



NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY LEAGUE

More than just a game
www.nzrl.co.nz

IN TOUCH

INTEGRITY | RESPECT | LEADERSHIP | COURAGE | PASSION



TOP STORIES

- *Hearts Camp Trials Continue to Uncover Talent*
- *Kiwi Ferns Squad Found*
- *Match Officials Making Excellent Progress*
- *Kiwis Dates Announced*

June 2011

FROM THE EDITOR

with Philippa Ivory



Every six months we go out to you, our readers, to seek your feedback on how we're performing. You may have seen the link to our Communications Survey in the Bulletin on July 5. If you didn't see it then we'd love it if you could take the time

now to go to our website Fan Zone and click the link to complete it.

We've divided it into sections, with a few questions about the weekly Bulletin, this magazine, our website and then a few questions about you. There are lots of places for you to offer comments and we welcome them all.

Already we've noticed the requests for more regional content, which we can understand. One of the aims of having seven Zones is that they will provide you with these stories, because we know the best people to report on what's happening locally, are local people.

Some Zones, like Auckland, Wellington and Mid Central already have a website where you can find out what's happening around your Zone. A number of districts also have websites and you can find the link to all these on our website About Us / Leaguenet.

In addition to this a number of Zones have regular newsletters, and you can subscribe to these just by emailing your local Zone GM. Their contact details are also on our website About Us / Contacts List.

Each month we also contact an extensive list of people across the country and ask them to provide us with any stories they think might be of interest on a national level. Usually people from different areas reply and we print everything we can.

So, if something is happening in your area that you'd like to share with our greater league community, just take a photo and put a few words in an email and send it in, we'd love to hear from you. We also reprint any relevant

stories from other media, so if your newspaper reports good news that you think people would like to read, just let me know. I'll get permission to re-print it. We can't be everywhere so we welcome your support in getting positive stories about our great game out to a wider audience.

As part of the development process, we have launched our Monster Draw raffle (page 7). This is an affordable way for our Zones, districts and clubs to raise funds. Please support your local club with the fund-raising efforts, if you can sell tickets please do so, if you can afford to buy a ticket or two then please do that.

If you'd like to buy a ticket and you don't know anyone at a club, then please contact your Zone GM and they'll help you out.



Hearts Camps Continue
Selection Process page 4



Southland League Makes
News page 12



WIN A trip for two to the NRL Grand Final or the Kiwi v Australia Test in Newcastle

Buy your Monster Draw tickets from your local league club from 1 July to 4 September 2011 and be in to WIN one of 78 fantastic prizes including:

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Tickets are only \$5 and all profits go to your local club.

ON SALE NOW!

my2011, Vodafone, KooGa

Monster Draw Fundraiser
page 7



Cover: Counties Manukau
players at Hearts camp
page 5

“... but we won't be resting on our successes, as we're still at the beginning of our journey.”

At the start of the year we set ourselves a number of 'Key Focus' areas to drive our on going improvement. At this, the half way point of the year, I thought I'd update you on some of the progress we're making against them.

Zones - We set ourselves the task of assisting the Zones to finalise their Boards which they have done, and with growing their capability. Working with the Regional Sports Trusts we've been able to add eight KiwiSport / Development Officers around the country. This is helping us to gain good traction on the ground and in schools as we continue growing the game.

Club Development - Without our clubs we wouldn't have a game so it is important we do what we can to support them. Our Club Development Programme is being rolled out and we are very happy with how it is tracking; you may have read about it in last month's edition of In Touch.

It's very important to us that our sport leads the way in setting a positive example for our community both on and off the field and this programme contributes to this. We have been very grateful for the support we have received from the local district health boards, ALAC, locals Councils and the Regional Sports Trusts.

In addition the Monster Draw will help the clubs and districts to increase revenue, we have secured the prizes thanks to the support of various partners and will manage the overheads, allowing them to focus on selling the tickets.

We hope you will play your part by either selling or buying some tickets, or perhaps even both. Just visit our website for all the details about this initiative.

with Jim Doyle



Game Development - We are very pleased with the progress of our Football activities. As you will be aware we have continued our Community camps, Hearts camps and Junior Elites camps. The National Secondary Schools tournament will be held in Auckland in late August, and with 16 teams registered this will be the biggest tournament in years.

This year we have added a 16s and 18s National camp to be held in Rotorua later this month. Players at the camp will compete in trials for positions in various NZ Residents teams.

High Performance - The addition of a further test against Australia and opportunities for our young internationals with 16s and 18s NZ representative games against Australian sides, are both positive steps on our pathway to consistent international success.

We are also continuing to conduct a SWOT analysis after each Kiwis test to ensure that we continually build on our strengths and reduce any areas of concern to give us the best possible preparation for each international game we play.

Communications - Work continues to improve our external communications, and we're providing support to the Zones as they build their own communications via websites and Zones newsletters.

Finally, as I've said on many occasions, we see the growth and development of rugby league as a long term process. We're pleased with the progress we made in 2010 and with how it has continued in the first half of this year but we won't be resting on our successes, as we're still at the beginning of our journey.

Jim



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE

More than just a game

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development

HEARTS CAMPS MAKE THEIR WAY AROUND THE ZONES

Following the Southern Zone camp in May, camps were held in Auckland, Upper Central and Counties Manukau in June.

