael Kulene, Steven Boardman, Gary Endacott, Lee Ngauamo and Lisa Adams. Coaching and team staff included: Head Coach Raymond Greaves, Manager Sandra Hickey, Strapper and Masseuse Fred McGregor, Hydration and support David Kingi and Media Manager Joe Faga from Choca Joe Media.

With all due respect to Australia, the try-less 0-0 golden point loss to the New Zealand team in the final, made not even a fraction of an impact on the psyche of the New Zealand Physical Disability Rugby League team and the public - they had just made history at a world first tournament. Athletes with a physical disability playing rugby league at an international event, live streamed to millions around the globe and winning a silver medal is to be celebrated.

Topping it all off, three PDRLNZ athletes were named for the 2018 World PDRL 9's squad. The team introduced at the formal dinner alongside their able bodied peers, received rousing applause as they entered wearing their World PDRL 9's kit.

Without the support of many, including NZRL, the League 4 Life Foundation, Auckland Rugby League, First Sovereign Trust, Digital Island, Nova Employment, and individual player sponsors Sir Peter Leitch, DNI Electrical, Hilton Haulage, Debtworks New Zealand, Straker Translations, YMCA, Parceline Express and a private donor, the team wouldn't have got there.

PDRLNZ is still learning and further support from within the league fraternity is seen as critical to building on the initial success. That role had been filled by Phil Campbell, the master of Masters Rugby League, but sadly his sudden passing has also left a huge hole for PDRLNZ to fill. Help in identifying that support has now become a top priority for the PDRLNZ Board.

Seeking to capitalise on the increased interest in physical disability rugby league, PDRLNZ's main goals are to find more players, start a local competition, find more league connections to help network and grow the game and find sponsorship to ensure a team can be fielded at the inaugural PDRL World Championships in Sydney in September 2018.

PDRLNZ will play ground-breaking Test matches against England, Hungary and Australia, the first time the countries who play Physical Disability Rugby League will meet. This is still in the early stages of development but a New Zealand squad will be selected to attend.



MASTERS RUGBY LEAGUE

The Masters International Tournament in 2017 was held in Rotorua where 32 teams attended, two of which were from Great Britain, one from Rarotonga, and one Tongan team based in New Zealand. 2017 also marked the inaugural year for the inclusion of two women's teams who also competed in the Masters Competition.

The 2018 Masters of Rugby League tournament will be held in Wellington from 3-7 September. A key focus will be promoting the game in the Wellington region encouraging both men and women, 30-years-old and over to participate in this great game.

Getting the Women's Masters Competition up and running, in conjunction with the men's tournaments, was one of late Phil Campbell's ideas to develop the game and offer the opportunity to women wanting to play. Phil Campbell also started the Masters Competition which saw the game being played in New Zealand, England and Australia. He did so in order to give back to the clubs and in continuing the work he was so passionate about, may he rest in peace and his legacy live on.

NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITIES & TERTIARY STUDENTS RUGBY LEAGUE

The past year for the New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League (NZUTSRL) was resemblant of a roller coaster ride. The NZUTSRL has begun to shift the momentum and begin climbing again and this momentum has continued to this day.

The middle of the year saw the Council's decision to withdraw from competing in the Sydney-based ninth Student World Cup due to financial constraints, a tournament it founded in 1986.

Following NZUTSRL missing its first ever Student World Cup, review processes and internal changes were made, resulting in all but one of the Council members standing down, and its Patron, John Fiso ONZM, taking over as Chairman.

The NZUTSRL Board comprises of the following: Chairman: John Fiso (Wellington); Secretary/Life Member: Carey Clements (Wellington); Treasurer: Mark Pfeifer (Christchurch); Executive: Rebecca Ama (Wellington), Ray Fitiao (Dunedin), Stephen Grice (Wellington), Mel Mather (Christchurch), Bridgette Jackson (Auckland), Tavita Mafi (Wellington), David Marsh (Auckland), Hamish McKenzie (Invercargill), Kenny O'Brien (Wellington), Tea Ropati (Auckland).

A former 1984-90 New Zealand Universities representative, as well as a World XIII representative and later captain of the 1992 Samoan Students World

Cup side, Fiso was the founder and subsequent CEO of the New Zealand Institute of Sport for nearly 20 years, before retiring late in 2017.

His contacts within the sporting industry, as well as Alumni that had played the game at university level, meant the newly reconstituted NZUTSRL Board, has now got a great depth of hard-working, experienced administrators to launch the game. Many of the Board have contributed financially and through tapping into their own contacts.

A case in point was that after just five weeks of planning, the NZUTSRL held a National 9's tournament in Wellington in which eleven men's and four women's student sides from Auckland to Dunedin attended. The 9's Tournament was supported and resourced through the Patron John Fiso, along with Alumni Craig Nodder. Both have cups named in their honour to contest the women's and men's competition respectively. Additional support to assist the Auckland student's side came from Alumni Cameron McGregor and the Auckland Rugby League.



