



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2019-2020





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From the Chairman and CEO

2019 was a strong year for New Zealand Rugby League as we began implementing our towards 2025 organisational strategic vision against the backdrop of one of our most successful international seasons in recent times.

The Oceania Cup and Great Britain Lions Tour coupled with the NRL World Nines shone a spotlight on the code that has not been seen for a number of years.

Our Kiwi Ferns were crowned World Nine champions in a remarkable win over the Australian Jillaroos at the World Nines final in Sydney after convincingly beating Samoa earlier in June. The Kiwis entered 2020 with a 75% win rate, a 35% improvement on previous years as they came away victorious against Tonga and the Great Britain Lions, taking out the series and earning themselves the Number 1 spot on the International Rugby League World Ranking.

Our international success in 2019 is an ongoing reflection of the strong shift in focus seen throughout our Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns camps, as we work towards the ultimate goal of two World Cup victories come 2021.

Over the past 12 months, we have seen our stakeholder relations grow in strength as we have worked hard to ensure greater collaboration in our efforts to grow the game. In conjunction with our Zones, we completed the Towards 2025 Organisational Strategic Plan to which we are now regularly reporting against the KPI's for 2020. Of course, there is more work to be done as we look to inject further investment into the grassroots space; however, we are encouraged by a greater sense of stakeholder alignment and productivity.

Our More Than A Game philosophy remains fundamental to our organisational direction where we work to transform lives and community wellbeing through rugby league. This past year we have strengthened the 'Kiwi Way' ethos, with its rebranding and tightened narrative, it is now heavily embedded across all levels of the game

both at a grassroots and a high-performance level while remaining at the forefront of all organisational strategy.

2019 saw Sky Sport join our valued group of long term partners. Not only did Sky provide additional support over and above the current arrangement ensuring our Kiwi Ferns and Junior Kiwis took the field in 2019, this partnership has also enabled us to showcase our game in new and innovative ways.

Early 2020 saw us embark on the first-ever Sky Sport Rugby League Roadshow where we visited a series of towns from Gisborne to Whitianga to promote rugby league in the regions. Thanks to Sky, every child (U12) who registered at the Roadshows and online for the 2020 season will receive a Sky Sport Starter Pack which includes a free Steeden ball and OPRO mouthguard. Thank you to CEO Martin Stewart and the team at Sky for their ongoing support, as well as Steeden and OPRO for their generosity.

We continue to focus on growing our rangatahi numbers which is reflected in our organisational strategy. NZRL pledged its commitment to Sport New Zealand's 'Balance is Better' movement as collectively we are working to attract, retain and empower many more young people who play our game.

We have gained notable momentum in the women's space with a 22% increase in female participation from the previous year. Our annual Talent Development Programme (which is traditionally aimed at identifying 16s and 18s male athletes) featured a women's programme for the first time, acting as an identification entry point for wider selection in the Kiwi Ferns squad.

Congratulations also to Luisa Avaiki who became Head of Women's Rugby League after being granted a Prime Ministers Scholarship in 2019. The former Kiwi Ferns World Cup-winning Captain current Kiwi Ferns Assistant Coach and NZ Order of Merit recipient has been developing and driving the women's rugby league strategy since her commencement into the role.

Diversity remains one of our key values at NZRL. Last year we began developing our Women in Governance programme to help us achieve 40% self-identified females on our Board come 2021. Our internal team also continues to grow in strength with nearly 50% female and 67% Māori and Pasifika representation.

Coupled with growing organisational momentum, we also had our most successful financial year in recent times. NZRL posted a profit of over \$400,000, a one million dollar turn around off the back of two years of significant losses. While a positive result, this unfortunately is now tainted by the financial implications of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

We are working hard to ensure our game gets through this period and remains in a strong position to reset and refocus on the future. This will require new innovative thinking if we are to capture the opportunities this crisis presents. However, if anything, the growth we have enjoyed over the past year has proven our ability to rise to this challenge.

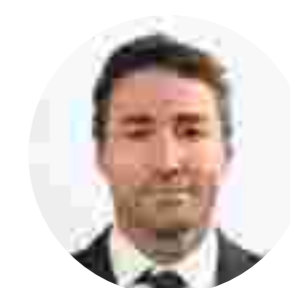
Despite the setbacks, 2020 will see NZRL deliver consistent professional and credible content to our grassroots communities that align with modern sports thinking. We are working hard to ensure the momentum gained in our women's space is not lost as we look forward to implementing a new women's premiership back end of 2020.

The prospect of international Tests are not out of the picture just yet, and COVID-19 has also provided us with the much needed time to rejuvenate and re-market the grassroots game and the important benefits it brings to those in our communities, both on and off the field.

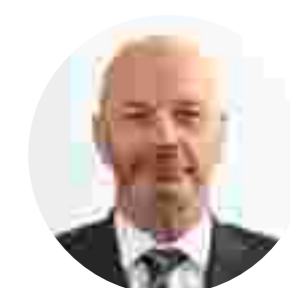
We would not have been able to enjoy the positive growth achieved over the past year if it was not for our consortium of valued partners. We would like to thank Sport NZ, High-Performance Sport NZ, the Ministry of Education and ACC, as well as our principal sponsor partners Pirtek, Mainstream, BLK, Revera CCL, Save My Bacon and Sky Sport, as well as our valuable support partners.

We would also like to thank our NZRL Directors and staff, Zone Directors and staff, District staff, life members and NZRL Patron, Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand. Thank you also to all coaches, managers, referees, players and volunteers across the game – your support is and will continue to be invaluable.

Off the back of encouraging organisational growth, we entered 2020 with momentum on our side. Although a global pandemic has changed the years' direction, we will be working hard to ensure this momentum is not lost. We remain excited about what NZRL will be able to achieve come 2021.



Reon Edwards,
Chairman



Greg Peters,
CEO



THE WHY

MORE THAN A GAME

Transforming lives and
community wellbeing
through Rugby League

THE WAY

THE **KIWI** WAY

We are diverse, we call New Zealand
home and we are all Kiwis

- › We are family first
- › We are responsible
- › We are innovative and courageous
- › We are inclusive, respectful and humble
- › We are stronger together

We live and play The Kiwi Way
every day



22%
increase
in female players



18%
increase
in rangatahi players



10%
increase
in overall
registered players



84%
of respondents likely
to re-join their club



10%
reduction
in reported negative
sideline behaviour



28%
increase
in course registrations
(944 to 1323)



Kiwis

2019 was arguably the Kiwis' most successful season of recent time which began strongly with a dominant win against a surging Mate Ma'a Tonga in front of a sold-out Mount Smart Stadium.

The 22nd of June marked the highly anticipated re-match between the two sides, as the Kiwis were hungry to rectify their historic loss to Tonga at the 2017 World Cup – and that they did.

The new-look Kiwis with Michael Maguire at the helm and a brilliant showing from star half Shaun Johnson and hooker Brandon Smith laid the foundation for a dominant 34-14 victory. Two late tries to the Tongan side created a more respectable score line but the Kiwis showed their class and fans were excited.

The Kiwis then embarked on their end of year tour kicking off with the inaugural NRL World 9s competition at Bankwest Stadium in Sydney. Despite the Grand Final loss, the Kiwis were able to introduce a consortium of exciting, young talent to the fold as eight debutants were named including; NRL rookies, Parramatta standoff Dylan Brown (19) and Canberra winger Bailey Simonsson (21), as well as second-rower Corey Harawira-Naera (Canterbury Bankstown-Bulldogs), front-rower Braden Hamlin-Uele (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), hooker Jeremy Marshall-King (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs) and winger Reimis Smith (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs). Exciting signs of a promising new era.

A week later the Kiwis returned to the natural 13 man platform as they faced their Australian rivals in the Trans-Tasman Double Header at Win Stadium in Wollongong. The boys in Black and White showed a better performance in the second half but unfortunately fell short 26-4. Despite the loss, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad earned himself a try on debut with Braden Hamlin-Uele, Corey Harawira-Naera and Zane Tetevano all earning their debut Kiwi numbers.

The Kiwis were hungry to finish their international season with a series win against the touring Great Britain Lions. The first match played at Eden Park was a tight affair as the Kiwis defied the heart-breaking loss of Kieran Foran to win 12-8. Long-time veteran Adam Blair celebrated his 50th Test in style as the Kiwis honoured him with a powerful post-match Haka. A week later, a dominant New Zealand performance in the second and final Test against Great Britain saw the Kiwis win 23-8 and secure their first series victory over the Lions in 21 years.

The Kiwis entered 2020 ranked Number 1 on the International Rugby League World Ranking, with a 75% win rate, a 35% improvement on previous years. The new Kiwis era is well underway.

New Zealand Rugby League congratulates Kiwi #779, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, on winning the prestigious IRL Golden Boot Award for 2019.

The Otahuhu Leopards junior is now recognised as the best current player in international rugby league.



Kiwis Matches

HEAD COACH – MICHAEL MAGUIRE

MID-SEASON TEST (OCEANIA CUP MATCH)

22 June 2019
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland, New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND v TONGA

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 34 (Shaun Johnson 3, Brandon Smith, Jahrome Hughes, Joseph Manu tries; Esan Marsters – 5 goals)

MATE MA'A TONGA 14 (Solomone Kata, Siosuia Taukeiaho, Daniel Tupou tries; Siosuia Taukeiaho – 1 goal)

Halftime Score:
New Zealand Kiwis 16 – Mate Ma'a Tonga 4

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS TEAM

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Ken Maumalo, Esan Marsters, Joseph Manu, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Captain), Shaun Johnson, Benji Marshall, Jesse Bromwich, Brandon Smith, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Kenneath Bromwich, Briton Nikora, Isaac Liu, Jahrome Hughes, Leeson Ah Mau, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, James Fisher-Harris

Debutants: Briton Nikora, Jahrome Hughes

TRAN-TASMAN TEST MATCH

25 October 2019
WIN Stadium, Wollongong, Australia

NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 4
(Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad try)

AUSTRALIA KANGAROOS 26 (Josh Addo-Carr, Tyson Frizell, Damien Cook, James Tedesco tries; Latrell Mitchell, Daly Cherry-Evans penalty goals; Latrell Mitchell 3 goals)

Halftime Score: Australia Kangaroos 12
– New Zealand Kiwis 4

NZ KIWIS TEAM

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Ken Maumalo, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Joseph Manu, Jamayne Isaako, Shaun Johnson, Benji Marshall (Captain), Leeson Ah Mau, Brandon Smith, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Briton Nikora, Kenneath Bromwich, Adam Blair, Jahrome Hughes, Zane Tetevano, Braden Hamlin-Uele, Corey Harawira-Naera

Debutants: Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Zane Tetevano, Braden Hamlin-Uele, Corey Harawira-Naera

GREAT BRITAIN LIONS MATCHES

2 November 2019
Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand

TEST 1

NEW ZEALAND v GREAT BRITAIN

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 12 (Jamayne Isaako, Corey Harawira-Naera tries; Jamayne Isaako penalty goal; Jamayne Isaako goal)

GREAT BRITAIN LIONS 8 (Daryl Clark try; Gareth Widdop penalty goal; Gareth Widdop goal)

Halftime Score: New Zealand 2 – Great Britain 2

NZ KIWIS TEAM

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Ken Maumalo, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Joseph Manu, Jamayne Isaako, Kieran Foran, Benji Marshall (Captain), Zane Tetevano, Kodi Nikorima, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Briton Nikora, Kenneath Bromwich, Joseph Tapine, Jahrome Hughes, Corey Harawira-Naera, Leeson Ah Mau, Adam Blair

Significant Milestone / Achievement:
Adam Blair 50th International Test Match

GREAT BRITAIN LIONS MATCHES

9 November 2019
Orangetheory Stadium, Christchurch, New Zealand

TEST 2

NEW ZEALAND v GREAT BRITAIN

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 23 (Joseph Manu, Shaun Johnson, Ken Maumalo tries; Jamayne Isaako 4 penalty goals; Jamayne Isaako goal; Jamayne Isaako drop goal)

GREAT BRITAIN LIONS 8 (Josh Hodgson try; Gareth Widdop penalty goal; Gareth Widdop goal)

Halftime Score: New Zealand 16 – Great Britain 2

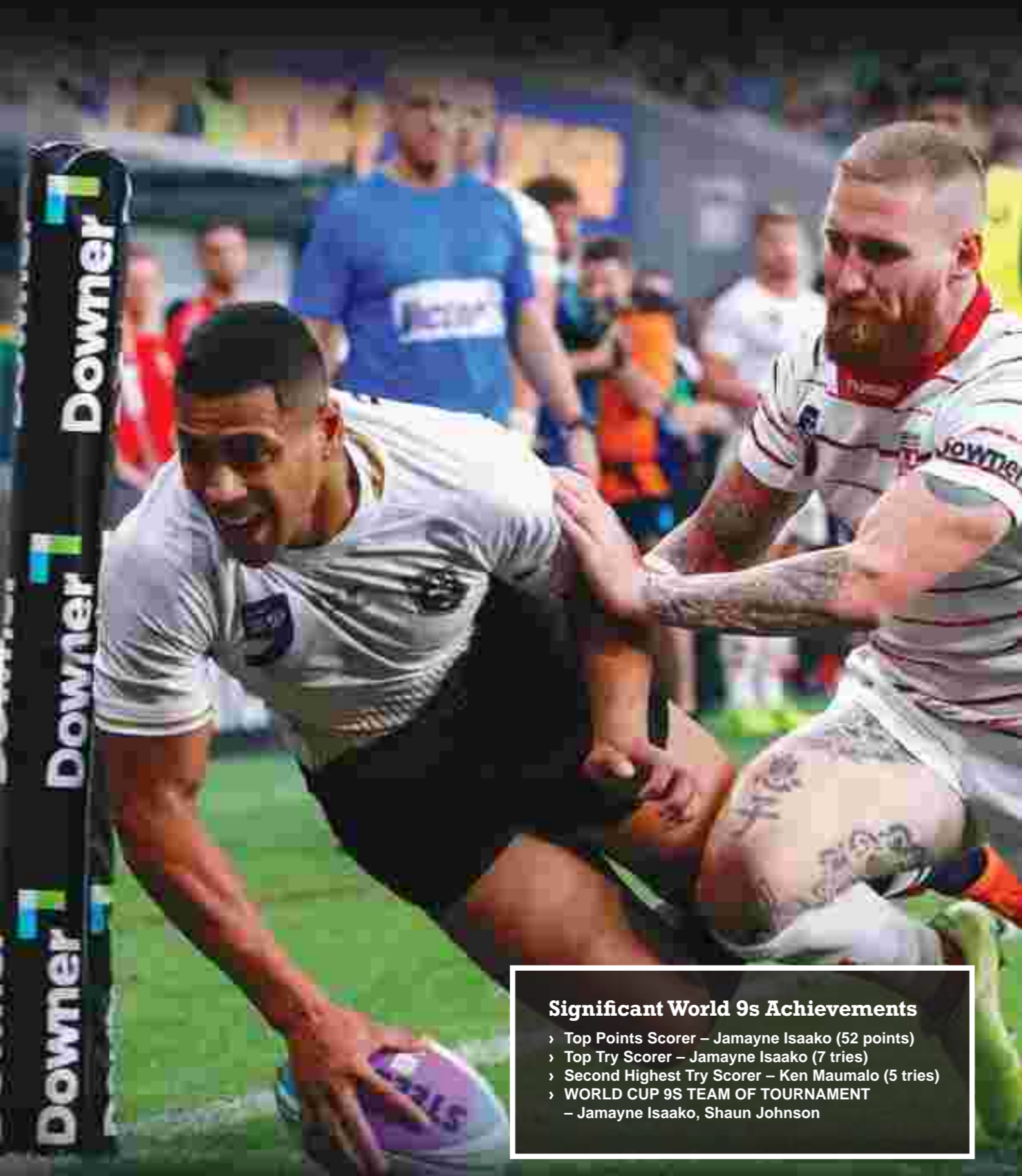
NZ KIWIS TEAM

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Ken Maumalo, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Joseph Manu, Jamayne Isaako, Shaun Johnson, Benji Marshall (Captain), Zane Tetevano, Brandon Smith, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Briton Nikora, Kevin Proctor, Joseph Tapine, Kodi Nikorima, Corey Harawira-Naera, Leeson Ah Mau, Adam Blair



