

ANNUAL REPORT



**HOROWHENUA
KAPITI
RUGBY
FOOTBALL
UNION**

2022



Joel Winterburn
Heartland Player of the Year



Sonny Woodmass
Heartland Most Improved Player of the Year



Sean Pape
Heartland Most Promising Player

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Annual General Meeting Agenda and Obituaries

Notice is hereby given that the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union will be held:

Wednesday 2nd December 2020 commencing 7pm
At the Rāhui Football & Sports Club, 167 Mill Road, Jim Spiers Lane, Otaki

Agenda:

Roll Call of Delegates
Apologies
Obituaries
Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
To receive, and adopt the Annual Report
Financial Report
Election of President
Election of Patron
Re-Election of Independent Director
Appointment of Auditor
Life Membership
General Business

Obituaries as advised by Clubs and Affiliated members

Darryl Small (ex HKRFU Auditor and Sponsor)
Colin Bruhn, Peter Trotter (Levin Athletic)

Signed by:
Corey Kennett
Chief Executive Officer
Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union

Minutes of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Annual General Meeting held Wednesday 4th of December 2019, 7pm at the Paraparaumu Rugby Football Club, Aorangi Road, Paraparaumu Domain, Paraparaumu

Present: John Mowbray (Chairman), Kathy Grey, Lindsay Walker, Brett Karipa, Ged Eller, Gerald De Castro, John Duthie, Tracey Benefield, Phil Benefield, Rex Kerr, John Cribb, Mike Fitzgerald, Geordie Sweetman, Angela Moore, Brian Moore, Errol Macdonald, Slade Sturmeay, Richard Mansell, Andre Baker, Ernie Timms, Nathan Guy, Jane Mowbray, Tony Bailey, Corey Kennett, Linda Morgan, Aleni Feagaiga, Ryan Shelford, Cameron Prouting, Brittany Andrew,

John Mowbray welcomed everyone to the 126th AGM of HKRFU.

The voting delegates roll call was confirmed.

Apologies: Peter Hunt, Irene Eruera-Taiapa, Brian Singleton, Rob Benefield, Nina Hori Te Pa, John Williams, Yhan Franks, Robin Hapi

T. Bailey/J. Duthie

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held Tuesday 4th December 2018 were adopted as a true and correct record.

K. Grey/T. Bailey
Carried

Matters Arising:

NIL

To receive and adopt the 2019 Annual Report:

John Mowbray said other than the Chairman's, CEO and Financial Report to discuss.

G. Sweetman/J. Duthie
Carried

Chairman's Report:

John Mowbray said we have had a successful year for the Union, not so much the Heartland team though. Our player numbers are up, we have developed Women's rugby and had a successful club rugby competition. John Mowbray thanked everyone, it has been a tremendous year, and this is the last meeting as the HKRFU Chairman. John Mowbray thanked John Cribb and Errol Macdonald for stepping in when needed and thanked Corey and the HK Staff.

No questions were asked

CEO Report:

Corey mentioned a few highlights from his report to speak of tonight. The heartland team missed out on the semi-finals coming in 9th place. The club finals day was a superb day and the women's competition was fantastic played in great spirit with the emphasis on participation rather than performance. Corey thanked the volunteers for giving up their time for the Union. Corey thanked the HK staff for their drive and dedication to the Union. Corey thanked John Mowbray for his 15 years of service to the Union. John Mowbray was presented with a Nua Jersey and a Tankard to mark 15 years as the HKRFU Chairman, presented by Corey. John Mowbray said he feels very humbled and is proud to represent the Nua, John Mowbray said he is leaving in a good space and wished the Nua all the best.

No questions were asked

Nathan Guy arrived at 7.15pm

Financial Report:

Corey said he is happy to produce an 11th consecutive surplus and to provide as much rugby as we can but also stay within our means.

Financial Report tabled and is proposed to be taken as read.

K. Grey/J. Duthie
Carried

Tracey Benefield asked a few questions about the accounts. Tracey asked what the Management expenses were? Corey replied, that is the Heartland Management costs. Other expenses, Corey said that is general and staff expenses. Repairs and Maintenance of Vehicle Expenses, Corey said we have a contra agreement for vehicle hire with Horowhenua Motors for staff vehicles and we pay the maintenance for them.

Phil Benefield asked about the Referee's Expenses. Corey said the costs are for expenses and their annual travel grant, catering for home games, expenses for travel to Super Rugby matches etc. Brittany Andrew (Referee Education Officer) wages are not in there and not all expenses for the referees are in this area.

John Mowbray congratulated Corey on the financials and said keep up the good record.

Election of Patron: John Williams
No further nominations

J. Mowbray/J. Duthie
Carried

Independent Director:

John Mowbray said that Errol Macdonald is resigning this year. We advertised the Independent Director position in the newspaper and the Board of Directors recommend Nathan Guy be appointed as the new Independent Director.

J. Cribb/K. Grey
Carried

Nathan acknowledged John Mowbray and Errol Macdonald for the commitments to HKRFU and for their long service. Nathan acknowledged Corey for another successful year and is looking forward to getting involved and utilise his skillset around the table.

Appointment of Auditor:

Fluker Denton are proposed to be re-appointed as Auditor.

J. Mowbray/G. Sweetman

Proposed Constitutional Changes:

The proposed changes were tabled at the meeting.

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7.3 President. A President of the Union shall be elected at every second Annual General Meeting for a term of two years. The President has the right to attend and to speak at General Meetings and at meetings of the Rugby Committee **and Board** but does not have the right to vote.

Additional Wording: and Board

K. Grey/J. Duthie
Carried

Page 8.

10. (b) The Board of Directors

(i) the Board will meet a minimum of **eight** times a year.

Change: eight to six times a year

J. Duthie/L. Walker
Carried

**Page 14.
Rugby Committee**

(c) the Rugby Committee shall meet on at least **four** occasions during each year at a time...

Change: four to ten

T. Bailey/G. Sweetman
Carried

Obituaries Recorded:

No further obituaries were recorded

Members stood for a moment's silence.

General Business:

John Cribb said it has been a great 15 years with John Mowbray (unopposed) as Deputy Chairman. We were the last Union to form a Board. John Cribb also thanked Corey and the staff for their work, the players this year are making higher honours and that is a credit to our Union, and we haven't had a deficit for a long time. John Cribb also acknowledged Jane Mowbray.

