

ANNUAL REPORT



2021



HOROWHENUA
KAPITI RUGBY
FOOTBALL UNION

Heartland Player of the Year - Bryn Gordon



*Heartland Most Promising
Lennix Tovo*



*Heartland Most Improved
James Gilland*



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Annual General Meeting Agenda and Obituaries

Notice is hereby given that the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union will be held:

Wednesday 1st December 2021 commencing 7pm
At the Shannon Rugby Football Club, 40 Stout Street,
Shannon

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 Patron
Re-Election of Independent Director
Appointment of Auditor
General Business

Obituaries as advised by Clubs and Affiliated members

Dean Whiti (HKRRA)
Rob Lowe (Previous sponsor to HKRFU)
Renee Cooper, David Aitcheson, Brian Webb - Life Member (Paraparaumu RFC)
Steven Wylie, Barry Lyons, Robert MacGregor, Lee Warren (Levin Wanderers RFC)
Phil Manu (Shannon RFC)
Hoko Gardiner (Levin Athletic RFC)
Paulie Rauhihi (Foxton RFC)

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

Minutes of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Annual General Meeting held Wednesday 2nd of December 2020, 7pm at the Rahui Rugby Football Club, Otaki Domain, Otaki

Present: John Cribb (Chairman), Ged Eller, Kathy Grey, Brett Karipa, Geordie Sweetman, Brian Singleton, Richard Mansell, Lindsay Walker, Brian Moore, Hera Noble, Stuart Beissel, Rebekah Hori Te Pa, Paula Mahuinga, Justin Pape, Ernie Timms, Errol Macdonald, John Duthie, Rex Kerr, John Mowbray, John Williams, Johnnie Saunders, Tony Bailey, Matt Easton, Andre Baker, Nathan Guy, Colleen De Castro, Gerald De Castro, Nina Hori Te Pa, Corey Kennett, Linda Morgan, Aleni Feagaiga, Ryan Shelford, Cameron Prouting

Andre Baker opened the meeting with a welcome and a karakia. John Cribb thanked Andre for welcoming the clubs and guests to our meeting and acknowledged Gerald & Colleen De Castro for attending.

The voting delegates roll call was confirmed.

Apologies: Slade Sturmey, Irene Eruera-Taiapa, Amos Telea, Brittany Andrew, Chris Wilton
N. Guy/K. Grey
carried

Obituaries Recorded:
Brian Webb (Paraparaumu)

Members stood for a moment's silence

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2019 were adopted as a true and correct record.

J. Mowbray/G. Sweetman
carried

Matters Arising:

John Cribb welcomed our life members to the meeting, John Williams, John Mowbray, Rex Kerr, Kathy Grey and Brian Moore

To receive and adopt the 2020 Annual Report:

John Cribb said, other than the Chairman's, CEO and Financial report to discuss.

G. Eller/K. Grey
carried

Chairman's Report:

John Cribb talked about club & womens rugby and congratulated everyone that was involved. We were able to have 4 local games for the Heartland team and some of our referee's had the opportunity to referee a Heartland game. The Rugby Committee had zoom meetings during the Covid-19 lockdown and we will look to have more if the agenda is light. John thanked the Board of Directors and the Rugby Committee for getting us through what we thought was a tough season. John thanked Corey and the staff for their work. John referred everyone to page 12 of his report "playing numbers by age". John said, we didn't lose participation numbers and kept our numbers the same, if not more. NZRU payments are being cut next year, and John congratulated Corey and the staff on the work they have done to keep the numbers continuing.

No questions were asked

CEO Report:

Corey said, we can look back on 2020 and the collective effort of the Rugby community. NZRU reduced our funding but we are proud we were able to play. Corey thanked the volunteers for giving up their time for the Union.

No questions were asked

Financial Report:

Corey said out total comprehensive surplus amount is \$211,599. We had an increase in revenue of \$30K and received 75% of our charitable trust funding in the bank before covid hit. The Regional Sport Trust grant and Wage subsidies helped as well. The expenditure was drastically reduced which left us in a better financial position. John Cribb congratulated Corey on producing his 12th consecutive surplus, the only Heartland Union to do so. John C said that we are lucky to have someone that shows great financial care for our Union. Corey said we have had support from the Board and everyone to use the surplus to pay for the Administration Building at the Levin Domain. John Mowbray congratulated the Board for history made with the surplus and asked should the Hohepa (Harry) Jacob building be depreciated? Corey replied, the Board have discussed this and have a policy not to depreciate it as it would go up (appreciate) in value, not depreciate.

John Williams asked about the administration building at the domain if everyone is aware of the land. Corey said, yes everyone is aware. We can put it on piles and move it if we need to and we know we will never own the land. John W asked about the Holiday pay (Employee Costs Payable) is the Board aware of this? John C said yes, we are, and Corey explained he has a lot of leave, and the staff levels of leave are similar if not the same. Corey said his thanks to the staff for their exemplarily efforts, they worked through trying times. Everyone applauded.

Financial Report tabled and taken as read was accepted.

R. Mansell/J. Duthie
carried

Election of President:

Gerald De Castro retired, and the Board have nominated Errol Macdonald.

No further nominations

J. Cribb/K. Grey

Errol thanked everyone for their support.