Kiwis - World Cup 9s

HEAD COACH – MICHAEL MAGUIRE



Significant World 9s Achievements

- › Top Points Scorer – Jamayne Isaako (52 points)
- › Top Try Scorer – Jamayne Isaako (7 tries)
- › Second Highest Try Scorer – Ken Maumalo (5 tries)
- › WORLD CUP 9S TEAM OF TOURNAMENT
– Jamayne Isaako, Shaun Johnson



WORLD CUP 9s

18 & 19 October 2019
Bankwest Stadium, Sydney, Australia

ROUND 1 NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 12
(Jamayne Isaako 2 – 4 point tries;
Jamayne Isaako – 2 goals)

AUSTRALIA KANGAROOS 25
(Kyle Feldt – 5 point try; Josh Addo-Carr 2,
David Fifita 2 – 4 point tries;
Mitchell Moses – 2 goals)

Halftime Score:
Australia Kangaroos 15 – New Zealand Kiwis 6

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS TEAM
Jamayne Isaako, Ken Maumalo, Briton Nikora,
Corey Harawira-Naera, Shaun Johnson (Captain),
Dylan Brown, Leeson Ah Mau, Kodi Nikorima,
Joseph Tapine, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Jeremy
Marshall-King, Zane Tetevano, Reimis Smith

ROUND 2 NEW ZEALAND v PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 18
(Shaun Johnson, Jeremy Marshall-King – 5 point
tries, Bailey Simonsson – 4 point try; Jamayne
Isaako – 2 goals)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 17 (Edene Gebbie
– 5 point try; Justin Olam, Nixon Putt – 4 point
tries; Kyle Laybutt, Edwin Ipape – goals)

Halftime Score:
New Zealand Kiwis 7 – Papua New Guinea 7

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS TEAM
Jamayne Isaako, Ken Maumalo, Briton Nikora,
Shaun Johnson (Captain), Kodi Nikorima, Joseph
Tapine, Jeremy Marshall-King, Zane Tetevano,
Bailey Simonsson, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Corey
Harawira-Naera, Kevin Proctor, Reimis Smith

ROUND 3 NEW ZEALAND v UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 46
(Ken Maumalo, Shaun Johnson – 5 point tries;
Ken Maumalo 3, Jamayne Isaako 2, Bailey
Simonsson, Reimis Smith – 4 point tries;
Jamayne Isaako – 4 goals)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 0

Halftime Score: New Zealand Kiwis 19 – United
States Of America 0

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS TEAM
Jamayne Isaako, Ken Maumalo, Charnze Nicoll-
Klokstad, Briton Nikora, Shaun Johnson (Captain),
Leeson Ah Mau, Kodi Nikorima, Adam Blair,
Bailey Simonsson, Corey Harawira-Naera, Joseph
Tapine, Kevin Proctor, Reimis Smith

ROUND 4 – SEMI FINAL NEW ZEALAND v ENGLAND

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 22
(Jamayne Isaako 2, Ken Maumalo, Reimis
Smith – 4 point tries; Jamayne Isaako – 3 goals)

ENGLAND 6
(Jermaine McGillvary – 4 point try;
Blake Austin – 1 goal)

Halftime Score: New Zealand Kiwis 10
– England 0

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS TEAM
Jamayne Isaako, Ken Maumalo, Charnze Nicoll-
Klokstad, Briton Nikora, Shaun Johnson (Captain),
Kodi Nikorima, Adam Blair, Zane Tetevano, Bailey
Simonsson, Corey Harawira-Naera, Leeson Ah
Mau, Joseph Tapine, Reimis Smith

ROUND 5 – GRAND FINAL NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 10 (Reimis Smith
Jamayne Isaako – 4 point tries;
Jamayne Isaako – 1 goal)

AUSTRALIA KANGAROOS 24
(Mitchell Moses 2 – 5 point tries,
Mitchell Moses, Kyle Feldt – 4 point tries;
Mitchell Moses – 3 goals)

Halftime Score: Australia Kangaroos 13 – New
Zealand Kiwis 10

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS TEAM
Jamayne Isaako, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Briton
Nikora, Shaun Johnson (Captain), Kodi Nikorima,
Adam Blair, Zane Tetevano, Reimis Smith, Bailey
Simonsson, Corey Harawira-Naera, Leeson Ah
Mau, Joseph Tapine, Kevin Proctor



Significant World 9s Achievements

- › Second Highest Try Scorer – Honey Hireme-Smiler (4 tries)
- › PLAYER OF TOURNAMENT – Raecene McGregor
- › WORLD CUP 9S TEAM OF TOURNAMENT – Georgia Hale, Honey Hireme-Smiler, Raecene McGregor, Kiana Takairangi

Kiwi Ferns

The World 9s Champion Kiwi Ferns pulled off a stunning upset 17-15 victory over the Australian Jillaroos to claim the World 9s Title at Bankwest Stadium in Sydney.

The Ferns went into the match as underdogs after falling to the Jillaroos the night before, however, after a dominant win over England the Ferns were no short of confidence and ready for redemption.

Jillaroos flyer Tiana Penitani opened the scoring with her fifth try of the tournament but the Ferns bettered that as player of the tournament Raecene McGregor brilliantly stepped through to score in the bonus zone. Australia fought back to take an 8-7 advantage into half-time.

The Kiwi Ferns were first to score after the break via speedster Juliana Newman before Corban McGregor gave the advantage back to the Jillaroos again with a bonus-zone try. This was short-lived as a dummy-half barge-over from stand out hooker Nita Maynard gave the Kiwi Ferns what turned out to be the winning lead, with goal-kicking proving the difference. The champion Kiwi Ferns pulled off a historic upset win earning themselves the World 9s Title which they will hold for the next four years.

Raecene McGregor was named player of the tournament, with Georgia Hale, Honey Hireme-Smiler and Kiana Takairangi joining McGregor in the team of the tournament.

Earlier in June, the Kiwi Ferns displayed their dominance with an impressive 46-8 win over Fetu Samoa at the Mt Smart Double Header. The Samoan side showed courage, however the Ferns were too classy, scoring nine tries to two. Madison Bartlett and Charntay Poko made their debuts for the Ferns with Bartlett scoring a debut try as Poko slotted four goals in front of the Mount Smart faithful.

The Ferns ended their year with a blockbuster showdown against the Jillaroos in Wollongong. New Zealand started strong but succumbed to an avenging Australian side 28-8. Juliana Newman and Billy-Jean Ale both made their international debuts in front of the Win Stadium crowd.



NZRL congratulates Honey Hireme-Smiler on her appointment as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to rugby league in the 2020 New Years Honours. She was also the recipient of the prestigious Veronica White Medal due to her outstanding contribution to the community.



Congratulations also to Kiwi Ferns star Georgia Hale on being crowned Young New Zealander of the Year for 2020.

Kiwi Ferns Matches

HEAD COACH – JUSTIN MORGAN

MID-SEASON TEST

22 June 2019
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland, New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND v SAMOA

NEW ZEALAND KIWIS 46 (Kiana Takairangi 2, Honey Hireme-Smiler 2, Kathleen Wharton, Raecene McGregor, Madison Bartlett, Nita Maynard, Apii Nicholls tries; Charntay Poko 4, Apii Nicholls goals)

FETU SAMOA 8
(Billy-Jean Ale, Moana Fineaso-Levi tries)

Halftime Score: New Zealand 26 – Samoa 4

KIWI FERNS TEAM

Apii Nicholls, Madison Bartlett, Honey Hireme-Smiler (Captain), Kiana Takairangi, Hilda Mariu, Charntay Poko, Raecene McGregor, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Krystal Rota, Amber Hall, Kathleen Wharton, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Georgia Hale, Raquel Anderson-Pitman, Aieshaleigh Smalley, Nita Maynard, Crystal Tamarua

Debutants: Madison Bartlett, Charntay Poko



WORLD CUP 9s

18 & 19 October 2019
Bankwest Stadium, Sydney, Australia

ROUND 1 NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

KIWI FERNS 8
(Atawhai Tupaea, Juliana Newman – 4 point tries)

AUSTRALIA JILLAROOS 22 (Ali Briggingshaw, Keeley Davis – 5 point tries; Kirra Dibb, Corban McGregor – 4 point tries; Ali Briggingshaw, Kirra Dibb goals)

Halftime Score: Australia 15 – New Zealand 0

KIWI FERNS TEAM

Honey Hireme-Smiler (Captain), Atawhai Tupaea, Raecene McGregor, Charntay Poko, Onjeurlina Leiataua, Krystal Rota, Crystal Tamarua, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Georgia Hale, Apii Nicholls, Madison Bartlett, Juliana Newman, Nita Maynard

ROUND 2 NEW ZEALAND v PAPUA NEW GUINEA

KIWI FERNS 24 (Honey Hireme-Smiler 2, Kiana Takairangi 2, Raecene McGregor – 4 point tries; Raecene McGregor 2 goals)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 12 (Ua Ravu, Janet John – 4 point tries; Roswita Kapo, Shirley Joe goals)

Halftime Score: New Zealand 14 – Papua New Guinea 6

KIWI FERNS TEAM

Apii Nicholls, Honey Hireme-Smiler (Captain), Atawhai Tupaea, Raecene McGregor, Onjeurlina Leiataua, Krystal Rota, Kiana Takairangi, Georgia Hale, Kanyon Paul, Madison Bartlett, Juliana Newman, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Nita Maynard

ROUND 3 NEW ZEALAND v ENGLAND

KIWI FERNS 33 (Kanyon Paul – 5 point try; Honey Hireme-Smiler 2, Krystal Rota 2, Juliana Newman, Nita Maynard – 4 point tries; Raecene McGregor 2 goals)

ENGLAND 4 (Amy Hardcastle – 4 point try)

Halftime Score: New Zealand 19 – England 4

KIWI FERNS TEAM

Apii Nicholls, Honey Hireme-Smiler (Captain), Atawhai Tupaea, Raecene McGregor, Onjeurlina Leiataua, Krystal Rota, Kiana Takairangi, Georgia Hale, Kanyon Paul, Madison Bartlett, Juliana Newman, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Nita Maynard

ROUND 4 – GRAND FINAL NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

KIWI FERNS 17 (Raecene McGregor – 5 point try; Juliana Newman, Nita Maynard – 4 point tries; Raecene McGregor 2 goals)

AUSTRALIA JILLAROOS 15 (Corban McGregor – 5 point try; Tiana Penitani, Kezie Apps – 4 point tries; Kirra Dibb goal)

Halftime Score: Australia 8 – New Zealand 7

KIWI FERNS TEAM

Apii Nicholls, Honey Hireme-Smiler (Captain), Atawhai Tupaea, Raecene McGregor, Onjeurlina Leiataua, Krystal Rota, Kiana Takairangi, Georgia Hale, Kanyon Paul, Madison Bartlett, Juliana Newman, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Nita Maynard

TRAN-TASMAN TEST MATCH

25 October 2019
WIN Stadium, Wollongong, Australia

NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

KIWI FERNS 8 (Maitua Feterika, Honey Hireme-Smiler tries)

AUSTRALIA JILLAROOS 28 (Tallisha Harden, Ali Briggingshaw, Jessica Sergis, Kezie Apps, Shakiah Tungai tries; Shakiah Tungai penalty goal; Shakiah Tungai 3 goals)

Halftime Score: Australia 18 – New Zealand 4

KIWI FERNS TEAM

Apii Nicholls, Kiana Takairangi, Honey Hireme-Smiler (Captain), Juliana Newman, Atawhai Tupaea, Charntay Poko, Raecene McGregor, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Krystal Rota, Amber Hall, Onjeurlina Leiataua, Crystal Tamarua, Georgia Hale, Nita Maynard, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Billy-Jean Ale, Maitua Feterika

Debutants: Juliana Newman, Billy-Jean Ale



Junior Kiwis

A stirring haka from the Junior Kiwis set the mark for what was to be a passionate test match between the Trans-Tasman rivals at Dolphin Oval.

A flying Habiso Tabuai-Fidow opened the scoring for the Australian Schoolboys, yet it was rugged early when Howarth was put on report for a dangerous throw. Junior Kiwi prop EJ Lui Toeava was hard to handle with the Junior Kiwis side well led by Broncos-contracted lock Jordan Riki.

An error by Australian fullback Reece Walsh gave the Junior Kiwis possession and it was all too easy for star fullback Starford To'a from the ensuing scrum to score untouched to level the score.

However Australia scored back to back tries after some attacking momentum to lead 18-6 at the break.

The Junior Kiwis started the second half full of running and centre Kayal Iro, son of former Kiwi legend, Kevin Iro, determinedly crashed over to reduce the margin to eight.

The Australian Schoolboys hit back after a burst by Tabuai-Fidow the ball went through the hands to wide-running Howarth whose one-handed overhead offload sent Feagai over.

Howarth then reached out himself from a Walker grubber to give the Australian Schoolboys a 30-10 lead in the 53rd minute.

The Junior Kiwis soon gained momentum scoring back to back tries which looked like the beginnings of a hopeful comeback. Kiwi winger Selestino Ravutaumada scored wideout to cut the lead to 30-14 soon followed by an impressive length of the field try by Kiwi fullback Starford To'a to cut the margin to 10 points with 14 minutes to go.

However, the comeback fell short as a last-minute try put the result beyond doubt for the Australian Schoolboys with the final score 36 – 20.

Despite the loss, the Kiwi talent on display was an exciting preview of the next NRL era. The 2020 NRL preseason saw eight Junior Kiwis represent NRL clubs with Junior Kiwi captain, Jordan Riki, selected for the Māori All-Stars.

The future is looking bright for the Black and White jersey.

Junior Kiwis Matches

HEAD COACH – EZRA HOWE



TRAN-TASMAN TEST MATCH

13 October 2019
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland, New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA

JUNIOR KIWIS 20 (Starford To'a 2, Kayal Iro, Selestino Ravutaumada tries; Sione Moala 2 goals)

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 36 (Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Reece Walsh, Jackson Topine, Max Feagai, Jack Howarth, Sam Walker tries; Reece Walsh 6 goals)

Halftime Score: Australia 18 – New Zealand 6

JUNIOR KIWIS TEAM

Starford To'a, Asu Kepaoa, Kayal Iro, Vito Tevaga, Selestino Ravutaumada, Paul Turner, Sione Moala, EJ Lui, Tyler Slade, Griffin Neame, Christian Tuipulotu, Charbel Tasipale, Jordan Riki (Captain), Temple Kalepo, Daniel Ticehurst, Isaiah Vagana, Junior Pua



New Zealand Residents 16s

› **New Zealand Resident 16s vs. TOA Samoa 16s**
Sunday 6 October 2019 | Pulman Park, Auckland

New Zealand Resident 16s were matched up against TOA Samoa 16s in the first of three games at Pulman Park. A tight contest between the two nations proved Samoa was more than prepared to take on their big brother counterpart.

New Zealand looked to be in the game after a decent first half, with tries across the field from the boys in white. Cassius Cowley and New Zealand Captain Jaedon Wellington would put the Kiwis in front going into the second half 14 – 10.

Samoa went into the sheds trailing by four, but complacency from the New Zealand team and pure passion from the Samoan's lead them to take the win over the hosts in the end with the final score, 26 – 20. An upset victory for TOA Samoa to which the NZ Residents 16s will look to rectify the next time these two squads meet.

TRIES: Francis Manuleleua, Felix Fa'atili, Zyon Maiu'u and Cassius Cowley. **GOALS:** Francis Manuleleua and Keano Kini.