John Cribb asked Kathy to present John Mowbray with the life member badge.

Nomination for Life Membership: It was proposed that John Mowbray be awarded Life Membership.

J. Cribb/J. Duthie

Carried

Errol Macdonald spoke about John Mowbray and their history together as Chairman and Deputy Chairman. Errol congratulated John on his Life Membership nomination and wished John Mowbray all the best with his future endeavours.

John Mowbray thanked Errol Macdonald, John Cribb and Corey. John Mowbray said, it is an honour to be presented with the badge of Life Membership and has enjoyed his time. John Mowbray is proud to be a part of the Nua. John Mowbray thanked everyone else at the meeting and his wife Jane.

Andre Baker stood up and spoke in Te Reo Maori, acknowledging John & Jane Mowbray, and thanked John Mowbray for the work he has done for HKRFU.

Geordie asked, no offence to John Cribb but are we voting for a new chairman tonight? John Mowbray said as per the constitution, after this meeting there is a Rugby Committee meeting with one order of business which is the election of Chairperson. This is not an AGM agenda; it is following the AGM and has not changed in 15 years.

John Mowbray thanked everyone for attending tonight.

Meeting closed at 7.43pm



CLUB RUGBY CHAMPIONS



Chairman's Report

E nga pae maunga, e nga mana whenua e nga reo, me nga karangatanga maha o te takiwa o Horowhenua Kapiti kei te mihi. E whakaaro tonu matou ki a ratou o te wahi ngaro haere, haere okioki mai ra. Kati I konei Paimarire. Tatou te hunga ora e tau nei tena koutou tena koutou Katoa. It gives me great pleasure to present to you all the 127th Annual Report and my very first as your Chairperson of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

This season would be one that will never be forgotten and was never part of our plan because COVID-19 was upon us and like every other sporting body we had to prepare for the worst case scenario. Health and wellbeing were our highest priority, and we were incredibly grateful to be able to organise a shortened club season but due to financial constraints of the NZRFU, the Heartland Championship was cancelled for 2020. With no Heartland Competition we also cancelled all other representative team games and replaced where possible development days for our lower grades.

Congratulations to Rāhui for winning the Premier Competition in a remarkably close encounter with Shannon and once again College Old Boys continued their winning form in the Senior Reserve Grade Competition for the 4th year running. What great finals and a credit to both teams especially playing the most important game of the year with no spectators. We were also able to run a woman's rugby competition which is getting stronger and stronger each year and the Rāhui Club fielded a strong winning team to take out the women's competition as well.

Although we did not compete in a Heartland competition, we still managed to arrange 4 fixtures for the Heartland team that included 2 games with Wairarapa and one match against Whanganui that included challenges for the Bruce Steel Cup and the PGG Wrightson Cup. For the first time for some years a match was also arranged against Central Hawkes Bay. These 4 matches allowed the team to develop new players to Heartland rugby because no loan players were used. Congratulations to all those players that made their debut and once again we thank those committed players who made themselves available. The team itself got better and better in each game but due to a shortened club season the preparation around our lack of fitness certainly showed.

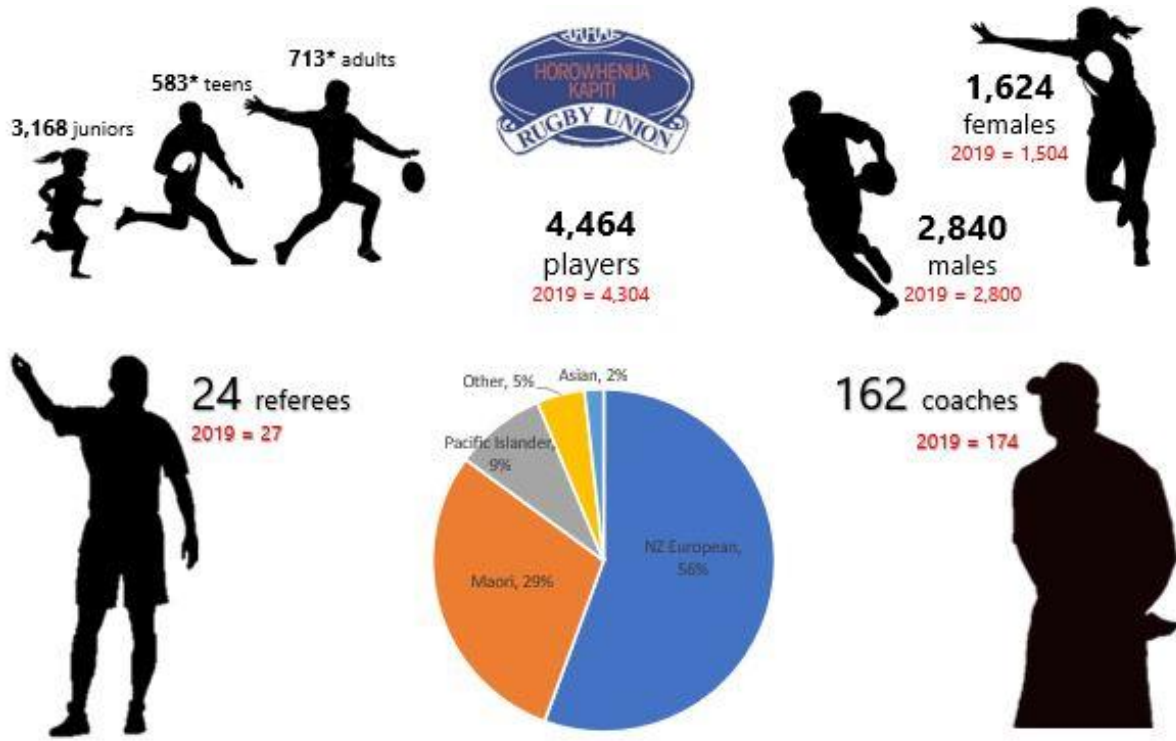
To our referees in which we are incredibly grateful, we thank them for their time and commitment week after week and congratulations to both referees who controlled the club finals. Like our players, they had a great game with the whistle. It was also well received to see our top referees and their supporting officials involved in the 3 Heartland fixtures we had at home. My challenge goes out to all retiring players and clubs to encourage them to return to the game and support our referees and pick up the whistle. Once again, we thank you all for your support and look forward to working closely with you in the 2021 season. A special thanks to all our volunteers throughout our Union, the Junior Saturday Morning Rugby, the Clubs, Coaches, Players, Management, Physio's, Administrators, Parents and Supporters. Rugby's survival is always dependant on volunteers and without all those that give up their time for our great game that allows our Union to prosper, I thank you.

