



2021 - 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Pūrongo ā-tau





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MORE THAN A GAME®

NUI ATU I TE KĒMU

**Transforming lives and
community wellbeing
through Rugby League**

**Ka mārō te haere i te wao a Tāne,
kia piki te ora o te iwi, mā roto
i te hutupōro rīki.**



THE **KIWI** WAY®

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

We are family first

We are responsible

We are innovative and courageous

We are inclusive, respectful & humble

We are stronger together

**We live and play
The Kiwi Way every day**

From the Chairman and CEO

Nā te Toihau me te Tumu Whakarae

The resilience of our game and its people has been never been better demonstrated than it has been over the past 12 months.

We entered 2021 with excitement, embarking on the busiest grassroots and high-performance calendar New Zealand Rugby League had seen to date. Before we knew it, the pandemic reached new heights resulting in unprecedented challenges across the nation once again.

Thank you to all of our rugby league communities, staff, zones, districts, clubs and volunteers who prioritised the health and safety of their people above all else. Thank you to those who re-shaped seasons, ran new-look and often fragmented competitions and managed isolation and vaccination requirements in the face of Omicron.

Your resilience saw our game survive significantly trying times, and while not entirely out of the woods yet, we embrace 2022, full steam ahead.



Hugh Martyn,
Chairman



Greg Peters,
CEO



Despite Omicron cancelling the 2021 NZRL Secondary Schools, we still ran the NZRL Youth and National competitions, albeit in a revised format, without Auckland teams, due to Covid restrictions at the time. Congratulations to Upper Central and Canterbury for taking home the Men's and Women's National Championships and Upper Central and Mid Central for being crowned 2021 16s and 18s Youth Champions.

Our withdrawal from the 2021 Rugby League World Cup, although disappointing, was the correct decision due to health and safety concerns surrounding the pandemic in the Northern Hemisphere.

Although challenging for all involved, the competition's postponement to this year means all teams can now experience the entire spectacle, at its best, with full-strength teams, player engagement, and stadiums full of fans enjoying the biggest RLWC in its history.

Despite pandemic setbacks, there were still many reasons to celebrate in 2021.

The Ngā Ringa Āwhina team engaged with league clubs and districts across Aotearoa ensuring delivery of better capability building across the game.

We are pleased to have deepened our partnership with NZ Māori Rugby League and will be implementing constitutional changes that further enhance this relationship.

Despite the Omicron challenges, we are encouraged by a positive increase in rugby league participation. This is a testament to the loyalty and dedication shown by our grassroots communities throughout challenging periods. Our rangatahi participation has increased by 15%, relatively quicker than other codes, and our female participation continues to gain momentum each year, increasing by 13%.

For the first time in over ten years, direct grassroots funding has more than doubled due to our continuing efforts to stabilise the balance sheet.

We are incredibly grateful to our principal partners, Pirtek and Mainstream, who have renewed their commitment despite the 2021 high-performance hiatus. We have also sealed a direct long-term partnership agreement with Sky, meaning more domestic and international exposure at all levels.

We continue to build relationships with NRL, Sport NZ and High-Performance Sport NZ, whose increased funding enables us to further invest in the development of rugby league across New Zealand.

Despite a nervous start to 2022, the year's momentum is now in full swing.

The Sky Sport Women's Premiership and National 20s competition returned for successful second seasons. Congratulations to the Akarana Women, who broke an 11-year drought, upsetting reigning champions Counties Manukau to secure the Sky Sport trophy for 2022. The Akarana 20s also took home the Ruben Wiki Cup after an impressive performance against the South Island in the National 20s final at Auckland's Mt Smart.

NZRL ran its inaugural District 9s competition over Easter weekend. Hundreds flocked to Auckland's Bruce Pulman Park to see the districts battle it out for the inaugural championships. Thank you to Sky Sport for televising each match and providing widespread awareness for our community game across the country. Congratulations to Canterbury for taking out the Boy's 16s and 18s divisions and to Mangere East and Wellington for taking out the 16s and 18s Girl's competitions.

While many challenges remain and the pandemic pressures still linger, we look forward, with great confidence, to an uninterrupted 2022 rugby league season which is shaping up to be the busiest NZRL has seen to date.

We are excited to finally see the return of the NZRL Secondary Schools competition, Youth Competition and NZ16s and 18s representative calendars, and we welcome with great enthusiasm the return of our Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns to Aotearoa.

Matariki weekend saw us face Pacific rivals Mate Ma'a Tonga in a blockbuster double-header that marked the return of international Test match rugby league and the return of one of the biggest rivalries in our game. We made history, breaking a world record for a women's rugby league Test crowd attendance, and both our Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns came away with impressive victories.

The June Double-Header celebrated our first stop on the World Cup Waka as we set sail for the UK in October. We look forward to seeing the Black & White shine on the RLWC stage.

We will continue to work to build an international calendar post RLWC that will see a greater presence of content in the New Zealand market each year.

NZRL would not have navigated its way through yet another year of Covid setbacks if it were not for our consortium of valued partners. Thank you to Sport NZ, High-Performance Sport NZ, the Ministry of Education and ACC, and our principal sponsor partners such as Pirtek, Mainstream, BLK, Sky Sport, and our valuable support partners.

Thank you to our other partner associate members, NZ Māori Rugby League, Physical Disability Rugby League, New Zealand Universities & Tertiary Students Rugby League, Masters Rugby League, NZ Police, NZ Defence Forces and The Kiwis Association.

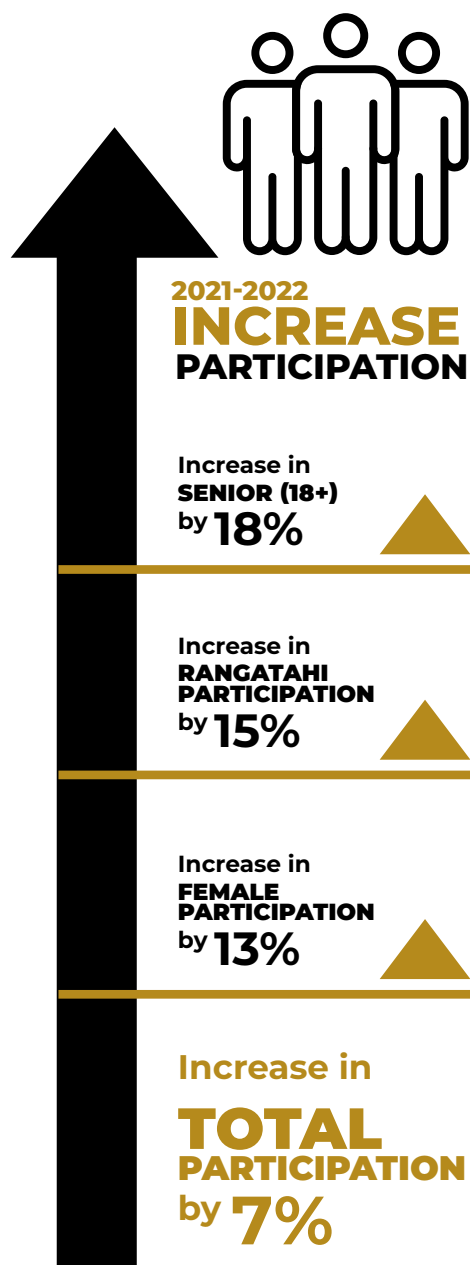
Thank you to our Zone Boards, who managed another Covid lockdown period with diligence and care. Thank you also to all NZRL, zone and district staff for the sacrifices made and the work you continue to put in to grow our great game.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, life members and Patron, Sir Anand Satyanand, as well as all coaches, managers, referees, players and volunteers across the game – your support continues to be invaluable.

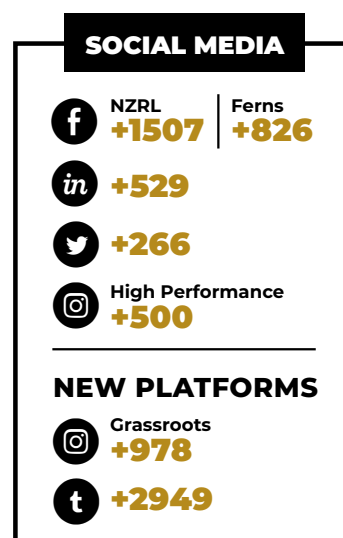


Key Statistics

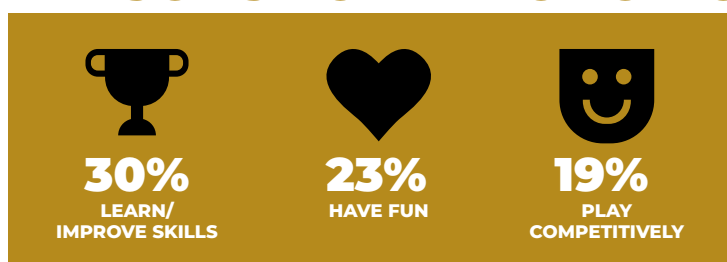
Ngā Tatauranga Matua



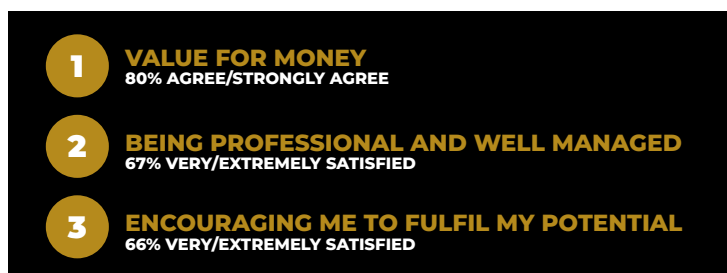
Women and rangatahi participation has now surpassed 2019 pre-covid numbers



