



DIRTEK



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

PŪRONGO Ā-TAU

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 whutupōro rīki.

MORE THAN A GAME



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— Kai ō Roto —

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Nā te Toihau me te Tumu Whakarae

The 2025 season stands among the most successful in recent years for rugby league in Aotearoa, marked by sustained growth in participation, a strengthened public profile, and increasing momentum across all levels of the game. From our grassroots communities to the international stage, rugby league continues to create meaningful opportunities, strengthen connections, and positively impact the lives of New Zealanders. Guided by our More than a Game kaupapa and supported by our strategic direction, we remain committed to creating a stronger, more connected, and sustainable future for rugby league.

One of the most exciting events on the grassroots rugby league calendar reached new heights in 2025, with the NZRL National Secondary Schools Tournament recording its biggest year to date. Matches were hosted across two venues, Auckland's Bruce Pulman Park and Walter Massey Park, as a record 60 teams from around the country came together to compete. The event attracted thousands of talented young players and supporters, further cementing its place as an inclusive showcase of secondary school rugby league in Aotearoa. Congratulations to Kelston Boys' High School for taking out the Boys' Premiership, and Auckland Girls Grammar School for winning the Girls' Championship.

We also welcomed back the National Youth Tournament, which was held in Ōtautahi Christchurch for the first time, recognising the significant growth and impact the region has had on the game in recent years. We thank Canterbury Rugby League for the part they played in helping us host the tournament at the world-class Ngā Puna Wai Sports Hub.

We acknowledge Aotearoa New Zealand Māori Rugby League and the Pacific Aotearoa Collective for another year of delivering exceptional tournaments that celebrate both rugby league and culture, creating opportunities for rangatahi to play rugby league beyond traditional club and school pathways. By combining sport with cultural identity and connection, these tournaments enrich the player experience, strengthen ties to heritage, and foster a deeper sense of belonging within the game.

Rugby league's popularity in Aotearoa continues to reach new heights, bolstered by another strong season from the One New Zealand Warriors and the successful return of the club's women's team to the NRLW in 2025. The visibility and success of both the men's and women's programmes and junior pathways play a vital role in inspiring the next generation of players and strengthening participation across the domestic game.

Reflecting this increased popularity, by the end of 2025, we had grown our audience by more than 143,000 followers across NZRL's social media platforms, bringing our total reach to over one million followers. From grassroots through to the international game, our digital content generated more than 117 million views across all platforms, highlighting the growing appetite for rugby league content in Aotearoa and the strong engagement of our supporters and wider community. This continued growth has strengthened our ability to connect with fans and share the stories that make rugby league such an important part of communities throughout New Zealand.

We celebrated 30 years of the Kiwi Ferns, a major milestone for women's rugby league and the wider game here in Aotearoa. We reflected on three decades of rich history which saw resilience, pride, and passion that helped shape the women's game into the thriving force it is today. In celebration of this significant milestone, reunion festivities were held in Auckland during the Pacific Championships.

In partnership with the NRL, for a third year, we co-hosted the Pacific Championships tournament in November which welcomed the return of Test rugby league and Pacific pride to Aotearoa and

saw nearly 60,000 attend games in New Zealand. Ahead of the first double-header at Go Media Stadium, the Kiwi Ferns were joined on-field by a large cohort of former players for a stirring haka together, before both the Kiwi Ferns and Kiwis defeated Samoa.

Eden Park then hosted a historic double-header, seeing the Kiwi Ferns taking on Australia in front of their largest-ever home crowd. This was followed by the Kiwis' clash with Tonga, which attracted more than 38,000 spectators, the highest attendance for a rugby league match in New Zealand since 2010. The day was a spectacular celebration of international rugby league, with the Tongan community's iconic "Red Sea" creating an unforgettable atmosphere as they passionately supported both Tonga and the Kiwis.

The event showcased the powerful connection between rugby league, culture, and community, bringing together fans from all backgrounds in a vibrant display of pride and unity. Adding to the occasion were outstanding performances from local music trailblazer Savage and Tongan Grammy-nominated artist Josh Tatofi, helping make the day a memorable celebration of sport and entertainment.

At the Sydney Grand Finals, the Kiwis delivered a dominant performance over Samoa to secure their second Pacific Championship title in three years. While the Kiwi Ferns were unable to overcome Australia, their appearance marked a third consecutive Grand Final, reflecting their consistency at the highest level. The campaign also saw the introduction of five debutants, further strengthening squad depth and broadening the talent base as they build towards the World Cup this year.

The Wheel Kiwis competed in the inaugural LCA NRL Wheelchair Championships in the Gold Coast, returning home with three wins against tough state competition, in just their second campaign together. We are thrilled about the continued growth of wheelchair rugby league in Aotearoa and look forward to supporting this with the first-ever NZRL Wheelchair Rugby League Nationals taking place in September.

We look forward to the upcoming 2026 World Cup in our part of the world, and are especially excited for the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns double-header at the new One NZ Stadium in Ōtautahi, Christchurch. With the invigoration of international rugby league in recent years, this World Cup is shaping up to be one of the biggest and most compelling yet, with both New Zealand teams well-positioned to challenge for honours on the world stage.

While we have navigated financial challenges following a reduction in funding from HPSNZ and the NRL, we remain optimistic about the future of our relationship and are confident in a renewed and enduring partnership moving forward. The NRL continues to recognise the significant role Aotearoa plays in the game, including the substantial contribution New Zealand players make to both the NRL and NRLW competitions. The appointment of dedicated NRL personnel in New Zealand reflects this commitment and we look forward to strengthening our partnership and working together to enhance rugby league across Aotearoa.

Building on the success of the 2025 season and Pacific Championships campaign, we remain focused on one of our most significant priorities, securing sustainable investment in the game and meeting the growing demand for participation and participant expectations. This is critical to ensuring that all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and supporters continue enjoying the highest-quality rugby league experience possible, anywhere in New Zealand.

The Board remains confident that the Connected Game Plan strategic refresh provides the best pathway forward, as it brings NZRL closer to all our participants and communities at the grassroots of the game. This will enable more effective use of limited resources, strengthen

stakeholder engagement, and support a more connected and sustainable future for rugby league nationwide.

At the heart of the Connected Game Plan remains our “More than a Game” kaupapa, which encompasses our aim to transform lives and communities through rugby league. The strategy reinforces this as a guiding principle across every level of the game, from grassroots participation through to representative and international rugby league, reflecting who we are and the purpose we serve.

The grassroots game continues to thrive across Aotearoa. We are particularly encouraged not only by overall growing participation, but also by the remarkable uptake of rugby league in regions where activity was lower in previous years, with these areas now seeing increased player numbers and renewed public interest and connection with the game.

Our success over the past year has been made possible through the continued support of our valued partners. We acknowledge our long-standing partners that have become part of the NZRL whānau, Pirtek and Mainstream, for their enduring commitment and loyalty to rugby league in Aotearoa. As Principal Partners of the Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns, NZRL, and our match officials, their support remains invaluable, with Pirtek demonstrating its long-term investment in the game through a further four-year extension of partnership.

Thank you to Sky for another year of invaluable partnership and exceptional broadcast coverage. Their support continues to enhance the visibility of rugby league, giving players from grassroots through to the highest levels of the game the opportunity to showcase their skills on the national and international stages.

We show our appreciation to ACC, Le Va, Sports Chaplaincy New Zealand, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, Te Rau Ora, and all our support partners for their ongoing commitment and collaboration to the game and our community. We also thank Ricoh for another year of exceptional support as our IT Solutions and Technology Partner and proudly acknowledge Dynasty as we celebrate another successful year together as our Official Apparel Provider.

The continued support of the NRL, Sport New Zealand, and High Performance Sport New Zealand enables us to further grow and develop rugby league across all levels of the game.

The strength of our game is enhanced by the dedication and hard work of our associate members, whose ongoing work continues to make a significant impact: Masters of Rugby League, New Zealand Defence Forces Rugby League, New Zealand Rugby League Kiwis Association, New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League, and Physical Disability Rugby League.

We thank Director Grant Stapleton for his significant contribution to the Board over his two terms, as he retires at the end of his second term at the AGM. At the end of 2025, Tim Kerr was co-opted to the Board and has since made great input.

We also pay tribute to Sir Anand Satyanand as he steps down from his role as Patron of NZRL. Sir Anand has been an exceptional advocate, ambassador, and supporter of rugby league, serving the game with distinction and generosity throughout his tenure. Alongside his wife, Lady Susan, he has been a familiar and valued presence at matches and events, often travelling both throughout Aotearoa and internationally to support the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns in their endeavours. We are deeply grateful to Sir Anand and Lady Susan for their years of service, friendship, and support, and we acknowledge their significant contribution to the growth and success of rugby league in Aotearoa.

We acknowledge Greg Peters who has stepped down from his position as CEO, after a tenure marked by transformation and impact on rugby league in New Zealand. Greg’s contribution to the game has been immense, with his dedication and leadership unmatched, and we’ve been fortunate to have had one of the country’s top sports administrators lead operations for over eight years.

Since his appointment in 2018, Greg led the organisation into a period of significant growth, overseeing a 30% increase in

revenue which was invested back into the grassroots game and doubled player numbers. Greg oversaw the reestablishment of the international game with regular test matches for both the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns in New Zealand, including establishing the Pacific Championship competition, with both teams having equivalent programmes and pay equity for Kiwi Fern athletes. He was also instrumental in constitutional changes which saw Aotearoa New Zealand Māori Rugby League becoming a voting member of NZRL, with a permanent Board seat.

Beyond the achievements and milestones, Greg leaves behind a stronger, more connected, rugby league community. His unwavering commitment to all people of our game, has helped create opportunities that will benefit future generations. On behalf of the Board, staff, and our wider rugby league whānau, we extend our gratitude for Greg’s outstanding service and wish him every success in the next chapter. Ngā mihi nui, Greg, and thank you for the legacy you leave behind.

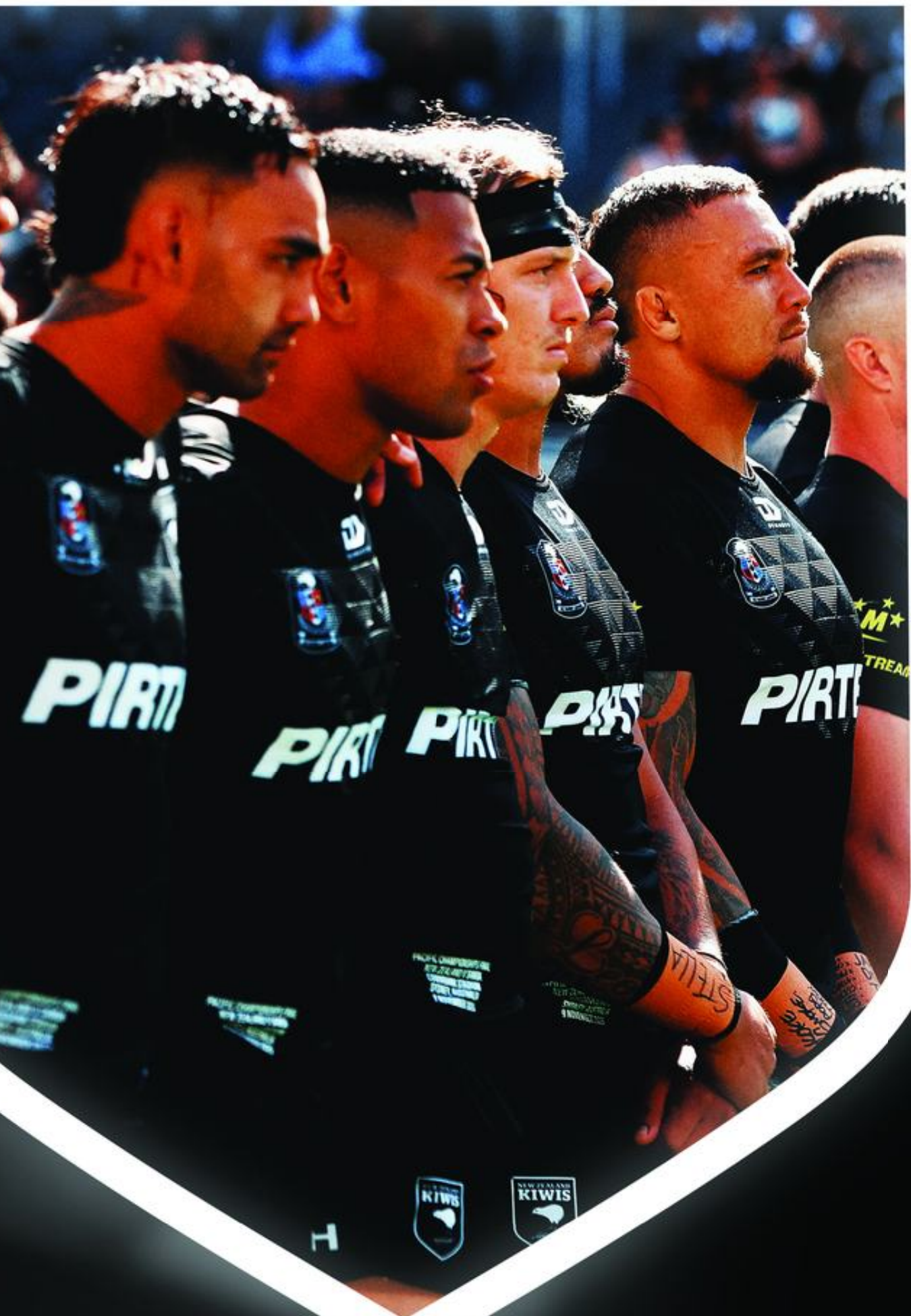
We look forward to welcoming Andrea Nelson MNZM as our new CEO commencing in July. Andrea brings more than two decades of senior leadership experience across national and international sport, major global events, governance and commercial strategy. Her extensive expertise, proven leadership, and deep understanding of the sporting landscape will be a valuable asset to NZRL as we continue to grow and evolve. Andrea joins the organisation at an exciting time for rugby league in Aotearoa and will bring a fresh perspective to our operations. We are confident that her leadership will help build on the strong foundations already in place and support the continued advancement of the game.

