



2024 Annual Report





A Better Auckland Built by Rugby

What do we focus on to get there?

01.

Innovate & grow
the community
game

02.

Win and be better
supported in high
performance

03.

Be inclusive & grow
the strongest rugby
whānau

04.

Be here in
hundred years

How do we measure ourselves?

- Participation numbers
- Attendance
- On-field success
- Engagement
- Financial and organisational sustainability

How do we behave?

- Strive to advance
- Put in the hard mahi
- Work as a team
- Lead by example



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Directory

Management

Name	Role
Jarrold Bear	CEO
Paula Kent	Head of Business Support & Planning
Grant Wilson	Head of Operations & Facilities
Dan Dale	Head of Commercial & Partnerships
Daniel Archer	Head of High Performance
Joseph Blundell	Club Rugby Manager
Jarrold Syman	Rugby Experience & Schools Manager
Kaylene Froggatt	Human Resource Consultant
Anna Neville	Executive Assistant

Participation Development

Name	Role
Strahan McIntosh	Club Development Manager
Caoimhe Hunt	Club Rugby Partner
Jack Johnston	Club Rugby Partner
Archer Elliott	Club Rugby Partner
Joseph Tuitavake	Game Development Manager
Roi Hansell-Pune	Game Development Officer
Anna Peterson	Game Development Officer
Marcel Milo-Harris	Rugby Delivery Lead
Kennedy Limpus	Rugby Delivery Lead
Thomas Strachan	Rugby Delivery Lead
Eamon Reily	Rugby Delivery Lead

High Performance

Name	Role
Anna Richards	Auckland Women's Player Development Manager
Brent Ward	High Performance Academy Manager
Andrea Thomas	Personal Development Manager
Taurima Morris	Senior Strength and Conditioning Coach
James Stevenson-Wright	Talent ID & Recruitment Manager
Ashleigh Parrott	Women's Strength and Conditioning Coach
Steven Bates	Resource Coach
Jono Hickey	Resource Coach

Operations & Facilities

Name	Role
David Gainsford	Match Operations Manager
VACANT	Referee Manager
Ant Petrie	Referee Development Manager
Cody Neilson	Events Manager
Janine Hancock	Events Coordinator
Sophie Booth	Operations Administrator

Pro-Sport

Name	Role
Paul van Etten	Pro Sport Manager
Kate Baskerville	Pro Sport Teacher
Jacob Saunders	Pro Sport Coordinator

Business Support & Planning

Name	Role
Bruce Whiteman	Accountant
Alex Dalzell	Insights Manager
Gavin Tansey	Assistant Accountant

Commercial & Partnerships

Name	Role
Grant McKenzie	Marketing & Membership Manager
VACANT	Partnership & Memberships Manager
Braden Martin-Feek	Partnership Development Manager
Jared London	Fan Engagement & Communications Manager



NPC Management

Name	Role
Craig McGrath	Head Coach
Steve Bates	Assistant Coach
Jono Hickey	Assistant Coach
Census Johnston	Scrum Coach
Grant Henson	Resource Coach: Lineouts
Eli Paewai	Development Coach
Grant Wilson	Manager
Brent Ward	Manager
Mark Plummer	Physiotherapist
Josh Yarnnton	Analyst
Brad Sherwood	Assistant Analyst
Dominic Aldous	Assistant Analyst
Sophie Thomas	Doctor
James Young	Strength & Conditioning Coach
Taurima Morris	Strength & Conditioning Coach
Andrea Thomas	Personal Development Manager
Harry Finnigan	Nutritionist
Zara Galliven	Assistant Nutritionist

FPC Management

Name	Role
Greg Aldous	Head Coach
Anna Richards	Assistant Coach
Francis Stowers	Assistant Coach
Ropate Rinakama	Scrum Coach
Ben Sinnamon	Development Coach
Courtney Wilson	Physiotherapist
Amy Courtney	Manager
Sophie Wilson	Physiotherapist
Lucia Young	Physiotherapist
Ronan Gogarty-Watson	Analyst
Ashleigh Parrott	Strength & Conditioning Coach
Levili Leilua	Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach
Andrea Thomas	Personal Development Manager

Council of Delegates

CLUB	DELEGATE
College Rifles	Logan O'Connell
East Tamaki	Ioane Ioane
Eden	Paul Sagggers
Grammar TEC	Stephen Sinclair
Manukau Rovers	Sam Sau
Marist	Tony Catton (Chair)
Marist	Ivan Tasi (Alternate)
Mt Wellington	Warren Makaua
Otahuhu	Lino Faumuina
Pakuranga	Marc Diffey
Papatoetoe	Bill McCormick
Ponsonby	Michaela Barnes (Vice Chair)
Ponsonby	Milton Froggatt (Alternate)
Puketapapa	Russell Su'a
Suburbs	Dave Johnson
Te Papapa Onehunga	Steven Hessey
University	Daniel Braid
Waiheke Island	James McKelvie
Waitakere City	Don Urquhart
Waitemata	Rod Gabb
APSRU	Gareth Fletcher
ARRA	Paul van Etten
ASSRU	Jim Lonergan

Junior Rugby Council

ASSOCIATION	MEMBER
ARRA	James Bailey
APSRU	Gareth Fletcher
Grammar Juniors	Matt Fenton
Waitemata	Debbie Tane
Ponsonby	Geoff Buchanan
Marist Eastern	Ross Blenkinsopp
Independent	Grant Hansen
Independent	Brian Francis

ARU Board

NAME	BOARD
Fiao'o Fa'amausili	ARU President
Amanda Cox	ARU Board
Andy Roberts	ARU Board
Brent Metson	ARU Board - Chair
Chris Fairbairn	ARU Board
Greg Edmonds	ARU Board
Keven Mealamu	ARU Board
Tony Catton	ARU Board
Michaela Barnes	ARU Board
Lara McKittrick	ARU Board

ARU Life Members

NAME	LIFE MEMBERS
Rex Davy	ARU Life Member
Malcolm Dick	ARU Life Member
Rob Fisher	ARU Life Member
Sir Graham Henry	ARU Life Member
Wally Jelicich	ARU Life Member
Dennis Mullins	ARU Life Member
Keith Nelson (Patron)	ARU Life Member
Tom O'Hanlon	ARU Life Member
Sir Bryan Williams	ARU Life Member
Ken Baguley	ARU Life Member
John Hart	ARU Life Member
Peter Thompson	ARU Life Member
Glenn Wahlstrom	ARU Life Member
Gary Donovan	ARU Life Member
Gary Whetton	ARU Life Member
Grant Fox	ARU Life Member
Alan Whetton	ARU Life Member
Brian Wilsher	ARU Life Member
Bernie McCahill	ARU Life Member

Obituaries

Don McKay

The Auckland Rugby Union remembers Don McKay, a cherished Life Member, who passed away on February 6th, 2024. Don's illustrious rugby career spanned 114 first-class matches, 12 appearances for the All Blacks, and 5 tests in the early 1960s, during which he scored an impressive 18 tries.

Beyond his accomplishments on the field, Don was celebrated for his kindness, integrity, and passion for rugby. A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, his legacy transcends the game, leaving an indelible mark on the community.

Rest in peace, Don. Your profound contributions to rugby and the Auckland Rugby Union will forever be remembered.

John MacLeod

The Auckland Rugby Union also honours the life and service of John MacLeod, a Life Member of the Baylynn Rugby Club and a dedicated servant of the Auckland rugby community.

John's commitment to rugby extended beyond the field. He served on the Boys' Management Board as a delegate during the 1970s, became a Senior Delegate in the 1980s, and managed the Auckland A Team for one year in the mid-1980s. Additionally, John held the vital role of Gear Custodian for the Auckland Rugby Union for nearly a decade, exemplifying his unwavering dedication to the game.

John MacLeod's devoted service and passion for rugby enriched the Auckland Rugby Union and its community. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Peter Duncan

The Auckland Rugby Union pays tribute to Peter Duncan, a retired District Court Judge and a long-time member of the rugby community, who passed away on Saturday, 8 June 2024, at the age of 96.

Peter's association with the rugby world spanned many years. He was a keen member of his local rugby club and made significant contributions to the Auckland Rugby Union as a Judicial Officer and later as an Appeals Officer on the Judicial Committee.

Peter Duncan's wisdom, fairness, and steadfast commitment to the sport made a lasting impact on rugby in Auckland. His service and contributions will always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

Obituaries

Jason Husband

The Auckland Rugby Union mourns the passing of Jason Husband, a former Auckland Under 85kg representative (2016), who passed away on 20 August 2024, at the age of 33.

Jason was a much-loved husband to Emma, a devoted son, brother, and uncle. After attending Otago University, Jason found his rugby home with College Rifles through the Under 85kg Raiders, where he played nearly 50 games and left a lasting impression on his teammates and the wider club community.

Jason's dedication to the game, his warmth, and his love for those around him will be deeply missed. Rest in peace, Jason.

David Bateman

The Auckland Rugby Union pays tribute to David Bateman, a beloved figure at Eden Rugby Club, who passed away at the age of 44. His leadership and passion transformed the club's history.

After playing over 50 games for the Premier team, David transitioned to coaching, becoming head coach in 2015. His leadership ushered in Eden's most successful era, including holding the Fred Allen Cup for four consecutive years (2018-2021) and securing the club's first-ever Gallaher Shield victory in 2021.

David's unwavering belief in his players, and dedication to the "Eden way" left a lasting legacy. Beyond his achievements on the field, he was a mentor and friend, embodying the spirit of community and innovation.

He leaves behind his wife, Ange, his two children, and his family. David's impact on Eden Rugby and the wider rugby community will never be forgotten. Rest in peace.

Franck Friconnet

The Auckland Rugby Union also pays tribute to Franck Friconnet, a former Auckland B player (2017) and the 2021 Auckland Club Player of the Year, who passed away on 25 September 2024, at the age of 32.

Franck was a much-loved husband, son, brother, and father to his young son, Remy. An integral member of Eden Rugby, Franck was admired not only for his skill and presence on the field but also for his larger-than-life personality that inspired and brought joy to all who knew him.

Franck's passion for rugby and his vibrant spirit will remain forever in our hearts. Rest in peace, Franck.

Chair's Report





Brent Metson

Auckland Rugby Chair

Over the past year, we have had much to celebrate. Whilst acknowledging not everything on the field went to plan, other key deliverables to our stakeholders are performing very well. Participation numbers have risen once again, and our organisation is in great health financially.

I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow directors for their continued hard work in stewarding the game for our union. We continue to try and achieve our aspiration of a better Auckland built by Rugby. My first full year as Chair has without doubt been a big challenge but, with the support of the board, our executive and fantastic staff along with our hard-working clubs, it has been rewarding.

My sincere thanks also to our Chief Executive Jarrod Bear, his Leadership team, and all the staff working hard to deliver the best rugby experiences for our membership.

(01) Innovate & Grow Community Rugby

As always, I thank all our club delegates, the JRC committee, COD Chair Tony Catton, and those diligent sub-committee Chairs. The reforms in the COD environment have been significant and will support a closer and more efficient working relationship between clubs and the union. The re-cast club competitions have been well received and we look forward to an exciting format being launched in 2025.

