

AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE

Celebrating 100 Years | www.aucklandleague.co.nz



NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

In this edition:

- ARL Centennial Awards Dinner
- Football Development Department update
- Masters of Rugby League International Tournament
- ARL Centennial Book Launch
- ARL Premiership Grand Finals
- Under 15/16 Representative Tour of Australia
- National Provincial Premiership Round-up



Mt Albert Lions celebrate victory over Papakura Sea Eagles in the Lion Red Fox Memorial Grand Final

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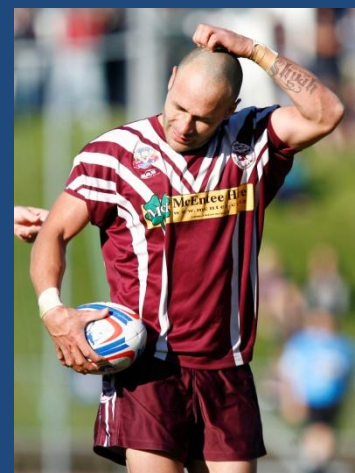
Welcome

As we wrap up 2009, the 100th season of Rugby League in Auckland, we take a look at the action both on and off the field from the 2009 season. In this edition we cover the Centennial Awards Dinner held on Labour weekend at Mt Smart Stadium, the launch function and an exclusive extract from the ARL Centennial Book, *Auckland 100 Years of Rugby League*.

On the field we cover the three premiership Grand Finals from early September, the Auckland U15/16 Tour of Australia, NZRL National Provincial Premiership and NJC Competitions, all the action from the Masters of Rugby League International tournament held recently in Auckland, and an update from the goings on in the Football Development Department.



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Page | 1

AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE CENTENNIAL AWARDS DINNER

About 450 turned up for the ARL Centennial Awards dinner held in the Eastern Lounge of Mt Smart Stadium on Saturday 24th October. The night showcased 100 years of history of the league and acknowledged those outstanding achievements from the 2009 Premiership season. Five special video montages were shown throughout the night covering 20 year segments over the past 100 years. Anecdotes and stories were heard from stories in the ARL Centennial book and were voiced-over by Barry Holland from Newstalk ZB, former Kiwi's Coach Graham Lowe, ARL President Gary Whittle, and ARL General Manager Pat Carthy.

Congratulations to the following Award recipients for the 2009 season:

Mandron Masonry Phelan Shield Player of the Year:
Itaifale Tolefoa from Navy/North Shore Dolphins

SAS Sharman Cup Player of the Year:
Aaron Booth from Glenora Bears

John Percival Memorial Premiership Referee of the Year:
Hayden Price

Konica Minolta Club of the Year:
Howick

Club Volunteer of the Year:
Paddy O'Hagan from Otahuhu

Maori Television Rookie of the Year:
Stephen Shennan from Te Atatu Roosters

Auckland Vulcans Rookie of the Year:
Sione Tongia

Auckland Vulcans Runner-up Player of the Year:
Pita Godinet

Auckland Vulcans Player of the Year:
Daniel O'Regan

Auckland Rugby League Premiership Coach of the Year:
Brent Gemmell from Mt Albert

George Rainey Medal Fox Memorial Team of the Year:
Fullback: James Blackwell from Otahuhu
Winger: Viliami Taukiuvea from Northcote
Centre: Toshio Laiseni from Papakura
Standoff: Zensei Inu from Te Atatu
Halfback: Aaron Woodhouse from Manurewa
Prop: Dylan Davis from Marist
Hooker: Zac Tippins from Te Atatu
2nd Row: Sala Faalogo from Mt Albert
Lock: Tui Samoa from East Coast Bays

Lion Red Fox Memorial Player of the Year:
Dylan Davis from Marist



August and September were very busy months for the Football Development Department particularly with schools programs. During this time we ran the Hubbard's Foods Primary Schools Tournaments and the Intermediate Schools program both consisting of six regional / zonal tournaments followed by a inter zone finals day. Girls participate with the boys in Primary Schools but a separate tournament is run for them in Intermediate Schools which in 2009 was won by Northcross Intermediate (Under 55kg section) and Viscount Intermediate (open Section).

A total of 53 teams from 40 different Primary Schools competed this year, eventual Auckland Champions were Point England Primary (Open weight) and St Leonards Primary (Restricted weight).



Pt England Primary, Auckland Rugby League Primary Schools Champions – Open Weight division

The Intermediate program saw 110 teams compete from 75 different schools. A fantastic finals day in late September took place where Kedgley Intermediate were crowned Auckland Champions in the Open weight, Tamaki Intermediate took out the under 55kg section while Kelston Intermediate won the under 45kg section.