To our sponsors and funding partners, the season was not what we were normally use to and as a result many sponsors were happy to take a break and look forward to supporting us in

2021. To those few sponsors that did remain and continue their support we acknowledge your generosity, and we look forward to your continued participation for 2021.

To my fellow Board of Directors and the Rugby Committee members, I am grateful that we all faced this epidemic crisis that came upon us and we got through the year knowing our health and wellbeing was paramount. Our Zoom meetings were a great replacement during lockdown, and we believe Zoom hui's are here to stay. The year at the beginning was particularly challenging not knowing if we would take the field or would we be able to come through the season financially. From what I understand from Club Delegates, pretty much all clubs came through the season financially well.

Our thanks must also go out to our staff who not only served us well but with distinction. The budget preparation following COVID-19 changed regularly and I am certain Corey was pulling his hair out at every obstacle he faced. Somehow he has not shown any wear and tear in that area however the Board believed in Corey and his team and we were committed in keeping everyone on board. I am certain, from different comments around the different Unions, that we were the only Union that did not make any staff redundant and we maintained our business throughout the season. Below and on the next page are our participation numbers in summary so I can share with you where HKRFU are at and how we got there. This would also explain why our financials as you would have already seen in the audit records our biggest profit in the history of our Union. What a great measure on all of us especially our staff and their commitment that enabled the union to prosper this season.



Playing Numbers by Age

Provincial Union	2019				2020				2020 %			
	0-12	13 - 18	19+	Total	0-12	13 - 18	19+	Total	0-12	13 - 18	19+	Total
Auckland RFU	12926	5711	3954	22591	10922	5452	3291	19665	84.5%	95.5%	83.2%	87.0%
Bay Of Plenty Rugby Union	7683	2027	2325	12035	6623	1930	2159	10712	86.2%	95.2%	92.9%	89.0%
Buller RFU Inc	327	211	250	788	313	142	194	649	95.7%	67.3%	77.6%	82.4%
Canterbury RFU	7218	3428	3925	14571	6958	3438	3484	13880	96.4%	100.3%	88.8%	95.3%
Counties Manukau RFU	5002	1487	1719	8208	3551	1367	1608	6526	71.0%	91.9%	93.5%	79.5%
East Coast RFU	223	90	319	632	178	95	357	630	79.8%	105.6%	111.9%	99.7%
Hawkes Bay RFU	3239	1530	1668	6437	3115	1661	1599	6375	96.2%	108.6%	95.9%	99.0%
Horowhenua Kapiti RFU	3168	524	612	4304	3168	583	713	4464	100.0%	111.3%	116.5%	103.7%
King Country RFU	2580	569	357	3506	1253	428	352	2033	48.6%	75.2%	98.6%	58.0%
Manawatu RFU	2329	1523	1395	5247	1922	1500	1140	4562	82.5%	98.5%	81.7%	86.9%
Mid Canterbury RU	1293	275	530	2098	1268	268	494	2030	98.1%	97.5%	93.2%	96.8%
North Harbour RFU	6818	1714	1524	10056	4366	1614	1505	7485	64.0%	94.2%	98.8%	74.4%
North Otago RFU	471	260	338	1069	452	219	262	933	96.0%	84.2%	77.5%	87.3%
Northland RFU	4228	1697	1833	7758	3058	1197	1537	5792	72.3%	70.5%	83.9%	74.7%
Otago RFU	4203	1950	1907	8060	3384	2015	1850	7249	80.5%	103.3%	97.0%	89.9%
Poverty Bay RFU	1233	785	517	2535	1335	785	440	2560	108.3%	100.0%	85.1%	101.0%
Rugby Southland	2466	1102	1493	5061	2353	1077	1340	4770	95.4%	97.7%	89.8%	94.3%
South Canterbury RFU	1168	668	623	2459	1121	676	587	2384	96.0%	101.2%	94.2%	96.9%
Taranaki RFU	3803	1512	1143	6458	1309	546	856	2711	34.4%	36.1%	74.9%	42.0%
Tasman RFU	3378	1028	1157	5563	2852	942	1023	4817	84.4%	91.6%	88.4%	86.6%
Thames Valley RFU	1257	642	666	2565	917	495	547	1959	73.0%	77.1%	82.1%	76.4%
Waikato RFU	5770	2635	2559	10964	4678	2473	2201	9352	81.1%	93.9%	86.0%	85.3%
Wairarapa Bush RFU	1203	421	749	2373	992	351	665	2008	82.5%	83.4%	88.8%	84.6%
Wanganui RFU	1226	547	678	2451	1030	459	662	2151	84.0%	83.9%	97.6%	87.8%
Wellington RFU	5069	2891	2963	10923	4263	2346	2640	9249	84.1%	81.1%	89.1%	84.7%
West Coast RFU	622	205	234	1061	468	252	178	898	75.2%	122.9%	76.1%	84.6%
Grand Total	88903	35432	35438	159773	71850	32310	31684	135844	80.8%	91.2%	89.4%	85.0%

Nga mihi
John Cribb
 Chairman

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Hello All,

I am very proud to present the Chief Executive Officer's 2020 Annual report for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

2020 will be forever remembered as the year that COVID-19 hit not only our Country, but the World. 2020 will go down as one of the most challenging years not only in New Zealand's sporting environment, but in the history of the country. When COVID-19 hit, and then consequently the lockdown, the first few weeks were spent contemplating the possibility of having no rugby at all during 2020. Sport, rightly so, was not the priority as the safety and wellbeing of our members and their whanau was number one. Once it became clear that we were possibly going to get some sort of rugby activity on the field, we enacted planning that had been devised during the lockdown to have rugby in every area that we normally do. The actual rugby product might look different, but still rugby. Even with the specter of COVID-19 hanging over our heads this year, 2020 has been another good year for rugby in the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union.