Our approach to partnering with our clubs and providing targeted support is paying dividends. There are examples of clubs who reached out to access the resources available to guide them in improving many areas of their performance – including Governance, Social-Media, Fundraising, and more. I urge all clubs to make the most of the support available to them as we move into 2025.

Our Commercial Partners and supporters are an invaluable part of our ability to deliver the game. We acknowledge and are grateful for the continued support of the North & South Trust, Barfoot & Thompson, along with our other partners. Their generous support is valuable, particularly in these challenging economic times.

(02) Win & Be Better Supported in High Performance

Through the hard work and efforts of a very young Storm team, without its Black Fern contingent, a creditable semi-final appearance was achieved. Our “twenty under twenty” was a sobering and exciting statistic – twenty of our squad under twenty years of age. Whilst the continued growth of the women’s game is a great source of pride, nurturing such young talent in this environment is challenging. I particularly thank the coaching group, along with the senior players and leadership team, for being both focused on the FPC campaign goals whilst mindful of the young group they were developing.

There is no shying away from the poor year our men’s NPC team had in finishing a disappointing 11th and not making the play-off rounds. No doubt impacted by injuries and player call-ups, nonetheless the results have forced a deeper dive into providing a better plan for improved and sustained success in the future. Post-season reviews have been undertaken and are being considered at the time of writing. Finding the right formula for our future high-performance program will no doubt need us to look at the long-term horizon, consult widely, and agree on a clear and transparent plan across the union and its members.

In the past year, we have continued to work hard towards identifying a suitable configuration for our high-performance facilities. We have collaborated with the Blues to identify and scope our respective needs, mindful of making the best joint decision for both organisations. This has been an extended but useful process that has highlighted the practical difficulties in having a single facility catering for a broad range of needs.

We have assessed some seven options across the region – all with limitations in one form or another; as the saying goes “you can’t make land,” and so we are forced to try and shape the right result for our needs from existing options. This decision is no doubt also impacted by the protracted and confused process to agree on the stadium strategy for the region. The work continues with no less desire to provide a high-class facility for Auckland Rugby’s programs. There is no doubt that a highlight of the rugby season was the title-winning performance of the Blues. A relentless effort from the squad, playing a distinctive brand of rugby, was capped off by a fantastic final victory over the Chiefs, at our Eden Park home. We congratulate the whole of the Blues family on the win.

Auckland Rugby and the Blues have continued to work together and collaborate on the best outcomes for the region. Whilst sometimes the detail in execution is different, the aims for the region are in line. There are a number of roles that work across both organisations and where it works, we work together.

Our congratulations extend to those players in both Auckland Rugby and the Blues squads, both women and men who have been selected to higher honours, and we thank those retiring or moving on to new opportunities.

(03) Be here in 100 years

Along with a number of other Provincial Union Chairs I participated in the process to drive reform of the New Zealand Rugby governance structure. This was required as a result of the publication of the Pilkington Report and its recommendations. At times partisan behaviour from competing interests made the process more acrimonious than it needed to be and fed a damaging, largely incorrect, narrative to the media and the public about the attitudes of the administrators of our game. My own contributions during the process were at all times those of our board and were delivered in the spirit of finding and agreeing the common ground and then trying to boil down the other points of difference to find a way through. I am heartened by the post NZR Special General Meeting change, when all parts of the rugby community worked together to play their part in forming the best NZR board possible and charging them with addressing significant issues in our game.

The ongoing uncertainty that is on our radar due to the NZR MPAC (Men's Pathways and Competitions Report) is a difficult obstacle when planning for our organisation. When the recommendations, or a version of them, are adopted then we will make the changes we need to continue to deliver for our membership. We await the new NZR board's view of this and other key matters.

(04) Be inclusive and grow the strongest rugby whānau

This AGM will see Fiao'o Fa'amausili complete her three-year term as Auckland Rugby President. Fiao'o has been the first female President of the union and with her peerless record as a Black Fern captain she has been a strong advocate championing our ever-growing women's game. I thank Fi for her service, counsel and for bringing her fun-loving spirit to our board table.

This year will also see the retirement of Greg Edmonds from the board. Serving his full three terms Greg has been a great contributor to Auckland Rugby. In that time, he has also served as our long-term representative on the Eden Park Trust Board and previously on the Blues' board – holding the line in more turbulent times. A great servant of the union and passionate supporter, Greg brought a strong business background to the board table, always tempered by his love of the community game. Our thanks for your dedicated service, Greg.

On the back of the constitutional changes adopted at the 2023 AGM we have had a record twenty-four applicants for the vacant and contestable board positions this year. The selection and recommendation process is underway at time of authoring this report. Those recommended for appointment will be made known to the Club Delegates prior to the upcoming 2024 AGM.

We are continuing to evolve and grow as a board collective. Our Building Better Boards team are back at work looking at improving our Induction Process for new directors, the use of a board self-evaluation Performance Management system, and assessing the viability of creating an Emerging Director position. We also wish to find new ways to engage the large cohort of ex-players, administrators and others who are not currently active in the union.

(05) Extra time

There is more change than ever on the horizon for our game and we will need to be working closely together, focused and energised as a union to adapt to the changes. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable summer break with your families and loved ones and look forward to serving alongside you next year.



Brent Metson
Auckland Rugby Chair

CEO's Report





Jarrod Bear

Chief Executive Officer

Entering 2024, I along with all staff at Auckland Rugby had our energy firmly focused on advancing workstreams across the Auckland Rugby Way's four key focus areas.

- Innovate & grow the community game.
- Win & be better supported in high-performance.
- Be inclusive to grow the strongest rugby whanau.
- Be around in 100+ years.

It is fair to reflect that success was achieved in many areas, however success was not realised in the NPC Campaign which is the shop window Auckland Rugby is often judged.

Complimenting the commentary within the respective reports compiled by the Board Chair, COD Chair, and Management, the below captures the key headlines across the Auckland Rugby Way's four focus areas. These include (but not limited to)

(01) Innovate and Grow the Community Game

- With a genuine team effort across, clubs, schools, volunteers and staff, total Player, Coach and Referee Registrations were 22,791 which is up over 2,847 (14%) versus last year. Noting that 2023 registrations were up over 2,500 on the year before. Thank you all for your passion and mahi to realise this achievement.
- Registrations were up across all reported categories except junior club males which was down less than 1% (54 players). It was encouraging to see further growth in females, referees, teenage boys in secondary schools, along with growth in both male and female senior club rugby registrations.
- Through North & South Trust, and funding direct from Auckland Rugby over \$900k was invested into clubs across the Auckland Rugby network. Noting, funding was accessible to support each club having at least a 0.5 FTE focused on driving their respective clubs' operations. The benefits of having this resource within every club is bearing fruit.
- Special acknowledgement must be made of the incredible support North & South Trust provides our community game. Thank you.
- Planning is advancing to ensure each club is supported with tailored resources to assist implementing relevant and targeted recruitment initiatives in 2025.

(02) Win and be Better Supported in High Performance

- The Auckland Storm had a credible season making it to the FPC semi-finals, in a rebuild season with a young squad with lots of potential. To advance the program in 2025, clear actions have been established through the annual independent review process. Retaining this young, exciting playing group and investing in their development is the number one priority.
- The Auckland NPC Team's campaign was well below par, only winning 3 of the 10 round robin games to miss the play-offs and finish 11th. The annual independent review process is nearing completion, and clear actions will be established. Notably, an important action will be the recruitment of a full-time Head Coach. Enabling the NPC Head Coach to be fully immersed and able to lead the Auckland Rugby Way across our player development pathways including club rugby.
- Our player development programs continue to lead the way in developing New Zealand's best talent. Multiple players involved in our programs were selected for higher honours this year and Auckland topped the PU list in developing Super and Aupiki rookies, Black Ferns, and NZ U20's players. Also, several players made their NPC or FPC debuts this season. Xavi Taele was an exemplar, starting the year within the Auckland Rugby Academy Xavi played Blues U20's, was vice-captain of the NZ U20's and then debuted and played every game of the NPC campaign. Xavi was awarded Auckland Rugby's supreme Fred Allen Trophy before he was selected to secure his first Blues Super Rugby contract for the 2025 season.
- It was fantastic to have all FPC home games as double headers with the NPC team at Eden Park. Following the introduction of the NPC Festival experience concept at Pakuranga last year, an NPC Festival experience was delivered at Auckland Grammar. This was a successful event-goer experience, and the board have endorsed exploration of the NPC Festival experience in 2025.

- Despite challenging economic and market conditions in 2024, our Commercial & Partnerships team achieved a fantastic result to exceed target and deliver over \$2m in commercial revenue. Auckland Rugby is fortunate to have such a sensational family of commercial partners, and their partnership whilst visible across our High-performance programs, it enables Auckland Rugby to invest resources into community rugby initiatives. It is imperative to recognise and thank the tremendous and enduring support (43 years) which Barfoot & Thompson provides Auckland Rugby and many of our clubs directly. Thank you, to Peter Thompson and his team.

(03) Be Inclusive to Grow the Strongest Rugby Whānau

- At last year's AGM, members voted in constitutional changes that would support a robust and proactive director recruitment process, with the objective to attract a greater depth of candidate capabilities. This year a record number of quality candidates submitted applications.
- Operational changes were adopted by the Council of Delegates to streamline responsibilities and decision-making processes. This change should be considered a success, with a notable example being the Senior Club Competition Review which led to the Clubs endorsing a new competition structure for 2025. The new competition will be exciting and additional resource will be committed to launch and support it.
- Referees are such an important element of our game and the Auckland Rugby Referees Association, and its members deliver an outstanding service. With the objective to define a set of recommendations that will support the Referee Association's future success and sustainability, and to ensure resources are invested into the right areas, a comprehensive review was undertaken. The outcome defines three clear areas of focus, a) Recruitment b) Retention and c) Appointments. Workstreams are being established which are aligned to the recommendations.
- The Auckland Rugby Gala dinner was another successful event. The significance of this event is that the proceeds generated are invested into the Pro Sport Education Program. This program is for school leavers that need further qualifications to advance onto further tertiary education and/or into meaningful employment. After a challenging period during and post covid, this program is gaining momentum as it offers opportunities for young people to get NCEA qualifications and quality life experiences.
- Through our Game Development Team, Club Rugby Partner Team, and Schools Rugby Delivery Team over 125 courses/touchpoints have been implemented across the year for our community to access and engage with, with the objective of building greater capability and connections across our rugby network.
- Internally, Auckland Rugby has passionate and dedicated staff who are continuously striving to advance the delivery of the Auckland Rugby Way. I thank them along with the many community volunteers who roll the sleeves up to deliver participation opportunities and create thousands of smiles for our rugby community. Thank you.



(04) Be Around in 100+ Years

- Year-end financial result exceeded budget significantly, delivering an operating EBITDA of circa \$1.5m. This was a fruitful fiscal year which will be banked as we bound into what will be a challenging financial year ahead with NZR Funding being significantly reduced. The Board have supported management's proposed break-even budget and management is committed to securing every dollar and saving every dollar.

(05) Strategic jobs to be done 2024-26

Heading into 2025, Auckland Rugby remains committed to the following strategic jobs to be done which support realising the Auckland Rugby focus areas.

- Tailor our support, so clubs deliver the best community sports experience.
- Take the Auckland NPC/FPC to Auckland/ers.
- Spread Auckland Rugby's best stories.
- Add value to Auckland Rugby.
- Align resource to deliver outcomes across NZR strategic priorities.



