

HOROWHENUA KAPITI RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Leighton Ralph - Heartland Player of the Year



Dallas Wiki - Heartland Most Improved Player of the Year



Poleka Itielu - Heartland Most Promising Player of the Year

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Annual General Meeting Agenda and Obituaries

Notice is hereby given that the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union will be held:

Monday 11th of December 2023 commencing 7.00pm, at the Hohepa Jacob Community Rugby Centre, Power Street, Levin

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

Election of Independent Director

Appointment of Auditor

General Business

Obituaries as advised by Clubs and Affiliated members

Errol MacDonald (ex HKRFU President & Levin College Old Boys), Junior So'o, Trevor Mason, Russ Martin (Paraparaumu RFC), Prince Te Whaiti (Foxton)

Signed by:

Corey Kennett

Chief Executive Officer

Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union

2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Annual General Meeting held on Monday 5th of December 2022, 7:00pm at the Waikanae Rugby Football Club, Waikanae Park, Waikanae.

Present: John Cribb (Chairman), Errol Macdonald (President), Slade Sturmey, Nathan Guy, Richard Mansell, Axel Nielsen, Brain Singleton, Stuart Beissel, Sam Tock, Justin Pape, Rex Kerr, Tom Zimmerman, Ged Eller, Solomon Falamoe, Brett Karipa, Reuben Butcher, Colin Cuff, John Mowbray, Aunard Barlow, Ernie Timms, Andre Baker, Tony Bailey, Lindsay Walker, Jill Timms, Aleni Feagaiga, Corey Kennett, Ryan Shelford, Sinead Barrell, Ethan Ayers, Ruth Phelan.

J. Cribb welcomed everyone to the 129th Annual General Meeting. A. Baker opened the meeting with a karakia.

The voting delegates roll call was confirmed.

Apologies: R. Hori Te Pa (Athletic), B. Moore (Toa), P. Hunt (Paraparaumu) J. Williams (Patron)
R. Butcher/G. Eller Carried

Obituaries Recorded:

Daryl Small (ex HKRFU Auditor and Sponsor)

Hoko Gardiner (Wanderers)

Colin Bruhn, Peter Trotter (Athletic)

Members stood for a moment's silence.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 1st of December 2021 were adopted as a true and correct record.

N. Guy/R. Butcher Carried

To receive and adopt the 2022 Annual Report:

N. Guy/J. Cribb Carried

Chairman's Report:

J. Cribb talked about our local men's club rugby competition and how great it was to have them participate and play. He congratulated Paraparaumu and Waikanae for winning their respective mens finals, and congratulated Levin College Old Boys on winning the womens final. He said the support of sponsors again this year kept us on track. J. Cribb thanked the staff for another successful year and that he was glad to see everyone here.

CEO Report:

C. Kennett mentioned a few highlights from his report to speak on tonight. He was proud of the fact we were able to post a \$100K plus surplus. We were able to lock in a three year sponsorship deal with Te Whatu Ora. C. Kennett thanked the Board and Rugby Committee for their efforts in what are trying times with Trusts and Funding grants becoming more and more difficult to attain.

Financial Report:

C. Kennett said he is happy to produce an 14th consecutive surplus. It shows our financial model is working as we have good controls on expenses as we try and provide as much rugby services as we can but also stay within our means.

Adopt financial report.

Election of Patron:

J. Williams

No further nominations,

Carried R. Butcher/G. Eller
unopposed.

Election of President:

L. Walker

No further nominations,

Carried S. Biessel/A. Baker
unopposed.

J. Cribb thanked E. Macdonald for this long service. E. Macdonald provided his best wishes to L. Walker. L. Walker thanked E. Macdonald for the service he has given and that he has big shoes to fill. L. Walker is looking forward to the challenge and wished to thank the Board for his nomination.

Re-election of Independent Director Ratification:

R. Mansell

John said Board recommended R. Mansell for 2 years.

Carried J. Cribb/G. Eller

Appointment of Auditor:

Dennis Blank

Carried R. Mansell/J. Cribb

Constitutional Change:

J. Cribb read out the requested constitutional change.

10. The Board of Directors

10.1 (a) Competition. The Board shall consist of;

- (i) 4 Rugby Directors elected under Rule 11.1 (a) and
- (ii) 2 Independent Directors appointed under Rule 12.1 (a)

The Requested new wording would read: -

10. The Board of Directors

10.1 (a) Competition. The Board shall consist of;

- (i) 3 Rugby Directors elected under Rule 11.1 (a) and
- (ii) 3 Independent Directors appointed under Rule 12.1 (a)

C. Kennett explained the reason for the requested was due to the need for greater diversity and inclusion. C. Kennett said he was thankful for the calls he had received around this requested conditional change. C. Kennett and R. Phelan will count the votes once they have been made.

R. Butcher said that Waikanae RFC will vote against this constitutional change as they believe there are other ways to receive funding and that this is a blunt tool to be used. R. Butcher mentioned he wants an even playing field for both his son and daughter

J. Cribb said upon the counting of the votes the motion of agreement for constitutional change has been passed.

General Business:

J. Cribb closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. J. Cribb mentioned that this is the last tour of the clubs for Annual General Meetings and was hopeful the next will be in the new building at the Levin Domain.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm.