Election of Patron:

John Williams

J. Cribb/N. Guy

No further nominations

unopposed

Re-election of Independent Director:

John Cribb apologised for not following the constitution and said we had made a mistake not advertising for an independent director. We talked about it earlier in the year but with Covid on hold it was our mistake and we overlooked that the independent director doesn't roll over. The Board recommend that Richard Mansell remain as the independent director for the next two years.

J. Mowbray/G. Sweetman
carried

Appointment of Auditor:

John Cribb said our current auditor Fluker Denton resigned and the Board propose Dennis Blank to be appointed to Audit the HKRFU Annual Accounts.

N. Guy/A. Baker
carried

Honorary Solicitor:

Roger Downey
No further nominations

J. Cribb/J. Williams
carried

Nomination for Life Membership: it was proposed that Gerald De Castro be awarded Life Membership.

J. Cribb/K. Grey
carried

John Cribb said Gerald is a long serving stalwart and asked Kathy to present Gerald with the Life Member badge. Gerald replied, lucky whitebait season is finished and thanked everyone for their support. Corey said Gerald has been involved with Cricket and is a Life Member with the HK Cricket Association. Matt Easton said on behalf of Levin Athletic, we congratulate you for this and you are a stalwart of the Horowhenua sporting teams.

General Business:

John Williams said the shortened season was well received and commend the Union as well, we don't have to play from February to October and this should be taken into consideration next year. Corey said we received the same feedback; the Premiers could start later like the Senior Reserves do. Corey said we spoke to all clubs, and they agreed March would be the start date.

John Cribb thanked everyone for attending tonight.

Meeting closed 7.50pm



CLUB RUGBY CHAMPIONS



Chairman's Report

Korona ki te Atua i runga rawa, he maungarongo ki te mata o te whenua, he whakaaro pai ki nga tangata katoa.

Tena koutou nga kai hautu o nga karapu whutuporo o Horowhenua Kapiti tena koutou katoa.

The club season again was held over two rounds and congratulations to the Levin Athletic Senior Reserves and Paraparaumu Premiers winning the Club Championship.

To all those players that did not participate in the club finals thank you all for making yourself available this season supporting your clubs. If you are considering hanging up your boots for the last time, may I interest you in joining the referee's association and/or coming back into your club as a coach and/or administrator. The future of our Union is in your hands where we need you to add to the many volunteers that give their time to the game we dearly love.

We were very fortunate to be able to compete in a Heartland Competition this season even though it was delayed by four weeks due to Covid. The fixtures that were missed were added on to the end and the 8-match round robin competition remained. What changed was that there was no semi-final and you had to finish in the top 6. It was unfortunate for our Heartland Team to miss a final, having played so well throughout the season. Although they finished 5th equal with 2 other teams the final positions were selected on the teams that scored the most tries.

Once again with a disrupted season and Heartland finishing in November, we were still able to produce a good financial return for the year and I wish to thank our CEO, Corey Kennett, and his staff for their management of the club competition and collating our season's results. Our staff throughout the year has kept us up to speed on how we were tracking and putting in the hard work throughout the Heartland season. A special thank you to our referees your season was very busy for some having to control two games every Saturday. The Union through our Board, our Club Delegates and all our volunteers once again thank you for turning out year after year.

Nga mihi
John Cribb
Chairman

Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am very proud to present the Chief Executive Officer's 2021 Annual report for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

2021 will be remembered as the year that Covid-19 continued its ugly appearance in not only our Country, but the World. 2021 was a challenging year not only in New Zealand's sporting environment, but for the country. When Covid-19 2.0 hit, and then consequently the lockdown, the first few weeks were spent contemplating the possibility of having no representative rugby at all during 2021. Sport, rightly so, was not the priority as the safety and wellbeing of our members and their whanau was number one. I was very happy that this year we had managed to get a full club season completed after falling one-week short last year with no crowds for Finals Day. Once it became clear that we were possibly going to get some sort of representative rugby activity on the field, we enacted planning that had been devised during the previous years and this year's lockdown to have rugby in every area that we normally do. The actual rugby product might look different, but still rugby. Even with the spectre of Covid-19 hanging over our heads this year, 2021 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 13th consecutive financial surplus this year, a surplus of \$117,843. Although this is our 13th consecutive financial surplus, this is never easy to achieve. We managed to increase our revenue compared to 2020, which in itself is a major achievement, and our expenditure increased through a higher amount of rugby activities. Our revenue generation was significantly aided by having 85% of our charitable trust revenue gathered before Covid-19 re-emerged and hampered charitable trust income opportunities for a few 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 13 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 2021 benchmarking information for participation figures were recently released by NZRU. I'm very proud that in this crazy environment of Covid-19 2.0, we have managed to be the best performing Heartland Provincial Union in the Country again. We have managed to increase our total playing numbers from 4,464 in 2020 to 4,482 in 2021. Quite an amazing performance and a huge amount of gratitude goes to our development staff in helping to make this happen.

The Heartland team had a tough finish to the Heartland Championship this year. After a fantastic start to the campaign that saw us notch up four consecutive victories, we ultimately missed out on a place in a Final by points difference. With the Covid-19 interruption and a re-configured draw, semi-finals were scrapped this year. On a normal year we would have been in a Lochore Cup semi-final. The team played some great rugby this year, very free flowing and entertaining. Although we didn't make a Final, 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, Matt, Nick, Tommy and Yurri. 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.