At a recent New Zealand Rugby Union meeting for provincial Chairman and CEO's, it was unanimously agreed that the financial stability of rugby within New Zealand is the number one concern for all unions. The rationale behind this belief is that if you don't have a strong financial structure then you won't be able to survive and in turn, won't be able to achieve any other objectives you might have.

The HKRFU has a sound financial structure and because of that I am extremely pleased to say that we have posted our 12th consecutive financial surplus this year, a record surplus of \$211,599. Although this is our 12th consecutive financial surplus, this is never easy to achieve. Normally there is ongoing pressure to continue our schedule of events with increased spending on rugby programs, but with all but one of our representative teams not playing games, our expenditure was drastically reduced in this space. We managed to increase our revenue compared to 2019, which in itself is a major achievement, and reduced our expenditure by over 20%. Our revenue generation was significantly aided by having 75% of our charitable trust revenue gathered before COVID-19 arrived and closed all charitable trust income opportunities for several months. I am extremely happy that we managed to complete all we did this year but still live within our means. The subject of funding and the issue of securing it, dominates the overwhelming majority of my time. NZRU have informed me that HKRFU are the only Heartland Provincial Union that has managed to achieve 12 consecutive financial surpluses. I would like to thank the HKRFU Board, led by Chairman John Cribb, for their support in making this achievement possible and to all in our rugby community who understand that we must live within our means to stay financially responsible and viable.

The 2020 benchmarking information for participation figures were recently released by NZRU. I'm very proud that in this crazy environment of COVID-19, we have managed to be the best performing Provincial Union in the Country. Quite an amazing performance, here is the brief analysis: - **2020 Playing Numbers: - 0-12** – equal with 2019, one of only two unions to do so. Highest number of 0-12 across all Heartland Unions and more 0-12 players than Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Northland, Southland, Taranaki, Tasman. **13-18** – increase of

11.3%, second highest percentage increase nationally in this age range. **19+** - increase of 16.5%, highest percentage increase nationally in this age range. Highest number of 19+ players across all Heartland Unions, **Total numbers** – up 3.7%, highest percentage increase nationally. **Gender** – We are the only Union to increase both Males and Females. **Female Players** – Third highest number of females playing rugby, only behind Auckland and Bay of Plenty. **Male Players** – Highest percentage increase in male players nationally. A huge amount of credit goes to our very hard-working development staff who drive a lot this, thank you very much.

The Heartland team had a tough year this year with no Heartland Championship, but I was thrilled to be able to arrange four games, three first class, to be played. Although we had a record of three losses and one win from four games, it certainly wasn't through a lack of effort by the Management Team or players. A big thank you to the Management Team of Aleni, Chris, Debbie, Tommy and T.J. I was lucky enough to see the hard work and commitment put in by these people up close this year, we are indeed fortunate to have people like this involved with the Heartland team.

On November the 30th 2019, we hosted the Central Zone 7's at Playford Park. This was a great event that included provincial 7's teams from as far away as Poverty Bay and Taranaki. It was fantastic to see both men's and women's teams representing Horowhenua Kapiti this year. I was very proud of our staff and the product that we produced, well done. This was our 5th and last time hosting the CZ 7's, NZRU recently announced that all Regional tournaments and the National Sevens Finals will cease to be held.

There was another good year of club rugby held this year within Horowhenua Kapiti. The Premier and Senior Reserve grades were both very competitive with semi-finalists only being confirmed in the last few weeks of round robin play. Sadly, we were only four days short of being able to host a brilliant Club Finals day when the second lockdown hit, and the Finals had to be played behind closed doors. It was really nice to see the spirit of the Finalists in just getting on with the challenge of having no supporters present and focusing on their matches. Congratulations Foxton, Levin College Old Boys, Rāhui & Shannon for being involved in a unique day. Special congratulations to Rāhui for their victory in the Premier grade and to Levin College Old Boys for winning the Senior Reserve grade.

This year also saw another year of the Club Women's Competition. This great initiative was spearheaded by Ryan Shelford and was a huge success. It was great to see so many Women playing rugby and many for the first time ever. The competition was played in great spirit with the emphasis on participation rather than performance. Congratulations to Rāhui and College Old Boys for making the Final and to Rāhui for winning the title.

HKRFU Junior rugby had another year of providing our budding players with regular fun and enjoyment. It is always very heart-warming to attend Junior games and watch the children enjoy the purest form of the game. Thank you to all the members of the JMB and volunteers (especially parents) who make this possible.

It was brilliant to see so many of our Rugby Community attend our end of year prizegiving on November the 18th. I am very proud of the event we produce and I'm very grateful for the lovely messages of thanks we received from a lot of you. I like how we can come together and enjoy each other's company, celebrate successes and recognise the very hard work that

all of you put in to make it possible for our great game to be played. Congratulations to all the award winners and to the nominees for being nominated, it pleases me to see people being nominated by the clubs and associations that they work so hard for. A major thankyou to the Cossie Club, we have been having our function there for over 15 years and they are always great hosts.

The HKRFU is very fortunate to have great sponsors, thank you to all of them. HKRFU is very lucky to have long standing relationships with a large amount of our sponsors and I urge all of the rugby community to support our sponsors where possible, as they have supported us with their very generous contributions.

Thank you also to our Charitable Trust funding partners. Thank you to NZCT, Lion Foundation, Pelorus Trust, Infinity Trust, Pub Charity, Eastern & Central Trust, One Foundation, NZ Racing Board, and the Southern Trust. We would not be able to do the things we do without your support, thank you.



Refereeing is critical to the rugby community. I would like to thank all of the referee's that gave up their time to make sure that rugby is played in our province.

Thank you to Stu Taylforth and his executive for their dedication and hard work, and Stu Beissel for his representation of the Referees at a Rugby Committee level.

Thank you to all the volunteers of the Rugby Committee and the Board. Your Union is indebted to you for the time you have donated and for the direction you have provided.

To my staff of Aleni, Britt, Cam, Linda, and Ryan, thank you very much. The HKRFU have great staff who work very hard in serving their Union. Under the most trying of circumstances this year, you have managed to surpass your normal exceptional service, you have produced a year high in quality and one that I am very proud of. The dedication I see in you shows to me how much you love this Union and how much you love your jobs. Your drive and effort are hugely appreciated. The quality of your work was amazing; I am very proud of you.