REASONS FOR BELONGING



MOST IMPORTANT DRIVERS



Tournaments

Tātāwhāinga

2021 Results

NZRL Men's National Competition

Grand Final

Upper Central Zone **36** vs. Canterbury Bulls **22**

Grand Final MVP

Tony Matautia, Upper Central Stallions

Final placings:

Upper Central Stallions

Canterbury Bulls

Otago Whalers

Wellington Orcas

Waikato Mana (Withdrawn due to COVID travel restrictions)

Southland Rams

West Coast Chargers

Mid Central Vipers

MVP of the competition

Tony Matautia, Upper Central Stallions

NZRL Women's National Competition

Grand Final

Canterbury Women **20** vs. Wellington Orcas **8**

Grand Final MVP

Charntay Poko, Canterbury Women

Final placings:

Canterbury Women

Wellington Orcas

Upper Central Stallions (Withdrawn due to COVID travel restrictions)

Mid Central Vipers

MVP of the competition

Charntay Poko, Canterbury Women

Youth Competition 18s

Grand Final

South Island Scorpions **28**
vs. Upper Central Stallions **30**

Grand Final MVP

Tome Poona, Upper Central Stallions

Final placings:

Upper Central Stallions

South Island Scorpions

Wellington Orcas

Northern Swords

Mid Central Vipers

MVP of the competition

Tome Poona, Upper Central Stallions

Youth Competition 16s

Grand Final

South Island Scorpions **10**
vs. Mid Central Vipers **22**

Grand Final MVP

Ramses Ah Chong, Mid Central Vipers

Final placings:

Mid Central Vipers

South Island Scorpions

Wellington Orcas

Upper Central Stallions

Northern Swords

MVP of the Competition

Kylem Vunipola, Mid Central Vipers







Tournaments

Tātāwhāinga

2022 Results

NZRL National 20s Ruben Wiki Cup

Grand Final

Akarana Falcons **34** v South Island **16**

Grand Final MVP

Esom Ioka, Akarana Falcons

Final placings:

Akarana Falcons

South Island

Counties Manukau Stingrays

Upper Central Vipers

Waikato

2022 Sky Sport Women's Premiership

Grand Final

Akarana Falcons **24** v Counties Manukau **12**

Grand Final MVP

Kahu Cassidy, Akarana Falcons

Final placings:

Akarana Falcons

Counties Manukau Stingrays

Canterbury

Mid Central Vipers

MVP of the Tournament

Doux Fiatau Kauhiva, Akarana Falcons

Merit team

1. **Tyson Sang-Yung** (Counties Manukau)
2. **Mata Halbert-Pere** (South Island)
3. **Jacob Lowe** (South Island)
4. **Josh Tanielu** (Akarana)
5. **Esom Ioka** (Akarana)
6. **Doux Fiatau Kauhiva** (Akarana)
7. **Teariki Ford** (Counties Manukau)
8. **George Faaiva** (South Island)
9. **Jonpaul White** (Akarana)
10. **Paaua Papanui-Abbot** (Akarana)
11. **Elam Payne** (Akarana)
12. **Sebastian Su'a** (Akarana)
13. **Uriah Tuli** (South Island)

MVP of the Tournament

Laishon Albert-Jones, Akarana Falcons

Merit team

1. **Lavinia Tauhalaliku** (Akarana)
2. **Pahu Kani** (Counties Manukau)
3. **Tatiana Finau** (Akarana)
4. **Makayla Eli** (Counties Manukau)
5. **Sarahcen Oliver** (Mid Central)
6. **Cassie Siataga** (Canterbury)
7. **Liaison Albert-Jones** (Akarana)
8. **Teuila Fotu-Moala** (Counties Manukau)
9. **Capri Paekau** (Akarana)
10. **Kahu Cassidy** (Akarana)
11. **Annesa Biddle** (Counties Manukau)
12. **Sui Pauaraisa** (Canterbury)
13. **Christyl Stowers** (Counties Manukau)

National District 9's Results 16s

May 2, 2022

Girls 16s

NZRL 9s Girls 16s POOL A

Mangere East **12** v **4** Wellington
BOP **12** v **4** Otago
Mangere East **20** v **6** Otago
Wellington **20** v **6** BOP
Mangere East **18** v **0** BOP
Otago **12** v **16** Wellington

NZRL 9s Girls 16s POOL B

Northern Swords **20** v **4** Taranaki
Waikato **0** v **10** Canterbury
Northern Swords **10** v **6** Canterbury
Taranaki **6** v **4** Waikato
Northern Swords **26** v **8** Waikato
Canterbury **12** v **8** Taranaki

NZRL 9s Girls 16s SEMI FINALS

Northern Swords **0** v **14** Wellington
BOP **10** v **4** Waikato
Taranaki **14** v **8** Otago
Mangere East **8** v **0** Canterbury

NZRL 9s Girls 16s FINALS

Waikato **6** v **20** Otago (7v8)
Taranaki **14** v **0** BOP (5v6)
Canterbury **4** v **12** Northern Swords (3v4)
Mangere East **14** v **10** Wellington (1v2)

Boys 16s

NZRL 9s Boys 16s POOL A

Marist **18** v **4** Wellington
Hauraki **14** v **8** Otago
Marist **26** v **0** Otago
Wellington **18** v **0** Hauraki
Marist **30** v **4** Hauraki
Otago **10** v **14** Wellington

NZRL 9s Boys 16s POOL B

Northern Swords **6** v **10** Manawatu
Waikato **12** v **20** Canterbury
Northern Swords **6** v **8** Canterbury
Manawatu **6** v **16** Waikato
Northern Swords **10** v **20** Waikato
Canterbury **16** v **6** Manawatu

NZRL 9s Boys 16s SEMI FINALS

Hauraki **14** v **6** Northern Swords
Manawatu **8** v **4** Otago
Marist **8** v **14** Waikato
Canterbury **14** v **12** Wellington

NZRL 9s Boys 16s FINALS

Northern Swords **10** v **8** Otago (7v8)
Hauraki **14** v **16** Manawatu (5v6)
Marist **4** v **18** Wellington (3v4)
Waikato **4** v **14** Canterbury

U16 GIRLS TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. Seriah Maselina Palepale – Auckland (MVP)
2. Clover Evelyn Roberts – Auckland
3. Josinah Talatupe Filisi Tauilili – Auckland
4. Trinity Tauaneai – Wellington
5. Hera Maihi – Wellington
6. Anya Clark – Otago
7. Liarna Barber-Salvation – Waikato
8. Lialanie Muamua – Canterbury
9. Isla Talau – Taranaki

U16 BOYS TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. Meihana Pauling – Canterbury
2. Chelden Hayward – Canterbury
3. Semurana Fepulea'i – Wellington
4. Patrick Kailahi – Waikato
5. Compton Purcell – Auckland
6. Maui Winitana-Patelesio – Wellington
7. Ryder Williams – Auckland
8. Timau Utairo – Waikato
9. Mangaroa Mark – Waikato (MVP)







National District 9's Results 18s

May 2, 2022

Girls 18s

NZRL 9s Girls 18s POOL A

Howick 8 v 4 Wellington
Waikato 24 v 8 Southland
Howick 34 v 4 Southland
Wellington 8 v 4 Waikato
Howick 20 v 10 Waikato
Southland 0 v 32 Wellington

NZRL 9s Girls 18s POOL B

Canterbury 4 v 30 BOP
Glenora 8 v 26 Otahuhu
Canterbury 18 v 4 Otahuhu
BOP 14 v 10 Glenora
Canterbury 4 v 26 Glenora
Otahuhu 16 v 12 BOP

NZRL 9s Girls 18s SEMI FINALS

Waikato 10 v 4 Canterbury
Glenora 32 v 6 Southland
Howick 12 v 10 Otahuhu
BOP 8 v 12 Wellington

NZRL 9s Girls 18s FINALS

Canterbury 16 v 12 Southland (7v8)
Waikato 10 v 18 Glenora (5v6)
Otahuhu 10 v 14 BOP (3v4)
Howick 8 v 12 Wellington (1v2)

Boys 18s

NZRL 9s Boys 18s POOL A

Otahuhu 10 v 12 Manawatu
BOP 24 v 0 Southland
Otahuhu 24 v 4 Southland
Manawatu 8 v 14 BOP
Otahuhu 22 v 0 BOP
Southland 18 v 18 Manawatu

NZRL 9s Boys 18s POOL B

Manurewa 10 v 20 Wellington
Waikato 16 v 0 Canterbury
Manurewa 14 v 28 Canterbury
Wellington 18 v 8 Waikato
Manurewa 4 v 14 Waikato
Canterbury 30 v 6 Wellington

NZRL 9s Boys 18s SEMI FINALS

Manawatu 4 v 28 Manurewa
Wellington 22 v 4 Southland
BOP 14 v 12 Waikato
Canterbury 12 v 6 Otahuhu

NZRL 9s Boys 18s FINALS

Manawatu 16 v 12 Southland (7v8)
Manurewa 12 v 4 Wellington (5v6)
Waikato 18 v 22 Otahuhu (3v4)
BOP 0 v 20 Canterbury (1v2)

U18 GIRLS TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. Taleenza Nelson – Auckland
2. Alexis Tauaneai – Wellington (MVP)
3. Kokako Raki – Bay of Plenty
4. Michelle Taikato – Wellington
5. Paris Pickering – Auckland
6. Aleksandra Tunufai-Lio – Auckland
7. Tafao Fa'aeaina Asaua – Auckland
8. Angelica Vahai – Auckland
9. Kimoana Niupala – Bay of Plenty

U18 BOYS TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. Tanner Stowers-Smith – Canterbury
2. Maretino Kaloudau – Canterbury (MVP)
3. Jacob Nyman – Canterbury
4. Damion Hona-Mallinson – Bay of Plenty
5. Jason Kameta – Bay of Plenty
6. Liliano Franco Sabatini – Bay of Plenty
7. Marak Atoa Aumua – Waikato
8. Leka Halasima – Auckland
9. Phillip Wilson – Auckland

Women's Rugby League

Whutupōro Riki Wāhine

Aspiring Her Game Developers

Aspiring Her Game Developers (AHGD) network group continues to lead the way in their rugby league communities.