We extend our gratitude to everyone within our rugby league whānau, including our Zone Boards, Districts, clubs, staff, coaches, managers, match officials, players, and volunteers across Aotearoa. Your dedication, passion, and service are the foundation of our game, and rugby league would not thrive without your unwavering commitment. We also acknowledge our NZRL Board of Directors and Life Members for their continued guidance, leadership, and support. Finally, we thank the NZRL team for another year of outstanding mahi and for delivering exceptional outcomes for rugby league throughout the country.

The 2025 season stands among the most successful in recent years for rugby league in Aotearoa, marked by sustained growth in participation, a strengthened public profile, and increasing momentum across all levels of the game. Building on this momentum, we are well-positioned to continue advancing the game and delivering meaningful outcomes for our participants, communities, and stakeholders. We thank our partners, funders, and volunteers for their continued belief in our vision and their invaluable contribution to the game. Together, we will continue to grow rugby league, strengthen our communities, and inspire future generations. We look forward to the opportunities ahead and to continuing to serve and support our game and community across Aotearoa.



Justin Leydesdorff,
Chairman



KEY STATISTICS

ATTENDANCE

Ngā Tatauranga Matua

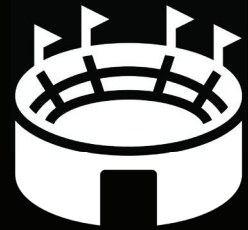
38,114

Eden Park double-header
The **highest attendance** at a rugby league game in New Zealand since 2010



19,154

Kiwi Ferns vs Australia at Eden Park saw the **largest ever crowd for the Kiwi Ferns** in New Zealand



11

Additional Teams



22%

increase at the NZRL National Secondary Schools Tournament

2%

overall increase in registered players

4%

increase in rangatahi (13-17 years old) players

4%

increase in female players

1 MILLION FOLLOWERS

across all NZRL channels

+143k

social media followers in 2025

+117 MILLION

social media views in 2025





HIGH PERFORMANCE

Hau Tupua



IKENASIO

2

MATT

SKY
MORNING

sky

sky

KIWI FERNS

Ngā Ponga Kiwi

PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS | OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

GAME 1

Sunday 19 October 2025 - Go Media Stadium - Auckland, New Zealand

22
FERNS | **20**
SAMOA

Tries – Alexis Tauaneai, Ashleigh Quinlan, Mele Hufanga, Shanice Parker
Conversions – Patricia Maliepo 3
Debutants – Ivana Laitiiti, Patricia Maliepo, Shakira Baker, Tysha Ikenasio

Tries – Destiny Mino-Sinapati, Sarina Masaga, Shalom Sauaso, Tavarua Papalii
Conversions – Pauline Piliae-Rasabale 2

GAME 2

Sunday 2 November 2025 - Eden Park Stadium - Auckland, New Zealand

4
FERNS | **10**
AUS

Tries – Annessa Biddle
Debutants – Shaniece Monschau

Tries – Abbi Church, Jessica Sergis
Conversions – Jesse Southwell

FINAL

Sunday 9 November 2025 - CommBank Stadium - Sydney, Australia

8
FERNS | **40**
AUS

Tries – Shanice Parker, Tysha Ikenasio

Tries – Ellie Johnston, Jessica Sergis, Julia Robinson 2, Keilee Joseph, Olivia Kernick, Tamika Upton
Conversions – Jesse Southwell 6

Head Coach

Ricky Henry

Squad

Abigail Roache, Alexis Tauaneai, Angelina Teakaraanga-Katoa, Annessa Biddle, Apii Nicholls, Ashleigh Quinlan, Brianna Clark, Brooke Anderson, Georgia Hale (CC), Ivana Laitiiti*, Lianne Tufuga, Mele Hufanga, Otesa Pule, Patricia Maliepo*, Raecene McGregor (CC), Shakira Baker*, Shaniece Monschau*, Shanice Parker, Tiana Davison, Trinity Tauaneai**, Tyla King, Tysha Ikenasio*

* Debutant

** Travelling Reserve



KIWIS

Te Kapa Kiwi

PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS | OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

GAME 1

Sunday 19 October 2025 - Go Media Stadium - Auckland, New Zealand

24
KIWIS

18
SAMOA

Tries – Casey McLean 2, Dylan Brown, Matthew Timoko
Conversions – Jamayne Isaako 3
Penalty Goals – Jamayne Isaako

Tries – Deine Mariner, Murray Taulagi, Simi Sasagi
Conversions – Blaize Talagi 3

GAME 2

Sunday 2 November 2025 - Eden Park Stadium - Auckland, New Zealand

40
KIWIS

14
TONGA

Tries – Casey McLean, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Dylan Brown 2, Keano Kini, Matthew Timoko, Phoenix Crossland
Conversions – Jamayne Isaako 5
Penalty Goals – Jamayne Isaako
Debutants – Xavier Willison

Tries – Daniel Tupou, Demitric Vaimauga
Conversions – Isaiya Katoa 2
Penalty Goals – Isaiya Katoa

FINAL

Sunday 9 November 2025 - CommBank Stadium - Sydney, Australia

36
KIWIS

14
SAMOA

Tries – Casey McLean, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Erin Clark, Isaiah Papali'i 2, Naufahu Whyte
Conversions – Jamayne Isaako 4
Penalty Goals – Jamayne Isaako 2

Tries – Brian To'o, Simi Sasagi
Conversions – Blaize Talagi 2
Penalty Goals – Blaize Talagi

Head Coach
Stacey Jones

Squad

Briton Nikora, Casey McLean, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Dylan Brown, Erin Clark, Isaiah Papali'i, Jamayne Isaako, James Fisher-Harris (C), Jeremy Marshall-King, Joseph Tapine, Josiah Karapani**, Keano Kini, Kieran Foran, Matthew Timoko, Moses Leota, Naufahu Whyte, Phoenix Crossland, Ronaldo Mulitalo, Sebastian Kris, Scott Sorensen, Xavier Willison*, Zach Dockar-Clay**

* Debutant

** Travelling Reserve



WHEEL KIWIS

LCA NRL WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS | 31 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER 2025
GOLD COAST SPORTS & LEISURE CENTRE, GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

GAME 1 Friday 31 Oct	WHEEL KIWIS 24	14	QUEENSLAND WHITE
GAME 2 Friday 31 Oct	WHEEL KIWIS 10	24	QUEENSLAND MAROON
GAME 3 Saturday 1 Nov	WHEEL KIWIS 00	18	NEW SOUTH WALES
GAME 4 Saturday 1 Nov	WHEEL KIWIS 18	22	ACT
GAME 5 Saturday 1 Nov	WHEEL KIWIS 50	06	VICTORIA
GAME 6 Sunday 2 Nov	WHEEL KIWIS 36	06	AFFILIATED STATES

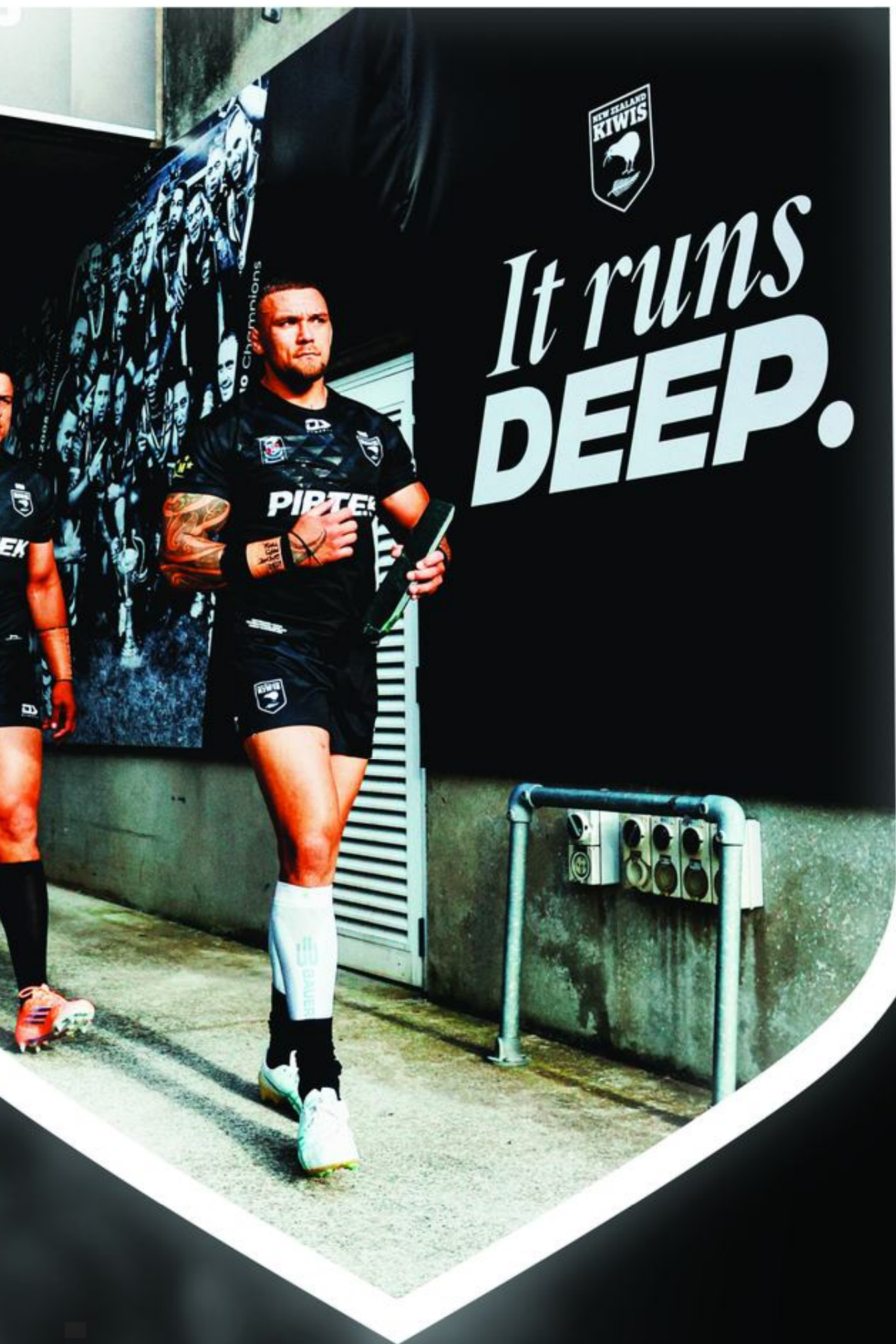
Head Coach
Edie George

Squad

Jack Brown, Wayne Chase, Ryan Charles, Jayson Hooker, Danial Scott, Pele Sulusi, Slade St. John, Mitchell Stone



It runs
DEEP.



PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS CAMPAIGN RESULTS

59,365

total attendance
across all games
in New Zealand



+1.17mill

avg Kiwis viewership (NZ & AU)
(56% increase from 2024)

+491K

avg Kiwi Ferns viewership (NZ & AU)
(40% increase from 2024)



**70+
MILLION
SOCIAL
MEDIA
VIEWS**

+475,000

nzrl.co.nz page views

38%

increase from 2024 in NZ media
coverage



DOMESTIC RUGBY LEAGUE

Tournaments

Tātāwhāinga

2025 saw the successful return of NZRL's annual rangatahi and senior tournaments and competitions hosted across Aotearoa, providing access and opportunities for players to showcase their talents while representing their schools, Districts, Zones, whānau, and communities.

One of the most anticipated events on the NZRL grassroots calendar each year, the NZRL National Secondary Schools Tournament, delivered its biggest edition yet. The tournament brought together 60 teams from across Aotearoa, attracting thousands of talented rangatahi and passionate supporters. Congratulations to all teams who took part, and particularly to Kelston Boys' High School, Auckland Girls' Grammar School and Dilworth School for claiming their respective titles, Kelston securing both the elusive Boys Premiership and the U15 Boys Carnival.

Since the return of the tournament following COVID-19 disruptions, it has seen over 150% growth, a strong reflection of rugby league's increasing popularity amongst youth and secondary schools. Looking ahead, participation is expected to reach new heights, with more than 70 teams preparing to take part in 2026, 50% of those teams will be travelling from outside of Auckland as the game continues to grow outside of the rugby league hub.

