



NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY LEAGUE

More than just a game
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INTOUCH

INTEGRITY | RESPECT | LEADERSHIP | COURAGE | PASSION



TOP STORIES

- *League Fans Flock to Eden Park Fan Day*
- *Charity Golf Day Raises Money for League 4 Life*
- *Kiwis v Kangaroos VB Test Match Report*
- *Pre Season Competitions Underway*

March / April 2012

FROM THE EDITOR

with Philippa Ivory



Vicky Martin contacted us during test week to let us know that her brother Danny Campbell would be celebrating his birthday with friends and family at the VB Test match. She was hoping we'd be able to pop a Happy Birthday message for him on the big screen.

We weren't able to help her as every moment of what you see on the screen and on the field during pre match and half time entertainment is carefully planned, scripted and compiled well in advance of the game and timed down to the last second (and yes I do mean literally).

However I said we'd be happy to say Happy 56th Birthday for April 20 to Danny in this magazine. Danny and his family travelled down to the test from the Far North, from a small place on the west coast called Mitimiti, about 350kms away. That's a fantastic effort.

Back in the late 1970's Danny started his league career, playing for the Far North Falcons, then for Northland and eventually he made a career playing for Wigan in the UK with the likes of Graeme West, the Tamati Brothers and James Leuluai.

He is described on the Wigan Warriors Fan site as 'one of the unsung overseas heroes whose contribution is often overlooked. A popular figure at Central Park, the New Zealand prop fought his way back from a badly broken leg to play in the final.'

He played in the 1982/3 trophy final victory against Leeds and in the 1985 Challenge Cup final and was a non playing member of the Kiwis squad in their 1980 tour of Britain.

His sister said "I know that you must get many a request for different things and for some very special individual people.

"However my brother is one of those unsung hero's who is a humble man, a hard worker, and a dedicated League fan. We think that sometimes it is the ordinary people in our communities who need acknowledgement and in this case he is one of them.

"There will be a group of family and friends

(16 to be exact) sitting in the stands on Friday to cheer our Kiwi team on."

Vicky is right, we have so many hard working unsung hero's and heroines in our great league family. Danny isn't ordinary of course, after all he built a professional league career for himself in the UK despite coming from a remote NZ location and he had the chance to be a part of the Kiwis even though he wasn't chosen to play. This is something many ordinary league fans would love to be able to do.

We hope Danny and everyone who came along to the test match had a very special evening, it wasn't the result we wanted but we really do appreciate all your support. And who will forget the look on Shaun Johnson's face as he raced down the sideline untouched to score a try on debut. That, along with strong performances from Issac Luke, Alex Glenn and others was surely worth the price of admission.



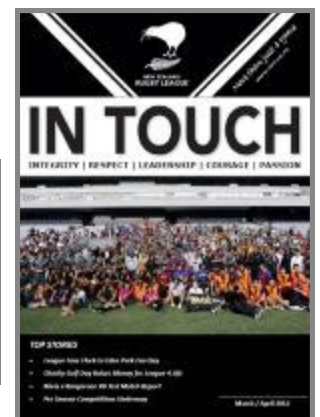
Kiwis Mascot Makes Debut Page 9



Kiwis v Kangaroos VB Test Match Page 7



League 4 Life Golf Day Raises Funds for Foundation Page 4



Cover: Fans join the Kiwis & Kangaroos at Eden Park Page 6

“International Rugby League is very important for the growth and development of the game.”



with Jim Doyle

The last couple of months have been very busy for the staff at NZRL. Thirteen of our Community Roots Carnivals were held in March and April which took us all around the country delivering the message that Rugby League is a fun and safe game to be enjoyed by the whole family.

We celebrated the signing of a new Principal Sponsor, Pirtek about whom you will be seeing a lot more in coming months as they become more involved in the game through their support of the National Competition.

In March we opened registrations for the 2012 National Secondary Schools Rugby League tournament, and have already heard from a number of Secondary Schools who want to be a part of this award winning tournament this year. Most pleasing is the interest from schools from as far away as Southland who want to give their players the chance to test themselves against the best the country has to offer while also benefiting from our off field learning opportunities and development programmes.

Our financial year ended on March 31 and as part of our process of accountability we have been updating the 'Game Plan' report to reflect our performance in the past 15 months. While we have seen significant improvement in some areas, others are still very much a work in progress. We will continue to work on delivering all of the outcomes outlined in the plan and will be out in the Zones in the coming weeks to update you on our progress.

As the test match approached the tempo of activity picked up significantly. We were fortunate to secure the services of ex Kiwis captain Richie Barnett as a selector to replace Howie Tamati who had to step down due to the increasing demands of his career.

This year we brought the Kiwis senior leadership group together in Sydney in advance of the test to help with preparation and planning for what was always going to be a short and very busy build up to the game.

Behind the scenes organising a test match at home requires a huge team effort as we work to secure everything from pre match and half time entertainment to quality hospitality packages, negotiate integrated ticketing so you can get to the game at no cost on public transport and encourage supporters to purchase their tickets.

We put a lot of thought into ticket prices and packages and offered our supporters a number of opportunities to purchase their tickets early, or to take advantage of discounted tickets through offers available to clubs and schools. As the game drew closer there were many opportunities to win tickets and right before the game we released a small number of tickets through Grab One. The result was a good crowd for this very important early season test match.

International Rugby League is very important for the growth and development of the game and having large crowds in quality venues is a critical part of supporting this process. We hope to have news of more international fixtures in the coming months and we are continuing to work on the development of our own State of Origin games for 2013 and beyond.

Thanks to everyone for their support, while we didn't get the result on the field that we had all worked for, the Kiwis are now proving competitive even in one off games and this bodes well for the future.