- A significant contributor to Auckland Rugby's annual revenue is the hosting of Test Matches at Eden Park. After an absence in 2023, it was good to host two test matches at Eden Park, however it was the first time in recent memory that one of the test matches was not a sell-out. This was the first year that NZR has had responsibility for marketing and selling the test match tickets. Previously this responsibility has been Auckland Rugby's. In 2025, Eden Park will be hosting two fixtures within a three-week period. Selling out both test matches will be a challenging proposition for NZR.
- Auckland Rugby has a responsibility to promote safe and enjoyable rugby experiences for all, with the objective, everyone gets home safely every day. Our Health and Safety practices continue to improve, and we are committed to improving Health and Safety education, processes, and support within our clubs. The annual audit score was 94%, which was an excellent result.



(06) With an eye to the future

Auckland Rugby is committed to innovating and trialling new initiatives. Some new initiatives will work, and some will not, but it is imperative we strive to advance. If we do not strive to advance, the greatest risk is rugby will fail to remain relevant, and the greatest upside is what Auckland Rugby aspires to; a better Auckland, built by rugby. Auckland Rugby needs the support of its stakeholders to challenge the status quo and embrace trialling the new whilst sharing an expectation the ride will not always be smooth. In return, Auckland Rugby knows that all ideas and innovation don't rest in place, and we are open to working with stakeholders' insights, feedback, and ideas.

(07) Finally

I would like to highlight and thank our Chair Brent Metson and our Board Members, for all their support of myself and the Auckland Rugby staff. They continue to go beyond expectations with their passion and commitment to their roles and Auckland Rugby.

A special acknowledgement to Greg Edmonds, who is retiring after eleven years as a Board Member – that is a fantastic innings and throughout that time Greg has been consistent in having Auckland Rugby's best interests at heart whilst navigating through challenging governance matters. Thank you for your support and guidance Greg.

Jarrod Bear
Chief Executive Officer

COD Report



COD Report 2024



Tony Catton
Deputy Chairman COD

Council of Delegates

Club Rugby in Auckland can take great heart in 2024 despite the challenges of the ever-changing sporting landscape, with significant growth in participation across all our grades. This year we had 22,791 registered participants an increase of 14% across the union from 2023. The key callouts being woman's senior rugby increasing 17%, senior men up 2% and our schools up 13%. A fantastic achievement that would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the club volunteers, club staff and Auckland Rugby staff who all put in to ensure rugby is for all to enjoy.

The community game can be proud of the achievements over the past 12 months however a lot of work is still needed particularly in the area of junior boys' grades where player numbers continue to decline. Turning around this trend is to be a focus as we head into 2025.

Senior Rugby this year was exciting and as always, a very eventful season. Congratulations to Ponsonby Rugby Club who in their 150-year celebrated by becoming the senior men Gallaher Shield champions and the senior woman Coleman Shield winners. An amazing achievement and thoroughly deserved after the challenges of 2023, where the club played the year away from home. The Gallagher Shield final was a thoroughly entertaining final with Pakuranga Rugby Club putting up a brave effort however being overrun by a well drilled Ponsonby team in a well-attended match back at Eden Park.

Grammar TEC produced a dominant performance to win the George Nicholson Trophy for the Premier Development grade over Pakuranga earlier in the day. In the Premier playoffs, University won the Jubilee Cup and Papatoetoe taking out the Portola Trophy.

The Premier women's competition reverted to a full season due to a later start to the Farah Palmer Cup competition than previous seasons. Ponsonby defeated Marist in a tight and uncompromising encounter played at Western Springs in front of a particularly good crowd. The skill and passion shown by both teams was only matched by the comradery and spirit in which these games are conducted. This year the Women's 10's competition was delivered in a later window (August – September) as a new initiative to provide meaningful entry into the Senior Womens space, with Silverdale taking home the Richards-Martin Shield.

The efforts to build and grow the women's game at all levels, with clubs and union together finding ways to embed the growth for the long term and provide an enjoyable playing experience is paying off. This year we welcomed Papatoetoe into the Woman's Premier competition and look forward to more teams transitioning from the Woman's Premier Development grade to the premier competition in the coming years.

Grammar TEC under 21's last year's runners up went one better and won the Arthur Bayliss Memorial Cup final over Marist and Waitemata won the Stan Foster Memorial trophy. The U21 grade remains a strategically important grade for clubs to ensure the health of the game and essential to growing the strength of the senior teams. Quality coaching is regularly cited by players as a key reason for joining a particular team and clubs that are mindful of providing quality coaches across all their teams will benefit eventually. It is pleasing to see the increased Auckland Rugby resources and efforts being made available to upskill



In 2024 unfortunately the U19 men's grade did not get enough clubs to support the grade, and it did not get off the ground however the grade will be offered again in 2025 to try and encourage and provide further opportunities for school leavers into Senior Rugby. We hope all clubs are collaborating now with schools in the area to support this grade and make it a reality next year.

The Restricted 85kg grade saw a reverse of last year's final with Pakuranga Panthers taking the win over Ponsonby Hustlers in a typically hard fought high paced final at Bell Park to lift the Maurice O'Conner Cup. The awareness of the quality rugby played in this grade, in tandem with its strong social aspect, continues to grow with the U85's National Club Cup providing further interest and profile for the grade.

Waitakere defeated Otahuhu to win the first-grade competition Reuben O'Neil Cup, in what was a thrilling final played at Trust Arena, in front of a vocal and very supportive crowd of over 1500. In 2023 the clubs took a brave step to revitalise the COD and focus on meaningful change in areas that have strategic importance to growing the game and making club rugby more sustainable. The tireless work of the club delegates and the wider club community will see changes to the premier men competitions in 2025. The new format is designed to energise senior men rugby and have strong competitive matches across all grades.

In addition to the regular competitions a new knock out cup will be introduced in 2025 to provide clubs an opportunity to challenge teams across competitions and maintain traditional matches.

The union staff continue to drive club capability, provide stewardship in accessing funding such as the Contestable Fund and Community Grants to improve facilities and help to facilitate paid administrative staff in clubs. Paving the way to ensure we can, in tandem with the critically important volunteer community, ensure our clubs have the best chance to survive and thrive. As always, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who have worked so hard throughout the year to deliver club rugby for all.

I offer my thanks to all the club delegates for their time and efforts throughout the year to grow and nurture the game. We are stronger as a collective when we work hard to challenge each other in what is best for our game. To all the sub-committee chairs, thank-you for your efforts.

COD remains responsible for the governance of Auckland Club Rugby competitions however Auckland staff this year has been empowered to take on more of the operational decisions that are agreed within the framework of the COD. The time and effort taken to improve club processes and systems is paying off by the continued rise in participation. Thank you to all the Auckland Rugby staff and in particular the Club Rugby Partners and Game Development Officers who provided COD and the clubs with their support and guidance throughout the year.

In closing, I would like to thank once again everyone involved in delivering our game in the community. I trust you enjoy a well-deserved sunny summer break and take the time to recharge the batteries for what we all hope is a rewarding 2025 season for all.

Tony Catton

Chair
Council of Delegates

Commercials & Partnerships Report



Commercial and Partnerships Report

It was a great start for the Commercial and Partnerships team as we headed into 2024 with a positive outlook and a bit of momentum. The team were accustomed to the Auckland Rugby Way, taking the learnings from 2023 and refining our execution and delivery to make a bigger impact on both our Community and High-Performance game.

The commercial landscape on the other hand has been challenging over the past 12 months with increased interest rates and kiwi businesses doing it tough. Consequently, this had an impact on a number of partnerships across the renewal process.

The team had to focus on finding new business with notable mentions including:

- Hart Sport as our official sporting equipment partner across our community game, as well as a BOJ partner for NPC and FPC.
- With the transition from our car partner, we were fortunate to secure Suzuki in partnership with Southern Autos as our fleet partner. Suzuki are across all our BOJ reserves for NPC and FPC and have been a fantastic addition to the partner whānau.
- On top of their support for the referees, Westie Pies were back on board supporting our grassroots game as well as a BOJ position.
- SIS, or Sports in Science, supported our Academy and High-performance team with all their supplement requirements.
- Trademe Property, the official on-kit partner to Auckland Rugby, down the side of our NPC and FPC jerseys, as well as NZME's iHeart Radio as an 'Official On-Kit Partner', adorning the lower rear of the jersey for NPC and FPC teams.
- Gallagher Insurance, another new on-kit partner across all the provincial unions, and now also investing in our Junior Rugby ball initiative.

We were also very pleased to secure our Principal Partner, Barfoot and Thompson for another 4-year term.

Peter and the team at Barfoot and Thompson have been a huge part of our success on and off the field for the last 43 years. To all our other On-Kit and major partners, Bhana Family Farms, Paladin, Famous Grouse, Gallagher, NZME and the rest of our sponsors, we thank you!

With our existing partnerships in place, new commercial partners, and our special events across Eden Park our total commercial revenue was up by 11%, which is a great result considering the current market, adding value to Auckland Rugby.

With our Membership program, we had the challenge of time, as NZR announced the test match allocations later last year which impacted our membership in that all retention and acquisition activity had to take place early in the new year which is traditionally later than normal. Despite this challenge overall memberships under the Auckland Rugby umbrella rose by 15%. This is primarily due to test matches returning to Eden Park (Mt Smart in 2023).



Our seventh Gala Dinner was a huge success surpassing previous years and generating a record revenue return.

Eden Park hosted two test matches this year. The English test was highly sought after and delivered a gross gate return higher than any test match at Eden Park outside of World Cups. The Argentina test, whilst providing Eden Park with a record fiftieth consecutive undefeated test fixture, was short of a sell out. As always Auckland Rugby delivered operational and ticketing support to New Zealand Rugby and performed admirably in the lead up and on the night of each test match.



Working through our strategic priorities, one of the big focuses was to take our NPC and FPC teams to Aucklanders. This year we took our game from Eden Park to Auckland Grammar, themed 'Back to School'. This gave us an opportunity to deliver an entertaining event experience, building in more entertainment, kids zones, sponsor activations, bars, DJ, and getting fans closer to the action than ever before. This product is going from strength to strength and enables us to deliver a festival experience, something that we want to build on in 2025

Auckland Rugby's digital presence continued to strive towards building the strongest rugby whānau in New Zealand. We've grown our owned data within our new CRM platform by 30% which means we can have a direct conversation with our customers, with tailored messaging to different audiences. We also introduced the 'Community Spotlight' which was a series of content shining the light on our grassroots game. Thanks to Jared London, our reach, engagement, and video views are up significantly, meaning our community is more engaged than ever.

While this engagement is great, our next job is to translate this over to commercial returns as we continue to build.

Moving forward we are committed to creating valuable connections and thriving partnerships, across our grassroots and high-performance offering, setting the stage for long-term growth. Our launch of the Senior Club Rugby competition and targeted recruitment campaigns outlines the focus on growing numbers in our community game. I'm looking forward to working with the wider business to help bring to life, a better Auckland built by rugby.

Dan Dale

Head of Commercial and Partnerships



Our Partners



High Performance Report



High Performance Report



Auckland Rugby High Performance

The Auckland Rugby High Performance Programme is focused on being New Zealand's leading Provincial Union rugby development and performance programme. Providing opportunities and a pathway that supports the development of identified individuals to grow and strive to wear the famous blue and white hoops.