**WILLIMENT EDUCATION TRAVEL
RUGBY LEAGUE
COMPETITION
NORTH HARBOUR SCHOOLS**

Over these months the FDD department also launched the inaugural North Harbour Secondary School Competition known as the "Williment Education Travel Rugby League Competition for North Harbour Schools". With support from the major sponsor Williment Education Travel and NZCT a professional tournament was run outside the traditional window which proved popular with schools as it didn't affect their Rugby teams. Whangaparaoa College defeated Massey High School in the restricted final while Westlake Boys were too strong for Northcote College in the open final. A representative team was also selected from the tournament that went on to draw with the Warriors Development Squad 30-30 in a one off game.

The Modified and International Games coaching courses were wrapped up in August. A total of 81 Modified Games Coaches and 90 International Games Coaches gained accreditation in 2009. Good Coaches go a long way to ensuring players grow to love our game and continue to play through to adulthood so it was great to see so many coaches upskilling themselves in their roles and is a real positive for our sport.

2009 was a very successful year for Auckland Representative sides with our 16's and 18's being crowned National Champions in the NPP while our 13's, 14's and 15's all had convincing wins over Waikato, these teams also played an Auckland development team as Northland pulled out of the annual fixture. The Auckland 15's also defeated the Wellington 15's and the 18's proved too strong for the touring Penrith under 17's.



Westlake Boys High School, Winners of the 2009 Open Weight - Williment Education Travel North Harbour Secondary Schools Rugby League Competition

MASTERS OF RUGBY LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT



On Saturday 10th October 2009 at the Auckland Domain we saw a enormous crowd of up to 5000 people witness the opening of the 16th Heart Children NZ Masters Rugby League Tournament 2009. This was a historical occasion, at this very same venue back in 1910 England played New Zealand for the very first time at the same ground, not only that but it was the Auckland Rugby League's Centennial this year as well.

The opening of the tournament was officiated by the Right Honorable His Worship the Mayor of Auckland Mr. John Banks, and 58 teams took part in the march pass lead by the NZ Army team then follow by the national anthems of those competing nations. We then had the welcoming challenge haka by

200 Maori Warriors and then had the reply haka by our visitors Guildford Owls from Sydney. Overall the opening was a huge success.

The games during the week attracted huge crowds both at the Auckland Domain also at Cornwall Park grounds as well all games were play in right spirit, the ball skills by most of the masters players were amazing, and there was a special guest appearance by Cliff Lyons, ex Manly and Australian Representative player.

After match functions were held at the Ellerslie Convention Centre at the end of each day and the entertainment was great, karaoke was won by the New Lynn Stags, and the Helensvale Stingers from Queensland, Australia. The international matches on the Friday were played at Mt Smart No 1 ground home of the Vodafone Warriors. A crowd of around 4000, witnessed four tremendous games of NZ and Australia sides. The ball skills on display were excellent, and the crowd soaked up every moment of it...this was Masters Rugby League at it's greatest.



Lara Siddell, CEO of Heart Children New Zealand receives the cheque from Peter Clark and Phil Campbell for funds raised throughout the tournament.

Heart Children of New Zealand Inc was our charity, and in total Masters of Rugby League raised just over \$10,000 for this fantastic cause.



HeartChildren
New Zealand Inc.

On behalf of the Masters Rugby League International Committee we would like to thank everybody who was involved with the tournament. Thank you very much for a enjoyable week. Remember Masters Rugby League is simply the best, it's better that the rest. For a more detailed report on the tournament go to www.mastersrugbyleague.com

Phil Campbell | Chairman MRLNZ Inc.

LEAGUE LEGENDS LUNCHEON

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF "AUCKLAND - 100 YEARS OF RUGBY LEAGUE" BOOK

Former Kiwis, including legends of the game like Bob Bailey, Tom Hadfield, Kevin Tamati, David Kidwell, Stacey Jones and Ruben Wiki, packed the Ellerslie Events Centre on Wednesday 21st October for the return of Brian McClennan after his Leeds side triumphed in the 2009 SuperLeague competition. The event also doubled as the official launch of the Auckland Rugby League Centennial Book, and featured Brian giving a speech about his experiences in the game in the game from coaching the Hibiscus Coast Raiders from the lowest division to winning the English SuperLeague three years in a row.