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. It was fantastic to welcome crowds back to our Finals day this year after the disappointment of having no spectators for last years Finals. Congratulations Athletic, Levin College Old Boys, & Paraparaumu for being involved in a unique day. Special congratulations to Paraparaumu for their victory in the Premier grade and to Athletic for winning the Senior Reserve grade. Congratulations also to Levin College Old Boys for having teams in both Finals.

This year also saw another year of the Club Women's Competition. This great initiative was spearheaded by Ryan Shelford and was successful again. Although team numbers were down this year, 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. Unfortunately, spectators were limited as this competition was held during the lock down, thank you to all who just got on with getting the games played. Congratulations to Rahui and College Old Boys for making the Final and to Rahui 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 10th. 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 thanks to the Cossie Club, we have been having our function there for over 15 years and they are always great hosts.

I was also extremely proud to see Horowhenua Kapiti players selected for regional Representative honours. Congratulations to Darren Falaniko for making the Hurricanes Under 18 camp and being named player of the tournament for the Under 20's tournament. Congratulations to Heremaia Cooper, Mikaere Harvey, Taine Hartnett, Kahu Ariki Thompson, Dayton Hakaraia, Keremihana Oka-Murray, Waikato Nepia-Katipa and Kagyn Taunoa for making the Te Tini A Maui Under 18 camp.

It was also brilliant to receive the news of people achieving National Honours. Our very likeable Heartland Manager, Tom Zimmerman, has been appointed to the New Zealand Heartland XV Management Team and that our fantastic young player, Lennix Tovo, has been selected for the New Zealand Heartland XV. Bryn Gordon was also selected for the New Zealand Barbarians team to lay the New Zealand Heartland XV in Taupo. Congratulations Tommy, Len & Bryn.

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 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, Pub Charity, Eastern & Central Trust, One Foundation, NZ Racing Board, and the Aotearoa Gaming 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 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, Cam, Linda, and Ryan, thank you very much. The HKRFU have great staff who work very hard in serving their Union. Under sometimes trying 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

Congratulations to Paraparaumu Rugby Football Club for winning the Ramsbotham Cup, a hard task in an ordinary year but whilst celebrating a Centenary year is an exceptional feat. The Premier competition Final was against Levin College Old Boys. A game that was hard fought and went into extra time, then into golden point, both teams should be extremely proud of their performance. It was a credit to the club rugby competition in our province that led to such a close Final. Congratulations to both Levin Athletic and Levin College Old Boys for making the Final of the Bill Muir Cup, Senior Reserve competition. Levin Athletic coming away with the victory, it was great to see Levin Athletic put a team on the paddock again and hopefully they will again be able to step up to the Premier competition in 2022.

I would like to acknowledge all of the above hard-working, club volunteers, coaches, managers and players for their contribution to the game we love, it's been great watching in 2021.

Just like the 2020 season our 2021 representative rugby season was affected by Covid-19. This included the Heartland Competition, removing semi-finals and limiting the numbers of supporters and spectators. Considering the disruption of Covid-19 our Heartland representative season was reasonably successful, winning five games and losing three. The team missed out on the playoffs by a one-point loss to Poverty Bay after three minutes of injury time.

Congratulations to Lennix Tovo for his well-deserved selection into the New Zealand Heartland XV.

Thank you to CEO Corey Kennett, Aleni Feagaiga, Ryan Shelford, Linda Morgan, and Cameron Prouting for running our Provincial Union and dealing with continuing problems by Covid-19.

Thank you to the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Directors for their Governance of the Unions finances and policies.

All the best for the 2022 season.

Best Wishes

Errol MacDonald

HKRFU President



Community Rugby Manager's Report

Talofa lava, malo le soifua maua ma le lagi e mama.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Community Rugby Manager's 2021 Annual report for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union Annual Report.

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 their continued hard work and dedication throughout the year. I have enjoyed working with you all once again.

Our club competition this year was as tight as ever with two epic finals. Levin Athletic winning the Senior Reserve and Paraparaumu winning the Premier competition. The win for Paraparaumu made more special as it was their Centenary year. Congratulations also to Rahui Women's who won their third successive title beating Levin COB in the final of the women's competition.

I would like to take this moment to thank all our players who were selected in Horowhenua Kapiti Representative team's this year from our Under 16's team right up to our Heartland team. I hope you continue to wear the Nua jersey with pride in the years to come. These rep teams wouldn't be possible without direction of the people that select, train, coach and manage them. Thank you for imparting your knowledge on to our players so that they can learn and develop into better players.

Congratulations to Darren Falaniko (Paraparaumu RFC) who was selected to the Hurricanes U18 camp in Palmerston North. Congratulations must also go to Lennix Tovo (Levin College Old Boys RFC) for his selection into the NZ Heartland XV along with Tom Zimmerman being selected as part of the management team. Well done to Bryn Gordon who was selected in the NZ Barbarians team to play the NZ Heartland team. Lennix and Bryn have had outstanding seasons and I wish them both the very best with wherever their rugby journeys take them in 2022.

Congratulations to our HK Under 20s who won the Heartland Under 20s Development series this year. We also had some good representation into the Hurricanes Heartland Under 20s squad with twelve players from our HK Under 20s, Congratulations to Jayden Angove, Darren Falaniko, Henry Fonoti, Ari Hartman, Taine Hata, Oscar Luli, Vito Masoe, Dariyn McAdam, Waikato Nepia-Katipa, Christos Petratos, Ilisoni Rauhihi and Chris Salu. Special mention to Darren who managed to pick up the Player of the Series Award.