2023 CLUB RUGBY CHAMPIONS



Chairman's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present to you all the 130th Annual Report and my fourth as Chairperson of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

Congratulations to Rahui for winning the Ramsbotham Cup Premier Final against Shannon and to Levin College Old Boys for winning the Bill Muir Cup Senior Reserve Final against Rahui. These two matches came down to the wire with only 1 point the difference, which made for entertaining watching. Congratulations to the Rahui women's team for their win in the final against Levin College Old Boys. Well done to all clubs for fielding teams in the various competitions this year, I look forward to seeing what our 2024 competitions hold.

In February we had the pleasure of hosting the Hurricanes vs Crusaders preseason match followed with the opening Super Rugby Aupiki match between the Hurricanes Poua and Chiefs Manawa just 8 days later. It was great to see the community engagement and the additional events held by the Development staff surrounding these matches.

There is not often an occasion when the holder of the Ranfurly Shield takes it on the road, however in July we were fortunate to host the Wellington Lions at the Levin Domain. Despite the result, our players relished in the opportunity to play in a Ranfurly Shield match at home in front of their whanau and friends. The Heartland team had a challenging season with two wins, masked by numerous season ending injuries. However, this did create opportunities for new players. A special mention to the 22 debutants who wore the NUA jersey this season of which 17 were local players. I hope to see you all back representing the Nua in 2024. This season saw multiple special personal achievements, Hamish Buick and Jack Tatu-Robertsson received blazers for playing their 25th match, Willie Paia'aua and David McErlean played their 50th match and Aaron Lahmert played his 75th match. Congratulations to you all for your outstanding achievements and the great service you have provided our Nua team.

Thank you to our referees for the time and commitment they have provided week after week, we are grateful for your service. Special congratulations to the referees who controlled our club finals. It was also well received to see the support our referees' provided officials in our home Heartland matches. My challenge to retiring players is to stay on the field in a different capacity by picking up a whistle. Once again, thank you for service throughout 2023, we look forward to working seeing you all return in 2024.

I am pleased to announce that we have again lived within our financial means and have posted our 15th consecutive surplus. In an ever-changing financial climate this is not easily attained. I wish to thank our Board of Directors and CEO Corey for all the work you've done to ensure that we are financially sustainable.

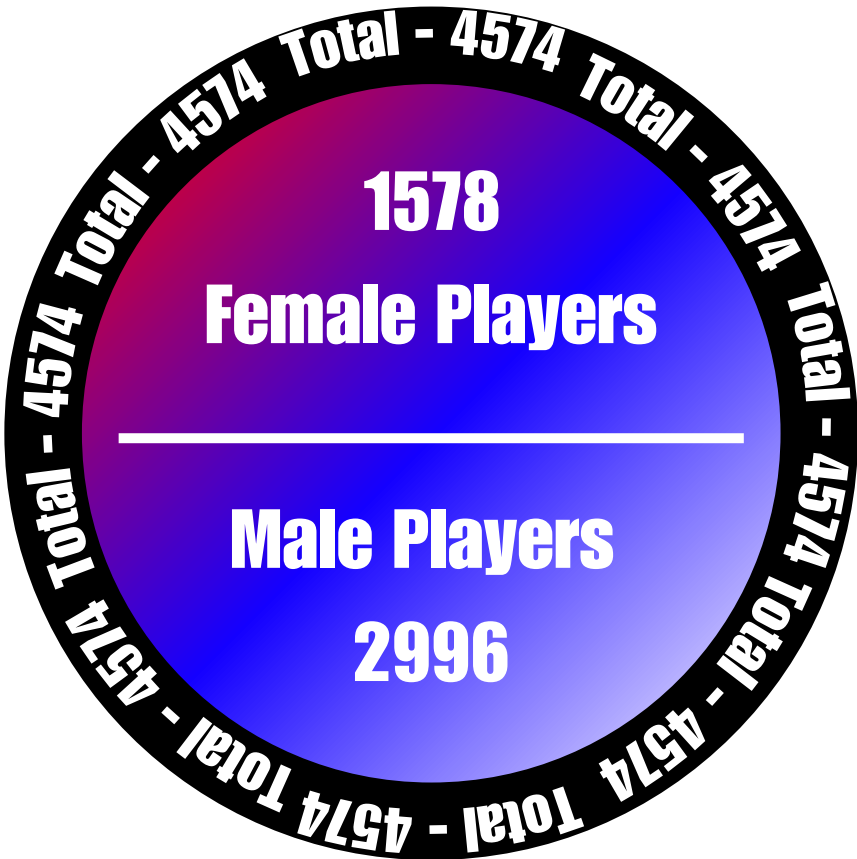
Our player registration numbers have now superseded our pre covid numbers from 2019 which highlights the growth in our Union. Again, this year our player registration numbers place us at the top of all Heartland Unions. This is a great measure on all of us who grow the game within our Union. The below picture depicts the breakdown of our participation numbers.

Thank you to all our volunteers who continue to be an integral part of our Union, coaches, managers, physios, administrators, committee members, supporters, and parents. We as a Union would not prosper without the service volunteers provide.

Our thanks must also go out to Corey and his staff Aleni, Ryan, Ethan, Josh, and Sinead. We are fortunate to have such committed staff working for the betterment of our rugby community.

To my fellow Board of Directors and Rugby Committee members, I thank you for the countless hours of service you have given your clubs and our Union this year. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your whanau, and as always, travel safe.

