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Annual Report 2024



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Most Improved

Player of the Year



*Esi
Konaisavai*

K.B.W.



Most Promising

Annual General Meeting Agenda and Obituaries

Notice is hereby given that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union will be held:

Monday 2nd of December 2024 commencing 7.00pm, at the Horowhenua Kapiti Headquarters, Levin Domain, Levin.

Agenda:

Roll Call of Delegates
Apologies
Obituaries
Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
To receive, and adopt the 2024 Annual Report
Financial Report
Election of Patron
Election of President
Election of Independent Director
Appointment of Auditor
Appointment of Honourary Legal Advisor
General Business

Apologies:

Rex Kerr (Life Member), Thomas Zimmerman (Foxton), Ernie Timms (Shannon)

Obituaries as advised by Clubs and Affiliated members

Tracey McErlean, Ama Graham, John Duthie, Yvonne Thorby, Ellen Te Huirangi Kunaiti (Foxton), Henry Williams, Ngarongo Keelan, Darkie (Huia Raymond) Logan, Haana Lawton, Tracey Stevens, Wiki Spencer, Kevin Matakatea, Darlene Shailer, Hanita 'Byron' Paki, Victor Jury, Adam Hori Te Pa, Mike McGregor (Levin Wanderers), Tom Houston (Paraparaumu), Paddy Hyndman (Shannon), Don Whiterod, Kylie Manga (Rahui), Repata Kerehoma, Wikitoria Spencer (Athletic).

Signed by:

Corey Kennett

Chief Executive Officer

Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union

2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Annual General Meeting held on Monday 11th of December 2023, 7:00pm at the Hohepa Jacob Community Rugby Centre, Playford Park, Levin.

Present: John Cribb (Chairman), Lindsay Walker (President), Slade Sturmey, Nathan Guy, Richard Mansell, Sue Fifita-Tovo, Axel Nielsen, Brain Singleton, Stuart Beissel, Justin Pape, Rex Kerr, Ged Eller, Brett Karipa, Reuben Butcher, John Williams, Ernie Timms, Tony Bailey, Lindsay Walker, Stu Greig, Hayden Beissel, Fay Hokianga, Corey Kennett, Aleni Feagaiga, Ryan Shelford, Sinead Barrell, Ethan Ayers, Josh Sanson.

J. Cribb welcomed everyone to the 130th Annual General Meeting.

The voting delegates roll call was confirmed.

Apologies: P. Mahuinga, D. Thomas (Levin College Old Boys), S. Falamoe, S. Hirini (Wanderers), T. Zimmerman (Foxton), A. Baker (Māori Delegate)
R. Butcher/G. Eller Carried

Obituaries Recorded:

Errol MacDonald (ex HKRFU President & Levin College Old Boys), Prince Te Whaiti (Foxton), Junior So'o, Trevor Mason, Russ Martin (Paraparaumu RFC), Wihi Royal (Rāhui), Ken Baines, Scotty Houston (Shannon), Debby Thomas (Levin College Old Boys), Brian Minnell, Frank Pollock, Jimmy Atutahi, Boss Hirini, Joe Gardiner, Frank Matahaere, Eddie Yee, Carol O'Donnel, Christine Gallagher, Leanne Harrison, Arthur Henare (Wanderers).

Members stood for a moment's silence.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Monday 5th of December 2022 were adopted as a true and correct record.

N. Guy/S. Beissel Carried

To receive and adopt the 2023 Annual Report:

G. Eller/S. Fifita-Tovo Carried

Chair's Report:

J. Cribb talked about our local men's and women's club rugby competition's and how great it was to have them participate and play. He said the support of sponsors again this year kept us on track. J. Cribb mentioned our registration numbers have once again succeeded past years. He also acknowledged the Union having 21 debutants this year for our Heartland team, along with congratulating those who received blazers and notched milestones. J. Cribb thanked the staff for another successful year and that he was glad to see everyone here.

CEO Report:

C. Kennett mentioned how 2023 has been another good year for rugby in the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union. He also touched on how proud he was that we had managed to be the best financially performing Heartland Provincial Union in the Country again. He offered his thanks and respect to all volunteers from all areas within our Union throughout 2023.

Financial Report:

C. Kennett said he is happy to announce that this year see's our 15th consecutive surplus. With our new building under construction, the Union have been able to net an exceptional surplus. C. Kennett signified the importance having the backing of the Board and Rugby Delegates, showing his appreciation.

Adopt Financial Report:

J. Williams/R. Butcher Carried

Election of Patron:

J. Williams

No further nominations,

Carried N. Guy /G. Eller

unopposed.

Re-election of Independent Director Ratification:

N. Guy

J. Cribb gave thanks to Slade and Sue for their work on the board after constitutional change.

Carried R. Butcher/S. Fifita-Tovo

Appointment of Auditor:

Dennis Blank

Carried R. Mansell/J. Cribb

Nomination for Life Membership:

It was proposed that John Cribb be awarded life membership.

Carried S. Sturmeay/J. Williams

S. Sturmeay (Rahui) and G. Eller (HKRFU) stood up on behalf of their respective unions to support this motion. Both S. Sturmeay and G. Eller touched on the multiple roles J. Cribb held within both union and club for many years. They both agreed on how deserving J. Cribb was of this accolade. They went on to thank and congratulate him for his many years of service. R. Kerr was asked to present J. Cribb with his life membership badge. J. Cribb showed his appreciation to everyone for this nomination. He touched on the enjoyment he's had over his many years involved in rugby and wanted to thank everyone for their support.