Lastly, to all the volunteers from all areas, I offer you my thanks and respect. To the clubs, players, coaches, managers, physio's, referees, supporters, administrators, parents, and anyone who gives up their time freely for our great game, I thank you.

Yours in Rugby
Corey Kennett
Chief Executive Officer



President's Report

In such a weird year due to COVID-19, 2020 saw one of the best senior club rugby competitions for some years. It was a very close and even contest for most of the season. Congratulations to Rāhui for taking out the Ramsbotham Cup Premier competition in a close final against Shannon. Congratulations also to Levin College Old Boys on winning the Bill Muir Cup Senior Reserve competition for the fourth year in a row after beating Foxton in their final.

The shortened Heartland season has once again provided a fantastic opportunity for our representative players to play teams from our neighbouring Heartland Unions, Whanganui and Wairarapa Bush, along with a warm-up game against Central Hawkes Bay. One of the highlights was seeing games be played at venues outside of our traditional home ground, the Levin Domain, and both Athletic RFC and Shannon RFC hosted fantastic days at Playford Park and Shannon Domain respectively. Our Heartland team were not as successful this year as opposed to our last couple of Heartland seasons however, I'm sure they will bounce back next season after a lot of talent was blooded this year.

My many thanks to Chief Executive Officer, Corey Kennett, and his staff Aleni Feagaiga, Ryan Shelford, Linda Morgan, Cameron Prouting and Brittany Andrew for the work you have done this year.

Happy Christmas and New Year all the best for 2021.

Kind Regards
Gerald De Castro
HKRFU President



Community Rugby Manager's Report

Talofa lava, it gives me great pleasure to present the Community Rugby Manager 2020 Annual report.

What a year 2020 has been, trying to get through this year with the added pressures of COVID-19 has been very trying for everyone involved in our game but I feel truly blessed at what we were able to do and the space we find ourselves currently in comparison to many other countries around the world struggling to get the virus under control. I know we are still trying to figure out what the new norm is moving forward in our game, but on a positive note I believe we have the opportunity to have a good look at our game and see how we can make changes to really develop and grow our game for our rugby community going forward.

Junior and Secondary School rugby has once again been fantastic. I would like to thank all the Club Junior Convenor's and Secondary School Teachers in Charge of Rugby for your continued hard work and dedication throughout the year. Given the struggles we have gone through this year and the hoops we have had to jump through just to get our teams on the field has been all worth it. I have enjoyed working with you all once again.

Our club competition this year was as tight as ever with Levin COB winning the Senior Reserve Competition and Rāhui for winning the Premier Competition, both finals although being played under COVID-19 Level 2 restrictions with no spectators were both a fitting end to what has been an outstanding club competition. Our Women's competition has seen a great growth in skill level and understanding of the game from all involved. Congratulations to Rāhui for winning this year's competition beating Levin COB and going back to back.

Congratulations to Knox Tuinasau (Paraparaumu College 1st XV) who was selected to the Hurricanes U18 camp in Napier. Congratulations must also go to former Rāhui and Otaki player Rangimarie Sturmey who now attends Feilding High School who also was selected as part of the first group of female players to attend the Hurricanes U18 Camp. Both players performed very well during the camp.

To conclude my report, I would like to thank all our hardworking volunteers who willingly sacrifice their time and energy to ensure that rugby stays alive in all areas of community rugby. A massive thank you for being a part of a wonderful 2020 and look forward to doing it all over again in 2021, whatever this may look like.

Yours in rugby

Aleni Feagaiga

Community Rugby Manager

Womens Club Rugby



Rugby Development Officer's Report

In what has been the weirdest year for the world with the COVID-19 pandemic, I take time writing my report to reflect on 2020. March we were told that there was a possibility no rugby would take place in 2020, working through contingency plan after contingency plan with Primary School, Junior Club, Secondary School and Senior Club Rugby, having dates move week to week and not knowing what the rugby landscape was going to look like on the other side of lockdown was all unnerving and frustrating. Luckily for us here in New Zealand the world returned to normal or a “new normal” pretty quickly and rugby was back on the cards, within days of Alert level 3 being lifting and due to the great relationships with our stakeholders we were back in most areas of rugby within days and more importantly able to buy coffees.

We managed to revive all our rugby programmes and provide rugby in all areas of our “normal” Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby season and we actually saw an increase in players throughout a number of our competitions. Obviously, there was a “new normal” both our Men’s and Women’s Club competitions were shorter. Congratulations to the Rāhui Rugby Football Club in their victory’s in both the Premier Men and Women’s competitions. Secondary School and Junior club dates were moved around to find the best window to play in. Congratulations to the Kapiti College Secondary School Girls for making a Semi-Final in the Wellington Competition, also congratulations Otaki College Under 15’s for making a Semi-Final in their grade. Lastly to Paraparaumu College Under 55kg, Under 65kg for making the Final in their grades and to the Paraparaumu Under 15’s for winning their final, coaches were very happy with their season. I’d like to acknowledge these coaches Kapiti Under 18’s Michael Stokes, Otaki Under 15’s Clarry Enoka, Paraparaumu Under 55kg Stu Duncan, Under 65kg Blair Harley and Grant Williams with his Under 15’s.

In terms of Representative Rugby with all representative teams being cancelled and in place our Rugby Development Officers hosted development days for each grade. Our Horowhenua Kapiti Heartland Team was the only team to get games this season, playing competition games for the Bruce Steel and the PGG Wrightson Cup, four games in total with 3 games being first class.

Thank you to all volunteers this year, coaches, managers, secondary school, and club volunteers. To our Board and Rugby Committee thank you for your guidance and leadership through 2020, without good leader’s rugby might not have been so successful. Thank you to the Leadership of Corey Kennett our CEO, he leads the ship well and his guidance through the toughest/strangest year in recent times has been unwavering.

Kindest Regards

Ryan Shelford

Rugby Development Officer

Club Development Officer's Report

Another year gone by too fast and definitely an unusual one with COVID-19.

