

2022

139TH ANNUAL
REPORT

FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS



**AUCKLAND
RUGBY**



What do we want?

A BETTER AUCKLAND BUILT BY RUGBY

What do we focus on to get there?

1

Innovate & grow the community game

2

Win and be better supported in high performance

3

Be inclusive & grow the strongest rugby whānau

4

Be here in 100 years

How do we measure ourselves?

Participation numbers

Attendance
On-field success

Engagement survey

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

Staff

Chief Executive Officer	Jarrold Bear
Executive Assistant	Jenna McCarthy
Head of Commercial & Partnerships	Dan Dale
Head of Business Support & Planning	Paula Kent
Head of Operations & Facilities	Grant Wilson
Head of High Performance	Murray Williams
Ticketing Services Manager	Nic Mowday
Marketing & Membership Manager	Grant McKenzie
Commercial & Partnerships Manager	Elena Bluhm
Fan Engagement & Communications Manager	James Johnston
Match Operations Manager	David Gainsford
Operations Administrator	Ashleigh Tonkin
Referee Manager	Cody Neilson
Referee Development Manager	Javeed Ali
Club Rugby Manager	Joe Blundell
Rugby Experience & Schools Manager	Jarrold Syman
Game Development Manager	Chris Mundell
Club Capability Manager	Ben Eder
Club Rugby Partner	Cameron McQueen
Club Rugby Partner	Brigitta Lotu-liga
Game Development Officer	James Stevenson – Wright
Game Development Officer	Anna Peterson
Rugby Delivery Lead	Taurima Morris
Rugby Delivery Lead	Eamon Reily
Rugby Delivery Lead	Joseph Tuitavake
Rugby Delivery Lead	Nooroa Tokahere
Accountant	Bruce Whiteman
Assistant Accountant	Gavin Tansey
High Performance Academy Manager	Brent Ward
Female Player Development Manager	Anna Richards
Personal Development Manager	Andrea Thomas
Female Strength & Conditioning Coach	Hayden Nelson
HR Consultant	Kaylene Froggatt

NPC Team Management

Head Coach	Alama Ieremia
Assistant Coach	Craig McGrath
Resource Coach	Steve Bates
Resource Coach	Jono Hickey
Scrum Coach	Census Johnston
Manager	Grant Wilson
Manager	Brent Ward
Head Strength & Conditioning Coach	Scott Pinfold
Doctor	Ilze Jacobs
Physiotherapist	Mark Plummer
Performance Analyst	Josh Yarnton

FPC Team Management

Head Coach	Willie Walker
Assistant Coach	Anna Richards
Assistant Coach	William Hafu
Assistant Coach	Francis Stowers
Manager	Amy Courtney
Physiotherapist	Sophie Wilson
Doctor	Danielle Jacobs
Strength & Conditioning Coach	Hayden Nelson

Board

Chair	Stu Mather
President	Fiao'o Fa'amausili
Director	Brandon Jackson
Director	Greg Edmonds
Director	Amanda Cox
Director	Tony Catton
Director	Andy Roberts
Director	Chris Fairbairn
Director	Keven Mealamu
Director	Brent Metson

Council of Delegates

Chair	Brent Metson
Deputy Chair	Tony Catton
College Rifles	Craig Lawson
East Tamaki	Ioane Ioane
Eden	Paul Siggers
Grammar TEC	Jock McNeil
Manukau Rovers	Sam Sa'u
Marist	Tony Catton
Mt Wellington	Warren Makaua
Otahuhu	Tommy Roache
Pakuranga United	Iain Leigh
Papatoetoe	Bill McCormick
Ponsonby	Brent Metson
Ponsonby	Michaela Barnes
Suburbs	Ray Masila
Te Papapa-Onehunga	Gary Froggatt
University	Simon Johnston
Waitakere City	Don Urquhart
Waitemata	Eddie Bluegum
ARRA (Referees)	Paul Van Etten
ASSRU (Secondary Schools)	Jim Lonergan
APSRU (Primary Schools)	Gareth Fletcher

Junior Rugby Committee

Chair	Matt Fenton
Deputy Chair	Marc Diffey
Carlton Juniors	Joel Stewart
College Rifles	Craig Cunningham
East Tamaki	Poutoa Papalii
Eden	Lennox Sam
Grammar Juniors	Stephen Sinclair
Grammar TEC	James Kidd
Manukau Rovers	Scott Morrow

Marist	Tim Hyde-Smith
Marist Eastern	Ross Blenkinsopp
Mount Roskill	Nicole Gilling-Young
Mt Wellington	Natalia Solomon
Otahuhu	Jaymee Hu'akau
Pakuranga United	Dave Grant
Papatoetoe	Viki Vaoga
Ponsonby	Geoff Buchanan
Ponsonby-Kelston	Patrick Rhodes
Suburbs	Tutu Tairea
Te Papapa-Onehunga	Steven Hessey
University	Cory Larsen
Waiheke Island	James Bailey
Waitakere City	Jonny Parkinson
Waitemata	Grace Ikinofu
APSRU (Primary Schools)	Gareth Fletcher
ARRA (Referees)	James Bailey
Compliance and Conflict Officer	Brian Francis

Auckland Rugby Patron, Life Members & President

Patron:
Keith Nelson

Life Members:

Ken Baguley
Rex Davy
Malcolm Dick
Rob Fisher
Sir Graham Henry
Wally Jelichich
Don McKay
Dennis Mullins
Keith Nelson
Tom O'Hanlon
Sir Bryan Williams
Sir John Hart
Peter Thompson
Glenn Wahlstrom

Gary Donovan
Grant Fox
Gary Whetton
Alan Whetton

President:
Fiao'o Fa'amausili

OBITUARIES

Shirley (Aunty) Syman

Shirley (Aunty) Syman passed away after a brave battle with cancer. Aunty's tireless contribution to the Auckland Rugby Union was immense.

For more than a decade her passion for teaching and rugby was shared with many thousands of people. Aunty taught and mentored over 200 students through the Auckland Rugby Pro Sport Career Program and was a key

behind-the-scenes figure at more than 150 Blues, NPC, FPC and All Black test matches at Eden Park.

Aunty's "heart on her sleeve" approach and willingness to help wherever possible will forever be remembered, respected, and cherished by those who knew her. The knowledge and wisdom that Aunty has passed on to others will live on for many years to come.



Willie Los'e

Willie was a proud West Auckland man, a Kelston old boy and played for the Waitemata Rugby Club. Willie debuted for Auckland in 1991 and captained Tonga to the 1995 Rugby World Cup.

Willie's determination and charismatic demeanour led him to become a renowned rugby and sports commentator, and he was always sure to shout out his former school and club on his broadcasts.



Va'aiga (Inga) Tuigamala

It goes without saying that Inga was a legend in the Blue and White Hoops. He was a fan favourite within the Auckland Rugby community, who inspired so many to play the game we love.

Inga had 48 caps with Auckland, 19 tests for the All Blacks and 23 tests for Manu Samoa.



Bryan Craies (left) with then Barbarians president Mike Mills in 2014

Bryan (Crasey) Craies

Craies was certainly one of a kind. He was a member of the Ponsonby and Waitemata Rugby Club and after playing 11 games for Auckland in 1963/64/65, he was a successful coach for Waitemata.

Craies went on to serve on the Auckland Rugby Coaching Committee and coached Auckland from 1978 to 1981 which included Auckland's memorable win over North Auckland to win back the Ranfurly Shield in 1979. He was an enthusiastic and long-time member of the Barbarian Rugby Club.

Terry Dunleavy

Terry was a Chair and President of the Auckland Rugby Union Supporters Club, a Life Member, as well as being an active, long standing board member of the ARUSC Junior Rugby Foundation.

He developed lifelong friends wherever his life's journey took him. Terry will be fondly remembered for being the wise counsel that he was, for all the work that he did for rugby in general. His presence will be sorely missed.



Kelly Meafua

Kelly was an Otahuhu Rugby Football Club member and Auckland Rugby Representative before following his rugby dream overseas in 2014. A dynamic Flanker who always represented the Blue and White Hoops with the utmost respect.

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022



Stu Mather,
Auckland Rugby Chair

As I finish my fifth year as Chair of the Auckland Rugby Union (ARU), I look back on the year with mixed emotions. The Auckland Rugby Way was created as a guiding document in 2018 and underpins our organisational strategy. We remain focussed on the four key areas within the document. We have had some fantastic results on and off the field this year, but ultimately the season was once again affected by issues beyond our control, notably the continued effects of Covid-19, economically and socially, on sport. We still need to celebrate our success and continue the hard mahi to build on the base established over the past 139 years. ARU remains the country's largest and most financial Union. With good management and strategic guidance, we want to continue to grow the game within the region. I again extend my thanks to all our stakeholders, Auckland Rugby staff, Schools, Referees and Clubs for helping us deliver the 2022 results. With the promise of additional investment in 2023, I am confident we have the people and support to focus on our main key deliverable of Innovate and Grow the Community game.