General Business:

N. Guy acknowledged J. Cribb for all his work within the union, especially as chair. He mentioned the humility J. Cribb shows within the many organisations he's involved with. N. Guy also thanked C. Kennett and HKRFU staff.

J. Cribb closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 7.42pm.



2024



Club Champions



Chairman's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present to you all the 131st Annual Report and my fifth as Chair of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

Congratulations to Foxton for winning the Ramsbotham Cup Premier Final against Rahui Whero and to Rahui Kikorangi for winning the Bill Muir Cup Senior Reserve Final against Athletic. These two matches came down to the wire with only a couple of point's the difference, which made for entertaining watching. Congratulations to the Rahui women's team for their win in the final against Shannon. Well done to all clubs for fielding teams in the various competitions this year, I look forward to seeing what our 2025 competitions hold.

In April we had the pleasure of hosting the Hurricanes Poua vs Blues Super Aupiki competition match. With the new Horowhenua Kapiti Headquarters fully functional, it was the perfect way to get this new era of Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby underway. It was also great to see the community engagement and additional events held by the development staff surrounding these matches.

There is not often an occasion when a hosting team takes their competition match on the road, 500 kilometres from home, however in September we were fortunate enough to play our round robin match against South Canterbury at the Garden of Eden, Eden Park. Our players relished in this momentous occasion to be able to play on Eden Park, in front of their whanau and friends, where many New Zealand icons have played before them. The Heartland team had an exceptional season, winning four from eight, leading to a home semi-final against West Coast in the Lochore Cup. In a high scoring affair, the game went to the wire but unfortunately, the boys fell short by one point, the score being 51 - 52. A special mention to the 13 debutants who wore the NUA jersey this season. I hope to see you all back representing the Nua in 2025. With this years squad being quite young, we only saw the one special milestone, with Connor Paki recieving his blazer for playing 25 games. A special mention goes to Dallas Wiki and Poleka Itielu for making this years New Zealand Heartland squad, along with Tommy Zimmerman who was manager, and Aleni Feagaiga as a coach observer for the team. I'd also like to acknowledge Kapumanawawhiti Broughton-Winterburn who was selected for the New Zealand Maori XV. 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 2024, we look forward to seeing you all return in 2025.

I am pleased to announce that we have again lived within our financial means and have posted our 16th consecutive surplus. In an ever-changing financial climate, this is not easily attained. I wish to thank our Board of Directors and CEO Corey Kennett for all the work you've done to ensure that we are financially sustainable.

Our player registration numbers have once again superseded our previous year's numbers from 2023 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.

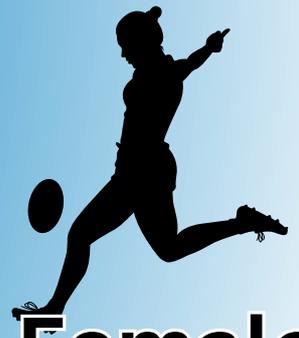
To my fellow Board of Directors and Rugby Committee members, I thank you for the countless hours of service you have given to your clubs and our Union this year. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your whanau, and as always, travel safe.

Nga mihi,
John Cribb
Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union Chair



Male
3077

Total Players
4755



Female
1678

Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am very proud to present the Chief Executive Officer's 2024 Annual report for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

2024 has been another good year for rugby in Horowhenua Kapiti. 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 16th consecutive financial surplus this year, a surplus of \$23,941. Although this is our 16th consecutive financial surplus, this is never easy to achieve. Expenditure decreased in 2024, although we continued our usual high amount of rugby activities, along with the completion of our new HKRFU Headquarters. I am extremely happy that we managed to complete all we did this year while living 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 is the only Heartland Provincial Union that has managed to achieve 16 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 2024 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 4,574 in 2023 to 4,755 in 2024. Quite an amazing performance and a huge amount of gratitude goes to our development staff in helping to make this happen.

The biggest achievement this year though was the completion of the HKRFU Headquarters. It is hard to believe, but I first started scoping work on this project in December 2008!! When we reviewed our strategic plan in January 2009, we entered the goal of constructing a building for the first time. It certainly has been a long time coming. I joked with Chair, John Cribb, about how I estimated that I'd spent at least six months of working time (24 weeks x 40 hours= 960 hours) on this project before the actual project management of the building construction started!! After several false starts, some frustration, and a very long-time raising funds, I was incredibly thrilled to complete our new home. As with all building projects, I had many challenges along the way, but have worked around them to produce a beautiful building that will stand the test of time. Also, it was brilliant to see many of our community attend our Te Whakatuwheratanga O Te Whare ceremony for the opening of our building. I'm very thankful to all our partners who contributed to making the day so special. The building itself is beautiful, I'm extremely happy with how it turned out and very proud to be able to host our guests there.

This year saw the culmination of a long term goal and a lot of hard work, with The Mighty Nua taking on South Canterbury at Eden Park, in a close fought match going down 24 - 28. The

players really stepped up to the occasion and put their all into the match, getting close to ending South Canterbury's 36 game unbeaten streak. The support both at Eden Park and those watching the live stream was significant, our community really got behind The Mighty Nua. This has been an initiative that I have been working on for several years, getting close on a few occasions but not getting it quite across the line. To be able to now achieve this finally, and to be able to provide a once in a generation opportunity for our community, has been very fulfilling.