The NZRL National Youth Tournament was another highlight of the year, hosted in Ōtautahi Christchurch for the first time, in recognition of the region's continued growth and contribution to rugby league in Aotearoa. The world-class Ngā Puna Wai Sports Hub welcomed some of the best youth talents, staff, and whānau.

In the senior men's and women's championship tournaments and premiership competitions, a blend of experienced veterans and the next wave of younger emerging talent share the stage, showcasing the exciting depth of domestic senior rugby league.

With participation among rangatahi continuing to rise, up 4%, the future of the game remains incredibly bright. We look forward to another action-packed year of domestic tournaments and competitions as rugby league continues to thrive and expand in New Zealand.





NZRL NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Boys Premiership

Grand Final

Kelston Boys' High School 20
St. Paul's College 12

Final Standings

Kelston Boys' High School
St. Paul's College
Manurewa High School
Mount Albert Grammar School
St. Thomas of Canterbury College
Rotorua Boy's High School
Tangaroa College
Southern Cross Campus
Alfriston College
Papatōetoe High School

NZ Secondary Schools Boys Tournament Team

Albert Balchin (St. Paul's College)
Ashton Denton-Woodhouse (Manurewa High School)
Ezekiel Davidson Faaiuasō (St. Paul's College)
Finn McDrury (Mount Albert Grammar School)
Gordon Afoa (St. Paul's College)
Hinkley Ioka (Kelston Boys' High School)
Jeremiah Lemana (Kelston Boys' High School)
Kaiān Olsen (Kelston Boys' High School)
Lesarol Gumaka Anafatuso Tagavaimotu (Manurewa High School)
Parekaahu Keepa (Kelston Boys' High School)
Rhayn Taikato (Tauranga Boys' College)
Rico Finau (Kelston Boys' High School)
Romana Whitiōra (St. Paul's College)
Satali Asolelei-Fretton (Kelston Boys' High School)
Siokatame Kali (St. Paul's College)
Solomon Westerlund (Dilworth School)
Steven Live Luatua (Dilworth School)
Tane Keereweēr-Taia (St. Paul's College)
Vunivalu Niupalau (Kelston Boys' High School)

Tournament MVP | Gordon Afoa (St. Paul's College)

Grand Final MVP | Hinkley Ioka (Kelston Boys' High School)

Senior Boys Tournament Emerging Talent | Junior Tuvalu
(Tauranga Boys' College)

Boys Championship

Grand Final

Dilworth School 26
Tauranga Boys' College 6

Final Standings

Dilworth School
Tauranga Boys' College
James Cook High School
New Plymouth Boy's High School
Westlake Boys High School
Avondale College
Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe
Tamaki College
Hamilton Boys' High School
St. Bede's College
Gisborne Boys High School
Western Heights High School
Marcellin College
Wesley College
Shirley Boys' High School
Trident High School
Otahuhu College
Francis Douglas Memorial College
Haeata Community Campus
Whangaparāoa College
Tokoroa High School
Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate
Onehunga High School
Papakura High School

Tournament MVP | Steven Luatua (Dilworth School)

Grand Final MVP | George Mann (Dilworth School)



NZRL NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Girls Championship

Grand Final

Auckland Girls' Grammar School 8
Rotorua Girls' High School 0

Final Standings

Auckland Girls' Grammar School
Rotorua Girls' High School
Southern Cross Campus
Manurewa High School
St. Mary's College
McAuley High School
James Cook High School
Avondale College
Sacred Heart College
Tokoroa High School
Kelston Girls' College
Haeata Community Campus
Tauranga Girls' College

NZ Secondary Schools Girls Tournament Team

Alaina Lauitiiti (McAuley High School)
Betsy Fifita (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)
Brylee Adams (Rotorua Girls' High School)
Faith Tavita (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)
Jada-Breeze Gray (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)
Jayne Feterika-Langsiu (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)
Kaiarihi Puku (Rotorua Girls' High School)
Khaidyn-Bre Teau (Avondale College)
Lala Vaea (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)
Lavinia Liufau (Manurewa High School)
Malia Sio-Namulau'ulu (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)
Maraea Makiha (Rotorua Girls' High School)
Mason-Marie Playle (Rotorua Girls' High School)
Neveah Harris (Rotorua Girls' High School)
Reve Ngahehu (Rotorua Girls' High School)
Ryteous Tutaia (Kelston Girls' High School)
Shakira Lui (Southern Cross Campus)
Shanthie Lui (Southern Cross Campus)
Te Raukura Leafe (St. Mary's College)

Tournament MVP | Ryteous Tutaia (Kelston Girls' High School)

Grand Final MVP | Faith Tavita (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)

Emerging Talent | Kimora-Lee Lisone (Auckland Girls' Grammar School)

U15 Boys Carnival

Grand Final

Kelston Boys' High School 26
Manurewa High School 8

Final Standings

Kelston Boys' High School
Manurewa High School
Southern Cross Campus
Tipene St. Stephen's School
St. Paul's College
Western Heights High School
James Cook High School
Tokoroa High School
Tamaki College
Hamilton Boys' High School
Papakura High School
Hauraki Plains College
Trident High School

Tournament MVP | Rome Fa'anana (Kelston Boys' High School)

Grand Final MVP | Joshua Poutu (Kelston Boys' High School)

Emerging Talent | Dayton Drollet (Southern Cross Campus)



NZRL NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT

16s Girls

Grand Final

Counties Manukau 38
Auckland 10

Final Standings

Counties Manukau
Auckland
Akarana
Manawatu
Bay of Plenty
Wellington
Canterbury
South Island
Waikato
Northland

NZ Clubs 16s Girls Tournament Team

Armelia Isara (Counties Manukau)
Atelina Selu (Akarana)
Braxton Tupouniua (Auckland)
Caitlyn Misa Pohahau (Auckland)
Caszius Fatialofa (Counties Manukau)
Druzelle Walter (Counties Manukau)
Jaesyynn-Ree Fatialofa (Counties Manukau)
Jayda Peo (Counties Manukau)
Keighley-Ren Araia (Manawatu)
Khadeja Moea (Manawatu)
Lala Vaea (Akarana)
Lynneera Tutaia (Akarana)
Maraea Makiha (Bay of Plenty)
Maude Havea (Auckland)
Ryteous Tutaia (Akarana)
Sari Iefata (Akarana)
Stevie Makiha (Bay of Plenty)
Suraya Kingi (Counties Manukau)
Tayla Peters (Counties Manukau)

Tournament MVP | Suraya Kingi (Counties Manukau)

Grand Final MVP | Tayla Peters (Counties Manukau)

Emerging Talent | Maya Tebutt (Waikato)

18s Girls

Grand Final

Counties Manukau 36
Akarana 4

Final Standings

Counties Manukau
Akarana
Canterbury
Wellington
South Island

NZ Clubs 18s Girls Tournament Team

Betsy Fifita (Counties Manukau)
Casey-Lee Toese-Misa (Akarana)
Deisharn Fowell (Counties Manukau)
DeRdrey-Pania Walker-Tuiletufuga (Counties Manukau)
Dormay Laufiso (Canterbury)
Faith Tavita (Akarana)
Hannah Rose Malietoa (Canterbury)
Josinah Filisi-Tauiilili (Counties Manukau)
Kayshana Rapana (Canterbury)
La'ie Potoru-Rokeni (Counties Manukau)
Lavinia Liufau (Counties Manukau)
Luisa Kuli (Akarana)
Malena Lavea (Akarana)
Mary-Jane Taito (Counties Manukau)
Mele Hemaloto (Akarana)
Riley Fruean-Otineru (Counties Manukau)
Riley Pasese (Akarana)
Shakira Lui (Counties Manukau)
Terongomaianiwaniwa Williams (Canterbury)

Tournament MVP | Luisa Kuli (Akarana)

Grand Final MVP | Mary-Jane Taito (Counties Manukau)

Emerging Talent | Sahara Mason (South Island)

MORE THAN A



NZRL NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT

16s Boys

Grand Final

Akarana 22
Counties Manukau 10

Final Standings

Akarana
Counties Manukau
Canterbury
Auckland
Wellington
South Island
Northland
Bay of Plenty
Waikato
Mid Central
Manawatu
Tairāwhiti

NZ Clubs 16s Boys Tournament Team

Bailey Maruariki-Butler (Akarana)
Bronson Fisiiahi (Akarana)
Calvin Harris-Tavita (Counties Manukau)
Charles Henry (Akarana)
Christiano Elia (Canterbury)
Hanita Takulua (Akarana)
Hemiata Togia (Canterbury)
Israel Halalupe (Akarana)
James Tulikaki (Counties Manukau)
Joejerry Loto (Canterbury)
Kaci Heath (Canterbury)
Kaian Olsen (Akarana)
Kayce Perese-Sukroo (Akarana)
Kenny Lafituanai (Canterbury)
Lennox-Rua Limu Franklin (Canterbury)
Satali Asolelei-Fretton (Akarana)
Shannon Leslie Pai (Akarana)
Siaosi Alatini-Tahitua (Akarana)
Vanivalu Niupalau (Akarana)

Tournament MVP | Kayce Perese-Sukroo (Akarana)

Grand Final MVP | Satali Asolelei-Fretton (Akarana)

Emerging Talent | Pesamino Elia (Canterbury)

18s Boys

Grand Final

Canterbury 30
Akarana 18

Final Standings

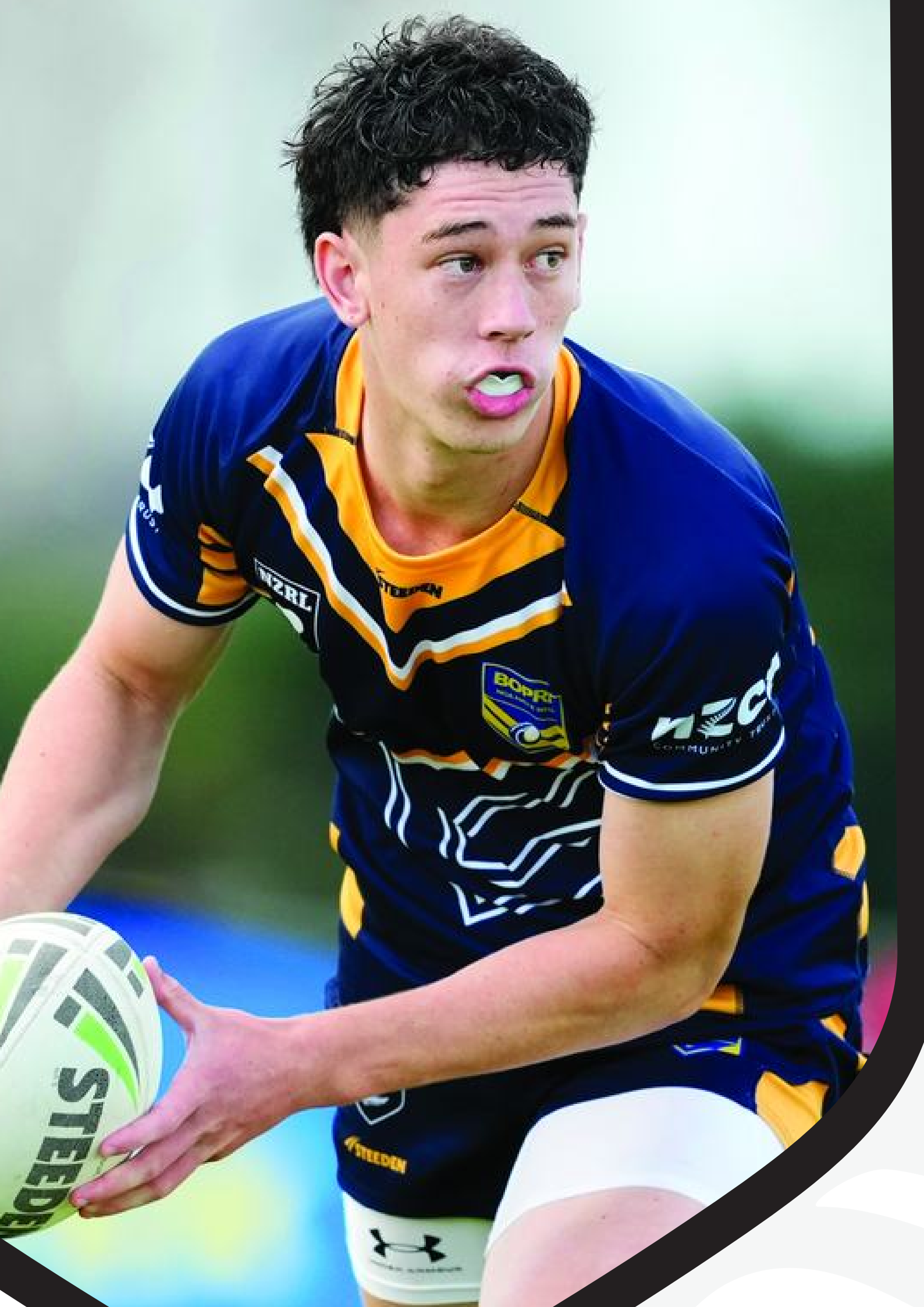
Canterbury
Akarana
Auckland
Counties Manukau
Bay of Plenty
Wellington
Mid Central
South Island
Manawatū