Performance at the Provincial level is critical for Auckland Rugby, and ultimately each year we are measured by the success of our teams in the Bunnings Warehouse NPC and FPC competitions. It is fair to say that this season was a challenging one.

It has highlighted that there is some work ahead to ensure we have the best possible system and structures to support the aim of building long term sustainable success that adds to the proud history of Auckland Rugby.

The NPC campaign is a lead indicator on how Auckland Rugby is measured, and the results this year have left a strong feeling of disappointment. Starting the season with a string of four losses certainly compounded the pressure and had the group chasing the season from the outset. Resilience was shown mid-season with three consecutive wins, including a win against North Harbour in the Battle of the Bridge, allowing the team to build some momentum heading into a 'Storm Week' to finish out the regular season.

Unfortunately, the winning run required to make the finals was not to be, as a one point away loss to Hawkes Bay after full time, followed by an unsuccessful Ranfurly Shield Challenge midweek in Tasman, and a final loss to Bay of Plenty at Auckland Grammar saw the team finish outside of finals in 11th.

It is important to acknowledge the international debut of our 2024 captain Harry Plummer, who became All Black #1221 against Australia in Sydney and to Adrian Choat on reaching the milestone of 50 games for Auckland against Bay of Plenty. We also celebrated sixteen players making their debuts for Auckland across the 2024 season.

There was a new look to the Auckland Storm in 2024 with significant change across the playing group and coaching staff. The unavailability of the Black Ferns created a platform of opportunity for the emerging talent in our region to step up. Twenty players under the age of twenty were named in the Storm squad, and the season saw 16 players make their debut across the seven matches in total. Three wins in the round stage was enough for the Storm to secure a spot in the semi-finals, where the season unfortunately ended at the hands of the eventual winners Waikato. The win in round three against Canterbury away was a standout performance from the team and the celebration of Eliose Blackwell playing her 150th First Class match against Bay of Plenty an amazing achievement. The unearthing and growth of many young players was exciting, including the Storm fielding an all-teenage backline in their semi-final. The priority for this programme now turns to the retention of this talent to support the building of long-term success.



Our pathway teams performed well this season in the Northern Regions competitions, with the Men's Development team defeating Taranaki in the final play of the last game to claim the title, while the Female Development team (Thunder) and the Men's Under 19's finished second in their respective competitions.

Our High-Performance Academy continues to excel and produce strong conversion rates of players into FPC, NPC and other representative teams. Some of these highlights in 2024 include;

- Three players earning their first full-time Black Ferns contracted.
- Four players were selected for National Development Contracts (NDC) with the Blues Super Rugby Team.
- Seven players were chosen for the Under 20 Rugby Championship in Australia, and six for the Under 20 World Cup squad for South Africa.
- Seventeen players selected for the Blues Under 20's for the National Under 20 tournament, while four were chosen for Moana Pacifica, and two for the Barbarians.
- Two Academy alumni players made their All-Blacks debuts.
- Six players current Auckland players selected on the All-Blacks and All Blacks XV tours to Japan and Northern Hemisphere.

Providing an aspirational pathway and preparing our people for success on and off the field as they progress through their rugby careers continues to be a priority for Auckland Rugby. It is worth acknowledging and celebrating the large number of Auckland Rugby players and staff who contributed to the outstanding success of the Blues in claiming the Super Rugby Championship this year also.

Whilst there have been many individual and team successes across the High-Performance Programme in the last twelve months, we are also under no illusions that strong reflection and review is required around our flagship teams to ensure that we are representing our proud region and adding to the strong history of our Union. We are now presented with an opportunity to learn and be better, to take required actions, connect and to lay strong foundations for the sustainable ongoing success of our programmes and teams. I am looking forward to embracing this challenge and driving towards a better Auckland built by rugby.

Daniel Archer

Head of High Performance

Rugby Operations & Facilities Report



Rugby Operations & Facilities Report

When I reflect on the 2024 year, three things stick out for me. Firstly how quickly the year has gone, secondly how much we have managed to achieve as a team across our diverse range of portfolios, and lastly the amount of highlights achieved. I would like to personally thank the operations team for their dedicated hard work this year as well as the support we have had from other teams within Auckland Rugby and external partners.



(01) Rugby Operations

Starting in February, the rugby operations calendar was very active in 2024 with 26 matches delivered across Super Rugby, NZR Test Matches, and NPC/FPC across multiple venues throughout the year

- As part of our shared services agreement with the Blues, 10 Super Rugby matches were delivered including the preseason match at Takapuna; an opening round match against Fijian Drua up in Whangarei, as well as 5 round-robin games, quarters, semis, and the final all at Eden Park.
- In addition to that, 4 Super Rugby Aupiki matches were delivered featuring two round-robin matches at our local Pakuranga Rugby Club, a double-header and a final at Eden Park
- 2 Test matches were delivered in quick succession with games against England and Argentina at Eden Park. At the time of writing, notification has been received from NZ Rugby of a 100% KPI achievement for the England test, an outstanding outcome.
- The NPC and FPC season comprised 2 x double headers; 2 x triple headers rounding off with a match out at Auckland Grammar as Auckland Rugby continues to take the game out to the community.
- In between those matches, the team was involved in the successful delivery of the Gallaher Shield and Coleman Shield as our pinnacle community events.

From a community perspective and over the course of the season, rugby operations assisted in the operational rollout of circa 4,000 games across our Senior, Junior, and School grades as well as Pacific Island tournaments and our own representative program below NPC and FPC. This entailed the booking of facilities and fields for 33 seasonal venue bookings for club rugby; 30 for school tournaments, 32 casual bookings, 15 for representative team training bases, 18 for Pacific Island team training bases; 4 for Pacific Island and Auckland Māori events; and 24 for representative match venues.

All this couldn't be achieved without the significant support of the council and our local clubs in delivering our rugby program throughout the year. Looking ahead through to the end of 2024, we look forward to hosting the Auckland Club 7s out at Waitakere Stadium and assisting in the rollout of the new Rugby Explorer System which is replacing the current Sporty System.

(02) Referees

The Auckland Referees Association (ARRA) had a memorable year with some notable highlights and milestones being achieved along the way

- Following trends of the last couple of years, 2024 saw an increase in registered numbers by 7% to 195. This represented our highest level of registered numbers since 2014, once again putting us back as the largest Referee Association in New Zealand. In addition to this, there was also an increase of 24% in those who completed the Associate Referee Course helping those junior and school grades who don't have referees allocated. This helped lift our match day coverage to more than 96% across the season in over 1,500 competition games.



Our referees also continued to be recognised at the highest level with our talent pool continuing to grow.

- Ben O'Keeffe, Angus Mabey, and Maggie Cogger-Orr officiated at the international level with Maggie also featuring at the Paris Olympics
- Ben O'Keeffe, Angus Mabey, Maggie Cogger-Orr, and Marcus Playle all refereed in the Super Rugby Pacific and Super Rugby Aupiki campaigns
- 13 of our Auckland Referees featured in NPC, FPC, Heartland, and Northern Region Competitions with Sam Adam and Tim Olliff also making their respective first-class debuts.
- Angus Mabey became Auckland's first homegrown professional referee. Besides having his test debut and being presented his cap, Angus also achieved a significant milestone of refereeing his 100th first-class game during the season
- 10 Auckland referees were included in the newly established Blues Franchise Referee Group, the highest of any provincial union within the super rugby franchises.



At our community level, it was great to see further recognition being achieved with

- Rob Harman reaching his 100th Auckland Premier Rugby Game
- Antony Petrie, Wes van der Linde, and Adam Palmer earning their 50th Premier Game Blazers
- John Kennelly receiving the Ash Edwards Memorial Trophy for outstanding service to the Auckland Rugby Referees Association at the Auckland Rugby Awards

Our member nights continue to be well supported with average attendance up 33%. This year featured prominent guest speakers with international referees Andrea Piardi (Italy) and Damon Murphy (Australia) as well as local rugby personalities in Joe Royal and Eloise Blackwell as we looked to grow capability within our referees. Thank you to Ant Petrie for all your hard work in this area.

Lastly, a special mention needs to be made of our sponsors Westie Pies, Barfoot & Thompson, SIS, PIC Insurance, Vibe, and North & South for their continued financial support of Auckland Referees as well as the Carlton Juniors Rugby Club at Cornwall Park for hosting our meetings each week and providing a club for the referees to congregate at each week.

(03) Pro Sport

The Pro Sport Programme continues to play an integral part in supporting Auckland Rugby's vision of a better Auckland built by rugby.

2024 saw some real positive steps made from an achievement, governance, and experience perspective with some notable highlights achieved.

- On the back of growth of 37% in 2023, student numbers continued to increase by 55% in 2024. Diversity continues to be strong with 24% female representation and 88% being either Māori or Pasifika
- 95% of Unit Standards sat to date have been achieved, comparing very favourably to the overall achievement rate of 66% for last year
- On the back of growth of 37% in 2023, student numbers continued to increase by 55% in 2024. Diversity continues to be strong with 24% female representation and 88% being either Māori or Pasifika
- 95% of Unit Standards sat to date have been achieved, comparing very favourably to the overall achievement rate of 66% for last year

The program continues to deliver life experiences for our students that they otherwise may not get to experience.

Besides class room achievement, this year saw a significant increase in total hours Pro Sport students devoted in the support of various key Auckland Rugby initiatives:

- 22,00 hours towards match day operations whether it be for Auckland, Blues, or NZR
- 18,00 hours towards tournaments and in-school delivery programs through coaching and refereeing
- 300 hours of community work supporting events such as the Dan Carter Kick-a-Thon for Unicef and Poppies for Anzac Day

Particular highlights for our students included:

- Being involved in and experiencing 2 All Black Test Matches, Super Rugby and Super Rugby Finals, NPC & FPC double and triple headers as well as club finals
- The Auckland Rugby Gala Dinner. A special fundraising event for Pro Sport who were guests and partook in speeches and a waiata
- Having access to Auckland Rugby's High-Performance Gym for regular gym sessions
- The Nestle Cook for Life Programme and BOSS Chef Challenge
- The Blues Charitable Trust in developing leadership skills

The Pro Sport students and staff would like to thank and acknowledge the support received throughout the year, notably from the Auckland Rugby Union Board, CEO, Leadership Team, and Staff for the continued support and encouragement of Pro Sport program; North and South Trust, Nestle, The Blues and The Blues Charitable Trust, Eden Park and of course Kate Baskerville (Pro Sport Teacher) and Jacob Saunders (Pro Sport Coordinator) for all their hard and dedicated work.

(04) Events

The Auckland Rugby events team enjoyed a busy and creative year, highlighting their expertise and diversity across a range of events.

Within the community space, and in partnership with our Participation and Development Team, we delivered the highly successful Girls' Festival at the Marist Rugby Club, promoting growth and engagement in women's rugby as well as hosted the annual Under 85 Rugby Open Field Day out at Pakuranga Rugby Club, creating an engaging and vibrant experience for what is seen as a key growth area for both Auckland and New Zealand Rugby. The season finale featured our premier club finals with the Coleman Shield and the Gallaher Shield both drawing significant community support and showcased what is the pinnacle of our club rugby.