Head Coach: Bejay Hewitt (Akarana)

Assistant Coaches: Chris Langley and Eugene Davis (Upper Central)

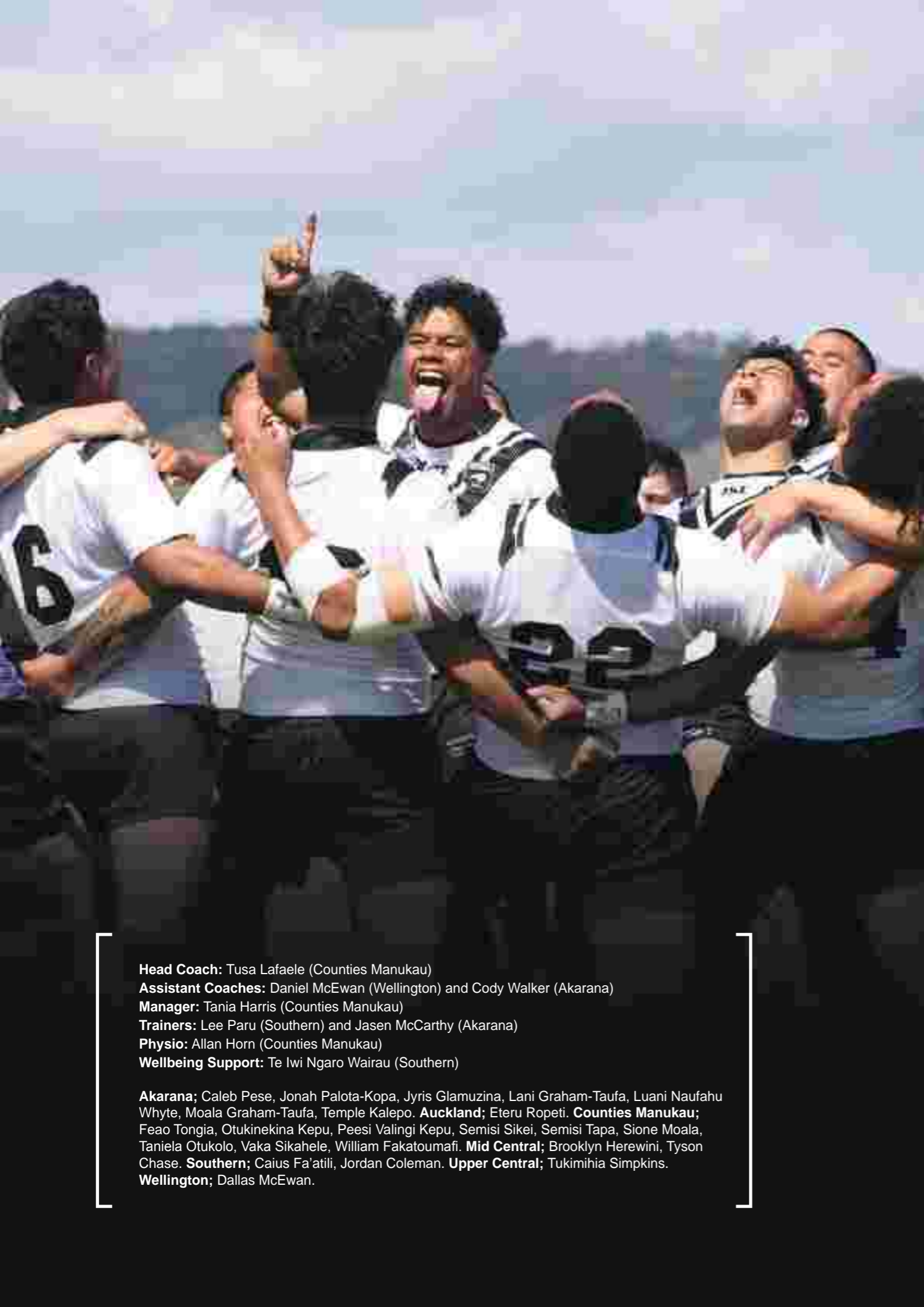
Manager: Junie Shelford (Northland)

Trainers: Sean Witanga (Counties Manukau) and Iripa Rangi (Vodafone Warriors)

Physios: Quentin Hokianga (Vodafone Warriors) and Michael O'Keeffe

Wellbeing Support: Te Iwi Ngaro Wairau (Southern)

Akarana; Keano Kini, Nathaniel Tangimataiti, Zyon Maiu'u. **Auckland;** Filipo Whitehouse-Opetaiia Tovio, Sione Vaihu, Stanley longi. **Counties Manukau;** Ali Leiataua, Ben Peni, Carlos Tarawhiti, Francis Manuleleua, Heneli Luani. **Mid Central;** Arama Kite, Fatiauma Moeahu-Leota. **Northland;** Tea-Rani Woodman Tuhoro. **Southern;** Ethan Faitaua, Felix Fa'atili, Jaedon Wellington, Uriah Tuli. **Upper Central;** Cassius Cowley, Manaia Ngataki-Matthews.



New Zealand Residents 18s

> **New Zealand Resident 18s vs. France U19s** Thursday 3 October 2019 | International Stadium, Rotorua

The NZ Resident 18s had a spectacular 2019 season with two back to back wins against France U19s and TOA Samoa 18s. The undefeated 18s campaign was an impressive display of what is to come of the next era of Kiwi talent.

The 18s travelled to Rotorua International Stadium to take on an eager France U19s squad who were coming off two wins against Waikato and Canterbury as part of their inaugural tour of New Zealand.

A passionate rendition of Te Iwi Kiwi from the New Zealand Resident 18s set the bar for what would be a tough battle between two high-quality sides.

The Kiwis found their dominance early on scoring back to back tries as the NZ 18s capitalised on impressive attacking momentum.

The Residents attack proved too much for France with six tries to one during the first half.

The NZ18s opened the scoring in the second half with tries to Feao Tongia and Caleb Pese to make it 44 – 4. However, any inkling this would be a one-sided 80 minutes was quickly put to bed as France mounted an impressive comeback scoring 22 unanswered points in the second half.

Unfortunately for France, the comeback was too late as the Resident 18s came away with the 44 – 26 victory.

TRIES: Caius Fa’atili (2), Tukimihia Simpkins, Jordan Coleman, Taniela Otukolo, Semisi Tapa, Feao Tongia and Caleb Pese. **GOALS:** Caius Fa’atili (2) and Jordan Coleman (4).

> **New Zealand Resident 18s vs. TOA Samoa 18s** Sunday 6 October 2019 | Pulman Park, Auckland

Fresh off the back of their win against France, the New Zealand Resident 18s then took on TOA Samoa 18s at Auckland’s Pulman Park as the Kiwis aimed to finish their campaign undefeated.

Both teams came out firing with momentum throughout the half switching evenly between the two sides. The Kiwis were first to score yet Samoa took the lead with consecutive tries towards the back end of the half making it 18-8 at the break.

The NZ18s had no choice but to come out firing if they were to remain in the game, and that they did. The NZ forward pack proved hard to handle continuously breaking the Samoan defensive

line which saw the Kiwis skilfully capitalise on possession over the remaining 40. Feao Tongia crossed for the Kiwis eighth, and final try making it 36 – 18 at full time.

An impressive second-half performance by the NZ18s concluded an entertaining day of rugby league at Auckland’s Pulman Park and a successful NZ Resident 18s campaign for 2019.

TRIES: Semisi Sikei (2), Taniela Otukolo, Vaka Sikahale, Otukinekina Kepu, Jordan Coleman, William Fakatoumafi and Feao Tongia. **GOALS:** Brooklyn Herewini and Sione Moala.

Head Coach: Tusa Lafaale (Counties Manukau)
Assistant Coaches: Daniel McEwan (Wellington) and Cody Walker (Akarana)
Manager: Tania Harris (Counties Manukau)
Trainers: Lee Paru (Southern) and Jasen McCarthy (Akarana)
Physio: Allan Horn (Counties Manukau)
Wellbeing Support: Te Iwi Ngaro Wairau (Southern)

Akarana; Caleb Pese, Jonah Palota-Kopa, Jyris Glamuzina, Lani Graham-Taufa, Luani Naufahu Whyte, Moala Graham-Taufa, Temple Kalepo. **Auckland;** Eteru Ropeti. **Counties Manukau;** Feao Tongia, Otukinekina Kepu, Peesi Valingi Kepu, Semisi Sikei, Semisi Tapa, Sione Moala, Taniela Otukolo, Vaka Sikahale, William Fakatoumafi. **Mid Central;** Brooklyn Herewini, Tyson Chase. **Southern;** Caius Fa’atili, Jordan Coleman. **Upper Central;** Tukimihia Simpkins. **Wellington;** Dallas McEwan.



New Zealand Residents

> **New Zealand Residents vs. England Community Lions** Friday 1 November 2019 | Truists Stadium, Auckland

2019 saw the return of the New Zealand Residents team and with that, the excitement around the depth and quality of New Zealand's grassroots talent.

The New Zealand Residents consists of the best from the NZRL National Men's competition, many of whom have already achieved professional or international rugby league success.

The much-anticipated fixture was the closing bout of the first-ever England Community Lions tour down under. A spine-tingling haka and a stand-off set the tone; however, it took 20 minutes to get the scoring underway with the Lions claiming first points – signs this would be no easy feat for our Residents.

The NZ Residents hit straight back capitalising on an offside penalty as co-captain Francis Leger went over to give the home side their first points, making it six apiece. There were some

big defensive displays by both teams throughout the half and for the majority, the two were evenly matched, however, the Kiwis gained the upper hand and steamrolled over the line in the last five to make it 12-10 at the break.

The second half saw the NZ Residents find their dominance as Simon Luafalealo and Penitito Ilalio both scored in the first ten minutes. The English Community Lions bit back shortly after however it was Co-captain Tevin Arona who sealed the deal scoring the final try of the match and securing the win 28 – 12.

TRIES: Francis Leger, Eiden Ackland, Simon Luafalealo, Penitito Ilalio and Tevin Arona.
GOALS: Geronimo Doyle (4).

Head Coach: Andrew Auimatagi (Canterbury)
Assistant Coaches: Phil Gordon (Akarana) and Spencer Taplin (Counties)
Manager: Alana Lockhorst (Southland)
Head Trainer: Jamie Williamson
Physio: Arianne Carroll (Counties)

Akarana; David Bhana, Eiden Ackland, Francis Leger, Josiah Afu, Matti Tuitama, Siliga Kepaoa, Simon Luafalealo, Sala Falelua-Malio (Injured) **Canterbury;** Alex Todd, Brad Campbell, Jope Tagicakibau, Michael Butson, Penitito Ilalio, Tevin Arona.
Counties; Connor Taurua-Purcell, Geronimo Doyle, Jamel Hunt, Nicholas Halalilo.
Waikato; Jerome Flood.



CCL: Revera 2020 Talent Development Camp

Thursday 16 – Saturday 18 January 2020

St. Peters School, Cambridge, Waikato

The Talent Development Programme (TDP) brings together the most skilful 16s and 18s age group rugby league players from across the country and for the first time, 2020 saw the inclusion of a women's development programme.

Taking place at St Peters College in Cambridge, the camp engaged 125 potential Kiwi and Kiwi Ferns players, arming them with resources and skillsets necessary to fulfil their international rugby league aspirations.

Cloud Technology company, CCL:Revera were announced as the naming rights sponsor of the TDP extending their current partnership with NZRL beyond the football field.

The Talent Development Programme (TDP) is designed for sub-elite players to enhance their skills, strength & conditioning, as well as gain a better understanding of player welfare, all with the hope of encouraging those who dream of playing in the NRL to stay in New Zealand until they are 18. The TDP aims to better prepare the players for the rigours of high-performance environments such as the NRL and NRLW and also doubles as a player entry point for selection in the NZ 16s and 18s wider squads for 2020.

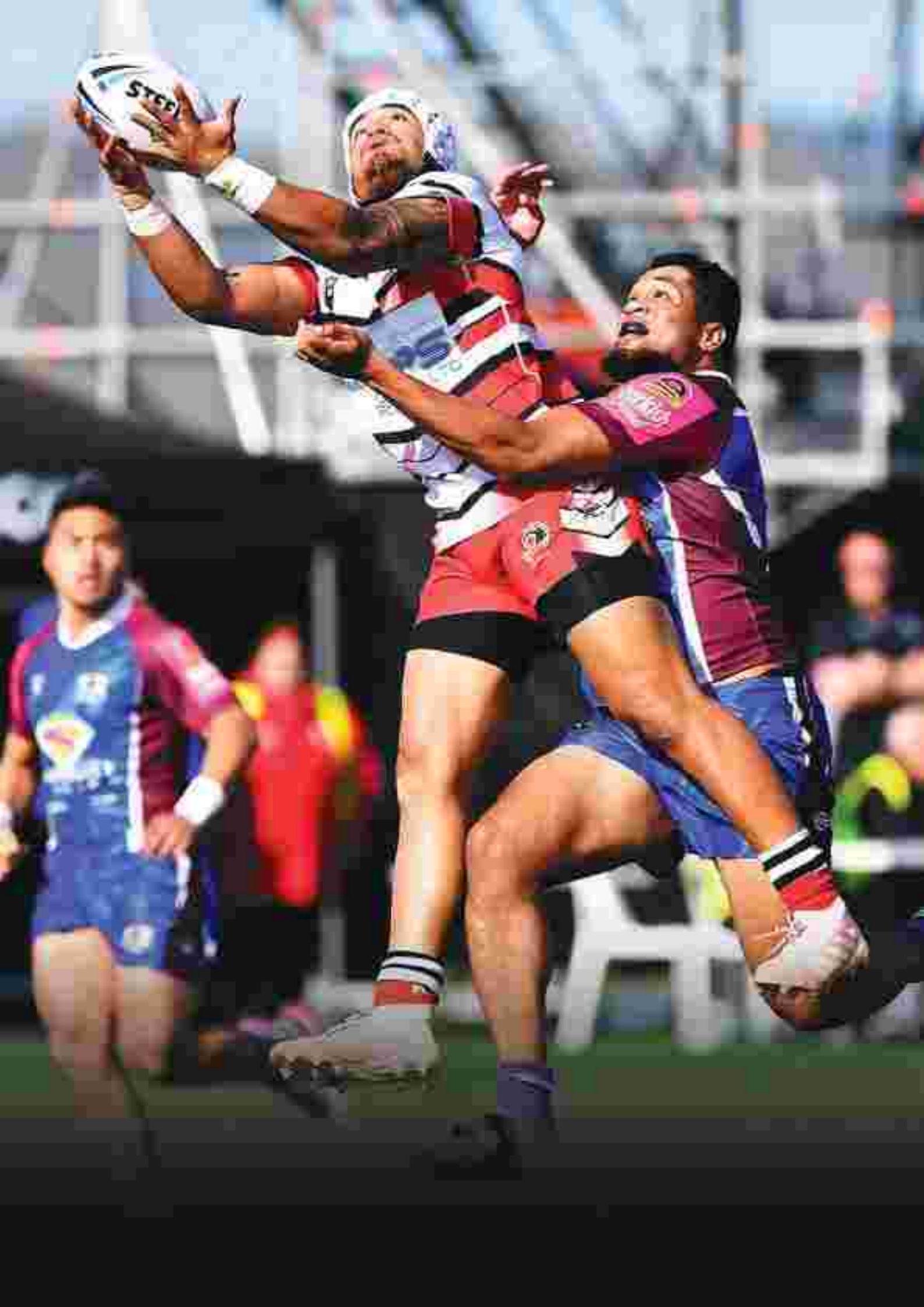
While in camp the players and management heard from several keynote speakers who spoke on important topics such as; personal brand, education, career aspirations, resilience, all which have an impact on our young and aspiring athletes.

Guest coaches David Hamilton, Craig Wilson (both Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs), Jack Reed, Mick Kennedy (both Brisbane Broncos), Blake Ayshford (Vodafone Warriors), Benji Marshall (West Tigers and Kiwis Captain) and Michael Maguire (West Tigers and Kiwis Head Coach) were in attendance. The guest coaches played a significant role in providing insight and sharing their knowledge with both players and coaches in attendance.