The camps are designed to prepare the Zone management teams and local Match officials for the National Competition. At the same time the players who are being considered for selection for their Zones 15s and 17s National Competition teams complete physical testing, attend a number of workshops and then play in trials in front of their Zone selectors.

A number of NZRL staff including Dan Floyd, Sash Stosic, Dain Guttenbeil and Ruben Wiki run role specific workshops with the coaches, managers and trainers.

Players hear from NZ Police about the effects of drugs and alcohol on their playing ability and future league careers and then from Dean Bell, Warriors Recruitment & Retention Manager about what is required to achieve a professional league contract.

Auckland Zone - Sunday, June 12

Over 80 invited players attended and played in 3x 20 minute trials. Pat Carthy, Auckland Zone GM was very pleased with the day and really impressed with both the players and the strong turnout of supporters who came and stayed to watch the trials.

The selectors were left with the difficult job of finalising the respective squads for the National Competition which have since been posted on the National Competition website.

He commented that the players enjoyed the presentations by Tony Tatupu (ex Warrior, NZ Police) and Dean Bell (Warriors Recruitment & Retention Manager) which are a great way to talk to the players about what lies ahead, and what they need to do for themselves to make the most of opportunities to come.

NZRL representatives were impressed with how the whole day ran and in particular, the effort from many of the players. It shows that these camps continue to have a positive impact on preparing our athletes for the National Competition which is kicks off in August.

Upper Central Zone - Sunday, June 19

Puketewhero Park in Rotorua was the base for the Upper Central Zone Hearts Camp.

Cont'd over..



HEARTS CAMP DATES

Northland	July 10
Heartland (Mid Central)	July 17
Wellington	July 24

HEARTS CAMPS MAKE THEIR WAY AROUND THE ZONES

Upper Central Zone (Cont'd)

Marc Harris, NZRL National Referees Manager said "The idea is that these camps will be Zone owned and we'll attend to support them. Upper Central definitely set the bench mark in this regard. Their team was at the ground at 7am and it was obvious they had put in a lot of work prior to the camp as well."

Harris continues, "We had a strong turnout of local Match Officials, and they set the standard in this area too. They ran relevant workshops on all aspects of the game, using both the field and the classroom. They were well turned out, arriving in full kit and there were some promising performances by the officials during the trials."

Marcus Reynolds, Upper Central Zone GM said "The Hearts camps are hugely beneficial to our up and coming players. They need to know what it takes to become a professional Rugby League player and it all starts here."

"Having Kiwi's legends such as Ruben Wiki and

Dean Bell come and talk to the boys makes the experience more real, the players realise just how close they are to taking the next step in their Rugby League careers."

Counties Manukau Zone - Sunday June 26

The last of the three June camps took place at Papakura High School and the highlights of the day were the massive support shown by local volunteers and the skill level of the players trialling for positions on the Zone's teams.

Counties Manukau Zone GM Kasey King reported that the trial games were of such a high calibre the selectors had requested more time to determine their squads.

"I am so proud of my team (officials) for really stepping up and showing great leadership and taking charge, but for also demonstrating real pride to be part of CM Zone. This was felt throughout the entire day by everyone in attendance."

The four remaining Zones will host camps in July.



HEARTS CAMP FEEDBACK

As part of the camp process, members of the Zones management teams are asked to complete an evaluation form about the workshops they attend. These are their opportunity to provide the NZRL Football department with feedback about the relevance and effectiveness of their presentations.

Feedback from the camps has been extremely positive, and indicates that the time committed by everyone from the NZRL to the Zones and their staff and volunteers has been well worthwhile.

Managers commented that the information they received about the National Competition and their specific role within the competition is very useful. Trainers also responded positively, with most saying it was all very useful. Likewise the Match Officials were happy with their National Competition information and pleased with the resources they received.

Overall ratings were excellent with 92% selecting Very Useful as their response to the information they received and no one reporting that anything they heard or received at the camp was not useful.

Comments included: "Everything is great. Good communication. Great idea having a managers Bible." and "Was all good. Absolutely no complaints." "It's great to have more transparency to coaching and setup in a way for individual growth."

Other feedback included "Run these more often and for longer." and "More practical stuff." In fact the request for more camps was one of the most consistent. As the camps progress feedback is being collated and consideration given to acting on it where possible.





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GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development

MONSTER DRAW RAFFLE TO HELP RAISE FUNDS

This year New Zealand Rugby League has committed to helping our clubs, districts, Zones and Associates by providing a unique fundraising opportunity. The NZRL have, with the support of sponsors and partners, secured a large number of high value prizes for a Monster Draw raffle. The overhead costs of running the Monster Draw will be covered by the NZRL while the Zones, Clubs, Districts, and Associates will be able to sell tickets and in return benefit significantly from the sale of every ticket.

Monster Draw tickets are only \$5. Fantastic prizes are on offer, see below.

Jim Doyle, NZRL CEO says "Knowing there is a need for more development funding in the regions, we have been working with our various partners so that we're able to help our clubs, districts, Zones and Affiliates to help themselves. We'll provide all the administrative support needed and promote the Monster Draw as widely as possible through our networks and as long as they get out to their community base and sell tickets where ever they can, at their local games, through the clubs networks and so on, we see no reason why they can't raise enough money to make a genuine difference."