Jim



More than just a game

LEAGUE 4 LIFE FOUNDATION



KIWIS V KANGAROOS TEST WEEK CHARITY GOLF DAY

Test week started with a charity Golf Day to raise funds for the League 4 Life Foundation. The 18 hole, 4 man Ambrose tournament was played at The Grange in Papatoetoe and was an excellent way to start a week of test match related activities.

Seventeen teams took part in an afternoon of stunning golf shots and incredible tree hits, as the experts showed how its done while the others frightened the birds.

There were a number of prizes on offer, from a brand new Toyota Car for a hole in one at the 8th, which wasn't won, to NZRL Golf Bags, a digital camera, a Bass pack and a range of others sponsors products for a number of other special awards.

The whole day was played in brilliant sunshine, with the Mad Butchers BBQ & the Pirtek hydration station proving very popular as players made their way around the course. Both had generously provided free refreshments and Pirtek also offered a number of giveaways including caps which were gratefully received by the handful of golfers who hadn't come prepared.

After the golf, the players gathered in the club house for prize giving where they were joined by the Kiwis squad and a number of media. Interested observers were able to watch the Kiwis being interviewed by a range of media, with a live cross from the deck to The Crowd Goes Wild and another from inside the room to TV3 news.

The Kiwis then circulated and joined the teams to watch the auction, ably managed by Sir Peter Leitch, whose golf team were surely the best dressed on the day with their matching polo's and caps, especially monogrammed to mark the occasion.

Items including a trip for two to the Grand Final and a trip for two to Rarotonga had been generously donated by Flight Centre and there was fierce bidding for both. A guitar signed by the Kiwis squad, and played for the assembled group by Issac Luke was the star of the silent auction, although as always signed Kiwis & Warriors players jerseys were very popular in both auctions.

Wrapping up a very successful day NZRL CEO Jim Doyle thanked the sponsors for their prizes and the players for coming along and supporting League 4 Life and suggested that anyone who hadn't won an auction might like to look at the Foundations ball wall, which was on display, and think about buying a ball instead (see page 37 for details).



And the winner is:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Autex | 5th Michael Page 1 |
| 2nd Brave Day | 6th Mad Butcher |
| 3rd Sonar 6 | 7th Pirtek |
| 4th Plumbing World | 8th Simpson Grierson |

Longest Day - Auckland Rugby League



KIWIS V KANGAROOS TEST WEEK OPEN TRAINING SESSION



A healthy gathering of supporters were at North Harbour stadium on Tuesday for the public training session. They were able to watch the Kiwis go through their paces, as they warmed up, went through skills and drills sessions and worked out with tackle bags. Later a group of players including Josh Hoffman and Jeremy Smith, along with regular kickers Benji Marshall and Issac Luke practiced their goal kicking.

Winners of a More FM text 2 win competition, Nikki and Michael and their sons Dylan and Harrison and niece Keira (above right) enjoyed a picnic sideline while waiting for the players to arrive. The two boys are both big league fans, Harrison plays for the Hibiscus Coast Raiders and wore his jersey to prove it. Once training was finished the family were able to meet their idols Shaun Johnson and Josh Hoffman, making sure to get photos and get their NZRL goodie bags signed as well.

The players both chatted with the family before moving on to meet a number of the faithful who by now had waited a couple of hours for the chance to wish the Kiwis the very best for Friday nights test.



KIWIS V KANGAROOS TEST WEEK EDEN PARK FAN DAY

Hundreds of children and their families were queued up well before at the gates opened, waiting to join the Kiwis and the Kangaroos at the Fan Day at Eden Park. Mai FM kept everyone entertained while the 900 children & their families came into the ground and took a seat to hear more about the day. Once briefed they all spread out, with children aged 5–13 years heading onto the grass to take part in a range of fun activities with the players, while many others made their way to the concourse and the signing stations where they were able to meet their hero's.



KIWIS V KANGAROOS TEST WEEK TEST MATCH

The Kangaroos beat the Kiwis 20-12 in front of 35,339 people at Eden Park in the VB Test. Following a couple of injury hold-ups early in the match, when both Shaun Johnson and David Shillington took heavy knocks, it was the Kiwis who took the lead as Issac Luke went over from dummy half in the 12th minute. Benji Marshall converted.

Johnathan Thurston got the Kangaroos back in the match not long after as he scored beside the posts, a try he then converted.

The Queensland connection in the Australian back-line put the visitors ahead as the ball went from Cooper Cronk to Thurston, who fed Billy Slater into an outside gap, before Greg Inglis took a final pass to score out wide on the left. Thurston converted from the touchline.

Near the end of the first half Slater put himself in the way of Alex Glenn's pursuit of a Johnson grubber kick. Slater got 10mins in the bin, but the Kiwis were unable to capitalise and the Kangaroos jumped ahead 14-6 though another Thurston penalty goal.

At the start of the second half the British boy-band One Direction made an appearance on the sideline and Cronk's passing radar went astray. Johnson snaffled an intercept and ran 90m to score. Marshall converted and the Kiwis were only two points behind at 14-12.

The match stayed an arm wrestle for much of the second half. A try for the Aussie captain, Cameron Smith, with 10mins to go proved the decisive blow. Thurston again converted.

For the Kiwis, the performances of the two debutants in the backline were especially impressive. Johnson was dangerous on attack, his try brought the Kiwis back into the game, and he showed real courage to continue after his early shoulder trouble. Josh Hoffman, at fullback, also battled through injury after spraining his ankle on a kick return. He looked certain to leave the field in the first half, but

played the match out. His defence at the back, such as a try-saving tackle on Justin Hodges, was superb and he was always a threat returning the ball.



At Eden Park, Auckland:

Kiwis: 12 (Shaun Johnson, Issac Luke tries; Benji Marshall 2 conversions).

Kangaroos: 20 (Greg Inglis, Cameron Smith, Johnathan Thurston tries; Thurston 3 conversions and 1 penalty goal).