In March before lockdown, I was able to host a (non-assessed workshop) First Aid course along with facilitator Lesley Kidd from Links Training for the club members. A huge thank you to those who attended, it was an awesome evening.

Once we got back to the office after lockdown, I was approached about an initiative Kapiti Coast District Council and Hutt City Council had to offer "Go the H2O Water Only Side-lines" junior player of the day reward. A junior player of the day receives a certificate with the club's logo and a free swim at their local aquatic centre. The basis behind the certificate is to promote a healthy message and for the clubs to promote "water only" side-lines.

I was lucky enough to invite Alex Ness (Te Hurihanga Advisor) from NZRU and do a brief session on Child Protection during a Small Blacks course held at the Hohepa (Harry) Jacob Centre. This was a great opportunity to take advantage of the audience that were there and thank you to Alex and the Coaches/Managers for their time.

Club Rugby Finals was an abnormal day without spectators but thank you to everyone for their understanding under the COVID-19 level 2 restrictions. There was a lot of uncertainty of whether rugby was going to be played at all this year. Congratulations to Levin College Old Boys for winning the Bill Muir Cup and Rāhui for winning the Ramsbotham Cup. Unfortunately, Donna Sayer and the Ramsbotham whanau were unable to attend and present the re-named trophy to Rāhui, but I was able to put a blurb in the programme to show their gratitude to the Union and teams on behalf of the whanau and we look to have them attend next year to present the Ramsbotham Cup to the 2021 winners.

Thank you to our referees who were able to assist this year, we really appreciate your contribution to rugby. Congratulations to the refs that were able to move up the ranks as well. A special thanks to Stu Beissel, who made appointments easier this year with suggestions. I look forward to working with you all next year.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and prize winners at our HKRFU Annual Prizegiving, another fantastic night had by all.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved this year, HKRFU Staff, Board of Directors, Rugby Committee, Referee's Association, Coaches, Managers and our volunteers who stand by us. Without your continuous help we would not be able to make things possible.

I look forward to seeing you all next year, have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind Regards

Linda Morgan

Accounts Officer/Club Development Officer

Community Rugby Assistant's Report

What a year we have had in 2020. We started off the year planning as usual but then COVID-19 hit, and we faced the prospect of no rugby at all. The landscape of rugby in our country was changing almost daily and we were very fortunate to still have rugby in almost every area that we normally would.

The Rippa Rugby programme continued to be a hugely popular initiative to grow rugby throughout our schools and region. With the alert levels we were in it was tough to get all schools involved in tournaments but the teachers and principals love our programme and organisation as well as the competitiveness and fair play that was shown when kids were playing.

In July, I launched a new programme called Scrum School to help provide some front row specific training to our up and coming front rowers around the region. We were lucky to have the guru and former All Blacks scrum coach, Mike Cron, running a session at Playford Park for our coaches and players. This session was also made possible through the amazing facilities we have at Playford Park and our Community Rugby Centre. We had around 60 coaches and players attend, predominantly secondary school players and coaches which was great as development at this level is a huge focus of Scrum School. Other resource coaches who ran sessions this year included Chris Wilton, Dan Cron, Darren Larsen and Reggie Goodes. We have some exciting sessions lined up for 2021 and are going to build on the work put in by the players. One of the cool things was that the players took something different away from every session, they weren't just turning up and getting the same session each time.

We were fortunate to have Umbrella Multimedia, Beach FM and Oriana TV come on board this year to live stream a feature club rugby game each week. Having commentators, multiple cameras and on-screen graphics provided an awesome experience watching and the average viewership was around 8,000 views per game. It also meant we were able to live stream our Ramsbotham Cup Premier Competition with ease under COVID-19 alert level 2. A big congratulations to Rāhui Premiers and Levin College Old Boys Senior Reserves for winning their grades against Shannon and Foxton respectively. Rāhui Premiers had an amazing season and credit goes to their club who have won the Women's championship back-to-back, the Ramsbotham Cup Premier competition and semi-finalists in the Bill Muir Cup.

I would like to thank all the volunteers in clubs, schools and the rugby community for all of your hard work throughout the 2020 season. Bring on 2021 and a return to some form of rugby normality!

Kind Regards

Cameron Prouting

Community Rugby Assistant



Heartland Report

This annual Report will be presented in three stages and a summary representing the challenging year that was 2020.

Pre-season

This year we had an early start with December fitness training. Fitness was identified as one of the work-ons in 2019. We provided several tests including anaerobic and aerobic in a variety of ways in the hope to both motivate players and to gauge their desire to wear the Heartland jersey. These were held every first Tuesday of the month. We had an encouraging start with having over 15 players. It must be said that the bulk of these attendees were the younger players coming through such as Sean Pape, Illisoni Rauhihi and the like however David McErlean (over 45 caps) was probably our most regular and committed player. We were able to have 4 of these sessions which were recorded and results shared with the players until lockdown. As we all know this definitely put a halt to our momentum and created a lot of uncertainty around the season.

Club Season

Through some thorough work around communication by our manager Tom Zimmerman, we were able to contact every club in our union and offer our services not only as a Heartland Coaching group but as a whole management team to be a resource to each club and their coaches. It was emphasised that we were at their complete disposal which may have consisted of anything from observations and feedback, coaching and demonstrating



aspects of the game that the coach thought was required or in some cases taking the whole training. This was a model that our relationship with the Hurricanes coaches has enhanced and built on. This was extremely successful with all but one club taking up the offer. We found this mutually beneficial on a number of levels. Building relationships with the coaches and players was particularly rewarding as well as having time to encourage the players to strive to play for our union. I felt we were more informed when selecting the final squad through this process and we look forward to continuing this in 2021.

Representative Season

Our first game vs Wairarapa Bush was a wake-up call for many of our players. They were put under pressure in a very short period of time (2 weeks) to learn things such as game plan strategy, ruck attack and defence policies, lineout calls etc just to name a few. On reflection this was a lot to take in and we may have been better to practice on some of the more basic skills that were lacking in our first hit out and loss to the Bush. Aspects such as ball retention and recycling were high on the list and a strong emphasis on these skills were made at training in the following weeks. Central Hawkes Bay was a good chance to cement some belief in what we were trying to achieve and although we found them not quite up to Heartland

standards it was a game that built confidence in the team. The improvements kept coming as we were in the games at half time in both our finals games vs Whanganui (HT 10-3) and Wairarapa Bush (HT 21-19). However, on both occasions we were unable to keep up the intensity and control for 80 minutes.