NZRL worked in conjunction with the New Zealand Warriors who joined the camp with the 16s and 18s teams on the penultimate day attending the same sessions as the players identified for the NZRL TDP. Two trial matches concluded the TDP which acted as entry points for the NZ16s and NZ18s campaigns for 2020.

An impressive second-half comeback was unfortunately cut short as the Vodafone Warriors U16s were victorious over the NZRL Development 16s, 28 – 24. The Vodafone Warriors U18s were too good for the NZRL Development 18s coming away with a convincing 42-16 win.

The young Kiwi talent on display in Cambridge, showed promising signs of what is to come for the Black and White jersey.



Tournaments

The past year has been a rewarding one as NZRL delivered an exceptional rugby league calendar that showcased grassroots talent from up and down the country.

The National Women's Tournament was the first major calendar event for the year and was played over three days at Pulman Park. Congratulations to the Counties Manukau Stingrays who were victorious over the Akarana Falcons, making history as they took out the competition for the 10th year in a row.

Unfortunately, NZRL was forced to make the executive decision to cancel the 2019 National Secondary Schools Tournament due to the measles outbreak in September. The health and safety of those involved and in our wider communities remained paramount, and it was imperative NZRL responsibly front-footed what was soon deemed an international crisis. Although disappointing, NZRL received positive support from the wider community.

The National Youth Tournament was well contested over five days at Puketawhero Park. The Akarana Falcons were victorious in the 15s grade and the Counties Manukau Stingrays over-came the Southern Scorpions in an excellent 17s grade final.

The Men's North Island and South Island Championships were won by the Wellington Orcas and Otago Whalers respectively. Wellington went on to defeat the Otago Whalers in another excellent grand final played at Nga Puna Wai prior to the Men's Premiership Grand Final.

The Premiership final saw the Canterbury Bulls take on the defending champions Akarana Falcons. Although the Bulls dominated the first half, Akarana capitalised on some late attacking momentum to retain their National Premiership title for the fourth year in a row.

The depth of NZRL's grassroots talent was certainly on display this year, thank you to all those who dedicated their time and energy towards making these tournaments a success.

› NZRL National Premiership & Championship

PREMIERSHIP FINAL

Akarana 28 – 10 Canterbury

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Wellington 38 – 28 Otago

Merit Team (NZ Residents)

Josiah Afu, Eiden Ackland, David Bhana, Sala Falelua-Malio, Siliga Kepaoa, Francis Leger, Simon Luafalealo, Matti Tuitama (Akarana), Tevin Arona, Michael Butson, Brad Campbell, Penetito Ilailo, Jope Tagicakibau, Alex Todd (Canterbury) Geronimo Doyle, Nicholas Halalilo, Connor Taurua-Purcell (Counties Manukau) Jerome Flood (Waikato)

Premiership Final MVP

Josiah Afu (Akarana)

FINAL PLACINGS - PREMIERSHIP

- 1 – Akarana
- 2 – Canterbury
- 3 – Counties Manukau
- 4 – Waikato

FINAL PLACINGS - CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 – Wellington
- 2 – Otago



NZRL National Women's Tournament

26 – 28 July, Pulman Park, Auckland

FINAL

Counties Manukau 32 – 4 Akarana

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Player of the Tournament: Georgia Hale (Akarana)

Best Back: Joeannha Purcell (Akarana)

Best Forward: Aiesha Leigh Smalley (Counties Manukau)

More Than a Game Team of the Tournament: Mid Central

Coach of the Tournament: Ross Uele (Akarana)

Manager of the Tournament: Sabrina Manu (Canterbury)

Trainer of the Tournament: Haze Reweti (Mid Central)

Referee of the Tournament: Rochelle Tamarua

Merit Team

Onjeurlina Leiataua, Apii Nicholls, Krystal Rota, Aiesha Leigh Smalley, Atawhai Tupaea, Geneva Tainui Webber (Counties Manukau), Ngatokotoru Arakua, Georgia Hale, Juliana Newman, Tanika-Jazz Noble, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Charntay Poko, Joeannha Purcell, Crystal Tamarua, Shontelle Woodman (Akarana), Tawny Burgess, Kristina Sue (Mid Central)

FINAL PLACINGS

- 1 – Counties Manukau
- 2 – Akarana
- 3 – Canterbury
- 4 – Mid Central
- 5 – Auckland Vulcans
- 6 – Wai-Coa-Bay

NZRL National Youth Tournament

8 – 12 October, Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

15s FINAL

Akarana 18 – 6 Counties Manukau

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Final MVP: Nathaniel Tangimataiti (Akarana)

Tournament MVP: Keano Kini (Akarana)

Coach of the Tournament: Henry Nicholas (Akarana) & Leroy Faa'vesi (Counties Manukau)

Manager of the Tournament: Rachel Te Hau (Southern)

Trainer of the Tournament: Josh Te Aomarere (Wai-Coa-Bay)

Merit Team

Benaiah Ioelu, Keano Kini, Caylis Latu, Jayden Smith, Nathaniel Tangimataiti (Akarana), Salesi Foketi, Francis Manuleleua, Taniela Mapusua-Lotaki, Ben Peni (Counties Manukau), Felix Fa'atili, Dallas Hurrel-Jones (Southern), Joseph O-Leary, Jonte Rikiriki (Wai-Coa-Bay), Rico Taepa Kihi (Auckland), Jordan Chapman, Jacob Laban (Wellington), Siamani Leuluai (Northern)

FINAL PLACINGS - 15s

- 1 – Akarana
- 2 – Counties Manukau
- 3 – Southern
- 4 – Wai-Coa-Bay
- 5 – Auckland Vulcans
- 6 – Mid Central
- 7 – Wellington
- 8 – Northern

17S FINAL

Counties Manukau 24 – 20 Southern

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Final MVP: Ethana Faitaua (Southern)

Player of the Tournament: Riley Pascoe (Southern)

Coach of the Tournament: Archie Jacobs (Southern)

Manager of the Tournament: Satia Hunt (Wellington)

Trainer of the Tournament: Haze Reweti (Mid Central)

Referee of the Tournament: Justyne Matangi-Lui

Merit Team

Otukinekina Kepu, Peesi Valingi Kepu, Jeremiah Margraff, Jarney Proctor-Harwood (Countie Manukau), Tom Campbell, Tamati Christie, Callum Donaldson, Ethan Faitaua, Jacob Lowe, Riley Pascoe, Jaedon Wellington (Southern), Wiremu Kaire (Akarana), Tyson Chase, Sheldon Rapana (Mid Central), Dayna Bidois, Bailey Umaki (Wai-Coa-Bay), Filipino Whitehouse-Opetaita Tovia (Auckland)

FINAL PLACINGS - 17s

- 1 – Counties Manukau
- 2 – Southern
- 3 – Akarana
- 4 – Mid Central
- 5 – Wai-Coa-Bay
- 6 – Auckland Vulcans
- 7 – Wellington
- 8 – Northern





Women's Rugby League

2019 saw positive momentum gained in the women's space as New Zealand Rugby League's female game continues to grow in strength.

Congratulations to Luisa Avaiki who became Head of Women's Rugby League after being granted a 2019 Prime Ministers Scholarship. The former Kiwi Ferns World Cup-winning Captain, current Kiwi Ferns Assistant Coach and NZ Order of Merit recipient has been developing and driving the women's rugby league strategy since her commencement into the role.

New Zealand Rugby League National Women's Tournament 2019

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June 2019
Pulman Park, Auckland

The pinnacle event for women's rugby league provides an opportunity for players to represent their Zones with the tournament acting as an identification entry point for selection in the wider Kiwi Ferns squad.

2019 saw a notable increase in awareness around the Women's Tournament and its female athletes. Player profiles and Q&A's were used to promote the competition and attract supporters to Pulman Park. For the first time, the Women's Tournament final was televised live on Sky Sport. This was a significant milestone regarding the appeal of the women's game as participation numbers continue to grow. There was also a notable increase in media presence with athletes and staff interviewed by various media throughout the tournament weekend. Majority of the matches were live-streamed on NZRL channels accompanied by live updates, match reports and post match interviews.

CCL: Revera 2020 Talent Development Camp

Friday 17 – Saturday 18 January 2020
St. Peters School, Cambridge, Waikato

For the first time, 2020 saw the inclusion of a women's development programme in the Talent Development Programme (TDP), which is traditionally aimed at 16s and 18s male athletes.

This was an important milestone, as it was vital NZRL engaged with its female athletes early to better prepare them for the rigours of high-performance environments such as the NRLW whilst also acting as an entry point for selection in the wider Kiwi Ferns squad for 2020.

The TDP demonstrated positive gains as female athletes felt better supported by NZRL to develop the skills necessary to fulfil their international rugby league aspirations.

In 2019 the women's game enjoyed greater reach and coverage than ever before. There are some significant workstreams in the pipeline for 2020 and NZRL look forward to capitalising on the momentum already achieved over the past twelve months.



Key Highlights:

- › An overall 10% increase in registered players for the 2019 season
- › 28% increase in course registrations, 113 courses delivered across New Zealand
- › 10% increase in LeagueSmart completion
- › We have continued to improve our data collection processes resulting in better quality reporting, 86% of all players are of Māori/Pasifika decent



Community

New Zealand Rugby League's More Than A Game philosophy remains fundamental to our organisational direction where we work to transform lives and community wellbeing through rugby league.

Sky Sport Rugby League Roadshow

In 2019 NZRL continued to strengthen its relationships with both sporting and non-sporting organisations. We worked closely with the NZ Warriors to deliver the first-ever Sky Sport Rugby League Roadshow. The roadshow visited a number of towns from up and down the country to promote rugby league in the regions with a focus on growing junior and female participation. KiwiTag was offered as a component of the roadshows, aligning with Sport NZ's 'Balance is Better' philosophy.

Voice of the Participant Survey

The Voice of the Participant survey was undertaken for the fourth year in conjunction with Sport NZ, which delivered promising results.

- › Four in five members intend to rejoin their club next season.
- › Two-thirds (65%) of new members are more than satisfied with their joining experience. New members' experience with the overall process of joining a club is significantly higher than the All Sports 2018 (65% cf. 57%).
- › Rugby League's perceived value for money remains significantly higher than all Sports 2018/19 (74%).

Be A Sport

- › The 'Be a Sport' programme was released nationally in 2017. Two in five (41%) rugby league players have experienced inappropriate sideline behaviour at least occasionally during games. Unfortunately, this is above the All Sports 2018 average (37%), however, 2019 saw a significant reduction in the occurrence of inappropriate sideline behaviour (51% in 2018) demonstrating NZRL's progress in this space.
- › In 2018 8% experienced inappropriate sideline behaviour almost every game. 2019 saw a 3% reduction in the occurrence of sideline behaviour (5%).

- › In 2019 the 'Be a Sport' programme was present at all New Zealand Māori rugby league tournaments. The programme has been translated into Māori and resources will be rolled out in 2020 to increase the reach of the 'Be a Sport' programme.

NZRL Legacy Plan

NZRL Legacy plan was delivered to maximise the benefits of the Great Britain Rugby League Lions tour and the Oceania Cup. Key outcomes were achieved in youth engagement, capability, Māori and Pasifika development and the female game.

Community Playgroups

NZRL Playgroups is an extension of our service to the rugby league community, providing a quality early learning service for children and families who may not have the opportunity to access otherwise.

Playgroups is a direct outcome of NZRL's More Than A Game philosophy. This initiative is fundamental to the wellbeing of our rugby league communities as it encompasses the five principles of the "Kiwi Way" coupled with Ministry of Education outcomes.

For many, participating and engaging in an NZRL playgroup is the first step of any formal education.





Wellbeing

The New Zealand Rugby League Wellbeing space only continues to grow in strength.

NZRL welcomed former Warriors, Super League and Kiwi #677, Ali Lauitiiti to the team to work alongside NZRL Wellbeing Manager, Carmen Taplin. The past 12 months has seen important progress made regarding the wellbeing opportunities and support provided to players and staff both on and off the field.

National Women's Tournament

Educating players around wellbeing topics such as Drug-Free Sport, concussion, mental wealth, anxiety and resilience were topics covered by NZRL to all provincial teams and players attending the National Women's tournament.

NZRL welcomed Billy Williams to speak to the women's full playing group about Cultural Awareness. Andy Ryan and his team ran Theatre Sports for the first time where topics covered included excessive drinking, brand awareness, anti-doping, media, domestic violence, problem gambling and mental and physical abuse.

This was the first time that New Zealand's regional women's game had access to NRL presenters and guest speakers from Australia which was well-received by all involved.

National Youth Tournament

NZRL's annual National Youth tournament held in Rotorua was another excellent opportunity to deliver wellbeing support to the Zone representatives in the 15s and 17s age group. NZRL delivered transition discussions covering themes such as resilience, communication, Career-Wise, expectations, financial and other realities of leaving New Zealand to pursue an NRL career in Australia (e.g. homesickness, employment, costs) in conjunction with Jerry Seuseu and Ben Henry (NZ Warriors).

NZ Junior Kiwis

With the inclusion of Warriors Wellbeing Manager, Jerry Seuseu to the management staff for the Junior Kiwis, NZRL was able to impart some important messages to the new crop of U20s players during their recent campaign versus the Australian Schoolboys. Although the Australian Schoolboys had the points on the scoreboard, the campaign was a success considering the exposure and influence on our young athletes.

NZ 16s & NZ 18s

The international calendar was a busy one for the NZ16s and NZ18s with games against Toa Samoa 16s and 18s in Auckland as well as the French U19s in Rotorua. Te Wairau, a former Canterbury Coach Development Officer, was able to provide additional wellbeing support throughout the 16s and 18s camp which was extremely valuable due to his studies regarding the duty of care given to young rugby league athletes.

NZRL was also privileged to have Ruben Wiki, guest present to both teams, sharing his story regarding resilience and the pressures young Kiwi men face today.

NZ Kiwi Ferns and Kiwis

Wellbeing support for the Kiwi Ferns continues to be vital.

With the introduction of NZRL's new Wellbeing Manager, Carmen Taplin, into the touring Ferns squad, the playing group was well supported. NZRL was able to provide more resource and support to the campaign which stretched across the two-week schedule for the World 9's in Sydney and the Kiwi Ferns vs. Jillaroos test in Wollongong.

The Kiwi Ferns also received suitable female-specific wellbeing programmes that helped mitigate possible wellbeing issues players may face as the female game grows to new heights. NZRL's support for the women's programmes includes wellbeing for players introduced initially at the National Women's Tournament as well as for the wider selection squad.

The NZ Kiwis tour was slightly longer with two extra weeks both in Auckland and Christchurch following Wollongong as the Kiwis took on the Great Britain Lions. NZRL had the expertise of Motu Tony in camp with the additional support of Nigel Vagana for the duration of the campaign. As the World Cup tour nears, NZRL is looking to provide further opportunity for partner and family support for players in camp, especially at a high-performance level.

Talent development camp 2020

A number of wellbeing sessions were delivered at the CCL:Revera Talent Development Camp early in the year. NZRL's Wellbeing team were able to co-facilitate both 16s and 18s and women's sessions with the help of our influential group of wellbeing staff; David Solomona - NRL Wellbeing Staff, ex Kiwi and NRL; Ali Lauitiiti - Wellbeing Support, ex Kiwi and NRL; Jerry Seuseu - Warriors Wellbeing Manager, ex Kiwi and NRL, the LeVa staff Leilani Clarke, Joe Landon, Mark Tuifao and Melissa Hori - Wellness Life Coach.

NZRL delivered the below sessions across the three-day camp.

- Session 1:** RESILIENCE WORKSHOP (16s and 18s)
- Session 2:** INVEST IN YOU WORKSHOP (Women's)
- Session 3:** MENTAL WEALTH WORKSHOP (16s, 18s and Women's)
- Session 4:** RELOCATION WORKSHOP (Women's and Parents of 16s & 18s)





Coaching

There was significant momentum achieved in the coaching space over the past twelve months through the introduction of new coach development initiatives.