The Heartland team had a very good Heartland Championship campaign this year, winning four from eight games and securing a home Lochore Cup semi-final. The fairytale ending wasn't to be with the boys going down 51 – 52. A big thank you to the management team of Aleni, Kent, Debbie, Philip, Tommy, Tipu and Yurri. I was lucky enough to see first hand the hard work and commitment put in by them, we are indeed fortunate to have people like this involved with the Heartland team.

2024 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 Foxton, Rahui & Athletic for being involved in a unique day. Special congratulations to Foxton for their victory in the Premier grade and to Rahui for winning the Senior Reserve grade. Congratulations also to Rahui for having teams in both finals, a huge accomplishment.

This year also saw another season of the Club Women's Competition. This great initiative was spearheaded by Ryan Shelford and was successful again. 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 Shannon 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.

I was also extremely proud to see Horowhenua Kapiti players selected for regional Representative honours. Congratulations to Xodus Purewa, Levi Timms, George To, Jacob Keating, Preston McErlean, Etuni Latu and Sam Mortiboy for making the Hurricanes Heartland Under 20's team. On the back of the Hurricanes Heartland campaign, Jacob Keating, George To and Mikaere Harvey were also selected to represent the New Zealand Heartland U20's. It was brilliant to receive the news that Poleka Itielu and Dallas Wiki had been selected for the New Zealand Heartland XV, along with Heartland Manager Tom Zimmerman, and Head Coach Aleni Feagaiga who were selected in management roles. We also had Kapu Broughton-Winterburn who was selected for the New Zealand Māori XV. Congratulations to everyone for their achievements.

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 them 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 Community Trust, One Foundation and the Aotearoa 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 Greg McCardle, Al Paton and their 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 16 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 continue to work very hard in serving their Union. You have managed to surpass your normal exceptional service and produced a year high in quality, 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.

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

Kia ora koutou,

As I reflect on my time as President of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the achievements and spirit of our rugby community.

I want to begin by thanking Corey and our Union's dedicated staff for their incredible hard work and commitment. Your behind-the-scenes efforts keep our Union running smoothly and allow us to provide our players and community with the best possible experience.

To our Chairman, John Cribb, thank you for your steady leadership and guidance. Your stewardship has been instrumental in our Union's continued success, and I am grateful to have served alongside you. I continue my thanks to the Board members and elected Club delegates for your support and the time you dedicate to the Union.

To our clubs, representative teams, coaches, volunteers, and referees, I extend my deepest thanks. Your hard work and passion is what keeps rugby thriving in Horowhenua Kapiti. The dedication you show every day helps foster a strong rugby culture and brings our community closer together.

This year, I had the privilege of being invited to present the Nash Cup to the Rahui Premier team for their magnificent achievement in winning this prestigious trophy for five consecutive years. This accomplishment is a testament to the skill, dedication, and unwavering spirit of the players, coaches, and supporters of Rahui Rugby Club. Such consistency is truly inspiring, and it speaks volumes about the strength and resilience of this team.

It was also a great honour to present our championship medals and trophies at our club finals day and to join in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our teams. Additionally, the opening of our new facilities at the Levin Domain marked a significant milestone for the Union, and I look forward to seeing our players and community benefit from this fantastic space.

Thank you all for the privilege of serving as your President over the past two years. I continue to be excited about the future of our Union, knowing it is in excellent hands and poised for ongoing success.

Ngā mihi nui,

Lindsay Walker QSM,
President
Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union

Community Rugby Manager's Report

Talofa lava,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Community Rugby Manager 2024 Annual report for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

What a year 2024 has been, starting off with the opening of our new office building and clubrooms. A fantastic facility we should all be proud of. This closely followed by the hosting of the Wellington Poua and Auckland Blues game at the Levin Domain, a great day for our rugby community.

Junior and Secondary School Rugby

Junior and Secondary School rugby has once again been fantastic. I would like to thank all the club junior convenor's and secondary school teachers in charge of rugby for your continued hard work and dedication throughout the year. I have enjoyed working with you all once again. A highlight in the Secondary sector was Otis Blake (Paraparaumu College 1st XV) who was selected to the Hurricanes U18 camp, Congratulations Otis. Your selection is due reward for your hard work.

Club Rugby

Our club competition this year was as tight as ever with Rahui winning the Senior Reserve Competition and Foxton winning the Premier Competition, both finals were a fitting end to what has been an outstanding club competition. Our women's competition has seen great growth in skill level and understanding of the game from all involved. Congratulations to Rahui for winning this year's competition beating Shannon.

Representative Rugby

This year we had a few new faces jump into the coaching and management of our representative teams. A very big thank you to Robbie Hutchinson, Ben Lynch-Phillips, Dane Coles and Tim Mcmillan (U16), Blair Harley, Corey Voullaire and Makaore Bevan-Wilson (U18), Chulainn Sowerby, Corey Voullaire and Hayden Beissel (U20), Axel Neilsen, Shaun Duseigneur, Dan Vulu and Amos Telea (Pasifika), and Andre Baker (Māori). Without your time and dedication our representative programme wouldn't have been as successful.

To conclude my report, I would like to thank all our hardworking volunteers who willingly sacrifice their time and energy to ensure that rugby stays alive in all areas of our community rugby. A massive thank you for being a part of a wonderful 2024 and look forward to doing it all over again in 2025.