To conclude my report, I would to thank all of our hardworking volunteers who willingly sacrifice their time and energy to ensure that rugby stays alive in all areas of our community rugby especially given the extra obstacles we face with Covid-19. A massive thank you for being a part of a wonderful 2021 and look forward to doing it all over again in 2022.

Yours in rugby

Aleni Feagaiga

Community Rugby Manager

Womens Club Rugby



Rugby Development Officer's Report

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge the Rugby Committee, Board of Directors and Horowhenua Kapiti Union Staff for all their hard work this year. It has been trying times with Covid – 19 around, luckily this year we were able to get through our Horowhenua Kapiti Club Rugby Competition without complications. Our representative season was due to start week 1 of the Heartland Competition before going into lock down mid-week. We were standing at training all waiting to hear the news, luckily our season start date was only postponed 4 weeks and then we were able to continue under Level 2 restrictions. In tough times you need good leaders and I thank all of the above because over the last two years all of these people have kept rugby going.

Congratulations to our two Senior Club Champions, Levin Athletic and Paraparaumu Rugby Football Club, on their great club rugby season, and to Paraparaumu on celebrating their 100-year anniversary. Congratulations to Rahui Senior Women who won their 3rd consecutive Final in our Women's Competition. Again, the Women's Competition was affected by Covid-19, and we only had two teams entered, but the level keeps going up a gear every year. The hits, ball skills, ability to find space and I was delighted to see the chip kicks in this year's games, it was fantastic rugby to witness.

Secondary School is in good stead with some great coaches returning in 2022, congratulations to Te Rahui Kura Under 15's, Paraparaumu 2nd XV for making their respective grades Finals this year and congratulations to both Kapiti and Paraparaumu College under 65kg teams on winning their respective grades, Kapiti winning division 2 and Paraparaumu winning division 1.

I think it is fair to say life stayed pretty normal this year (apart from lockdown) in most sporting areas, with some movement here or there. But the ones that suffered the most was the primary school sector, most of their events cancelled due to Covid-19, swimming, netball, football, hockey, rugby and rippa events having to be cancelled, as there was no way to accommodate the mass crowds. Schools welcomed us with open arms once the lockdown lifted and we have been completing programs way past our normal deadlines and will continue to be in schools into December.

It is a privilege to be a part of this great rugby union, with great people and people that want to see others grow and excel in our sport. Again, I want to thank all volunteers, that help to make our sport great, but a special mention to the men and women in the middle of the park, our referee's. Refereeing is probably the toughest area in today's game, finding referee's and keeping them is tough enough, but then referees having to explain the law to those that think they know it, must be like ground hog day.

Kindest Regards

Ryan Shelford

Rugby Development Officer

Club Development Officer's Report

Another year gone by too fast and definitely an unusual one again with the Covid-19 Delta Variant creeping in.

In February and March, I was able to host a Strapping Course with Thomas Barnsley and First Aid Course with Lesley Kidd from Links Training for our club members. Thank you to those who attended the courses, they were both awesome evenings.

In April, the staff attended the Child Protection upskill at NZRU. Again, Eleanor Butterworth did a fantastic job hosting these upskills and it was awesome to see so many people from other provincial unions attend.

The initiative from last year "Go the H2O Water Only Side-lines" junior player of the day reward continued this year. It's for a junior player of the day who 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.



Congratulations to Levin Athletic for winning the Bill Muir Cup and Paraparaumu for winning the Ramsbotham Cup. It was also special to have Donna Sayer and some of the Ramsbotham whanau there to present the Ramsbotham Cup.

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

We have come to the end of a very busy and exciting year in 2021, one that was once again hit by COVID-19, but we were fortunate to get most of our programmes completed.

In July and August, we launched a new initiative called Rock up Rippa, which provided a non-contact form of rugby for people to enjoy. We held it on a Friday night at Playford Park and had 10 teams involved. This was played in great spirits, everyone enjoyed themselves and I received so much positive feedback about the module and people wanting more. It's one of those balancing acts when launching a new initiative, you don't know how well it's going to go and the 4 weeks could have been a long 4 weeks had it not gone well, or it could be a short 4 weeks with everyone enjoying themselves and this proved to be the case.

On Wednesday 7th April we were fortunate to have Greg Feek, current All Blacks Scrum Coach, come along to Horowhenua Kapiti to run a scrum session for players and coaches. This was well attended by secondary school and senior reserve players, as well as approx. 20 coaches attending. We even had coaches and players come down from Manawatu and Whanganui to take part in the session. What I enjoyed about Feeky's session was the technical aspect, he didn't turn up and run a scrum session that any coach could have run but he got right into the nitty gritty of the scrum, focussing on angles and body mechanics in the scrum. It was disappointing that we didn't have one Premier Club player attend and I feel like this showed in our Premier Club Rugby competition, with a number of teams' scrums being weaker than they normally would.

We launched our new Facebook page earlier this year, which allowed us to have more freedom and flexibility around what we could post and how we interact with our rugby community. We were previously in a private group, and this meant we were limited to who we could reach. For example, our post about Lennix Tovo making the NZ Heartland XV has reached 20,000 people so far, whereas on our previous group page it would have reached around 2,000.

Huge congratulations to our Horowhenua Kapiti U20's who took home the Hurricanes Heartland U20 competition. One of the cool things about this squad was that there were representatives from every club, and the boys gelled well together in such a short space of time. I was fortunate to work with their scrum and all the players were willing to listen, learn and better themselves.