The first being a collaborative community coach developer project with Netball New Zealand in which NZRL assisted with the design and delivery of. With both national and international coach developers in training, it was an excellent opportunity for NZRL to share its expertise in this area and collaborate with another NSO.

A new NZRL coaching resource has been designed to set a gold standard in coaching across New Zealand. The foundation of this resource is based on several coach development studies and has a strong focus on catering to the development and growth of our diverse community of participants and volunteers.

Sport New Zealand

NZRL's Coach Education department was invited by Sport New Zealand to be a part of the international coach development initiative 'Coaching for Character'. NZRL was also invited to play a lead role in the Sport New Zealand National Coaching Conference which involved working alongside USA Ice Hockey Technical Director, Ken Martarl, to facilitate coach education group discussions.

Online Coach Education

After extensive research and consultation with online education providers, NZRL looks forward to rolling out its new coach education portal – Sport Tutor. This platform will enable NZRL to design and continually update online foundation coaching modules specific to our rugby league community. It will also provide online development for managers, trainers, parents and volunteers.

Skills Active

NZRL has also formed a strong relationship with Skills Active. This new relationship has provided over 50 of our community volunteers (coaches, managers, trainers and club administrators) with free scholarships in NZQA National Certificate Level 3 qualifications.

NZRL National Coaching Appointments

Over the 2019 period, Junior Kiwis and NZ Resident Premier, 18s and 16s coaching staff were all appointed. The successful candidates are recipients of the NZRL coaching pathway that has a significant focus on developing the qualities and capabilities of identified coaches who can perform at a higher level. The results of the NZRL pathway are notable with a considerable number of NZRL athlete centered performance coaches emerging. NZRL's pathway coaches also include the experience of former NZRL representative players who have made a successful transition into coaching. Several NZRL pathway coaches have progressed their careers with contracts to NRL franchises.

Notable Successes

Moehewa Armstrong has been in the coaching system since 2014 and has held roles with Waicoa Bay and NZ Resident 18s. He has since progressed to coaching roles with the Junior Kiwis and NZ Vodafone Warriors.

Frances Meli has played at the highest level, he has also coached both grassroots club and Zone representative level since 2016. Frances joined the Junior Kiwis in 2019 where his coaching and playing experience added tremendous value support to the coaching and playing group.

2020 will see NZRL launch new industry-leading coaching resources, a new coaching pathway and an inter-zone networking programme.



Key highlights

- › 2019 has seen a steady increase in registered coaching numbers across the country
- › Coach development forums provided by NRL clubs Canterbury Bulldogs, Brisbane Broncos and NZ Warriors for community coaches
- › Three-day coach development opportunity for NZ Resident coaches with NRL club West Tigers
- › Coach education forums with Michael Maguire for identified coaches
- › NZRL coach education invited to play critical roles in Sport NZ national coaching forums
- › NZRL's first female coach developer (Aktive)



Referees

The 2019 season was a successful one for the refereeing sector. While many sports struggle with referees NZRL maintains strong numbers while improving the quality of support towards officials.

NZRL is fortunate to have experienced referees and coaches at all levels, and the commitment and service provided are substantial. The season begins in January with pre-season trials and camps, progresses into the club and representative season, and finishes with international appointments for elite referees in November.

NRL pathways continue to be essential for referee development. This relationship grew stronger with the referee academy now formatted as an NRL satellite hub, providing referees with the same training and development that gets delivered in Australia. This also exposes officials to more opportunities, with four receiving international appointments this season.

At the community level, referee associations were able to appoint referees to 95% of all matches. Upskilling volunteers is always a top priority for NZRL, with 31 courses delivered to 300+ referees and NZRL Tournaments continue to be an important development tool. Despite the cancellation of NZRL's Secondary Schools competition, the Youth and Women's Tournaments showed NZRL's exceptional talent coming through.

NZRL would like to thank Luke Watts for his time as NZRL Referee Development Manager over the last six years and wish him all the best for future endeavours.

2019 INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Chris McMillan

Kiwis v Tonga (Auckland) – Touch Judge
 Tonga v Great Britain (Hamilton) – Touch Judge
 Kiwis v Great Britain (Auckland) – Touch Judge
 Kiwis v Great Britain (Christchurch) – Touch Judge

Paki Parkinson

Kiwi Ferns v Samoa (Auckland) – Referee
 Samoa v Fiji (Auckland) – Touch Judge
 Fiji v PNG (Christchurch) – Touch Judge
 Rugby League Nines World Cup – Touch Judge

Viggo Rasmussen

Kiwi Ferns v Samoa (Auckland) – Touch Judge
 South Pacific Games Nines (Apia) – Referee

Rochelle Tamarua

Kiwi Ferns v Samoa (Auckland) – Touch Judge

NRL PATHWAYS

NRL: Chris McMillan

NSW Cup & Jersey Flegg: Chris McMillan, Paki Parkinson, Rochelle Tamarua, Viggo Rasmussen
 Joseph Green, Nathan Barker-Pringle

2019 AWARDS

NZRL Match Official of the Year: Chris McMillan
Women's Tournament Referee: Rochelle Tamarua
Youth Tournament Referee: Justyne Matangi-Lui
Youth Tournament Referees' Choice: Keven Ah-Ken

NATIONAL FINALS APPOINTMENTS

National Premiership Final

Referee: Chris McMillan
 Touch Judges: Paki Parkinson, Joseph Green

National Championship Final

Referee: Jason Wilson
 Touch Judges: Owen Harvey, Daryl Mataiti

National Womens Final

Referee: Rochelle Tamarua
 Touch Judges: Justyne Matangi-Lui & Marissa Puketapu

National Youth Tournament – 15s Final

Referee: Zane Richardson
 Touch Judges: Sonny Whakarau, Easley Brown

National Youth Tournament – 17s Final

Referee: Joseph Green
 Touch Judges: Justyne Matangi-Lui, Keven Ah-Ken

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

NZ Resident 18s v France 19s

Referee: Paki Parkinson
 Touch Judges: Graeme Hill, Henare Chadwick

NZ Resident 16s v Toa Samoa 16s

Referee: Rochelle Tamarua
 Touch Judges: Jack Haslam, Zane Richardson

NZ Resident 18s v Toa Samoa 18s

Referee: Paki Parkinson
 Touch Judges: Viggo Rasmussen, Jack Haslam

NZ Residents v England Community Lions

Referee: Joseph Green
 Touch Judges: Rochelle Tamarua, Viggo Rasmussen

NZ Māori Residents v England Community Lions

Referee: Paki Parkinson
 Touch Judges: Harley Wall, Paki Ngaira



Zones

> NORTHLAND

Northland has had a productive past 12 months. Over 50 teams, from Nursery to Senior grades played in Northland Rugby League competitions. Over 1200 primary to secondary school students participated in festivals, Back Yard League and secondary school competitions as fostering and developing youth rugby league talent remains a key priority.

Congratulations to the Northern Swords for making the North Island NZRL Championship final after a successful season. Unfortunately, the final went the way of the Wellington Orcas, however it was a hard-fought battle and a tenacious effort from the Premier team.

Seven players were selected to represent the North Island Select Team to play NSW Country and England Community Lions; Mike Salase, Levita Levita, Ross MacFarlane, Taine Shelford, Daley Johnson, Kyle Hool and Neville Rogers (Assistant Coach).



Some key highlights and achievements worth mentioning:

- › Takahiwai Warriors were crowned premiers after defeating the Otangarei Knights 34-10 in the RLM Premiership Competition
- › Northland's highly anticipated Secondary Schools Competition was taken out by Whangarei Boys after a thrilling final performance in extra time against Dargaville High School. Whangarei Boys were also crowned year ten winners and Whangarei Girls year nine winners
- › The Hikurangi Stags (Under 17s) took home the Sam McKendry Cup and the Elijah Taylor Cup was won by the Tautoro Titans (Under 15s Grade). The Tautoro Titans also took out the U13s grade
- › Congratulations to Tea-Rani Woodman-Tuhoro who was selected for the NZ 16s Residents and Junie Shelford for being appointed as 16s Manager
- › Congratulations to Siamani Leului (16s) and Tea-Rani Woodman-Tuhoro (18s) who were both selected for NZRL's TDP in January
- › Congratulations also to Ross MacFarlane who was awarded Northland Rugby League Player of the Year for 2019

In regards to professional rugby league, Dylan Brown made his debut for the Parramatta Eels and was selected for the Kiwis World Nines squad (alongside fellow Northlanders James Fisher-Harris and Corey Harawira-Naera).

Looking ahead, Northland Rugby League looks forward to further fostering young talent and developing as the sport of choice for all Northlanders.



Zones

> AKARANA



The Akarana Zone has had a successful 2019 season starting with some impressive on-field results.

Congratulations to the Akarana men's Premiers who were victorious over the Canterbury Bulls, winning the National Premiership Competition for the fourth year in a row, under the leadership of Coach Keith Hanley and Assistant Coach, Phil Gordon.

The Akarana women's team made the final of the National Women's Tournament, to take home second place after a hard-fought battle with Counties Manukau. The Under 15s were victorious at the NZRL National Youth Tournament with the Under 17s coming third.

Congratulations also to the eight Akarana players selected for the NZ Residents team; Francis Leger; Simon Luafalealo; Sala Falelua-Malio, Josiah Afu, David Bhana, Eiden Ackland, Siliga Kepaoa and Matti Tuitama and further congratulations to Phil Gordon on his appointment as Assistant Coach.



Some key highlights and achievements worth mentioning:

- › Ross Uele was awarded Coach of the Tournament at the NZRL National Women's Competition with Nine players named in the Women's Merit team
- › Marty Brown was named Manager of the Tournament at the NZRL Youth Competition with one player named in the 17s Merit team. Akarana 15s Coach, Henri Nicholas, was named Coach of the Tournament with five players making the 15s Merit team for 2019
- › Congratulations also to Keano Kini who was named Player of the Tournament and Nathaniel Tangimataiti was crowned Final MVP

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

In regards to upskilling and qualifications, 54 managers received their Level One Managers certificate, becoming more aware of LeagueSmart safety requirements, enhancing the ways they communicate with tamariki and also increasing their own knowledge about their clubs. 89 coaches obtained their Level One and Two certificates, six are completing their Senior Club Coach certificate and 73 referees also attended courses.



Zones

> COUNTIES MANUKAU



Counties Manukau had an exceptional 2019 year with some impressive on-field results coupled with further community participation and engagement.

Congratulations to the women's Stingrays for winning the NZRL National Women's Tournament for the tenth consecutive year. This is one of the most impressive winning records for any team across all codes in the Counties Manukau region. The women received special recognition for this achievement at the 2019 Counties Manukau Sporting Excellence Awards.

The 17s Stingrays took out the NZRL National Youth Competition for the fourth time in its history, and the 15s Stingrays narrowly lost to Akarana Falcons in the final in front of a packed house at Puke Tewhero Park, Rotorua.

The premier men finished third in the NZRL National Premiership Competition, losing to Canterbury Bulls for a place in the final however, four players were selected to represent the NZ Residents; congratulations to Geronimo Doyle, Connor Purcell, Nicholas Halalilo and Jamel Hunt.

Some key highlights and achievements worth mentioning:

- › The Howick Hornets made the final for the first time since 2011 and celebrated a 22 -18 win over the Mt Albert Lions in a thriller match of the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Grand Final
- › Papakura Sea Eagles finished their season strongly, convincingly beating Te Atatu 38-8 in the SAS Fox Memorial Championship Grand Final
- › Otara Scorpions celebrated another team qualifying for a Grand Final, winning 34-16 in the SAS Sharman Cup Premiership Premier 1st against Manukau
- › Otahuhu played Howick in the Grand Final of the U16 Girls, where Otahuhu was victorious on the day
- › Papakura Women (Sisters) bet Richmond Roses by the narrowest of margins 6 – 4 in the Women's Grand Final

2019 saw Counties continue with the delivery of the CMRL Ethnic Rugby League Competition and 9s Tournaments with the very first Indian team, the Jungle Cats coming away with upset wins against Columbia and the Latin Heat. These wins are slowly but surely edging the team up the Emerging Nations ladder board, which is designed to help developing countries into qualification status for World Cup ranking and inclusion in the Rugby League World Cup.

CMRL continue to develop and grow the game in communities across the Zone with just over 13,000 school-aged children having a rugby league and tag experience. This is achieved through the delivery of community carnivals, Have A go Days, in-school coaching, and cluster festivals where neighbouring schools come together and the children get an opportunity to test their newly learned skills in a game.

Congratulations to Roger Tuivasa-Sheck on winning the prestigious IRL Golden Boot Award for 2019. Former Counties Stingray and Otahuhu Leopards junior is now recognised as the best current player in international rugby league. This is an incredible achievement and one which will no doubt inspire many young athletes across Counties Manukau to chase their dreams.





Zones



> UPPER CENTRAL

2019 has been a busy year for Upper Central Zone (UCZ). The Zone is fortunate to have committed staff and volunteers who continue to support the game across the five districts: Waikato, Hauraki, Coastline, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne Tairāwhiti.

Unfortunately, UCZ was unable to secure key funding and had to farewell General Manager, Mel Bennett in June. Despite having to restructure roles, the Zone made promising contributions towards player and volunteer development.

As youth development remains a core priority, UCZ ran its annual Brisbane Broncos Hub in February with 180 attendees. In July, the Zone hosted the North Island District Tournament in Rotorua, with 23 youth teams from eight districts represented. Following these successes, the Wai-Coa-Bay sides performed well at the National Youth Tournament, with UCZ 15s finishing third and 17s finishing in fifth.

The women's game continues to build profile, and 2019 marks the fifth year the Zone has entered a team into NZRL Women's Nationals. Despite finishing sixth place, there is strong momentum moving forward, with women's competitions now running in Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hauraki and Coastline. UCZ is committed to growing female participation and will be running women's festivals and hubs for college girls in 2020.

The Zone also hosted the NSW Country 23s and England Community Lions Tours taking both touring parties into camps and school visits in Taupo, Rotorua and Tauranga, further enhancing the awareness of the game and its opportunities on offer.

UCZ staff continue to work in clubs and schools providing various festivals, workshops and courses throughout the regions. Off the back of the SkySport Roadshow early this year, UCZ further commits to supporting the growth of the game in the Gisborne Tairāwhiti and Hauraki Districts.

Some key highlights and achievements worth mentioning:

- › Honey Hireme-Smiler (Captain) and Kanyon Paul were selected for the Kiwi Ferns; and to Te Whetumarama Nuku and Pahu Kani selected for Warriors Women's Nines
- › Cassius Cowley and Manaia Ngataki-Matthews were selected for NZ Residents 16s; and congratulations to Cassius Cowley for being named NZRL 16s player of the year
- › Eugene Davis and Chris Langley were appointed as Assistant Coaches for NZ Residents 16s in 2019
- › Eugene Davis was also appointed as Assistant Coach for NZ Resident 18s for 2020, and Alex Parker Assistant coach for NZ Resident 16s
- › Jonte Rikiriki, Joseph O'Leary, Dayna Bidois and Bailey Umaki made Merit teams at NZRL's National Youth Tournament

Over the next 12 months, UCZ will be focusing on increasing staff resources and its level of service to the Zone to further capitalise on the momentum achieved this year.





Zones



> MID CENTRAL

Mid Central Zone (MCZ) has had a promising 2019 season filled with notable growth and momentum.

A standout highlight has been MCZ's increase in participation. 2019 saw a 300% increase in female representative participation due to the success of the Vipers women's team at the NZRL National Women's Tournament. The Vipers were awarded Team of the Tournament and congratulations to Haze Reweti, who won Trainer of the Tournament.

Building capability within the Zone has been another strong focus. MCZ delivered a series of coaching for coaches' clinics, managers courses and club administration workshops throughout the year. There has been an immediate impact as player participation increased by 66% compared to 2018, while volunteer registrations have tripled.