NZ Clubs 18s Boys Tournament Team

Aston Fraser (Akarana)
Christopher Tavake (Canterbury)
Delahoia Te Pakeke-Kakoi (Canterbury)
Devante Hurrell-Epati (Akarana)
Ezekiel Davidson-Faaiuso (Auckland)
Houma Fotu (Counties Manukau)
Isaiah Savea (Canterbury)
Jeremiah Lemana (Akarana)
Kairus Booth (South Island)
Laumoli Solomon (Wellington)
Luke Lemalu (Akarana)
Nikao Panapa (Canterbury)
Quiziah Raina-Puletama (Akarana)
Rico Lemalie (Canterbury)
Romana Whitiora (Akarana)
Ronan Byford (Akarana)
Sione Telefoni (Canterbury)
Trey Sayers (Bay of Plenty)
Victor Kenese (Counties Manukau)

Tournament MVP | Ronan Byford (Akarana)

Emerging Talent | Osaiasi Manu (Wellington)



NZRL NATIONAL DISTRICT 9S

16s Girls

Semi Finals

Manawatū 12 Waikato 10
Wellington 12 Bay of Plenty 10

Grand Final

Manawatū 18 Wellington 0

18s Girls

Semi Finals

Auckland Blue 18 Waikato 8
Manawatū 20 Northland 12

Grand Final

Auckland Blue 18 Manawatū 0

16s Boys

Semi Finals

Wellington 22 Bay of Plenty 0
Auckland White 18 Auckland Blue 6

Grand Final

Auckland White 12 Wellington 6

18s Boys

Semi Finals

Wellington 24 Waikato 4
Bay of Plenty 8 Auckland Blue 4

Grand Final

Bay of Plenty 10 Wellington 6





NZRL NATIONAL MEN'S PREMIERSHIP

Grand Final

Counties Manukau 46 Canterbury 0

Final Standings

North Island

Counties Manukau
Auckland
Akarana
Waikato
Bay of Plenty

South Island

Canterbury
Otago
Wellington
Southland
Aoraki





NZRL SKY SPORT NATIONAL WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

Grand Final

Counties Manukau 40 Akarana 8

Final Standings

Counties Manukau
Akarana
Canterbury
Auckland
Waikato
Wellington





NZRL NATIONAL MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mens

Grand Final

Te Tai Tokerau 18 Coastline 16

Final Standings

Te Tai Tokerau
Coastline
Hawke's Bay
Northland

Womens

Grand Final

Northland 50 Waikato 4

Final Standings

Northland
Waikato
Bay of Plenty





NZRL SNAPSHOT



WELLBEING

Partnerships

NZRL maintains strong relationships with strategic partners in the wellbeing and mental health sector, to ensure our communities have access to the support services they need. In 2025, we were acknowledged by Le Va as a key stakeholder in the arena of suicide prevention. This brings to light the game's commitment to the provision of assistance during moments of distress and our wider, More Than a Game strategy. We also appreciate our ongoing relationship with Te Rau Ora and their support of our Find Your Front podcast and wellbeing programmes, and Te Whatu Ora, who provide us with many great resources to deliver wellbeing projects.

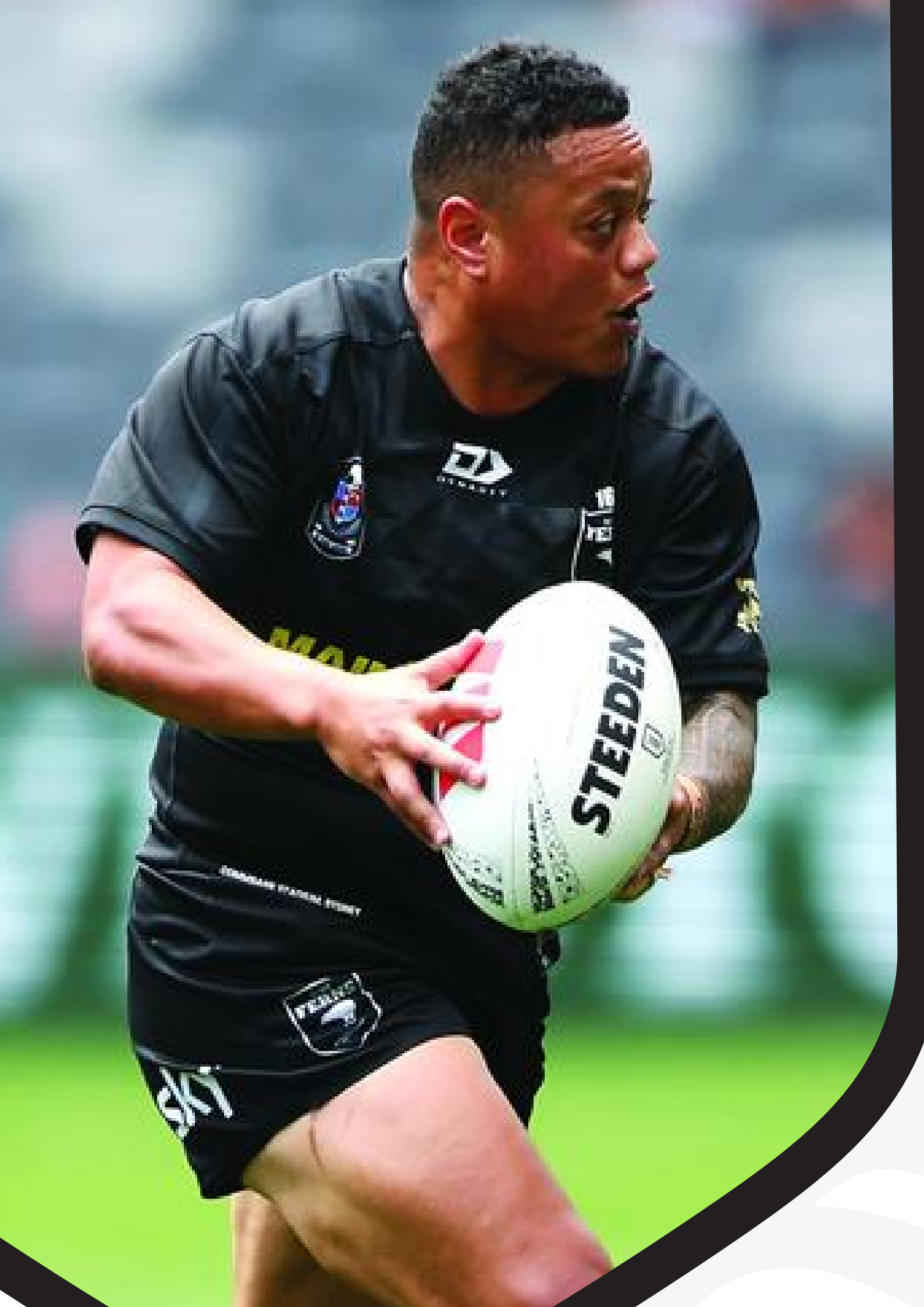
Find Your Front programme

As the overarching framework that underpins Wellbeing at NZRL, our Find Your Front programming covers topics from mental resilience and concussion awareness, to suicide prevention, and the wellbeing journey when transitioning into high-performance.

Wellbeing podcast

In 2025 we delivered and concluded our Find Your Front podcast. These stories have been critical in the delivery of shared voices into the space of personal wellbeing, bringing inspiration for others to reach out, seek help and create a close circle of trusted friends. Podcast guests who spoke on their personal experiences with wellbeing and mental health included rugby league legends such as Stacey Jones and Tawera Nikau, to current-day players from both rugby league and rugby union, such as the One New Zealand Warriors' Erin Clark and All Black Cam Roigard.





FEMALE GAME

30 Years of the Kiwi Ferns

In 2025 we celebrated 30 years of the Kiwi Ferns, a major milestone for women's rugby league and the wider game here in Aotearoa. We looked back on the Ferns' rich history, three decades of resilience, pride, and passion that helped shape the women's game into the thriving force it is today. The New Zealand Women's Rugby League Federation was officially registered and accepted by NZRL in February 1995. Just four months later, a squad of 23 trailblazers captained by Juanita Hall and coached by Janie Thompson, set off on a tour of Australia. They returned home unbeaten, winning all seven matches including two Tests against Australia. That historic tour set the tone and a high standard for the Ferns, who quickly made their mark as the best women's team in the world at that time.

In celebration of this significant milestone, reunion festivities were held in Auckland during the Pacific Championships. A large group of former Kiwi Ferns reunited to mark this significant milestone for women's rugby league in Aotearoa, beginning with a special evening of whanaungatanga at the NZRL Museum. **Each player was honoured with a personalised dog tag engraved with their name and Kiwi Fern number, as a lasting tribute to their contribution. On game day, the former Ferns joined the team on-field for a powerful haka facing off against Fetu Samoa, followed by a lap of honour before the Kiwis took on Toa Samoa.** An unforgettable weekend celebrating the legacy, strength, and future of wāhine in rugby league.



Female Pathways

The future is bright for young girls and wāhine here in Aotearoa as the domestic women's game also continues to flourish with registered female players up another 3.8%. With the One New Zealand Warriors' return to the NRL Women's competition in 2025, there is now a visible and attainable domestic semi-professional team for girls in New Zealand to aspire to. **Last year, 10 players who progressed through domestic grassroots rugby league pathways made NRLW debuts for the Warriors, and one, namely Ivana Lauitiiti, earned a subsequent Kiwi Ferns debut.** The next generation of Ferns is already emerging, ready to write the next chapter of women's rugby league - only made possible by the Kiwi Ferns of 1995 and all those who followed, who laid the strong foundations for the women's game here in Aotearoa.



COACHING

Coach Development and Education

The 2024 NZRL Strategic Coaching Plan has continued to strengthen coach development and education throughout this reporting period. In 2025, its four key focus areas - Growth and Impact, Education and Development, Environment and Experience, and Collaboration and Partnerships - continued to support coaches, participants and the wider rugby league community. Feedback, participation trends, and the growing reach of digital coaching tools all indicate that coach education is playing an increasingly important role in creating positive player experiences and stronger community environments across Aotearoa.

Growth and Impact

The launch of the CoachMate app has strengthened support for coaches, managers, players and parents at Kiwi League Kids level by making coaching and team management resources easier to access in one place. Community feedback on the platform highlights that users can access ready-made practice plans, bite-sized videos, scheduling tools, team communication features and NZRL-aligned activities, helping coaches deliver more consistent and engaging experiences across clubs. Over the past 12 months, 100 clubs and 83 schools have accessed the platform, with 1,645 individuals registering on CoachMate, including 520 coaches, 369 players, 241 parents, 76 supporters, 22 teachers, 134 team managers and 23 others.

Representative coaching opportunities have continued through the National District 9s Tournament, National Secondary Schools Tournament and other traditional national events across, including youth regional and national competitions, and senior Championship and Premiership pathways. Tournament registration and accreditation review processes are also providing clearer visibility of our volunteer workforce, highlighting both progress and the need to continue strengthening coach development, with 29% of coaches at the 2025 National Youth Tournament holding NZRL accreditation.

Education and Development

Kiwi Way Coaching is now firmly established within the NZRL coaching framework, providing a consistent foundation for the design and delivery of coach education across the game. Coaching courses have continued to be reviewed and updated annually to reflect the changing coaching environment and the needs of the rugby league community.

NZRL has also continued to see the benefits of the Sister RISE programme, with all female youth teams and management personnel strengthening their knowledge and understanding of the female athlete. This has enabled coaches and team environments to build greater awareness, confidence and consistency in the support provided to young women in rugby league.

Further growth has been supported through the embedding of SportTutor into the course registration process for coaches, trainers and managers. In 2025, 177 coaches accessed NZRL coach accreditation courses, while 1,242 people completed online coach development programmes.

Collaboration & Partnerships

In 2025, the 29 NZRL coaches involved in the High Performance Sport NZ Core Knowledge programme continued to grow and develop through this valuable partnership. The year also saw the beginning of a pilot initiative with Te Mahi Ako aimed at the possible



introduction of the NZ Certificate in Coaching Level 3, into the Coach Pathway Development Programme.



COMMUNITY

The NZRL Community Team continued to strengthen participation, wellbeing, and capability across the rugby league network throughout the 2025/26 year.

Our focus remained on delivering impactful programmes that support players, clubs, and districts, while improving national consistency across systems, governance, and player welfare. A key theme across the year was removing barriers to participation and strengthening safeguarding processes, ensuring that rugby league remains accessible, safe, and well-supported across all levels of the game.

Key Highlights

Incorporated Societies Act (ICA) Project

The successful delivery of the ICA project was a major achievement for the Community Team this year.

- Supported districts and clubs nationwide to transition under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022
- Achieved 98% compliance across districts and clubs
- Provided governance guidance, templates, and direct support to ensure entities were well-positioned for long-term sustainability
- Strengthened capability across the network, improving transparency, accountability, and operational structure, and alignment across the network

Mainstream Boot Giveaway

The Mainstream boot giveaway programme delivered significant impact in reducing participation barriers for tamariki and rangatahi.