It was also the first time ever the tournament had held a women's tournament and with the selectors keeping busy throughout the two days of competition, both a national men's and an inaugural women's side, were selected, who will now be touring England and Canada, and the United States, respectively in May and June 2018.

To enable these tours to happen, two huge nationwide raffles were held, while other fundraising activities such as a boat cruise around Wellington Harbour and a big fundraising dinner/ auction evening in Auckland for more than 200 guests, which featured Wayne Bennett as a speaker along with former Warriors players and NZRL representatives. Overall, the dinner was a success with support from the Ropati family (especially Board member Tea Ropati), the Fiso Investment Group, the 'Mad Butcher' Sir Peter Leitch, Sky Commentator Stephen McIvor and Events Director, David Marsh.

Internally a South Island tertiary tournament was held in Dunedin at Easter, while planning for another national 9's tournament to be held in Wellington in September. The aim of the new Board is to be courageous on providing high quality experiences for all current and new players and those who are yet to join the NZUTSRL ranks. With that in mind, the NZUTSRL is reviewing all its key stakeholder relationships to improve its sustainability and to deliver quality experiences.

2018 is also the 50th anniversary year since the New Zealand Universities Rugby League Council officially began and in the spirit of its founders, the NZUTSRL looks set to stay for a long time, as a body that not only promotes players at a higher age level, but also endorses growth for future administrators and team officials.



NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE RUGBY LEAGUE

The New Zealand Defence Force Rugby League's (NZDFRL) highlights for 2017 saw both the Men's and Women's NZDFRL teams participate at the Festival of Rugby League World Cups, which was held in Sydney in July. The games were played at various venues throughout the Western Sydney area including games at Pepper Stadium, home of the NRL Club Penrith Panthers. The Defence Forces World Cup Men's pool comprised of New Zealand, Australia, Fiji & the United Kingdom, and the first Defence Force Women's World Cup being played between New Zealand and Australia. NZDFRL was lucky enough to have sponsors Combined Auckland/Christchurch RSA, Craig Walker Building Removals, PSP Limited, and BLK on board to make the trip to Sydney possible.

NZDFRL also took the lead in displaying national flags during the 2017 Rugby League World Cup matches that were played in New Zealand.

2018 will see the continuation of NZDFRL pathways from club to NZDF level participation. Current clubs include:

Devonport Dolphins - Navy - Devonport Navy Base, Auckland

Ohakea Magpies - Air Force - Ohakea Air Force Base, Manawatu

Linton Cobras - Army - Linton Army Base, Manawatu

Trentham Titans - Army - Trentham Army Base, Wellington

Burnham Chevaliers - Army - Burnham Army Base, Christchurch

All Military Clubs participate within the local rugby league District competitions while Military personnel working outside of these camps, or bases, join local rugby league clubs. Military personnel also participate as players, coaches, management (volunteers) at District, Zone and National level.

In March 2018, the Army held its tournament following which the Army Men's and Women's 2018 squads were selected. The Navy and Air Force will look to do the same when their tournaments are held later in 2018. The NZDF squad will be selected at the conclusion of the Inter-Services Tournament in September where the Army, Navy and Air Force will gather at the Ohakea Air Force Base in Manawatu to battle it out.

Sport has always been an integral element of military life. This association with sport stems from the high value that military organisations place on physical fitness, teamwork and camaraderie as essential elements in the military culture. The link between military life and sport activities remains strong to this day.



NEW ZEALAND POLICE RUGBY LEAGUE

New Zealand Police Rugby League (NZPRL) is on a high following its recent successful tour to Vancouver, Canada where they participated in a tri-series involving the Wolverines (Canadian national team), Great Britain Police and the New Zealand Police.

With only a four day turnaround before the first game, the NZPRL team were all business as they set about readying themselves for the match against the Wolverines. Wednesday night rolled around and the team found themselves at John Oliver Park in Delta, British Columbia – a sporting complex surrounded by farmland. It was a perfect night for a game of rugby league where the ground was in excellent condition and those fans that turned up were in for a treat as New Zealand brought home a 30-16 victory.

Another short turnaround was on the cards with a game against the British Columbia Development XIII just four days out from the previous one. Game day rolled around and this time, the New Zealand Police took on the British Columbia Development XIII at the picturesque Klahanie Park in West Vancouver, New Zealand winning 40-4. Rugby league as a sport in Canada is slowly gaining traction. For the first time ever, there is a world Trans-Atlantic rugby league team based in Toronto and playing in a British competition.

Then came a rugged and bruising encounter with old enemies, Great Britain. Drawing the game 8-all, Graham Bennett (Rodney District) finished his Police Rugby League career with a top performance.