Pt Chevalier, Warriors, and Kiwis legend Stacey Jones was also interviewed on stage and announced that both he and Awen Guttenbeil will be co-coaching the Pt Chevalier Pirates Mandron Masonry Phelan Shield team for the 2010 season. "They finished bottom in the lowest division so the only way to go is pretty much up," says Stacey. Watch this space.



AUCKLAND

100 YEARS OF RUGBY LEAGUE 1909-2009

EXCLUSIVE EXTRACT

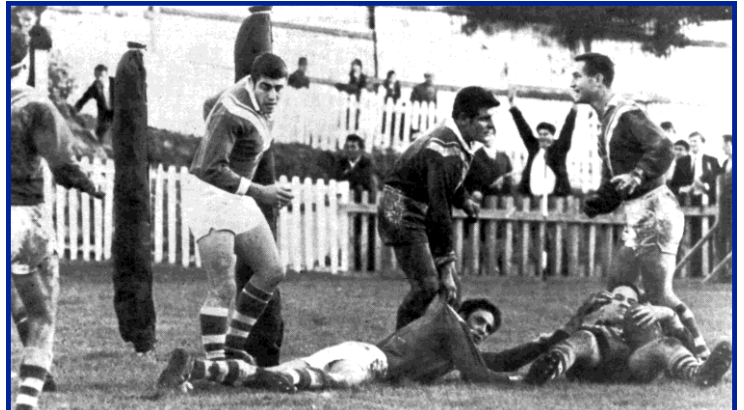
1969: Referee, and Kangaroos, crash

AUCKLAND 15, AUSTRALIA 14

Carlaw Park was the stage for many dramatic scenes, but few topped the later stages of Auckland's 15–14 defeat of Australia in 1969. Kangaroos forward John Wittenberg (who fractured a cheekbone when tackling John Sparnon) and Wellington referee Earle Pilcher (knocked unconscious in a collision with an Australian player) were both carried off by stretcher between the seventieth and seventy-third minutes. As Pilcher lay prone, Auckland scored what would have been a match-clinching try, but there was no-one to award it!

Only the previous weekend the Kiwis had achieved a sensational 18–14 second test victory to tie the two-match series. Bay of Plenty wing Phillip Orchard's tryscoring run down the grandstand touchline provided an indelible memory for the ecstatic fans who cheered his every powerful stride. The tour-ending Auckland encounter, which was Australia's sixth game in fourteen days, did not reach the same heights but the closeness of the scores and the mishaps to Wittenberg and referee Pilcher when Auckland led 13–9 made it memorable.

Pilcher had crashed to the ground after colliding with Australian forward Col Weiss, who was in pursuit of Auckland prop Doug Gailey. Weiss told reporters he accidentally struck Pilcher with his right shoulder, but other players thought the referee was also knocked into the path of Auckland forward Eddie Moore. As Pilcher lay prone just inside Australian territory on the grandstand side several of the Auckland players, unaware of what had happened, were celebrating fullback John Young's 'try' at the Stanley Street end. The other players stood in a stunned group around the fallen referee.



Jubilant Auckland stand-off Gary Woollard (right) looks in vain for referee Earle Pilcher to award a try to fullback John Young, who is being helped up by hooker Bill Burgoyne.

Australian centre Father John Cootes holds the ball and Auckland forward Tony Krietich stands next to the upright.



Referee Earle Pilcher carried unconscious from the field after being knocked out in Auckland's game with Australia. Holding his jaw is New Zealand Rugby League president Dr Leo Cooney.

The hectic last seven minutes were controlled by touch judge Ron Caddy. Within seconds of accepting the whistle Caddy awarded Auckland the penalty from which Ernie Wiggs kicked a forty-yard goal for a 15–9 advantage. Australia replied immediately with a converted try to advance within one point. That was as close as it got, though a desperate field goal attempt by Bob McCarthy seemed on target until the ball cannoned into the face of an Auckland forward.

Earlier in the game Pilcher had allowed Wiggs a second chance at a penalty goal when he spotted one of the Australians moving as the first kick was taken. Both attempts missed, but Wiggs' kicking prowess still had much to do with the outcome. His five penalty goals and conversion of Eric Carson's try were just enough to head off Australian tries to John Cootes and Dennis Manteit, Cootes' penalty and conversion, and Dennis Ward's two field goals.

'The high spot for Auckland was the try scored by scrum-half Carson, after he had moved inside Moore, the second-row forward, who had made a dashing break,' reported the New Zealand Herald. Forwards Moore, Wiggs and Ray Sinel earned praise in the Auckland Star – 'All three hurt the Australians when they ran, often pulling in two men for the tackle.' The Herald writer expressed some sympathy for the Australians, who had players 'not really in shape for such hard opposition' and 'seemed unlucky not to be awarded a try' by Pilcher, who ruled McCarthy's pass to Ron Costello was forward.