One of our key highlights of the year was our Annual Gala Dinner, headlined by internationally recognised speaker Martin Bayfield and raising funds for the Pro Sport Education Program. Held on the eve of the English test, the event was described as simply one of the best of its kind creating a new bench mark for years to follow.

The events team also provided event and logistics support for both Eden Park test matches, as well as playing a crucial role in the match delivery with the Blues with our event manager also overseeing the production of the finals series, delivering pre-game and halftime shows to a world-class standard.

The NPC season was another highlight featuring 2 x doubleheaders, 2 x tripleheaders, taking a game back to school with the Bay of Plenty game at Auckland Grammar and delivering the first-ever laser light show at NPC level as we looked to increase fan engagement. And who can forget the increased following for both our mascots Gull and Spud got during the season as they got up to some high jinks.

Overall, the events team had an excellent year, proving their ability to deliver dynamic, and diverse high-quality events. Their efforts underscored the value of a dedicated and agile team in making Auckland Rugby's Operational Events for the 2024 season a resounding success.



(05) Wider Auckland Rugby Facilities

Two key areas have been identified for Auckland Rugby to focus on for 2025 and beyond.

A review and update of the Wider Auckland Rugby Facility Plan originally released in 2018 has been completed and recently released with key points noted:

- Of the 12 priorities originally recommended in the first report, 8 field and light improvements have been achieved or are progressing
- A further 12 priority projects have been identified and proposed for further investigation, review and investment
- In collaboration with our neighbouring Auckland Region unions, Counties and north harbour, It has been agreed that having match quality lit fields is our collective number 1 priority as this will enhance ways to increase participation and deliver flexible competition options, alleviating pressures on needing to deliver games on a weekend.
- The respective Unions have now begun the process of how they can collaboratively work together with council to create efficiencies and save money, delivering better outcomes

SportWay Cameras:

- Following the initial installation of 6 cameras at our local clubs enabling live streaming and recording of games, work will continue to install cameras in our remaining key venues with a goal to have all up and running before the start of the 2025 season

Grant Wilson

Head of Operations & Facilities

Participation Development Report



2024 has been an exciting and successful year for community rugby. Building on the modest success of 2023, the Participation Development team and our rugby community facilitated rugby to over 22,700 participants. A range of targeted initiatives, with tailored support across our clubs and schools, have ensured Auckland Rugby is innovating and growing the community game, delivering a network of support to our rugby community. To all our stakeholders, thank you for your dedication, resilience and collaboration.



(01) Registrations

Auckland Rugby finished the 2024 year with 22,791 registered participants (Players, Coaches and Referees) across our community rugby landscape. This represented a 14% increase from 2023 and highlights some of the hard mahi that has gone into delivering our community game by our Clubs, Schools and associations. Seeing the joy around the grounds each week, it is hard to argue that the community game is thriving.

We still have some work to do in certain pockets to solidify our numbers back to pre-COVID levels; however, we are confident that with the planning in place, we will see continued growth in 2025.

CATEGORY	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS '24	% MOVEMENT YOY
Club Rugby	9,748	+4%
Senior Club	3,451	+4%
Junior Club	6,297	+5%
Schools Rugby	10,665	+22%
Secondary Schools	5,419	+13%
Primary and Intermediate Schools	5,246	+33%
Sub Unions	1,251	+16%
Social Series	188	+36%
Coaching	1,264	+3%



(03) Club Capability

The 'Paid Administrators into Clubs' project continues to increase our club-based workforce and, now in its fourth year, has established a vast network of dedicated and capable staff.

(02) Council of Delegates

After a restructuring of Community Governance in 2023, 2024 saw the implementation of a new strategically focused Council of Delegates (COD). The first project looked at our premier competitions. After six months of extensive design and consultation, clubs approved an innovative Premier competition structure (17-1). The new structure will be implemented in 2025, involving three premier grades, with promotional/relegation elements and separate knock-out competitions. This will replace the old Premier Development and First Grade offerings. This participant-led framework will ensure more meaningful games and opportunities for clubs to progress at their own pace. This exciting amendment is evidence of the COD's practical and strategic governance changes in 2023. The COD's strategic priorities have now moved to strengthen the relationships between our club and secondary school network and the future strategic drivers to grow the U85kg grade, which Auckland Rugby and Clubs see as two integral assets to our system.

The newly developed Junior Rugby Council was implemented. The council, comprised of 8 representatives, has steered Junior Rugby forward, creating a raft of new rules and resources, including a new Junior Rugby Framework that will be implemented in 2025. These adoptions will ensure clubs and participants have a safe and enjoyable environment while providing growth and development opportunities for volunteers, coaches, and players.

Thank you to all club delegates for the countless volunteer hours you put in to service our game. A special thank you to Tony Catton (COD Chair), Michaela Barnes (COD Deputy Chair/Technical Committee Chair), Steve Sinclair (Strategic Focus Committee Chair), and Matt Fenton (JRC Chair) for leading our committees through another season, your time, effort, guidance, and contributions are unmatched and very much appreciated.

A range of workshops, tools, resources, and one-to-one support continue to develop all our club committees, staff, and volunteers, as Club Capability remains one of the most substantial factors in the future growth of our system.

Auckland Rugby invested \$150k into year two of the Club Contestable Fund, representing another milestone in our commitment to tailor our support so Clubs can deliver the best community sports experience. Crucially, the Fund operates on a merit-based distribution model, where investments are allocated based on the quality of applications and their alignment around initiatives that drive participation, facility development or sustainability. This approach ensures that the financial support goes to projects with the most significant potential to make a difference.

Thank you to all our clubs for their front-line delivery of our game. We acknowledge the hard work of the club staff, volunteers, players, coaches, and families who all contribute to rugby throughout our region. Clubs are the lifeblood of rugby across the country, and we are grateful for the efforts of all those who ensure rugby remains New Zealand's national game.



(04) Game Development

In its second year, our Game Development framework continued its primary focus on Coach and Participant Development and female-specific initiatives.

The framework provided structure and direction to the broader initiatives of the Participation Development team. Over 90 workshops and development sessions were delivered across accreditation, development, and performance spaces, contributing to a 3% growth in coach registrations.

Coach Development - The Community/High-Performance programme continued to provide our Premier male and female coaches with opportunities to extend their expertise through connection with our High-Performance department. The Auckland Rugby resource coaches were integral in delivering specific workshops while spending invaluable one-on-one time with our premier teams. This has strengthened relationships and provided organic development opportunities for all coaches.

Player Development - Three critical programmes were again delivered in 2024 and designed to enhance the participant experience through tailored development opportunities. 'My First Tackle' aimed at reducing the drop off in player retention from Under 7 to Under 8, was a huge success, with registered players increasing by 31%. The 'Masterclass Series' was aimed at specific skill development opportunities and engaged over 300 participants. Lastly, our social module was designed to provide a non-contact opportunity for people of all ages and abilities. In total, capturing 180+ participants not already engaged in the game, representing a 35% increase from 2023.

Female Specific Initiatives - This season also saw the conclusion of our Female Activator Programme. This two-year initiative delivered 30k engagements to girls across Auckland, most of whom had never had the opportunity to take part in our game. The programme also, at times, provided opportunities for our clubs to upskill in programme and resource management, community engagement, and school delivery. The results of this programme have contributed to the increase in female participation across Auckland.

A new pilot initiative, our Women's Accelerator Programme, was also launched. It is designed to support female players transitioning into coaching. While the start was rocky, we were able to gather lots of positive learnings, and adaptations will be made for our 2025 launch.



(05) Secondary School Rugby

Secondary school rugby in Auckland has seen impressive growth. Following 8% growth in 2023, registrations increased 13% in 2024, exceeding 5,700 participants (Players and coaches), with more than 5,400 players.

The success is attributed to targeted initiatives designed to enhance the rugby experience. These initiatives include coach capability-building workshops, strengthened partnerships with educational institutions, new development pathways for female players, and expanded age-grade representative opportunities.

Our focus on creating clear pathways from secondary school to club rugby has kept young players engaged as they progress through their rugby journey. This approach ensures a smooth transition and continued participation.

Secondary School 7's - Auckland Rugby's Secondary School 7's tournaments retained the Premiership and Championship formats in 2024, following positive feedback from schools in 2023. The Open 7's serves as Auckland's qualifier for the Condor National 7's and was held at Otahuhu College Memorial Fields. This tournament featured 32 teams from 28 secondary schools across Auckland.

The Blues Region Year 9 & 10 7's tournament saw significant growth in 2024, with 50 teams participating, 41 of which were from Auckland secondary schools. This represents a 34% increase from 2023.



(06) In-School Delivery Experience

A further highlight has been the increased engagement through our primary and intermediate school programmes, which attracted over 5,200 unique participants, representing 33% growth compared to 2023. This growth was driven by exciting school events, engaging formats, and inclusive school-based programmes that improved accessibility for young players, regardless of experience or background.

Auckland Rugby's 'In-School Experience' programme continued its upward trajectory, building on the progress made in 2023. This year saw greater integration of Rippla Rugby into primary and intermediate schools, with approximately 30 events delivered. These Rippla and tackle events attracted over 530 teams and engaged around 7,600 participants, showcasing the increasing interest in rugby among young players.

As we look ahead, we are actively exploring new ways to engage students, enhance their skills, and foster growth, all while staying aligned with our mission to create meaningful rugby experiences for all.



(07) Junior Development Programmes

U18 Boys Programme - The U18 programme was built on the foundations laid in 2022, continuing to focus on creating positive experiences and providing higher development opportunities for athletes. The programme was delivered across several elements, including a combined day, regional development days and three representative teams.

The Auckland Rugby Combine captured 107 athletes from 1B divisional schools, with ten advancing to the U18 Development Days, supported by NZR and the Blues talent identification staff. Joined by 90 athletes from 1A schools, athletes underwent testing, education and training.

Auckland Rugby entered three teams into the Northern Regions competition, acknowledging rugby as a late-development sport:

- Auckland 1A U18s (players from 1A grade),
- Auckland Divisional U18s (players from 1B and other grade schools)
- Auckland Gulls U18s (representing players from all grades to widen development opportunities).

Auckland 1A U18s topped their pool with wins over Auckland Divisional, Northland, and North Harbour, although they narrowly lost the final to Bay of Plenty. Auckland Gulls finished third overall, while Auckland Divisional faced tough competition, but the development opportunities outweighed the results. Over 90 athletes had the opportunity to develop further and represent Auckland through these teams.

Under 16 Boys Programme - 2024 was a resounding success, focusing on player development and creating positive playing experiences. Over 200 boys were nominated from across our four regions, with the final squads providing an opportunity for 120 players to represent Auckland proudly.

The four regional teams played four competitive matches, starting with Waikato and culminating in an in-house series.

The standard of play was impressive, showcasing the depth of talent in Auckland and ensuring the future of rugby is in good hands. With a strong foundation in place, Auckland is well-positioned for continued success.

Girls Representative Programmes - The 2024 season saw the continuation of our expanded girls' representative programme, with four Auckland teams competing across the U16 and U18 age groups. The teams are regionalised into Central/West and East/South, with athletes from secondary schools in those regions. The programme offers numerous development opportunities for our female athletes, with the largest-ever development day drawing over 160 participants.

The girls' representative programme continues to grow, providing meaningful experiences for athletes as they develop on and off the field. Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to maintaining high standards as girls' secondary school rugby expands.