The following are some of the wins the AHGD have made throughout the year:

- The formation of Wellington Rugby League's women's advisory group aimed at increasing development opportunities for women and girls.
- With a priority to increase female leadership off the field, two former Wellington Orcas and Kiwi Ferns members completed their Senior Club Coach accreditation in Wellington to assist with their coaching pathways.
- The first female Head Coach for Wellington Orcas women's team was appointed, who is also one of the Aspiring Her leads in the region.
- An Aspiring Her game development leader from the Upper-Central zone took a lead role in starting two inaugural women's teams at her local club in Te Awamutu. The women's teams competed in a local Midlands competition involving twelve other women's teams.

Revised National Women's Competition

Delivering a National Women's competition against strict Covid restrictions in the Auckland and Northland regions was a huge development boost for teams, volunteers and communities involved.

With Covid alert levels and strict isolation protocols in place, NZRL could not run the Sky Sport Women's Premiership and National Championship in its proper form, involving upper North Island teams.

Despite this, it was encouraging to have a modified National competition delivered with the participation of Upper Central Zone, Canterbury, Wellington, and Mid-Central Vipers. The competition ran over four weeks and was televised live on Sky Sport. Teams travelled across the region for the round-robin games and concluded with the grand final played at Nga Puna Wai Stadium in Canterbury. The Canterbury women's team were

victorious on the day, beating the Wellington Orcas to take out the 2021 National Competition.

Wellington and Upper Central Zone, who would typically be part of the National Championship, were able to experience a week-to-week competition and the demands of Premiership-level rugby league.

2022

The Sky Sport Women's Premiership returned for 2022, with both Auckland teams participating after missing out on the opportunity last year due to Covid. Congratulations to Akarana for breaking Counties' 11-year winning streak to take home the 2022 title.

The 2022 Premiership ran around the same time as the NRLW, which meant 11 Premiership athletes were unable to participate; however, this provided opportunities for new athletes to make their zone representative teams and contest for a place in the Kiwi Ferns June Test squad.

The Sky Sport Women's Premiership continues to provide a high-level representative competition for New Zealand's best regional players. Congratulations to 2022 Sky Sport Women's Premiership MVP Laishon Albert-Jones, who earned her maiden Kiwi Ferns call-up off the back of an outstanding performance for Akarana.

NZRL also ran its inaugural District 9s competition involving Girls and Boys 16s and 18s age group divisions.

The new District 9s Tournament brought back the rivalry and competition at a regional level and fostered young female rangatahi talent throughout the country. Congratulations to Mangere East for taking out the Girls 16s age group and Wellington for taking out Girls 18s competition. The District 9s was an exciting addition to the women's football calendar, and NZRL look forward to it continuing and improving year on year.

2022 will continue to be action-packed in the women's space. NZRL look forward to implementing the inaugural Secondary Schools Girl's Tournament and inaugural National Youth 16s and 18s Tournaments towards the end of the year – milestones for the female game.







Coaching

Whakangungu

Although 2021 presented several Covid-related challenges for NZRL's coaching community, the coaching and development staff were able to call on their adaptability and expert knowledge to provide some relief throughout trying times.

Online Learning

The NZRL online coach education platform (Sport Tutor) provided further coach development for coaches hindered by the recent Covid restrictions. With over 12 new online modules covering position-specific, player wellbeing and coach planning topics, it has proven beneficial to our community coaches' growth mindset and continual development. Over 845 people are now registered to the portal.

2021 also saw the first Kiwi League Senior Club Coach online course with 15 male and two female coaches in attendance. Each session had multiple points of engagement from break-out room discussions, video, PowerPoint and interactive polls to ensure the coaches were challenged on many levels.

The use of the world-renowned game and player analysis software Hudl was introduced to the National 20s and National Women's coaching staff. The free use of this software made available by NZRL helped raise the performance level of both competitions.

High Performance Sport NZ

NZRL has substantially increased the number of coaches involved in the high-performance coaching pathway development. Eight (six male and two female) NZRL coaches were invited into the HPSNZ Te Hāpaitanga and Core Knowledge programmes. These programmes provide the next step for our coaches on their pathway to excellence by developing the expert coaching skill required to help the NZ Resident representative player transition to the next level in the player pathway.

WNA (Warriors, NZRL and ARL) Coach Development Programme

Seventeen identified coaches were involved in a new coach development initiative with the NZ Warriors and Auckland Rugby League, aimed at coaches of the rangatahi (youth) age group. The sessions were facilitated by NZRL and ARL staff and Kiwi legends Stacey Jones, Tony Iro, and Jerry Seuseu and covered player wellbeing, session planning, coaching philosophies and designing drills for specific skill sets.

NZ Resident 18s

2021 saw the inclusion of the first NZ 18s female side into the NZ resident campaigns. Coaching staff with international coaching and playing experience have been appointed. The players on this team will be well prepared for the representative duties and the subsequent phases of their player pathway.

There have also been several coach development extension sessions held across the country by the zones supported by the National Game Development Officers. With a focus on building the community coach's capabilities to plan, develop self-directed players and create positive environments for the players to grow. These sessions will significantly increase our game's participation levels to ensure the clubs are thriving hubs in the community.



NGĀ RINGA ĀWHINA

The helping/supportive hands.

NGĀ RINGA ĀWHINA

A CULTURALLY AND PEOPLE FOCUSED
PROJECT, DELIVERING ESSENTIAL
TRAINING AND SUPPORT ACROSS RUGBY
LEAGUE IN AOTEAROA, BASED ON THE
NEEDS OF CLUBS AND DISTRICTS
- IN A MANA-ENHANCING WAY.

THE DELIVERY

Specialists work alongside Zones, Districts, and Clubs to provide support, to upskill and develop existing personnel, to support improvements at local club level, and to help with resources for long term sustainability and support.

THE CORNERSTONES

Collaboration, respectful dialogue, and mutual accountability.

THE COLLECTIVE VISION

Thriving rugby league clubs, communities and people.

WHY

NGĀ RINGA ĀWHINA AIMS TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN RUGBY LEAGUE AT ALL LEVELS TO ENSURE LONG-TERM STABILITY AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.



Ngā Ringa Āwhina

Strengthen and adapt

Ngā Ringa Āwhina, our capability-building programme focusing on cultural awareness, wellbeing, game development and governance and administration, commenced in August.

Funded by Sport NZ through their Strengthen and Adapt programme as part of the Government's Covid-19 Sport Recovery Package, the Ngā Ringa Āwhina team aim to provide support nationally and is guided by the rugby league community. The Ngā Ringa Āwhina team consists of a workforce that reflects the rugby league community to increase connectedness whanaungatanga and ensure we reach the desired objectives and outcomes.



Key highlights:

- 22 of 28 Auckland clubs have implemented Xero accounting software, improving the overall financial management of organisations for increased efficiency and transparency.
 - “Xero has been lifechanging for us. I can be match managing and create an invoice at the same time, all from my phone. It has really simplified things” – Vic from Marist RL.
 - Creation of Club Smart website. An online library of resources and templates to support all functions of running a club.
 - Online workshops provided for upskilling in match management, competition administration, grant funding and governance training.
 - Wananga held in districts delivering wellbeing workshops, coaching and trainers courses and governance and administration training.
 - “The activation day held in the West Coast was just what the Coast needed. Being upskilled on all aspects of the game and getting the wellbeing side of things included is perfect with players and coaching getting involved and helping our clubs with capability” Michael Cook – West Coast.
 - The Ngā Ringa Āwhina team look forward to working with the rugby league community this year and beyond with a focus on quality improvement practices to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of the community.
-

Community - Playgroups

Hapori

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

For many, participating and engaging in Playgroups is the first step of any formal education. Playgroups are an asset to those most vulnerable in our community, providing tamariki with learning opportunities they may not ordinarily have access to.

Playgroups have been developed further to align with the vision of NZRL's strategic plan.

The programme encompasses the four key principles of 'The Kiwi Way' and addresses the expectations of the Ministry of Education outcomes, which we have identified as:

1. "To lift aspirations and raise educational achievement for every New Zealander" and
2. "For every child to learn and thrive in high-quality settings that support their identity, language and culture and that parents and whanau value them."
3. Ka Hikitia
4. Te Whāriki

To achieve these outcomes, NZRL continues to increase the quality of our delivery and ensure that our identified communities, Māori, Pasifika, and all tamariki will have the opportunity to experience a quality learning environment where they feel welcomed, respected, and safe. Where tamariki can connect and strengthen their relationships, feel valued by parents/whānau, and support their cultural identity and wellbeing, we hope each child will thrive and excel in these core principles.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, Playgroups have adapted to service and offer support to whānau through digitally-based programming and activities. NZRL offered Online Playgroups with physical playgroup learning packs to support our online learning curriculum. This program was delivered weekly and saw large engagement.

Playgroups visited Motat and Auckland Zoo as lockdown restrictions were lifted. This was an opportunity for the Playgroups whānau to visit for the first time as parents have expressed difficulty in meeting financial requirements to enjoy these venues without the support of Playgroups.

We saw enrolment numbers double since last year. There are many factors, from online exposure over lockdown to parents working from home and new parents who potentially lost employment and seek a free alternative learning environment.







Wellbeing

Hauora

Covid-19 presented its fair share of challenges in 2021; however, the wellbeing team were able to pivot to maximise other opportunities.