In all there are more than 70 prizes on offer and each ticket bought will be making a significant contribution to grassroots rugby league and its development around the country. For more information and how to buy tickets visit www.nzrl.co.nz/monster-draw.

WIN

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SAMPLE ONLY









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CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE



ELITE CAMPS KEEP PLAYERS IN TOUCH WITH THEIR ROOTS

NZRL held the latest Junior Elites camp in Canberra on June 23. It was something of a home coming for Ruben Wiki, the NZRL's High Performance Manager, who played 225 first grade games for the Canberra Raiders from 1993 – 2004 before returning to New Zealand to see out his playing career.

Ruben was joined by past Kiwi Quentin Pongia, also a Canberra Raiders old boy, current Kiwi and Canberra Raiders first-grade player Bronson Harrison and one time Raider and now their Welfare Officer, Glen Turner.

This elite group met with nine up and coming NZ Junior Elite players who are based in Canberra. The aim of the camp is to inspire and offering guidance to these young men who have been identified as having the potential to become representative players for their country.

Each of the players got up and spoke to the group about where they are from and what they want to achieve in

league. Then both Quentin Pongia and Ruben Wiki shared their story with the group, while Bronson Harrison talked about the jersey and what it means to him. Each of the Kiwis talked to the players about what it means to be a part of the Kiwis culture, how important it was to them not only in their league career but in their lives to be a part of the brotherhood.

Ruben Wiki said, "It was great to be back in Canberra, and they were a great group of boys. We got lots of positive feedback and we hope this'll help them to keep their focus on the opportunities their league career can offer them.

Judging by the feedback they're all keen to play for New Zealand one day too which is excellent. We'll keep in touch with them to offer support as needed."

Elite camps have been held in Auckland, North Queensland and Canberra this year with further camps in Sydney and Queensland planned.

Wiki said, "It was great to be back in Canberra, and they were a great group of boys. We got lots of positive feedback..."



MATCH OFFICIALS MAKING EXCELLENT PROGRESS

New Zealand Rugby League has been working hard to develop pathways which will see NZ match officials regularly receiving senior appointments. The plan is to assist those who wish to, to progress from local games to National Competition appointments, and then on to New South Wales Cup, Toyota Cup, and NRL first grade games along with internationals.

Currently, when the Vulcans play at home in the NSW Cup, one or more of the officials will be a New Zealander. Likewise when the Warriors play a home game, you'll usually see a New Zealand referee along with NZ touch judges in the Toyota Cup (Under 20's) games.

Sunday June 26, Round 16, was a special day for New Zealand match officials when Shane Rehm (top right) who has refereed numerous Toyota Cup and NSW Cup games as well as internationals, took the next step on the pathway to a professional match officials career, running the sideline during the Warriors v Storm first grade game.

Earlier that day both Daniel Caddy (bottom right) and Anthony Elliot were touch judges for the Warriors v Melbourne Storm Under 20's match while Australian based match official Henry Perenara, Kiwi No. 690, was the sole referee.

Marc Harris, NZRL's National Referees Manager said, "We are working closely with the NRL to build a pathway which offers NZ match officials an opportunity to progress to a professional career and also to build our stock of international match officials.

"Our aim is to provide as many opportunities as possible to our best and most promising officials. Competitions such as the NSW Cup and Toyota Cup give our officials good exposure and, now that Shane has made his first grade NRL debut, hopefully there will be more to come."

Australian based Kiwi, Henry Perenara also had his first first-grade refereeing appointment on Monday July 4 Raiders v Roosters.





More than just a game

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE



ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS



SPARC and its partner network of regional sports trusts are excited to announce the launch of the **SPARC Sport Volunteer Awards**. This year we are asking for nominations of **all sport volunteers**. Previously, the awards were for volunteer coaches. The SPARC Sport Volunteer Awards offer a simple way for Kiwis to recognise not just coaches but all 800,000 volunteers at the heart of New Zealand community sport – referees, administrators, fundraisers, kit-washers, coaches – the lot!

Last year, more than 6,000 volunteer coaches were recognised, a 25% increase on 2009. However, with our new look expanded format, we're confident we can reach many thousands more sport volunteers this year. Help ensure the volunteers important to our sport get the thanks they deserve.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Any member of the public can nominate a sport volunteer at www.sparc.org.nz/volunteers. With each nomination, a thank-you e-card is created which goes directly to the nominee. It will include a personal message from the person who nominated them. Alternatively, hard copy nomination forms are available at regional sports trust offices.

Each regional sports trust will pick winners from the three award categories. They are:

- SPARC Sport Volunteer Award (for sport volunteers 19+ years old – the main award)
- Wattie's Student Sport Volunteer Award (for sport volunteers 18 or younger)
- Lifetime Achievement Award (for 25+ years service to community sport)

In recognition of the special role of coaches, they will secure at least one award (but not all) in each region.

Nominations close **midnight, 23 August 2011**, with each regional sports trust choosing and announcing winners at events after that.

2010 NOMINATIONS BY SPORT	
SPORT	2010 NOMINATIONS (coaches only)
Netball	1690
Football	1050
Hockey	890
Rugby Union	670
Basketball	340
Rugby League	150
Cricket	130
Softball	115
Gymnastics	115
Athletics	110
Touch	100
Swimming	100
Other Sports	623
TOTAL	6083

Rugby League would not be able to survive and grow without our army of extraordinary volunteers!