Halftime: 14-6 (Australia)

Referee: Richard Silverwood (England)

Crowd: 35,399

TEST MATCH CURTAIN RAISER OTAHUHU V ST PAUL'S

The game between St Paul's and Otahuhu Colleges was a pre season hit out for both teams, with the Auckland Competition only due to start in the first week of May. While this showed at times, both teams finishing with completion rates well below what they might expect as the session progresses, there was still some exciting rugby league on show.

St Paul's scored first and went on to lead 22 - nil at the break. Their first try was scored out wide by their winger Christian Ulukita, and this was quickly followed by an excellent solo effort by their number 7 and captain Suni Sami.

Their next try came when Sami put a chip kick through the line, and the following fullback Pharoah Tumupu dived between the Otahuhu players, and grounded the ball to score. A converted try to No 16 Neil Sola took it to 20 - nil and they finished the half with a penalty kick from out in front.

In the second half Otahuhu got into their stride and when a lovely inside pass from their No 6 Andrew Maroroa was caught by No 14 Michael Tupua-Wilson they were over to score their first try.

St Paul's answered straight back with a try to Kruz Tupou. Otahuhu fought back with a try to Andrew Maroroa which was converted by Aerial Tusiane. But St Paul's had the last word with a try to Jamon Peua, final score 30 - 10 to St Paul's.

At Eden Park, Auckland:

St Paul's: 30 (Christian Ulukita, Suni Sami, Pharoah Tumupu, Neil Sola, Kruz Tupou, Jamon Peua tries; Tupou Tapuaiga conversion; Semisi Havili, conversion & one penalty goal.)

Otahuhu: 10 (Michael Tupua-Wilson, Andrew Maroroa tries; Aerial Tusiane conversion.)

Halftime: 22 - 0 (St Paul's)

Referee: Jamal Thompson



FANS ENJOY THE TEST MATCH



The new Kiwis Mascot made its debut at the test match.

Seen here with two of the ball boys Payton Taplin and Denzel Wiki and below with Spencer Taplin and Jim Doyle, NZRL CEO.



Kiwi fans went all out to show their support, painting their faces, making signs & costumes. Even touring band One Direction (middle left) came along for a look.



CHARITY AUCTION WINNERS ENJOY THEIR BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

In late March we listed a Rugby League Test Match Experience on the Trade Me auction site. The lucky auction winners prize included the chance to go behind the scenes at the VB test on April 20. They would be taken to and from the game, would be hosted at the game by an ex Kiwi superstar, get to see both teams dressing rooms before the game, see the coin toss, watch the teams warm up from the sideline and if they wished watch the pre match entertainment sideline. Plus they'd get something to eat and drink, and a Kiwis jersey to take into the sheds after the game for signing.

Bidding started briskly and finished a little over the reserve at \$765. Adrian and his 11 year old son Dillon were the lucky winners and they had a very busy and eventful evening. Collected from home well before kick off, they were taken to the ground where they were introduced to World Cup winning captain Nathan Cayless and ex Canberra Raider Alan Tongue. From there the evening went by in a whirl of activity, they went downstairs to see the dressing sheds, then out onto the field to see how the game worked from the sideline, upstairs to have something to eat then back down to watch the warm up.

During their travels they were in the right place at the right time to see the Kiwis and Kangaroos arrive and get off their respective buses. Likewise they were in the right spot to be the first to meet and have their photos taken with the Kiwis Mascot, and to meet and chat with a number of past Kiwis including Awen Guttenbeil and Logan Swann.

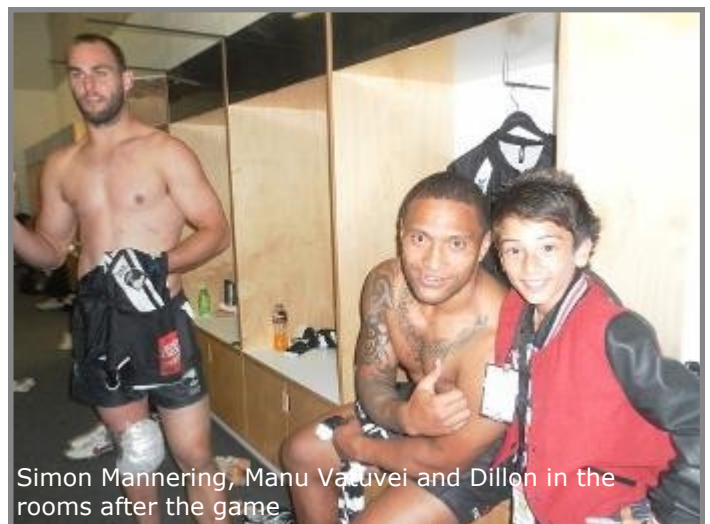
Adrian says of the evening " We would like to thank Philippa and Mark for a sensational night out with the Kiwi team, & would like to send a personal thank you to Alan Tongue for mentoring my son Dillon, he was a great inspiration to Dillon. I would also like to thank Nathan Cayless for his personal attention with us also and not forgetting League 4 Life for this fantastic opportunity of a life time. What a worthy cause and we would highly recommend anyone to jump at this opportunity should it arise again."



Dillon on sideline with Nathan Cayless and Dad Adrian



The Kiwis Mascot with Dillon & Adrian, under the stand



Simon Mannering, Manu Vatuvei and Dillon in the rooms after the game

COMMUNITY CARNIVALS 2012 ROADSHOW COMES TO AN END

After visiting sixteen towns and cities and meeting thousands of children and hundreds of whanau, the Community Development team wound up their roadshow with Carnivals in Southland and Otago.

The aim of the Carnivals is to introduce Rugby League to families who might otherwise not know that the game they see each week on TV is very different to the Mini & Mod versions played in the younger grades.

Children get a free Breakfast, lots of fresh fruit from 5+ a Day, the chance to meet Ruben Wiki and have their photo taken with the World Cup, and a goodie bag to take away.