Nga mihi,
John Cribb
Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union Chairperson



Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am very proud to present the Chief Executive Officer's 2023 Annual report for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

2023 has been another good year for rugby in the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football 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 15th consecutive financial surplus this year, a surplus of \$347,649. Although this is our 15th consecutive financial surplus, this is never easy to achieve. We managed to increase our revenue compared to 2022, which in itself is a major achievement, and our expenditure increased through a higher amount of rugby activities. 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 15 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 2023 benchmarking information for participation figures were recently released by NZRU. I'm very proud that 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 4,261 in 2022 to 4,574 in 2023. Quite an amazing performance and a huge amount of gratitude goes to our development staff in helping to make this happen.

In 2023 we had 3 major events, we started by hosting the Hurricanes vs Crusaders match where five and a half thousand people attended a fantastic match. Eight Days later, we were thrilled to host the Super Rugby Aupiki competition match between the Hurricanes Poua and the Chiefs Manawa. Our third major event of the year was a Ranfurly Shield Challenge. We are grateful to Wellington RFU for granting us the chance to play for the prestigious Log'o Wood. A very large crowd attended the game at the Levin Domain on a hot day. Although the scoreline didn't favour us, the opportunity to be a part of rugby history, was a special moment for all involved.

The Heartland team had a tough Heartland Championship campaign this year. Although we didn't make a semi finals, 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, Ants, Debbie, Nick, Tommy, Tipu 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. Congratulations Levin College Old Boys, Rahui & Shannon for being involved in a unique day. Special congratulations to Rahui for their victory in the Premier grade and to Levin College Old Boys for winning the Senior Reserve grade. Congratulations also to Rahui for having teams in both Finals and the Rahui Premier team who went through the whole season unbeated.

This year also saw another year of the Club Women's Competition. This great initiative was spearheaded by Ryan Shelford and was successful again. Team numbers were up this year and 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 Rahui and Levin 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 15th. I am very proud of the event we produced 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 17 years and they are always great hosts.

I was also extremely proud to see Horowhenua Kapiti players selected for regional Representative honours. Congratulations to Heremaia Cooper, Mikaere Harvey, Kagyn Taunoa, Levi Timms, Ted Northcott and Max Hosking for making the Hurricanes Heartland Under 20s team. It was also brilliant to receive the news of our very likeable Heartland Manager, Tom Zimmerman, has been appointed to the New Zealand Heartland XV.

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, Levin Charitable Trust, Eastern & Central Trust, One Foundation and the Aotearoa Trust. We would not be able to do the things we do without your support, thank you.

Our Administration and Clubrooms Building at the Levin Domain has progressed well this year with the bulk of the build being completed. We look forward to 2024 when the building is finished, and our rugby community has a new facility to call "home".

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.

The 11th of December marks 15 years since I have been employed by the HKRFU. I am immensely proud of what we have been able to do and achieve in that time. It only seems like yesterday that I started, time truly does fly when you're having fun.

To my staff of Aleni, Ethan, Josh, Ryan and Sinead, thank you very much. The HKRFU have great staff who work very hard in serving their Union. 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



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President's Report

Kia ora koutou katoa,

I extend my sincere gratitude to all for the support and warm welcome I have received in my inaugural year as the President of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union. Your support has been invaluable, and I am honoured to be a part of this esteemed union.

Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to attend a number of club games and I must say it was a delight to witness the passion and skill displayed by our local teams. The commitment of players, coaches, officials and volunteers is the heartbeat of our union, and I thank each one of you for contributing to the success of the club rugby season. The climax of our club rugby was marked by the Club Finals, where I had the pleasure of witnessing two exceptional games of rugby. Congratulations goes out to our two winning teams, Rahui Premiers, and Levin College Old Boys Senior Reserves. Also to our various representative teams, your commitment to representing the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union is commendable, and I am proud of the effort and spirit you have demonstrated throughout the season. Your achievements contribute significantly to the pride and reputation of our union.

I am truly honoured reflecting on the privilege it was to be invited to the Rugby Union Prizegiving. It was a memorable occasion, and I am grateful for the opportunity to present awards to the deserving winners of our club rugby. Congratulations to all the winners, your dedication, hard work, and exceptional performances have not only contributed to the success of your teams but have also added immense value to the fabric of our rugby community. Thank you for your tireless efforts and commitment to the sport we all hold dear.

Before concluding, I must take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the key pillars of our union. Without the unwavering dedication and hard work of our exceptional leadership and staff, the successes we celebrate today would not have been possible.

To Corey for your vision, leadership and tireless efforts which have been instrumental in steering our union towards success. Your commitment to the betterment of rugby in our community is truly commendable, and we are fortunate to have you at the helm. To the fantastic staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, your passion and commitment is exceptional. From organizing events to managing the day-to-day operations, your hard work forms the backbone of our union. Thank you for your dedication and for making our union a well-oiled machine.

John Cribb for your leadership and guidance, your wisdom and commitment to the values of our union has set a strong foundation for our success. Under your stewardship, we continue to thrive and I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you.

In conclusion, I look forward to another year of growth, camaraderie, and success within the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union. Together, let us continue to foster the love of rugby and strengthen the bonds that make our union truly special.

Lindsay Walker QSM - President Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union

Community Rugby Manager's Report

Malo le soifua maua ma le lagi e mama,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Community Rugby Manager 2023 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 Junior Rugby Club 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.

In the Coach Development space, we hosted the Combined Heartland Developing Rugby Coaches World Rugby Level 2 Course. We had 20 coaches from Whanganui, Wairarapa Bush and Horowhenua Kapiti who took part this year. The coaches were extremely blessed to have All Blacks and Hurricanes hooker Dane Coles attend to share his knowledge.