Ma lo'u fa'aaloalo lava (with much respect),

Matai'a Aleni Feagaiga

Community Rugby Manager



Rugby Development Officer's Report

Kia ora koutou,

Firstly, thank you to all our Rugby Committee and Board of Directors for your contribution to Rugby in the Horowhenua Kapiti, it is appreciated by all who get to play rugby in our competitions. I am able to see all of the work that goes on behind the scenes, travelling around our province over the years, you notice things. All of what it takes to put a team on the park, from setting up the grounds, preparing food, team playing gear/apparel and all the time that goes in off the field, committee meetings, finances, finding club volunteers etc.

In the Secondary School space, although this Secondary School season for the Southern Colleges wasn't a successful season in terms of winning finals, all colleges were able to field teams and compete well in their respective grades. The Kapiti College Under 65kg team was lead by coach Howard Woodley and Paraparaumu College's Under 65kg team was lead by coach Blair Harley. Both teams had a huge season in Division 1 and would end up meeting each other in the playoff for 3rd and 4th. Kapiti and Paraparaumu Colleges combined Secondary School Girls team made the semi-finals in Division 3 of the College Sport Wellington Competition. Paraparaumu College Under 15 Girls team returned this season with 3 players from Kapiti College joining later.

Congratulations to all teams involved in the club finals day, Athletic and Rāhui in the Senior Reserve grade, along with Foxton and Rāhui in the Premier Grade. A lot goes into a season, and it takes a great effort to make a final. Congratulations to all involved. Congratulations to Rāhui Senior Reserves and Foxton Premier for winning their respective grades. Congratulations to Rāhui and Shannon women's rugby teams for making the final and congratulations to Rāhui for winning the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union women's club rugby competition for 2024.

I would like to acknowledge all of our representative players that made higher honours for the 2024 season. Hurricanes Heartland Under 20's: George To, Jacob Keating, Levi Timms, Etuni Latu, Preston McErlean, Sam Mortiboy, and Xodus Purewa. Hurricanes Under 18's: Otis Blake. New Zealand Heartland Under 20's: George To, Jacob Keating and Mikaere Harvey. In the senior representative space making the New Zealand Heartland XV, Dallas Wiki and Poleka Itielu, who both had an outstanding Heartland rugby season. I'd also like to acknowledge Thomas Zimmerman for his appointment as manager and Aleni Feagaiga for his appointment as an observer coach with the New Zealand Heartland XV. We also had Kapu Broughton-Winterburn who was selected for the New Zealand Māori XV.

Lastly, I'd like to finish by thanking everyone who has volunteered in any rugby area for 2024. Your time is valued and appreciated by all those that represent your School, Club or Association.

Ngā mihi,
Ryan Shelford
Rugby Development Officer

Game Development Officer's Report

Hello everyone,

The start of this year was an exciting period for all of us, with the 8th of March marking the opening of the HKRFU Headquarters building at the Levin Domain. A bittersweet occasion for everyone in our local rugby community who now have a place to call the home. As staff we have had the privilege of working out of such a modern space this year and have been reaping the benefits of being in a new build. The upgrade of technology and facilities has been a game changer for us, in particular on match days. It has been great to have so many of our community join us throughout the year in this new space.

On the 6th of April at the Levin Domain, we hosted the Super Rugby Aupiki competition match between the Hurricanes Poua and eventual competition winners, the Blues. As this was a televised match on SKY, this naturally increased the planning of the event with different conditions to meet in comparison to our normal Heartland game days. However, knowing that this match allows our community to watch some of the countries and worlds best female rugby players at the Levin Domain makes the busy period worth it. This also happened to be the first game day hosting event at the new HKRFU Headquarters, which overall was a success. We learnt a few things on the go during the day, but this also helped to shape our game day hosting operations for the rest of year.

Congratulations to all our club rugby finalists and of course to this year's winners, Foxton RFC winners of the Ramsbotham Cup and Rahui RFC for winning both the Bill Muir Cup and the women's competition. Watching finals rugby is never short of entertaining and this year was no different, we have a lot of talented individuals in our Union.

The Heartland team had a promising season and were unfortunate to not be in the Lochore Final. The team really showed off their exceptional attacking ability which was entertaining to watch. I'm sure this year's Heartland season will be one to remember for all involved with the game against South Canterbury at Eden Park being such a special occasion. Credit must be given to Corey for the work he did to make this possible for our Union.

I'd like to thank everyone who has given up their time freely to support rugby in our Union in 2024. We are ever so fortunate to have great community minded people who are so committed to shaping and growing rugby in Horowhenua Kapiti. Best wishes for an enjoyable Christmas period, I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Lastly, to the work crew, it's been a great year working towards our goals and ticking them off together. Thanks especially to Corey for your guidance and support, it certainly helped us to stay on track during the challenging moments. I look forward to 2025 and seeing what we can achieve together as a team!

Kind regards,
Sinead Barrell
Game Development Officer



Rippa Rugby Officer's Report

Kia ora koutou,

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

2024 has involved a lot of exciting and successful occasions for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union. Starting with the Hurricanes Poua playing a regular competition game here at the Levin Domain, making the big move into the new building, another great club season followed by a much-improved Heartland and representative season.