To assist parents with supporting their children, where ever possible the free Rugby League Fundamentals programme is offered at the Carnival, taking parents away for about half an hour while their children take part in the skills and drills sessions.

Everyone gets together at the end of the morning for a range of family friendly activities including tug of war and the very popular dance offs.

Each year the Carnivals get bigger and better, with increased support from sponsors and local media while local club, District and Zone staff continue to be the backbone of all the events.

Len Reid, Coaching and Development in Upper Central Zone says "It is such a great way to get local communities involved in our game in such a fun & positive manner. With the NZRL involvement and working alongside local volunteers, it shows that they (volunteers) are very much valued in our game."

Continued over



Top: Kids warming up with Ruben.
Middle: Getting moving with a running drill.
Below: Rain doesn't stop the fun, just moves everyone inside.



COMMUNITY CARNIVALS 2012 ROADSHOW COMES TO AN END



Children get stuck in to the activities, passing the ball, building their strength and smiles in a tug of war, tucking into breakfast & finishing with a big shout out to celebrate the morning.



There has been a hugely positive response to the Community Carnivals in the Zones with Steve Martin, South Island offering the following "The Community Roots Carnivals have been very successful in supporting the growth of rugby league in the South Island. The carnivals have raised awareness of the game in areas where rugby league is just beginning to re emerge. With a lot of work now being done in primary and intermediate schools through the Fundamental Skills Development Programmes and competitions delivered by Development Officers, these carnivals provide a key pre season focus for rugby league. In areas where rugby league is established they provide a catalyst for the new season and recruitment of players into the game."

Volunteers (right in orange vests) are critical to the successful running of these events with a number receiving special mention for their efforts, resulting in the following feedback, that everyone – young and old – was smiling, active and had lots of fun.





More than just a game

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development



More than just a game

Alcohol & Smokefree



Sidelines & Carparks

To grow our game we must improve our image.

Please do not drink or smoke on sidelines and carpark areas.

For your club, for your game.

If you are going to drink, do it in the club or in the controlled areas.

Money over the bar helps our clubs stay alive.

For your family.

Ease up on the drink. Not the tackle!

You are the key in growing this great game of Rugby League!

You can make a difference!

ANDERSON NAMES STRONG EXILES SQUAD

Head coach Daniel Anderson and his management team have announced an initial 30-man squad for the Exiles in the International Origin Series 2012.

The Exiles, a squad drawn from the overseas talent available from the Stobart Super League clubs, will take on England in two games this summer.

Former St Helens coach Anderson has named a particularly strong squad for the games at Langtree Park and the Galpharm Stadium. The squad is drawn from 11 different Stobart Super League clubs and the players have won 250 international caps and have played 30 State of Origin matches between them.

Only 10 of the 30-man initial squad played in the team which shocked England to win at the Headingley Carnegie Stadium last season, so there will be plenty of work for Anderson and his team in preparing their players.

Anderson is joined on the Exiles management team by Hull FC Director of Rugby Shaun McRae, former Bradford Bulls and New Zealand star Robbie Hunter-Paul and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats assistant boss Glenn Morrison.

Exiles captain Brett Hodgson of Warrington Wolves believes the squad will be more than a match for England as they begin their preparations for Rugby League World Cup 2013: "This initial squad is so strong and has so much experience that I think the series will be a great spectacle.

"We want to use these games to build on last year's victory and really develop the Exiles concept. There's no question that this talented group of players can drive that forward and will give England two really tough games."

The International Origin Series 2012 will see the Exiles take on England at Langtree Park, St Helens on Saturday June 16 and at the Galpharm Stadium, Huddersfield on Wednesday July 4.



2012 Exiles Squad

Anthony Laffranchi	St Helens	Joel Moon	Salford City Reds
Antonio Kaufusi	London Broncos	Lance Hohaia	St Helens
Brett Delaney	Leeds Rhinos	Lopini Paea	Catalan Dragons
Brett Finch	Wigan Warriors	Louis Anderson	Catalan Dragons
Brett Hodgson (C)	Warrington Wolves	Luke O'Donnell	Huddersfield Giants
Clint Greenshields	Catalan Dragons	Michael Monaghan	Warrington Wolves
Darryl Millard	Catalan Dragons	Michael Robertson	London Broncos
David Fa'aologo	Huddersfield Giants	Pat Richards	Wigan Warriors
Francis Meli	St Helens	Scott Dureau	Catalan Dragons
George Carmont	Wigan Warriors	Setaimata Sa	Catalan Dragons
Heath L'Estrange	Bradford Bulls	Sia Soliola	St Helens
Jake Webster	Hull Kingston Rovers	Thomas Leuluai	Wigan Warriors
Jason Chan	Huddersfield Giants	Tony Puletua	St Helens
Jeff Lima	Wigan Warriors	Trent Waterhouse	Warrington Wolves
Joel Monaghan	Warrington Wolves	Wille Manu	Hull FC



More than just a game

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development

NORTHERN SWORDS NAME MANAGEMENT TEAM



Planning is well under way for the Northern Swords 2012 NZRL National Competition campaign. In the 3rd year of the competition Rugby League Northland General Manager Alex Smits is confident that the three teams competing will build on the improvement gained in the 2011 campaign.

The National Competition is played between seven New Zealand Rugby League Zones at 15's, 17's and open age groups. The competition commences in late August with finals scheduled for late October.

"We have recruited three very great coaches and a strong management team to support them. We had a very constructive meeting last night where all three coaching teams have agreed to work together as one overall team. We now have three years experience managing teams at this level so we will be improving on last years performance," Smits said.

From the 2011 campaign Joe Rau (Premier Coach) and Jim Larkin (15's Coach) return to the post. At the 17's age grade Rangi Selwyn (Head Coach for Kaikohe Lions Premiers) comes on board as the Head Coach with Michael Shearer (2011 Care Taker Coach) taking on the role as Trainer/Manager.