We encourage you to take the time to visit the website here www.sparc.org.nz/volunteers and nominate your volunteers.

Lets give those other sports a run for their money and see if we can match the top two for nominations.

We know there are people out there giving their time every weekend for the good of the game and this is a fantastic chance to say thank you on the National stage.

Let us know if you need any support making a nomination and go the leaguies!!

FAMILY COMMITTED TO LOCAL CLUB

We put the call out recently asking families if they would be willing to be our special Face of League Family. We had lots of amazing submissions, with gorgeous family photos and everyone from Great Grandparents to the littlest Great Grandchildren all involved in our wonderful game.

Sadly we can't make them all the Face of League Family, so we thought we'd share some of the other entrants stories with you and we'll let you know more about our three finalists shortly.

The Graham Family

The Graham whanau are major supporters to the Fielding Falcons. There is Mum Gloria (below centre holding Tyra) who is club chairperson, cook, clothes washer and on-field security! Then there are four sons: Mike, a coach; Richard, a player; Rueben, a ball boy /water boy; and Eliza, team manager, club treasurer and manager.

Toni and Kimiora are committee members, Tewaati Rurehe is both a committee member and team manager, Sebastian and Cassey are trainers, Mikayla is secretary and Donaldo is a juniors coach.

There are three ball boys - Krysten, Chains and Brodie, and two players Valu Laumape and Isaish Graham.

The extended family get out every weekend to support the Premiers team, not just watching on, but planning, organising and managing the team. They start pre season training in January and the season finishes in September, so it's a big commitment.

Their team plays at home in Fielding and away every second weekend in Taranaki, requiring as much as three hours travel each way to their away games.

Mike Graham, coach says, "It's a really good competition that we're in, and we won it last year so we have a vested interest in seeing it succeed."

He continues, "We have one clear goal, and that's to see some good footy played, and to give our players the chance to be seen and exposed to higher honours, which we are seeing happen."

"We're a really close family, and we get on well. By having so many of us involved, decisions get made and we get things done. We love doing it. The footy is a big part of our lives."

They do it because they love it, because they know how important a well run team and club is. Their community benefits hugely from their commitment and we can only salute them and say thank you and wish them continued success.



SOUTHLAND RUGBY LEAGUE RIDING HIGH

By Logan Savory, The Southland Times

This was probably Southland rugby league's golden hour. On Sunday June 20 they flocked to the Les George Oval, near Invercargill, in what is believed to be the biggest crowd for a game of club rugby league in Southland for many years as the Lone Star Cowboys and Wakatipu Giants squared off in the 2011 club final.

In Southland it was a sport with a heartbeat that seemed to be fading, but on Sunday there were indications it is well and truly alive and kicking – through the crowd support and a fairytale win.

Many of those supporters had made the trip from Queenstown to passionately cheer on their team, the Giants, while there was a strong contingent on hand to throw their support behind Invercargill-based club the Lone Star Cowboys.

To the players' credit they delivered on the hype. The two teams dished up an intense 80 minutes of rugby league that included some heavy body contact and some nice silky touches in difficult conditions in the wet.

Wakatipu went into the final favoured to win the title – they had won 10 games and lost just one during the season. The results of the two round-robin encounters were 74-22 and 34-14 in favour of the Giants, which also suggested the Cowboys would be on the back foot in the decider.

The Giants held a small 12-10 lead at halftime. It was an arm wrestle and one that looked destined to go right down to the wire.

But a switch was flicked in the Cowboys camp in the second half by promising young stand-off Theo Harden, who produced two special individual plays to scores tries and ultimately set up the win.

Pace and vision were the key attributes, while there was also a third try for the playmaker when he fielded a loose ball in the in-goal, giving him a hat-trick of tries in the biggest game of the Southland club season.

Harden combined well with Nicky Herbert in the halves as the pair directed play to good effect in the second half. Through the boot of Herbert the lead kept growing as the Cowboys went out to a 34-16 lead.

The Giants scored a late try but the Cowboys had already done enough and when the final whistle came the party started for a club that has gone from zero to hero.

It is one of the more remarkable stories in Southland sport as a few mates last year dreamed up the idea to start up a new rugby league club in Invercargill, and this year they have now been crowned Southland club champions.

Many of the Cowboys players hadn't played rugby league before the club was formed – now they can call themselves provincial champions and many would have put their names in front of the Southland Rams selectors for the representative season.

Club co-founder Nathan Anderson agreed it was a special day and one that was worthy of some big celebrations last night. He described the final as 50 per cent quicker than a usual club game and praised Wakatipu for the intensity they had brought to the final.



Photo: Dianne Manson DMP photography

ASIA PACIFIC CONFEDERATION By Mark Gosche, APRLC Chairman

In the past two months international rugby league administration has taken a major step forward with the formation of the Asia Pacific Rugby League Confederation (APRLC). At the inaugural meeting in Auckland, on May 31st, I was elected chairman of the APRLC with support from all the member nations – Australia, NZ, Fiji, Papua New Guinea Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands. At the same meeting John Numapo (PNG) was elected to represent the APRLC as its delegate to the RLIF – the games world body. This provides a voice for nations in the region who are now producing more and more top level players for the professional competitions in Australia and England.