There were a number of debutants used this year and we had many challenges as Heartland Team. I was extremely proud of the local players who stepped up and feel confident they all improved as rugby players and people through being in the environment provided by our management team.



There were many learnings for everyone involved in both our new management team and new players in 2020. We will use this new knowledge to implement better strategies and actions as we strive to win the Meads Cup in 2021.

Naku Na
Chris Wilton
Heartland Coach





Men's Sevens Report

The 2019/20 Sevens campaign was a short season for our Men's side, heading straight into Central Regional 7's with a number of players who were new to the side. This was also the first year we were able to enter both a women's and men's team into the Tournament, so it was great to play alongside our Women's team.

Although our results at Regionals weren't what we wanted, the experience our young men gained from the tournament will hold them in good stead going forward, and they would have learnt a lot about what it takes to foot it at this level.

Our Men's team had a difficult time not being able to keep up with the pace during their pool play matches but did push Wairarapa Bush in their Semi Final in the 5th – 8th placed teams. Our young and relatively new squad learnt a lot from the experience playing against some good opposition.

Men's Results

Vs Taranaki Lost 45-0

Vs Wanganui Lost

Vs Hawkes Bay Lost 40-5

Vs Wairarapa Bush Lost 31-19 (5th-8th Play off)

Congratulations to Sharn Rohloff who received the Horowhenua Kapiti Sevens Player of the Year and also becomes the first female player to receive the award. Congratulations to Shae Gray (Men's) and Mahina Cullinan (Women's) who were also finalists for the award.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank both men's and women's playing squads and their respective management for their dedication to the Sevens 2019/20 programme.



Kind Regards

Men's 7's Team Management

Women's Sevens Report

With the successful introduction of the internal women's club competition in 2019, so began the process of selection of our first women's 7's team. With a mixture of fresh young talent & players returning after many absent years of rugby, coaches Ryan Shelford & Hayden Beissel had a good platform to navigate the road ahead to the team's debut at the Central Regional 7's.

With hard work, a willingness to learn & often the rearranging of family lives along the way came a team with great promise to represent our province. Leading up to regional tournament the team played their first 7's tournament at the Wellington 7's. This tournament was at times a harsh reminder of the quality of women's rugby in our region but also reassurance that we had a competitive team who had the ability to do well moving forward to Centrals.

Central 7's game day arrived & with it came all sorts of emotions....nerves to perform in front of friends & family as well as games being televised to a national audience, this was an overwhelming feeling for some. The ladies had to dig deep & find the courage & belief they had shown on the path leading up to centrals. With confidence & reassurance from coaches Ryan & Hayden the ladies anxiety eased & with the first blow of the whistle went all the worries of would we be good enough & so came their first win in provincial colours. The team experienced the competitiveness & sheer talent across all teams competing & well deserved results followed for all involved. Having punched well above their weight the team came away from the tournament, not with the overall results they were hoping for but instead an immense sense of pride to represent the province & earning the respect of their team mates, family & rugby peers.

To compete & be competitive against teams who have always been there at provincial & national level, left our players, coaches & management knowing that the future looks bright for women's rugby in our province. It was my pleasure to be involved with such inspirational ladies from all walks of life, their passion & dedication to the game filled me with pride to represent alongside. To Ryan & Hayden, thank you for all the time & effort you put in to coach these ladies & develop our youth coming through. It was a great first season to be involved with HK women's rugby & I hope to be involved in many more to come. Congratulations to all who were involved this season, either on the field or behind the scenes. One thing that stood out for me this season was how proud we all are to represent Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby.

Kind Regards

Janine McKnight

Team Manager

Secondary School's Report

In 2020 despite the obvious issues faced, the local colleges still managed to field 16 rugby teams. The traditional pre-season competitions organised by the HKRFU were unable to go ahead this year. Both the Super 6 & Sevens are normally held during the time we were in lockdown. Once we entered Level 2, rugby was full steam ahead and the teams played in either the Manawatu or Wellington Secondary Schools' Competitions. Due to the impact of COVID-19 these competitions were not only late starting but were also shortened in duration.

Special mention must be made of the achievement of the following teams:

- Paraparaumu College Under 15s for winning their final in the Wellington Competition
- Horowhenua College Under 15s winning their final in the Manawatu Competition
- Paraparaumu College Under 55kg for making a Final in their grade
- Paraparaumu College Under 65kg for making a Final in their grade
- Waiopahu/Horowhenua/Manawatu Combined 1st XV for making the final of the Manawatu Premier 1 Grade
- Kapiti College Secondary School Girls for making a Semi-Final in the Wellington Competition
- Te Rāhui Kura Under 15's for making a Semi-Final in their grade



There are 2 Secondary Schools' players who deserve special mention for their individual achievements in 2020:

- Knox Tuinasau – Selected for Hurricanes U18 Camp
- Dallas McKnight – Selected for Hurricanes Youth Council Sevens Tournament Team

I would like to thank CEO Corey Kennett and his staff for their continued commitment to ensuring resources are put into the development of our schools' players. The Development Staff: Aleni, Cameron and Ryan played key roles post-lockdown in ensuring all colleges had the support needed to get rugby up and running as soon as students returned to school. Having to negotiate the various restrictions imposed by each Alert Level was so much easier for the schools due to the guidance of the NZRU & HKRFU.

Once again in 2020 seeing former Paraparaumu College student Dane Coles & former Horowhenua College student Codie Taylor play for the All Blacks is evidence of the Union's commitment to Secondary School rugby.

Finally, I would like to thank all the referees, parents, teachers, and volunteers who have given up their time to coach, manage or support our Secondary Schools' Teams in 2020.

Kind Regards
Kathy Grey
Chairperson HKSS



Junior Rugby Report

Due to COVID-19, it looked like Junior rugby wasn't going to kick off but due to the lowering of levels, we were able to have a season even though it was shortened. I would like to thank all of the convenors that worked hard over this period to make it happen, especially by keeping all of the players and their whanau safe during this period.