I would like to thank all the volunteers in clubs, schools, and the rugby community for all of your hard work throughout the 2021 season. Bring on 2022!

Kind Regards

Cameron Prouting

Community Rugby Assistant



Heartland Report

It is my absolute pleasure to present to you this end of year report for the 2021 HK Heartland team.

Planning and preparation:

A huge amount of planning and preparation was put in by the Heartland Management team that started at the end of January. A calendar was given to all clubs where they were able to “book in” the Heartland coaches and management to trainings to utilise us as they wish. Some clubs took up this offer which was great to make these connections.

The Heartland Management attended both Wellington Lions and Hurricanes training sessions, which were valuable and awesome growth opportunities. There were many hui within the management team with early identification of players and with this discussion around appropriate game plan tactics. Personally, I was aware of the need to motivate the more senior players where they would be challenged into learning new strategies.

Selection Process:

Perhaps one of the hardest challenging times of this year. There were many loan players who had originally committed or shown a keen interest that eventually pulled out of the team. These included James So'oialo (10). Kahn Fotuali'i (9/10 - who did come back and play 3 games at different times in the year), Izzy Fo'ai (12/13), Andre Taylor (13/15). Each of these players represent a lot of time and effort which at times was frustrating. With all of our management at club rugby every Saturday we were able to spread ourselves around and had watched all clubs multiple times. This and the visits to trainings gave us an excellent opportunity to create an accurate database and understanding of who we thought would be of Heartland level and where our strengths were and what position specific requirements we had when it came to loan players. It is also important to mention the role of our Senior Leadership Team which consisted of Ryan Shelford, Aaron Lahmert, Joel Winterburn and Himiona Henare who were also instrumental when it came to player identification moving into preseason.

Games:

With the disruption of a covid lockdown the start of the season had its challenges. However the team had responded particularly well, and a great connection was had over lockdown leading into our first game.

The first 4 games

- West Coast
- North Otago
- East Coast
- Buller

To have 4 victories was extremely satisfying and there was a good belief in our team. We seemed not to have a particular strength at this stage and seemed a very well-balanced side. These games were all close with no blow outs and had displayed a certain grit in the team and wanting to play for each other. After these 4 games we were 3rd on the table.

The last 4 games

- Whanganui
- Thames Valley
- Wairarapa Bush
- Poverty Bay

Despite being 15-0 up against Whanganui we went into halftime 14-15. They were able to keep that momentum up in the 2nd half and take the game. Thames Valley, although unbeaten, were well within our reach with an 11-6 score line at halftime. We had multiple opportunities to take this game however were unable to convert them with Thames Valley winning.

The last 2 games were to determine where we finished the season with a win (vs Wairarapa Bush) and a loss (Poverty Bay) being not enough to finish in the top 6 with a count back of tries being the deciding factor on why we missed out.

The 2021 Heartland team was an absolute privilege to be part of where we were able to create a great culture and put together some outstanding rugby on the park. It seemed a little surreal that we did not reach the finals stage after winning 5 out of 8 games and having the clientele that we had. Ryan Shelford reaching his 99th game, Lennix Tovo making the NZ Heartland team alongside Tom Zimmerman who was selected in the management team, and Bryn Gordon making the NZ Barbarians team were particular highlights.

It continues to be an absolute pleasure to be involved in the Heartland Team, the highest level of our Union and to work with our elite players.

As we head into a summer fuelled with the fire of chasing greatness in 2022, I wish all our HK Whanau “Nga Mata Tapuae” a safe and laughter filled Christmas season.

A summer message for all your players who aspire to wear the HK Jersey next year.

Tama Tu Tama Ora Tama Noho Tama Mate
(an industrious person will thrive and an unmotivated person will not make our team!)

Nga mihi ki a koutou katoa
Chris Wilton
Heartland Coach





Secondary School's Rugby Report

This year the local colleges fielded 17 rugby teams (up one from 2020). The teams played in either the Manawatu or Wellington Secondary Schools' Competitions.

Horowhenua-Kapiti Rugby Union Tournaments:

The traditional pre-season competitions organised by the HKRFU were able to be held again this year after being cancelled last year due to the COVID Lockdown. Both the Super 6 and 7s Tournaments proved to be a great way to start the season for the local colleges. The HKRFU staff involved in both the organising and running of these need to be thanked for the effort they put in to ensure that all colleges have the opportunity to participate.

Winners of Super Six

- 1st XV – Waiopahu College

Winners of Sevens

- Open Boys – Manawatu College
- Open Girls – Kapiti College

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

- Paraparaumu College won the U65 Division 1 grade beating HVHS 22-19
- Kapiti College won the U65 Division 2 grade beating Onslow 25-19
- Te Rahui Kura were runners-up in the Wellington U15 Division 4 Grade – losing the final by 15-17 against Wellington College Black
- Paraparaumu 2nd XV were runners-up in the Division 3 Grade – losing to Wellington College 3rd XV in the final

The following students deserve special mention for their individual achievements in 2021:

Te Tini ā Maui Central Maori Rugby Under 18 Camp:

- Mikaere Harvey
- Heremaia Cooper
- Taine Hartnett
- Kagyn Taunoa
- Kahu Ariki Thompson
- Kere Oka Murray
- Dayton Hakaraia

NZ U18 Māori Camp:

- Mikaere Harvey
- Heremaia Cooper

I would like to thank CEO Corey Kennett and his Development Staff of Aleni Feagaiga, Ryan Shelford & Cameron Prouting for their continued commitment to ensuring resources are put in to assist in the development of our schools' players.