The NZ game has for many years benefited from the talent Pacific nations produce. For the past two years NZ has worked with Australia and England to bring about this change which also sees the European Confederation sitting at the table of the RLIF executive. At the same time NZRL has been working hard to implement its own strategic plan for the game here, we have pushed for reform of the international organisation to provide a goal for players to aim at – more test football. The Pacific nations want this too as it provides pathways for players and the ability to grow the game in their countries.

As a New Zealander of Samoan descent I have worked all my life with Pacific communities in this country. Developing Pacific talent in many fields has been a key goal for me. As Minister of Pacific Island Affairs (1999 - 2003) I worked across the Pacific communities in NZ to develop capability and build opportunities. I see the role with the APRLC as a continuation of this work.

NZRL now aims to have the Kiwis play a Pacific test side at least once a year. Building the strength of the international game will come from exciting contests between more nations. Test football that draws large crowds, sponsorship and greater broadcast revenue gives us money to invest at grass roots and development level. Helping to grow the international game has huge benefits for rugby league in NZ. We only have to look at the players running around NZ sports fields to see what the future of the game looks like.



The old saying that the “administrators of tomorrow are the players of today” suggest we need to help build the capability of the Pacific nations so they can not only foot it on the field of play but also on the administrative front. I’m looking forward to using the skills I’ve learnt in my career to help grow league throughout our region. A region that is already producing the world’s best players needs the opportunity to grow. We are seeing the benefits of sound administration here in NZ – the game is flourishing.

We look forward to working with our Pacific neighbours to do the same. The end results will be as exciting the last minute we witnessed in Brisbane last year. Vui Mark Gosche



More than just a game

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS



KIWIS TO PLAY TWO MATCHES PRIOR TO FOUR NATIONS



New Zealand Rugby League is pleased to announce that the Kiwis will play the Cook Islands in Rarotonga on Thursday October 6, 2011.

New Zealand Rugby League chief executive Jim Doyle confirmed the match as an important fixture for the Kiwis before they defend their Four Nations title in the UK, from October 28, 2011.

Jim Doyle, NZRL CEO said, "We are committed to assisting the Pacific Islands nations with the development of their rugby league. In 2010 the Kiwis played Samoa in Auckland and in 2008 and 2009 we played Tonga, also in New Zealand. Taking a game to the islands is very exciting and is one way we can continue this development process."

Tony Kemp, NZRL Football Manager said these matches are an extremely helpful way for the Kiwis to prepare for big tournaments such as the Four Nations and World Cup.

"It's especially valuable for the players who are with clubs that will have limited or no involvement in either the NRL finals or the Super League play-offs."

The NRL grand final will be played on October 2, while the Super League final is the following weekend on October 8.

The Cook Islands have been playing rugby league since 1980 and took part in the Emerging Nations World Cup in 1995. They beat Scotland to reach the final, where they defeated Ireland 22 - 6 to win the Emerging Nations World Cup.

In 2000 they competed in the pool rounds of the Rugby League World Cup where they lost to NZ

and Wales and drew against Lebanon. They missed qualifying for the 2008 Rugby League World Cup, but have qualified for the 2013 cup tournament and are currently ranked 14th in the world.

Cook Islands Rugby League chairman Charles Carlson is very pleased that his team will have the chance to again play the Kiwis, this time at home.

"We are looking forward to the opportunity to play the Kiwis here and you are talking about the World Champions coming to our little paradise," he said. "This is fantastic for rugby league and for the Cook Islands as a whole."

"We have an excellent relationship with New Zealand and many of our players have had great success there, including Kevin and Tony Iro and the former Kiwi Captain John Whitaker. A number of our young players are also making their way in the NRL so this is a wonderful opportunity for our community to see some of their idols up close, and for our players to challenge themselves against the best.

"With the next World Cup in 2013 we need games against the world's best to prepare ourselves for this tournament. We want this tour to be a success for rugby league, which I believe will open doors to other international sides and even getting an NRL game here during pre-season."

After the game against the Cook Islands, the Kiwis will play a test against the Kangaroos in Newcastle, Australia on October 16 before heading to the UK to defend their Four Nations title.

Packages will be available from Flight Centre for Rarotonga, Newcastle and the Four Nations shortly. Tickets for these two games will go on sale in mid August.

Date	Match	Venue
Thursday October 6	Kiwis v Cook Islands	Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Sunday October 16	Kiwis v Australia	Ausgrid Stadium, Newcastle, Australia





More than just a game

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS



FOUR NATIONS 2011 DRAW ANNOUNCED

The 2011 Gillette Four Nations tournament kicks off on Friday October 28 at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, when New Zealand take on Australia in a repeat of last year's Four Nations Final. The following day tournament hosts England will play Wales at the Leigh Sports Village in an afternoon game.

International Rugby League then returns to Wembley Stadium for the first time since 1997 when on Saturday November 5, the Gillette Four Nations will stage an International Rugby League double-header with current Four Nations and World Champions New Zealand taking on Wales. This will be followed by hosts England taking on Australia.

The last international at Wembley was between Great Britain and Australia 14 years ago and England have not played at the national stadium since the 1995 World Cup final when Australia were the victors in front of a 66,540 crowd.