(08) Acknowledgements

As we close another season, Auckland Rugby would like to express appreciation for the unwavering commitment and dedication of all stakeholders, coaches, managers, volunteers, and families. Consistent determination, passion, and resilience ensure that all participants are afforded a wide range of opportunities, irrespective of their experience or abilities. Bring on 2025!

Joe Blundell
Club Rugby
Manager

Jarrold Syman
Rugby Experience and
Schools Manager

Competition & Club Award Winners



PREMIER	CHALLENGE CUP	CUP NAME	2024
Premier	Championship	Gallaher Shield	Ponsonby
Premier	Top 8 Round Robin	Alan McEvoy Memorial Shield	Ponsonby
Premier	Challenge Cup	Sir Fred Allen	Pakuranga
Premier	5th	Jubilee Trophy	University
Premier	9th	Portola Trophy	Papatoetoe
Premier	13th	Presidents Cup	Waitakere
Development	Championship	George Nicholson Trophy	Grammar TEC
Development	Challenge Cup	Lawrie Knight	Pakuranga
Development	Top 8 Round Robin	Tramways Memorial Cup	Grammar TEC
Development	Bottom Section winner	Peter Fatialofa Memorial	Eden
U21	Championship	Arthur Bayliss Cup	Grammar TEC
U21	Round Robin	Whetton Brothers Trophy	Grammar TEC
U21	Challenge Cup	Sir Wilson Whineray	Grammar TEC
U21	Plate	Stan Foster Memorial	Waitemata
First Grade	Championship	Reuben O'Neil Cup	Waitakere
First Grade	Challenge Cup	Sir Bryan Williams	Waiheke
First Grade	Plate	Peter Hall Cup	Massey
U85	Championship	Maurice O'Connor Cup & Speights Cup	Pakuranga
U85	Championship - Challenge Cup	Speights Shield	Pakuranga
U85	Plate	Speights Plate	Pakuranga
Premier	Championship	Coleman Shield	Ponsonby
Premier	Challenge Cup	Emma Jensen Cup	Ponsonby
Premier	Development Championship	Women's Premier Reserves Cup	Patumahoe
Premier	Championship	Richards-Martin Shield	Silverdale

AWARD**WINNER****Women's Club Player of the Year****Daynah Nankivell (Ponsonby)****Premier Women's Club Rookie of the Year****Levonah Motuliki (Marist)****Top Premier Women's Points Scorer****Melanie Puckett (College Rifles)****Top Premier Women's Try Scorer****Nikita Masi (Eden)****Men's Club Player of the Year****Wiseguy Faiane (Ponsonby)****Premier Men's Club Rookie of the Year****Randall Baker (Pakuranga)****Top Premier Men's Point Scorer****Adam Morrison (University)****Top Premier Men's Try Scorer****Kalepo Paulalaisa (Grammar TEC)****Best and Fairest Club Player****Joe Royal (Ponsonby)****Club Coach of the Year****Willie Gibbons (Ponsonby)****Most Promising Club Coach of the Year****Marcel Milo-Harris (Grammar TEC)****Frank McMullen (Premier Referee of the Year)****Todd Petrie (ARRA)****George Whyte Kicking Trophy
(most points gained by goal kicking)****Adam Morrison (University)****Barrie Connell Memorial Trophy
(volunteer of the year)****Ioane Ioane (East Tamaki),
Stu Tudor (Eden) and Steve Hessey (Te Papapa)****Alan Tohill Memorial Trophy
(most tries by a forward)****Timote Asi (Marist)****Ash Edwards Memorial Trophy
(outstanding contribution to Auckland Ruby)****John Kennelly (ARRA)****Jordan Rosebowl (club that sets high standards
in event management, side-line behaviour,
on field discipline and match official support)****Pakuranga United Rugby Club****Southland Shield (Best average championship
points over U21 and U85s)****Pakuranga United Rugby Club****Silver Football (Best average championship
points across all grades)****Marist Old Boys Rugby Club**

By the Numbers

11



Black Ferns



4



All Blacks

4



All Blacks 7s

3



All Blacks XV

7



NZ Under 20s

7



NZ Secondary Schools

46

Super Rugby & Aupiki
Players in 2025

By the Numbers

24.5M



Million Video Views

81%



Growth in engagement

132.5K



Facebook Followers

50.7K



Instagram followers

22,791



Total Participants

13%



Increase in Secondary School Players



35%



Increase in Female Participants

10K+



Games Facilitated

3%



Increase in Coaches

7%



Increase in Referees

5%



Increase in Club Players

NPC & FPC Results



NPC Results

FIXTURES	POINTS SCORED	OPP. POINTS SCORED	TRIES	PENALTY GOALS	CONV.
Auckland vs Wellington: 9th August 2024	21	29	3	0	3
Auckland vs Otago: 16th August 2024	25	27	3	2	2
Auckland vs Canterbury: 16th August 2024	21	27	3	0	3
Auckland vs Waikato: 31st August 2024	21	39	3	0	3
Auckland vs North Harbour: 7th September 2024	36	32	5	1	4
Auckland vs Northland: 15th September 2024	24	17	4	0	2
Auckland vs Southland: 22nd September 2024	27	19	4	1	2
Auckland vs Hawke's Bay: 28th September 2024	35	36	4	3	3
Auckland vs Tasman: 2nd October 2024	17	31	2	1	2
Auckland vs Bay Of Plenty: 6th October 2024	24	26	4	0	2
Total	251	283	35	8	26

FPC Results

FIXTURES	POINTS SCORED	OPP. POINTS SCORED	TRIES	PENALTY GOALS	CONV.
Auckland Storm vs Northland Women: 9th August 2024	48	17	8	0	4
Auckland Storm vs Canterbury Women: 24th August 2024	43	27	5	1	4
Auckland Storm vs Waikato Women: 31st August 2024	17	65	3	0	1
Auckland Storm vs Counties Manukau: 7th September 2024	20	35	4	0	0
Auckland Storm vs Bay of Plenty Volcanix: 14th September 2024	29	24	4	1	3
Auckland Storm vs Hawke's Bay Tui: 22nd September 2024	24	48	4	0	2
Auckland Storm vs Waikato Women: 28th September 2024	12	69	2	0	1
Total	193	285	30	2	15

Auckland Representative Results 2024

Auckland Men's Development

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B	
24/08/2024	Bay of Plenty Rugby Union: Nga Wha	19	21	Auckland Rugby Union: Men's Bs
31/08/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Men's Bs	27	18	Counties Manukau RFU: Steelers Development
07/09/2024	North Harbour Men's Development	31	43	Auckland Rugby Union: Men's Bs
15/09/2024	Northland Rugby Union: Northland	28	50	Auckland Rugby Union: Men's Bs
21/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Men's Bs	32	29	Taranaki Rugby: Development

Auckland Women's Development

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B	
10/08/2024	Counties Manukau RFU: Heat Development CM	24	34	Auckland Rugby Union: Thunder
24/08/2024	Waikato Rugby Union: Waikato	34	19	Auckland Rugby Union: Thunder
31/08/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Thunder	19	17	Counties Manukau RFU: Heat Development CM
14/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Thunder	5	18	Waikato Rugby Union: Waikato

Under 85kg Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B	
17/08/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U85kg	44	8	North Harbour Rugby Union: North Harbour U85kgs
24/08/2024	Counties Manukau RFU: U85kg REP CM	14	35	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U85kg
31/08/2024	Waikato Rugby Union: Waikato	5	73	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U85kg
07/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U85kg	51	12	Counties Manukau RFU: U85kg REP CM

U19 Mens Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B	
07/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U19s	63	5	Northland Rugby Union: Northland
14/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U19s	38	3	Taranaki Rugby: Taranaki U19's
21/09/2024	Waikato Rugby Union: Waikato U19 Men	25	24	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U19s
28/09/2024	North Harbour Men's Under 19	17	19	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U19s
28/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U19s	50	0	Bay of Plenty Rugby Union: Toa
28/09/2024	Counties Manukau RFU: U19 Mens REP CM	14	29	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U19s

U18 Boys Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	SCORE	TEAM B
07/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18s 1A	48	8	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18 Divisional
14/09/2024	Northland Rugby Union: Northland	14	57	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18s 1A
21/09/2024	North Harbour Men's Under 18 Cardinal	24	26	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18s 1A
28/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18s 1A	23	24	Bay of Plenty Rugby Union: Bay of Plenty

U18 Boys Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	SCORE	TEAM B
07/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18s 1A	48	8	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18 Divisional
14/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18 Divisional	8	17	North Harbour Men's Under 18 Cardinal
21/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18 Divisional	17	24	Northland Rugby Union: Northland
28/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: Auckland U18 Divisional	10	26	Counties Manukau RFU: U18 Boys REP CM

U18 Girls Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B	
07/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - Central West	38	0	Northland Rugby Union: Northland
14/09/2024	North Harbour Rugby Union: North Harbour U18 Girls	17	34	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - Central West
21/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - Central West	12	20	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - South East
28/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - Central West	24	17	Waikato Rugby Union: Waikato

U18 Girls Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B	
07/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - Central West	17	22	North Harbour Rugby Union: North Harbour U18
14/09/2024	Northland Rugby Union: Northland	32	25	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - South East
21/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - Central West	12	20	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - South East
28/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U18 Girls - South East	44	29	Counties Manukau RFU: U18 Girls REP CM

U16 Girls Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	SCORE	TEAM B
28/09/2024	Waikato Rugby Union: Waikato U16	17	10	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls Central-West
28/09/2024	Bay of Plenty Rugby Union: U16 Girls	12	12	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls Central-West
29/09/2024	Counties Manukau RFU: U16 Girls REP CM	0	12	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls Central-West
29/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls Central-West	15	5	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls South-East

U16 Girls Representative

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	SCORE	TEAM B
28/09/2024	Bay of Plenty Rugby Union: U16 Girls	10	0	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls South-East
28/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls South-East	7	15	Counties Manukau RFU: U16 Girls REP CM
29/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls South-East	7	36	Waikato Rugby Union: Waikato U16
29/09/2024	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls South-East	5	15	Auckland Rugby Union: U16 Girls Central-West



Auckland NPC Squad

NAME

Bryce Heem	Anton Segner
Angus Ta'avao	Alex Harford
Lolagi Visinia	Nigel Ah Wong
Patrick Tuipulotu	Sama Malolo
Akira Ioane	Mike Curry
Rieko Ioane	Ola Taelangi
Marcel Renata	Kemara Hauti-Parapara
Caleb Clarke	Xavi Taele
Wiseguy Faiane	Christian Leali'ifano
Harry Plummer	Millennium Sanerivi
Tanielu Tele'a	Rico Simpson
Adrian Choat	Sika Pole
AJ Lam	Sam Howling
Zarn Sullivan	Oscar Cowley-Andrea
Taufa Funaki	Christopher Vunipola
Soane Vikena	Josh Beehre
Niko Jones	Sam Hainsworth-Fa'aofu
Vaiolini Ekuasi	Caleb Tangitau
Jordan Lay	Che Clark
Sione Ahio	Ben Ake
Tomas Aoake	Payton Spencer
Joshua Fusitu'a	Xavier Tito-Harris
Tito Tuipulotu	Edward Annandale
Tuaina Tualima	