During the lockdown periods, the team offered wellbeing support and advice through social media by interviewing former Kiwi and Kiwi Fern players to talk openly and reflect on lessons from their careers. The Real Talk live streams had over 20,000 views. Ali Lauitiiti and Jerry Seuseu were able to host guests such as former Kiwi and Kiwi Fern players Henry Faafili, Jerome Ropati, Joe Vagana, Georgia Hale, Sam Rapiro, Sione Faumuina, David Solomona and Joe Galuvao.

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY NZ

We continued our relationship with Sports Chaplaincy through key contact Cliff Thompson, who was able to assign chaplains to many of our representative teams. In addition, we saw the involvement of Janet Tuitama in some of our workshop deliveries to the women's teams.

NZRL WELLBEING WAKA PROJECT

In partnership with Le Va, NZRL revisited the Wellbeing Waka campaign to improve rugby league communities' mental health and wellbeing outcomes across New Zealand while building sustainable wellbeing capability within zones and districts.

Another 30 people agreed to come on as "Wellbeing Champions" across the motu, including the notable addition of past NRL players such as Sam Rapiro, Herewini Te Rangi, Sione Faumuina, Ben Henry, David Bhana, Russell Packer, Henry Faafili and Seth Tauamiti. As part of their professional development, the wellbeing champions completed Le Va's Mental Wealth workshop and the introductory course in "NRL Wellbeing."

The Wellbeing Waka was delivered to the following groups.

WESTCOAST RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: January 22 - 42 Attendees

NEW LYNN RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: February 2 - 25 Attendees

BAY ROSKILL RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: February 9 - 50 Attendees

WAIKATO RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: February 27 - 20 Attendees

AKARANA RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBS (ONLINE)

Date: March 2 - 33 Attendees

MT ALBERT RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: March 16 - 25 Attendees

MARIST RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: March 23 - 20 Attendees

COUNTIES MANUKAU SENIOR WOMEN'S TEAM AND UNDER 20S

Date: April 4 - 40 Attendees

PT CHEVALIER RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: April 13 - 21 Attendees

UPPER CENTRAL RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: April 30 - 43 Attendees

WELLINGTON RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 4 - 30 Attendees

TAI TOKERAU RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 5 - 45 Attendees

OTAHUHU RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 9

GLENFIELD RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 11

MANUREWA MARLINS RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 16

CANTERBURY RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 17

MID CENTRAL RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 20

GISBORNE TAIRAWHITI RUGBY LEAGUE

Date: May 25

Referees

Kaiwawao

With the pandemic interrupting the season once again, New Zealand referees were still able to flourish in the domestic competition.

National Finals Appointments:

SENIOR MEN'S NATIONAL COMPETITION FINAL:

Referee: Paki Parkinson

Touch Judges: Jack Feavers, Jordan Chand

SENIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMPETITION FINAL:

Referee: Daryl Mataiti, Gregory Shaw

SENIOR MEN'S NATIONAL PLATE FINAL:

Referee: Darryn Hopewell

Touch Judges: Daryl Mataiti, Owen Shaw

YOUTH UNDER 16S FINAL:

Referee: Graeme Hill

Touch Judges: Gregory Shaw, Owen Harvey

YOUTH UNDER 18S FINAL:

Referee: Jack Feavers.

Touch Judges: Johnny Lidgett, Laurie McMahon

NZRL Referee of the year 2021:

Paki Parkinson





Zones

Āpure



Akarana

Despite Covid-19 again impacting another 12 months, Akarana as a zone were able to continue its momentum from the previous year.

Unable to compete in the Men's Premiership due to Covid mandates, success followed Akarana with its Women's and National 20's sides. Akarana ended an 11-year drought in the National Women's Premiership as they defeated Counties Manukau in the final 24-12. The U20s outfit also made history as they went undefeated to secure their first National 20s Ruben Wiki Cup, beating Southland 34-16 at Mt Smart.

Akarana would like to commend all clubs for their patience and resilience as they experienced yet another season-ending abruptly due to Covid. We thank all players, coaches, staff and volunteers for your efforts.

2022

2022 has a lot in store for Akarana as the zone returns to the Men's Premiership looking for their sixth consecutive Premiership title. The Women's Premier side's growth and a new format for the Fox Premiership give Akarana much to look forward to in the coming year.

Key Highlights:

- Akarana crowned Sky Sport Women Premiers for the first time in 11 years, beating Counties Manukau 24-12.
- Akarana won their maiden National 20s Ruben Wiki Cup 34-16 over South Island.
- Congratulations to Lavinia Tauhalaliku, Tatiana Finau, Laishon Albert-Jones, Capri Paekau and Kahu Cassidy on being named to the Women's Premiership Team of the Tournament.
- Kahu Cassidy was selected as the Grand Final MVP, while Laishon Albert-Jones took home Tournament MVP.
- After a historic campaign, Joshua Tanielu, Esom Ioka, Doux Fiatau-Kauhiva, Jonpaul White, Paaua Papuni-Abbot, Elam Payne and Sebastian Su'a were all selected into the National 20s Team of the Tournament.
- Esom Ioka took home the Finals MVP, while Half Doux Fiatau-Kauhiva was crowned the Tournament MVP.

Northland



Northland saw another season disrupted due to the effects of Covid-19.

Takahiwai joined the ARL Ray Cranch competition, where they were competitive; however, this competition was cut short due to Covid implications. The Swords also competed in the NZRL National Youth Competition, however it was again disrupted due to ongoing Covid restrictions impeding the team's ability to travel.

Fortunately, at the turn of the year, restrictions eased, allowing competitions like the Adam Blair Schools Competition to get underway.

Both Boy's and Girl's U16s teams represented Northland at the inaugural NZRL National 9s Competition, where they competed against clubs and zones from across the motu.

This year, Northland will focus on strengthening the women's space as U16s and U18s girl's competitions have been added to the football calendar.



AKARANA



NORTHLAND



Zones

Āpure



Counties Manukau

Despite Covid-19 again providing challenges for Counties Manukau Rugby League (CMRL), the zone has delivered another satisfactory financial result for the period.

Over the last two and a half years, CMRL has provided sound opportunities for performance and growth around the zone. These opportunities ranged from junior grassroots to Men's and Women's Premiership sides.

However, CMRL will continue to grow the organisation and find financially sustainable avenues to ensure rangatahi are provided ample opportunities to play the game.

2022

2022 is already shaping up to be another challenging but exciting year, with the growth from four to seven representative teams competing in national competitions. The Premier men's team will begin their campaign in September, followed by two male and female youth teams competing in the NZRL Youth Tournaments.

The 20s & Women teams have already enjoyed successful campaigns to begin the year, with the Stingray women finishing second in the Sky Sport Premiership and the 20s team finishing third.

The growth of the female game has been a highlight for the zone, and CMRL is looking forward to further expanding plans and strategies to continue development. This sector of the game and the Ethnic Rugby League space offer more opportunities to showcase the inclusivity and diversity rugby league in our region provides.

Improving the capabilities of volunteers is a key focus in 2022, with accreditation becoming mandatory. This will provide coaches, managers and trainers with more knowledge and tools to use in their roles, lifting the standard across various areas of the game.

Key Highlights:

- CMRL clubs retained a large percentage of membership despite Covid-19 significantly impacting all sports. The shortened season, accompanied by constant uncertainty, tested the resilience of club volunteers. These volunteers performed above expectations during this time and deserve plenty of recognition.
- CMRL gained approval to field a team in the National 20s Ruben Wiki Cup Competition. Although the team finished the competition in 3rd place, it is another opportunity to develop more players and volunteers with a pathway to higher honours.

Congratulations to the following who received Awards / Honours:

Women Stingrays

Zayde Sarah-Baldwin – Rookie of the Year
Kelly Maipi – Best Forward
Pahu Kani – Best Back

20s Stingrays

Zedric Timai – Best Forward
Pesalili Mai – Best Back
Jacob Hollobon – Man of Steel
Teariki Ford & Jarney Proctor-Harwood – MVP
Lelefu San-Yum – Players MVP

Stingray of the year

Christyl Stowers





Zones

Āpure



Mid Central

The past 12 months have been prosperous for Mid Central Zone, from the board to grassroots rugby league. Both Taranaki and Manawatu Rugby League took on the extensive task of holding general meetings and amending their respective constitutions to allow club representatives to hold seats on each board.

Congratulations to Taranaki's Clarissa Percival Ah Chong, who became the newest member of the Mid Central Zone Board. Ah Chong comes with years of experience, being involved in Taranaki Rugby League, Taranaki Whanui Rugby League, and also being the Manager for the NZRL 16s Residents side.

Although delayed, The Manawatu Men's Competition was a success. The competition was able to field five teams from around the region resulting in the Kiaora Warriors being crowned champions. The 2022 season will have a later start due to Covid-19 restrictions interrupting play earlier this year. The Men's Mid Central Viper's outfit also competed in 2021 but again had their season cut short due to the impact of Covid-19.

Despite a fourth-place finish, the Women's Vipers team were very competitive in the 2022 NZRL National Women's Premiership. Congratulations to Sarahcen Oliver, who was selected in the NZRL Women's Premiership Team of the Tournament, as well as Paris Paul, Laura Bayfield and Odelle Grant, who were named in the 2021 Kiwi Ferns training squad.

In the rangatahi space, the inaugural Whakatipu Youth Tournament took place to help grow the future of rugby league in the area. Youth representatives and club teams, both boys and girls in the 16s and 18s age groups, were invited to participate. Hosted in Palmerston North, teams from across the country participated in the two-day tournament, resulting in Manurewa Marlins winning the 16s age group and Manawatu Mustangs taking home the 18s title.

The region also held an inaugural Regional Youth 9s, which the zone hosted in Palmerston North. Teams of 16s and 18s, boys and girls, played over three weekends for the chance to represent the Mid Central at the first-ever NZRL National Youth 9s Tournament. Manawatu Mustangs represented the region in the 16s and 18s boys, while the Taranaki Sharks qualified for the 16s Girls competition.