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AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINALS

Saturday 5th September 2009 | Mt Smart Stadium #2

One of the biggest crowds in recent memory turned out to a sunny Mt Smart #2 on Saturday 5th September to witness three great grand finals of grassroots Rugby League action. The 3000 strong crowd provided a festival atmosphere and in the first match of the day, the Manukau Magpies defeated a resilient Waiheke Rams side for the Mandron Masonry Phelan Shield, winning 24-16.

Next up was the SAS Sharman Cup Grand Final, with the Howick Hornets playing the Glenora Bears in what



turned out to be a very exhilarating final going down to the wire.

Howick converted a penalty in the 75 minute to level the score up 12-all. The match then went into extra time, when Howick slotted a dropped-goal to take the lead 13-12 before a charge down and run-away try by Troy Becroft sealed the win for the Hornets.



Finally the main game of the day, the Lion Red Fox Memorial Grand Final was played between defending champions Mt Albert Lions and the resurgent Papakura Sea Eagles. Mt Albert scored early in the first quarter, followed by another try in the 18th minute before continuing their dominance to lead 20-0 at the half-time break. Papakura then scored their first points in the 55th minute before Mt Albert sealed the win with a try 10 minutes later. The Lions eventually ran away with the game with the final score being 32-10, taking back to back Fox titles and giving club stalwart Steve Buckingham a special sendoff.



Auckland Under 15/16 Representative Tour of Sydney, October 2009

From a pure numbers perspective, this is a rundown of the Under 15/16s tour to Sydney 2009. The touring party consisted of 21 playing members, three coaching staff and three members of management. In all the team played four games and these are as follows:



First fixture with the Western Suburbs Magpies as opposition was after a concerted effort on behalf of team management played at the Liverpool Catholics Club in the West of Sydney, after the initial venue had been closed due to storm damage. The result, 32 – 0 to Auckland.

The second game was held at the St Marys Rugby League Club Oval in Penrith heralded a much better display of football with a very good Penrith side being defeated 40 to 18 by the blue and white.

The third fixture was an entirely different enterprise where the lads were pitted against a side far larger but performed admirably in a 6 to 24 defeat to the Parramatta Eels at Mcreedy Oval in Guildford.

Finally from a result perspective the tour was capped off in a superb display of football in a 52 – 0 victory over the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs at Moorebank Oval in Hammondville.

From an educational point of view, the visit from Nigel Vagana, Toyota Cup co-ordinator and ex-Kiwi international along with Ian Schubert the NRL salary cap auditor was a highlight. Nigel discussed his pathway from the Richmond club to Auckland representative to professional footballer to Kiwi International which was an engrossing experience for the team. Nigel's story was very poignant and full of relevant information as to the choices available to youth and how to rise above even the humblest of beginnings. The skits and quiz nights organised by the coaching and management staff were other intangible highlights where individual and collective personalities from amongst our playing group rose to the fore. From a development perspective really enjoyable facet to watch young boys mature in a positive environment.



A myriad of different highlights enjoyed on tour including visits to Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay, Lunar Park, Peter Wynn Sports, Manly beach, Parramatta Mall, Narrabeen performance centre, Paddington Markets and of course the home of the mighty Parramatta Eels. As you can see a wealth of experience gathered but even more important than that being in the company of good people as these young fellas are and the apparent growth in comradeship as the tour progressed, another pleasing aspect. For a full tour diary go to www.aucklandleague.co.nz



Keith Hanley | Football Development Officer

BARTERCARD NATIONAL PROVINCIAL PREMIERSHIP



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Auckland had mixed success in the 2009 New Zealand Rugby League Bartercard NPP, with both the Under 16 and Under 18 NJC sides winning their respective National competitions, however the Premiers side fell short at the final hurdle losing the Grand Final to Canterbury in Christchurch.