Although disappointed with the draw – the NZPRL team could hold their heads high knowing they had achieved their goal of assisting with rugby league development in Canada. This was borne out in the warm welcome from the Canadians, the increasing crowds at the games, and positive responses to their ‘reach-out’ sessions at a Vancouver school and hospital.

Special thanks must go to: Rugby League Development Foundation (New Zealand) Ltd, Police Sport, Stefan Crooks at Westie Pies, Ebbetts Holden Pukekohe, and the New Zealand Police Association for their invaluable contributions that made the tour possible.

2018 looks promising for NZPRL. With participation numbers growing, for the first time ever NZPRL are looking to have a Women’s Rugby League team following an open invitation to go to Canada and face off against their National Women’s side proposed for 2019. Another first for NZPRL would see the inclusion of rugby league 9’s in the Police Winter games for men’s women’s, and masters categories. In addition to this, the NZPRL men’s side will take on its Australian counterpart in the curtain-raiser to the Warriors v Knights game on 10 August.



COACHING

Following on from an impressive 2016, National Coaching Manager Gary Peacham continues to achieve encouraging results around New Zealand. Coaching accreditations continue to align with NRL coaching structures and 2017 saw 414 coaches complete NZRL accreditations. The NZRL coaching community continues to grow and specific focus was placed on building capacity and opportunity. Sustained investment continued to support the building of a coach education network which has further increased coach education opportunities across New Zealand.

Other 2017 highlights included:

- The introduction of the Good Sports programme into coaching accreditations
- All Zone and District staff were up-skilled to deliver Good Sports workshops to clubs
- A series of newly developed coaching workshops were made available for Zones and Districts to deliver
- 90% of Districts and Zones received coaching courses throughout 2017
- The NZRL coach educator network continues to grow in size
- There were four coaches breakfasts held nationally (attended by New Zealand & Tonga coaches)



REFEREES

The 2017 season was one of the most action-packed seasons in recent years. Starting with the Pasifika Tournament in January and ending in December with the Rugby League World Cup.

This provided significant development opportunities for referees. Over 50 referees were appointed to NZRL fixtures and all Zones represented in national appointments.

The NZRL referee community continued to build long term growth and sustainability. The focus was on developing the network through educational courses, the creation of a referee advisory panel and investment in regional referee coaches.

NZRL has taken a proactive approach to the very serious issue of concussion, and in doing so, launched the “Blue Card” programme in all National Tournaments. This raised awareness and education to all stakeholders in the game.

A strong focus has been to continue growing the capacity of the referees’ network. This was demonstrated when Southern Zone’s Cantabrian, Owen Harvey took the reins and successfully managed the referee programme at the Global Games on behalf of NZRL.

NZRL would like to acknowledge the careers and services of international referees Shane Rehm and Anthony Elliott who announced their retirements at the end of the 2017 season. Both have served the Auckland Rugby League Referees Association, NZRL and the NRL with distinction. They have been tremendous leaders both on and off the field, and have been exemplary role models for others to follow.

AWARDS

NZRL REFEREE OF THE YEAR:

Chris McMillan

NZRL SECONDARY SCHOOLS PREMIERSHIP REFEREE OF TOURNAMENT:

Paki Parkinson

NZRL SECONDARY SCHOOLS DEVELOPING REFEREE AWARD:

Taylor Waenga

NZRL NATIONAL YOUTH REFEREE OF TOURNAMENT:

Rochelle Tamarua

NZRL NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT REFEREE’S REFEREE:

Daniel Price

NZRL NATIONAL WOMEN’S REFEREE OF TOURNAMENT:

Antoinette Watts

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 Rugby League World Cup Referee Squad: Chris McMillan
- 2017 Womens Rugby League World Cup Referee Squad: Antoinette Watts

NRL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 NRL Graded Touch Judges: Anthony Elliott and Chris McMillan
- 2017 NRL Nines Squad: Shane Rehm, Anthony Elliott, Chris McMillan, Nathan Barker Pringle, Antoinette Watts and Simon Taylor
- 2017 Holden Cup/NSW Cup: Shane Rehm, Anthony Elliott, Rochelle Tamarua, Antoinette Watts, Chris McMillan, Nathan Barker Pringle, Simon Taylor and Joseph Green

DOMESTIC APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL PREMIERSHIP FINAL: Chris McMillan (referee), Simon Taylor and Rochelle Tamarua (touch)

NATIONAL PROMOTION / RELEGATION FIXTURE: Simon Taylor (referee), Rochelle Tamarua and Nathan Barker Pringle (touch)

NATIONAL 17S FINAL: Rochelle Tamarua (referee), Joseph Green and Paki Parkinson

NATIONAL 15S FINAL: Jaxon McGowan (referee), Zane Richardson and Justyne Matangi Lui