- Distributed football boots to players experiencing financial hardship across multiple regions
- Partnered with districts and community networks to identify and support those most in need
- Enabled increased participation by ensuring players could safely take the field
- Reinforced NZRL's commitment to inclusion, equity, and community wellbeing

We would like to acknowledge and thank Mainstream for their support of this initiative. Their contribution has been instrumental in removing barriers to participation and strengthening access to the game across our communities.

Pacific Championships Community Fan Day (Auckland)

The community fan day delivered during the Pacific Championships in Auckland provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with the local community and elevate the tournament experience.

- Delivered a community-facing activation alongside the Pacific Championships
- Provided opportunities for whānau, tamariki, and local communities to connect with the game
- Supported increased visibility and engagement with rugby league in a key urban area
- Strengthened relationships with PAC and community stakeholders

The event reinforced the importance of creating inclusive, accessible environments that connect communities to the game beyond the field of play.

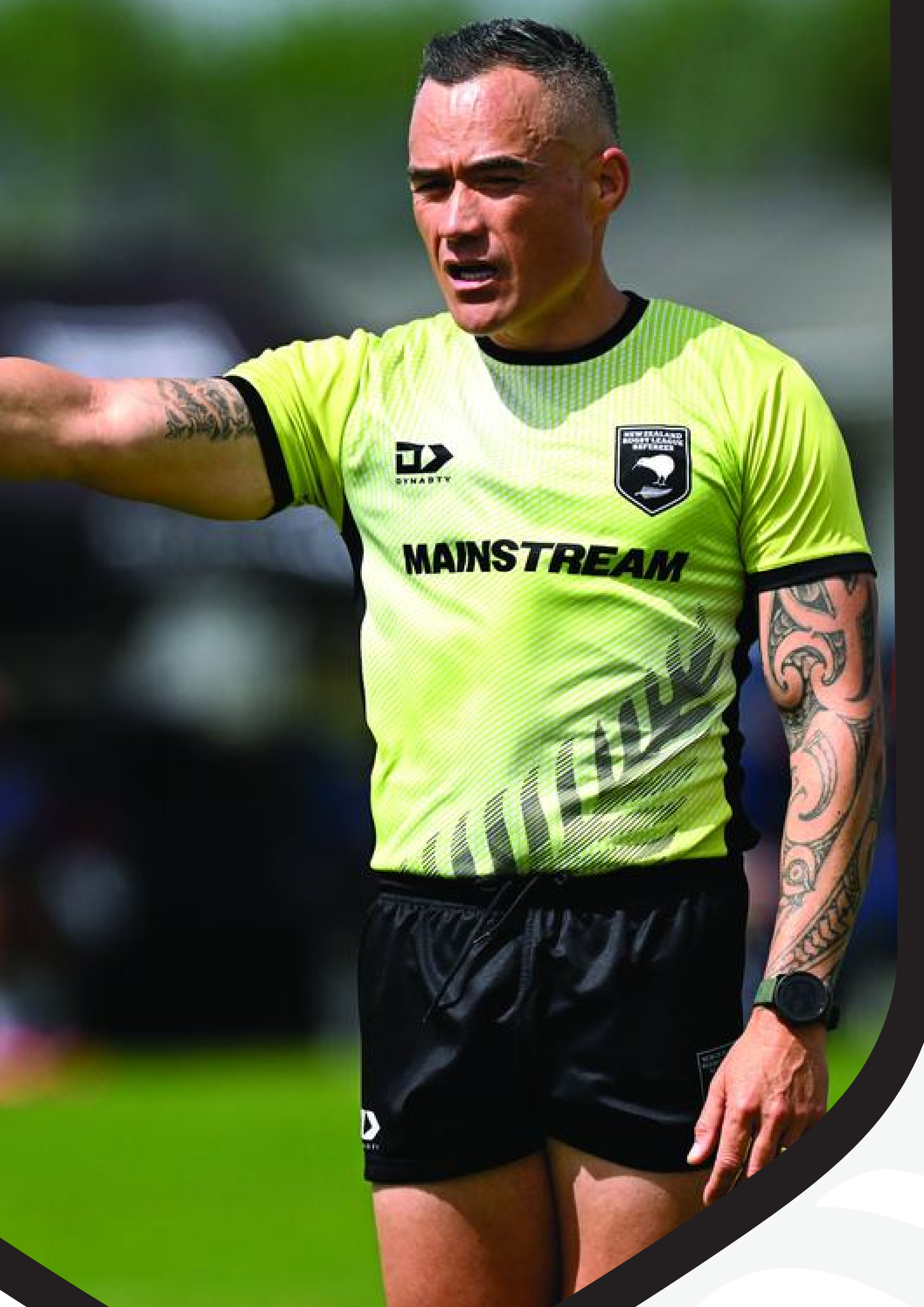
Community Impact

Across the year, NZRL continued to:

- Support player development and retention through targeted initiatives
- Deliver education and wellbeing programmes, including concussion awareness and injury prevention
- Improve systems and processes to support player registration, competition delivery, and reporting
- Strengthen relationships with districts, clubs, and community stakeholders

These efforts contributed to a more connected, capable, and resilient rugby league community.





REFEREES

Kaiwawao

International Appointments

Kiwi Ferns v Samoa

19 October 2025

Go Media Stadium, Auckland, New Zealand

Touch Judge: Paki Parkinson

Kiwi Ferns v Australia

2 November 2025

Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand

Touch Judge: Paki Parkinson

National Finals Appointments

NZRL National Men's Premiership Final

Referee: Paki Parkinson | Jack Feavers & Chris McMillan

NZRL Sky Sport National Women's Premiership Final

Referee: Jack Feavers | Touch Judges: Lau Pauuvale & James Priest

NZRL National Men's Championship Final

Referee: Moses Cooper | Touch Judges: Hemena Ryan & David Millar

NZRL National Women's Championship Final

Referee: Tusie Marsh

NZRL National Secondary Schools Tournament

Boys' Premiership Final

Referee: Paki Parkinson | Touch Judges: Jack Feavers & Chris McMillan

Girls' Championship Final

Referee: Epiha Muru-Kete | Touch Judges: La Winitana & Aleigha MacDonald-Cope

Boys' Championship Final

Referee: Keven Ah Ken | Touch Judges: Luke Whittaker & Dary Mataiti

U15 Boys' Carnival Final

Referee: Porfi Vivas | Touch Judges: Chris McMillan & Epiha Muru-Kete

NZRL National Boys' Youth Tournament

16s Final

Referee: Porfi Vivas | Touch Judges: Chris McMillan & Epiha Muru-Kete

18s Final

Referee: Keven Ah Ken | Touch Judges: Paki Parkinson & Jack Feavers

NZRL National Girls' Youth Tournament

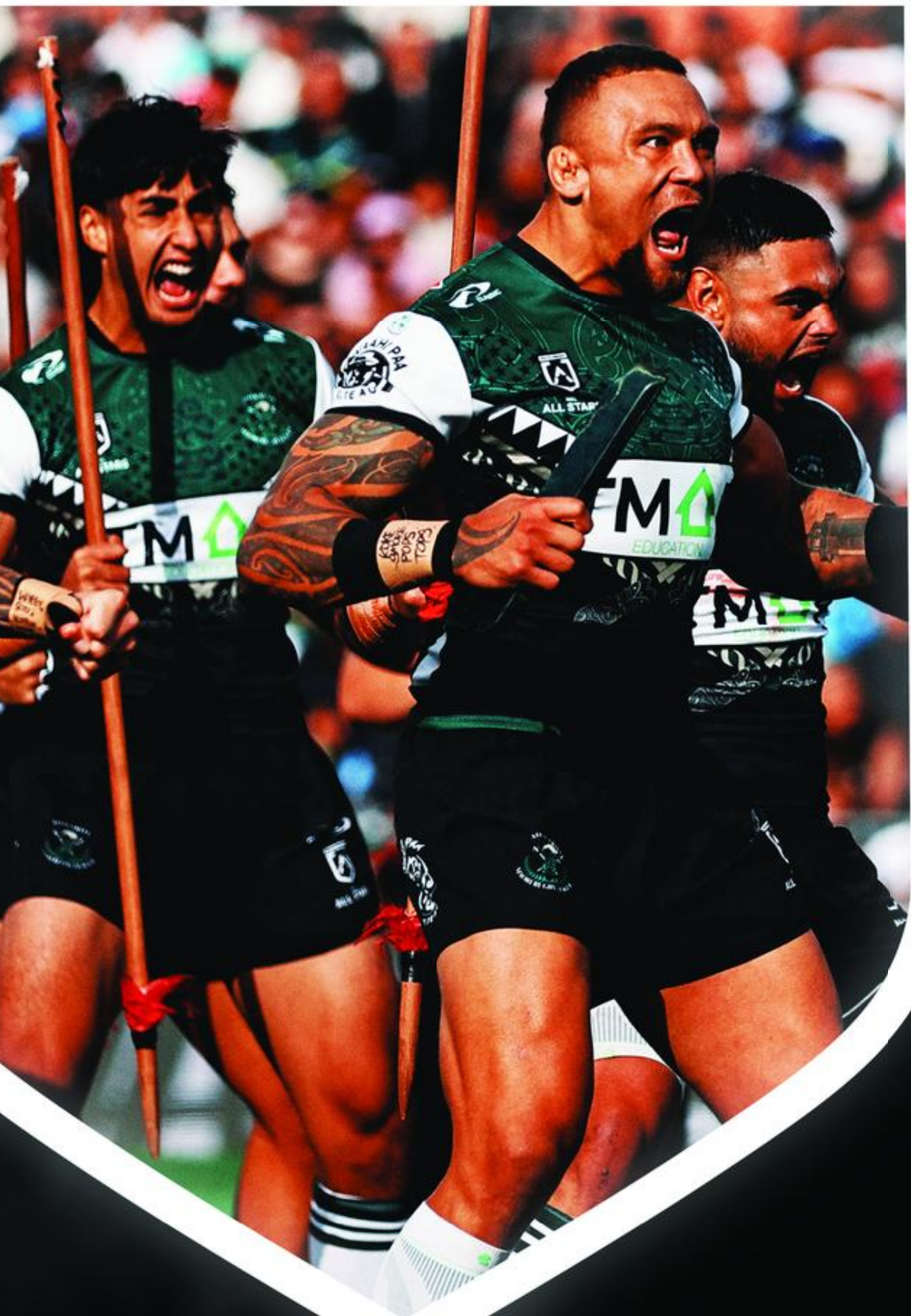
16s Final

Referee: La Winitana | Touch Judges: Chris McMillan & Jack Feavers

18s Final

Referee: Epiha Muru-Kete | Touch Judges: Paki Parkinson & Isaac Ricardo-Brown

**NZRL
MATCH
OFFICIAL
OF THE
YEAR
2025:
PAKI
PARKINSON**



ANZMRL

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND MĀORI RUGBY LEAGUE

Aotearoa New Zealand Māori Rugby League (ANZMRL) continued to strengthen and celebrate rugby league throughout 2025, creating opportunities for players, whānau, and communities to connect through sport, culture, and whakapapa. During the year, ANZMRL delivered seven major tournaments in Rotorua, bringing together nearly 6,500 Māori players from U10 tamariki through to seniors. These events showcased the strength of the Māori rugby league whānau and provided opportunities for participation, whanaungatanga, and development, supported by the dedication of volunteers, coaches, management, officials, and supporters.

The tournament programme continued to provide important pathways for emerging talent, with outstanding rangatahi earning selection to represent ANZMRL at the Pasifika Youth Cup. These representative opportunities enable young players, aged from 13 to 18 years, to compete at a high level while proudly expressing their Māori identity.

At senior level, the return of the Aotearoa Māori versus Auckland fixtures in Kaitaia was a highlight of the representative calendar. Both the NZ Māori Wāhine Toa and NZ Māori Tāne recorded impressive victories, reflecting the quality and pride of Māori rugby league across the motu. ANZMRL also strengthened its international presence through the Indigenous All Stars matches against Indigenous Australian teams at FMG Stadium Waikato. The annual fixtures once again celebrated Indigenous excellence and connection, with the men's match ending in a draw and the women's side narrowly defeated by a single try.

Across all levels of the game, ANZMRL remained committed to fostering excellence while strengthening connections to culture, identity, and whakapapa. The achievements of 2025 reflect not only success on the field, but the enduring strength of Māori rugby league and the communities that continue to support and grow the game.

In early 2026, ANZMRL Chair John Devonshire (JD) stepped down after years of dedicated service and leadership. A significant achievement during his tenure was helping secure ANZMRL's full voting membership within New Zealand Rugby League and a permanent seat on the NZRL Board in 2022, ensuring a stronger voice for Māori rugby league at the highest levels of the game.

Under JD's leadership, ANZMRL strengthened its organisational foundations, expanded its profile nationally and internationally, and continued to champion Māori identity, culture, and excellence in rugby league. His dedication to creating opportunities and pathways for Māori players has left a lasting impact. Together, JD and his wife Moeroa have made a significant contribution to Māori rugby league, helping to build a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations.





PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE NEW ZEALAND

WHUTUPŌRO RĪKI WHAIKAHA O AOTEAROA

2025 was another successful year for Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa Physical Disability Rugby League New Zealand (PDRLNZ). However, we first acknowledge the tragic loss of Jeremy Hendrix-Harris, a beloved member of their whānau and community, and PDRLNZ Kiwi #14. Moe mai rā, Jeremy.

PDRLNZ celebrated a major milestone, its 10-year anniversary, marking a decade of creating incredible opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities, empowering them to transcend limitations, challenge their boundaries, and realise their potential through rugby league.

A celebratory luncheon was hosted in Auckland, with special guest George Tonna, founder of Physical Disability Rugby League, and hosted by Gordon Gibbons. The luncheon, which honoured and celebrated PDRLNZ's remarkable achievements over the past decade, was made possible through the generous support of Foundation North, a loyal and steadfast advocate for the cause.

PDRLNZ's first match for 2025 was hosted at Portland Rugby League in Northland, against their Masters invitational team. Later, the annual North vs South Island clash took place in Auckland, with the Te Waipounamu South Island invitational team fighting hard to reclaim the trophy from Te Ika-a-Māui, who had triumphed the previous year. Te Waipounamu were lucky to welcome George Tonna into their ranks, and an intense match saw both teams give their all, with the North Island team ultimately emerging victorious once again.

A key highlight of the year was PDRLNZ partnering with the One New Zealand Warriors to form a PDRLNZ Warriors team to travel to the Gold Coast for an exhibition match. In preparation, the team faced the Northcote Raiders Masters in a closely contested match marked by outstanding sportsmanship, securing a 7-6 victory.

On Saturday 6 September at CBus Stadium on the Gold Coast, the PDRLNZ Warriors faced the PDRL Titans as a curtain-raiser to the Titans vs Tigers NRL match. In front of an incredible crowd, the talented Warriors produced a great 50-20 victory, as they proudly represented Aotearoa, PDRLNZ, their whānau, friends, and communities.

Another highlight from an outstanding year for PDRLNZ, was at the HealthVision Festival of Disability Sports Awards, where players Macken Graham and Jack McSweeney were jointly awarded the Emerging Talent Award.

NZRL and Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa PDRLNZ, remain committed to the continued growth of Physical Disability Rugby League across Aotearoa, ensuring physically disabled people have meaningful opportunities to engage in and excel within rugby league. We look forward to the next decade of breaking down barriers and achieving new milestones together.



ZONES

— Āpure —

Akarana
Counties Manukau
Mid Central
Northland
Southern Zone
Upper Central
Wellington

AKARANA



Congratulations to the following Akarana representatives:

16s Girls

Atelina Selu – NZ Clubs selection
Khaidyn-Bre Teau – NZ Schools selection
Lala Vaea – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
Lynneera Tutaia – NZ Clubs selection
Ryteous Tutaia – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
Sari Iefata – NZ Clubs selection

16s Boys

Bailey Maruariki-Butler – NZ Clubs selection
Bronson Fisiiahi – NZ Clubs selection
Charles Henry – NZ Clubs selection
Hanita Takulua – NZ Clubs selection
Israel Halalupe – NZ Clubs selection
Kaian Olsen – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
Kayce Perese-Sukroo – NZ Clubs selection, National Youth Tournament MVP
Parekaahu Keepa – NZ Schools selection
Satali Asolelei-Fretton – NZ Schools selection, NZ Clubs selection, National Youth Tournament Grand Final MVP
Shannon Leslie Pai – NZ Clubs selection
Siaosi Alatini-Tahitua – NZ Clubs selection
Vanivalu Niupalau – NZ Clubs selection

18s Girls

Casey-Lee Toese-Misa – NZ Clubs selection
Faith Tavita – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
Jayne Feterika-Langsiu – NZ Schools selection
Luisa Kuli – NZ Clubs selection, National Youth Tournament MVP
Malena Lavea – NZ Clubs selection
Mele Hemaloto – NZ Clubs selection
Riley Pasese – NZ Clubs selection

18s Boys

Aston Fraser – NZ Clubs selection
Devante Hurrell-Epati – NZ Clubs selection
Hinkley Ioka – NZ Schools selection
Jeremiah Lemana – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
Luke Lemalu – NZ Clubs selection
Quiziah Raina-Puletama – NZ Clubs selection
Rico Finau – NZ Schools selection
Romana Whitiora – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
Ronan Byford – NZ Clubs selection, National Youth Tournament MVP
Vunivalu Niupalau – NZ Schools selection

Congratulations to the Akarana 16s boys who won the National Boys Youth Tournament.

The Akarana women's team were runners-up in the Sky Sport National Women's Premiership.

The Akarana 18s boys and 18s girls were both runners-up in the National Boys and Girls Youth Tournaments.

The Akarana 16s girls finished third in the National Girls Youth Tournament.



COUNTIES MANUKAU

Congratulations to the following Counties Manukau representatives:

16s Girls

Jayda Peo – NZ Clubs selection
 Armelia Isara – NZ Clubs selection
 Caszius Fatialofa – NZ Clubs selection
 Druzelle Walter – NZ Clubs selection
 Jada-Breeze Gray – NZ Schools selection
 Jaesyynn-Ree Fatialofa – NZ Clubs selection
 Suraya Kingi – NZ Clubs selection, National Youth Tournament MVP
 Tayla Peters – NZ Clubs selection, National Youth Tournament Grand Final MVP

16s Boys

Calvin Harris-Tavita – NZ Clubs selection
 James Tulikaki – NZ Clubs selection

18s Girls

Alaina Lauitiiti – NZ Schools selection
 Betsy Fifita – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
 Deisharn Fowell – NZ Clubs selection
 DeRdrey-Pania Walker-Tuiletufuga – NZ Clubs selection
 Josinah Filisi-Tauiiili – NZ Clubs selection
 La'ie Potoru-Rokeni – NZ Clubs selection
 Lavinia Liufau – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection
 Mary-Jane Taito – NZ Clubs selection, National Youth Tournament Grand Final MVP
 Riley Fruean-Otineru – NZ Clubs selection
 Shakira Lui – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection

18s Boys

Houma Fotu – NZ Clubs selection
 Victor Kenese – NZ Clubs selection

Congratulations to the Counties Manukau men's team who won the National Men's Premiership.

Congratulations to the Counties Manukau women's team who won the Sky Sport National Women's Premiership.

Congratulations to the Counties Manukau 16s and 18s girls who won the National Girls Youth Tournament.

Congratulations to Jamel Hunt who won the Domestic Male Player of the Year award, and Onjeurlina Hunt who won the Domestic Female Player of the Year award.

Congratulations to Tusa Lafaele who won the Domestic Coach of the Year award, and Ivana Lauitiiti who won the Junior Female Player of the Year award.

The Counties Manukau 16s boys were runners up in the National Boys Youth Tournament.

MID CENTRAL



Congratulations to the following Mid Central representatives:

16s Girls

Khadeja Moa (Manawatū) – NZ Clubs selection
Keighley-Ren Araia (Manawatū) – NZ Clubs selection

Congratulations to Manawatū's Rātana Pā Sports Club who were awarded Grassroots Club of the Year.

Congratulations to the Manawatū 16s girls team who won the 2025 National District 9s Tournament.

The Manawatū 18s girls were runners-up in the 2025 National District 9s Tournament.

The Hawke's Bay men's team finished third in the National Men's Championship. Player of the Year award.



NORTHLAND

Congratulations to the Northland women's team who won the National Women's Championship.



SOUTHERN ZONE

Congratulations to the following Southern Zone representatives:

16s Boys

Christiano Elia (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Hemiata Togia (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Joejerry Loto (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Kaci Heath (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Kenny Lafituanai (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Lennox-Rua Limu Franklin (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Pesamino Elia (Canterbury) – National Youth Tournament
 Emerging Talent

18s Girls

Kayshana Rapana (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Sahara Mason (South Island) – National Youth Tournament
 Emerging Talent
 Terongomaianiwaniwa Williams (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection

18s Boys

Christopher Tavake (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Delahoia Te Pakeke-Kakoi (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Isaiah Savea (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Kairus Booth (South Island) – NZ Clubs selection
 Nikao Panapa (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Rico Lemalie (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection
 Sione Telefoni (Canterbury) – NZ Clubs selection

Congratulations to the Canterbury 18s boys team who won the National Boys Youth Tournament.

Congratulations to Rico Lemalie from Canterbury, who was awarded Junior Male Player of the Year.

The Canterbury men's team were runners-up in the National Men's Premiership.

The Canterbury women's team finished third in the Sky Sport National Women's Premiership.

The Canterbury 16s boys and 18s girls both finished third in the National Boys and Girls Youth Tournaments.

UPPER CENTRAL



Congratulations to the following Upper Central representatives:

16s Girls

Maraea Makiha (Bay of Plenty) – NZ Clubs selection, NZ Schools selection

Mason-Marie Playle (Bay of Plenty) – NZ Schools selection

Maya Tebbutt (Waikato) – National Youth Tournament Emerging Talent

Talent

Nevaeh Harris (Bay of Plenty) – NZ Schools selection

Stevie Makiha (Bay of Plenty) – NZ Clubs selection

18s Girls

Brylee Adams (Bay of Plenty) – NZ Schools selection

Reve Ngaheu (Waikato) – NZ Schools selection

18s Boys

Trey Sayers (Bay of Plenty) – NZ Clubs selection

Congratulations to the Bay of Plenty 18s boys team who won the 2025 National District 9s Tournament.

The Coastline men's team were runners-up in the National Men's Championship.

The Waikato women's development team were runners-up in the National Women's Championship.

The Rotorua Girls' High School team were runners-up in the National Secondary Schools Tournament Girls Championship.

The Tauranga Boys' College team were runners-up in the National Secondary Schools Tournament Boys' Championship.



WELLINGTON

Congratulations to the following Wellington representatives:

18s Girls

Te Raukura Leafe – NZ Schools selection

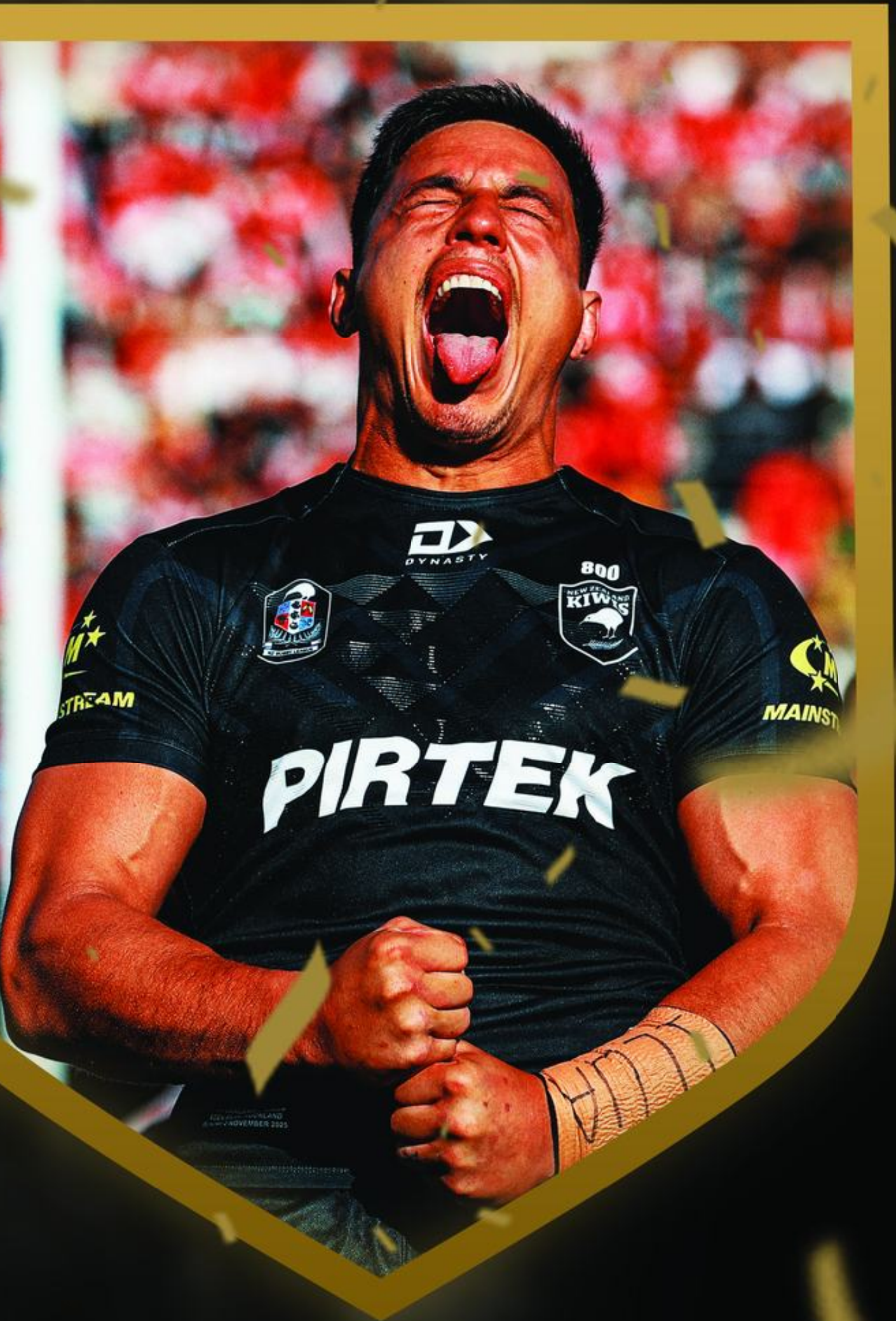
18s Boys

Laumoli Solomon – NZ Clubs selection

Osaiasi Manu – National Youth Tournament Emerging Talent

The Wellington 16s Girls and 16s boys teams were runners-up in the 2025 National District 9s Tournament.