AUCKLAND UNDER 16 RESULTS:

Round 1:	Canterbury – W	50-10	Chch
Round 2:	Waikato – W	44-0	Huntly
Round 3:	Bay of Plenty – W	38-6	Rotorua
Round 4:	Wellington – W	46-8	Wellington
Round 5:	Taranaki – W	50-12	Auckland
Final:	Taranaki – W	11-10	Auckland

AUCKLAND UNDER 18 RESULTS:

Round 1:	Canterbury – W	46-18	Chch
Round 2:	Waikato – W	32-2	Huntly
Round 3:	Bay of Plenty – W	46-20	Rotorua
Round 4:	Wellington – L	44-22	Wellington
Round 5:	Taranaki – W	52-20	Auckland
Final:	Wellington – W	34-10	Auckland

AUCKLAND PREMIERS RESULTS:

Round 1:	Canterbury – L	32-30	Christchurch
Round 2:	Waikato – W	30-22	Huntly
Round 3:	Bay of Plenty – W	52-12	Rotorua
Round 4:	Wellington – W	16-14	Wellington
Round 5:	Taranaki – W	74-16	Auckland
Semi Final:	Waikato – W	60-4	Auckland
Final:	Canterbury – L	26-20	Christchurch

Congratulations to the following players selected for NZRL Merit teams:

Under 16: Honeti Tuha (Fullback), Redeem Salepolu (Centre), Bronson Manu (Wing), Carlos Hotene (Five-Eighth), Ernest Alo (Halfback), David Bhana (Prop), Jordan Hall (2nd Row)

Under 18: Carlos Tuimavave (Centre), James Te Pou (Centre), Zensei Inu (Five-Eighth), Paterika Vaivai (Prop), Donald Tony (Hooker), Michael Chee-Kam (2nd Row), Jordan Fifita (2nd Row), Simon Gibson (Halfback/Five Eight)

Premiers: Guenther Schaumkel (Centre), James Blackwell (Wing), William Heta (Five-Eighth), Kelvin Wright (Halfback), Fred Turuwhenua (Prop), Sialii Tufeao (2nd Row), Dylan Davis (Prop), Sione Tongia (Centre), Suaia Matagi (2nd Row)



Auckland Under 18's celebrate victory over Wellington in the NZRL Kiwi Cup Grand Final played at Cornwall Park

2009 AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIER SQUAD



BACK ROW: Wally Green (Team Manager), Aaron Woodhouse, Alfred Williams, Sione-Nuivao Taka, Albert Short, Jasen McCarthy (Head Trainer), Karl Simefi, Darin Kingi, Glenn Campbell, James Blackwell, Tony Letich (Trainer) **MIDDLE ROW:** Sene Atafu (Manager), Henry Heta, Toshio Laiseni, Chris Taumoepeau, Taulaga-Vince Fatu, Andy Matano Mougoa, Richard Te Pirihi Koroi, Dylan Moses, Zensei Inu, Guenther Schaumkel, Sione Tongia, Pat Turnock (Team Medic) **FRONT ROW:** Rusty Matua (Head Coach), Dylan Davis, Fred Turuwhenua, William Heta, Sialii Tufeao (Vice Captain), Kelvin Wright (Captain), George Taunga, Cody-Lee Walker, Suaia Matagi, Rick McCamish, Francis Leota (Tech Adviser) **ABSENT:** Cameron McGregor (Chairman), Shaun Metcalf, Jesse Ioapo, Frank Perese, Andrew Wharton, Justin Bernard, Tee Mahe, Willie Lafolafo, Sala Faalogo, Sema Mataora, Shaun Ata, Tristin Waipouri, Damon Trott, Jared Trott

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE ZONE BOARD UPDATES



All three of the Auckland-based Zone boards have now been appointed, with the announcement of the Counties-Manukau and Northern Zone boards to go with the Auckland Zone announced by NZRL earlier in the year.

NZRL chairman Scott Carter announced Ken Lotu-Liga as the chairman of the Counties Manukau Zone board with the other directors being Leigh Auton, Trevor Gill, Iva Ropati and Emile Va'afusuaga. The Northern Zone will be chaired by Bruce Peden, with Jaine Lovell-Gadd, Sharon Bird, Thomas Jackson and Peter van Kampen as directors.



The Auckland Zone Board, comprising of Sam Sefuiva (Chairman), Luke Gagamoe, Brian Lythe, Alan Meadows and Howard Thomas were appointed as Directors in late August. All seven Zone Boards will convene with the NZRL Board of directors at an induction meeting to be held in Auckland on Saturday 21 November.

NOVEMBER CONFERENCE OF CLUBS

A reminder that the Auckland Rugby League November Conference of Clubs will be held on Saturday 21 November at the Mt Richmond Hotel & Conference Centre. 676 Mt Wellington Highway, Mt Wellington commencing at 9am. Please RSVP your official club spokesperson to Juanita Woodhouse at juanita.w@aucklandleague.co.nz by Wednesday 18 November.



SEE YOU IN 2010!

Auckland Rugby League (Inc)

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