Silverlake

This was certainly the buzzword during the first half of the year. After consultation with the New Zealand Rugby Players Association (NZRPA), New Zealand Rugby (NZR) tweaked the original deal presented to the Provinces

in 2020 to allow the private equity (PE) firm to buy a revenue percentage of the commercial rights of the organisation. This is currently set up as a "convertible note" with two payments over the next two years of \$100m on day one and a further \$100m on day 366, based on a market valuation of \$3.6b, which will be turned into equity in the newly established NZ Rugby Commercial GP Ltd (CommCo) at the end of year three. This will give the PE firm a 6% - 9% stake of the business depending on its valuation at the time of conversion and whether the proposed IPO is taken up. It will also build back up NZRs reserves and establishes a Legacy Fund of \$30m which will be used to fund additional investment into the game for years to come.

The new agreement was presented to the Unions in February and after a robust process, was eventually past at a SGM in May. As part of the deal, all stakeholders of NZR are to receive a Short-Term Sustainable Investment payment (SSI). NPC Unions receive a lump sum of \$1m each, Heartland Unions \$500k each with other payments to the NZRPA, Māori Rugby, Referees and Clubs. Auckland Clubs are eligible for a \$640k distribution as a result of the deal.

Auckland was one of the strongest voices during the drawn-out negotiations. Due to good Provincial alignment, we were instrumental in increasing the PU Funding grant substantially for the next three years.

There are certainly pitfalls to the deal, with NZR effectively creating another mouth to feed from its revenue streams. Ultimately if the revenue grows, all parts of the game will benefit. However, the deal is not an instant panacea for the sport and like most business ventures, success can only be measured several years down the track.

Innovate & grow Community Rugby

Growing participation remains at the core of the organisation's strategy. Due

to a disrupted start and the inability to run several school programmes in term one due to the traffic light system and vaccination requirements, we failed to deliver on our goal of increasing numbers back to close to 2019 levels. Although we can be proud of growth at both Senior Club and Secondary School levels, the challenge remains to reconnect with primary school-aged group players after three years of pandemic disruption. We also need to focus on attracting more referees to the sport to complement any such growth. The Board approved several initiatives in 2023 to facilitate these outcomes.

I would like to congratulate Manukau Rovers for winning the Gallaher Shield for the first time in 50 years and the Marist Brothers Old Boys Club for winning the Coleman Shield. I would also like to acknowledge the University Debt Collectors for being the losing finalists in the Under 85kg National Club Cup and additionally congratulate all other grade winners for their achievements in 2022.

At the core of our organisation is our history. I would also like to acknowledge College Rifles for achieving 125 years and Eden for celebrating their Centenary in 2022.

With the overwhelming success of RWC21, an increased focus on RWC23, and the Club Review Workstreams being completed, the organisation remains confident that we can achieve our lofty growth expectations.

I would like to thank the Chair and Deputy Chair of COD, Brent Metson and Tony Catton, the Council of Delegates, the Junior Rugby Committee, and Joe Blundell and the Auckland Rugby Participation Development team for their work this year and look forward to the continued hard mahi with all our stakeholders to achieve positive results next season. I would also like to thank the North & South Trust, Barfoot & Thompson, Goodyear and PIC for their continued investment in the community game.

Be here in 100 years

Organisational sustainability underpins our ability to drive all our other key focus areas. Due to continued good financial stewardship, the organisation remains the envy of every other Provincial Union with a healthy balance sheet, good cash reserves and multiple revenue streams. I am pleased to report the organisation delivered a surplus for the year of \$871k. This figure includes an NZR compensation payment of \$250k for the cancelled 2021 NPC season and an increased equity contribution from the Blues of \$477k.

In a year where we budgeted for a small loss and managed funds were hard hit, this is a fantastic result. I would like to acknowledge our CEO Jarrod Bear, Head of Business Support and Planning Paula Kent and the departed James McKee, Head of Commercial & Partnerships, for delivering this result.

I also wish to extend thanks to all our commercial partners, most notably our principal sponsor Barfoot & Thompson, for their continued support of the organisation through the good times and the bad.

With 2023 being a Rugby World Cup year, no All Black Test Match held at Eden Park due to the FIFA Women's World Cup, The Board has signed off a conservative budget with a small EBIT deficit which includes a number of large investments in the core areas of participation and high-performance. Noting Auckland Rugby will receive a \$1m Silverlake payment in 2023, which has been ring-fenced outside of the budget.

Win & be better supported in High Performance

Although not a watershed year for our representative teams with losses in the

Bunnings NPC semi-final to the eventual winner's Wellington and the Farah Palmer Cup Final to Canterbury, both players and management of the two squads can be proud of their efforts. A big thank you to our NPC coaches Alama Ieremia and Craig McGrath, and FPC coaches Willie Walker and Anna Richards, for their contributions to the years' respective campaigns.

47 players from the Auckland Rugby Union wore the Black Jersey in 2022, with several players also representing other international teams. I would like to acknowledge our six All Blacks with a special mention of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, becoming All Black number 1204. I would also like to proudly acknowledge our Six Black Ferns who helped lift the Women's Rugby World Cup on home soil. From an Auckland perspective, to have the Auckland Storm captain Ruahei Demant lead the side to victory on Eden



Park and to go on to be named World Rugby Female Player of the Year must count as the Provinces highlight moment of 2022.

During the year, the Board signed off an extensive investment in developing a second field at Blues HQ, ensuring a long-term training home for our flagship representative teams at Alexandra Park. This also includes developing a better space for our High-Performance Academy. It will also consolidate further alignment with the Blues. As a 38.75% shareholder in the Super Club, it is vital that both organisations work collaboratively to ensure the best possible outcomes for the two organisations.

Although the Blues fell at the final hurdle in the Super Rugby Final, I would like to congratulate them for their achievements on and off the field this year, most notably a 15-game unbeaten run, hosting a sold-out home final, and achieving a great financial result. I would like to acknowledge Blues Chair Don Mackinnon and CEO Andrew Hore for their continued support of the Auckland Rugby Union and look forward to further success and programme alignment in 2023. I would also like to welcome the new shareholders The Better Blues Group, who purchased NZR's 40% shareholding in the New Year. Most have a connection to rugby in the Region, and it is exciting to welcome them to the Blues family.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Alama Ieremia to the organisation over the last 5 years. Alama restructured and refocused the organisations' High-Performance Programme winning an NPC title in 2018, a finalist in 2020 and semi-finalists in 2019 and 2022. This year he took on a role more centred on development, taking over a number of the HP Manager tasks and mentored our coaching group. I wish Alama all the best in his future endeavours and know he will remain very much a part of the Auckland Rugby whānau.

Be inclusive & grow the strongest rugby whānau

The Auckland Rugby Union remains committed to ensuring the organisation stays connected to the community. We continue to support our clubs and schools, Māori, women, and Pasifika rugby both on and off the field. We ran a number of workshops and sessions during the year to assist a diverse group of stakeholders and supported numerous tournaments. Our commitment remains a 'Better Auckland Build by Rugby'.

To this end, I have established a Governance Group looking at the Auckland Rugby Constitution and ways the Union can more clearly reflect the changing landscape of our game and community. It is also timely due to the legal requirements of the new Incorporated Societies Act, which comes into force next year, and the drive from Central Government and Sport NZ to meet gender representation levels. We will continue to keep all stakeholders updated on the progress and will ultimately require AGM ratification for any changes to occur.

This year sees two directors retire on rotation. The Appointments Panel, as per the constitution, consisting of the President, Auckland Rugby Chair, COD Chair, Life Member representative Glenn Wahlstrom, and Independent Greg Barclay met and have endorsed both Andy Roberts and Chris Fairburn for ratification at the AGM. I thank the group for their time.

This year also saw the completion of Fiao'o Fa'amausili's first year as President. I would like to thank her for all the work she has done this year, and congratulate her on her recent induction into World Rugby's Hall of Fame. Fiao'o becomes the 10th Auckland to receive the honour and we are immensely proud of her achievement.

Additionally, I was honoured this year to speak to the nomination of Sir Bryan (BeeGee) Williams for Life Membership of New Zealand Rugby at the AGM

in April. BeeGee has been a fantastic servant to the game, and this honour was truly deserving. The Auckland Rugby Union would like to congratulate him on his appointment.

I would also like to thank our honorary solicitor Anil Rana and the Judicial Committee for their work during the year.