Our club competition this year was as tight as ever, with Levin College Old Boys winning the Senior Reserve grand final against Rahui and Rahui winning the Premier competition against a tough Shannon team which stayed close throughout the whole game. Both finals were decided close to full time. A special mention for Rahui Premiers who went through the season unbeaten. Thank you to all the Rugby Committee for their efforts this season.

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 to our representative coaches for imparting your knowledge on to our players so that they can learn and develop into better players.

Hosting the Hurricanes pre-season game against Crusaders and then followed by the first competition game of the Super Rugby Aupiki competition between the Hurricanes Poua and Chiefs Manawa was an amazing start to 2023. We had so many from our local community come out to support both fixtures.

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. A massive thank you for being a part of a wonderful 2023 and look forward to doing it all over again in 2024.

Yours in rugby,
Aleni Feagaiga
Community Rugby Manager

Rugby Development Officer's Report

Kia Ora Koutou,

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge all volunteers for the 2023 season. Referee's, Managers, Coaches, Club administrators, Committee Members and Union Delegates, thank you for your commitment to Rugby. Having been a player, coach and time to time having to referee, I get to see what goes on behind the curtain and please know that all of your mahi is noticed and that all of you are valued by your players and clubs.

At the beginning of the year, we had both the Hurricanes and Hurricanes Poua playing on the Levin Domain in February. Firstly, the Hurricanes pre-season game against Canterbury and then the Poua against Chiefs Manawa for their first televised game of the season. Running alongside these events were coach development opportunities in the form of a Level 1 Foundation course for our local Women (this went out to Wairarapa Bush and Whanganui as well) and a level 2 DRC course (developing rugby coaches). The level 2 DRC course was very successful and we had approximately twenty coaches attend, again we invited neighboring Unions to be apart of this event.

The Ranfurly Shield, was an amazing opportunity for all spectators, players, managers and coaches to be apart of. Thank you to our CEO Corey Kennett and our neighboring Union Wellington for organizing and securing our Union this game and to play it on home soil at the Levin Domain, what an opportunity. This leads me into thanking Recreational Services and the Horowhenua District Council for their work assisting with this event. Evan and his team from Recreational Services did an outstanding job preparing the domain field. Comments we received from Wellington management and players that it looked like it was an artificial turf.

This year we had the return of all Primary School Tournaments in the Southern part of Horowhenua Kapiti. Since Covid-19, the competitions haven't bounced back. Once everything returned to the new normal, we had a couple of storms that prevented these Annual events in 2022. It was fantastic to have our big events back, Rippa and Tackle Rugby tournaments back, with approximately 350 players filling up Te Atiawa Park at each event.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge all clubs that made their competition finals in 2023. Senior Reserve grade Bill Muir Cup, Levin College Old Boys and Rahui. In the Men's Premier competition Ramsbotham Cup, Rahui and Shannon, and in the HKRFU Women's Competition, Levin College Old boys and Rahui. Congratulations to Bill Muir Cup Champions Levin College Old Boys, Congratulations to the Rahui RFC for taking out the Ramsbotham Cup and the HKRFU Women's Rugby Competition.

Kind Regards,
Ryan Shelford
Rugby Development Officer

Game Development Officer's Report

Hello all,

Well didn't 2023 start off with a bang. Both the Hurricanes vs Crusaders preseason game and the opening match of the Super Rugby Aupiki competition between Hurricanes Poua and Chiefs Manawa being held at Levin Domain. These were both great days for the community and staff alike, being able to showcase our home to professional athletes while seeing the younger generations bask in the chance to meet their heroes. The Ranfurly Shield match then topped off the year with our local players having the rare chance to go play for the Shield at home. There was a lot of planning for these major events, and I wish to thank all our partners involved. Hopefully, we will continue to get more matches like these in the future.

As the year has gone on, my daily tasks have become rather varied from leading game development opportunities, to club administration, referee administrative support and then delving deep into the account's space here at HKRFU. I think this sums up our workplace perfectly, where we are always provided new opportunities to learn and grow. Thank you to my colleagues for all their support of me and the hard work you've all put in to reach our goals as a collective. It's easy to enjoy your job when you are surrounded by great people. I'd especially like to thank Corey for his support of me during the year. Personally, the year proved to have its challenges but I was lucky to be reminded of the silver linings in those trying times. At HKRFU, we are fortunate to have Corey as our CEO who puts an immense amount of time and energy to provide opportunities that benefit us as staff and our rugby community.

This year's club finals proved to be epic and went right down to the wire. Congratulations to Rahui RFC who took out the Ramsbotham Cup and the Women's Competition with both teams having unbeaten seasons. Congratulations also to Levin College Old Boys RFC for their victory in the Bill Muir Cup final. Well done to all clubs involved this season which really showcased the talented men and women we have playing rugby in our Union.

2023 saw a change in the structure of the women's club rugby competition with clubs opting for games on Saturdays after years of Wednesday evening matches. This change has been positive with clubs relishing in the opportunity to host games and after matches which provides a greater community connection for the clubs. We had four clubs partake in this year's competition, Foxton RFC, Levin College Old Boys RFC, and Athletic RFC in their inaugural season. Congratulations, again to Rahui RFC for taking out top honours with an exciting final played against Levin College Old Boys RFC. We continue to receive feedback from our clubs to adapt our competition to support women's rugby in HKRFU and I am hopeful that with the growth in this area that all clubs will be able to field a women's team in future years.