In the NZRL Youth Tournament, the Vipers Youth outfits had mixed success. The 18s remained competitive whilst facing numerous unforeseen obstacles, whereas the 16s age group came up victorious over South Island to win the competition, dominating the final in a 22-10 win.

A huge congratulations to:

- Kylem Vunipola
NZRL National 16s Player of the Year.
- Daniel McEwan, 2021 NZRL Coach of the Year Award after leading the Central Districts to win the inaugural National 20s Ruben Wiki Cup.
- Shaun Egan 2021 NZRL Youth Coach of the Year.

Mid Central Zone would like to thank players, staff and volunteers for their efforts through another Covid impacted period.





Zones

Āpure



Southern

Covid again impacted the efforts of the Southern Zone in the last 12 months, but that did not stop the zone from delivering opportunities for clubs and schools around the region.

Junior competitions saw a 15% increase in player numbers around the region while female registrations increased exponentially, by 61%. Although the Aoraki region, unfortunately, had to cancel their 2021 season.

Creating a capability dashboard has allowed the zone to work closely with the districts to provide more targeted support and advice. The Voice of the Participant survey showed the success of this strategy, and districts have found this dashboard a reliable resource.

On a national scale, Southern Zone Scorpions U16s and U18s successfully reached their national competition finals. Canterbury Women secured the Women's National Competition, and the Otago Whalers defeated the Canterbury Bulls for the first time in 91 years to win the National Championship. South Islands U20 side was also able to reach the final of the National 20s Tournament, unfortunately going down to Akarana.

Sadly, after 12 years of dedication to the game, Southern Zone bid farewell to General Manager Steve Martin. New Zealand Rugby League would like to thank Steve for all his efforts over the last decade and wish him all the best in future endeavours.

Key Highlights:

- Jordan Riki was named to NZ Kiwis' wider squad.
- West Coast representative Griffen Neame made his NRL First Grade debut for North Queensland Cowboys.
- Southland's Hailee-Jay Maunsell being named to the NZRL NRLW Merit team for 2021
- National Women's Player of the Year – Charntay Poko
- Congratulations to Bunty Kuruwaka-Crowe, Dayna Napa, Sailiai Pau, Sui Pauaraisa and Charntay Poko for being named into the Kiwi Ferns Wider Training Squad.
- Canterbury Bulls Women crowned National Competition champions.
- Otago Whalers capture the National Championship trophy after a historic win over Canterbury.
- South Island U20s reached the final of the National 20s Ruben Wiki Cup.
- Congratulations to Mata Halbert-Pere, George Faiva, Uriah Tuli and Jacob Lowe, who all were named into the National 20s Ruben Wiki Cup Team of the Tournament.
- Full representation from all but one of the districts in the National 9s Competition, with Boys U16s and U18s winning their respective grades.
- 18s Boys MVP – Maretino Kaloudau
- 18s Boys Merit Team – Maretino Kaloudau, Tanner Stowers-Smith, Jacob Nyman
- 16s Boys Merit Team – Meihana Pauling, Chelden Hayward
- 16s Girls Merit Team – Anya Clark, Lialanie Muamua
- Congratulations to Cassie Siataga and Sui Pauaraisa on being selected into the National Women's Premiership Team of the Tournament for 2022.





SOUTHERN

Zones

Āpure



Upper Central

In a year marred again by Covid-19, Upper Central Zone enjoyed another productive 2021.

Upper Central Zone welcomed Marama Tahapehi as its new Chairperson, as well as the formation of a new board. 'Midlands Scaffolding and Rigging' also renewed their historic sponsorship deal secured in 2020, keeping development opportunities alive in the zone's outer regions.

Upper Central introduced a number of youth and mini-mod festivals into the calendar throughout the year. These festivals served as opportunities for clubs such as Putaruru, Mangakino and Reporoa to involve themselves in the community game while raising interest in mini-mod teams for each club. Visits by the Sky Sport Roadshow in Taupo and Wellbeing Waka's in Gisborne-Tairāwhiti were also highlights.

Upper Central Zone showcased their talents nationally as the Stallions Premier Men's, and Stallions U18s won their national titles. At the same time, the Upper Central 20s outfit played their first National 20s Tournament as a stand-alone team. Tome Poona (U18s) and Tony Matautia (Men's) were named players of their respective tournaments, and Jeremy Siulepa received Domestic Coach of the Year.

The last 12 months also saw former Stallions Mya Hill-Moana and Autumn-Rain Stephens-Daly debut in the NRLW and earn their Māori All-Stars jerseys.

Key Highlights:

- Upper Central Stallions National Men's Champions
- Tony Matautia named Player of the Tournament.
- Upper Central Stallions U18s National Champions
- Tome Poona named Player of the Tournament.
- Jeremy Siulepa named Domestic Championship Coach of the Year.
- U20s Stallions competed in their first National 20s Competition as a stand-alone team, finishing with one win and three losses.
- Congratulations, Mya Hill-Moana and Autumn-Rain Stephens-Daly, on making their NRLW debuts for the Roosters and Knights, respectively.
- 2020 Stallions Women's Team named Team of the Competition.
- Midlands stalwart George Tahapehi receives the NZRL Distinguished Service Medal.
- Cindy Petero named NZRL Volunteer of the Month for October 2021.





Zones

Āpure



Wellington

2021 saw Wellington Rugby League (WRL) appoint a new operations team, including a CEO, Community Co-Ordinator and Communications and Activations Co-Ordinator.

The zone increased engagement across its community, leading to successful Premier 1st and Premier 2nd Men's competition campaigns. 2021 also saw the re-introduction of a local women's club competition, a priority in the region.

At a representative level, our U16s and U18s boys competed at the National 9s Tournament while our Orcas Men's and Women's teams played in the finals of their respective divisions. The zone prioritised and focused on capability development, and this was rewarded with 58 people enrolling in coaches, managers and trainer accreditation programmes over the past year.

In collaboration with the NZRL Ngā Ringa Awhina team, Wellington delivered season insights workshops during Q4, which helped inform our focus and planning for 2022.

2022

In the coming months, the women's game is a priority focus for Wellington, with initiatives to increase its women's competition, facilitate the appointment of more females to leadership positions and introduce further development pathways. The zone will also focus on increasing junior participation rates, especially from U14s to U18s.

Wellbeing initiatives such as the Wellbeing Waka have also inspired the zone to develop the capabilities of its wellbeing staff. 2022 will also see Wellington Rugby League prioritise Māori and Pasifika engagement across the organisation.

Key Highlights:

- Sarahcen Oliver, Aggie Faraimo, Mele Kupa-Cummings and Sherri Burgess were named in the Kiwi Fern's wider squad.
- U16s - U18s boys and girls Orcas 9s squads qualified to play in the inaugural National Youth 9s after qualification rounds at the district level.
- Congratulations to U18 Orca girls for taking out National 9s Competition.
- Appointment of women head coaches for Orcas wāhine representative teams.
- November saw the launch of the first pilot Kiwi Tag competition in Wellington.

Congratulations to the following who received Awards / Honours:

Des O'Sullivan – DSA referee

William Mann – DSA referee

Star Olsen – WRL Life Membership

No'oroa Ki Teariki – WRL Life Membership

Antz Akavi – WRL Life Membership

Karaka Clarke Tarawhiti – WRL Life Membership

Mark McCaffrey – WRL Life Membership

Mike Edmonds – WRL Life Membership





WELLINGTON

Associates

Ngā hoa rangapū





New Zealand Māori Rugby League

New Zealand Māori Rugby League were fortunate to host three of their four national tournaments this year. NZMRL take pride in knowing that through their Tamariki, Teina and Rangatahi tournaments, they continue to provide the younger generation of players with the opportunity to take to the rugby league playing field on behalf of their respective whanau, hapū, Iwi and clubs while also celebrating being Māori.

The tournaments were a resounding success. All three tournaments attracted over 100 teams to the rugby league fields collectively. NZMRL continue to find ways to help better the growth and participation, particularly with the kōtiro grades, which include 16 and 18-year-olds.

This year also, NZMRL collaborated with the NZRL marketing and promotions team in creating content around Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. They have also introduced an updated online system that introduces efficiencies in administering team registrations for both NZMRL and participating teams.

NZMRL welcomed Howie Tamati and Tawera Nikau onto the NZMRL Board.

New Zealand Māori Rugby League looks forward to a busy calendar year in 2022.

Tamariki Tournament (10-12yrs)

35 Teams participated

Total Players Registered = 582

Teina Tournament (13-14yrs)

43 Teams participated

(29 Tama Teams and 14 Kōtiro Teams)

Total Players Registered = 851

Rangatahi Tournament (15, 17, 19yrs)

39 Teams participated

(25 Tama Teams and 14 Kōtiro Teams)

Total Players Registered = 807



Physical Disability Rugby League

Another year and the Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRLNZ) pulled it together despite the ups and downs of 2021.

New Zealand was the only country playing physical disability rugby league for the second consecutive year. PDRLNZ achieved a three-game competition over the Covid interrupted season. After three years since the 2018 Emerging Nations in Sydney, PDRLNZ held their first squad camp in May to prepare for the inaugural 2021 PDRL Rugby World Cup.

With the success of their first camp, they could hold another squad camp in May, this time in Christchurch. This included the inaugural Inter-Island challenge. Congratulations to the Southern Warriors on a valiant win over the Northern Stars.

With the dates of the RLWC confirmed, PDRLNZ is well into preparing their best squad to take to Warrington, England, this October 2022 and bring the cup home to Aotearoa.

A huge hole has been left in the PDRLNZ family with the sudden passing of Peter Griffiths. Pete was always ready to lend a helping hand where needed. He will be missed dearly by the PDRLNZ family.