"Wembley Stadium is known around the world for staging some of the biggest and most important events in sport and we are delighted to be taking International Rugby League back to one of the world's most iconic stadiums in the autumn," said RFL Chief Executive Nigel Wood.

"With some of the world's best Rugby League players on show at Wembley we will undoubtedly

raise the profile of the sport on the national and international stage. We hope that this fantastic event will help to bring the drama of the sport to a much wider audience especially with the 2013 Rugby League World Cup only a few years away."

The last week of fixtures sees New Zealand travel to Hull to play England at the KC Stadium on Saturday November 12, with Australia making the trip to the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham to face Wales on Sunday November 13.



The final of the tournament will be played at Elland Road, Leeds, the venue of the Kiwis memorable 24 - nil victory over Australia in the Gillette Tri Nations 2005 final.



Date	Match	Kick off*	Venue
Friday October 28	Australia v New Zealand	20.00hrs	Halliwell Jones Stadium, Warrington
Saturday October 29	England v Wales	14.30hrs	Leigh Sports Village, Leigh
Saturday November 5	Wales v New Zealand	13.00hrs	Wembley Stadium, London
Saturday November 5	England v Australia	15.30hrs	Wembley Stadium, London
Saturday November 12	England v New Zealand	18.00hrs	KC Stadium, Hull
Sunday November 13	Wales v Australia	17.45hrs	Racecourse Ground, Wrexham
Saturday November 19	Four Nations Final	18.00hrs	Elland Road, Leeds

* All times GMT. NZ screening times to be advised later.



More than just a game

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development

NZ WOMENS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2011

By Karla Matua, NZ Women's Rugby League

The 17th Annual Queens Birthday weekend New Zealand Womens Rugby League Tournament was contested at Wise Park, Wainuiomata, and after a tough start to their campaign, it was a gallant Auckland that recovered from an opening round loss to hosts Wellington, to eventually beat a determined Counties Manukau and regain the national title.

Four zones were represented, defending champions Counties Manukau, Auckland, debutants Mid Central and hosts Wellington. Mid Central proving the dark horse with little or no preparation and a team made up of players from Manawatu, Hawkes Bay and Wellington. They pushed every team in each game and were rewarded with four Kiwi Fern selections.

After the first day's play Counties Manukau were unbeaten, with Auckland and Wellington on one win, one loss each. This made the third round games on Sunday morning critical to final placings.

In the Mid Central vs Wellington game a converted try in the final minutes to Mid Central would prove to be the undoing of Wellingtons drive to finish in the top two and gain a finals berth. Auckland defeating Counties Manukau convincingly to keep their finals hopes alive.

Round robin play ended with Auckland, Wellington, Counties Manukau all having 2 wins and 1 loss each while Mid Central would be resigned to play whoever of the three would miss out on points differential, unfortunately it was Wellington while Counties Manukau and Auckland played out the final.

Wellington determined to finish the tournament strong, beat Mid Central 38-0 while in an enthralling and tightly contested final Auckland beat Counties Manukau 17-14. Trish Hina being instrumental in guiding

Auckland to a win which sees them return to National Champion status. Auckland further being rewarded with nine Kiwi Ferns.

The selectors picked 26 players in the training squad. A training camp will be held in August, when the squad will be cut to 19 players to travel to Australia in October for a Test match against the Jillaroos.

New Zealand Womens Rugby League would like to thank the following for their support and assistance with another successful National Tournament: Wellington Rugby League GM - Jason Hemson who was even seen picking up a linesman flag, Greg Selwyn, Doug King, Darryl New. Wellington RL referees and officials. Wainuiomata Rugby League Club - Club members that helped out behind the scenes, Simon, Ox, Kura, Cathy, Bill, Rob and the Laban's, Donna, Ken, Mel and Alana.

Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Players, thank you for getting your teams to the tournament and the way you played the game.

Another successful tournament with the display of the finest Womens Rugby League players in New Zealand which make up our World Champion Kiwi Ferns.

Continued over ...



Victorious Auckland team



More than just a game

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development

NZ WOMENS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2011

By Karla Matua, NZ Women's Rugby League

2011 Tournament Results:

National Champions: Auckland
Runner Up: Counties Manukau
Third: Wellington
Fourth: Mid Central

Round 1:
 Wellington 6 vs Auckland 2
 Counties Manukau 16 vs Mid Central 6

Round 2:
 Auckland 24 vs Mid Central 10
 Counties Manukau 32 vs Wellington 18

Round 3:
 Auckland 22 vs Counties Manukau 4
 Wellington 13 vs Mid Central 10

Finals:
 Wellington 38 (3rd) vs Mid Central 0 (4th)
 Auckland 17 (1st) vs Counties Manukau 13 (2nd)

Coach of the Tournament:

Kererua Savage Mid Central

Manager:

Rachel Leafé Wellington

Trainer:

Paul Orupe Wellington

Top points scorer:

Bridget Smith Wellington

Top Try Scorer:

Maryann Collins Wellington

Referee:

Karl Vasau Wellington

Player of the Tournament:

Tasha Tapu Auckland

2011 Kiwi Ferns: This squad will go into camp on 20 - 21 August to prepare for a test against Australia on Saturday October 15 on the Gold Coast.