The Wellington 18s boys team were also runners-up in the 2025 National District 9s Tournament.



AWARD WINNERS

2025 HIGH-PERFORMANCE AWARD WINNERS

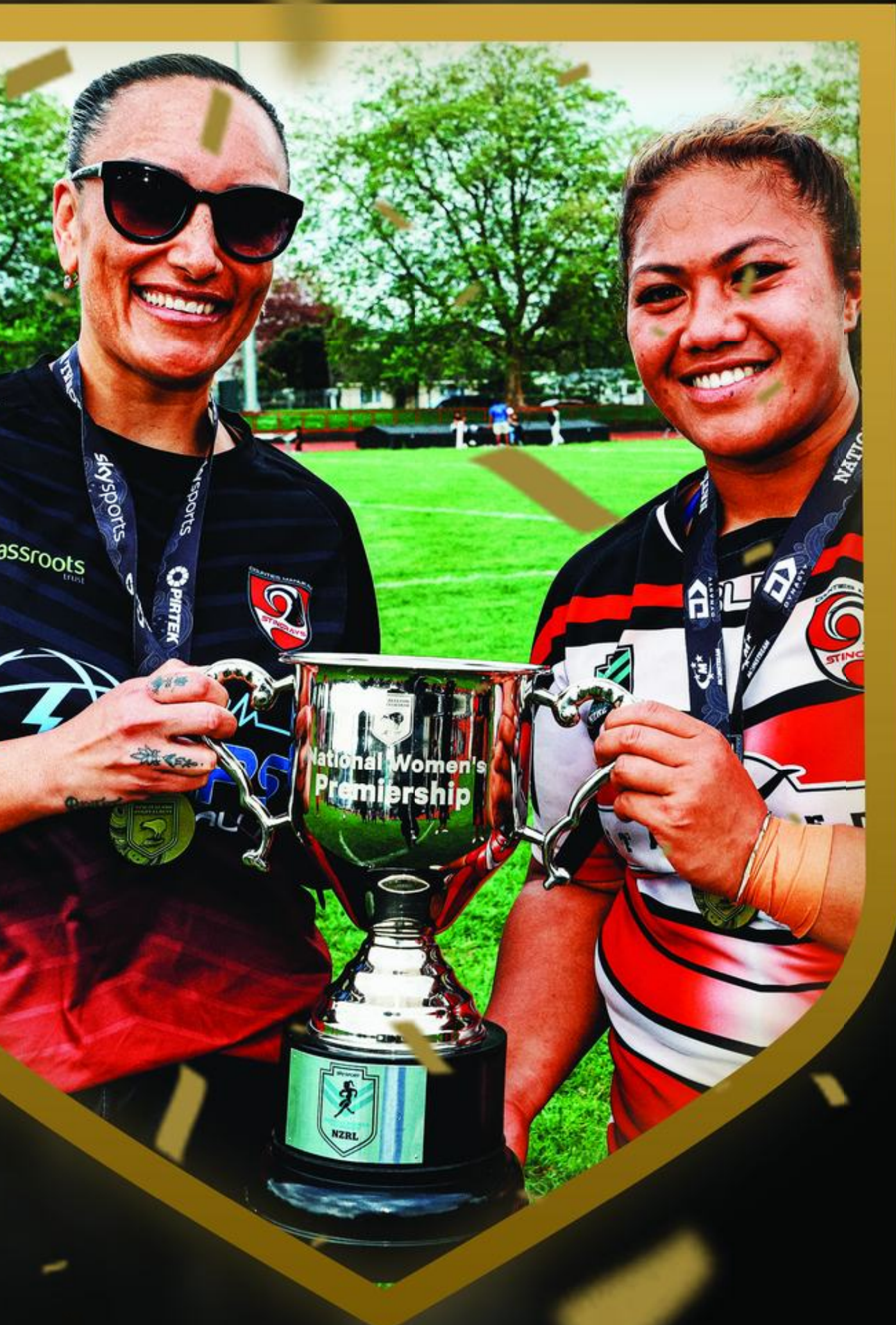
New Zealand Kiwis Player of the Year: Joseph Tapine

New Zealand Kiwi Ferns Player of the Year: Mele Hufanga

New Zealand Wheel Kiwis Player of the Year: Ryan Charles

New Zealand Kiwis Rookie of the Year: Casey McLean

New Zealand Kiwi Ferns Rookie of the Year: Ivana Lauitiiti



AWARD WINNERS

2025 DOMESTIC AWARD WINNERS

Grassroots Club of the Year: Rātana Pā Sports Club
(Manawatū)

Domestic Female Player of the Year: Onjeurlina Hunt
(Counties Manukau)

Domestic Male Player of the Year: Jamel Hunt (Counties
Manukau)

Domestic Coach of the Year: Tusa Lafaele (Counties
Manukau)

Junior Female Player of the Year: Ivana Lauitiiti (Counties
Manukau)

Junior Male Player of the Year: Rico Lemalie (Canterbury)

Match Official of the Year: Paki Parkinson (Auckland)

Pirtek Volunteer of the Year: Nathan Te Miha (Auckland)

1920's



OUR PEOPLE

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 JP & OBE 1980 Ken English 1981 Des Barchard 1982 Dr Brian Watson 1983 Les Huston 1984 Bill O'Callaghan JP, Tom Newton, 1985 Allen Gore* KSM, 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, John McKeown* 2000 Crispin Easterbrook 2003 Ray Cranch MNZM 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* KSM 2012 David Robinson 2013 Ray Haffenden* MNZM, Trevor Maxwell* 2014 Cathy Friend QSM & DSA 2015 Jack Fagan, Sel Pearson*, Brian Reidy 2016 Sir Peter Leitch* KNZM & QSM 2017 Cherie Steele-Shanks 2018 John Coffey* QSM 2019 Kevin Tamati*, Cameron McGregor* 2020 Frank Morris Endacott* ONZM 2022 Reon Edwards* 2023 William (Bill) McEntee, Christine Rewa Panapa* 2024 Kevin Bailey, Jeff Whittaker* (*current life member)

Current Life Members (alphabetical order)

John Bray KSM, John Coffey QSM, Reon Edwards, Frank Endacott, Allen Gore KSM, Ray Haffenden MNZM, Peter Kerridge JP & MNZM, Sir Peter Leitch KNZM & QSM, Trevor Maxwell, Cameron McGregor, Christine Rewa Panapa, Sel Pearson, Howie Tamati, Kevin Tamati, Jeff Whittaker

In Memoriam

Mere Miki, Kiwi Fern #28
Ray Sinel, Kiwi #421
Graham Mattson, Kiwi #432
Neville Kesha
Cherie Steele-Shanks, Life Member
Stan Martin
Selwyn Shanks
Garry Smith, Kiwi #448
William (Bill) McEntee, Life Member
Jeremy Hendrix-Harris, PDRLNZ Kiwi #14

Our Associates

Defence Forces Rugby League
Masters of Rugby League
New Zealand Rugby League
Kiwis Association
New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students
Rugby League Council
Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa Physical Disability Rugby League

FINANCIALS

Tauaki Pūtea

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

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NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Directors present the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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 deficit for the year was \$264,000 (2025: \$975,000 surplus) and the consolidated excess of assets over liabilities was \$3,679,000 (2025: \$3,943,000).

New Zealand Rugby League Board Members

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

Justin Leydesdorff (Chairperson)
Hugh Martyn (Term ended 28 June 2025)
Grant Stapleton
Honey Hireme-Smiler (Vice Chairperson)
John Devonshire (Resigned 31 March 2026)
Ian Olan (Resigned 25 September 2025)
Robyn Morete
Nevak Rogers
Amanda Cox (Appointed 28 June 2025)
Tim Kerr (Appointed 7 November 2025)

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 17 to the financial statements.

Auditors

BDO Auckland were appointed auditors for the year ended 31 March 2026. 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: 19 June 2026



Director

Date: 19 June 2026

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

This report has been prepared in accordance with PBE FRS 48 *Service Performance Reporting*. The Board of Directors of New Zealand Rugby League Inc believes that the statements contained in this report accurately reflect the overall performance of New Zealand Rugby League Inc for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Who we are and why do we exist?

Core Purpose

New Zealand Rugby League Inc is a not-for-profit national sports organisation charged with the growth, development, and delivery of the game of rugby league in New Zealand.

Vision

More than a game - Transforming lives and community wellbeing through rugby league.

The way we will achieve our Strategy

The Kiwi Way is the New Zealand Rugby League Ethos.

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

We are family first

We are responsible

We are courageous and innovative

We are inclusive, respectful and humble

We are stronger together

	2026	2025
Goal 1: Rugby league is enjoyed by more people		
Total player numbers	35,800	34,989
Total Rangatahi (youth) numbers	10,969	10,506
Goal 2: Women's game thriving and enhanced opportunities for Females in the game		
Number of Females as registered players	8,319	8,009
NZRL Board Diversity (Female Directors / Total Directors)	4 / 8	3 / 8

Notes: The Player figures are based on the rugby league season which runs annually from November - October.

Rangatahi is defined as players aged 13 - 17.

Current NZRL Strategic Priorities

Rugby League enjoyed by more people

- Increase in participation number, particularly in Rangatahi
- Rugby League is the sport of choice in more schools
- Opportunities exist for all people in rugby league
- Participants and fans report Rugby League offers a quality / fun experience
- Rugby League is relevant and appealing to youth

A financially stable game

- NZRL has cash reserves
- NZRL revenue continues to grow
- the development of the grassroots game is well funded

Women's game thriving and enhanced opportunities for Women in the game

- Women and girls participation increased

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

- Development plan executed and Women's Rugby League funding on par with Men's game
- Women's Rugby League recognised and fully integrated into NZ Rugby League planning

Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns Inspirational and Aspirational

- Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns winning in ways that matter to our communities
- The wellbeing of our players drives performance to new levels
- A strong international calendar of exciting events in place
- Fan research/perception measures positive

NZRL a model modern sports organisation

- Our people feel valued and supported
- We are a leader in diversity and inclusivity
- Development and training programmes lift capability across the game
- The game structured to meet the evolving need of the game and sport
- The game is well respected by Government agencies and funders
- Innovation focus for Rugby League
- Whakamana i te tiriti - giving effect to the principles of the Treaty
- Mana Ōrite - partnership
- Mana Māori - protection
- Mana Taurite - participation
- Te reo Māori, tikanga, taonga and mātauranga Māori are actively promoted

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

	Note	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
<i>Revenue from exchange transactions:</i>	3(a)i		
Coaching and development		308	157
<i>Revenue from non-exchange transactions:</i>	3(a)ii		
Match revenue		1,764	1,616
Charitable trust grants		1,449	1,595
Other grants		417	544
Sponsorship and funding		4,242	6,018
TAB NZ		3,609	3,032
Other income		248	139
		<hr/> 12,037	<hr/> 13,101
Expenses:			
Employee benefits expenses	5	(5,780)	(6,296)
Depreciation expense	10	(160)	(136)
General expenses	6	(6,340)	(6,189)
		<hr/> (12,280)	<hr/> (12,621)
Surplus / (deficit) before net financing costs		<hr/> (243)	<hr/> 480
Finance income		66	30
Finance costs		(87)	(106)
Net finance cost		<hr/> (21)	<hr/> (76)
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		<hr/> (264)	<hr/> 404
Other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year			
Gain on revaluation of land and buildings	10	-	571
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year attributable to owners of the controlling entity		<hr/> (264)	<hr/> 975

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements.

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS/EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

Group	Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses	Revaluation surplus	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 April 2025	793	3,150	3,943
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	(264)	-	(264)
Balance as at 31 March 2026	529	3,150	3,679
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 April 2024	389	2,579	2,968
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year	404	571	975
Balance as at 31 March 2025	793	3,150	3,943

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements.

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2026**

	Note	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	741	1,120
Term Deposits	8	-	120
Receivables (non-exchange transactions)	9	2,121	1,547
Prepayments		221	172
		3,083	2,959
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	4,558	4,604
		4,558	4,604
TOTAL ASSETS		7,641	7,563
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	11	2,183	1,751
BNZ Loan	13	91	82
Deferred revenue	12	380	453
Employee benefit liability		211	240
Goods and service taxation		25	31
		2,890	2,557
Non-current liabilities			
BNZ Loan	13	1,072	1,063
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,962	3,620
EQUITY			
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		529	793
Revaluation surplus		3,150	3,150
TOTAL EQUITY		3,679	3,943
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		7,641	7,563

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements.