2019 saw MCZ create the inaugural Men's North Island Championship (NIC). This men's representative competition took place throughout the North Island involving teams from Wellington, Manawatu, Taranaki, Coastlines and Northland. The benefits far exceeded expectations with some of the best football of the season played without a single default throughout. The Districts and Zones involved are to be commended for their commitment towards travel, time, player development and scheduling.

Six players were selected from NIC teams to create a North Island Championship Select team which played the NSW Country U23s in Rotorua at the National Youth Tournament. Congratulations to Eli Kneepkens, Jahlon Governor, Joshua Kerr, Keani Broughton, Taumutu Nohotima and Travell Ngatoko.

This was followed later by a live televised game against the England Community Lions marking the first time most of these players and staff were involved with International rugby league. Overall, this initiative brought fantastic awareness to the regional grassroots game and its players.

To conclude the season, a development camp in conjunction with the NRL Brisbane Broncos in Palmerston North. Looking ahead, MCZ plans to grow this newly formed NRL development relationship and provide further player pathway opportunities.

Some key highlights and achievements worth mentioning:

- › Congratulations to Arama Kite and Fatiauma Moeahu-Leota who were selected for the NZ Residents 16s, and to Brooklyn Herewini and Tyson Chase selected for the NZ Residents 18s
- › The Vipers youth teams had a successful year at National level with the 15s placing fifth and the 17s placing fourth
- › Congratulations to Tyson Chase and Sheldon Rapana selected for the 17s Merit Team at NZRL Youth Tournament
- › Tanwy Burgess and Kristina Sue selected for the Merit Team at the NZRL Women's National Tournament
- › Tyson Chase, Memphis Hennessey, Kallis Mason, Tupene Reweti, Matua Robinson and Samuela Vakadula selected for the 2020 NZRL TDP
- › MCZ also had excellent participation response to tournaments with 46 schools involved at various levels throughout the year



Zones

> WELLINGTON



2019 has been a busy yet rewarding year for Wellington Rugby League (WRL). Wellington hosted its first NZRL Development Officers conference in eight years and also had the pleasure of hosting an NRL clash between the NZ Warriors and the Cronulla Sharks that brought with it increased community awareness and engagement.

In liaison with the Warriors Community team, WRL facilitated numerous wellbeing workshops for clubs as well as a series of open community days that saw the Warriors team running skills & drills for hundreds of future Wellington stars.

WRL had another strong club competition year, with both the junior and senior grades ending with a festival of rugby league all at one venue.

The day commenced with the Junior State of Origin matches and the Wellington Rugby League Masters followed on by the Premier Reserves grand final before concluding with the Premier Grade grand final between Whiti Te Ra and Wainuiomata Lions.

In liaison with NZRL, 2019 saw WRL run targeted skills and drills for female athletes at two separate rugby league clinics in Porirua and Lower Hutt in an effort to grow the women's game and its opportunities in Wellington.



Some key highlights and achievements worth mentioning:

- › Congratulations to Whiti Te Ra for making Wellington Rugby League history by becoming the first team to win four consecutive Wellington Rugby League Premierships
- › The Wellington Orcas Men's team took out the North Island Districts Championship competition then went on and claimed victory against Otago in the National Championship competition
- › Nine Wellington Orcas players and a staff member were selected for the North Island Championship Select team that played the touring NSW Country 23's in Rotorua and the England Community Lions in Auckland
- › Congratulations to Johnny Skinnon; Aaron Whitikia; John Wharepapa Rawiri; Solomon Patelesio; Francis Vaaua; Andre Kemp; Isope Manu; Mohi Aupouri; Stevie – Ray Haenga Albert and Matt Kilgour (Manager)
- › Congratulations also to Sherri Burgess, Tawny Burgess and Teuila Taito who were invited to attend a wider Kiwi Ferns development squad training camp in Cambridge early 2020 where they joined current and potential Kiwi Ferns players and coaching staff ahead of the upcoming international season
- › Father and son combo Daniel and Dallas McEwan both represented New Zealand this year when Daniel was again appointed as the Assistant Coach for the NZ Residents 18s team and son Dallas was selected to play against Toa Samoa 18s and France 19s teams
- › Congratulations to Orca's Under-15s captain, Jacob Laban who was named in the NZ Residents 16s team

2020 will see Wellington Rugby League focus further on growing the opportunities in the women's and youth space.



Zones



> SOUTHERN

2019 was a year of significant growth for Southern Zone Rugby League. There were notable increases in junior and female registration numbers in all areas but particularly in Southland and Aoraki as well as an increase in trained volunteers and referees in all six districts.

The Southern Zone recorded significantly higher scores in the key metrics for overall satisfaction in the Sport NZ Voice of the Participant report and the highest rating on most likely to recommend their club and most likely to rejoin. The report also showed a decrease in the number of judicial hearings and the incidence of sideline abuse.

In the More Than a Game space, Southern Zone partnered with the Health Promotion Agency and the Ministry of Social Development in a project designed to investigate ways to support young people through tough times.

In a major breakthrough, Canterbury Rugby League managed to implement an alcohol ban from rugby league sidelines with no reported alcohol matters, increased patronage at clubs and an increase in the number of match officials.

There was a big increase in participation in and attendance at the annual Pacific Series.

The launch of Nga Puna Wai Sports Hub, a key new facility for Rugby League in Christchurch attracted more domestic and international rugby league to the region. In 2019 the facility hosted the National Premiership Final, France 19s vs Canterbury XIII, Samoa vs Canterbury Bulls, Warriors Women's Trial and South Island 19s vs Auckland 19s and a New Zealand Kiwis open training session.

The efforts of the Otago Whalers premier team in the NZRL Championship final and those of the Rockcote Canterbury Bulls in the NZRL Premiership final were standout.

Some key highlights and achievements worth mentioning:

- › Six Canterbury Bulls players were selected in the NZ Residents Team; Michael Butson, Brad Campbell, Tevin Arona, Penitito Ilalio, Jope Tagicakibau and Alex Todd
- › Canterbury Bulls Head Coach, Andrew Auimatagi, was selected as NZ Residents Coach and was named NZRL Coach of the Year for 2019. Southland's Alana Lockhorst was NZ Residents Manager
- › The Southern Zone was well represented in NZRL's three age-group teams, with the NZ 16s Residents (Jaedon Wellington), NZ 18s Residents (Caius Fa'atili) and Junior Kiwis (Jordan Riki) all captained by present or former Scorpions players
- › Scorpions teams placed 2nd in the 17s grade and 3rd in the 15s grade for the National Youth Tournament a best ever achievement for the Southern Zone
- › Two Southern Zone players were named in the 15s tournament team for the National Youth Tournament while 15s manager, Rachael Te Hau was named manager of the tournament. A further seven players were named in 17s tournament team while, 17s coach Archie Jacobs, was named coach of the tournament
- › 17s player, Riley Pascoe was named Player of the Tournament and Ethan Faitaua was named the MVP of the final

Southern Zone looks forward to capitalising on the momentum achieved in 2019 across its districts and further developing the outstanding talent on display in the South.



Māori Rugby League

2019 was an extremely successful year for New Zealand Māori Rugby League (NZMRL), as the best of Māori rugby league talent was on display both at home and abroad.

From Tamariki to Teina, and Rangatahi through to Tuakana, NZMRL has seen enormous growth across the four tournaments. 158 teams participated last year, showcasing the best of Māori League talent from across the Motu.

A highlight for the season was the NZ Māori Residents facing the England Community Lions in Rotorua. An exciting and physical encounter, with the NZ Māori Residents winning 40-24. This match was the showpiece at Tuakana Tournament, played alongside our other finals, with Ngāti Umutahi (Wāhine), He Waka Eke Noa (Waka) and Raukawa ki Runga (Rohe) winning each grade.

NZMRL continue to find new opportunities for Rangatahi, and further strengthen ties with our Pasifika Whānau. NZMRL hosted a Rangatahi challenge day with Hakula Tonga in November and entered teams in the Pasifika Youth Cup in Auckland. These Kaupapa are important for the development of our Rangatahi pathways.

A notable highlight was when the Māori All Stars took on the Australian Indigenous All Stars in front of 23,000 fans at the CBUS Super Stadium in the Gold Coast. Representing the Māori All Stars continues to be the pinnacle for all Māori players both in Australia and New Zealand which was evident by the passion displayed by the NZMRL athletes on and off the field.

NZMRL's Wāhine team went down 10-4 in a close fought battle, and the Tāne produced an outstanding 30-16 victory. Brandon Smith scored two tries and was awarded the Preston Campbell medal as Player of the Match.

Other highlights for 2019 include:

- › Howie Tamati, Kevin Tamati and Ruben Wiki inducted into Māori Sports Hall of Fame
- › 33 Wāhine and Kōtiro teams entered across tournaments
- › 158 teams performed haka
- › Te Reo Māori used in all communications and whanaungatanga fostered
- › Significant growth in reach via social media platforms
- › Seven NZMRL Rangatahi Teams fielded in 13's, 14's, 15's & 17's grades
- › Four successful tournaments – Tuakana, Rangatahi, Teina & Tamariki

The Māori Rugby League Kaupapa continues on in 2020, despite the new challenges posed to all whānau. While difficult decisions had to be made to cancel the tamariki and teina tournaments, NZMRL look forward to hosting Rangatahi and Tuakana tournament in October in Rotorua.





Masters

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

Masters have players up to 70 years old playing rugby league, promoting sportsmanship, reliving old glories and bringing people back to football clubs with a wealth of experience and knowledge to share. The game continues to grow in popularity as Auckland boasts 32 teams with the Manukau Magpies fielding three of those. Other districts include Canterbury (eight teams) Wellington, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu and Waikato. Every team entering Masters must be affiliated to a rugby league club so that all profits return back to the grassroots game.

The 2019 Masters of Rugby League International was held on the Gold Coast and was hosted by the Southport Tigers.

Thirty-four teams from Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and the Cook Islands participated in true Masters fashion. The 13 teams that represented NZ were a credit to the game and

their respective clubs. Thanks to Mt Albert Lions, Eastern Eagles, Eastside Bulls, Manawatu Classics, Manukau Greenlane, Midlands Masters, NZ Army Masters, Otira Trains, Otahuhu Leopards, Shirley Hawks, St George, Te Atatu Roosters and Whiti Te Rā Legends.

One of the many highlights was the New Zealand vs Australia Test match with one Australian player proving that age is no barrier, taking the field at a spritely 80 years old.

The 2020 Masters of Rugby League International Tournament is set to be held in Queenstown on Oct 17th to Oct 24th this will also include a Women's Masters division.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, players and referees who make the Masters game the success it is. Special thanks also to the Masters of Rugby League NZ Executive team who work hard to deliver a quality event. Seeking to capitalise on the foundations laid by Phil Campbell, MoRLNZ main goals are to recruit more players, strengthen the game internationally with regular Test matches and grow the Masters Women's game.

Museum

2019 was another favourable year for the Rugby League Museum Society of New Zealand.

The Museum premises are used on a more regular basis by various associates. They not only take advantage of the meeting facilities offered, but they also take the time to view the ever-increasing displays and impressive material on show. To this end, the visitor numbers have continued to grow, with an increase in overseas visitors who have become aware of the Museum and its facilities via the Museum website.

In addition to the numerous articles donated to the Museum by followers of the game, 2019 saw the unveiling of the Physical Disability Rugby League cabinet (PDRLNZ). This cabinet showcases PDRLNZ's contribution to the game both on and off the field, as they continue to bridge the gap

between disabled and non-disabled athletes, break down social stigmas and effect change within rugby league communities.

The purpose of the Museum society is to: Celebrate, Preserve, Educate and Inspire.

The Museum committee wishes to thank the associated sectors of the game for their help in the day to day running of the organisation, namely, The Carlaw Park Trust Board, the New Zealand Rugby League, The Auckland Rugby League and The New Zealand Warriors.

Committee Members: John Bray (Chairman), Kevin Bailey, Jason Baker, Allen Gore, Ray Haffenden, Don Hammond, Brian Keane, Simon Watson, Gary Whittle, Kasey King and Alan Messenger (Manager).



NZ Universities & Tertiary Students Rugby League

The New Zealand Universities & Tertiary Students Rugby League (NZUTSRL) sent a ground-breaking side to Fiji for a four-game tournament. This marked the first time in 51 years (since the Council began) that a NZUTSRL team has travelled to play in a Pacific Island nation.

With the England 2021 Student World Cup only a year away, the NZUTSRL treated the tournament as a development trip to blood the 16 new players from the overall squad of 19.

The first game, NZUTSRL started slowly before beating the University of South Pacific team at Churchill Park in the high temperatures of Lautoka. Two days later, the NZUTSRL lost against an excellent Australian Universities side at the same venue.

The tournament then moved to Suva where the NZUTSRL side played and beat the Fiji National University team to secure a place in the final against Australia. While the final was more of a contest, the Australian team, in the end, were convincing winners.

In September NZUTSRL held its Annual Nines Tournament in Wellington. Six men's sides made for a good contest and in the final Otago University won its second successive final by beating the New Zealand Institute of Sport team 13-7.

During the year the NZUTSRL lost several alumni with the most notable being its Life Member, team manager, champion fundraiser and former long-serving President, 'Bud' Lisle.

More than 40 Alumni were also recognised during two capping functions in Auckland and Wellington, which had former representative players travel from Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong and

Samoa to attend the event. Several other Alumni were also recognised by being capped in their home country of Fiji.

New Zealand Universities players, Nobel Peace Prize and Rhodes Scholar recipients, Professor Barry Smit and Dr Dick McConnel were in attendance at the Wellington function alongside former Samoan Member of Parliament, Afamasaga Toleafoa.

NZUTSRL continues to foster education against the backdrop of a strengthened student game and quality playing opportunities.





Physical Disability Rugby League

2019 was a successful year for Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRLNZ) as the game achieved momentous growth.

June 2019 saw the launch of the first local rugby league competition in Auckland, The Campbell Cup, marking a significant milestone for PDRLNZ. The Campbell Cup, named after Board member and PDRLNZ advocate, Philip Campbell, was valiantly fought over four weeks. Congratulations to the PDRL Knights for taking out the competition in its inaugural year.

The South Pacific 9's challenge was the curtain-raiser to the Great Britain v Tonga International Test match on October 26th which saw the PDRLNZ Polynesian All-Stars take on the PDRLNZ Invitational All-Stars at FMG Stadium. The best of PDRL talent was on display on the international stage, with players from Christchurch, Taupo, Tokoroa, Sydney and Auckland all taking part. Congratulations to the Polynesian All Stars captained by Michael Kulene who were the eventual winners with a 20-10 defeat over Captain Gary Endacott's Invitational All Stars.

Other key highlights worth mentioning:

- › The New Zealand Rugby League Museum unveiled a new cabinet celebrating Physical Disability Rugby League and its contribution to the game and wider community
- › In August, PDRLNZ welcomed Tony Tatupu on board as the PDRLNZ Ambassador. He brought with him stability and a stronger connection to the wider Rugby League family
- › PDRLNZ international players were acknowledged at the Kiwis reunion lunch in November
- › With the help of New Zealand Rugby League, PDRLNZ has received strong media exposure further enhancing the awareness around opportunities that exist for disabled athletes in rugby league



PDRLNZ would like to thank its consortium of selfless volunteers including coaches, trainers, parents, advocates and supporters as well as its long list of valued partners for their ongoing and invaluable support of the physical disability game and its opportunities.

With the help of the wider rugby league whānau, PDRLNZ continues to close the gap between sporting opportunities afforded to non-disabled peers and those who have a physical disability.



Commercial

NZRL would not have been able to enjoy the positive growth achieved over the past year if it was not for our consortium of valued sponsors and partners.

Firstly, thank you to our long-term partners Pirtek and Mainstream who remain major sponsors of the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns through to the 2021 World Cup. Their ongoing support and loyalty, shown both on and off the field, continue to be invaluable.