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 2021.

Kind Regards

Kathy Grey

Chairperson HKSS

Junior Rugby Report

Another Covid-19 affected year, once again I must thank all of the convenors that worked hard over this period to make another season happen for our Juniors. So this year, I will start with that and make mention to Craig Thomson (PJRFC), Jamie Bradbury, Jane Chamberlain (Waikanae), Jarrod Telford (Rahui), Megan Qaranivalu (COB), Andrea Atutahi (Wanderers), Morgan Braddick (ATL), Bonnie Petersen (Foxton) and Cameron Prouting (Shannon).

Junior Club Rugby:

Numbers continue to be constant, but again, this is because of the hard work put in by the Club Convenors and HKRFU working together. HKRFU continue to be one of the highest (if not the highest in terms of population) in terms of players being involved. Thank you all for your commitment to continue to do good work in your clubs, school and community.

Coaching courses:

I know this seems to be an area that seems like “ground-hog day”, but everyone needs to understand these are for everyone’s safety, not just the players, but also our parents, caregivers, guardians, managers, coaches and referees. Understandingly, the turnover of volunteers is high, as we follow our own children, these courses must continue to ensure we capture the ‘newbies’ into these important roles. Again, thank you all for contributing to this area of our Junior Rugby.



Side-line Behaviour:

Another good year for Junior Rugby and we must remember this the season is for our young people to participate in our lovely game, and develop their personal skills to be better members not of only rugby, but of our communities that we live in. Again, thank you to our volunteers of Junior Rugby, but of the wider rugby community and parents in making this game enjoyable for all involved.

Representative Rugby:

This no longer exists, but thanks to HKRFU, the “development days” continued in 2021, even though there was some modification because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Hopefully players and coaches that attended these were able to take a lot out of these opportunities.

Juniors 7s competition:

Lastly, during a restricted year, COB Juniors were able to hold a 7s tournament which attracted players from 4 different Unions, 23 different Clubs and approximately 900 participants, (but I don’t want to estimate the actual numbers). COB advise this is going to be an annual tournament, thanks and well done.

Kind Regards

Slade Sturmeay

JMB Chair

CLUB FINALS DAY



Primary Schools Rugby Report

This year, like 2020, saw another disrupted season for Horowhenua Kapiti Primary Schools Rugby due to ongoing uncertainties and alert level changes due to Covid-19. Despite the move down from level 3 to level 2 in the first week of September, events like amateur club rugby tournaments were subject to the rules for social gatherings meaning gatherings were limited to 100 people in any defined indoor or outdoor space. As a result of the alert level restrictions coupled with the impact of Wellington Rugby Football Union's 2020 decision to remove the Under-13 and below grades, from regional representative rugby, any plans for a limited Primary Schools tournament were once again suspended.

Notwithstanding the ongoing covid challenges The Horowhenua-Kapiti Rugby Union is still looking to develop a new participation model for the continued development and representation of the Horowhenua-Kapiti Primary Schools Team from 2022.

Despite this year's challenges, 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 again 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.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by the development staff:

Aleni supported 10 Schools from Poroutawhao to Ohau providing in school sessions which included a Rippa tournament for Year 5-8, a Year 5-6 tackle competition in Term 3, complimented by the introduction this year of a Year 7-8 tackle competition; this was acknowledged as growth opportunity led by Alasdair Maclean, Principal at Fairfield School.

Ryan provided in school sessions in the 12 Schools from Te Horo south to Paekakariki. While the early part of the season allowed for hosting of a Primary School Girls tackle day and 7's games, along with a Rippa Rugby Tournament, the impact of Covid restrictions in the third and fourth terms saw the unfortunate cancellation of both the Southern Primary Schools Junior Winter and Senior Tournaments; normally one of the bigger primary school events organized by the Union's Development staff with between 380-450 students participating in rippa rugby.

Cam provided in school sessions in 14 schools within the areas north of Levin and within Otaki, including Manukau. This included running the Kerekere Schools Rippa tournament for Foxton/Shannon schools and collaborating with Aleni to have Coley Street School, Foxton join the Levin schools' tackle competition for the first time. Covid also impacted both the Otaki Schools Rippa Rugby tournament and the Northern Schools Rippa and Tackle tournaments with both having to be cancelled this year.

Grateful thanks as always to Corey and Linda for their administrative support and assistance throughout another disruptive year for Horowhenua Kapiti primary schools rugby. Let's hope that 2022 sees the lifting of alert restrictions and allows for more stability around the planning and execution of ongoing development opportunities along with the various annual tournaments for our primary schools rugby players.

Kind Regards

Ged Eller

Convenor

Rugby Referee Association Report

The HKRRA had 15 regular referees this year, which is an improvement from the previous two years. For the first time in many years there were some weeks where we were able to support some junior rugby games.

Referee trophy winners in 2021:

Premier Referee – Sam Thompson

Senior Reserve Referee – Greg McCardle

Junior Referee – Sam Mills

Presidents Cup – Bill Russell

Club Referee of the Year – Sam Taylor

Whiti Spirit Cup – Vaughan Guiton

(New cup donated by the Whiti family in memory of Dean and what he stood for)

Stu Beissel, Linda and the team at the HKRFU continued to provide great assistance with 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. A couple of the senior referees also volunteered to attend early games on a Saturday, providing support and coaching to other referees. Most games had a coach to support the referee.