John Renes a nationally recognised trainer will continue his role as Head Trainer for the premier teams as well as overseeing the 15's and 17's. Rugby League Northland is pleased to bring in Edward Irving in the role of Premier Manager. Edward is the current operations manager at the Whangarei Golf Club so will bring a wealth of local contacts and experience to the team.

Rugby League at a national level is gaining momentum and this can be seen with the growth in interest of the 2012 Pirtek National Provincial Premiership, players are only one step away from a NZ Representative Jersey.

Home Matches for Northern Swords Campaign for 2012:

August 26: Northern Swords v Waicoa Bays Stallions, Toll Stadium, Whangarei

September 2: Northern Swords v Akarana Falcons (Auckland), Arnold Rae Park, Kaitaia

September 23: Northern Swords v Counties Manukau Stingrays, (15's and 17's Only), Lydnavt Park, Kaikohe



NZRL SUPPORTS COMMUNITY INITIATIVE



A message from Catherine Howell, Takapuna Beach Business Association "I would like to start by extending a big thank you to the NZRL for helping to support the first-ever Easter Egg Hunt here in Takapuna. It was a tremendous success, and created some great exposure for the area.

"I had originally anticipated around 100-200 people and instead we had twice the turnout, so Hurstmere Road was buzzing with excited laughter and bunny ears. We are definitely thinking of making this event iconic to Takapuna, and with some slight variations it has the potential to become a massive affair for families.



"One thing you may like to hear is that the winner of the family pass donated by you was a mother of three called Sarah, she is from Mt Eden and had heard about the Hunt through word-of-mouth so the event must have sparked interest in families. I'm sure she is going to have a ball with her family at the Test Match.

"I have attached a few photographs of the event. Thanks again for being so supportive of TBBA initiatives, we really appreciate it."





More than just a game

INCREASED PARTICIPATION

Increased Participation

REGISTER NOW FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT 2012

After a highly successful tournament in 2011, it is with great pleasure that the New Zealand Rugby League announces the return of the National Secondary Schools Rugby League Tournament to Bruce Pulman Park, South Auckland from the September 3 - 7, 2012.

In 2011 a total of 16 schools participated in a fantastic tournament co-hosted by Papakura High School.

The week not only offered a high standard of rugby league, but also unique "More than just a game" opportunities for participants, including a leadership presentation and workshop from 'It's not OK', primary school visits and coaching clinics from past Kiwis.

2012 will see the introduction of two new grades including an Under 85kg grade and a B division grade (dependent on entries). Registration is now open and forms, along with 2012 tournament details, can be found on our website. Be in quick to ensure you do not miss out on this great sporting opportunity for your students.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE PRESENTS THE



2012 NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOL RUGBY LEAGUE NATIONALS



Our Aims

- Establish a national tournament strong enough to create growth and interest in Rugby League.
- Promote the development of coaches and players who participate in our competitions.
- Promote Rugby League as a safe and enjoyable sport to play for all participants.
- In line with our strategic plan, work with Zones, Associates and Partners to establish a plan to re-ignite the game and increase participation in schools, clubs, and districts.

We Can Offer - "More than just a game"

NZRL believes that through sport we can effect change. Therefore we will schedule a number of events that will benefit all those involved such as:

- Professional presentations on topics such as leadership, values, & teamwork.
- Tours of the Warriors facilities & NZRL museum during tournament week.
- Photo opportunities with the Rugby League World Cup.
- Watching Warriors training where it doesn't clash with a school game.
- Workshops including partners such as the NRL, player managers, media etc.
- Scholarships



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE

More than just a game

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development

KIWISPORT RUGBY LEAGUE HITS GISBORNE

By Marcus Reynolds, Upper Central GM

The growth of Rugby League in the Gisborne Tairāwhiti region has been given a massive boost with the appointment of Aorangi Pahuru (below right) as the Rugby League KiwiSport Officer. This brand new position is the first of its kind in the area and has come about through a partnership between the Upper Central Zone and Sport Gisborne.

The primary focus of the role will be to introduce Rugby League to Primary and Intermediate school children in a fun, safe and professional way. The six week in-school programme aims to teach the children and teachers the fundamental skills required to play rugby league, whilst showing them how much fun it can be at the same time.

The flow on from the programme will be the establishment of annual inter-school tournaments as well as a secondary school competition during the spring.

This Gisborne KiwiSport role comes on the back of a similar programme producing outstanding results in the Waikato & Bay of Plenty where over 15,000 school aged children experienced Rugby League in 2011.

Marcus Reynolds, GM of the Upper Central Zone is excited by the appointment, "This is a great opportunity to take Rugby League to the next level in the Gisborne-East Coast region. Our sport is experiencing significant growth at the moment, so it's important we create roles like KiwiSport to support and foster that growth.

"Gisborne has the potential to be a boom area for Rugby League and this position will work closely with the local District Board to carry on the excellent work they've been doing."

Only a few weeks into her role and Aorangi already

has seven intermediate schools booked in for the six week programme.

In 2011 registered player numbers across the Upper Central Zone grew by 56% and in 2012 the Premier Gisborne competition will have eight teams taking part. The appointment of a KiwiSport Officer is a timely one and promises to continue the momentum Rugby League has gathered nationally and locally.

Aorangi Pahuru will be working out of Sport Gisborne and can be reached on 07 868-9943 or gisbornekiwisport@nzrl.co.nz.



RUGBY LEAGUE COACH WINS REGIONAL SPORTS AWARD

By Tony Stevens, North Waikato News

Rugby league coach Morgan Kutia received the ultimate recognition for a busy year, winning Coach of the Year at the Waikato Regional Sports Awards.

The Ngaruawahia man successfully coached the Hamilton City Tigers to their second consecutive championship last year, after a 17-year drought in 2010.

"When you've got depth in your team it makes your job a whole lot easier," he said.

"When I got the award I told my players I couldn't have done it without them.