Lastly, I wish to thank all our volunteers who sacrifice their time to support the growth of rugby in our community. Thank you for your efforts in 2023, I look forward to catching up with you all to do it again in 2024. Best wishes for a relaxing and safe Christmas period. Roll on 2024!

Kind regards,
Sinead Barrell
Game Development Officer

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Rippa Rugby Officer's Report

Kia Ora Koutou,

It is with great honor to present my second annual Rippa Rugby Officer Report for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

2023 has been a very enjoyable and successful year for the union and it's a privilege to be involved. I would like to thank the rugby committee, board of directors and Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union staff for all their hard work and dedication to the union. A massive amount of work goes on behind the scenes to keep this machine rolling. I would like to take the chance to acknowledge Corey's efforts on getting both the Hurricanes and Hurricanes Poua to play at the Levin domain. Also gaining us the opportunity to host the Ranfurly Shield game at the domain. Three special occasions for the province and community to be proud of.

Thank you to all the primary schools, secondary schools and clubs that I have worked with this year. It's been a privilege to come in and take rippa sessions, host tournaments, referee inter school tackle games and help with coaching. Thank you to all the teachers and parents that made it possible.

Congratulations to all the clubs that were involved in club rugby in the Horowhenua Kapiti region this season. A fantastic season for all grades. Awesome to have Shannon, Levin Wanderers and Rahui clubs put forward both a Premier and Senior reserve side for 2023. A fantastic achievement after only having one senior men's team for 2022. Congratulations to Levin Wanderers on celebrating their 125th anniversary this year, a huge achievement for the club. I would like to congratulate Rahui on winning the Ramsbotham Cup and Levin College old boys on winning the Bill Muir Cup. Well done to those teams on making it to the final, Runners up Shannon for the Ramsbotham Cup and Rahui for the Bill Muir Cup. Well done to those teams on making it to the final. Congratulations to Rahui on winning the woman's competition and runners up Levin College Old Boys.

Thank you to all the exceptional volunteers and referees that gave up countless hours of their free time to help steer the ship. Whatever your role may have been, to give up your time week after week is an outstanding service. Congratulations to all the players, management and volunteers that were selected for higher honors, nominated and received an award at the Annual HKRFU Prizegiving, its brilliant that you can all be recognized.

Now that 2024 is on the horizon, it is with much excitement to see what the year has in store. I wish everyone a happy holiday and look forward to working with you all next year.

Kind Regards,
Ethan Ayers
Rippa Rugby Officer

Community Rugby Officer's Report

Kia Ora Koutou,

As I'm the newest member of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union whanau, I firstly want to show you all my appreciation for welcoming me in with open arms. Thank you for allowing me to work side by side with you as we work towards making rugby in the Horowhenua Kapiti a sport families all over the region want, not only their tamariki, but also themselves to be apart of. Rugby continues to evolve in Horowhenua Kapiti and I couldn't be more excited to contribute and grow with you all on this journey.

I started off my time getting stuck in to building relationships with the schools through rippa rugby. First off, working with the schools within and around the Foxton area, then making my way south to mix in with the Otaki schools. Key relationships and foundations were built, skills were learnt, and eyes were widened to the sport that is rugby. We ended our sessions in Otaki with a Rippa tournament that saw around 200 kids take part in. We look to expand even more in 2024, bringing rippa tournaments back to the schools in Foxton. I'm eager to see all the kids upskill from what was learnt this year, into the next.

Not long after getting my training wheels removed, came along the Ranfurly shield challenge. Horowhenua Kapiti hasn't had the opportunity to play in a Ranfurly shield game since 2015, let alone host a Ranfurly shield match which goes back to 1993, so getting an opportunity to both play for and host a Ranfurly shield match was huge for the union and our community. The experience for all the players, management, coaches and spectators to witness and be apart of, is second to none. A huge congratulations to Corey for the hard work he put in behind the scenes to secure this match.

Soon after came the close of our men's club competition. In the Senior Reserve final, we saw Levin College Old Boys take on Rahui, and the Premier final saw Rahui take on Shannon. A huge congratulations goes to Levin College Old Boys on winning the Bill Muir, and Rahui on winning the Ramsbotham Cup. With one competition closing, another started. Our women's competition got underway with Foxton, Athletic, Levin College Old Boys and Rahui all taking part. A big thank you goes out to all four clubs for all your hard work and commitment to the women's competition. It wouldn't have been anywhere near successful without the help and contribution all four clubs made. The Final saw Rahui take on Levin College Old Boys, in a tightly contested match, Rahui come out on top. Congratulations to Rahui on such a successful campaign across all grades. Hopefully next year we can see the women's competition expand with the entry of more clubs.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all volunteers involved in helping our rugby union get to where we are today. Coaches, managers, referees, club administrators, union delegates and committee members, your commitment to this union and your hard work both on and off the field in 2023, has shaped and created a path for our future generations to follow.

Nga mihi,
Josh Sanson
Community Rugby Officer

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Heartland Report

Talofa lava,

Our Heartland 2023 Campaign started off with a fantastic opportunity by having a Ranfurly Shield Challenge against the Wellington Lions. This incentive provided a chance for the boys to play in a fixture not everyone gets an opportunity to play in. This opportunity made even more special to host it here in our Province. It had been 30 years since we last hosted a shield challenge which was against Auckland in 1993.