Welcome to Sky Sport, who joined our valued group of long term partners in 2019. Not only did Sky provide additional support over and above the current arrangement ensuring the Kiwi Ferns and Junior Kiwis took the field last year, early 2020 saw NZRL embark on the first-ever Sky Sport Rugby League Roadshow which visited a series of towns from Gisborne to Whitianga to promote rugby league in the regions.

Thanks to Sky, every child (U12) who registered at the Roadshows received a Sky Sport Starter Pack up to the value of \$70. Thank you to CEO, Martin Stewart and the team at Sky for their ongoing support enabling us to showcase and promote the game of rugby league in new and innovative ways.

NZRL has retained all of its key sponsors with the exception of ISC, who, due to internal challenges, withdrew from being the apparel provider for NZRL. We have been very fortunate to find a replacement in a world-wide recognised sporting brand, BLK. BLK has been a partner in the past and we welcome them back to the NZRL fold as collectively we look to launch a new range and build momentum into World Cup year.

Our IT provider, Revera, now referred to as CCL (Computer Concept Limited) remains committed and does an outstanding job in ensuring NZRL is up to date with all modern technology. CCL:Revera was the naming right sponsor for NZRL's Talent Development Camp and delivered a careers seminar for our 16s and 18s athletes.

We are also extremely grateful for our support sponsors, Steeden, the Official ball provider, USL, OPRO the world-renowned mouthguard supplier and Care Pharmaceuticals who came on board as hydration partner with their Hydralyte brand. Steeden and OPRO have also generously provided high-quality equipment in the form of brand new balls and mouthguards for every Sky Sport Starter pack.

NZRL is incredibly grateful for the invaluable support of all the above sponsors who have committed through to the 2021 World Cup year. We continue to seek new partners that share the same vision and passion that will enable us to take the game to even greater heights.





Communications

This past year has seen impressive growth in the communications space for New Zealand Rugby League.

The brand guidelines were rejuvenated and new document templates and logos were created to ensure greater consistency with all internal and external-facing communications.

Our More Than A Game and Kiwi Way philosophies were strengthened and more successfully articulated through the creation of the Towards 2025, More Than A Game and Our People Strategy documents to which these philosophies shaped.

The successful 2019 International season was complemented by a highly engaged social media campaign that attracted 22,024 new audience members across NZRL's social channels for 2019. NZRL's Instagram following increased by 12% at the conclusion of the November campaign and the creation of a Kiwi Ferns specific Facebook page saw us shine a brighter spotlight on our female game and its athletes.

Online organic player engagement vastly improved on previous years with the use of the #KiwiWay hashtag among players more regular, evident and most importantly organic (without prompt) to which now we see fans and supporters following suit.




The past 12 months has also seen the communications team amp up their delivery of all grassroots tournaments with rejuvenated social collateral and promotional content, as well as the continuation of highly successful NZRL live streams, increased media presence and more grassroots player engagement through videoed interviews and Q&A profile pieces.

Last year saw us further strengthen our relationship with Sky Sport through the Kiwi League Show, as we initiated feature pieces that highlighted our grassroots, female and disability athletes more in-depth to Sky's broadcast audiences. NZRL also launched the 'Community League Show' a social media video series hosted by Nigel Vagana that highlighted the key happenings within our community space from across the country. NZRL premiered four videos with an average engagement of over 10k per episode.

2020 will see the completion of a new NZRL website estimated to launch July, a 12-month project that commenced June last year. This website will more accurately reflect NZRL's identity and direction in an improved user-friendly way that is timely and complementary to our brand.

NZRL's organisational reputation was well managed through the cancellation of the Secondary School's tournament in September last year as well as the recent COVID-19 pandemic as a result of successful crisis communications strategy and delivery.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic shifted focus momentarily for 2020, the next 12 months will see further innovation in the communications space as we capitalise on the brand momentum already achieved by continuing to build consistency and credibility in relation to all internal and external-facing communications.

 467,378 up by 7,524	 55,300 followers up by 13,300	 3100 up by 1200
<hr/>		
Overall, we engaged 22,024 new audience members across NZRL's social channels for 2019.		



2019 NZRL Awards

> High Performance

Jared Waerea-Hargreaves and Georgia Hale have been named 2019 New Zealand Rugby League Players of the Year with Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad and Juliana Newman earning Rookies of the Year for the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns.

Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Kiwis #755) played all four Tests against Tonga, Australia and Great Britain, averaging 136 metres and 36 tackles with his consistency and leadership earning him his second Player of the Year title in a row.

Kiwis' Coach Michael Maguire says: "Jared is a big part of our team, the passion he has for his jersey is contagious, he epitomises the Kiwi culture serving as a great role model for our younger players. His performance last year was stand-out and the most consistent across all tests, he's an invaluable member of the group both on and off the field and winning Player of the Year for a second time running is testament to that."

Recently announced Young New Zealander of the Year, Georgia Hale has another accolade to add to her evergrowing collection, as a standout season has seen her take home Kiwi Fern's Player of the Year for 2019. The 24-year-old racked up 29 tackles and 122 metres in the 46-8 win over Fetu Samoa in June and played an invaluable role in the World Nines win over the Jillaroos making a team-high 57 metres.

Kiwi Ferns' Head Coach Justin Morgan says: "Georgia plays at the highest quality and leaves nothing behind. She's a leader of our group, and her impact is felt widespread on and off the field which has earned her this accolade. We are very fortunate to have someone of her calibre in the squad."

2019 saw an array of fresh Kiwi talent on display with the likes of Jahrome Hughes, Briton Nikora, and Corey Harawira-Naera all impressing on debut; however it was newfound Canberra star Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad (Kiwis #820) whose performance earned him the title of Kiwis Rookie of the Year. Nicoll-Klokstad was hailed as the NRL's buy of the season, earning him a place in the Kiwis World Cup Nines squad. The 24-year-old made his Test debut at centre against Australia in Wollongong where he was New Zealand's sole try-scorer running 112 metres in the 26-4 loss.

Nicoll-Klokstad was a strong performer in the 2-0 series win over Great Britain, running close to 100 metres in both matches and a try-assist for Ken Maumalo's match-sealer in the second Test in Christchurch. Coach Michael Maguire says: "Charnze is an exceptional talent and the passion he has for his country and this jersey is evident. After a breakout season at fullback, he played for us in the centres and rose to every occasion."

"The pool of rookies we had this year were outstanding; we have a great playing group which only continues to grow in strength - I'm looking forward to what lies ahead."

Juliana Newman has been awarded Kiwi Ferns Rookie of the Year after making the transition to rugby league in 2019, earning a Warriors NRLW contract and Kiwi Ferns honours just three months after her code switch.

The 30-year-old took a rugby league crash course in the Auckland club competition with Mount Albert and was named in the Kiwi Ferns' squad for the mid-year Test against Fetu Samoa. She was then named in New Zealand's World Cup Nines squad after her NRLW performance and her blockbusting try early in the second half of the final was crucial to the 17-15 victory over Australia. The outside-back capped the year by making her Test debut against the Jillaroos in Wollongong.

"Jules has had an exceptional debut season and is entirely deserving of this accolade," says Morgan.

"She is extremely skilful across the park, she's driven and it's clear how proud she is to wear this jersey. She's had an outstanding introduction to the game and it's exciting to think this is only the beginning for her."

Paramatta Eels young gun Dylan Brown wins Junior Player of the Year after enjoying an excellent debut NRL season for the Parramatta Eels. Brown was named in the Junior Kiwis squad and later represented the Kiwis at the World Nines.

2019 HIGH-PERFORMANCE WINNERS:

- › **KIWIS PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Jared Waerea-Hargreaves
- › **WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Georgia Hale
- › **KIWIS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**
Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad
- › **KIWI FERNS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**
Juliana Newman
- › **JUNIOR KIWIS OF THE YEAR**
Dylan Brown



2019 NZRL Awards

> Community

The 2019 NZRL Community Award saw Taniwharau Rugby League Club awarded NZRL Grassroots Club of the Year.

Seventy-five years strong and situated in an area where the playing population is quickly diminishing, this has not hindered the growth of the North Waikato Club who have not only retained players but expanded in numbers and accolades across the park.

Taniwharau's Premier team remained undefeated in 2019 as they took out the Waikato Men's Premiership for the third year running. The club also impressively sports a team at every age group including two female grades, who due to lack of local competition travel each weekend to compete in Auckland. Taniwharau's U18s Girls team, coached by Mike Wilson, reigned supreme taking out the U18s Auckland Women's Competition which earned them a nomination for Sport Waikato Team of the Year and Mike a nomination for Sport Waikato Coach of the Year.

Canterbury's Tevin Arona picked up NZRL Domestic Player of the year due to his outstanding season with the Bulls helping guide them to the NZRL Premiership final. He also co-Captained the NZ Residents to a victory over the England Community Lions in November and represented the Cook Islands at International Nines and Test level.

Andrew Auimatagi was awarded Domestic Coach of the Year after he coached the Canterbury Bulls to their most successful season in recent time, the Linwood Keas to their third Premiership title in a row, and also the NZ Residents to their victory against England. Andrew has been a driving force within Canterbury and the Southern Zone for a number of years and continues to give back to age-grade representative teams and coaches.

Tokoroa's Cassius Cowley was awarded U16s Player of the Year after a remarkable 2019 season that saw him captain the Vodafone Warriors 16s team, receive MVP of the 17s North Island Tournament, as well as MVP at the NZ16s test against Toa Samoa in October.

Temple Kalepo was awarded U18s Player of the Year for 2019. The Ellerslie Junior made his debut for the Vodafone Warriors Jersey Flegg and Canterbury Cup team before taking the field for the Junior Kiwis against the Australian Schoolboys. He was also named in the NZ18s squad who took on France and Toa Samoa.

Chris McMillan was awarded Match Official of the Year after he was appointed Touch Judge for all Kiwis home Test matches for the season and officiated the NZRL National Premiership final. Chris also continues to provide coaching at a grassroots level in his spare time.

The Pirtek Volunteer of the Year Awards went to Bryarn Nuku from Omaha Huia Rugby League Club and Anaru Paul from the Hamilton City Tigers after those within their communities nominated them for their selfless dedication to their clubs.

Bryarn kick-started junior rugby league at Omaha Huia Rugby League club which hadn't seen a junior grade for more than 20 years. Her actions epitomise the Kiwi Way, from fundraising, transporting local kids to their games and paying for their playing fees. Anaru has held the Manager role at the Hamilton City Tigers for over five years, he was a part of two Waikato Premiership winning teams himself and has managed the current Waikato Men's Premier squad for the last three years. He is described as a true gentleman and an extremely humble man who puts everyone involved in the game before himself.

NZRL CEO, Greg Peters says, "It is these people that keep our game thriving whether you're a player, coach, referee or volunteer at any level.

"I want to thank all recipients for their dedication to what happens on the field as well as off it. These awards recognise outstanding work in our grassroots and community space and the growth of our game is a testament to them. We congratulate each recipient on their outstanding achievement."

2019 NZRL COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS:

- › **GRASSROOTS CLUB OF THE YEAR**
Taniwharau
- › **DOMESTIC COACH OF THE YEAR**
Andrew Auimatagi
- › **DOMESTIC PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Tevin Arona
- › **U16S PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Cassius Cowley
- › **U18S PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Temple Kalepo
- › **MATCH OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR**
Chris McMillan
- › **PIRTEK FEMALE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
Bryarn Nuku
- › **PIRTEK MALE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
Anaru Paul

New Zealand Rugby League Inc.

Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



Directors' Report

The Directors present the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

These consolidated financial statements reflect the overall state of the game controlled by the New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated ("the Society"). The seven Zones have been consolidated with results of those of the Society and NZRL Investment Limited Partnership.

The consolidated surplus for the year was \$428,000 (2019: \$704,000 deficit) and the consolidated excess of assets over liabilities was \$2,968,000 (2018: \$2,540,000).

New Zealand Rugby League Board Members

The following people held office as a Director of New Zealand Rugby League Inc. during the year:

Reon Edwards (Chairman)
Hugh Martyn
Andrew Fraser
William McEntee
Tawera Nikau
Elizabeth Richards (Vice-Chairperson)
Grant Stapleton

Directors' Interests in Transactions with the Group

Total remuneration and fees paid to Directors and transactions with parties related to Directors are disclosed in note 16 to the financial statements.

Auditors

BDO Auckland were appointed auditors for the year 31 March 2020. The audit is conducted on a group basis with one audit fee paid for and recorded in the financial statements of New Zealand Rugby League Inc.

For and on behalf of the Board

Director
Date: 9 July 2020

Director
Date: 9 July 2020

	Note	Group	
		2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
<i>Revenue from exchange transactions:</i>			
Coaching and development		110	130
<i>Revenue from non-exchange transactions:</i>			
Match revenue		967	1,946
Charitable trust grants		1,157	1,165
Other grants		573	427
Sponsorship and funding		4,278	3,943
New Zealand Racing Board		972	1,065
Other income		122	114
		8,179	8,790
<i>Expenses:</i>			
Employee benefits expenses	5	(4,000)	(4,611)
Depreciation expense	9	(79)	(63)
General expenses	6	(3,609)	(4,777)
		(7,688)	(9,451)
(Deficit)/Surplus before net financing costs		491	(661)
Finance income		1	6
Finance costs		(64)	(49)
Net finance income/(cost)		(63)	(43)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		428	(704)
<i>Other comprehensive revenue and expense</i>			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss</i>			
Gain on revaluation of land and buildings	9	-	1,926
Other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year attributable to owners of the controlling entity		428	1,222

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET
ASSETS/EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



Group	Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 April 2019	614	1,926	2,540
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	428	-	428
Transfer to RE on sale of L&B	1,926	(1,926)	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	2,968	-	2,968
Balance as at 1 April 2018	1,318	-	1,318
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	(704)	1,926	1,222
Transfer from RLWC reserve	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2019	614	1,926	2,540

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



	Note	Group	
		2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	1,273	302
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	8	826	533
Prepayments		91	79
		2,190	914
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,375	3,405
		3,375	3,405
TOTAL ASSETS		5,565	4,319
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Loans	12	73	500
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	500	517
Deferred revenue	11	936	599
Employee benefit liability		110	149
Goods and service taxation		94	14
		1,713	1,779
Non-current liabilities			
Loans	12	884	-
		884	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,597	1,779
EQUITY			
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		2,968	614
Revaluation Reserve		-	1,926
TOTAL EQUITY		2,968	2,540
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		5,565	4,319

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



	Note	Group	
		2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from:			
Coaching and development fees		232	245
Grants, sponsorship, match revenue, and the New Zealand Racing Board		8,211	8,518
Interest received		1	6
Payments to suppliers		(3,638)	(4,627)
Payments to employees		(4,259)	(4,656)
Net GST received / (paid)		80	(19)
Interest paid		(64)	(49)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		563	(582)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property, plant and equipment		(49)	(20)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(49)	(20)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Drawdown of loans		457	500
Net cash outflow from financing activities		457	500
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		971	(102)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		302	404
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	7	1,273	302

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



Note 1 - Reporting entity

New Zealand Rugby League Inc. (the "Controlling Entity", also referred to as "the Society") 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 2020 comprise the controlling entity and its controlled entities (together referred to as the 'Group') and individually as 'Group entities'.

Note 2 - Basis of preparation

(a) Statement of compliance

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

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

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the New Zealand Rugby League Board on 9 July 2020.

(b) Measurement basis

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

(c) Functional and presentation currency

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

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

(d) Going Concern basis

The Group has made a profit for the year of \$428,000 (2019: loss of \$704,000 before other comprehensive income) and is forecast to make a loss of \$232,000 in the 2021 financial year due to significant disruptions caused by COVID 19 (refer to Note 18 Subsequent Events). Further forecasting for April to July 2021 suggests additional losses of \$44,000 (total forecast losses of \$276,000 for the 16 months to 31 July 2021). The forecast loss for 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 is \$311,000, which represents a period of 12 months from the date of signing of the financial statements.