1 Tasha Tapu	Auckland	14 Billie Jean Ale	Auckland
2 Bridget Smith	Wellington	15 Ana Pereira	Wellington
3 Maryann Collins	Wellington	16 Aimee Gilbert	Wellington
4 Sarina Fiso	Counties	17 Aleisha Moses	Mid Central
5 Karley Te Kawa	Counties	18 Honey Hireme	Counties
6 Trish Hina	Auckland	19 Laura Mariu	Counties
7 Katarina Whata Simpkins	Mid Central	20 Rona Peters	Counties
8 Annabelle Hohepa	Auckland	21 Aroha Savage	Counties
9 Sharnita Woodman	Counties	22 Shaan Waru	Mid Central
10 Maryann Hemara	Counties	23 Alyssia Samuels	Auckland
11 Lisa Campbell	Auckland	24 Teasha Lee Leka	Auckland
12 Sharon Chungson	Auckland	25 Charlotte Scanlan	Mid Central
13 Ake Pereira	Wellington	26 Charmaine McMenamin	Auckland

HAWERA HAWKS SUPPORT WOMEN IN LEAGUE

The Hawera Hawks ladies broke out their pink gear in support of the Women In League campaign run over the weekend (June 25/26) by all the NRL teams.



Pictured here are Team Managers Lynn Kahui (left) and Tina Thompson-Dockery (right) with the Hawera Hawks Under 13's team after their win 40-18 against Normanby/Okaiawa Knights.

Says Lynn, " A huge thanks goes out to all our Hawera Hawks Women in League, we have the meanest women behind all our teams; Managers, Mothers, Supporters, Committee Members, Nanny's, Aunties, sisters etc. We couldn't do it without you all."

COMPETITION WINNER SAYS THANKS, INVITES WOMEN TO GET INVOLVED IN LEAGUE

Thank you very much for the Tee. (League 4 Life t-shirt) I wore it in the weekend when I was a touch judge for one of the premier games, and received plenty of positive comments from the sideline. Such a good idea to have League 4 Life. An injury took me right out of the game last year. Dislocated hip and a possibility next year - total hip replacement. It was an horrific injury, I was on ACC for 4 months and have only just started walking properly again, but still have the passion for the game and desire to give back to what was the highlight of my sporting career. I attended a referees meeting in Wellington last night, it was a little daunting because I was the only woman there. Who knows, may start a trend of women touch judging here in Wellington. *Marissa*

OTAGO RUGBY LEAGUE UPDATE

By Grant Milne, Otago Rugby League

In another exciting month of Otago Rugby League development highlights included:

Winter Final

The winter final was contested by South Pacific Raiders and Kia Toa Tigers. The Raiders had suffered only one loss in round robin play and were heading into the final as resounding favourites. On paper this team was younger, fitter, faster, more skilful than the Tigers. But we all know finals are not played on paper.

The opening set from the Raiders produced a try in the corner. But a composed experienced Tigers team took it in their stride and just got back to business. Tigers lead 20-4 at the break.

Off a dominant forward pack Scrum Half Joel Taniora was a constant threat and finished the game with a hat trick of tries. Shane Unahi, Koben Katipa, and Ryan Tapsell were other standout performers. They have graduated beyond their twenties and it was their experience, physical attributes, and mental toughness that brought the Tigers through for a 34 - 14 victory.

Simon Fuatavai was Raiders' best. University's Thomas Ellery was named winter 'Most Valuable Player'. Kia Toa Tigers, South Pacific Raiders, and University now play a five week competition with

Southland Club teams. Our club season finishes with our Spring competition through August and September.

Representative Football

Otago Rugby league are proud to announce that they will be known as the Otago Whalers. Karyn Paringatai sums up the name: A group of tough men who braved the treacherous weather and notorious coastline whilst in pursuit of the largest mammals on earth in extreme working conditions. Many stayed and married locally whilst some were here for only a short while before embarking on other adventures.

Pretty much sums up the type of person who would play rugby league in Otago and the transient nature of the people who come here for whatever reasons – they stay, play and go on their way.

The Otago selectors have been working hard and provided us with the Otago Whalers squad to contest the South Island Inter-District Championship. Alan Manu, Ben Loughrey-Webb, Ben Dickson, Callum Smith, Cody Raymond, Danny Connell, Graeme Cashmore, Grant Milne, James Stevenson-Wright, Jermaine Stone, Joel Taniora, Johnny Liaina, Kenneth Hemopo, Koben Katipa, Manassah Kutia, Manu Matapo, Mathew Craft, Reece Vaitupu, Rocky Pohatu, Ryan Tapsell, Shane Unahi, Simon Fuatavai, Tamati Davis, Thomas Ellery, Tom Bywater, Tyler Schreurs.

Upcoming Events:

July 8: Harraways Y3-4 Kiwi League Tag Tournament, Edgar Centre

July 9: Senior 'Deep South' Rugby League competition
Otago v Southland commences

August 10: Secondary School Rugby League competition commences

August 20: Senior Spring Rugby League competition kicks off



Kia Toa Tigers



More than just a game

NOTICEBOARD



Communications Survey: As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, every six months we invite you to share your thoughts on our communications with you. This time we are using a new survey tool, which allows us to split the survey up into a handful of short pages, each with its own focus. You can have your say on our website content, what you think of the weekly Bulletin, our monthly In Touch magazine and anything else you'd like to share. Please take the time to let us know what you like, don't like, and what you'd like to see more of. See our website Fanzone for the link.