Final comments

As the saying goes "many hands make light work". The Auckland Rugby Union is enormously fortunate to have an army of volunteers and an engaged staff, who all have a passion for the game. I would like to thank the Auckland Board, Auckland Rugby staff, most notably our CEO Jarrod Bear, and our wider stakeholder group for continuing to facilitate the sport within the region. Let's make 2023 another fantastic year for the Province. I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to further successes and highlights next year.

Stu Mather
Auckland Rugby Chair





Jarrod Bear,
Chief Executive Officer

Entering 2022 and the rugby season with uncertainty, restrictions, and unknown challenges due to Covid-19, we maintained alignment to the Auckland Rugby Way's four key focus areas:

- Innovate & grow the Community Game

- Win & be better supported in High-Performance
- Be inclusive & grow the strongest rugby whānau
- Be here in 100 years

Pre-Covid, annually the board would approve an organisation scorecard structured to measure the key desired outcomes across our four key focus areas. Due to the uncertainty of Covid-19, instead of implementing a scorecard for 2022, the board approved the organisation being agile yet focused on achieving the best outcomes possible across our four focus areas.

Had a scorecard been in place as previously structured, Auckland Rugby would have achieved targeted measures across three of the four focus areas. The focus area in which we would have fallen short is 'innovate and grow the community game' with our registration numbers. This is predominantly due to

Covid-19 restrictions inhibiting our ability to activate at schools within Term 4 of 2021 and Term 1 of 2022, significantly impacting primary and intermediate registrations. However, excellent registration results were achieved within secondary schools and senior club rugby. The below commentary will expand the detail on these results along with other successful community rugby initiatives implemented this year.

To compliment the commentary within the Board Chair and Council of Delegates (COD) Chair's reports, the below captures operational areas of achievement and opportunities to advance.

Innovate & grow the Community Game

After the 2020 and 2021 seasons were interrupted in some shape or form, it was fantastic that PIC Junior Club Rugby, Secondary School Rugby and Goodyear Senior Club Rugby (albeit delayed start)

were able to complete their respective competitions in full. Through the valuable hard mahi of our community clubs and schools, over 10,000 games of rugby were played in Auckland.

Total Registered Players = 15,779

- 12% increase in Senior Club Rugby Registrations*
- 3% increase in Secondary School Rugby 15 a-side registrations*
- 6% decrease in Junior Club Rugby Registrations**
- 57% decrease in Primary and Intermediate School Registrations***
- 52% increase in Pasifika Tournament Registrations

Noting -

* The annual registration window runs from 1st September to 31st August, and as there were no seven's tournaments played due to Covid-19, no sevens registrations were captured.

** After the successful implementation of the Junior Club Rugby Rebuild program in 2021, unfortunately, due to both Covid-19 restricting clubs' activations in schools and a lack of engagement from some clubs to embrace the programs' resource tools provided by Auckland Rugby, this program did not replicate the outstanding results achieved in 2021.

*** Primary/Intermediate School registrations were impacted due to not being able to activate in schools in Term 4 2021 or Term 1 2022.

To support the hard mahi currently applied by the community and provide future guidance, a comprehensive independent review of Auckland Club Rugby was undertaken in 2021 with the primary objectives of establishing insights and recommendations to:

- Improve the participants' experience at club rugby.
- Ensure clubs are relevant and sustainable.

This research identified 36 recommended workstreams, of which 20 have been

completed, including a project which has successfully been implemented. This project has enabled all our clubs to have a paid staff resource in place, focused on club operations (having a paid staff resource is new for 11 of our clubs). There is still work to be done across the 16 remaining workstreams, and Auckland Rugby will continue collaborating with the COD and Clubs to advance these.

In 2023, there are further opportunities and plans to support rebuilding the community game post-Covid including but not limited to:

- Leveraging Rugby World Cup 2021 to grow participation.
- Government funded Girls Activation Program targeting 10,000 engagements.
- Introduction of new female-only grades at junior and senior levels.
- Funding initiatives to support upgrading facilities to be gender friendly.
- Introducing Experimental Domestic Law Safety Variation (EDLSV) rules to promote greater safety for our players.
- Relaunching the 'Junior Club Rugby Re-build' program and activation in schools in Term 1.
- Launching the 'Boys to Men' project to improve the conversion of teenage players into Senior Club Rugby.
- Club sustainability and capability development support from Auckland Rugby Club Rugby Partners.
- Introduction of a newly designed Game Development framework to provide greater support for coach development.
- Programs to develop referee membership.
- Focus on developing technology solutions to support club administration.

It is important to acknowledge Auckland Rugby is grateful for North & South Trusts' ongoing support and funding into community rugby.

Win & be better supported in High Performance

There are limitations on what can be expanded on from the Chair's report regarding our flagship NPC and FPC high-performance programs. However, it is important to bring attention to two related areas, building alignment with the Blues and our respective Commercial Partnerships and Membership programs.

Building greater alignment of high performance programs and resources with the Blues is imperative for both the Blues and Auckland Rugby's ongoing on-field success. There are still opportunities to improve, but significant advances have been made including, but not limited to:

- Auckland Rugby's High-Performance resources and programs now being based at the Blues/Alexandra Park.
- Coaching and support resourcing. At least nine of Auckland Rugby's coaching and support management staff will be involved in the Blues men's, women's and U20 programs in 2023.

Auckland Rugby is committed to collaborating with the Blues on implementing a High-Performance development alignment framework, which will coordinate resource and development programs including but not limited to:

- Talent Identification
- Strength and Conditioning
- Technical and Tactical Development
- Nutrition
- Performance Skills (mental skills)
- Coach Development
- Player Leadership Development

Supporting our High-Performance teams, our Commercial & Partnerships team have done a fantastic job in building a stable



of outstanding commercial partners. Our partners provide enduring financial support of Auckland Rugby, which enables Auckland Rugby to continue to resource both high-performance and community rugby initiatives in 2023.

Likewise, our Commercial & Partnerships team has done an excellent job maintaining a strong membership program with >2,600 members. This was no mean feat when eventgoers this year were only committing to attendance in the eleventh hour.

Planning for 2023 has commenced for our Academy, FPC and NPC programs. With talented athletes within these programs, along with strong support from our high-performance and coaching staff, we are looking forward to competing again on the national stage, including hopefully a challenge for the Ranfurly Shield for the first time since 2015.

Be here in 100 years (commercial & organisational sustainability)

First and foremost, we are responsible for promoting safe and enjoyable rugby experiences for all, with the objective that 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 to our clubs. This year's audit of our Health and Safety processes scored 93% and identified that our biggest opportunity to improve lies with our club's engagement with the Risk Management H&S tool which Auckland Rugby provides to clubs.

To be here in 100+ years, we must remain commercially and financially prudent. This year we have delivered a significant profit. This has been achieved through:

- The valuable support of our commercial partners and members.

- The introduction of new commercial initiatives.
- Prudent cost management.
- The financial performance of the Blues, of which Auckland Rugby is a significant shareholder.
- A compensation payment from NZR relating to our non-participation in the NPC in 2021.

With this financial result, supported by a solid balance sheet and instruction to continue investing in the Auckland Rugby Way's four focus areas, the board has approved management to deliver to a small loss budget in 2023.

Be inclusive & grow the strongest rugby whānau

It is imperative to acknowledge the responsibilities and hard mahi of our board, our staff, and volunteers across our rugby community. It is immense and valued; put simply, Auckland Rugby would not be able to support the game of rugby without this valuable contribution by so many.

Collectively we have delivered many wonderful and memorable rugby experiences enjoyed by thousands of people in Auckland, and through rugby, we are developing better people and building strong communities.

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

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 we must strive to advance. If we do not strive to advance, the greatest risk is we will fail to remain relevant. The greatest upside is what we aspire to; A better Auckland, built by rugby.

There are some exciting opportunities and jobs to be done which Auckland Rugby will be focused on, including but not limited to:

1. Tailoring our support to clubs, so they can deliver the best community sport experience.
2. Taking our NPC and FPC teams to Auckland/ers.
3. Spreading the best Auckland Rugby stories.
4. Adding value to Auckland Rugby.
5. Delivering results across NZR's strategic areas for community rugby
 - Teenage Rugby
 - Female Rugby
 - Game Development – Referees, Coaches
 - Club Capability
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - Safety
 - Staff development



Jarrod Bear
Chief Executive Officer



COUNCIL OF DELEGATES REPORT 2022



Brent Metson,
Chair

Once again, club rugby delivered a season full of surprises. A delayed start to the club season was agreed by all, as the impact of the Omicron wave of the pandemic impacted early season preparations. In hindsight, it was the right move as the early season impacts were mitigated, and the competitions were completed in full. This couldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of club volunteers, club staff and Auckland Rugby staff, who all put in to ensure rugby was back for all to enjoy.