The boys gave it their all but came up short against a tough professional Lions team losing 68-7. Some special moments in this came from one of our youngest debutants Malaki Masoe who scored our only try and also made an outstanding try saving tackle on former All Black and Hurricane Hooker Asafo Aumua. We would like to thank the Union for the role it played to get us a Shield Challenge, it was very much appreciated by our Team and Management.

The team finished the year with a record of 2 wins and 6 losses, a difficult year for us. On the bright side we managed to retain the PGG Wrightson Cup with a win against our neighbours Wairarapa Bush and Centennial Cup against Buller.

We had a few special milestones celebrated this season. Congratulations to Jack Tatu-Robertsson, Hamish Buick, Tipu Luke and Yurri Hyson who were presented their Union Blazers. Congratulations to Willie Paia'aui who played his 50th game, and David McErlean and Aaron Lahmert on reaching 75 games for the Nua. A special mention for our Captain Ryan Shelford who retires on 116 first class games and caps off what has been a massive first class career for HK.

Congratulations to Heartland Manager Thomas Zimmerman on his appointment to the New Zealand Heartland XV. This is due recognition for Tommy's hard work with our Heartland team this season. We are very lucky to have someone of Tommy's calibre involved with our team.

At the Annual Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union Prizegiving we acknowledged some of our team who played well for us. Congratulations to:

Ryan Shelford – Māori Player of the year

Dallas Wiki – Heartland Most Improved

Poleka Itielu – Heartland Most Promising

Leighton Ralph – Heartland Player of the year

On behalf of our Management, we would like to thank everyone involved in this year's campaign. Thank you also to our Rugby community for your support. It has been a tough year on results but we are determined as a group to come back better next season.

Many thanks,
Heartland Management.

Māori Rugby Report

Kei te hunga tiaki o hākinakina whutuporo i roto i ngā takiwā o Horowhenua, o Kāpiti, tēnā rā koutou. He whakaaro aroha hoki ki ngā mate huhua o te tau e pahure ake, ngā tini aituā e whakangaro atu ki te pō. Moe mai rā tonu koutou i te rangimārie o te kaihangā. He mihi tēnei ki te iwi tokotoru o Ngāti Toa Rangatira, o Te Āti Awa, o Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, te iwi o Muaūpoko, koutou ngā iwi taketake. Tēnā tātou katoa.

The 2023 Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugby season again provided many opportunities for the growth and development of pathways for iwi Māori within our provincial union.

Our collective iwi representation and involvement is visible across our rohe from Te Awahou (Foxton) to Te Maire (Shannon), Taitoko (Levin) to Ōtaki, Waikanae to Paraparaumu, and to the shores of Pari-rua to the south.

The tikanga whakawātea, traditional blessings and freeing ceremony, for the construction of our new HKRFU Clubrooms, Boardroom and administration offices, were performed by Ngāti Toa, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa and Muaūpoko rangatira, Rawiri Rikihana, Ricki Baker, Marokopa Wiremu-Matakātea and myself on 17 April 2023.

Our tamariki, taiohi and rangatahi were seen on papa tākaro (playing fields) of their kura and our Clubs, embraced and supported by their mātua (parents) and whanaunga. A big acknowledgement to the many kaiāwhina who coach, manage, promote, volunteer and support our game across the takiwā (province).

This recognition is perpetuated across all whakatupuranga (generations) and is best reflected by those individuals who represent us at all levels from the playing fields to the Clubrooms and the Boardroom.

A big mihi again to our All Blacks Dane Coles (Ngāti Porou) and Cody Taylor (Ngāti Raukawa, Muaūpoko,) for their selection for the 2023 Rugby World Cup. Fletcher Carpenter (Ngāti Raukawa) has eclipsed his 2022 MVP award for the NZ World School Sevens, through his selection to join the NZ All Black Sevens camp in 2023. Rangimārie Sturmey (Ngā Rauru, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi) selection for the Black Ferns XV and the award for Manawatū Cyclone of the year is also a great reflection of our continued growth of rugby for wāhine in our rohe. It is also appropriate to recognise and congratulate Chris Wilton (Muaūpoko) for his appointment as the Manawatū Cyclones Coach in 2023.



Quinn Sturmey (Ngā Rauru, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi) was selected for the NZ Māori Ngā Whatukura U18s, and Taine Harvey (Ngāti Raukawa, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) was selected for the NZ Secondary Schools XV. Both players also joined the Hurricanes U18 camp.

The Horowhenua-Kāpiti Tāne Māori rugby team competed in Te Tini-a-Māui Regional Māori tournament hosted by Te Matau-a-Māui (Hawke Bay). We celebrated three of our squad for selection for Te Tini-a-Māui Regional Representative Tournament Team, Warren Heihei (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāpuhi), Jayden Angove (Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi) and Whetūrangi Tauhore (Ngāti Porou). For the first time we challenged for the Miki Haddon Shield against Manawatū Tāne Māori played in Aorangi (Feilding).

Thomas Zimmerman (Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Porou) was selected as the Manager for the NZ Heartland XV, which is reflective of the respect and high regard he has secured as our H-K Heartland XV Manager. The H-K Representative Coach for 2023 is Michael Ogden (Ngāti Raukawa), and Tipu Luke (Ngāti Raukawa) received his representative blazer as our current H-K Heartland XV Assistant Manager.