League 4 Life:

Show your support for the League 4 Life charitable foundation and its work by making a donation or becoming a member. You can read more on our website and find an application form there too. As a registered charity donations are tax deductible. If you'd like to help in other ways, perhaps by donating quality memorabilia for auction, please contact us to discuss. 100% of all funds donated will be distributed to those in need.
www.League4Life.co.nz



Kiwi Ferns Assistant Coach: Applications are now being sought for a Kiwi Ferns 'Assistant Coach.' Required to hold a minimum Senior Coach Certification. This is a voluntary position. Applications close 22nd July 2011. For more information see the About Us / NZRL Associates / NZ Women's Rugby League page. Applications close on July 22, 2011.



Counties Manukau Coaching & Development Officer: Accountable to the Zone GM and will also be responsible to the NZRL National Coaching & Development Manager for consistent delivery of the Zone 'Development Plan'. As Zones are primarily responsible for fostering the development of the game, the C&D Officer will assist to develop a Zone Game Development Plan to support achievement of these national objectives within a regional context. See our website About Us / Careers page for all the details and job description. Applications close July 25, 2011.



First Aid Officers Course: The First Aid Officer Accreditation (FAO) is an essential part of our efforts to ensure the safety of all participants in the game. The FAO accreditation is the minimum requirement to be recognised as a trainer by the NZRL. If you'd like to have a course run in your district or club please contact your Zone GM or district to request one. The cost is \$55 pp, with a minimum of 10 people req'd. All attendees will receive a Sports First Aid certificate, training in Sports Strapping, and Rugby League Fundamentals. All participants also receive a free FAO t-shirt.

NOTICEBOARD

- Replica Jerseys
- Polo Shirts
- Hoodies
- Shorts
- T Shirts for teens
- T Shirts for kids
- Baby Clothes



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GET YOUR KIWIS GEAR NOW!**



Visit the NZRL website and click on the link to shop on-line.

MERCHANDISE 

FIRST AID OFFICERS COURSE

The First Aid Officers (FAO) course is the minimum requirement to be recognised as a trainer by the NZRL.

All participants will receive:

- A Sports First Aid Certificate
- Training in Sports Strapping
- Rugby League Fundamentals
- A Free FAO T-shirt.

If you'd like a course to be run locally please contact your local district or Zone to express your interest.

Only \$55 per person, 10 people minimum.



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New Zealand Rugby League is an Auckland based not-for-profit organisation with a small, vibrant team and a dynamic culture, who all share an enormous passion for governing and growing the game of Rugby League in New Zealand. Over the past 18 months the NZRL has undergone an enormous transformation and are now in need of a sensational communications expert to help take us from good to great.

This will be far from an easy gig, but we can promise everyday will throw something new, challenging and fun your way. If you possess the skills, expertise, passion and at times sheer determination to drive Rugby League into the hearts and minds of all New Zealanders, and help us, help them understand that Rugby League truly is more than just a game, then we want to hear from you!

As the successful candidate you will:

- Be a strong writer who has the ability to craft thoughtful and creative messages
- Have many years experience in a high profile sports marketing, media, PR or journalism role
- Have extensive experience in writing and editing, with the ability to write clearly and persuasively
- Have existing relationships with, and an excellent understanding of, the NZ media.
- Hold a relevant tertiary qualification (diploma or higher) in communications, journalism or a related discipline
- Be able to work as part of a small team, have outstanding interpersonal skills and the ability to manage diverse stakeholders – this is a MUST!

A full job description and details of the application process are available on our website About Us / Careers page. Please check you can meet the application criteria before applying.

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More than just a game

COMMUNICATIONS



JUST FOR FUN

Word Find

Y	W	L	B	I	J	H	T	V	B	E	Q	E	N	F	T	R	O	P	S
O	Q	T	E	N	N	W	N	H	T	U	W	V	X	F	U	N	D	Q	Y
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Y	U	T	A	P	P	E	K	Z	N	E	X	O	A	E	R	G	N	I	K
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Find these words in the puzzle above.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------|-------------|
| INTEGRITY | RESPECT | LEADERSHIP | COURAGE | PASSION |
| SPORT | OF | CHOICE | GAME | DEVELOPMENT |
| INCREASED | PARTICIPATION | INTERNATIONAL | SUCCESS | VALUES |
| FAMILY | COMMUNITY | REALISING | OUR | POTENTIAL |

Note: Words run in all directions.



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NZRL would like to thank the following organisations for their on-going support and encourage you to support them whenever possible :



KEY DATES

National Secondary Schools Rugby League Tournament	Auckland	22 – 26 August
NZRL National Competition	Nationwide	27 August -16 October
Kiwis v Cook Islands	Rarotonga, Cook Islands	6 October *
Kiwis v Australia	Newcastle, Australia	16 October *
Four Nations 2011 - Kiwis v Australia	Warrington, UK	28 October *
Four Nations 2011 - Kiwis v Wales	London, UK	5 November *
Four Nations 2011 - Kiwis v England	Hull, UK	12 November *
Four Nations 2011 - Final	Leeds, UK	19 November *

* Local dates, NZ screening times (if applicable) to be advised.