PDRLNZ's Coach Raymond Greaves received the Pirtek Volunteer of the Year award for 2021. Coach Ray gives hundreds of volunteer hours to the game, the athletes and everything needed to ensure our ongoing growth and success. Such a well-deserved recognition of his respect, care, and service to the fantastic game of PDRL.

Thank you to everyone who has made this year great. PDRLNZ would not be where they are today without the consistent support they receive.





Masters

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

Masters have players up to 80 years old playing rugby league, promoting sportsmanship, reliving old glories, and bringing people back to football clubs with a wealth of experience and knowledge to share.

Celebrating success was always a challenge in a Covid 19 disrupted 2021 season. The central districts played partial seasons until the lockdown in August.

The 2021 Masters of Rugby League International Tournament in Queenstown was postponed until Oct 2022.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, players and referees who make the Masters game the success it is.

Special thanks to the Masters of Rugby League NZ Executive team, who work hard to deliver a quality event. They seek to capitalise on the foundations laid by Phil Campbell.

MoRLNZ's primary goals are to recruit more players, strengthen the game internationally with regular Test matches and grow the Master's Women's competition.

New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students

Although the annual 9s tournament was unable to go ahead, it remained a positive year for New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League (NZUTSRL)

Despite the NZUTSRL 9s cancellation and inability to play the scheduled games against the NZ Army, Southern Zone and Niue, the team at NZUTSRL continued to push forward.

Congratulations to NZU player Gavin White (1974-1975) on receiving his cap during the capping ceremony. Another alumnus recognised was the 1999-2008 NZUTSRL player and 2008-2013 NZUTSRL Chairman Henry Heke.

After three years, David Marsh has stepped down as NZUTSRL chairman. He is replaced by former 1988-1992 New Zealand Universities captain Ray Fitiao. Long-time Men and then Women's NZUTSRL Coach and mentor Kenny O'Brien also stepped down. Ex-Chair John Fiso continues his welcome support as a patron. Long-serving members Carey Clements and Mark Pfeifer have remained in their roles. They are joined by Alumni Paul Ellwood, David Stanley, Hamish Owen and Hamish McKenzie, and valuable members Atawhai Hotene and Liam O'Brien.

Thank you to these volunteers for their energy, time, and commitment to NZUTSRL.

Looking forward, NZUTSRL hopes the annual Student 9s tournament in September 2022, which has served as a basis for selecting players for the national team, will go ahead. Games will follow this tournament in October against traditional rivals Southern Zone for both NZUTSRL Men's and Women's teams in Dunedin.

While there is no official word on the next Student World Cup, there is speculation about a tournament in France in 2025. We hope to send both a strong Men's and Women's team should this go ahead.

There are still exciting times ahead.

2021 Awards

Ngā tohu

HIGH PERFORMANCE

Kiwis Player of the Year
Jahrome Hughes

Young Kiwis Player of the Year
Isaiah Papali'i

Kiwis People's Choice
James Fisher-Harris

COMMUNITY AWARDS

16s Youth Competition Player of the Year
Kylem Vunipola (Mid Central)

18s Youth Competition Player of the Year
Tome Poona (Upper Central)

20s Player of the Year
Zyon Maiu'u (Auckland)

Men's Competition Player of the Year
Tony Matautia (Upper Central)

Women's Competition Player of the Year
Charntay Poko (Canterbury)

20s Coach of the Year
Daniel McEwan (Central Districts)

National Competition Coach of the Year
Jeremy Siulepa (Upper Central)

Club of the Year
Otara Rugby League Club (Counties Manukau)

Match Official of the Year
Paki Parkinson

Pirtek Volunteer of the Year
Raymond Greaves (Physical Disability Rugby League)





Our people

Ō tātau tāngata



NZRL Staff

Left to right: Lucy Tuave, Lisa Mansell, Henry Whitfield, Yvaan Hapuku-Lambert, Nooroa Takairangi, David Brewis, Maria Ayshford, Anya Hape, Ray Hubbard, Shontayne Hape, Shawn Stewart, Rory McKenzie, Alan Caddy, Craig Priest, Sophie Wills, Dave Hurdle, Greg Peters, Ani Cherrington, Motu Tony, Shanice Wiki.
Absent: Toyah Brooking, Nadene Conlon, Daniel Keepa, David McMeeken, Kevin Bailey, Luisa Avaiki, Ali Lauitiiti, Lusia Paselio.



NZRL Board

Left to right: Justin Leydesdorff, Tawera Nikau, Greg Peters (CEO), Grant Stapleton, Natasha Tere, Hugh Martyn (Chair), Jeni Pearce.
Absent: Howie Tamati (President NZRL), Paula Kearns.



In Memorium

#324 – William Bevin Keith Hough

#488 – Mike McClennan

#445 – Bill Deacon

#433 – Robert Orchard

#503 – Tony Coll

#558 – Rick Muru

#495 – Shane Dowsett

#561 – Danny Campbell

#424 – Ken George

#460 – Bill Noonan

#361 – Ray Cranch

#460 – Olsen Filipaina

#346 – Roy Moore

#408 – Billy Harrison

#397 – Reg Cook

#420 – Gary Woollard

#387 – Howie Patterson

#454 – Oscar Danielson

Jim Campbell

Cathy Friend

Wesley Owen 'Bud' Lisle

2022 NZRL LEGENDS OF LEAGUE INDUCTEES

Kiwis

#604 Kevin Iro

#665 Stacey Jones

#547 James Leuluai

Sir Graham Lowe

#528 Dane O'Hara

#634 Quentin Pongia

#550 Howie Tamati

#655 Ruben Wiki

Kiwi Ferns

#4 Luisa Avaiki

#6 Nadene Conlon

#25 Trish Hina

#23 Leah Witehira

Life Members:

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

*current life member

Current Life Members (alphabetical order):

John Bray, Jim Campbell, John Coffey, Allen Gore, Ray Haffenden, Don Hammond, Peter Kerridge, Sir Peter Leitch, Trevor Maxwell, Cameron McGregor, Sel Pearson, Gerald Ryan, Cherie Steele-Shanks, Howie Tamati, Kevin Tamati.

OUR ASSOCIATES

Aotearoa New Zealand Māori Rugby League

Physical Disability Rugby League

New Zealand Universities & Tertiary Students Rugby League Council

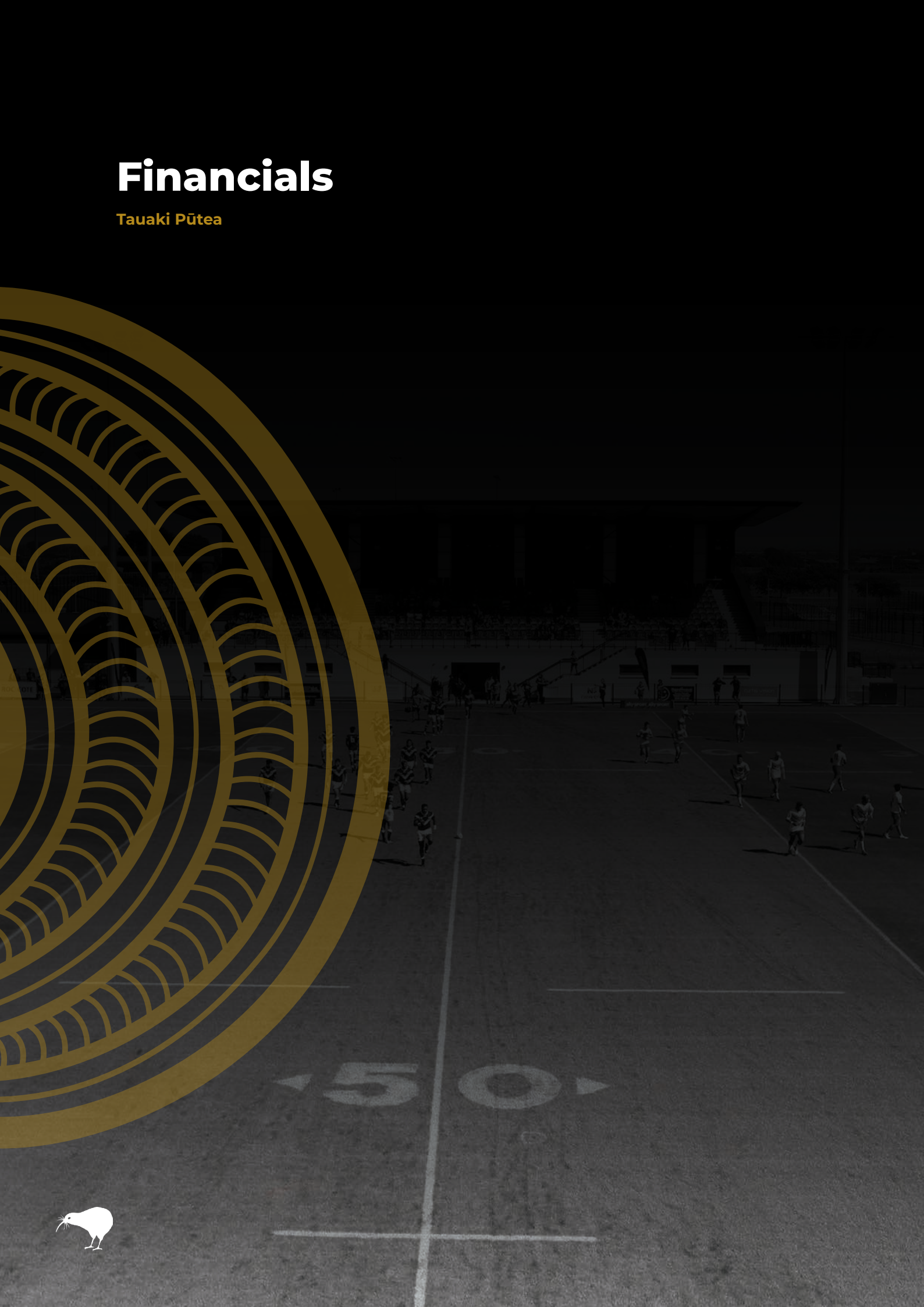
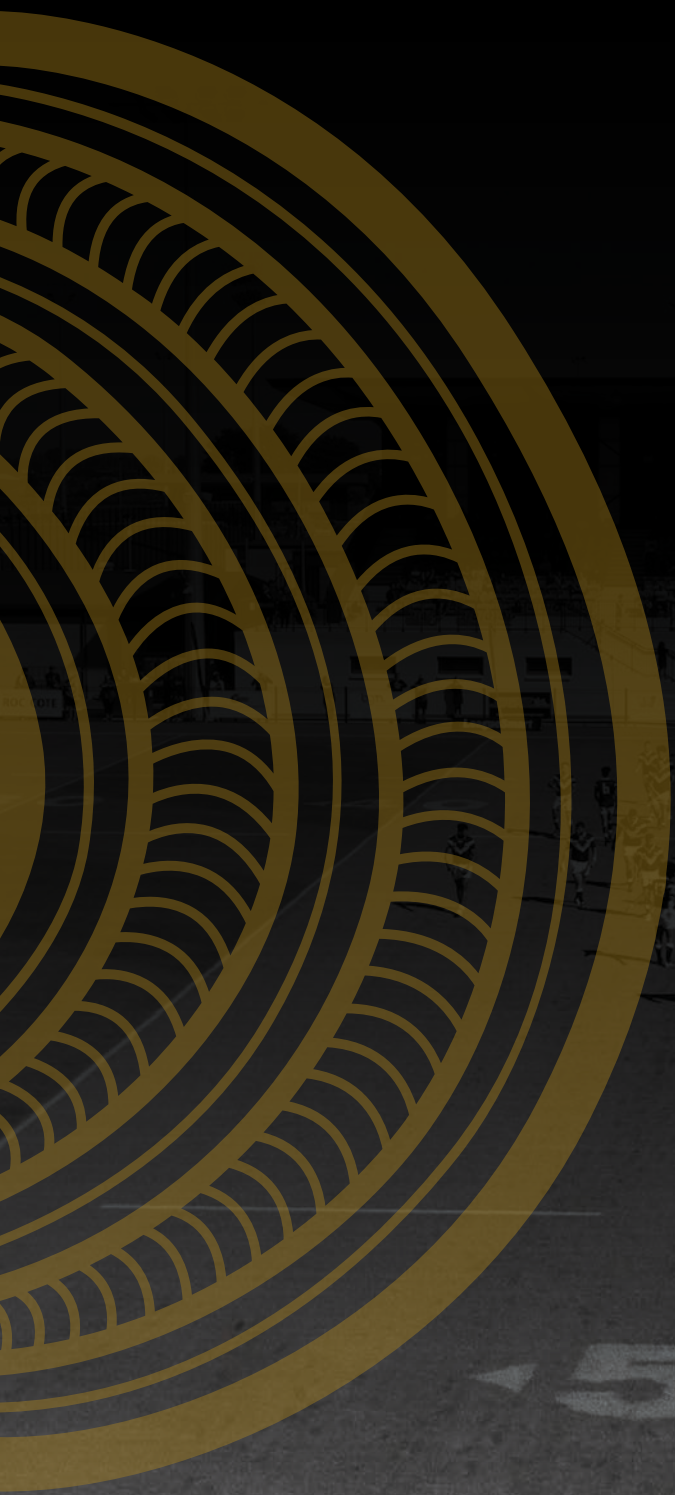
Masters of Rugby League