Thank you to everyone involved in club rugby this season and for keeping rugby alive and well in this region. Congratulations to Foxton for winning the Ramsbotham Cup and runners up Rahui. Congratulations to Rahui for winning the Bill Muir Cup and runners up Athletic. Another fantastic club finals day although the weather was very wet, it made for two forward dominated games. Congratulations to Rahui for winning the Women's competition and runners up Shannon. Thankfully for the women they got a beautiful day of weather which made for some quality running rugby.

The representative space was in full swing this season with 6 representative teams representing Horowhenua Kapiti. The Horowhenua Kapiti Men's Heartland side, Horowhenua Kapiti Māori, Horowhenua Kapiti Pasifika, Horowhenua Kapiti Under 20's, Horowhenua Kapiti Under 18's and Horowhenua Kapiti Under 16's. Notable achievements were the Heartland side hosting a home semifinal at the Levin Domain and the under 16 boy's tournament hosted at Playford Park in Levin. Thank you to the coaches, management and players involved in these spaces.

Thank you to all the schools that I work alongside, those being the Levin primary schools and the two Levin Colleges. Another great year in the primary school space, hosting a rippa tournament at Playford park for the Levin primary schools, a great turn out from everyone involved. Thank you to all the teachers and parents that made it possible. Congratulations to the Waiopahu Youth side that won their competition this season. Outstanding effort from the boys and coaches Joe Karauria and Zinzan Eriha. Horowhenua College and Waiopahu College had another exciting Annuals Day. The girls from Horowhenua College got up 20-19. The youth game was an exciting, nail-biting encounter with Waiopahu gaining victory at the death 21-17. Waiopahu First XV won 20-10.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the board of directors and committee members for all you do for the Union. A huge thank you to the referees and the countless volunteers that give up their valued time to the game of rugby in this community.

Kind Regards,
Ethan Ayers
Rippa Rugby Officer

Community Rugby Officer's Report

Kia ora koutou,

What another eventful year in the Nua we've had. After the completion of my first full year in my job as Community Rugby Officer, I firstly just wanted to thank you all for continuing to allow me to work side by side with some amazing, talented individuals. Its truly my honour to be able to serve you all while fulfilling a lifetime goal of mine to showcase rugby to our community.

We kicked off the year with the opening of the brand new HKRFU Headquarters exhibiting both clubrooms and offices. This was a big project of Corey's for the past 15 years, so for this project to come to fruition, was astonishing to see. Following the opening of our new facilities came the hosting of the Hurricanes Poua verse Blues Super Aupiki competition match on the Levin Domain. The weather played its part and the community got to enjoy professional wahine toa rugby and the eye opening new HKRFU Headquarters.

We wrapped up the club season with a gloomy final's day thanks to the bipolar weather. Congratulations to Rahui Whero and Foxton for their outstanding seasons leading them to the Ramsbotham Cup final, along with Rahui Kikorangi and Athletic for making it all the way to the Bill Muir Cup final. I'd also like to acknowledge the Rahui and Shannon women's teams on competing in the Women's final. With a disruptive season, you both stuck to your guns and fought with pride. Congratulations to Foxton Premiers, Rahui Kikorangi and Rahui women on winning your esteemed competitions. A massive achievement and testament to the hard work you all put in throughout the season.

I'd also like to take this moment to congratulate all our players who were selected into representative teams this year. From Under 16's all the way up to Heartland. Keep working hard and striving to not only be better rugby players, but better role models for our tamariki coming through the grades. I hope you all continue to stick around and wear the red, white and blue with pride. A special mention to those who made higher honours. Dallas Wiki and Poleka Itielu for your New Zealand Heartland XV call up, Kapu Broughton-Winterburn on your New Zealand Māori XV selection, and George To, Mikaere Harvey and Jacob Keating on your New Zealand Heartland U20's campaign.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of our hardworking volunteers who put countless hours and energy into their crafts to ensure rugby continues to thrive within our communities. Its greatly appreciated and all your work doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you for being apart of an historic 2024 season and I can't wait to continue to build on our legacies again in 2025.

Ngā mihi,
Josh Sanson
Community Rugby Officer



Heartland Report

Talofa lava,

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2024 Heartland report. It has been a much-improved Heartland season in comparison to the year previous. This season provided a bit of everything, some tight scores, high scoring wins and losses, and games going into golden point. The feeling of jubilation, of snatching a win, scoring a try after the 80th minute, to getting one scored on us in similar fashion in our semi-final.

A mixed bag you might say, but one thing I can honestly mention is there is an exciting feeling in the Heartland group of what the future holds for upcoming seasons. A couple of key things to take out of the season: 1) We were one of only two teams to beat 2024 Meads Cup winners Thames Valley this year and 2) West Coast who beat us on full time in our semi lost to Lochore Cup Champions King Country in golden point.

Although there is still a lot to work on, there are positive signs that we are able to compete with the big dogs of the Heartland Championship.

A major highlight for the team was getting the chance to run out on New Zealand's top rugby venue Eden Park. Our boys fought hard and took unbeaten champions South Canterbury to the wire with a narrow 28-24 loss.