"I have been part of five championships in five years and I always ask myself, is it the team or do I have some input as a coach. The answer is always a bit of both."

Kutia also coached the Waikato premier squad and Waicoa Bay Stallions in 2011, as well as filling the assistant coach role for the New Zealand Maori Residents rugby league team.

Kutia said he was surprised to receive the award and felt it could have gone to any of the coaches nominated for the honour.

"Only they know how difficult it is to coach," he said. "The organising and planning that goes into it, it's tough."

Kutia said while it was satisfying to be recognised after a "huge, difficult year" the award was more of a victory for rugby league in the Waikato. "I've coached four teams this

year. It's a reward for hard work but it's probably more important for the game. It raises the profile of league in the area," he said.

Kutia has come a long way since his first coaching role with the Waikato U18 touch team 16 years ago. In his first year with the team they lost every game at nationals but over the next six years he helped Waikato touch sides pick up two New Zealand championships, three second and one third placing.

"The reason I decided to coach then was to help young people reach their goals and the same is true today; to help people become better through sport.

As for the future, Kutia said more involvement with national teams was one goal.

"Helping coach the New Zealand Maori team was just a huge experience for me. There's a big step up from club to representational football. The planning has got to be meticulous - there's no room for error."



TAUPO PHOENIX TOURNAMENT By Lorraine Pilkington, Taupo Phoenix



There was an awesome day of Rugby League in Taupo on Sunday 11th March, when eight teams entered the 2nd annual Cronulla Sharks Sponsored Under 17 invitational Tournament hosted by Taupo Phoenix Rugby League and Sports Club. Teams travelled from Taranaki/ Bay of Plenty/ Waikato to attend with some great young talent on display. Western Suburbs Club out of Taranaki won the tournament.

The Cronulla Sharks tournament team will get another opportunity to play when Dean Bell brings down a Warriors Development team to put them through their paces - once again Hosted by Taupo Phoenix at Hickling Park in Taupo.

The tournament team was: Oscar Bound, Sean McGregor, Sione Vakameilalo, Tyrone Clark, Tupara Tupara, Liam Prendergast, Doug Unuwai, Satch Pryor, Siosi Veamatu, Reece Poindytry, Parahe Wilson, Tiniwata Dixon, Matiu Love-Henry, Cleveland Poko, Mac Carson, Brenan Ketu, Dakota Ruta, Pryor Collier, Liam Parker, Jaz Flavell Best Forward of the Tournament - P.J. Lose Best Back - Liam Prendergast Player of the tournament - Parahe Wilson who won a scholarship with the Cronulla Sharks.



7 Beasley Ave, Penrose

HOME OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday
11am - 3pm Entry only \$2

School Groups, Probus and Other Interested Groups Welcome

Contact Don Hammond, Museum Curator on (09) 571 3857



Bring the Kids. Try the Museum Explorer Quiz!

ORCAS DEVELOPMENT PLAYERS PREPARING FOR THE SEASON By Jason Hemson, Wellington Zone

Starting training at 7:00am on a Sunday morning was a new experience for most of the boys in the Orca 15's and 17's train-on Pods (Players in development squads). The early start was designed to highlight to the boys the sacrifices and dedication it takes to make the grade as rugby league player.

The players who make the Orcas teams for the National Competition this year will be required to be at the airport by 6:30am on the days where the teams play away, therefore it is important that the players (and the coaching staff) get some practice at early morning starts and what they need to do to be properly prepared.

The exercise also highlighted to those boys harbouring thoughts of professional careers in rugby league that early morning starts would become a regular feature of their lives. NRL rules stipulate under 20's players are required to undertake work, education or vocational training during the day, therefore footy training is carried out in the early mornings and evenings. Most NRL under 20's teams are in the gym by 6:00am three to four mornings a week.

With most of the boys still bleary eyed and yawning; Orcas coaches Darren Cassidy and Peter Rikiriki put the boys through a gruelling 2 hour session consisting of hill running, sprints and agility drills. It was a very tough session which resulted in a number of the boys seeing their breakfast for the second time that morning. Everyone put in a fantastic effort and the coaching staff were really impressed with the way the boys pushed themselves and encouraged their mates through the session. The boys are gelling together well and we are already seeing the benefits of bringing the Pods together so early in the year.

In the next few weeks the Orcas Premier coach, Dave Lomax and assistant Coach Mike Kuiti will be naming a Premier train-on Pod. The players named will be put through the NZRL fitness testing processes

and they will be required to attend monthly training/monitoring sessions.

If you have any questions regarding the representative programme contact WRL volunteer coaching coordinator Kenny O'Brien (below) at kenny@wrl.org.nz or on 0210397353.



Below: Deslea Wrathall from High Performance Sport NZ addressing the boys & their parents. The boys went through a series of movement assessments and were briefed on the goals of the programme & the guidance and support they will receive from HPSNZ.



CANTERBURY RUGBY LEAGUE HOLD PRE SEASON COMPETITION By Craig Kerr, Canterbury RL

The CRL pre-season competition concluded on Saturday 24 March. The Racecourse Hotel Plate was contested between the Riccarton Knights and the Northern Bulldogs. The Bulldogs had only played one match in making the final due to Aranui withdrawing and had what many are calling an upset win 18-10.

Racecourse Hotel Plate

Northern Bulldogs: 18 (Tries - Steve Matt, Tony Loffhagen, Chase Williams, Matthew Clough, Goal - Nathaniel Tirikatene)

Riccarton Knights: 10 (Tries - Justin Lynch, Michael Brierley, Goal - Simon Mounga)

Half time Knight 10-4. Referee Mike Glover.

In the main game for the CRL Trophy it was last years Premiership finalists the Celebration Lions and the Halswell Hornets squaring off. The weather in Christchurch for the finals day was warm with a nor west wind seeing temperatures reaching the mid 20s, which really tested the players fitness.