Defence Forces Rugby League

New Zealand Rugby League Kiwis Association

Financials

Tauaki Pūtea



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors present the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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

The consolidated surplus for the year was \$1,204,000 (2021: \$1,004,000) and the consolidated excess of assets over liabilities was \$5,829,000 (2021: \$4,625,000).

New Zealand Rugby League Board Members

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

Reon Edwards (Chairperson, resigned 26 June 2021)
Hugh Martyn (Chairperson from 26 June 2021)
Paula Kearns
Justin Leydesdorff (Elected 26 June 2021)
Tawera Nikau
Jeni Pearce (Elected 26 June 2021)
Grant Stapleton
Natasha Tere

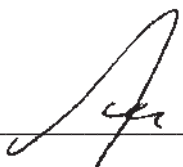
Directors' Interests in Transactions with the Group

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

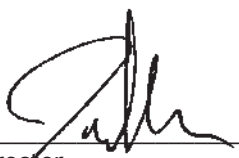
Auditors

BDO Auckland were appointed auditors for the year ended 31 March 2022. The audit is conducted on a group basis with one audit fee paid for and recorded in the financial statements of New Zealand Rugby League Inc.

For and on behalf of the Board

Director 

Date: 22 June 2022

Director 

Date: 22 June 2022

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. **CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

		Group	
	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<i>Revenue from exchange transactions:</i>			
Coaching and development		48	6
<i>Revenue from non-exchange transactions:</i>			
Match revenue		43	42
Charitable trust grants		982	739
Other grants		250	619
Sponsorship and funding		5,742	4,277
New Zealand Racing Board		1,455	1,509
Other income		146	117
		<u>8,666</u>	<u>7,309</u>
<i>Expenses:</i>			
Employee benefits expenses	5	(4,335)	(3,183)
Depreciation expense	9	(95)	(86)
General expenses	6	(3,033)	(3,025)
		<u>(7,463)</u>	<u>(6,294)</u>
Surplus before net financing costs		<u>1,203</u>	<u>1,015</u>
Finance income		1	-
Finance costs		-	(11)
Net finance cost		<u>-</u>	<u>(11)</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>1,204</u>	<u>1,004</u>
Other comprehensive revenue and expense			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss</i>			
Gain on revaluation of land and buildings	9	-	653
Other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year attributable to owners of the controlling entity		<u>1,204</u>	<u>1,657</u>



**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS/EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Group

	Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 April 2021	2,046	2,579	4,625
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	1,204	-	1,204
Balance as at 31 March 2022	3,250	2,579	5,829
Balance as at 1 April 2020	1,042	1,926	2,968
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	1,004	653	1,657
Balance as at 31 March 2021	2,046	2,579	4,625

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. **CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

		Group	
	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	4,026	1,717
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	8	309	489
Prepayments		105	89
Goods and service taxation		-	8
		4,440	2,303
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,908	3,958
		3,908	3,958
TOTAL ASSETS		8,348	6,261
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	646	727
Deferred revenue	11	1,691	796
Employee benefit liability		157	112
Goods and service taxation		25	-
		2,519	1,636
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,519	1,636
EQUITY			
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		3,250	2,046
Revaluation Reserve		2,579	2,579
TOTAL EQUITY		5,829	4,625
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		8,348	6,261



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Group	
Note	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from:		
Coaching and development fees	194	357
Grants, sponsorship, match revenue, and the New Zealand Racing Board	9,578	7,240
Interest received	1	-
Payments to suppliers	(3,162)	(2,860)
Payments to employees	(4,290)	(3,181)
Net GST received / (paid)	33	(102)
Interest paid	-	(11)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	2,354	1,444
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for purchase of property, plant and equipment	(45)	(42)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities	(45)	(42)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Drawdown of loans	-	100
Repayment of loans	-	(1,057)
Net cash outflow from financing activities	-	(957)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,309	444
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	1,717	1,273
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	4,026	1,717

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NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Note 1 - Reporting entity

New Zealand Rugby League Inc. (the “Controlling Entity”, also referred to as “the Society”) is a public benefit entity for the purposes of financial reporting in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 2013.

These consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 comprise the controlling entity and its controlled entities (together referred to as the ‘Group’) and individually as ‘Group entities’.

Note 2 - Basis of preparation

(a) Statement of compliance

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

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

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the New Zealand Rugby League Board on 22 June 2022.

(b) Measurement basis

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

(c) Functional and presentation currency

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

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

(d) Going Concern basis

The Group has made a profit for the year of \$1,204,000 (2021:\$1,004,000 before other comprehensive income).

The forecasts for the Society report a surplus. COVID-19 had an impact on the organisation in 2020/22, and it is expected that COVID-19 will continue to impact the business in 2022/23. The forecast revenue is also susceptible and sensitive to the risks that not all sponsorship and grant income can be reliably confirmed and that gate takings and prize money are reliant on attendance at events including Rugby League World Cup 2022.

Accordingly there is a possibility that actual results do not turn out as forecast.

Consideration has been given in the approved forecasts, to the on-going funding of the Society and its Zones, the business model under which the NZRL presently operates and the possible outcome of negotiations for additional grants and sponsorships. The potential effects of any further disruption from COVID-19 are being planned for, and mitigations are in place, however, the financial of these disruptions cannot currently be quantified.

At 22 June 2022 the Group had \$1,488,290 of funds remaining in its customised average rate facility with the Bank of New Zealand available to utilise, with a further bank overdraft facility of \$200,000 overdraft also available. As such, it is believed that the Group can operate within its existing bank facilities and is preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis.



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Note 3 - Significant accounting policies

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

(a) *Revenue*

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

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

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

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

i. Revenue from exchange transactions

Coaching and development

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

ii. Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Charitable trust grants, other grants and sponsorships

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

Match revenue and New Zealand Racing Board

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

New Zealand Government COVID-19 Wage Subsidies

During the year ended 31 March 2022, the Group received \$43,200 (2021: \$416,000) from the New Zealand Government for the COVID-19 wage subsidies. The wage subsidies are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the Group will comply with the eligibility criteria attached to them and that the wage subsidies will be received. The wage subsidies are recognised in profit or loss, within other revenue, on a systematic basis over the periods in which the Group recognises as expenses the related costs for which the wage subsidies are intended to compensate.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(b) Foreign currency transactions

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date. The foreign currency gain or loss on monetary items is the difference between amortised cost in the functional currency at the beginning of the year, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the year, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the year.