Heartland Award Winners:

Māori Colt – Mikaere Harvey

Māori Player of the Year – Dallas Wiki

Heartland Most Promising Player – Kapumanawawhiti
Broughton Winterburn

Heartland Most Improved Player – Ted Northcott

Heartland Player of the Year – Esi Komaisavai

Congratulations to the below players who were recognised for their great form during the year with selection into the respective National teams:

NZ Heartland U20 – Mikaere Harvey

NZ Maori Selection – Kapumanawawhiti Broughton
Winterburn

NZ Heartland – Poleka Itielu, Dallas Wiki, Thomas
Zimmerman (Manager)

Season Results

Pre-Season

Vs Wellington Maori lost 40 - 43

Vs Wairarapa Bush won 59 - 29

Heartland Championship

Vs North Otago won 16 - 14

Vs East Coast lost 27 - 30

Vs West Coast won 27 - 26

Vs Mid Canterbury lost 19 - 39

Vs Wairarapa Bush won 62 - 45

Vs South Canterbury lost 24 - 28

Vs Whanganui lost 28 - 72

Vs Thames Valley won 41 - 35

Lochore Cup Semi Final

Vs West Coast lost 51 - 52

In conclusion, I would like to take the time to firstly thank Cribby, Corey and the Union for their support for the team. Secondly, our Management massive thank you to Debbie, Jarrod, Phillip, Kent, Tipu, Tommy and Yurri for their efforts during the season. We are truly blessed with great people in our Heartland space.

Many thanks,

Aleni Feagaiga - Head Coach

Under 20's Representative Report

The campaign for 2024 started with a great muster at Playford Park with over 30 attendees and representation from all clubs. The coaching and management team had a short period to get a competitive team together for a 3-week campaign. Head coach Chulainn Sowerby and assistant coach Corey Voulaire were kept busy contacting and getting to know all the players and their best playing positions (we seem to have a lot of props who think they are loose forwards these days). We developed a game plan early with the team and worked hard at training to perfect this for the coming games.

The first game of the Hurricanes Youth Council U20's campaign got underway on the 27th of July when the team headed up to Spriggins Park in Whanganui. They were to come up against an always tough Whanganui U20's team. The boys showed great heart and skill to be leading at halftime 12-10. The second half was a battle with no points scored showing you just how tough of a contest it was between the two teams. The final whistle showed the 12-10 scoreline with our boys taking the win, which considering the limited preparation was a huge result. The team was led strongly from the front by Co-Captain Levi Timms and directed well by our other Co-Captain Tainui Winterburn at first five.

The team finished their campaign the following week with a double-header to decide the outcome of the Hurricanes Youth Council U20's competition. On Saturday we travelled to Bulls to take on Poverty Bay where we started slow, and unfortunately, fell short 26-20. Back in the vans on Sunday morning, a bit battered and bruised from Saturday, we returned to Bulls to face Wairarapa Bush. They showed us why they were undefeated, taking the win 38-5. Even though the score blew out, it didn't represent the heart our boys showed on the field.

A special mention goes to all the supporters who travelled to the games over the two weekends to support this side, it did not go unnoticed and was really appreciated.

Selected for the Hurricanes Heartland U20 Team 2024

Jacob Keating (Paraparaumu)

Etuni Latu (Athletic)

Sam Mortiboy (Waikanae)

Xodus Purewa (Levin College Old Boys)

George To (Waikanae)

Selected for the New Zealand Heartland U20 Team 2024

George To (Waikanae)

Jacob Keating (Paraparaumu)

Mikaere Harvey (Foxton)

Hayden Beissel

HKRFU U20 Manager

Under 18's Representative Report

Kia ora all,

The Horowhenua Kapiti Under 18's 2024 season consisted of 3 games. Our first hit out was against Wairarapa Bush where the boys travelled over the Tararua's to Carterton to take on our rivals. The result did not go our way with the Bush gaining a dominant win, the final score ending up 71-10. Although it was a disappointing result, both myself and the coaching group, along with the boys, took a lot out of the game. It was good to see the team in action to get a good grip on systems to adopt and change moving forward.

Our second game was against Wellington Māori Under 18 at home in Levin. The boys were fizzing to have their first home game in front of their family and friends. We trained well during the week, made some improvements, and were confident going into battle against the Māori. We played a lot better than our previous game, which was positive, unfortunately, Wellington Māori were too strong. We had some quality moments that showed some real promise, but fell short in some key moments. The final result didn't reflect the pride the boys showed on the field, with the final score being 26-54.

For our third and final game of the season we travelled to Whanganui to face our other fierce rivals to the north west, Whanganui Under 18's. The boys were keen as mustard to get out on the paddock and represent their province for the last time in 2024. The Whanganui side were a well-oiled machine and proved too good for our boys in the end. We knew it was going to be tough, nevertheless, I was proud of the boy's efforts. There were some moments in the game where the boys showed some real skill but couldn't convert this into points. The final score was 53-10.

A big thank you to Peter Matakatea and Corey Voullaire for working alongside me throughout the season. Your knowledge and expertise helped not only guide me, but the players in the right direction. Thank you to all the parents and families for supporting their sons and allowing them to represent their province. I take a lot of pride in coaching, coming from the under 16s last year, and moving up with some of the boys, has been beneficial. There have been many learnings taken from this season with the U18's and I look forward to working alongside you all again and making improvements for the 2025 season. Thank you to Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union for your support this season.

Many thanks,
Blair Harley
Under 18s Coach

Under 16's Representative Report

Kia Ora,

The Horowhenua Kāpiti Under 16 side was fortunate enough to be well resourced on the coaching front for 2024 with Tim McMillan, Ben Lynch, and Dane Coles, along with myself, working together on the project. All the coaches were new to the representative coaching system and as a result, had to learn as they went. We would like to thank the Union for their support in making sure that they were up to speed with processes, systems and training resources that helped this program run smoothly.