NATIONAL WOMEN'S FINAL: Rochelle Tamarua (referee) and Antoinette Watts

NZ 16S VS NZ MAORI 17S : Paki Parkinson (referee), Daniel Flay and Henare Chadwick (touch)

NZ TAURAHERE 18S VS NZ RESIDENT 18S Simon Taylor (referee), Nathan Barker Pringle and Rochelle Tamara (touch)

NSW COMBINED HIGH SCHOOLS VS NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS: Lance Bullen (referee), Paki Parkinson and Joseph Green (referee)

NEW ZEALAND 18S VS AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS: Chris McMillan (referee), Simon Taylor and Paki Parkinson

NEW ZEALAND 18S VS AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS: Shane Rehm (referee), Joseph Green and Harley Wall

NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS PREMIER FINAL: Paki Parkinson (referee), Rochelle Tamarua and Joseph Green

NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS PLATE FINAL: Graeme Hill (referee), Zane Richardson and Tane Manu (touch)

2017 PASIFICA FINAL 16S: Joseph Green (referee), Tane Manu and Brent Newton (touch)

2017 PASIFICA FINAL 18S: Paki Parkinson (referee), Nick Gibson and Nigel Williams (touch)



COMMERCIAL

In what was a busy year for New Zealand Rugby League, NZRL is excited to re-sign with principal sponsor Pirtek to the end of 2021 and welcome two new major sponsors to the family, Mainstream and Save My Bacon.

Mainstream, a family built and operated integrated supply chain service epitomises the New Zealand Rugby League values. This newly established relationship also saw Mainstream become the principal sponsor of the Kiwi Ferns at an exciting time to be involved in the women's game as NZRL continues to see growth in this area of rugby league. Signing for four years also secures Mainstream's inclusion for the 2021 World Cup.

Save My Bacon comes on board as a young, ethical and innovative online credit solution provider sharing a forward thinking attitude with New Zealand Rugby League. A people driven organisation, Save My Bacon will work closely with New Zealand Rugby League in the wellbeing and financial literacy space.

Macron delivered a unique jersey design for the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns teams as part of the RLWC2017. In recognition of New Zealand's cultural diversity and heritage, the Kiwis jersey featured a combination of past and present players' moko and tattoo while the Kiwi Ferns jersey featured a unique fern design. These jerseys were very well received in the public eye. A refreshed design for 2018 is highly anticipated.

Thanks to improved resourcing NZRL was able to deliver a variety of leverage campaigns in conjunction with sponsors. Highlights include the Pirtek Roadshow which engaged face to face with thousands of rugby league fans across New Zealand including those in the smaller regions such as Gisborne and Fielding.

Additional sponsorship integration opportunities were also created through NZRL's digital media channels with the addition of ad space in the NZRL Insider weekly bulletin and on the website. This included sponsor integration in social media campaigns and live streaming. In doing so, value can be effectively measured for sponsors and as capabilities in this space continue to grow, NZRL will look to capitalise on this further.

COMMUNICATIONS

2017 saw several exciting projects come into fruition for the communications team. Identifying the increasing demand for high quality graphics and video content, NZRL continued to develop capability in the digital and online space.

To leverage NZRL's ever-increasing social media and online community, the introduction of livestreams were developed and tested through various online channels. These livestreams were piloted at the NZRL National Tournaments where an audience of over 150,000 viewers were able to be a part of the action without being constrained by geographical boundaries. Other national media outlets also utilised the livestreams which were embedded in their news stories. NZRL will continue to develop these services while exploring the potential to provide value for its sponsors within these realms.

A new and refreshed website saw the online face of NZRL taken to the next level with a focus on enhancing the user experience. Increased traffic to the website was also the result of the upgrade and its integration with the new look 'NZRL Insider' weekly newsletter.

Combined, NZRL's Facebook videos were viewed 3.9 million times over the year whilst followers of the Kiwis and NZRL pages continue to grow. The introduction of new competitions and interactive social media posts saw 10,000 entries on one post alone, while over half a million followers continue to be informed through NZRL's social media platforms.

The increased interest in women's rugby league saw the Kiwi Ferns profile soar to the next level. While mainstream media outlets profiled several of the players during the Rugby League World Cup, including three time World Cup winner Laura Mariu who played in her fifth and final Women's Rugby League World Cup in 2017, Kiwi Ferns videos and graphics distributed via social media also reached over 200,000 fans. Engagement gained through these behind-the-scenes insights into the life of a Kiwi Fern highlighted just how immense their fan base really is.

Effective communication continues to be an integral part of successful organisations and NZRL will strive to embrace the ever-changing landscape of technology, to meet the needs of all stakeholders.



2017 AWARDS

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Kiwi #779) and Apii Nicholls-Pualau, took home the Kiwis Player of the Year and Women's Player of the Year awards respectively at the New Zealand Rugby League Annual Awards.