Congratulations to Manukau Rovers, winning their first Gallaher Shield title since 1973. In a well-attended final against Ponsonby, the absorbing tight game went down to the wire, with an after fulltime penalty providing the ecstatic Rovers fans victory. The triple header day at Eden Park with the Auckland Storm FPC match preceding the Gallaher Shield final, and the Auckland NPC game afterward was well received.

In the Premier Development grade, Ponsonby produced a come from behind effort, including at one stage being down to 12 on the field, to win the George Nicholson Trophy over College Rifles earlier in the day.

The Waka Nathan competition this year was a disappointing affair. It seems clubs do not want to continue to commit to participating in an organised pre-season competition. The Adult Rugby sub-committee is investigating

other offerings, including exploring the possibility of a post-season competition, to provide an alternative worthy of association with this icon of our game.

In the Men's Premier playoffs, Marist won the Jubilee defeating Waitemata and Eden won the Portola over Suburbs.

Goodyear Senior Club Rugby continues to work hard to secure its place in the crowded sports and leisure activities landscape. It is, therefore, pleasing to see the efforts of the Puketapapa Roskill Sports Club in fielding three teams in 2022 in the Premier Development, U21's and Women's 10's grades as they build and work their way towards affiliation with Auckland Rugby.

The Premier Women's competition was again accommodating the Bunnings Warehouse Farah Palmer Cup competition, leading into the Rugby World Cup 2021 in New Zealand, heading into its play-off stages at the time of writing this report. In the Premier Women's Final for the Coleman Shield, Marist defeated Ponsonby in a tough encounter on a difficult day for playing expansive rugby in the wind and rain at Dunkirk Road. Aside from the skilful rugby played, the camaraderie and spirit in which these games are conducted is always a highlight. The Women's 10's final was won by Eden, beating Puketapapa-Roskill. The momentum continues to build to grow the women's game at all levels, with clubs and the union together finding ways to embed the growth for the long term and provide an enjoyable playing experience.

Marist's perennially sharp U21's team, once again dominant throughout the season, won the Arthur Bayliss Memorial Cup Final over Pakuranga, and Waitemata won the Stan Foster Memorial trophy, with Puketapapa-Roskill winning the U21's Bowl Final. Rather obviously, working hard to ensure the health of the game in this critical grade is essential to growing the strength of the senior teams. Players regularly cite quality coaching as a key reason

for joining a particular team and clubs that are mindful of providing quality coaches across all their teams will benefit in the long run. It is pleasing to see the increased Auckland Rugby resources and efforts being made available to upskill coaches. Clubs would do well to harness these offerings.

The Restricted U85kg grade saw the University Debt Collectors win their first title in 12 years beating the Ponsonby Hustlers in a typically hard-fought, high-paced final at Merton Road in front of a jubilant University Rugby community to lift the Maurice O'Connor Cup. The awareness of the quality rugby played in this grade, in tandem with its strong social aspect, continues to grow the Restricted U85kg grade. The introduction of the Under 85kg National Club Cup provides further interest and profile for the grade, with two new (youthful!) teams joining the Auckland competition.

Otahuhu defeated Grammar TEC in the first-grade competition to win the Reuben O'Neil Cup. This grade, struggling for team entries in recent years, typifies the traditional club rugby scene and is full of 'salt of the earth' club men enjoying some tough footy every weekend.

2022 has provided clubs with a chance to return to a relatively "normal" club season offering, which no doubt the financial stewards would have welcomed. However, for many, it will be a long grind to recover from the last few years' impacts. The efforts of the Auckland Rugby staff to enhance club capability and find ways to facilitate paid administrative staff in clubs is, I believe, paving the way to ensure we can, in tandem with the critically important volunteer community, provide our clubs with 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 once again offer my thanks to all the club delegates for their hard work

throughout the year. We are stronger as a collective when we work hard to challenge each other in what is best for our game. To my deputy Tony Catton, and all sub-committee chairs, thank you for your efforts.

Throughout 2022, the COD, with the support of the Auckland Rugby staff and board, have been working to shape the implementation of the 2021 independent review of club rugby. The Auckland Club Rugby Review was commissioned to provide an independent review of a wide range of issues affecting club rugby and the implementation of these findings are well underway (currently 20

of the 36 recommendations are either completed or in progress). Perhaps one of the most challenging is finding the best fit-for-purpose governance structure for Auckland Rugby. To ensure a comprehensive and dove-tailed approach to change, the Auckland Rugby board has formed a governance sub-committee, and along with external input, is considering the best structure for the upcoming years.

Behind the scenes, several administrative tools used to help govern our game have been revamped (such as the Participation Agreement between Union and Clubs). This work is consistent with the Auckland

Club Rugby Review recommendations and helps us work towards the COD functioning as a more transparent, forward-looking and efficient team. There is more to do.

In closing, I would want to thank everyone involved in delivering our game in the community. I trust you enjoy a summer break with family and recharge the batteries.

Brent Metson
Chair



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE GALLAHER SHIELD

Thanks to Rugby News Editor Campbell Burnes and Paul Neazor for their words.

For a hundred years, the Gallaher Shield has stood as a powerful symbol of Auckland Club Rugby supremacy.

Dating back to 1922, in honour of the Captain of the 1905-06 Original All Blacks, Dave Gallaher, who now stands at the front door of Eden Park. Over 150 All Blacks have pulled on the black jersey in place of where their respective club colours once were.

They have collectively represented our nation, Auckland city, their clubs, their schools and most importantly, their friends and whānau.



Dave Gallaher and his family emigrated to New Zealand in 1873 to Katikati before making the move north in the 1890s, and Dave eventually joined the Ponsonby Rugby Club.

Gallaher managed 30 caps for the Blue and White Hoops, but always had an interest in the military since a young age. He signed up for the Mounted Rifles, who went to South Africa in 1901 and was there for two years; his replica medals, which sit in the Ponsonby rugby club committee room, show five clasps on his QSA medal, where one was awarded for each campaign he fought in.

In the early 1900s, Gallaher became regarded as the best in New Zealand in his chosen Wing Forward position, and he went on the Australian tour in 1903, during which New Zealand played its first test match.

Gallaher was appointed as Captain shortly before the UK Tour. On board the Rimutaka somewhere near South America, several team members challenged his appointment, and Gallaher offered to stand down. Billy Stead, his vice-captain and probably the favoured replacement among the dissidents, immediately said he was not going to accept the nomination and so did Billy Wallace. After some negotiations, Gallaher won the team vote, if only by a small majority. It didn't matter; from then on, he was the Captain of the All Blacks.

After the tour, he retired from active rugby and turned his hand to coaching and selecting at club and provincial level before moving on to the national selection committees. Not surprisingly, he proved very able, and teams under his control had a great deal more success than most.

Gallaher's desire to avenge his two brothers killed in battle in previous wars led him to join up and head off to World War 1, despite being too old to enlist. He must have been the most senior man in his regiment and by far the most famous, but he still took a full part in the fighting.

Dave Gallaher passed away from shrapnel injuries sustained in battle at Passchendaele in the middle stages of the war.

In 1922, Auckland Rugby was presented the shield in honour of the late Ponsonby and Auckland captain.

It's entirely fitting that this coveted shield is named after such an eminent and highly regarded rugby man.

The first winner was Grammar Old Boys, taking the shield ahead of College Rifles, Marist, Ponsonby, University, Grafton, North Shore, Newton and Eden who all competed in the first year.

For the first 60 years, there was no grand final, as such, traditionally the winner of the second round taking the shield. But that did not deter crowds often well into their thousands flocking to Eden Park to see the business end of the premier club season.

There was a three-way tie between Ponsonby, Marist and University in 1933, while in 1956 Varsity and Otahuhu shared the honours. But until 1981, if there was a tie at the end of the second round, then a playoff occurred, often during the week, to decide the champion. This is how Suburbs won their first Gallaher Shield in 1977.

Even during World War II, the Gallaher Shield competition did not stop, though some clubs were depleted. Hence, we saw teams such as Garrison, Motor Transport Pool, Whenuapai and Papakura Army as champions.

Otahuhu was the top club of the 1950s-60s, winning the Shield seven times in that period, men like Mackie Herewini and Waka Nathan prominent as the trophy went to south Auckland for

the first time. Only two clubs – Ponsonby and University – have won more titles than the nine by Oats.

Waitemata's 1958 triumph saw the Gallaher head west for the first time. Six times since then it has returned to west Auckland, thrice each to Waitemata and Suburbs.

Manukau Rovers' first title in 1968 was a fitting farewell to Barry Thomas, known to all as 'Bear.'

Takapuna, in 1940 and 1980, is the sole North Harbour club to win the Gallaher Shield.