At 31 May 2020 the Group had \$1,100,000 of funds remaining in its customised average rate facility with the Bank of New Zealand available to utilise, with a further bank overdraft facility of \$200,000 overdraft also available. As the forecast losses in this 12 month period are less than the available funding lines, the Group can operate within its existing bank facilities and is preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Management have identified a number of events and conditions beyond 31 July 2020 which may impact the going concern assumption. These relate to:

- The timing of events
- The impact of this on its obligations to sponsors
- Sponsors' ability to meet contracted obligations
- Timing and quantum of TAB revenues; and
- The continued control of COVID-19 in New Zealand.

To mitigate these risks, Management have outlined:

- The forecasts include the COVID-19 wage subsidy (\$145,000 received to date), but no other additional government funding. Sport New Zealand has since confirmed support to New Zealand Rugby League Inc. as a National Sporting Organisation, from the Partner Support Fund and Sports

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



Sector Rebuild Fund that was announced as part of the budget following the impact of COVID-19 (refer to Note 18 *Subsequent Events*). The Group also has some funding from the Community Resilience Fund. There may be further Government funding available, the quantum and timing of which is uncertain.

- The forecasts do not include revenue generated for any international test matches held. If these can be played under relaxed border restrictions, additional revenues will be available.
- The Group is working hard to control costs and there is scope to reshape the cost base further if required.
- At reporting date the land and buildings are valued at \$3,375,000 which, net of the existing \$1,700,000 mortgage facility, provides additional options around for funding or cash flows from sale.

The material uncertainties arising from the events and conditions noted above may cast doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If the going concern assumption is not valid, the consequence is the Group may be unable to realise the value in its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

Note 3 - Significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements and have been applied consistently by the Group. The significant accounting policies of the Group are detailed below:

(a) Revenue

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

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

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

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

i. Revenue from exchange transactions

Coaching and development

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

ii. Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Charitable trust grants, other grants and sponsorships

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

Match revenue and New Zealand Racing Board

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

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



(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.

Note 4 - Use of judgements and estimates

Judgements

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

Estimates and assumptions

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

Key assumptions and judgements relate to:

- Revenue recognition: non-exchange revenue - Management is required to make a judgement on the value received (where the revenue stream is not received in cash or is not easily measurable) and as to the existence of any conditions and restrictions. (Note 8)

- 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. (Note 2d)

- Revaluation of land and buildings - The Group's land and buildings were revalued at 31 March 2019 using an independent valuer. Management has judged that the revaluation method is more relevant than the cost method for the Society, as it ensures the carrying value of the land and buildings reflects the market/fair value of the assets as at 31 March 2020.

In estimating the fair value of land and buildings, the fair value method of valuation was used under PBE IPSAS 17 *Property Plant and Equipment*. The fair value method makes significant use of observable prices in active markets and recent market transactions on an arm's length basis. Management has not had the land and buildings revalued at 31 March 2020 as it does not consider there has been any significant movement in the value of the land and buildings during this financial year. Management considers that it is too early to tell if industrial property values have been materially affected by the impact of COVID-19 (refer to note 2d and 18). Therefore, they have relied on the previous year's valuation, and consider it appropriate to have the land and buildings revalued every 3 - 5 years.

Note 5 - Employee benefits expense

	Group	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-Term employee benefits	3,075	3,078
Defined employee contribution plan - Kiwisaver	77	80
Match fees, allowances and other employee related costs	848	1,453
Total employee benefit expenses	4,000	4,611

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



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

Note 6 - General expenses

	Group	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
General expenses includes:		
Administration and communication expenses	514	542
Doubtful debts	5	313
Coaching and development expenses	102	85
Directors fees	83	101
Event management expenses	499	783
Legal fees	98	61
Other professional service fees	395	554
Team expenses	812	620
Travel expenses	1,101	1,718

Note 7 - Cash and cash equivalents

	Group	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
Current assets:		
Current Account	424	336
Call Account	366	91
Donations Account	362	344
League 4 Life (held on behalf of)	88	100
Oceania GB Lions JV (held on behalf of)	-	111
Overdraft	-	(710)
Foreign Currency Accounts	33	30
	1,273	302

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

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



Note 8 - Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)

	Group	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	831	849
Allowance for impairment	(5)	(316)
Net recoverables from non-exchange transactions	826	533

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

	Total Impairment
	\$'000
Balance at 1 April 2019	316
Charge for the year	-
Utilisation of provision during the year	(311)
Balance as at 31 March 2020	5

Note 9 - Property, plant and equipment

Group	Freehold land	Buildings	Motor vehicles	Plant and equipment	Furniture and fittings	Furniture and fittings	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cost/valuation							
Balance as at 1 Apr 2019	720	2,600	19	287	95	0	3,721
Additions/Disposals	-	-	-	27	3	19	49
Balance as at 31 Mar 2020	720	2,600	19	314	98	19	3,770
Accumulated depreciation and impairment							
Balance as at 1 Apr 2019	-	-	17	233	66	-	316
Depreciation	-	52	1	22	4	-	79
Balance as at 31 Mar 2020	-	-	18	255	70	-	395
Net book value							
As at 31 Mar 2018	110	1,310	4	64	34	-	1,522
As at 31 Mar 2019	720	2,600	2	54	29	-	3,405
As at 31 Mar 2020	720	2,548	1	59	28	19	3,375

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.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



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.

The diminishing value depreciation rates are:

- Buildings 2.0%
- Motor vehicles 30.0%
- Plant and equipment 39.0% - 50.0%
- Furniture and fittings 10.0% - 20.0%

Depreciation methods, useful lives, and residual values are reviewed at reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

Revaluation

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

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

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

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

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



Note 10 - Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals

	Group	
	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Trade payables from exchange transactions	307	90
League 4 Life Payable (refer note 7)	88	100
Other accruals	105	327
	500	517

Note 11 - Deferred revenue

	Group	
	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Grant funding received in advance	-	8
Charitable trust donations received in advance	411	373
Other revenue received in advance	525	218
	936	599

Note 12 - Loans

	Effective Interest Rate	Year of Maturity	Group			
			2020		2019	
			Current \$'000	Non-current \$'000	Current \$'000	Non-current \$'000
BNZ Loan	5% - 6%	2024	73	884	500	-
			73	884	500	-

(i) Security held

The Society had a \$1,700,000 term loan facility with the Bank of New Zealand secured against a registered first mortgage over the property at 7 Beasley Avenue, Penrose, Auckland (refer to note 9). At balance date the Society had \$957,000 drawn on this facility (2019: \$500,000). A floating per annum interest rate applies.

Note 13 - Financial Instruments

Group 2020	Note	Carrying Value (\$)		Total
		Financial Assets	Financial Liabilities	
	Loans and Receivables	Amortised Cost		
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Subsequently not measured at fair value</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	1,273		1,273
Gross recoverables from non-exchange transactions	8	831		831
Payables (from exchange transactions)	10		(395)	(395)
Balance as at 31 March 2020		2,104	(395)	1,709

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

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.

Note 14 - Group entities

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

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

All controlled entities have a balance date of 31 March.

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

The Zones have been established as the delivery mechanism of the national Game Plan working with Clubs and District Leagues. The Limited Partnership was established to create an entity to hold its land and building assets. These assets were subsequently mortgaged to the Bank of New Zealand to secure a new term loan.

For accounting and financial reporting purposes, the seven Zones and the Limited Partnership are considered to be subsidiaries of New Zealand Rugby League Inc.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



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.

Note 15 - 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:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Not later than one year	107	127
Later than one year and not later than five years	82	61
Total non-cancellable operating lease payments	189	188

The Group has entered into a number of operating leases for the lease of motor vehicles. The majority of the leases are in the name of New Zealand Rugby League Inc., with 2 leases in the name of Mid-Central Zone of NZRL Inc.

Note 16 - 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:

	2020		2019	
	Funding Support \$'000	Current Amount Receivable \$'000	Funding Support \$'000	Current Amount Receivable \$'000
Related Party				
Rugby League Northland Zone	40	1	40	3
Akarana Zone	40	2	40	2
Counties-Manukau Zone	60	2	60	3
Upper Central Zone	45	1	45	2
Mid Central Zone	40	-	40	2
Wellington Zone	60	1	60	2
Southern Zone	61	1	62	1
Total	346	8	347	15

(ii) Key management personnel remuneration

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

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

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

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

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

	2020		2019	
	Remuneration \$'000	Number of individuals	Remuneration \$'000	Number of individuals
Members of the governing body	83	7 people	101	7 people
Senior executive officers	281	1 FTE's	210	1 FTE's
	364		311	

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



(iii) Rugby League International Federation Limited

Greg Peters and Reon Edwards are both directors of the Rugby League International Federation Limited (RLIF), a joint venture partner in relation to the GB Oceania Limited Joint Venture (see iv).

(iv) GB Oceania Limited Joint Venture:

On 7 May 2019, a joint venture between New Zealand Rugby League Inc., The Rugby League Football Limited and Rugby League International Federation Limited, known as GB Oceania Limited, was incorporated. Greg Peters is a director of this company.

(v) NZRL Investment GP Limited:

NZRL Investment GP Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of New Zealand Rugby League Inc., was incorporated on 2 July 2019 as a general partner in the NZRL Investment Limited Partnership. Reon Edwards and Elizabeth Richards are the directors of this company.

Note 17 - Commitments and contingencies

(i) Commitments

The Group had \$6,387 commitments of a capital nature as at 31 March 2020 (2019: \$Nil).

(ii) Contingent liabilities

The Group had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2020 (2019: \$Nil)

(iii) Contingent assets

The Group had no contingent assets as at 31 March 2020 (2019: \$Nil).

Note 18 - Subsequent Events

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation in March 2020. There were no adjustments recorded in the financial statements for the impacts of COVID-19. The pandemic has interfered with general activity levels within the community, the economy and the operations of the Group and the impact of this subsequent event is considered in Note 2 (d) Going Concern.

Subsequent to year-end, New Zealand Rugby League Inc. received confirmation of further funding from Sport New Zealand, and are to receive \$340,000 from the Partner Support Fund; and a further \$597,000 from the Sports Sector Rebuild Fund, which will allow NZRL to hold the Men's and Women's national leagues.

There were no other subsequent events arising after the balance date.

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



Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated ("the Society") and its controlled entities (together, "the Group"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 March 2020, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, consolidated statement of changes in net assets/equity and consolidated cash flow statement 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 2020, 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.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Society or its controlled entities.

Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw the reader's attention to Note 2(d) *Going Concern* of the consolidated financial statements, which indicates that the Group is forecasting a loss of \$311,000 for the 12 months ending 31 July 2021 due to the impacts of COVID-19. As stated in Note 2(d), this, along with other conditions disclosed, indicate a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern and that it may be unable to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

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

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

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



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



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

If, based on the reading of the annual report obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 IFRS Standards (RFR), 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 opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

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

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

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated 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 opinion we have formed.

BDO Auckland
Auckland
New Zealand
9 July 2020

IN MEMORIAM

Reginald Hart (Kiwi #415)
Duncan Macrae (Kiwi #373)
Bill Deacon (Kiwi #445)
Ken Mccracken (Kiwi #409)
William Bevin Keith Hough
(Kiwi #324)
Robert Orchard (Kiwi #443)
Tony Coll (Kiwi #503)
Rick Muru (Kiwi #558)
Frank Gibson

LIFE MEMBERS:

1920 Stan Brice 1921 Duncan McLean 1926 Thomas Boswell, William Liversidge, Arthur Schofield, George Wheatley 1935 Arthur Harlock 1937 Lewis Binns, Cyril Snedden 1939 Ernest Stallworthy 1940 Wilf Davies, George Bassett 1941 Tonga Mahuta 1942 "Scotty" McClymont 1943 Lance Hunter 1946 Gordon Hooker 1947 Edward Chapman 1948 Owen Carlaw 1949 Thomas Smith, Leslie Bull 1950 Ivan Culpan, Harry Rogers 1953 Robert Doble, Jack Redwood OBE 1956 George Falgar 1957 Ernie Asher 1958 David Wilkie, William Swift 1961 John Watson, Roy Lash 1962 Dr Fred Gwynne 1963 Bill Moyle, Colin Siddle 1964 Tom Skinner KBE, Tom McKenzie 1966 "Ted" Knowling MBE 1968 George Plant 1969 Eric Bennett 1970 Dr Leo Cooney 1971 Arthur Chapman, Ray Cody MNZM, Doug Wilson 1972 Ces Mountford MBE, Ivan Stonex 1974 Archie Stuart BEM 1976 Trevor Wellsmore 1977 Keith Blow, Jack Williams 1978 Ron McGregor OBE 1980 Ken English 1981 Des Barchard 1982 Dr Brian Watson 1983 Les Huston 1984 Bill O'Callaghan JP, Tom Newton, 1985 Allen Gore*, Mel Clinton OBE, 1988 Bill Nesbitt, "Bud" Lisle* MNZM, Bill Whitehead* QSM, 1989 Bob Aynsley 1990 Jim Campbell* MNZM 1991 Bill Sorensen 1993 George Rainey 1994 "Ted" Gutberlet QSM, Tom McKeown* 2000 Crispin Easterbrook 2003 Ray Cranch* MZNM 2006 Gerald Ryan* ONZM, Don Hammond* 2007 Peter Kerridge* JP & MNZM 2008 Lory Blanchard MNZM, Bernie Wood MNZM 2009 Howie Tamati* MBE 2010 John Bray* 2012 David Robinson 2013 Ray Haffenden*, Trevor Maxwell* 2014 Mrs Cathy Friend* QSM 2015 Jack Fagan, Sel Pearson*, Brian Reidy 2016 Sir Peter Leitch * KNZM & QSM 2017 Cherie Steele-Shanks*, 2018 John Coffey*, Howie Tamati* 2019 Cameron McGregor*, Kevin Tamati*

*CURRENT LIFE MEMBER

Current Life Members (alphabetical order): John Bray, Jim Campbell, John Coffey, Ray Cranch, Cathy Friend, Allen Gore, Ray Haffenden, Don Hammond, Peter Kerridge, Sir Peter Leitch, Bud Lisle, Trevor Maxwell, Cameron McGregor, Sel Pearson, Gerald Ryan, Cherie Steele-Shanks, Howie Tamati, Kevin Tamati.

Our people



NZRL Staff

Left to right: Motu Tony, Daniel Keepa, Harley Wall, Kevin Bailey, Gordon Gibbons, Luisa Avaiki, David McMeeken, Mike Kerrisk, David Brewis, Craig Priest.
Sophie Wills, Maria Ayshford, Ani Cherrington, Carmen Taplin, Greg Peters, Nadene Conlon, Ruth Harknett, Shanice Wiki, Sherry Yang.
Absent: Toyah Brooking



NZRL Board

Left to right: Bill Mcentee, Hugh Martyn, Greg Peters (CEO), Grant Stapleton, Reon Edwards (Chair), Howie Tamati (President NZRL).
Absent: Andrew Fraser, Elizabeth Richards, Tawera Nikau.



Sponsors & Partners



League 4 Life

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

We provide grants to individuals, families and organisations to ensure our community is supported through difficult times.

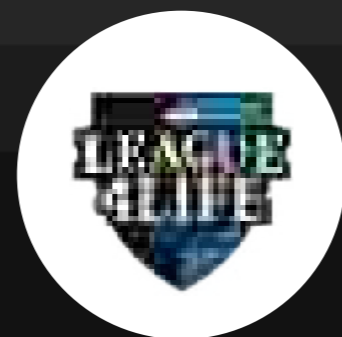
Our two main focus areas for these grants are as follows:

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

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

HEALTH & RECOVERY

To provide financial support for rehabilitation after injury, including towards medical bills and in-home equipment. We would like to thank all involved for their support in making League 4 Life a New Zealand Rugby League community success. As a result, we have been able to help a number of people in the rugby league community from up and down the country.





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