The dynamic full-back ended the 2017 World Cup with the equal most tries scored (3), the most carries (72) and the most metres carried (626) for the Kiwis. Head Coach David Kidwell says such achievements were no small feat considering Tuivasa-Sheck had recently returned from a serious knee injury.

"In some cases, it takes a fair amount of time for a player to get back to fine form following such a serious injury, but Roger did everything right and ultimately showed great leadership at the back.

"He's a quality young-man who was a pleasure to coach and I congratulate him for his impressive performances throughout the NRL season and at the 2017 Rugby League World Cup," Kidwell said.

While top honours in the men's category went to Tuivasa-Sheck, Women's Player of the Year was picked up by his female fullback counterpart, Apii Nicholls-Pualau.

After an outstanding season with the seven time National title winning Counties Manukau Stingrays, Nicholls-Pualau was selected to fill the void of previous Kiwi Ferns captain and fullback, Sarina Fiso, who won 2016 Women's Player of the Year. Being named Back of the Tournament, at the National Women's Tournament, was yet another feather in her cap.

Apii took ownership of the number one jersey stamping her mark as the starting Kiwi Ferns fullback for the entirety of the 2017 Rugby League World Cup. She also topped the leader board for kick return metres at the World Cup racking up a massive 279 metres, but Nicholls-Pualau was quick to downplay her accomplishments.

“I’m honoured to even be considered alongside players such as Teuila Fotu-Moala and Krystal Rota, let alone to win this award.

“There are a lot of people I have to thank for their on-going support including my incredible family – without them there is no way I could have dedicated as much time as I did to the sport I love,” she said.

Kiwis Rookie of the Year was won by Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Kiwi #804) who was also a finalist in the top category after bursting onto the international rugby league scene in 2017.

His physicality turned heads at the Rugby League World Cup causing defensive issues for his opposition and World Cup rankings showed he was only second to Roger Tuivasa-Sheck when it came to most carries (56) and metres carried (489).

WINNERS OF ALL 12 NZRL AWARDS CATEGORIES CAN BE FOUND BELOW:

PIRTEK FEMALE VOLUNTEER:

Chantez Connor (Otaika Eagles/Northland)

PIRTEK MALE VOLUNTEER:

Jack Newson (Hornby Panthers/Southern)

GRASSROOTS CLUB:

Taniwharau (Upper Central)

DOMESTIC COACH:

Morgan Kutia (Waikato)

REFEREE:

Chris McMillan (Auckland)

DOMESTIC PLAYER 16S:

Christian Tuipulotu (Akarana)

DOMESTIC PLAYER 18S:

Tyler Slade (New Zealand Warriors)

DOMESTIC PLAYER PREMIER:

Aaron Jolley (Waikato/Hamilton City Tigers)

JUNIOR PLAYER:

Isaiah Papali'i (New Zealand Warriors)

KIWIS ROOKIE:

Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Melbourne Storm)

WOMEN'S PLAYER:

Apii Nicholls-Pualau (Manurewa Marlins/Counties Manukau)

KIWIS PLAYER:

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (New Zealand Warriors)



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors present the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018.

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 \$1,355,000 (2017: \$643,000 surplus) and the consolidated excess of assets over liabilities was \$1,318,000 (2017: \$2,673,000).

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS

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

Reon Edwards (Chairman from Jul17)	Elected June 2015
Hugh Martyn (Vice-Chairman)	Appointed June 2017
John Bishop	Appointed June 2009
Andrew Fraser	Appointed January 2018
William McEntee	Elected June 2016
Tawera Nikau	Elected June 2015
Elizabeth Richards	Appointed June 2017
Garry Fissenden (Chairman)	Resigned June 2017
Timothy Gibson	Resigned June 2017
Jennifer Rolfe	Resigned December 2017

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN TRANSACTIONS WITH THE GROUP

Total remuneration and fees paid to Directors and material 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 2018. 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: 30 May 2018



Director

Date: 30 May 2018

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	NOTES	2018 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
<i>Revenue from exchange transactions:</i>			
Coaching and development		126	141
<i>Revenue from non-exchange transactions:</i>			
Match revenue		883	2,649
Charitable trust grants		1,098	1,123
Other grants		228	648
Sponsorship		5,054	4,720
New Zealand Racing Board		1,027	1,063
Other income		66	141
		8,482	10,485
<i>Expenses:</i>			
Employee benefits expenses	5	(5,274)	(5,474)
Depreciation expense	9	(69)	(64)
General expenses	6	(4,486)	(4,308)
		(9,829)	(9,846)
(Deficit)/Surplus before net financing costs		(1,347)	639
Finance income		2	7
Finance costs		(10)	(3)
Net finance income/(cost)		(8)	4
Surplus for the year		(1,355)	643
Other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year attributable to owners of the controlling entity		(1,355)	643

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS/EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

GROUP	RLWC RESERVE	ACCUMULATED COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES	TOTAL
	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S
Balance as at 1 April 2016	300	1,730	2,030
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	-	643	643
Transfer to RLWC reserve	700	(700)	-
Balance as at 31 March 2017	1,000	1,673	2,673
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 to RLWC reserve	(1,000)	1,000	-
Balance as at 31 March 2018	-	1,318	1,318

The Rugby League World Cup ('RLWC') reserve was created to recognise that the organisation assumes a substantial loss during a World Cup year, and the organisation seeks to build a reserve in the years prior to the tournament to cover the loss. The reserve has been utilised in 2017.