Note 4 - Use of judgements and estimates

Judgements

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

Estimates and assumptions

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

Key assumptions and judgements relate to:

- Revenue recognition: non-exchange revenue - Management is required to make a judgement on the value received (where the revenue stream is not received in cash or is not easily measurable) and as to the existence of any conditions and restrictions. (Note 8)
- Going concern - Management is required to make a judgement on key inputs and assumptions to cash flow forecasts used to assess the Group as a going concern. (Note 2d)
- Revaluation of land and buildings - The Group's land and buildings were revalued at 31 March 2021 using an independent valuer. Management has judged that the revaluation method is more relevant than the cost method for the Society, as it ensures the carrying value of the land and buildings reflects the market/fair value of the assets as at 31 March 2022.

In estimating the fair value of land and buildings, the fair value method of valuation was used under PBE IPSAS 17 *Property Plant and Equipment*. The fair value method makes significant use of observable prices in active markets and recent market transactions on an arm's length basis. Management consider it appropriate to have the land and buildings revalued every 3 - 5 years.



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Note 5 - Employee benefits expense

	Group	
	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-Term employee benefits	3,802	2,769
Defined employee contribution plan - Kiwisaver	90	67
Match fees, allowances and other employee related costs	443	347
Total employee benefit expenses	4,335	3,183

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

Note 6 - General expenses

	Group	
	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
General expenses includes:		
Administration and communication expenses	486	443
Doubtful debts	(5)	1
Coaching and development expenses	118	94
Directors fees	113	90
Event management expenses	369	640
Legal fees	60	71
Other professional service fees	367	398
Team expenses	530	537
Travel expenses	995	751

Note 7 - Cash and cash equivalents

	Group	
	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Current assets:		
Current Account	795	633
Call Account	1,588	555
Donations Account	1,211	417
League 4 Life (held on behalf of)	92	91
Foreign Currency Accounts	340	21
	4,026	1,717

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

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. **NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Note 8 - Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)

	Group	
	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Recoverables (non-exchange transactions)	309	495
Allowance for impairment	-	(6)
Net recoverables from non-exchange transactions	309	489

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

	Total Impairment
	\$'000
Balance at 1 April 2021	6
Charge for the year	-
Utilisation of provision during the year	(6)
Balance as at 31 March 2022	-

Note 9 - Property, plant and equipment

Group	Freehold land *	Buildings *	Motor vehicles	Plant and equipment	Furniture and fittings	Capital work-in - progress	Total
<u>Cost/valuation</u>	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 31 Mar 2021	960	2,910	9	349	98	-	4,326
Additions/Disposals	-	-	-	39	6	-	45
Balance as at 31 Mar 2022	960	2,910	9	388	104	-	4,371

Accumulated depreciation and impairment

Balance as at 31 Mar 2021	-	2	9	283	74	-	368
Depreciation	-	57	-	33	5	-	95
Balance as at 31 Mar 2022	-	59	9	316	79	-	463

Net book value

As at 31 Mar 2020	720	2,548	1	59	28	19	3,375
As at 31 Mar 2021	960	2,908	0	66	24	0	3,958
As at 31 Mar 2022	960	2,851	0	72	25	0	3,908

* Freehold land and buildings are measured on a revaluation basis.



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Recognition and measurement

Property, plant and equipment are initially shown at cost or at fair value in the case where an asset is acquired at no cost or for a nominal cost, less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes any costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the items including the costs of bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended.

Additions

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset if, and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are recognised in surplus or deficit.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment depreciation is based on the cost of an asset less its residual value.

Depreciation is recognised in surplus or deficit on a diminishing value basis over the estimated useful lives of each component of an item of property, plant and equipment. Land is not depreciated.

The diminishing value depreciation rates are:

- Buildings 2.0%
- Motor vehicles and Trailers 20% - 30.0%
- Plant and equipment 10.0% - 50.0%
- Furniture and fittings 10.0% - 16.0%

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

Revaluation

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

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

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

Subsequent to revaluation, the building assets are depreciated based on their estimated useful lives.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Note 10 - Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals

	Group	
	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Trade payables from exchange transactions	337	480
League 4 Life Payable (refer note 7)	92	91
Other accruals	217	156
	646	727

Note 11 - Deferred revenue

	Group	
	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Charitable trust donations received in advance	461	460
Other revenue received in advance	1,230	336
	1,691	796

Note 12 - Loans

Security held

In 2019 the Society arranged a \$1,700,000 term loan facility with the Bank of New Zealand, secured against a registered first mortgage over the property at 7 Beasley Avenue, Penrose, Auckland (refer to note 9). At balance date the Society had \$Nil drawn on this facility (2021: \$Nil) and had \$1,501,950 available to draw down. A floating per annum interest rate applies.

Note 13 - Financial Instruments

Group 2022

		Carrying Value (\$)	
	Note	Financial Assets Loans and Receivables \$'000	Financial Liabilities Amortised Cost \$'000
			Total \$'000
<i>Subsequently not measured at fair value</i>			
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	4,026	-
Gross recoverables from non-exchange transactions	8	309	-
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	-	(429)
Balance as at 31 March 2022		4,335	(429)

Group 2021

		Carrying Value (\$)	
	Note	Financial Assets Loans and Receivables \$'000	Financial Liabilities Amortised Cost \$'000
			Total \$'000
<i>Subsequently not measured at fair value</i>			
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	1,718	-
Gross recoverables from non-exchange transactions	8	495	-
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	10	-	(571)
Balance as at 31 March 2021		2,213	(571)



**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

i. Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

Loans and receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

Loans and receivables comprise of cash and cash equivalents, and net recoverables from non-exchange transactions.

Cash and cash equivalents represent highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into a known amount of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value, with maturities of 3 months or less.

ii. Amortised cost financial liabilities

Financial liabilities classified as *amortised cost* are non-derivative financial liabilities that are not classified as *fair value through surplus or deficit* financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities classified as *amortised cost* are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities classified as *amortised cost* comprise cash and cash equivalents (bank overdrafts), trade and other payables, and loans.

Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost using effective interest method and due to their short-term nature they are not discounted.

Note 14 - Group entities

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

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

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. **NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

All controlled entities have a balance date of 31 March.

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

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

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

Basis of consolidation

i. Controlled entities

Controlled entities are entities controlled by the Group, being where the Group has power to govern the financial and operating policies of another entity so as to benefit from that entity's activities. The financial statements of the Group's controlled entities are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

Subsequent changes in a controlled entity that do not result in a loss of control are accounted for as transactions with controllers of the controlling entity in their capacity as controllers, within net assets/equity.

ii. Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealised income and expenses arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

Unrealised losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

Note 15 - Operating leases

(i) Leases as lessee

The future non-cancellable minimum lease payments of operating leases as lessee at reporting date are detailed in the table below:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Not later than one year	162	127
Later than one year and not later than five years	79	113
Total non-cancellable operating lease payments	241	240

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

The majority of the leases are in the name of New Zealand Rugby League Inc., with 2 leases in the name of Mid-Central Zone of NZRL Inc.



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Note 16 - Related party transactions

(i) Controlling entity and ultimate controlling entity

New Zealand Rugby League is the ultimate controlling entity.

Related party disclosures have not been made for transactions with related parties that are within a normal supplier or client/recipient relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those that it is reasonable to expect the entity would have adopted in dealing with the party at arm's length in the same circumstances.

Related party transactions required to be disclosed

Funding Support - Zones

During the period the Parent Entity provided its subsidiaries with funding support, and had receivable balances outstanding, as outlined below:

	2022		2021	
	Funding Support \$'000	Current Amount Receivable \$'000	Funding Support \$'000	Current Amount Receivable \$'000
Related Party				
Rugby League Northland Zone	60	2	70	3
Akarana Zone	60	-	65	-
Counties-Manukau Zone	105	1	90	2
Upper Central Zone	20	-	25	-
Mid Central Zone	98	(1)	106	-
Wellington Zone	80	-	90	1
Southern Zone	135	-	120	2
Total	558	2	566	8

(ii) Key management personnel remuneration

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

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

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

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

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

	2022		2021	
	Remuneration \$'000	Number of individuals	Remuneration \$'000	Number of individuals
Members of the governing body	113	7 people	90	7 people
Senior executive officers	299	1 FTE's	291	1 FTE's
	412		381	

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

(iii) Rugby League International Federation Limited

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

(iv) GB Oceania Limited Joint Venture:

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

(v) NZRL Investment GP Limited:

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

Note 17 - Commitments and contingencies

(i) Commitments

The Group had no commitments of a capital nature as at 31 March 2022 (2021: \$13,702).

(ii) Contingent liabilities

The Group had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2022 (2021: \$Nil)

(iii) Contingent assets

The Group had no contingent assets as at 31 March 2022 (2021: \$Nil).

Note 18 - Subsequent Events

There were no subsequent events arising after the balance date.



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

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated ("the Society") and its controlled entities (together, "the Group"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 March 2022, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, consolidated statement of changes in net assets/equity and consolidated cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2022, and its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime ("PBE Standards RDR") issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) ("ISAs (NZ)"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards)* (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information contained in the annual report, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

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

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

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

Directors' Responsibilities for the Consolidated Financial Statements

The directors are responsible on behalf of the Group for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with PBE Standards RDR, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible on behalf of the Group for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the External Reporting Board's website at: <https://www.xrb.govt.nz/assurance-standards/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-7/>.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Who we Report to

This report is made solely to the Group's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Group and the Group's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.



BDO Auckland
Auckland
New Zealand
6 July 2022



League 4 life

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

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

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

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

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

HEALTH & RECOVERY

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



Sponsors & Partners

Ngā kaitautoko, ngā hoa







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