Ponsonby broke a 22-year drought in 1976 and has now won 35 titles, the most by some distance, including a remarkable eight straight from 2004-2011, an Auckland record. Ponies have appeared in 22 of the 39 finals held since the first decider in 1982, and lost on just three occasions. They are tough to beat if they reach the final.

Some great men such as Sir Bryan Williams, Maurice Trapp and Grant McCurrach have won the Gallaher Shield double as both a player and coach.

But none can equal the record by first five Brett Williams, who won no less than ten Gallaher Shield titles as a player with Ponies, from 2001-12 (eight consecutive shield wins).

Some memorable finals since 1982 have included several extra time epics, such as in 2002 when Ponies edged Waitemata and in 2014 when the sharpshooting Brenton Helleur helped the students to their first Gallaher Shield in 17 years, downing Grammar TEC.

Pakuranga won its maiden title in 2013 in brilliant style, smashing Varsity 55-12. Teachers-Eastern won the first of two straight titles in 1998 due to the first try rule as the decider ended 18-all with Varsity.

The 1985 semi-final between Ponsonby and Waitemata ended in Ponies winning a rare kick-off, in which hooker Mike 'Turbo' Turner slotted the winning goal.



Marist had a great era from 1985-97, appearing in 11 of 13 finals and winning four of them with a star-studded side, breaking a 39-year drought in 1989.

While Covid-19 denied any Gallaher Shield champion in 2020 for the first time in the Shields history, few who witnessed the 2021 final will ever forget the celebrations after Eden, in its 99th season, clinched its first title with an astute display of wet weather footy to edge Grammar TEC.

The 100th Gallaher Shield season did not disappoint, with one of the tightest finals in recent years. Ponsonby came into the Final as the top seed but faced a formidable and in-form opponent in Manukau Rovers.

As kick-off approached, the north stand of Eden Park began to fill with busloads (13, in fact) of Rovers supporters. Ponsonby must be commended for creating such a close contest in a game

with the Ponies defending their line for a majority.

It took a 'last-gasp' penalty for Rovers to secure their first Gallaher Shield in 49 years to the delight of the 1,000's of Manukau community at Eden Park.

Some great players have won the shield but, equally, some fine rugby men have missed out, including Keith Nelson, Sir Michael Jones and the Whetton brothers. That goes to show how tough the shield is to win and how strong the Auckland club competition has been and is today.

Today the Gallaher Shield acts as a rallying, galvanising force for premier clubs. You cannot think about it too early, as you have to get through the regular season and reach the playoffs. But it remains a major motivator for clubs and binds together their rugby community in these uncertain times.



100 WINNERS OF THE GALLAHER SHIELD

2022 Manukau	1997 University	1971 University	1945 Whenuapai
2021 Eden	1996 Marist	1970 Grammar	1944 University
2020 Season cancelled (Covid-19)	1995 Ponsonby	1969 Otahuhu	1943 Garrison
2019 Ponsonby	1994 Marist	1968 Manukau	1942 M.T.P (Motor Transport Pool)
2018 Ponsonby	1993 Ponsonby	1967 Grammar	1941 Papakura Army
2017 University	1992 Suburbs	1966 University	1940 Takapuna
2016 Suburbs	1991 Marist	1965 Otahuhu	1939 Marist
2015 Grammar TEC	1990 Ponsonby	1964 College Rifles	1938 Ponsonby
2014 University	1989 Marist	1963 Otahuhu	1937 Ponsonby
2013 Pakuranga	1988 Ponsonby	1962 Waitemata	1936 Ponsonby
2012 Grammar Carlton	1987 University	1961 Otahuhu	1935 Technical Old Boys
2011 Ponsonby	1986 Ponsonby	1960 Otahuhu	1934 Grafton
2010 Ponsonby	1985 Ponsonby	1959 Otahuhu	1933 Marist/Ponsonby/University
2009 Ponsonby	1984 University	1958 Waitemata	1932 Grammar
2008 Ponsonby	1983 Ponsonby	1957 University	1931 Grammar
2007 Ponsonby	1982 Otahuhu	1956 University/Otahuhu	1930 Ponsonby
2006 Ponsonby	1981 Ponsonby	1955 University	1929 Ponsonby
2005 Ponsonby	1980 Takapuna	1954 Ponsonby	1928 University
2005 Ponsonby	1979 Ponsonby	1953 Grammar	1927 Ponsonby
2004 Ponsonby	1978 Ponsonby	1952 University	1926 Ponsonby
2003 Waitemata	1977 Suburbs	1951 Grammar	1925 Ponsonby
2002 Ponsonby	1976 Ponsonby	1950 Marist	1924 Ponsonby
2001 Ponsonby	1975 Waitemata	1949 University	1923 Marist
2000 Otahuhu	1974 University	1948 Ponsonby	1922 Grammar
1999 Teachers Eastern	1973 Manukau	1947 Marist	
1998 Teachers Eastern	1972 Grammar	1946 Grafton	



COMMERCIAL & PARTNERSHIPS REPORT 2022



New into the Head of Commercial & Partnerships role as of September, I've been fortunate to experience the tail end of the season and understand how a provincial union operates. Fortunately, in what continues to be a challenging commercial climate, the Commercial & Partnerships team have had a successful year exceeding their revenue target, which is a real testament to the on-going support from our existing and new partners in both the Community and High-Performance spaces.

Both PIC Insurance Brokers and Goodyear & Dunlop Tyres (NZ) cemented their relationship and showed the strength of their community support of both Junior Rugby and Senior Club Rugby, respectively, by signing on for multi-year agreements.

With a successful renewal program, led by Commercial Partnerships Manager Elena Bluhm, we saw Bhana Family Farms, Slingshot, Gray Nichols Sports, Momentum Consulting, Morningside Tavern, AVS Air Systems, MAC Group, ABC Photosigns, Johnston's Coachlines,

Baker Tilly Staples Rodway, Bracewell Constructions and Hydraulink renew with Auckland Rugby, mostly with multi-year deals.

None of this would be possible without the support of our principal partner, Barfoot & Thompson, who have been proud partners of Auckland Rugby for over 40 years, this partnership cannot be understated and we thank Barfoot & Thompson for the support. A special mention to all our on-kit partners including Bhana Family Farms, PIC Insurance Brokers, Slingshot, Paladin, KIA, MYOB and Sky Tower - 'standing tall with women's sport'.

With all on-kit assets allocated by the start of the 2022, it was an opportunity to get creative, finding new innovative opportunities without traditional assets to sell. This led to new partnership agreements with Sportsfuel, VIDEOTAXI and R80 Rugby. We were also thrilled to bring on board The Famous Grouse, who successfully brought their brand to the forefront at various Auckland Rugby events.

In a year of 'make-goods' after Covid-19 interrupted our 2021 Season, we were pleased to finally deliver all our benefits, including the ones carried over from last year.

It was a busy year for Marketing & Memberships Manager Grant McKenzie, with two exceptional Test Matches, a full Bunnings Warehouse NPC and FPC season and marquee events being back on the table. Auckland Rugby memberships faced challenges as 2022 renewals included a range of credits and refunds from 2021, and despite disruptions early in the year to the Super Rugby season, we still achieved our 2022 targets.

Two marquee events anchored the Commercial & Partnerships calendar. The celebration of 100 years of the Gallaher Shield was a hugely successful day, not only from an event perspective, but importantly, from a media landscape, which gave us a credible platform to proactively highlight the strength of Auckland's Premier Men's competition and share Auckland Rugby's rich history.

We look forward to hosting another luncheon in 2023.

The second, The Gala Dinner took place in the lead up to the Bledisloe Cup test at Eden Park. Over 400 guests enjoyed a panel of Sir Graham Henry and Wayne Smith, followed by an entertaining passage from Peter FitzSimons. Both events exceeded expectations and revenues.

On another positive note, both the Irish and Australian test matches at Eden Park were sold out, which proved our ability to fill our national stadium and deliver the events from an operational capacity. Special mention to our Ticketing Services Manager, Nic Mowday who delivered these for the first time, flawlessly.

Auckland Rugby's communications have continued to strive towards building the strongest rugby whānau. We have over 93,000 unique monthly users engaging with the Auckland Rugby website, these numbers create further opportunity for us to really understand our stakeholders and how they engage with Auckland Rugby. Further to this, over 80% of these users are doing this on a mobile device, so we launched the Auckland Rugby app, and while in its early stages this has the potential to grow exponentially and deliver more insights.

EDM communications to Auckland Rugby stakeholders have taken a focus, thanks to a comprehensive EDM plan set out at the start of the year. The strengths of the 'Club Update' and 'School Update'

EDMs stand out, with both pieces holding a 60% average open rate.