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 2018

	NOTES	2018 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	404	1,680
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	8	648	1,012
Prepayments		90	104
		1,142	2,796
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	1,522	1,568
		1,522	1,568
TOTAL ASSETS		2,664	4,364
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
	-	-	-
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	590	906
Deferred revenue	11	530	623
Employee benefit liability		193	154
Goods and service taxation		33	8
		1,346	1,691
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,346	1,691
EQUITY			
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		1,318	1,673
RLWC reserve		-	1,000
TOTAL EQUITY		1,318	2,673
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		2,664	4,364

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 2018

	NOTES	2018 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from:			
Coaching and development fees		192	282
Grants, sponsorship, match revenue, and the New Zealand Racing Board		8,755	10,030
Interest received		2	7
Payments to suppliers		(4,959)	(4,024)
Payments to employees		(5,258)	(5,461)
Net GST received / (paid)		25	(23)
Interest paid		(10)	(3)
Net cash (inflow/outflow) from operating activities		(1,253)	808
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property, plant and equipment		(23)	(39)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(23)	(39)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of loans		0	(250)
Net cash inflow from financing activities		0	(250)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(1,276)	519
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,680	1,161
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	7	404	1,680

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 2018

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 2018 comprise the controlling entity and its controlled entities (together referred to as the 'Group') and individually as 'Group entities'.

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 is not publically accountable and is not large (operations expenditure has been between \$2m and \$30m).

These financial statements were authorised for issue by New Zealand Rugby League Board on 30 May 2018.

b) Measurement basis

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

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.

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

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.

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 is 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.

4 USE OF JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES

a) 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.

b) 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.

5 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2018 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
Short-Term employee benefits	3,292	2,822
Defined employee contribution plan - Kiwisaver	84	75
Match fees, allowances and other employee related costs	1,898	2,577
Total employee benefit expenses	5,274	5,474

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.

6 GENERAL EXPENSES

	2018 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
GENERAL EXPENSES INCLUDES:		
Administration and communication expenses	473	494
Bad debts	2	58
Coaching and development expenses	63	138
Directors fees	115	119
Event management expenses	571	411
Legal fees	171	134
Other professional service fees	683	421
Team expenses	858	647
Travel expenses	1,550	1,814

7 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2017 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Current Account	289	250
Call Account	181	589
Donations Account	210	402
League 4 Life (held on behalf of)	147	179
Overdraft	(425)	0
Foreign Currency Accounts	260	260
	404	1,680

The Society had a \$500,000 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 \$425,000 drawn on this facility (2017: \$Nil). An 11.75% per annum interest rate applies. This facility is repayable on demand.

In a previous year, the Society held a BNZ Loan secured by first mortgage over certain items of property, plant and equipment. The loan was repaid in full on 3 June 2016.

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.

8 RECOVERABLES (NON-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS)

	2018 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	651	1,016
Allowance for impairment	(3)	(4)
Net recoverables from non-exchange transactions	648	1,012

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

	TOTAL IMPAIRMENT \$000S
Balance at 1 April 2016	20
Charge for the year	(16)
Balance as at 31 March 2017	4
Release to profit or loss in the year	(1)
Balance as at 31 March 2018	3

9 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

GROUP	FREEHOLD LAND	BUILDINGS	MOTOR VEHICLES	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	FURNITURE AND FITTINGS	TOTAL
	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S
Cost or valuation						
Balance as at 1 Apr 2017	110	1,712	26	243	95	2,186
Additions	-	-	-	23	-	23
Balance as at 31 Mar 2018	110	1,712	26	266	95	2,209
Accumulated depreciation and impairment						
Balance as at 1 Apr 2017	-	375	18	169	56	618
Depreciation	-	27	4	33	5	69
Balance as at 31 Mar 2018	-	402	22	202	61	687
Net book value						
As at 1 Apr 2016	110	1,364	17	68	34	1,593
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

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.

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.