Training meetings were split between Levin and Waikanae and were well attended by members. We would like to thank the Union for the continued use of the Hohepa Jacob Community Rugby Centre and to Waikanae Club for allowing us to use their club when the team meets in the south of the union. I would like to thank the rest of the management team, Al Paton, Stu Beissel and Greg McCardle for their support during the season. Further to that I would like to thank all the referees who continue to provide their time to referee, assistant referee, manage sidelines, supporting the management team, attending training sessions and above all volunteering their time to support our great game.

Seeking new members and retaining our existing members into 2022 is the most important priority for the association. We have a great membership, who enjoy each other's company, as a result this provides a positive environment to grow as individuals and as an association. The Unions Referee Development Officer, Brittany Andrew moved to a fulltime role in Manawatu. This role supported the HKRRA with training material and at times facilitation of training sessions. This role also kept the referees connected with referee developments from the NZRFU. We have managed to find other ways to operate this year and I'm sure we will continue to adapt as opportunities present themselves.

We continue to be grateful for the sponsorship from Kapiti Coast Painting Ltd. A continued priority for the association is to seek funding for new communication gear. The HKRRA appreciates the ongoing support of the HKRFU.

Kind Regards

Stu Taylforth

HKRRA Chairman

Under 20's Report

Head coach Nathan Beuck and Manager Dean Thomas accepted our roles early in 2021 and made a plan to start recruitment during the club senior season, as we had missed the 2020 representative season (Covid-19). We knew we would not have a direct roll over of players from the previous campaign and it was going to be essentially starting from scratch, getting a completely new group involved in 2021. Recruitment was an ongoing process throughout the HKRFU club season as Dean and I spoke to club coaches about eligible U20s players. We were able to contact the majority of players during the season to outline the U20s program and get them interested.

The tournament was to take the same format as previous years with a single game outside of tournament and then back-to-back games at tournament. As we were familiar with the format preparations were largely centred around getting dates confirmed and communicating with potential players.

1st muster/training was held 13th July. Initially numbers were low but built solidly over the next few trainings to a squad of 25. Player numbers were not such that we could have a 'trial' but as with previous years 'quality' was high with the players that joined us. One of the challenges with the short U20's program is getting the squad together and building a team culture in a short space of time. This year we were able to recruit from every HK club and the team was conscious of and proud of the fact that they truly represented all of HK.

31/07/2021 v Whanganui at Shannon Domain, won 38-20. Horowhenua-Kapiti's try-scorers were: Waikato Nepia-Katipa, Ilisoni Rauhihi, Darren Falaniko, Nick Fleming, Ari Hartman and Chris Salu (who also kicked four conversions).

07/08/2021 v Poverty Bay at IRANZ Palmerston Nth, won 38-10. 26-10 at half time, two tries a piece to Henry Fonoti and Darren Falaniko, one try to Taine Hata and Isaac Laracy and Chris Salu slotting 4 conversions.

08/08/2021 v Wairarapa Bush, IRANZ, won 18-10. Horowhenua-Kapiti took an early 3 points to nil lead in today's match, which was extended to 13 points by half-time following a further penalty and converted try. Before half-time, Wairarapa-Bush scored an unconverted try and for most of the second-half put Horowhenua-Kapiti under immense pressure inside their 22 metre zone. It took 30 minutes before Horowhenua-Kapiti's defence was broken, with the score with 10 minutes to play 13-10 in favour of the challengers. Horowhenua-Kapiti must take credit to their defence in winning the game, the try scored in the last 10 minutes extending their lead and resulting in the final score, 18-10.

The players selected to Hurricanes Heartland Squad: Jayden ANGOVE, Darren FALANIKO, Ari HARTMANN, Taine HATA, Vito MASOE, Waikato NEPIA-KATIPA, Chris SALU, Henry FONOTI and Christos PETRATOS. Dariyn MCADAM, Ilisoni RAUHIHI and Oskar LULI were also called up during the campaign.

Kind Regards

Nathan Beuck

HK U20's Coach

U18's Boys Report

Planning/ Prep

When appointed as the coach, I quickly tried to identify what players were available and who was going to be identified as potential squad members.

This was done by looking at previous year's reps' teams selections at Under 16 level. I also emailed all the 1st XV coaches, introduced myself, my role and what the season looked like. I asked them to nominate some of their players. Only two colleges replied, Kapiti College and Horowhenua College (which I was the coach of). As I was new to the Union, I was looking for an assistant coach and a manager.

In my email to the school coaches, I advised that there was an open trial on Sunday 8th August. This was placed on the Horowhenua Kapiti website. This muster had a disappointing turnout with 10 players attending. Another muster was organised for the Monday 16th Aug, 26 players attended and made themselves available. This was a pleasing turn out and there was some skill on display. Due to Covid all rugby was suspended the day after this muster, so it was decided not to name a team at this time. When rugby restarted an additional muster was organised. This allowed players who had been unable to attend previous, make themselves available. However, players who were previously available became unavailable due to the change in the representative programme timetable.

At the conclusion of this process 22 players were named for the squad. There was limited preparation time between the season restarting and the first game. The squad was a mixture of players, all four schools 1st XV players were represented.