With a wealth of data at our fingertips, there is a huge opportunity to cost-effectively grow all our audiences, drive recruitment, membership, tickets and, importantly impact our commercial positioning. 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 & Partnerships

Major Partners



Partners



HIGH PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022

The Auckland Rugby High Performance programme is focused on being New Zealand's leading Provincial Union rugby development and performance programme. Each year we are ultimately measured by the success of our flagship teams: Bunnings Warehouse NPC and FPC (Storm) Teams, however, our long-term view is to create sustainable success. After the disruption of last year, it's been great to have full representative programmes where our players have had the opportunity to showcase their potential as they seek higher honors.

Preparations for the 2022 Bunnings Warehouse NPC campaign began in June, with our Contenders Programme. The programme provides a valuable link and development opportunity for identified players from Goodyear Club Rugby to better understand the expectations at the next level. It also gives our coaches a good understanding on how they adapt to a professional environment, as several of these players featured later in our campaign. The Bunnings Warehouse NPC season produced mixed results, qualifying for the semi-finals, but missing key opportunities to secure a home semi-final. Playing away against Wellington was a big challenge and a challenge which the team was unable to conquer. We have undertaken a review process to ensure challenges and opportunities are recognised and actioned leading into the 2023 campaign.

It was great to see the country's leading female players set the rugby landscape alight in 2022 with the launch of Super Rugby Aupiki. From the Auckland High-Performance Unit programme, 16 players were rewarded with Aupiki contracts. The Auckland Storm's results in the Bunnings Warehouse FPC were inconsistent in 2022 with three wins and three losses recorded in pool play. With seven players returning from Black

Ferns World Cup preparations, the Storm were back to full strength for the semi-final. They produced a great result by beating the 2021 champions Waikato in Hamilton but were unable to repeat that performance in the Final, going down to Canterbury in Christchurch. The highlight of the season was the selection of six players in the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup Squad, an experience to cherish for a lifetime.

Our High-Performance Men's Academy continues to lead other provincial unions with the conversion of players into NPC and other representative teams, highlights below in 2022:

- Three New Zealand Sevens contracted players
- 17 players in the Blues U20's
- Two players made the NZ U20's
- Six players selected for the NZ U19's tour to South Africa

We believe in providing an aspirational and aligned pathway from Secondary School to Super Rugby and extremely excited to be working with the talented group of players joining our Academy in 2023.

The priorities for next year will be to continue to refine our Development System framework, building leadership capability and ensuring we're developing our next level of representative coaches all whilst engaging and collaborating with the Blues.

I'm looking forward to 2023 as we strive to make 'A better Auckland built by rugby'.



Head of High Performance
Murray Williams



RUGBY OPERATIONS & FACILITIES REPORT 2022



Covering quite a diverse portfolio, the Auckland Rugby Operations & Facilities team provide operational experiences that support our many initiatives and strategies. After a disrupted two years and a relaxing of Covid-19 Protocols, we certainly looked forward to completing a full season, which amongst other things, included hosting RWC21 and celebrating 100 years of the Gallaher Shield.

The team has put in a massive number of hours and effort in helping deliver a multitude of events and occasions. Here are some of the highlights and achievements throughout the year.

Match Operations

With our team being recognised as a leader in match operations delivery in New Zealand, planning started at the back end of 2021 as we prepared for a 12-team Super Rugby round-robin that kicked off in late February.

Covid-19 continued to have an impact, with all New Zealand teams having to relocate to Queenstown for the early

part of the competition. Then on the back of the success of the Blues, we hosted nine home games, including a Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final.

With a week's break, we hosted a sell-out All Blacks v Irish Test, followed by the start of the Bunnings Warehouse FPC. This was quickly followed by the first of three triple-headers, a first for Auckland Rugby involving the FPC, the Gallaher Shield Final and the NPC 'Battle of the Bridge' against North Harbour. Three weeks later, another triple-header involving the FPC, Secondary Schools 1st XV Final and NPC matches. Both occasions involved memorable and worthy finals, with Ponsonby vs Manukau Rovers and St Peter's College vs Kelston Boys' High School going down to the wire in front of good, boisterous crowds.

In September, the Match Operations team delivered a double-header test match against Australia amongst five Bunnings Warehouse NPC home

games. The team then transitioned into RWC21 mode with another triple-header to open the tournament in front of a record crowd for Women's rugby.

When RWC21 finishes, we will move back to the community space with the return of the Auckland Rugby Club Sevens in late November.

Community Events

2022 saw the re-emergence of community-held events and some new initiatives.

With Ellie Jones joining the team as the new Events Manager, Operations assisted in the delivery of the following:

- The Restricted U85kg Field Day and the Junior Girls Festival, which was the penultimate event of our Women in Rugby Week. The University Rugby Club hosted both events, and we thank them for their support.
- The celebration of 100 Years of the Gallaher Shield at Eden Park was a huge success with a range of

people attending from clubs all over Auckland. The lunch's success means that we are now looking to repeat that in 2023.

- The Battle of the Bridge Breakfast, sponsored by Barfoot & Thompson, greeted guests from Auckland Rugby and North Harbour Rugby to celebrate the occasion.
- Events involving our community clubs featuring the Coleman Shield Final between Marist and Ponsonby hosted by the Marist Rugby Club and the Ponsonby Rugby Club hosting the first home match of the Auckland Storm FPC season. Both events were a great chance for the clubs to showcase their facilities to the wider community.
- A new approach to our annual Club and Representative Awards was adopted this year. After listening to feedback from our clubs, the awards were split into two separate events. The purpose was to recognise outstanding achievement in club rugby whilst engagement was still high soon after the completion of the club season as opposed to waiting for the representative season to finish three months later. Similarly, the Representative Awards were held soon after the conclusion of the representative season with invited members of the U18, U19, U85kg, Thunder, FPC, and NPC teams.

Facilities

Auckland Rugby focuses on being innovative and growing the community game and ensuring we are organisationally sustainable to be here in 100 years. Within the facilities landscape in the Auckland region and with the support of Auckland Council and New Zealand Rugby, clubs around Auckland have seen significant improvements.

- After funding was received in 2021, Auckland Council's Sport & Recreation Facilities Investment Fund entered their next phase to upgrade

the fields and lights at Waitemata Rugby Club. The project is a first of its kind, where the Provincial Unions that make up the Auckland Region work together to investigate efficiencies and save costs in project delivery.

- Papatoetoe Rugby Club received an upgrade to two of their fields, including new lights delivered under the Wider Auckland Rugby Facilities Plan priority list.
- Due to RWC21, training host clubs in the Auckland region received grant funding upgrades to their changing room facilities, and some field renovations. The recipients were Pakuranga, University, Eden, Grammar TEC & Grammar Juniors. As a match venue, Waitakere City Rugby Club received an upgrade to changing rooms and a portion of their fields.
- Otahuhu Rugby Club received financial support from the Mangere Otahuhu Local Board to upgrade their clubrooms and improve their car park and field training spaces.
- Three of our clubs received funding support from the Bunnings Warehouse Rugby Assist this year:
 - Te Papapa Onehunga Rugby Club was a recipient of the assist program with upgrades to their toilet facilities.
 - East Tamaki Rugby Club was the recipient of a community pilot project, renovating their clubrooms and new field lights installed by Auckland Council.
 - Marist Rugby Club successfully received funding from the most recent Bunnings Assist Programme to assist with funding to upgrade their changing rooms.

Looking forward to 2023, two main initiatives are currently underway:

- Club Asset Review – to be completed by July 2023, the review is focused

on all club assets and an analysis of what clubs own and are responsible for. This will help identify where there may be a specific need to improve club facilities (including changing rooms) based on growth and new communities as well as identify any risks for clubs.

- Wider Auckland Rugby Facilities Plan Refresh – this is to identify and update the next level of opportunities regarding the demand for sports fields and lights. Of the 12 priorities identified in the original plan, five were established for Auckland Rugby clubs, with four completed or are planned to be completed in the coming year. The refresh will identify and establish new priorities.

Auckland Rugby Referees

2022 was a challenging year for the Auckland Rugby Referee Association. Like all referee associations nationwide, we needed to recover from the legacy of Covid-19 and its impact on our volunteer base. This season, a range of initiatives were introduced to recruit new referees:

- Wahine with Whistles – a course developed and tailored for women to promote female participation.
- A focused and tailored referee campaign to grow participation in the Pasifika community.
- Secondary School Academy – launched to help support school referee capability.
- A full referee recruitment campaign that for the first-time, utilised in stadium messaging and jumbo screens at Eden Park games.

Through this, we were able to soften the blow with Auckland Referee numbers declining 5% in 2022, which compared favourably to the national average of 22%.