10 PAYABLES (FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS) AND ACCRUALS

	2018 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
Trade payables from exchange transactions	244	172
League 4 Life Payable (refer note 7)	147	179
Other accruals	199	555
	590	906

11 DEFERRED REVENUE

	2017 GROUP \$000S	2017 GROUP \$000S
Grant funding received in advance	3	131
Charitable trust donations received in advance	323	404
Other revenue received in advance	204	88
	530	623

12 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

		CARRYING VALUE (\$)		
	NOTES	FINANCIAL ASSETS	FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	
		LOANS AND RECEIVABLES	AMORTISED COST	TOTAL
GROUP 2018		\$000S	\$000S	\$000S
Subsequently not measured at fair value				
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	404	-	404
Gross recoverables from non-exchange transactions	8	651	-	651
Payables (from exchange transactions)	10	-	(391)	(391)
Balance as at 31 March 2018		1,055	(391)	664

GROUP 2017				
Subsequently not measured at fair value				
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	1,680	-	1,680
Gross recoverables from non-exchange transactions	8	1,016	-	1,016
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	-	(351)	(351)
Balance as at 31 March 2017		2,696	(351)	2,345

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 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.

13 GROUP ENTITIES

The Group consolidated financial statements comprise 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 December.

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.

iii. Difference in reporting periods

The controlled entities within the Group report under a 31 December reporting period. Upon consolidation, adjustments are made to consider the effects of significant transactions or events that occur between 31 December and 31 March. The length of difference of these reporting periods remains consistent from period to period.

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:

	2018 \$000s	2017 \$000s
Not later than one year	128	11
Later than one year and not later than five years	102	97
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total non-cancellable operating lease payments	230	108

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

The leases are in the name of New Zealand Rugby League.

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:

RELATED PARTY	2018		2017	
	FUNDING SUPPORT	CURRENT AMOUNT RECEIVABLE	FUNDING SUPPORT	CURRENT AMOUNT RECEIVABLE
	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S
Rugby League Northland Zone	46	3	40	2
Akarana Zone	48	1	31	-
Counties-Manukau Zone	71	3	40	2
Upper Central Zone	49	6	47	7
Mid Central Zone	50	-	50	-
Wellington Zone	85	2	35	1
Southern Zone	73	2	74	2
Total	422	17	317	14

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 \$33,000 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:

	2018		2017	
	REMUNERATION	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	REMUNERATION	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S	\$000S
Members of the governing body	115	7 people	119	7 people
Senior executive officers	264	1 FTE's	197	1 FTE's
	379		316	

16 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

i) Commitments

The Group had no commitments of a capital nature as at 31 March 2018 (2017: \$Nil).

ii) Contingent liabilities

The Group had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2018 (2017:\$Nil)

iii) Contingent asset

The Group had no contingent assets as at 31 March 2018 (2017: \$Nil).

17 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On May 11, 2018, the Society executed a new long-term loan agreement for \$300,000 with the BNZ bank for the purpose of restructuring a working capital deficit. The loan is an interest only loan, repayable in 2 years.

The Existing Registered Mortgage over the property at 7 Beasley Avenue, Penrose, Auckland has been applied as security.

18 GOING CONCERN

The financial statements at year-end report that the Group has a working capital deficit of \$204,000 and the Group reported a loss of \$1,355,000 for the year-end.

Consideration has been given 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 profit and positive working capital. The forecast revenue is susceptible and sensitive to the following 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 Directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis based on these forecasts and an extension of the Society's financing arrangements with the BNZ bank, introducing a \$300,000 term loan as discussed in Note 17 and continuing its overdraft facility, which has been reduced to \$200,000.

If the NZRL was unable to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, due to not receiving on-going funding or forecasts not being met, adjustments may have to be made to reflect the fact that assets may need to be realised at amounts other than those at which they are currently included in the Group's Statement of Financial Position and the Group may have to provide for further liabilities that may arise. In addition, the Society may have to reclassify assets and liabilities as current.



BDO Auckland

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

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated and its controlled entities (together, referred to as "the Group"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 March 2018, 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 2018, 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.

We have no other relationship with or interests in New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated and Group.

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.



BDO Auckland

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 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
31 May 2018

LIFE MEMBERS



Over 25 years of service to rugby league has earned Cherie Steele-Shanks New Zealand Rugby League Life Member status.

Surrounded by family and friends, the rugby league stalwart was presented with her life membership in 2017 at the NZRL headquarters in Penrose.

Steele-Shanks took us back to her early days as a rugby league volunteer with former Kiwi Fern, Nadene Conlon reflecting on the massive contribution Cherie made to the game.

Hailing from the Hibiscus Coast, Steele-Shanks has dedicated over quarter of a century to helping rugby league to thrive. Her association with the game began back in 1976 when she took on the role as Secretary of the Glenfield Rugby League Junior Control Board.

The rugby league stalwart has also fulfilled the Treasurer and Chairperson positions at Glenfield Rugby League but most notably, has driven the progression of the women's game.

In 1996 Cherie established a New Zealand Women's Rugby League committee which saw the first National Women's Tournament come into fruition. The committee and players raised \$250,000 to attend the 2000 Women's World Cup which they won, and the 2005 Women's World Cup which made it back-to-back titles.