The prestigious Harry Jacob Cup for Māori Player of the Year was deservedly presented to rangatira Ryan Shelford (Ngāti Porou & Ngāpuhi), and the Māori Colt taonga was presented to Mikaere Harvey (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) who was also selected for the Hurricanes U18 camp. Dallas Wiki (Ngāti Wai) is the H-K Heartland XV Most Improved Player.

The kaitiaki (governors) of our province are also acknowledged for their leadership and valuable contributions at the Board and Rugby Committee tables, which supports business and operational decisions, complimented by our CEO Corey Kennett and our valuable staff, they include President Lindsay Walker (Ngāi Te Rangi), Chairman John Cribb (Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Rangi, Tūwharetoa, Tainui), Deputy-Chairperson Slade Sturmey (Ngā Rauru, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi), Brett Karipa (Ngāti Raukawa), Rebecca Hori Te Pa (Ngāti Raukawa, Te Rarawa) and André Baker (Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira).

In 2024, Taranaki Māori Rugby will celebrate their centennial year and Te Tini-a-Māui Central Māori Rugby tournament is likely to be held in Ngā Motu (New Plymouth). This will be a significant milestone and opportunity for H-K Māori Rugby to reconnect with our very strong ancestral relationships to Te Āti Awa. I extend my appreciation to our Māori rugby community of Horowhenua-Kāpiti rohe for your valuable contributions made in 2023. Enjoy the holiday season with whānau and the opportunity to refresh before we face another exciting season in 2024.

André Baker
Kaihautu
H-K Māori Rugby
20 o ngā rā o Whiringa-ā-rangi 2023

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Junior Rugby Report

Kia ora Koutou,

Every year is hard for clubs to get Junior Convenors to ensure Rugby is available for the many Juniors running around every cold and wet Saturday morning during the winter season. Thank you Shannon's Sarah Burgess, Foxton's Bonnie Petersen, COB's Dymon Lamsam, Athletic's Morgan Braddick, Wanderers' Kirstie Matakatea and Andrea Atutahi, Rahui's Jason Lavery and Gerald Roper, Waikanae's Matthew Grace and Paraparaumu's Benji Phelps. Your hard work and time put into the decision making and planning is very much appreciated.

Junior Club Rugby:

Our player numbers seem have increased from previous years, indicating that good work within all clubs in terms of Junior player recruitment continues across the Union. Well done to all within our Junior Clubs, your valuable time and constant mahi is appreciated.

Coaching courses:

The Small Blacks course is an important part of our Junior Rugby, to ensure we as parents, spectators, coaches and referees play our roles of encouraging our next College and Senior club players. Thank you to the HKRFU team who do a fantastic job to ensure these courses are delivered to all our willing volunteers. Ensuring our people are up to a suitable standard, reducing the issues and concerns that appear.

Sideline Behaviour:

The HK rugby community continue to improve in this area, but we still have a long way to go. As we do get better, each team and each club, along with guidance of HKRFU, are able to deal with these issues swiftly and with confidence. If we remember this is a vehicle for our Juniors to participate in our National Sport, so encouraging Sport and Fairplay is the key.

Development Days:

Our Development Days are a way of ensuring we develop the talent and continue the pathway for our younger players, especially when this is the pathway to U16, U18, U20, Hurricanes Heartland U20 and then H-K Heartland honours. This year we ran a Development day at Te Atiawa Park but unfortunately our other day planned for Playford Park was rained off.

Finally, I would like to thank the HKRFU support of Aleni, Ryan, Sinead, Ethan, Josh and Corey, without their guidance this wouldn't happen, so bring on 2024!

Regards,
Slade Sturmey
JMB Chair

Primary School's Rugby Report

The 2023 season saw a positive start to the primary schools development program with the union's development staff continuing to drive the development strategy around building and growing the relationship between the union and the 36 primary schools within the union's catchment, and delivering both Rippa and Tackle to these schools.

This report acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the development team of Ryan and Ethan in looking after the union's primary schools rippa and tackle rugby program. The positive contribution of this team was bolstered with the recruitment of Josh Sanson who joined the team as Community Rugby Officer in June this year.

In an initial season highlight, the Hurricanes Poua visited Playford Park with the Women's World Cup whilst they were in town and hosted a training session for the local primary schools. A few of the Poua players also visited Paraparaumu, holding a session at Kenakena School.

The following is a summary of the 2023 Primary Schools Rugby highlights and achievements...

Term 2

- Northern and Southern Schools Rippa Programs, run by Ethan and Josh
- 'Tackle Days' – Promoting Tackle Rugby and building tackle confidence, run by Ryan
- Levin Tackle tournament for the years 5-6 grade, (won by Fairfield School), and the years 7-8 grade, (won by St Joseph's School)

Term 3

- Otaki Schools Rippa Tournament for the years 5-6 competitive grade (won by Waitohu), and three non-competitive (social) grades for the years 3-4, 5-6 and years 7-8.
- Kapiti Primary Schools Winter Rippa and Tackle Rugby Tournament for both the Junior and Senior grades
- 'Tackle Clinics' – Promoting Tackle Rugby and building tackle confidence

Term 4

- Levin Rippa tournament for the years 5-6 grade, (won by Levin East School), and the years 7-8 grade, (won by Levin Intermediate).

Special thanks to Corey, Aleni and Sinead for their administrative support and assistance for the Development Team in the delivery of ongoing development opportunities for our primary schools Rippa and Tackle rugby players.