Celebration played with the strong wind at their backs in the first half and only managed to go in to the break at 6 all. Many of the Halswell supporters at their home ground thought that the Hornets would use the wind to their advantage in the second half and run away with the game. However the Lions played smart football in the second half to record a well deserved 20-12 win over their arch rival and erase some of the memories of last seasons grand final where the Lions were distant runners up to the Hornets.

It certainly sets up an intriguing season between arguably the two best teams in the competition.

Canterbury Rugby League Trophy

Celebration Lions: 20 (Tries - Bruce Havea, Zack Toomalatai, Kasi Leka, Kahu Epiha, Goals - Teariki Tangiiti [3])

Halswell Hornets:12 (Tries - Auri Olssen, Ross Martin, Goals - Jimmy Limm [2])

Half time 6 all. Referee Gary Smallridge.



L to R: Craig presents Josh Reuben, Bulldogs captain with his teams trophy and Kyle Leka, the Lions captain with theirs.

PASSING ON LEAGUE SKILLS - LEADERSHIP THROUGH LEAGUE From The Hutt News

Taita College students had the chance to put weeks of learning into practice recently when they organised a Flag League Festival for local primary schools.

The festival was the culmination of a five week Leadership Through League (LTL) programme run by Wellington Rugby League.

More than 160 pupils went through sessions designed to teach and enhance core motor body skills while learning the sport of flag league, a sport that looks and plays like rugby league but without any contact.

A key element of the LTL programme scheme is that secondary school students deliver coaching modules to local primary schools, based on a system of role modelling and 'Tuakana Teina' (big brother teaching little brother).

Funded by KiwiSport, Wellington Rugby League, has received \$100,000 over two years to deliver the programme. So far 2,846 pupils from 33 primary and eight secondary schools have taken part.

KiwiSport Officer Greg Selwyn, who has been teaching the 24 Taita students taking part in the course, said helping out with the recent Pelorus Trust Sport



Festival at Westpac Stadium gave them a valuable insight into event management, which is also part of the programme curriculum.

"That day gave the students' some insight into event management. With the local flag festival they were responsible for the whole event including event manager, coaches, referees, MC and other little intricacies involved in putting together an event."

KiwiSport Manager, Peter Woodman-Aldridge, said the organisation is "thrilled with the success of the programme so far. 'It's a great way to build partnerships between primary and secondary schools while also being used to gain NCEA for high school students. The programme and model has been extremely successful and we now expect the other sports may use this model to apply for KiwiSport funding."



Above: Cheeky steal: Dhruv Parmarnts, right, from Tawhai School makes a grab for the ball as Jasmine Horne from Pomare School head off down field.

Left: Dodge and weave: Joshua Greener from Tawhai School tries to get past the St Michael's School defence.

Directors Sought for New Zealand Rugby League

Rugby League is a sport for all New Zealanders, played at the grassroots and on the international stage. The sport is **"More than just a game"** - it is part of the social fabric of our country and has a critical role in developing young men and women in some of our most "at risk" communities. The World Cup and Four Nations winning Kiwis provide an inspiration for the youth of New Zealand.

The NZRL Board comprises seven Directors, with four Independent 'Appointed Director' positions and three Rugby League Knowledgeable 'Elected Director' positions. An independent Appointments Panel manages the Director Recruitment process for 'Appointed' and 'Elected' Directors. The Appointments Panel is now seeking applications for one Appointed Director position and one Elected Director position. All Board positions are for a term of three years.

The Appointments Panel is charged with ensuring the Board has collective skills and experience in commerce, finance and marketing, and a knowledge of, and experience in, the sport of rugby league. Board members will also need to have effective decision-making skills, well developed relationship-management skills and sound judgment.

The Board is responsible for ensuring sound governance practices and processes, setting clear goals and measurable targets within the sport of rugby league in New Zealand.

Applications forms can be downloaded from www.nzrl.co.nz/careers. All applications will be treated in strict confidence and must include a CV, covering letter and a completed application form. Applications should be sent to the NZRL CEO, PO Box 12 712, Penrose, Auckland 1642 to be received no later than 5pm on Friday, 11 May 2012.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MATCH OFFICIAL? GET THE BEST VIEW IN THE HOUSE

Whether you're a parent, student, an ex-player, ex-coach or a rugby league fan there is a suitable level of refereeing available to you. Visit our website www.nzrl.co.nz/match-officials to find the details of the co-ordinator nearest you and they'll tell you what you need to know to get started. Without our Match Officials there'd be no game so why not get up off the couch and get involved!



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Southern Zone Rugby League Board of Directors formally advises that the Southern Zone Rugby League Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 23rd May 2012 in Christchurch. The Annual General Meeting is called in accordance with the SZRL Constitution section 13.3 – Notice of Annual Meetings.

When: Wednesday 23rd May 2012

Where: Sockburn Recreation Centre,
8 Takaro Ave, Christchurch

Commencing: 7.30pm

For further information please contact Steve Martin on 021 271 6975 or steve@nzrl.co.nz

New Zealand Maori Rugby League Rangatahi (Youth) Tournament 2012

Date: June 2 - 3, 2012

Venue: Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

From: 8.30am (for whakatau at the Grounds)

Age Groups: 15 years and 17 years

Entry Fee: \$300 per team

Entries: Please note there will be a cap for entries, the first eight entries received in each age group will be deemed entered.

Entries Close: Friday 25th May, 2012

Please return all Tournament Entries and Fees to:
John Devonshire – Tournament Convenor, 027 475-7510 johnd@sportsforce.org.nz



NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY LEAGUE

More than just a game

FAMILY & COMMUNITY



Centennial Jubilee Celebrations

1st June - 4th June 2012

Queens Birthday Weekend

Ellerslie Eagles Rugby League Football Club

182 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland

We are proud to announce our Centennial Celebrations with a range of activities for the whole family planned. We warmly welcome everyone including past members to celebrate this historic occasion.