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

	Note	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from:			
Coaching and development fees		556	296
Grants, sponsorship, match revenue, and TAB NZ		10,834	12,059
Interest received		66	30
Payments to suppliers		(5,963)	(5,703)
Payments to employees		(5,803)	(6,290)
Net GST received / (paid)		(6)	4
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		(316)	396
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property, plant and equipment		(114)	(60)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(114)	(60)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Drawdown of loans	13	750	2,996
Repayment of loans	13	(732)	(3,122)
Interest paid		(87)	(106)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(69)	(232)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(499)	104
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,240	1,136
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	7 & 8	741	1,240

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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 2026 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 not-for-profit 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 \$5m and \$33m).

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the New Zealand Rugby League Board on 19 June 2026.

(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 deficit for the year of \$264,000 (2025: \$404,000 surplus before other comprehensive income) and report positive working capital of \$193,000 (2025: positive working capital of \$402,000). The group has negative cashflow of \$499,000 (2025: positive cashflow of \$104,000)

The Directors have assessed the Society ability to continue as a going concern.

This assessment included consideration of cash flow forecasts covering the period to 30 June 2027, which indicate a significant projected deficit in the 2026/27 financial year, primarily due to the cyclical funding profile associated with the Rugby League World Cup cycle.

Key assumptions underpinning the forecasts include:

- continuation of existing funding agreements;
- receipt of anticipated grant funding and sponsorship revenue;
- maintenance of current cost structures and operational activities; and
- the ability to manage working capital and cash flows within available facilities.

The Directors have also considered the potential variability in funding outcomes and have assessed mitigating actions available to the Group, including:

- deferral or reduction of discretionary expenditure;
- securing additional funding or sponsorship; and
- timing adjustments to programme delivery.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Based on this assessment, the Directors are satisfied that the Group will remain cash positive throughout the forecast period and be able to meet its obligations as and when they fall due.

Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

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 and funding

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 TAB NZ revenue

Match revenue and TAB NZ 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.

(b) Foreign currency transactions

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated 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.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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 underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected

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 9)
- 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 2025 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 2026.

The Land and building that are leased by Wellington Rugby League Zone of NZRL have been revalued during the financial year in line with accounting policies. The change in value is immaterial and is not reflected in these accounts.

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 2026

Note 5 - Employee benefits expense

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-Term employee benefits	4,387	4,896
Defined employee contribution plan - Kiwisaver	111	111
Match fees, allowances and other employee related costs	1,282	1,289
Total employee benefit expenses	5,780	6,296

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

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
General expenses includes:		
Administration and communication expenses	801	831
Audit fees and Other Services	55	52
Coaching and development expenses	454	307
Directors fees	125	124
Event management expenses	1,345	1,362
Legal fees	148	141
Other professional service fees	348	315
Team expenses	1,050	1,054
Travel expenses	2,014	2,003

Audit fees and Other Services include payments to BDO Auckland for the following:

Audit of the financial statements \$53,000 (2025: \$50,000)

Other services* \$2,000 (2025: \$2,000)

Total fees paid to auditors and for other services \$55,000 (2025: \$52,000)

*Other services comprise of tax compliance services.

Note 7 - Cash and cash equivalents

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Current assets:		
Current Account	165	432
Call & Rapid Save Account	317	284
Donations Account	288	310
League 4 Life	95	92
Foreign Currency Accounts	1	2
Total	866	1,120
<u>Less Bank Overdraft</u>	<u>(125)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Cash and cash equivalents	741	1,120

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Note 8 - Term Deposits

In the prior financial year, term deposits were held with local investment-grade banks. These deposits were short-term in nature, with maturity periods ranging between three and six months. The latest maturity date was 22 September 2025, and the interest rate applicable to these deposits was 4.4%.

Note 9 - Receivables (non-exchange transactions)

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Receivables (non-exchange transactions)	2,121	1,547
Total receivables from non-exchange transactions	2,121	1,547

Note 10 - Property, plant and equipment

Group	Freehold land *	Buildings *	Motor vehicles	Plant and equipment	Furniture and fittings	Total
<u>Cost/Valuation</u>	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 31 Mar 2025	1,080	3,331	12	614	133	5,170
Additions	-	-	-	109	6	115
Disposals	-	-	-	(62)	(2)	(64)
Balance as at 31 Mar 2026	1,080	3,331	12	661	137	5,221
<u>Accumulated depreciation and impairment</u>						
Balance as at 31 Mar 2025	-	19	11	437	99	566
Accumulated depreciation on Disposals	-	-	-	(61)	(2)	(63)
Depreciation	-	72	-	81	7	160
Balance as at 31 Mar 2026	-	91	11	457	104	663
<u>Net book value</u>						
As at 31 Mar 2024	960	2,920	1	186	41	4,108
As at 31 Mar 2025	1,080	3,312	1	177	34	4,604
As at 31 Mar 2026	1,080	3,240	1	204	33	4,558

* Freehold land and buildings are measured on a revaluation basis. In 2025, these were revalued to a total amount of \$4.08 M, which lead to a revaluation of \$571k, after reversing the accumulated depreciation.

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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 or straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of each component of an item of property, plant and equipment. Land is not depreciated.

The diminishing value and straight line depreciation rates are:

- Buildings 1.5% - 2.0%
- Motor Vehicles 20%
- Plant and equipment 10.0% - 67.0%
- Furniture and fittings 8.0% - 20.0%

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

Revaluation

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

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

Revaluations are completed on an asset basis and movements are evaluated on an asset class basis. Upon disposal, any revaluation reserve relating to the particular asset being sold is reclassified to retained earnings. Revaluations are completed every 3 - 5 years, unless the board deems a revaluation is required due to external factors.

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 2026

Note 11 - Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Trade payables from exchange transactions	1473	903
Other accruals	710	848
	<u>2,183</u>	<u>1,751</u>

Note 12 - Deferred revenue

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Charitable trust donations received in advance	315	303
Other revenue received in advance	65	150
	<u>380</u>	<u>453</u>

Note 13 - Loans

Security held

In 2019 the Group 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 10). This loan was renewed for a value of \$1,296,440 beginning in August 2024 with an expiry of 30 August 2029.

At balance date the Group had \$1,163,150 drawn on this facility (2025: \$1,145,350), out of a total of \$1,169,230 available to draw down (2025: \$1,251,430). A floating per annum interest rate applies which at reporting date was 7.56%.

At balance date, the total amount owing of \$1,163,150 comprises \$1,071,820 classified as non-current and \$91,330 repayable within 12 months of the reporting date.

Note 14 - Financial Instruments

Group 2026

	Note	Carrying Value (\$)		Total
		Financial Assets	Financial Liabilities	
		Amortised Cost	Amortised Cost	
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Subsequently not measured at fair value</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	741	-	741
Term deposits (assets)	8	-	-	-
Gross receivables from non-exchange transactions	9	2,121	-	2,121
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	11	-	(1,473)	(1,473)
BNZ Loan (liabilities)	13	-	(1,163)	(1,163)
Balance as at 31 March 2026		<u>2,862</u>	<u>(2,636)</u>	<u>226</u>

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

Group 2025

	Note	Carrying Value (\$)		Total \$'000
		Financial Assets	Financial Liabilities	
		Amortised Cost \$'000	Amortised Cost \$'000	
<i>Subsequently not measured at fair value</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents (assets)	7	1,120	-	1,120
Term deposits (assets)	8	120	-	120
Gross receivables from non-exchange transactions	9	1,547	-	1,547
Payables (from exchange transactions) and accruals	11	-	(903)	(903)
BNZ Loan (liabilities)	13	-	(1,145)	(1,145)
Balance as at 31 March 2025		2,787	(2,048)	739

i. Financial assets measured at amortised cost

Financial assets classified as amortised cost are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

Financial assets classified as amortised cost are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

Financial assets classified as amortised cost comprise of cash and cash equivalents, term deposits and gross receivables 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. Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

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 15 - Group entities

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

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

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Mid Central Zone of NZRL Inc.
Wellington Rugby League Zone of NZRL Inc.
Southern Zone of NZRL Inc.
League 4 Life Foundation

All controlled entities have a balance date of 31 March except for League 4 Life Foundation which has a balance date of 31 December.

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 strategy 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 16 - 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:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Not later than one year	48	81
Later than one year and not later than five years	26	26
Total non-cancellable operating lease payments	74	107

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC.
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The Group has entered into a number of operating leases for the lease of motor vehicles. None of the leases has a term of longer than five years.

The majority of the leases are in the name of New Zealand Rugby League Inc., with 1 lease in the name of Mid-Central Zone of NZRL Inc.

Note 17 - 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:

	2026			2025		
	Funding Support	Current Amount Receivable	Current Amount Payable	Funding Support	Current Amount Receivable	Current Amount Payable
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Related Party						
Rugby League Northland Zone	60	2	20	65	6	-
Akarana Zone	60	1	-	60	1	-
Counties-Manukau Zone	80	2	20	80	2	-
Upper Central Zone	1	-	-	-	-	-
Mid Central Zone	60	1	-	71	-	-
Wellington Zone	80	2	-	82	2	-
Southern Zone	110	4	-	130	2	-
Total	451	12	40	488	13	-

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(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 \$3,000 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. The long term incentive (‘LTI’) has been accrued in these financial statements, with a portion paid during the year ended 31 March 2026 and the remaining balance to be paid in the financial year ending 31 March 2027, subject to certain criteria being achieved.

	2026		2025	
	Remuneration \$'000	Number of individuals	Remuneration \$'000	Number of individuals
Members of the governing body	125	8 people	124	8 people
Senior executive officers - Base	324	1 FTE	321	1 FTE
Senior executive officers - LTI	32	1 FTE	77	1 FTE
Total	481		522	

(iii) Rugby League International Federation Limited

In April 2025, Justin Leydesdorff was appointed as a Director of the International Rugby League (IRL), the international governing body for rugby league, replacing Greg Peters. During the year ended 31 March 2026, the Group paid levies amounting to \$138,081 to the IRL (2025: \$131,675).

(iv) 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. Justin Leydesdorff and Grant Stapleton are the directors of this company.

(v) Aotearoa New Zealand Maori Rugby League Incorporated:

John Devonshire was the Chairperson of Aotearoa New Zealand Maori Rugby League Incorporated (NZMRL) until 2 April 2026. During the financial year New Zealand Rugby League provided financial support to this entity of towards their tournaments.

Transactions with entities with common board members:

Transactions during the period	2026	2025
Purchases	192,521	321,906
Outstanding balance at period end		
Payables	102,757	94,650

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During the year ended 31 March 2026, there have been no sales to related parties (2025: No transactions) and there are no outstanding receivables (2025: No transactions).

Note 18 - Commitments and contingencies

(i) Commitments

The Group had no commitments of a capital nature as at 31 March 2026 (2025: \$Nil).

(ii) Contingent liabilities

The Group had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2026 (2025: \$Nil)

(iii) Contingent assets

The Group had no contingent assets as at 31 March 2026 (2025: \$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 general purpose financial report of New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated (“the Society”) and its controlled entities (together, “the Group”), which comprises the consolidated financial statements on pages 4 to 19, and the consolidated statement of service performance on page 2 and 3. The complete set of consolidated financial statements comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026 the consolidated statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, consolidated statement of changes in net assets/equity, consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the accompanying general purpose financial report presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2026, and its consolidated financial performance, and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the consolidated statement of service performance for the year ended 31 March 2026, in that the service performance information is appropriate and meaningful and prepared in accordance with the Group’s measurement bases or evaluation methods,

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 of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)) and the audit of the consolidated statement of service performance in accordance with the ISAs (NZ) and New Zealand Auditing Standard 1 (NZ AS 1) (Revised) *The Audit of Service Performance Information (NZ)*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the General Purpose Financial Report 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.

Our firm carries out other assignments for the Group in the area of taxation compliance services. The firm has no other relationship with, or interests in, the Group.

Other Information

The Board of 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 statement of service performance and the consolidated financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated statement of service performance and 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 statement of service performance and 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 statement of service performance and 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.

Board of Director's Responsibilities for the General Purpose Financial Report

The Board of Directors are responsible on behalf of the Group for:

- (a) the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements and consolidated statement of service performance in accordance PBE Standards RDR;
- (b) the selection of elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods that present a statement of service performance that is appropriate and meaningful in accordance with PBE Standards RDR;
- (c) the preparation and fair presentation of the statement of service performance in accordance with the Group's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with PBE Standards RDR;
- (d) the overall presentation, structure and content of the statement of service performance in accordance with PBE Standards RDR; and
- (e) such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the consolidated financial statements and consolidated statement of service performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the general purpose financial report the Board are responsible 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 Board either intends 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 General Purpose Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and the consolidated statement of service performance 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) and NZ AS 1 (Revised) 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 or collectively, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this general purpose financial report.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the general purpose financial report is located at the XRB's website at:

<https://www.xrb.govt.nz/standards/assurance-standards/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-13-1/>

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Who we Report to

This report is made solely to the Group's Board of Directors, 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 New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated and the Group's Board of Directors, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

BDO AUCKLAND.

BDO Auckland
Auckland
New Zealand

19 June 2026

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 throughout the country.



PARTNERS

Ngā Kaitautoko, ngā Hoa



MAINSTREAM



Auckland City
Toyota

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