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 Culpán, 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 McKeNew Zealand 1966 "Ted" Knowling MBE 1968 George Plant 1969 Eric Bennett 1970 Dr Leo Cooney 1971 Arthur Chapman, Ray Cody MNew Zealand, Doug Wilson 1972 Ces Mountford MBE, Ivan Stonex 1974 Archie Stuart BEM 1976 Trevor Wellmore 1977 Keith Blow, Jack Williams

1978 Ron McGregor 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* MNew Zealand, Bill Whitehead* QSM, 1989 Bob Aynsley 1990 Jim Campbell* MNew Zealand 1991 Bill Sorensen 1993 George Rainey 1994 "Ted" Gutberlet QSM, Tom McKeown* 2000 Crispin Easterbrook 2003 Ray Cranch* MZNM 2006 Gerald Ryan* ONew Zealand, Don

Hammond* 2007 Peter Kerridge* JP & MNew Zealand 2008 Lory Blanchard MNew Zealand, Bernie Wood MNew Zealand 2009 Howie Tamati* MBE 2010 John Bray* 2012 David Robinson 2013 Ray Haffenden*, Trevor Maxwell* 2014 Mrs Cathy Friend* QSM 2015 Jack Fagan, Sel Pearson*, Brian Reidy 2016 Sir Peter Leitch * KNew Zealand & QSM 2017 Cherie Steele-Shanks*

*current life member

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

1977 Pat Bennett, Mrs Joan English, John Lloyd, Les Pearson, George Stuart, Bill Scurr, Ray Turton 1979 Bill Grieve, Ray Cranch MNew Zealand 1980 John Percival QSM 1981 Jim Courtney 1982 Bill Nesbitt, Bill Paki, Bert Payne, Bill Sorensen 1983 Gordon Blazey, Don Raynor 1984 "Bud" Lisle MNew Zealand 1985 Dr Mutyala Satyanand OBE 1988 Lester Jobbitt, Bill Sewell, Eddie Todd 1989 John Haynes, Earle Pilcher 1991 John Beckwith, Mrs Joy Johansson, Mrs Lil Lawless QSM, Gus Malam, Joe Vivian 1992 Harvey Kreyll, Don Millar 1993 Mrs Esme Tamati 1994 Lory Blanchard MNew Zealand, Peter Coll, Mrs Olivia Karu, Ross Lipscombe, Keith Roberts, Bob Tukiri MNew Zealand, Peter Yaxley 1995 Dave Ahu 2003 Tere Tamati 2005 Des Jenkinson 2006 Mrs Cherie Steele-Shanks MNew Zealand, Bernie Wood MNew Zealand 2013 Mrs Sharon Bird, Richard Bolton, Bob Dragicevich, Graham Lowe ONew Zealand & QSM, Mrs Christine Panapa, Grant Gibson, Ian Jenkins 2014 Kevin Bailey, Ray Fitiao, Dave McLeod, Sonny Rata 2015 Pat Carthy, Carey Clements EM, Gordon Gibbons, Graham Pitts

NZRL STAFF



NZRL BOARD



OUR PEOPLE

NZRL STAFF

Back row

(Left to right): Shaun Iwikau (Football Operations Manager), Ruth Harknett (Financial Accountant), Gary Peacham (National Coaching Manager), David McMeeken (National Talent Manager), James Kemp (Chief Financial Officer), Craig Priest (Digital Content Manager), Brooke Hurdell (Communications Manager), Tiana Nepe (Commercial Account Manager), Kirsty Sharp (Legacy Manager)

Front row

(Left to right): Ani Cherrington (LeagueSmart Manager), Luisa Avaiki (Wellbeing & Women's Development Manager), Nigel Vagana (Wellbeing & Education Manager), Kevin Bailey (Football Operations), Hugh Martyn (Acting Chief Executive Officer), Nadene Conlon (Kiwis Manager), Jacob Cameron (GM Community), Marissa Holland (National Playgroups Manager), Melanie Kaipo (Playgroups Co-ordinator).

Absent: Luke Watts (National Referee Manager)

NZRL BOARD

Back row

(Left to right): Bill McEntee, Andrew Fraser

Front row

(Left to right): Elizabeth Richards, Reon Edwards (Chair), Hugh Martyn (Deputy Chair)

Absent: Tawera Nikau and John Bishop

IN MEMORIAM

REESE GRIFFITHS – *Kiwi* #372
























KEITH BELL – *Kiwi* #382

BRIAN CAMPBELL – *Kiwi* #390

ROBIN ONSLO SCHOLEFIELD – *Kiwi* #437

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

New Zealand Rugby League thanks all of our generous sponsors and partners for their ongoing support. Without this support we would not be able to continue to offer the many programmes and pathways that service our community. Your contributions go along way in growing and developing the game.



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