Games

The first game was against a strong Wellington Samoans team. This was an eye opener for some players as they struggled with speed and physicality of the opposition. Missed tackles and turn over ball were some of the issues identified. Result was a 72 -5 loss. Second game v Wellington Māori. We played well and we dominated the set piece and the breakdown. Missed tackles out wide. We missed two opportunities which would have kept us in the game. Result 39-12. Third game v Whanganui. We trained well all week and took confidence out of the previous weeks result. Game started with a missed tackle, and we never got into the game. Lost all structure and then our confidence went. Our team continued to not tackle and we overrun by the competition winners, result a disappointing 91 -19.

Conclusion

There is plenty of talent, however the team never totally gelled as a team and it was probably because of the disruption that Covid caused on the season. Ten of the squad are eligible for selection next year, so a good framework to start with. As discussed, more lead in time to select a squad would be beneficial next year.

Kind Regards

Paul Adrian

HK U18's Boys Coach

U18's Girls Report

The U18 provincial program for our girls felt like it was over before it had even begun. With initial trials being interrupted with lockdown, we were light on numbers with regards to selecting a full-strength team to compete against the three Wellington sides. With some of our senior players being unavailable for selection due to injury, we had to pull in some young inexperienced players to field a team this year. Coaches David Julius, Mike Wells & Lancer Solofa worked the girls hard in the short time they had, but at the end of the day the lack of games within a local competition & experience at a competitive level was evident. Having to play three games against full strength Wellington teams within 7 days the girls started well, firstly against Wellington Centurions, then another competitive game against Wellington Samoans a couple of days later, but eventually with more injuries to our senior players the third game against Wellington Maori did not fare so well.

Fresh out of the Williment U18 program we saw consistent performances from our senior players Kaia Pollock, Dallas McKnight, Troy Beckham, Rachel Cowie, Peara Huriwai and Oriana Enoka who were ruled out after games 1 & 2 with injury were great contributors to the program.



I would like to applaud all the girls involved in the U18 program this year, even though we were a very inexperienced representative team the girls gave it their all and played some great rugby. Having to play 3 representative games in 7 days is a tough ask for any team & hopefully next season the girl's program will align with the boy's secondary school program & we will see more girls committing to the game.

I would also like to acknowledge our three coaches, David Julius, Mike Wells and Lancer Solofa. Juice and Wellsy do not have girls involved in rugby but have given a lot back to the game this year. Also, Lancer Solofa whose daughter was pretty much out all of the rugby season with injury, but he still gave back to the game he loves. Hopefully in the next few years we will see more growth within our community to support the very talented girls coming through the junior and secondary school competitions.

Lastly, I would like to farewell and wish the following girls all the best for future rugby endeavours. Dallas McKnight, Kaia Pollock, Oriana Enoka, Tia Brown & Troy Beckham, work hard girls but most importantly love what you do.

Kind Regards

Janine McKnight

HK U18's Girls Manager

Under 16's Report

Selection of Team

First communication was shared by the coach with Aleni on 28 July 2021 setting out the framework to bring together the U16 HK team for 2021. The process would require coaches to nominate players from their respective colleges and HK representatives putting players forward.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to start a muster and trials until September 2021. Ryan Shelford and Aleni Feagaiga were a massive help, and I would like to acknowledge the support I received. They led the first and second muster enabling the coaching team (Miles Oldham and myself) to have a good look at the players without the distraction of taking drills.

Muster

Between the two sessions there would have been approximately 35 players attend. The team was selected by 12th September with training starting 14th September. Trainings were each Tuesday and Thursday as advised in initial comms. 24 players were selected.

U16 Season 18 September v Manawatu
(Levin) loss - 91 - 10
25 September v Wellington Development
(Waikanae) loss - 52 - 12
6 October v Whanganui (Whanganui) win
- 22 - 5
9 October v Hawkes Bay Development
(Napier) loss - 41 - 22



Highlight of the season was the final game against Hawkes Bay as the curtain raiser at Mclean Park for the Ranfurly Shield match.

It was a game that all those involved will remember for the rest of their lives being able to walk out onto such a ground. We were leading at half time, but unfortunately heat and fitness took effect in the final 10 minutes where the opposition scored 20 points.

It was heartening to see the team improve each week and a regret that the boys didn't get to experience the tournament in Ruatoria this season.

Coaching/Management

Grant Williams – Coach

Miles Oldham - Assistant Coach

Michelle McIntyre - Manager

Jeremy McIntyre - Assistant Manager/Medic

Kind Regards

Grant Williams

HK U16's Coach

HKRFU Prizegiving Award Winners List

CLUB AWARDS

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

Robinson Rosebowl – Paraparaumu Premiers

Club Referee of the Year – Sam Taylor

Supporter of the Year – Lisa Barlow

Club Volunteer of the Year – Jill Timms

Saturday Morning Volunteer of the Year – Dymon Vowles

Club Coach of the Year – Garry Phelps

REPRESENTATIVE AWARDS

U20 Player of the Year – Darren Falaniko

Maori Colt Player of the Year – Lennix Tovo

Maori Player of the Year – Ryan Shelford

Heartland Most Promising Player of the Year – Lennix Tovo

Heartland Most Improved Player of the Year – James Gilland

Heartland Player of the Year – Bryn Gordon

Representative Coach of the Year – Nathan Beuck

Representative Team of the Year – Horowhenua Kapiti U20's





UNION