Auckland FPC Squad

NAME

Aldora Itunu	Letiara Foster
Aleiyah Tuala	Levonah Motuliki
Angelica Mekemeke Vahai	Mikaya Kaipō
Ashlee Matapo	Ojhan Aukuso
Braxton Sorensen McGee	Presayus Singh
Charmaine McMenamin	Rori Wood
Cheyenne Tuli-Fale	Samaria Kaipō
Cilia-Marie Po'e-Tofaeono	Sulieti Halafihi
Cristo Taufua	Tiale Lelenga
Dajian Brown	Zahnia Papalii
Danii Mafoe	Amarante Sititi
Danny-Elle Fesola'i	Caitlyn-Jain Bushell
Daynah Nankivell	Lavina Elliott
Elizabeth Moimoi	Simina Lokotui
Eloise Blackwell	Psalm Maletino
Faith Nonutunu	Jorja Fruean
Faith Tavita	Karla Wright-Akeli
France Bloomfield	Le'Oxeayn Maiu'u
Gillian Fa'aumu	Kiritea Te Reo
Letelemalanuola Lavea	

National Honours

NAME	TEAM
Patrick Tuipulotu	All Blacks
Rieko Ioane	All Blacks
Caleb Clarke	All Blacks
Harry Plummer	All Blacks & All Blacks XV
Aldora Ituna	Black Ferns
Chryss Viliko	Black Ferns
Katelyn Vahaakolo	Black Ferns
Liana Mikaele-Tu'u	Black Ferns
Logo-I-Pulotu Lemapu Atai'i Brunt	Black Ferns
Maama Vaipulu	Black Ferns
Maiakawanakaulani Roos	Black Ferns
Patricia Maliepo	Black Ferns
Ruahei Demant	Black Ferns
Sophie Fisher	Black Ferns
Cheyenne Tuli-Fale	Black Ferns
AJ Lam	All Blacks XV
Marcel Renata	All Blacks XV
Xavier Tito Harris	All Black 7's & NZ Under 20s
Che Clark	All Black 7's
Payton Spencer	All Black 7's
Riley Williams	NZU20s
Rico Simpson	NZU20s
King Maxwell	NZU20s
Xavi Taele	NZU20s
Sika Pole	NZU20s
Kurene Luamanuvae	NZU20s

NAME	TEAM
Ben Biggelaar	NZ Under 85
Rory Cavanagh	NZ Under 85
Jeandre Du Toit	NZ Under 85
Josh Gellert	NZ Under 85
Frazer Harrison	NZ Under 85
Jack Laity	NZ Under 85
Tom Rowland	NZ Under 85
Campbell Busby	NZ Under 85
Francis Morrison	NZ Under 85
Jamie Petford	NZ Under 85
Eamon Reily	NZ Under 85
Will Boswell	NZ Under 85
Aio Keith	NZ Secondary Schools
Charlie Wallis	NZ Secondary Schools
Cohen Norrie	NZ Secondary Schools
Jarrel Tuaimalo-Vaega	NZ Secondary Schools
Nico Stanley	NZ Secondary Schools
Siale Pahulu	NZ Secondary Schools
Tevita Tatafu	NZ Secondary Schools
Cruiz Simpson	New Zealand Māori U18 Ngā Whatukura
Noah Gregory	New Zealand Māori U18 Ngā Whatukura
Psalm Maletino	U18 NZ Māori
Mikaya Kaipo	U18 NZ Māori
Rios Tasmania	New Zealand Barbarians U18

Financial Statements



Special Purpose Consolidated Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 31 October 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Revenue and other income			
Revenue	3	10,727	9,600
Other revenue	4	1,204	2,114
		11,931	11,714
Less: expenses			
Administration expenses		(2,171)	(1,943)
Community expenses		(3,364)	(3,069)
Change in fair value of managed funds investments	9	613	(25)
Commercial & high performance expenses		(5,657)	(5,170)
		(10,579)	(10,207)
Profit before equity accounting		1,352	1,507
Share of net profit of associate accounted for using the equity method	12	220	113
Profit for the year		1,572	1,620
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income		1,572	1,620

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Special Purpose Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 October 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	10,589	9,754
Receivables	7	1,747	2,401
Inventories	8	-	17
Investments in managed funds	9	4,422	3,809
Other assets	10	99	165
Total current assets		16,857	16,146
Non-current assets			
Receivables	7	1,407	1,592
Equity accounted investments	12	1,577	1,357
Property, plant and equipment	11	392	430
Total non-current assets		3,376	3,379
Total assets		20,233	19,525
Current liabilities			
Payables	13	2,044	2,807
Provisions	14	298	474
Other liabilities	15	565	490
Total current liabilities		2,907	3,771
Total liabilities		2,907	3,771
Net Assets		17,326	15,754
Equity			
Retained earnings		17,326	15,574
Total equity		17,326	15,574

For and on behalf of the
Board of Directors on
the 26 November 2024:

Director:



Director:



The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Special Purpose Consolidated Statement of Movements in Retained Earnings

For the year ended 31 October 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Retained earnings		
Balance at beginning of the year	15,754	14,134
Profit for the year	1,572	1,620
Total comprehensive income	1,572	1,620
Balance at the end of the year	17,326	15,754

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Special Purpose Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 October 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash flow from operating activities		
Receipts from customers, funding and sponsorship	12,352	10,307
Payments to suppliers and employees	(11,948)	(15,049)
Interest received	536	281
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	940	(4,461)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(105)	(232)
Net cash used in investing activities	(105)	(232)
Reconciliation of cash		
Cash at beginning of the financial year	9,754	14,447
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	835	(4,693)
Cash at end of financial year	10,589	9,754

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies

The financial report covers Auckland Rugby Union Incorporated and its consolidated entities and its associated entity (the 'Group'). Auckland Rugby Union Incorporated is an incorporated entity under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The consolidated special purpose financial statements comprise the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 October 2024, the special purpose consolidated statements of financial performance, movements in retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies as well as notes to these special purpose consolidated financial statements ("the financial statements").

The Group currently has no reporting requirement under legislation. The financial statements have been prepared for the Group based on accounting policies approved by the Board.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements of each entity within the consolidated group is measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which that entity operates (the functional currency). The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars which is the consolidated group's functional and presentation currency.

Rounding of amounts

The amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar (where indicated).

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain estimates and judgements in applying the Group's accounting policies. Those estimates and judgements significant to the financial statements are disclosed in Note 2 to the financial statements.

(b) Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates continuity of normal activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

(c) Principles of consolidation

The financial statements are those of the consolidated entity ("the Group"), comprising the financial statements of the parent entity and all of the entities the parent controls. The Group controls an entity where it has the power, for which the parent has exposure or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the entity, and for which the parent has the ability to use its power over the entity to affect the amount of its returns.

The financial statements of subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the parent entity, using consistent accounting policies. Adjustments are made to bring into line any dissimilar accounting policies which may exist.

All inter-company balances and transactions, including any unrealised profits or losses have been eliminated on consolidation. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which control is obtained by the Group and are de-recognised from the date that control ceases.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Investments in associates

An associate is an entity over which the Group is able to exercise significant influence. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee but is not control or joint control of those policies.

The Group's interests in associates are accounted for using the equity method after initially being recognised at cost. Under the equity method, the Group's share of post-acquisition profits or losses of the associate is recognised in the Group's profit or loss. The carrying value of the investment is not allowed to exceed the investor's share of the net assets in the investee as at the reporting date.

Unrealised gains and losses on transactions between the Group and an associate are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in the associate.

(e) Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the buyer and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

The Group has applied the following specific revenue recognition policies:

Match fees

NPC match fees and test match fees are recognised as revenue when the match is held on an accrual basis.

Grant and New Zealand Rugby Union Funding

Funding with specific use is recognised when the requirements under the agreement have been met. Any funding with specific use for which the requirements under the agreement have not been completed are recognised as liabilities until all the conditions have been fulfilled. Funding which is not subject to restrictions or conditions is recognised as revenue at the time of receipt.

Merchandise Sales

Merchandise sales are recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the buyer being at the time of sale.

Sponsorship

The Group have various sponsorship contra arrangements, whereby the transactions are not settled by cash, but through offsetting services/products supplied. Non-cash contra revenue is recognised at normal commercial rates in the period it arises with an offsetting contra expense recognised.

Sponsorship received in cash is recognised as revenue in advance until all the services under the sponsorship agreement have been provided, at which point the sponsorship is recognised as revenue.

Membership

Membership revenue is recognised on a straight-line basis throughout the period covered by the membership. Memberships purchased for future seasons are recognised as revenue in advance for the proportion of matches that the tickets are still valid for after balance date.

(f) Other revenue and other income

Dividend and other distributions

Dividend and other distribution revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend or other distribution has been established. Dividends and other distributions received from associated entities are accounted for in accordance with the equity method of accounting.

Interest

Interest revenue is measured in accordance with the effective interest method.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

(g) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Inland Revenue Department. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the special purpose consolidated statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(h) Income tax

The Group is exempt from income tax as a promoter of amateur sport, under section CW 46 of the Income Tax Act 2007.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at banks, short-term deposits with an original maturity of 12 months or less held at call with financial institutions, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position.

(j) Receivables

Receivables are recorded at the amount due, less any provision for uncollectability. A receivable is considered uncollectable when there is evidence the amount due will not be fully collected. The amount that is uncollectable is the difference between the amount due and the present value of the amount expected to be collected.

(k) Inventories

Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Inventories held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at lower of cost and current replacement cost.

(l) Investments

Managed fund investments are stated at their fair value based on the quoted price as at year end. Any gains or losses generated as a result of the revaluation is recognised in the profit or loss.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is measured at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all other property, plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held available for use, consistent with the estimated consumption of the economic benefits embodied in the asset.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

CLASS OF FIXED ASSET	USEFUL LIFE	DEPRECIATION BASIS
Leasehold improvements	4 to 10 years	Straight line
Motor vehicles	5 to 10 years	Straight line
Furniture, fittings, IT & equipment	2 to 10 years	Straight line

(n) Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets other than goodwill, intangible assets not yet ready for use and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are assessed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicate the asset may be impaired.

An impairment loss is recognised when the carrying amount of an asset or cash generating unit exceeds the asset's or cash generating unit's recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset or cash generating unit is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use (where 'value in use' is determined as the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit).

Impairment losses in respect of individual assets are recognised immediately in profit or loss.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

(o) Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are initially measured at fair value net of transaction costs and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The Group only recognise a liability to the extent that the nature and timing is certain and can be reliably estimated.

(p) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and other employee benefits (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position.

(ii) Defined contribution superannuation plan

The Group makes superannuation contributions to the employee's defined contribution superannuation (i.e. KiwiSaver) plan of choice in respect of employee services rendered during the year. These superannuation contributions are recognised as an expense in the same period when the related employee services are received. The Group's obligation with respect to employee's defined contribution entitlements is limited to its obligation for any unpaid superannuation guarantee contributions at the end of the reporting period. All obligations for unpaid superannuation guarantee contributions are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled and are presented as current liabilities in the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position.

(iii) Bonus plan

The Group recognises a provision when a bonus is payable in accordance with the employee's contract of employment, and the amount can be reliably measured.

(q) Leases

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straightline basis over the life of the lease term.