Regards,
Ged Eller
Convenor

Rugby Referee Association Report

2023 will be remembered for the challenges adapting to the new tackle laws and the new buzz words “sternum tackle”. Players & referees adapted, resulting in more open play. Going forward, the tackle law will remain a challenge, as we have many years of habits to change. To positively start the 2024 season, it will be important that club coaching teams & referees get together to jointly understand any new laws. We all need to play a part in educating our club members & supporters.

The Coaching and Grading team, led by Stu Beissel, are immensely proud of our referees & their development this year. Al Paton has done a great job with Stu Beissel appointing referees to games. Many referees had multiple appointments each Saturday, which is much appreciated.

Professional referee Ben O’Keefe continues to be a valued member. Apart from refereeing the semi-final at the World Cup, he also managed to handle the pressure of a senior A game between Paraparaumu and Shannon. Congratulations to Ben for an outstanding year.

Thank you to the union and support provided by Sinead. She has been outstanding and provided a service well beyond our expectations.

Referee trophy winners in 2023:

Excellence In Refereeing	Sam Taylor
Most Improved Intermediate Referee	Mike Williams
Most Improved Junior Referee	Ashton Foote
Presidents Cup HKRRA	Vaughan Guiton
Whiti Spirit Cup	Blair Harley
Ian Carson Assistant Referee of the Year	Vaughan Guiton

Congratulations for the clubs of the year: Premier - Rahui and Reserves – COB.

We would like to congratulate Quentin Hathaway for being voted the Club Referee of the year.

We also congratulate Sam Taylor with a second successful year participating in the Hurricanes Referees Youth Development Squad.

We would like to pass on our best wishes to Sam Thompson and his partner who have moved to Tauranga. We wish them all the best with the impending birth of their first child.

I would like to thank the management team, Al Paton, Stu Beissel and Greg McCardle for their support. Further to that, I would like to thank all the referees who continue to provide their time to Referee, AR, manage sidelines, supporting the management team, attending development sessions and above all volunteering their time.

Kind Regards,
Stu Taylforth
HKRRA President

Age Grade Representative Rugby Report

Kia Ora,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Representative Rugby Report. Firstly, I would like to send a massive thank you to our Coaching and team management for their sacrifice and dedication this year. We have had a lot highs and lows in this seasons Age Grade Representative Rugby space but nevertheless, grateful that we are able to play some rep footy and provide opportunities for local players to play against our Heartland Provincial Unions in the Hurricanes Region.

Under 16

Thank you to this years coaches of Blair Harley and Les Poutama, Managed by Kylie and Shaun Blake. After a couple weeks of musters and trials, the coaches managed to select a wider training group of 28 which was then culled to their final 24 for tournament. This years results saw the team lose to Whanganui (Pre-Tournament), Poverty Bay, Wairarapa Bush (Friendly) but finished off their tournament with a strong win against Ngati Porou East Coast. Award recipients – Most Improved – Josh Tanielu (Ray), Most Valuable – Rico Poutama, Players Choice – Paora Drake

Under 18

In 2022 we struggled to get this team off the ground and had to pull the team due to low numbers. We are so appreciative of the efforts of Coaches Ricky Fonoti and Sean Duseigneur, and Manager Ray Hunia for their hard work in moulding this years group. The team had a three game campaign against Wairarapa Bush, Poverty Bay and Whanganui. Although the team had gone through winless, the young team should see a lot of returning and eligible players in the jersey next year.

Under 20s

Due to our Club season playing a week longer our team had to default their first game against Wairarapa Bush. The following week, the team then had a close win against Poverty Bay on the Saturday, before backing it up with solid win against hosts Whanganui on the Sunday. Because of the Defaulted game the team finished 2nd place in the Hurricanes Youth Council Under 20s Development Series to Wairarapa Bush who were undefeated. Congratulations to Max Hosking, Ted Northcott, Heremaia Cooper, Mikaere Harvey, Kagyn Taunoa and Levi Timms on their selection into the Hurricanes Heartland Under 20s team. Congratulations also to Max Hosking for receiving the Under 20s player of the year and Mikaere Harvey who received Maori Colt, Michael Ogden who received Representative Coach of the Year and the Team won the Representative team of the Year. Extra accolade for Mikaere who made his debut for the Horowhenua Kapiti Heartland team in their last game of the season against Whanganui.

To all our players and management we say thank you. We hope that you have enjoyed your experience in the Nua Jersey and will look to continue to play at the representative level.

Regards,

Matai'a Aleni Feagaiga

HKRFU Prizegiving Winners

Club Awards

- **Kevin De Castro/KB Swain Cup** - Levin College Old Boys Senior Reserves
- **Robinson Rosebowl** - Rahui Premiers
- **Club Referee of the Year** - Quentin Hathaway
- **Supporter of the Year** - Rex Kerr
- **Club Volunteer of the Year** - David Petersen
- **Saturday Morning Volunteer of the Year** - Dan Vulu
- **Club Coach of the Year** - Mark Tooman

Blazer Presentation

- Yurri Hynson & Tipu Luke

Representative Awards

- **U20's Player of the Year** - Max Hosking
- **Māori Colt Player of the Year** - Mikaere Harvey
- **Māori Player of the Year** - Ryan Shelford
- **Heartland Most Improved Player of the Year** - Dallas Wiki
- **Heartland Most Promising Player of the Year** - Poleka Itielu
- **Heartland Player of the Year** - Leighton Ralph
- **Representative Coach of the Year** - Michael Ogden
- **Representative Team of the Year** - Under 20's

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