Junior Club Rugby:

Numbers remain constant, but the big thing for our Union is that we are amongst the highest in terms of players being involved. Convenors have a lot to do with this, but we must include the Union workers who put a lot of time into this part as well, thanks to, Aleni, Cameron and Ryan.

Coaching courses:

Turn out for this training is great and I thank all volunteer coaches, managers and parents for attending this valuable part of rugby for our Juniors. What our volunteers put into this is invaluable for our Junior players.

Sideline Behaviour:

The HK rugby community continue to improve in this area, and it seems that we have made some good progress this year. Again, thanks to all for your work in this area, as it is the children we focus on, and if we are mindful of this, then the sideline doesn't become an issue.

Southern Team Relationship:

As each year goes by, this relationship improves. Thanks to the working party for this tireless work, again it is the players that benefit from this activity.



Representative Rugby:

Due to the other Unions no longer having representative rugby for their Juniors, a rep season of playing opponents did not happen. To ensure we capture and continue the development of players, the Union held "development days" for players to attend and improve on their skills. We will have to wait and see as to what happens for 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank Shannon Chambers, Todd Shields, Megan Qaranivalu, Andrea Atutahi, Nicola Wallace, Jarrod Telford, Jane Chamberlain & Jamie Bradbury and Nick Cooper for all of their work during this unprecedented year of Junior rugby and hopefully NZ has been able to avoid further issues for the 2021 season.

Kind Regards

Slade Sturmey

JMB Chair

CLUB FINALS DAY



Primary Schools Rugby Report

2020 and the impact of COVID-19 has meant a disrupted season for Horowhenua Kapiti Primary Schools Rugby. The period from 25th March through to 8th June, which encompassed the level 4 to level 2 lockdown restrictions, saw the Union's Primary Schools program suspended. Particularly significant also was the impact of Wellington Rugby Football Union's decision to remove the Under-13 and below grades, from regional representative rugby; this meant that the Wellington, Hutt Valley and Mana Primary Schools Teams were unable to participate further in the annual Southern North Island Primary Schools Rugby Tournament. As a result, the 2020 Tournament did not take place and HKRFU is now looking to develop a new participation model for the continued development and representation of the Horowhenua-Kapiti Primary Schools Team from 2021.

Notwithstanding the unavailability of this year's tournament, the Union's development staff continued to provide and build on the development strategy around building the participation of primary school students in rugby at both the 'Tackle' and 'Rippa' levels. This report acknowledges the dedication of Aleni, Ryan and Cam to the development program and to growing the relationship between the Union and the 36 primary schools within the Union's catchment.

Grateful thanks also to Aleni, Cam, Corey, Linda and Ryan for their running of the Rippa Rugby programme along with administrative support and assistance throughout what has been a 'very different' year for our primary schools rugby. Let's hope that 2021 provides greater stability and continuity along with the development of new opportunities for our primary schools rugby players.



Kind Regards
Ged Eller
Convenor

Rugby Referee Association Report

The HKRRA had 13 regular referees this year.

Our Referee Education Officer, Brittany Andrew adapted well to the COVID-19 restrictions with the use of Zoom meetings to help kick the season off while we were subject to restrictions.

Linda and the team at the HKRFU continued to provide great assistance drafting appointments, managing changes week to week, and refereeing mid-week games. This support is really appreciated.

We had four active referee coaches who made themselves available to see multiple games on most Saturday's. This meant that at a large percentage of games the referee was supported by a coach. Due to the shortened season there was very little action to develop projects or carry out activities beyond our regular development meetings.

One of New Zealand's professional Referees, Ben O'Keefe joined our association and presented at a development meeting. Talking of experience, Stu Beissel had his first year (of many) representing the association on the Rugby Committee as well as leading our coaching and grading committee. Stu continues to serve the rugby community sharing his wealth of experience with our association.

We split our development meetings between Levin and Waikanae. We would like to thank the Waikanae Rugby Club for allowing us to use their club rooms. We continued to embed the GROW coaching methodology which I believe contributed to several referees making huge improvements during the 2020 season. Low referee numbers continue to be an issue but on the positive side we had three new referees start referring in 2020 and these referees are already contributing to a positive culture among referees.

I would like to thank the union for the support they have provided the referee association, along with the Rugby Committee and clubs. In 2020 we have less sideline issues being reported in 2020 compared to 2019. I also felt that clubs managed reported issues far more positively than the previous year. We will continue to work with clubs to play our part in creating a positive and safe environment for all. Seeking new members and retaining our existing members into 2021 is the most important priority for the association. We have a great membership, who enjoy each other's company and as a result this provides a positive environment to grow as individuals and as an association.

A continued priority for the association is to seek funding for new communication gear. We continue to be grateful for the sponsorship from Kapiti Coast Painting Ltd. The association has some cash reserves which we continue to build. Due to the support of our sponsors we have not had to use any funds for referee social events. With no surety of funding going forward we continue to be cautious and have no planned allocation for these funds.

The HKRRA appreciates the ongoing support of the HKRFU in providing funding to reimburse referees for partial millage costs. The association has used the same expense calculation for

the last four years that was agreed with the union. No increases to the calculations have been made even though travel expenses have increased. Even with the shortened season in 2020 the travel expenses exceed the grant that the union intends to grant.

The association thanks the Union for the continued support provided to fund the Referee Education Officer. Brittany provided a lot of support to the association and she continues to be a valuable resource to ensure that our members get up to date training and information.

Kind Regards
Stu Taylforth
HKRRA Chairman



HKRFU Prizegiving Award Winners List

CLUB AWARDS

Kevin De Castro/KB Swain Trophy - Levin College Old Boys Senior Reserves

Robinson Rosebowl – Shannon Premiers

Club Referee of the Year – Sam Thompson

Supporter of the Year – Bob Wiki

Club Volunteer of the Year – Jane Chamberlain

Saturday Morning Volunteer of the Year – Nicola Wallace

Club Coach of the Year – Slade Sturmey and Makaore Beavan Wilson

REPRESENTATIVE AWARDS

Maori Player of the Year – Joel Winterburn

Sevens Player of the Year – Sharn Rohloff

Heartland Most Promising Player of the Year – Sean Pape

Heartland Most Improved Player of the Year – Sonny Woodmass

Heartland Player of the Year – Joel Winterburn





HAWKESBAY