Our programme assembled in late August with a muster and trial game where we selected 28 players from our feeder schools. Our first preseason game was against Wellington White and resulted in a rather significant loss. This game was used to finalise our tournament squad of 24 players for our first game the following weekend vs Whanganui. We travelled away for that game and managed to secure another less than favourable loss. The result was tempered by the knowledge that Whanganui had been assembled for over a month and had played several games as a side already. Our side had begun to show signs of life, and the structures and patterns began to show promise, which gave the coaching staff confidence leading into our tournament. The tournament itself was hosted incredibly well in Levin by our own union, and it was with a great sense of pride that the players were able to represent the union at home. The team lost their first two games against Ngāti Porou East Coast by a handful of points, and then by a larger margin vs Hawkes Bay Development. This placed the side in a playoff once again vs Ngāti Porou East Coast. The side managed to put together their most complete game of the campaign and pulled off a well-constructed and hard-earned victory to finish the tournament on a high, winning 39 to 31.

The coaching group would like to thank the local schools who assisted us with nominating players and providing feedback to help us in selecting our side. We would also like to share our gratitude to the following local businesses who sponsored our sides warm up gear, Higgins Concrete, Barr Build, P&D Civil Contracting, Paraparaumu Doors & Joinery and Lynch Concrete Contractors. We are a small union, and the support of our community businesses is greatly appreciated and ensures that our game is able to thrive.

Kind Regards,
Robbie Hutchinson
Under 16s Coach



Junior Rugby Report

Kia ora!

As another year rolls by, I thank the work put in by all of the convenors that make Junior Rugby happen, Aleni Feagaiga (HKRFU), Benji Phelps (PJRFC), Jacob Smith (Waikanae), Jase Lavery, Gerald Roper (Rahui), Cole Benefield, (LCOB), Andrea Atutahi, Kristie Matakatea (Wanderers), Morgan Winterburn (ATL), Bonnie Petersen (Foxton) and Sarah Burgess (Shannon). Your drive throughout the year makes it successful for our younger rugby community to enjoy the game every week. Sadly, there comes a time when people move on, and Sarah has decided it is her time, so thank you Sarah for all your minutes, notes, and reminders for all of our meetings over the last few years, it is much appreciated.

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 player population) with players being involved. Thank you all for your commitment to continue the good work in your clubs, school and community.

Coaching courses:

I know this seems to be an area that sounds like “ground-hog day”, but everyone needs to understand these are for everyone’s safety, not just the players. A lot of focus is focused on parents, caregivers, guardians, managers, coaches, referees and spectators. 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.

Side-line Behaviour:

Another good year for Junior Rugby and we must remember this the season is for our young people to participate and develop a love for the game. The coaching courses contribute to this behaviour, so thank you to our volunteers of Junior Rugby in making this game enjoyable for all involved.

Finally, congrats to Aleni and the Heartland team for making and hosting the semi-finals, where HK were definitely in there to win. Looking forward to what 2025 brings. I would also like to thank Ged Eller for stepping in for me and representing the HKRFU Committee at the Junior Fest ‘awards day’ when Junior Rugby had their final competition day.

Regards,
Slade Sturmey
JMB Chair

Primary School's Rugby Report

The 2024 season saw another positive start to the primary schools development program with the Union's development staff continuing the drive to develop rippa and tackle rugby skills within the 36 primary schools within the Union's catchment.

This report acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the primary schools rugby development team of Ryan, Ethan and Josh.

This report also acknowledges Ryan's initiative to link with the referees in an effort to develop young leaders not only in the rippa/tackle area, but also in the referee space in order to be able to help with the union's various primary school tournaments.

The following is a summary of the 2024 Primary Schools Rugby highlights and achievements...

Term 1

- Otaki Schools Tackle Clinic for Years 6, 7 and 8 – this covered basic rugby skills with the aim of growing confidence leading into Secondary School Rugby.
- 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 2

- Foxton Schools Rippa Programme.
- Completed the standard Rippa Programme for years 3 to 8 in all Levin based schools including Poroutawhao and Koputaroa.
- Levin Schools Rippa tournament at the end of term 2 with 21 teams competing; 10 teams in the years 5 and 6 grades and 11 teams in the years 7 and 8 grades. Levin North won the years 5 and 6 grade with Fairfield School winning years 7 and 8.

Term 3

- Senior Winter Tournament – Rugby 7 a side, (held 21st August), approximately 350 participants.
- Junior Winter Tournament – Rippa Rugby, (held 28th August) approximately 300 participants.
- Levin North School, Levin School, Fairfield School, Levin East and Koputaroa schools had a Years 5 and 6 tackle competition. With Levin North coming out on top, (noted here is the time and effort put in by Ethan Ayers who worked alongside the schools to help organise this competition and to referee a majority of games).
- Unfortunately, the Otaki Schools Rippa Rugby Tournament was cancelled due to bad weather across both the official and postponement days.

As always, special thanks to Corey, Aleni and Sinead for the administrative support and assistance provided to the Development Team in the delivery of the ongoing rippa and tackle rugby development work within the Union's primary schools catchment.

Ged Eller
Convenor

Secondary School's Rugby Report

Firstly, a big thank you to Rex Kerr for his exceptional service to Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby as the Secondary School Chair, among many other roles. It was a pleasure to be present at the Rahui Rugby Football Club earlier in the year to celebrate his New Zealand Order of Merit award.