Highlights and recognitions for the year included:

- Strengthening of our diversity and inclusion focus with an increase in

Māori and Pasifika representation to 29% and female representation increasing to be above the New Zealand average.

- Recognition in High Performance with:
 - Maggie Cogger-Orr became the first referee in Auckland's history to be appointed to a Six Nations match. She then proceeded to be selected for RWC21 and received finals appointments.
 - Angus Mabey made his Super Rugby debut.
 - Marcus Playle was selected to referee in Major League Rugby (USA national competition) and was selected to referee the Meads Cup Final.
- For our Premier Referees in the community space, recognition for:
 - Rob Harman took charge of the 1A final between St Peter's College and Kelston Boys' High School
 - Tim Olliff refereed the Gallaher Shield Final between Manukau and Ponsonby.

The Auckland Rugby Referees Association has continued leading the technology landscape for referees with further development of 'AppointMe' – online technology now being adopted by 18 provincial unions throughout New Zealand and 'RefLIVE' – a coaching platform for referees.

We want to acknowledge the fantastic support we get from our family of partners, Stefan Crooks of Westie Pies, Peter Thompson of Barfoot & Thompson, Wayne Bristow of Doorways, PIC Insurance Brokers, and Vibe. Also, to the unwavering support and commitment of our ARRA governing board and ARRA members.

Pro Sport 2022

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a significant number of secondary school

students chose not to return to school nor sit exams towards the back end of 2021. Instead, many were happy to take what they had been assessed on and decide to enter the workforce to help their personal family situation. This also hindered our ability to get into schools to undertake our regular recruitment programme.

During the initial intake of students, due to Covid-19 protocols, the Pro Sport programme was only allowed to onboard fully vaccinated students. Clarification sought around people's vaccination status meant many applications were declined, and a delayed start to the year had to occur, with only ten students enrolled. This represented approximately a 50% reduction in what we would typically see for student numbers.

Sadly, 2022 will also be remembered for the departure of two long-serving and valued members of Pro Sport. Shirley Syman as Manager and Danny Gautusa as Teacher.

Shirley Syman passed away earlier in the year after a long battle with cancer. Aunty, as she was affectionately known to all, was a huge and highly respected presence in the programme. Her loss was felt by many, not only in past and present students but also all those who have come across Aunty's path in various shapes or form. This was followed by the departure of her partner in crime, Danny Gautusa, who struggled after the loss of Aunty and has since gone on to work with another passion of his, Moana Pasifika.

My special thanks to Johno Gee and Jethro Hooker who have stepped into the programme in the latter half of the year and helped keep the programme going.

Our belief is that for 2023, the Pro Sport programme will continue to deliver a massive amount of value to our rugby community as well as to those sports-minded school leavers who are looking to either gain experience in a sporting environment or gain much-needed

NZQA credits to enable further study or employment opportunities.

The programme will continue to support key Auckland Rugby strategic initiatives:

- Assisting the Rugby Delivery Leads in increasing engagement in primary and intermediate schools by delivering in-school rugby programs and coaching.
- Officiate, and provide logistical support for all primary and intermediate school tournaments.
- Assisting game days and match operations at Eden Park for New Zealand Rugby, the Blues and Auckland Rugby.

2023 represents a rebuilding phase as we look to reignite our recruitment and refresh our programme to deliver even better outcomes for our students.

Lastly, I want to thank the Operations & Facilities staff for their hard work and the dedication they have put into this year. Also, to the collaborative work with our teams at Auckland Rugby and our club community, who have done some amazing things to help deliver a full and exciting year.



Grant Wilson
Head of Rugby Operations & Facilities



PARTICIPATION DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022

2022 has proved challenging and extremely rewarding for the Participation Development team and our rugby community. Building on learnings from 2021, a range of new initiatives were implemented, as well as the development of our brand-new Game Development Framework, which we are looking forward to launching in 2023. With new faces joining our department this year, it has been pleasing to see them integrate into the system successfully. The camaraderie and work ethic showcased by all, and a collaborative effort has led to a successful delivery of support to our rugby community.

Unfortunately, we also said goodbye to Nooroa Tokahere, who, after seven years with Auckland Rugby has taken up a new challenge as the Director of Rugby at Grammar TEC. We thank Nooroa for all his hard work and contributions towards the South Auckland Secondary School Rugby landscape.

To all our stakeholders, thank you for yet another year of resilience and dedication.

Registrations

Auckland Rugby finished the 2022 year with 17,139 registered participants (Players and Coaches) across our club and school landscapes. This highlights some of the fundamental challenges of community sport in the current environment, however, it also showcases that a vast group of participants were provided with the opportunity to participate in our game and create stories that will be shared for many years to come – an achievement nonetheless.

Notable growth in Senior Club Rugby, experiencing a 12% growth in participants from 2021 and 3% increase in Secondary School Rugby 15 a-side registrations.

Club Governance

Another year brought about a few more exciting additions to our club landscape. In consultation with the COD and club members, an extensive piece of work took place around our senior



competitions resulting in a complete three-year strategy being developed. The primary focus of this work was the establishment of key strategic pillars that will now provide a sounding board for our competition committees to continue to grow and develop all senior grades. This project was a key recommendation out of the 2021 Club Rugby Review and will now see the implementation of a range of new senior offerings in 2023, including a wider Auckland competition for senior men, an age grade offering for women and a range of pilot programmes for emerging communities. 20 recommendations were implemented, and we look forward to 2023 to complete the remaining 16.

A big thank you to all club delegates for the countless volunteer hours you all put in to our game. A special thank you to Brent Metson (COD Chair), Tony Catton (COD Deputy Chair/Adult Rugby Chair), Michaela Barnes (Technical Committee

Chair), Matt Fenton (JRC Chair) and Marc Diffey (JRC Deputy Chair) for leading our committees through another season. Your time, effort, guidance, and contributions are unmatched and very much appreciated.

Club Capability

It has been an exciting year for many clubs across our region in the club capability space. We have completed the end of the first phase of our 'Paid Administrators into Clubs' project. A 65% increase in workforce is already starting to pay dividends with 11 clubs bringing paid administrators on, some for the first time ever and we are excited to see this continue in 2023.

A range of workshops, tools and resources were delivered/provided to all clubs to continue the development of all our club board executives, club staff and volunteers. We value club capability as one of the most vital factors in the

future growth of our system, and 2023 will only see an increase in investment in this space.

Lastly, we must thank all our clubs for their front-line delivery of our game and acknowledge the hard work of the club staff, volunteers, players, coaches, and families who all contribute for rugby to happen 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.

Game Development

This year saw the creation and establishment of the new Game Development Team at Auckland Rugby with Chris Mundell (Game Development Manager) and Anna Peterson and James Stevenson-Wright (Game Development Officers). The primary focus for the 2022 season was to design and build a Game Development Framework to be implemented across Auckland Rugby. Focussing on Coach and Participant Development along with female specific initiatives, the framework provides structure and direction to the

wider initiatives of the Participation Development Team.

Coach Development

The coaching accreditation delivery process underwent a review before the season. This was designed to ensure the delivery and outcomes of the sessions were aligned and that the coaches attending had clear opportunities to develop further. 55 Small Blacks and Rugby Smart accreditation courses were delivered across a mix of in-person and online learning opportunities. This proved successful as it allowed coaches to learn at their own pace in their own space, creating greater engagement in the process. Moving forward, we will look to a refined and targeted online model for some of our offerings.

A new programme was also trialled to provide our Premier male and female coaches with opportunities to extend their expertise through connection with our High-Performance coaches. The programme proved to be highly beneficial, and plans are in place to expand and grow moving into 2023.

Participant Development

We have spent the year investigating and understanding the significant challenges faced across the spectrum of rugby regarding the attraction, retention and development of players, staff, parents and the game. From this, we have targeted two key areas initially with specific programmes to be rolled out in 2023. Our 'My First Tackle' programme, aimed at reducing the drop off in player retention from U7 to U8, and our new 'Masterclass' series, which is aimed at specific skill development opportunities, will be launched in 2023.

Female Specific Initiatives

We held our annual 'Women in Rugby Week' in May, and it was again a huge hit. Aligned with the launch of the Junior girls' season, several diverse events were held across the week to celebrate our Wahine and their contribution to the game; Female-specific coaching courses, An Auckland Storm players 'Blitz' community event, Secondary girls festival day, a Junior girls launch day and a Women's World Cup evening which saw the celebration of three world cup



sports (Rugby, Football, Cricket) were all held across the week.

In late 2022, we also launched our 'Get to Rip' girl's activator programme. Designed as a way for girls to learn the basics of the game in a school or club environment with the goal of forming a Rip rugby team. This programme engages clubs to deliver to their local schools – targeting new girls specifically. With the lofty target of 10,000 engagements across the two-year programme, we have already seen over 4,000 engagements in the short time the course has been live.