(r) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 2: Significant accounting estimates and judgements

(a) Applicability of the going concern basis of accounting

Management have assessed and determined that the Group's application of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate. Management has applied judgement, having undertaken the responses and consideration described in note 1(b) to reaffirm the Group's application of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

Note 3: Revenue

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
NPC Match Fees	515	413
Sponsorship	1,619	1,495
North and South Trust Limited Funding	2,830	2,887
Test Match Fees	1,037	293
New Zealand Rugby Union Funding	3,945	4,057
Commercial Initiatives	329	182
Service & Fees Revenue - Blues Limited Partnership	452	273
	10,727	9,600

During the year the Group received grants of \$2,830,000 (2023: \$2,750,000) from North and South Trust Limited. Under the terms of the authorised purpose statement of North and South Trust Limited, the grants received are required to be used to support and encourage amateur games or sport where the game or sport is conducted for the benefit of the general public. No other grant income was received from North and South Trust Limited during the current financial year (2023: \$137,000).

Note 4: Other revenue and other income

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash distributions from investments in managed funds	67	56
Interest income	544	381
Other revenue	593	1,677
	1,204	2,114

Note 5: Operating profit

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Profit before income tax has been determined after:		
Depreciation	143	170
Employee benefits:		
- Short term benefits	5,555	5,475
- KiwiSaver contributions	158	147
	5,713	5,622
(Gain)/ loss on fair value adjustments		
- Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	(613)	25

Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 6: Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash at bank	2,211	2,285
Cash on short term deposit	8,378	7,469
	10,589	9,754

Note 7: Receivables

	NOTE	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current			
Receivables		351	699
Other receivables		2	4
GST receivable		374	330
Amounts receivable from:			
- Other related parties	16	1,020	1,368
		1,747	2,401
Non-current			
Other receivables		14	14
Amounts receivable from:			
- Other related parties	16	1,393	1,578
		1,407	1,592

Note 8: Inventories

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
At cost		
Merchandise	-	17

Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 9: Investments in managed funds

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of investments in managed funds at the beginning and end of the current financial year.

	Milford Funds Limited \$'000	Nikko Asset Management NZ Ltd. \$'000	Total \$'000
2024			
Opening value	1,836	1,973	3,809
Gain in fair value	185	428	613
Closing value	2,021	2,401	4,422
2023			
Opening value	1,856	1,978	3,834
Loss in fair value	(20)	(5)	(25)
Closing value	1,836	1,973	3,809

The investments in management funds are highly liquid and readily convertible to cash within 3 business days and are therefore considered current assets.

Note 10: Other assets

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Prepayments	99	122
Other current assets	-	43
	99	165

Note 11: Property, plant and equipment

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Leasehold improvements at cost	1,390	1,379
Accumulated depreciation	(1,348)	(1,314)
	42	65
Motor vehicles at cost	17	17
Accumulated depreciation	(16)	(15)
	1	2
Furniture, fittings, IT and equipment at cost	1,361	1,262
Accumulated depreciation	(1,052)	(944)
	309	318
Work in progress at cost	40	45
Total property, plant and equipment	392	430

Note 11: Property, plant and equipment (continued)

(a) Reconciliations

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Leasehold improvements		
Opening carrying amount	65	122
Additions	11	-
Depreciation expense	(34)	(57)
Closing carrying amount	42	65
Motor vehicles		
Opening carrying amount	2	4
Disposals	-	(1)
Depreciation expense	(1)	(1)
Closing carrying amount	1	2
Furniture, fittings, IT and equipment		
Opening carrying amount	318	243
Additions	99	187
Depreciation expense	(108)	(112)
Closing carrying amount	309	318
Work in progress		
Opening carrying amount	45	-
Additions	40	45
Capitalised during the year	(45)	-
Closing carrying amount	40	45

Note 12: Investments accounted for using equity method

The Group has a 38.75% ownership interest in the Blues Limited Partnership. The Blues Limited Partnership was established to manage the licence granted to it by the New Zealand Rugby Union to operate the Blue Super Rugby franchise, which represents the regions of Auckland, North Harbour and Northland in the SANZAR Super Rugby competition.

During 2023, the Blues Limited Partnership and New Zealand Rugby Union signed a perpetual license agreement.

The Group accounts for the Blues Limited Partnership as an associate using the equity method of accounting on the basis of significant influence. The Group's proportion of voting power held in the associate is the same as its ownership interest (38.75%).

The equity accounted profit or loss from the Blues Limited Partnership is based on audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 and adjusted to take into account the 2 months to 31 October 2024.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Opening balance at 1 November	1,357	1,244
Share of profit	220	113
Closing balance at 31 October	1,577	1,357

Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 13: Payables

	NOTE	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current			
Unsecured liabilities			
Trade creditors		965	700
Amounts payable to:			
- Other related parties	16	322	584
Sundry creditors and accruals		757	1,523
		2,044	2,807

Note 14: Provisions

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Employee benefits	253	220
Other	45	254
	298	474

Note 15: Other liabilities

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Deferred income	565	490

Note 16: Related party transactions

The following parties are considered related to the Group:

Subsidiaries

The subsidiaries of the Group include Auckland Rugby Promotions Limited and non-trading entities Gallagher Investments Limited, Potters Park Limited and Auckland Blues Limited.

Eden Park Trust

The Group hires Eden Park from the Eden Park Trust and has provided the Eden Park Trust with loans, the terms of which are set out in note 16(d). The Group is related to the Eden Park Trust by virtue of having two trustees, out of nine, on the Eden Park Trust Board.

Auckland Rugby Clubs

The Group operates for the benefit of amateur rugby and provides operational support to affiliated rugby clubs. The Group is related to the clubs by virtue of the Clubs being members of the Group.

New Zealand Rugby Union

The Group transacts with the New Zealand Rugby Union in respect of the staging of test matches at Eden Park. The Group receives bulk funding based upon current registered player numbers which is received from New Zealand Rugby Union on a calendar year basis.

In addition, the Group transacts with the New Zealand Rugby Union in respect of the contracting of professional rugby players. New Zealand Rugby Union is related to the Group as Auckland Rugby Union is a member of New Zealand Rugby Union.

Blues Limited Partnership

The Group has a 38.75% ownership interest in the Blues Limited Partnership. The Group accounts for the Blues Limited Partnership as an associate using the equity method of accounting on the basis of significant influence.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 16: Related party transactions (continued)

(a) Transactions with other related parties

During the financial year ended 31 October 2024 the following transactions were undertaken with significant related parties.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Blues Limited Partnership - Services and fees revenue	686	307
Eden Park Trust - Venue hire and services received / (paid)	23	283
New Zealand Rugby Union - Funding	5,400	5,709

(b) Transactions with directors

Remuneration paid to directors during the year amounted to \$36,000 (2023: \$33,000).

There have been no dealings with directors or parties related to the directors on terms other than in the ordinary course of business.

(c) Balances with related parties

As at 31 October 2024, the following balances were outstanding with significant related parties.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Receivable		
Blues Limited Partnership	35	-
Eden Park Trust	43	535
New Zealand Rugby Union	853	744
	931	1,279
Payable		
Blues Limited Partnership	(3)	(90)
Eden Park Trust	-	(16)
New Zealand Rugby Union	(319)	(478)
	(322)	(584)



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 16: Related party transactions (continued)

(d) Loans to related parties

As at 31 October 2024, the following loans to significant related parties were outstanding

	NOTE	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current			
Auckland Rugby Member Clubs		42	42
Eden Park Trust		47	47
		89	89
Non-current			
Blues Limited Partnership		350	535
Eden Park Trust		1,043	1,043
	7	1,393	1,578

Current loans to Eden Park Trust are in respect of the Gate 24 Kiosk, which have no fixed repayment date as long as the merchandise shop remains rent-free.

Non-current loans to Eden Park Trust are unsecured, interest free and have no fixed repayment date. Under the terms of the loan, unless called earlier, repayment will occur upon any sale or disposition of the Park.

The Group has no intention of recalling these loans within the next financial year, nor is it anticipated that the Park will be sold.

Current loans to the Blues Limited Partnership shall be at 0% interest, and no interest shall accrue on the loan until such time the Group give notice to the Board of the Blues Limited Partnership that the loan shall bear interest. The Blues Limited Partnership may repay all or part of the loan at any time without penalty. The loans are repayable on the earlier of the termination of the license granted to it by the NZRU to operate the Blues Super Rugby franchise, or notice being given by the Group specifying the repayment date.

Note 17: Capital and leasing commitments

As at 31 October 2024, the Group had no capital commitments (2023: \$Nil).

(a) Operating lease commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Payable		
- not later than one year	291	212
- later than one year and not later than five years	376	660
- later than five years	-	187
	667	1,059

The Group enters into operating leases for vehicles, IT equipment and buildings.



Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2024

Note 18: Events subsequent to reporting date

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 31 October 2024 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2024, of the Group, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2024, of the Group.

Auditors Report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Auckland Rugby Union Incorporated

Report on the Audit of the Special Purpose Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the special purpose consolidated financial statements of Auckland Rugby Union Incorporated and its subsidiaries ('the Group') on pages 56 to 72, which comprise the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 October 2024, and the special purpose consolidated statement of financial performance, special purpose consolidated statement of movements in retained earnings and special purpose consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the special purpose consolidated financial statements, including significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying special purpose consolidated financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies approved by the Board (refer to Note 1 of the special purpose consolidated financial statements).

Our report is made solely to the Members of the Group. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members of the Group those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of the Group as a body, for our audit work, for our report or for the opinions we have formed.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) ('ISAs (NZ)'). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Special Purpose Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ('IESBA Code'), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, our firm is also a sponsor of Auckland Rugby Union Incorporated. The sponsorship has not impaired our independence. Our firm also carries out other assignments for Auckland Rugby Union Incorporated in special purpose consolidated financial statement preparation. The provision of these other services has not impaired our independence.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 of the special purpose consolidated financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The special purpose consolidated financial statements are prepared to provide the members information about the results of operations, financial position and cash flows and illustrate the financial performance of the Group. As a result, the special purpose consolidated financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Group and the Members of the Group and should not be distributed to parties other than the Group or the Members. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

Those Charged with Governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Group's annual report for the year ended 31 October 2024 (but does not include the special purpose consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon).

Our opinion on the special purpose consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the special purpose consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the special purpose consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Those Charged with Governance for the Special Purpose Consolidated Financial Statements

Those Charged with Governance are responsible on behalf of the Group for the preparation of the special purpose consolidated financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies approved by the Board (refer to Note 1 of the special purpose consolidated financial statements), and for such internal control as Those Charged with Governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the special purpose consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the special purpose consolidated financial statements, Those Charged with Governance are responsible on behalf of the Group for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Those Charged with Governance either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Special Purpose Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the special purpose consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could

reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these special purpose consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the special purpose consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company' internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the directors and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the special purpose consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the special purpose consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the special purpose consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Baker Tilly Staples Rodway

BAKER TILLY STAPLES RODWAY AUCKLAND

Auckland, New Zealand

26 November 2024



**AUCKLAND
RUGBY**



info@aucklandrugby.co.nz
09 815 4850

Level 6 North Stand, Gate B,
Walters Rd, Eden Park,
Mt Eden, Auckland, 1024

aucklandrugby.co.nz