List of Events

Mix & Mingle

Friday, 1st June 2012 • 6.00p.m - 12.00p.m. at the clubrooms
Reconnect with old friends, light refreshments

Club Day

Saturday, 2nd June 2012

All day, games and fun at the clubrooms
7.00p.m. - 12.00p.m. Music at the club

Old Boys Invitation & Premiers Games

Sunday, 3rd June 2012 • 12.00noon - 4.00p.m. at the clubrooms

Eagles Centennial Celebration Dinner

Sunday, 3rd June 2012 • 7.30p.m. - 12.00 p.m.

Wind Down & Relax

Monday, 4th June 2012 • from 11.00a.m. at the clubrooms
BBQ breakfast, final farewell and photo opportunities

Contacts

If you are interested in attending there are various ways to get in contact with us:

Head to our Facebook page • "Ellerslie Eagles Rugby League"

Check out our website • <http://www.ellerslieleague.co.nz>

Contact Len Jeffs • on 021 037 1909 ellerslieeagles@gmail.com

Contact Amanda Mott • on 021 273 5186 amanda.mott@chubb.co.nz



More than just a game

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development



Masters Rugby League New Zealand Inc

National Tournament Wellington 2012

6th – 13th October

Games played at Fraser & McEwen Parks

Managers / Referee's Meeting: Saturday 6th October

Game Days: Sunday 7th, Tuesday 9th, Thursday 11th

Rest Days: Monday 8th, Wednesday 10th, Friday 12th

Representative Games, Prize Giving & Farewell. Saturday 13th

After Match Venue TBA



Contacts; Maxine - godinetmaxine@yahoo.co.nz

Or Phil - pwc.campbell@xtra.co.nz





NEW ZEALAND WOMENS RUGBY LEAGUE
**MEMO TO ALL DISTRICT LEAGUES, ZONES
& AFFILIATES**

7th Feb 2012



RE: New Zealand Womens National Tournament

Confirmation of the NZ Womens National Tournament has been made to assist with budgeting and preparation of your Regional Womens Teams:

Date: Saturday 2nd June & Sunday 3rd June 2012
(Queens Birthday Weekend)

Venue: Gisborne Boys High School
Gisborne

This National Tournament will be utilised for selection of the Kiwi Ferns training squad for the upcoming World Cup 2013 in England. It will be hosted by Gisborne Tairāwhiti Rugby League.

For more information on the tournament, accommodation etc and to register your province please contact:

Karla Matua, Karla.Matua@sportwaitakere.co.nz, 0211601645.

Tournament information packs will be sent out once receipt of registration is made which will include a letter of sanction by New Zealand Rugby League for any funding applications.

Karla Matua
Secretary
NZWRL

FROM THE PAST



Correction: In the last issue we reported that the above photo was of the Wellington team which played a touring Queensland team in 1925. NZRL Historian Bernie Wood has been in touch to say that in fact this is the 1923 South Auckland team mentioned in the story also featured on that page.



Left: Kiwis prop Ruben Wiki in action at the international rugby league test between New Zealand and Australia, 1998. Right: Kiwi Jarrod McCracken shakes hands with Australian halfback Allan Langer after the international rugby league test between New Zealand and Australia, 1998.

Photos: PHOTOSPORT

FOR THE KIDS



Here's something for the kids, a cool colouring in picture. If you think they've done an amazing job, take a copy and send it to us at NZRL, PO Box 12 712, Penrose, Auckland 1642.

We'll put it on the Noticeboard for everyone to admire and send a couple of lucky entrants an NZRL Goodie Bag.

Remember to let us know your name and age and your address if you want us to send you something in return.

KIWI LEGENDS WORD FIND 2

S	K	Q	Z	V	L	Q	E	R	B	I	M	R	O	H
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S	E	C	A	Z	M	J	M	J	J	M	T	O	D	D
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Can you find these players surnames above. Words go in all directions.

ASHER
COOKE
GRAHAM
MCGAHAN
MENZIES
SMITH
TAMATI
WILLIAMS

BAXTER
EASTLAKE
HARDWICK
MCGREGOR
PERCIVAL
SORENSEN
TODD

BELL
FREEMAN
IFWERSEN
MCLENNAN
SEELING
STIRLING
WATENE



FOUNDATION WALL

The new fundraising initiative for League 4 Life is up and running and gives you the opportunity to have your name or that of your family, club, or business up on the League 4 Life Foundation Wall. All the money raised from the Wall will go to the League 4 Life Foundation which supports people involved with Rugby League in New Zealand who have met with hardship in their lives.

The Wall will be at Rugby League House outside the NZRL Museum doors and will be taken to various NZRL events for extra exposure.

Some **key points** about buying a ball (or two, or three...) are below:

- \$195.00 buys one ball for two years.
- A small name plaque will be put on each ball. The donor can choose what name they would like on it (i.e. a person, company, family, etc).
- The donor keeps the ball after the two years elapses and can buy another if they wish.
- Ball numbers are sold on a first come, first served basis.
- A receipt will be issued once payment is made.

If you would like to purchase a ball then you need to:

1. Make a deposit of \$195.00 directly to the L4L Foundation account with the BNZ, 02-0100-0106590-027 New Zealand Rugby League Inc. Please make sure that in the Reference you put your Surname followed by L4L; **or**
2. Write a cheque for \$195.00 made out to the League 4 Life Foundation and send to NZRL.
3. Call the office and advise Katie of the name (s) to go on the ball and the number position on the wall you would prefer.
Name: _____
(e.g. The Smith Family)
Number: _____
4. A receipt will be issued once payment is made.

The balls with a red X have already been sold, to avoid disappointment please ring the office to check number availability and have a back up option ready.





More than just a game

PARTNERS



We would like to thank all these wonderful organisations for their on-going support and encourage you to support them whenever possible.

AUTEX