I am still learning the scope of my role with the rugby union, so my experience this year has been somewhat focused on the Kapiti area. I was fortunate enough to be involved with the HKRFU Under 16 representative team as a coach/manager, which allowed me to meet students and parents from schools beyond Paraparaumu College. I especially valued the connection with the Levin based players.

There were some strong results from the Secondary Schools in our region this year, particularly for the Paraparaumu College 1st XV and the Waiopahu Youth (Under 15) side. Paraparaumu College 1st XV qualified for Premier 1 after victories over Wairarapa College and Rongotai College during grading. This marked their first P1 appearance since the late 1980s, when the competition looked much different—a massive achievement for this group. During the regular season, they secured two wins, defeating Hutt International Boys and St Bernard's College. The Waiopahu Under 15 side had a fantastic season, winning their grade. They edged out Palmerston North Boys Colts 26-24 in a thrilling final. This team is packed with talented players to watch in the future, and I look forward to seeing how these boys develop in the coming years.

Kapiti College saw success once again in the Under 65kg grade, with their team being highly competitive in the top Wellington division, narrowly missing out on a spot in the final. Kapiti's 1st XV continues to work through a rebuilding phase, and their Senior Girls team was up and running again, with mixed results this season. Horowhenua have promising numbers at the Boys Under 15 level so the aim will be to retain these players moving forward. There was big growth in the girls space for Horowhenua, they are fundraising for a northern tour early next year. Unfortunately, Otaki College and Manawatu College struggled with player numbers and were unable to field any teams. I am sure plans are already in place to get these schools back in the game for 2025.

Traditional Results:

- Waiopahu vs Horowhenua
 - Girls 1st XV: 20-19, Horowhenua win
 - Youth Boys: 17-21, Waiopahu win
 - Boys 1st XV: 10-20, Waiopahu win
- Kapiti vs Paraparaumu
 - Boys 1st XV: 88-10, Paraparaumu win

Many thanks,
Tim McMillan
Secondary School Chair

Rugby Referee Association Report

With Stu Taylforth stepping down as President of the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Referees Association, I stepped into the role at the beginning of the 2024 Horowhenua Kapiti club season. This role has introduced a number of new elements that you are not exposed to as an active referee and bring with it an acute awareness of the issues facing the referees. The HKRRA have been grateful for the assistance and relationship with HKRFU and a number of the clubs. We extend a big thank you to Stu Beissel for continuing to represent the HKRRA at delegate level, and of course to Al Paton who does an extraordinary amount for the HKRRA. The referee numbers dropped slightly for the 2024 season due to a few referees leaving the area and some other referees who could not commit the time required this season. There was only one new active referee to join the ranks this season. We continue to have issues in recruiting, in particular there are very few former players or members of the clubs prepared to pick up the whistle. We have been looking at methods to attract referees and are very encouraged by the long-term prospects of the college level program that HKRFU are completing. With the departure of Sam Thompson and injury to Sam Taylor a number of referees were required to step up to Premier level, congratulations to Jimmy McKay and Sam Mills who became permanent fixtures at that level and had strong seasons. Congratulations to Randal Peni who stepped up into the number 1 spot and was rewarded with the Premier final, where he had an excellent match. A big thank you to all the active referees who were required to get through a large volume of games this season. Also, a big thank you to the referee coaches who spent many hours working with the referees to assist with development.

The initiatives taken by the Rugby Committee around the roping off of grounds and the club's role in the game day management is appreciated by the HKRRA, the work done by the clubs around this is to be commended. There were still unfortunately too many instances where referees had to stop games to deal with the behaviour of individuals. The referees have attempted to take an active role in managing these situations. We all have challenges in removing these negative behaviours and we thank the HKRFU and the clubs for their assistance in dealing with these situations.

As an association we have attempted to work hard with Sinead from HKRFU and with our members to ensure that reports are up to standard and consistent, this will be a continued focus going forward. To ensure that we do our part to ensure a consistent approach when it comes to judicial matters. Roger has been helpful in identifying concerns.

The season had a number of highs and lows for the referees and it continues to be encouraging that the group provide support for one another. All referees that were available for the season made great improvements and we look forward to more success going forward.

Many Thanks,
Greg McCardle
HKRRA President

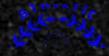


HKRFU Prizegiving Winners

CLUB AWARDS

KEVIN DE CASTRO/KB SWAIN CUP

LEVIN ATHLETIC



ROBINSON ROSEBOWL

FOXTON PREMIERS



CLUB REFEREE OF THE YEAR

JAMES MCKAY



SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

LAVA ITIELU



SATURDAY MORNING
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

BONNIE PETERSEN



CLUB COACH OF THE YEAR

TOM ZIMMERMAN



REPRESENTATIVE AWARDS

MĀORI COLT PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MIKAERE HARVEY



MĀORI PLAYER OF THE YEAR

DALLAS WIKI



U20 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

GEORGE TO



PASIFIKA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

KOLINIO KOTO



HEARTLAND MOST IMPROVED

TED NORTHCOTT



HEARTLAND MOST PROMISING

KAPU BROUGHTON-WINTERBURN



HEARTLAND PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ESI KOMAISAVAI



REPRESENTATIVE COACH OF THE YEAR

ALENI FEAGAIGA



TEAM OF THE YEAR

HEARTLAND