Rugby Experiences and Schools

Auckland Rugby has continued to develop, implement, and plan various initiatives for all male and female secondary school students in 2022. Initiatives from new to rugby to age-group representative rugby have all been positive and delivered successfully.

Whilst we have witnessed two years of disrupted seasons and the effects this has had on our playing population; it is encouraging to see post Covid-19 registered players increasing. Although total registration numbers show an 8% decrease in pre Covid-19 numbers (2019), we have seen a 3% increase in 15-a-side playing numbers. Registration totals over the past two years have varying nuances due to the disrupted season we have all witnessed, explicitly relating to 7-a-side rugby and the opportunity for events to take place or not. There are still some challenges around engaging teenage males and coaches. This will continue to be an area of crucial focus moving into 2023 at a national and regional level.

Primary and Intermediate Schools Rugby

The 'In-School Experience' Programme is in its third year and continues to grow. With the support of participating schools, we were able to deliver this programme to 16% more Primary

& Intermediate school students than in 2019. Over 6,000 students were provided an opportunity, which is an amazing achievement.

Trying to fit a significant number of experiences into the year proved challenging. We must extend our sincerest thanks to everyone on all sides of the organisation for their patience, determination and passion that has kept us going, regardless of Covid barriers.

Secondary Schools Rugby Union

Following two years of significant disruption, it was a relief that we were able to complete a largely uninterrupted rugby season.

Isolation requirements meant that all schools struggled with pre-season preparations due to the absence of players and coaches. This put enormous pressure on schools and administrators to prepare for the season commencement in Term 2.

However, through the Rugby Delivery team and schools' positive work and collaboration, we were still able to organise and support high-level schools' experiences, support coaches and competitions and assist in talent identification of athletes to grow the game and ensure all participants' needs were satisfied in the restricted environment we faced.

Auckland Secondary School 7's

The Auckland Secondary Schools 7's returned in 2022, with over 700 participants involved from 30 schools. We are fortunate enough to run these tournaments after postponements and cancellations in 2021.

Junior Development Programmes

2022 brought about a raft of development opportunities for our teenage participants. Programmes across U16, U17 and U18 levels provided

opportunities for over 300 aspiring athletes, with early skills days reaching close to 1,000 participants across different groups.

Excitement across the different Auckland regions and the superb abilities of these young athletes gives us confidence in the value these programmes bring. We look forward to continuing to develop these programmes in 2023.

Acknowledgements

As we bring to close another season, Auckland Rugby would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and dedication of all our stakeholders, coaches, managers, volunteers, and families. The support you provide ensures all our participants are provided with a diverse range of opportunities, regardless of their experience or abilities. As a community we can rely on our determination, passion, and resilience to tackle all obstacles ahead. Bring on 2023!

Joe Blundell
Club Rugby Manager

Jarrod Syman
Rugby Experience & Schools Manager



GOODYEAR CLUB RUGBY AWARDS & FINAL STANDINGS

Goodyear Club Rugby Awards

Top Premier Men's Points Scorer

Tyrone Elkington-MacDonald
(Auckland University)

Top Premier Women's Points Scorer

Sophie Fisher (Ponsonby)

Top Premier Try Scorer - Men's

Joel Cobb (Ponsonby) &
Siave Togoïu (East Tamaki)

Top Premier Try Scorer - Women's

Mele Hufanga (Marist) &
Dajian Wright-Brown (Ponsonby)

Best and Fairest Club Player

Savelio Ropati (Manukau Rovers)

Women's Club Player of the Year

Mele Hufanga (Marist)

Men's Club Player of the Year

Faletoi Peni (Manukau Rovers)

Premier Men's Club Rookie of the Year

Sam Hainsworth-Fa'afo (Grammar TEC)

Premier Women's Club Rookie of the Year

Angelica Vahai (Ponsonby)

Most Promising Club Coach of the Year

Mark Thomas (Pakuranga United)

Club Coach of the Year

Doug Sanft (Manukau Rovers)

Premier Referee of the Year

Maggie Cogger-Orr

Special Trophies

Ash Edwards Memorial Trophy

For outstanding contribution to Auckland Rugby.

Geoff Buchanan (Ponsonby)

Barrie Connell Memorial Trophy

For the Volunteer Club Administrator of the Year.

Braeden Saul (Auckland University), Jason Mykes (Manukau Rovers) & Paul Saggars (Eden)

Jordan Rosebowl

Highest aggregate points awarded by

Auckland Rugby Referees, across all senior grades.

Manukau Rovers Rugby Football Club

The Southland Shield

Average championship points for Under-21 and Under-85kg.

Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby Club

The Silver Football

Average championship points across all grades.

Ponsonby Rugby Club

George Whyte Kicking Trophy

Most points gained by goal kicking in round robin, across all grades.

Tyrone Elkington-MacDonald
(Auckland University)

Trophy Winners

Premier Men's

Waka Nathan Challenge Cup: Marist Brother Old Boys Rugby Club

Pollard Cup: East Tamaki Rugby Football Club

Alan McEvoy Memorial Shield: Ponsonby Rugby Club

Sir Fred Allen Challenge: Ponsonby Rugby Club

Gallaher Shield: Manukau Rovers Rugby Football Club

Jubilee Trophy: Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby Club

Portola Trophy: Eden Rugby Club

Premier Women

Coleman Shield: Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby Club

Women's 10s

Richards-Martin Shield: Eden Rugby Club

Men's Premier Development

Lawrie Knight Challenge Cup: Pakuranga United Rugby Club

George Nicholson Trophy: Ponsonby Rugby Club

Tramways Memorial Cup: Pakuranga United Rugby Club

Peter Fatialofa Memorial Cup: Waitemata Rugby Football Club

Under 21

Sir Wilson Whineray Challenge Cup:

Pakuranga United Rugby Club

Whetton Brothers Trophy (round-robin winners): Pakuranga United Rugby Club

Arthur Bayliss Memorial Cup: Marist Old Boys Rugby Club

Stan Foster Memorial Cup: Waitemata Rugby Football Club

First Grade

Bryan Williams Challenge Cup: Eden Rugby Club

Reuben O'Neil Cup: Otahuhu Rugby Football Club

Peter Hall Cup: Papatoetoe Rugby Football Club

Restricted Weight (Under 85kg)

Speights Shield: College Rifles Bombers

Maurice O Connor Cup & Speights Cup: University Debt Collectors

Speights Plate: College Rifles Raiders

Secondary school final standings

1A Kelston Boys' High School

1B St Paul's College

1R (A) Auckland Grammar School

1R (B) Glendowie College

Secondary School Girls 1st XV:
Auckland Girls' Grammar School

2A Kelston Boys' High School

2B Dilworth School

2C De La Salle College

5A Auckland Grammar School

5B Rosehill College

5C Pukekohe High School

6A Auckland Grammar School

6B Saint Kentigern College

Secondary School Girls 10s: Howick College

Under 15 A King's College

Under 14 A St Peter's College

Under 15R A Auckland Grammar School

Under 14 B Dilworth School

Under 15 B Botany Downs Secondary College



2022 BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE NPC RESULTS



BACK ROW: Hamdahn Tuipulotu, Josh Beehre, Hamish Dalzell, Jamie Lane, Jackson Pugh, AJ Lam, Bianca Koper (Assistant Strength & Conditioning)
FIFTH ROW: Andrea Thomas (Personal Development Manager), Ilze Jacobs (Team Doctor), Taufa Funaki, Bryce Heem, Zarn Sullivan, Alex Hodgman, Sam Lester, Sione Ahio, Vaiolini Ekuasi, Terrell Peita, Mark Plummer (Physiotherapist), Grant Wilson (Manager) **FOURTH ROW:** Joel Cobb, Soane VIKENA, Niko Jones, Connor Vest, Tanielu Tele'a, Joshua Fusitua, Leni Apisai **THIRD ROW:** Josh Yarnton (Performance Analyst), Daniel Rees (Analyst), Sam Wye, Manu Paea, Corey Evans, Robbie Abel, Sofai Maka, James Lay, Russell Gorst (Massage Therapist), Scott Pinfold (Strength & Conditioning Coach) **SECOND ROW:** Census Johnson (Scrum Coach), Steven Bates (Assistant Coach), Stu Mather (ARU Board Chair), Te Arika Te Puni, Jordan Lay, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Pasquale Dunn, Tomas Aoake, Jarrod Bear (ARU CEO), Jono Hickey (Assistant Coach), Brent Ward (Manager) **FRONT ROW:** Jordan Trainor, Salesi Rayasi, Angus Ta'avao, Harry Plummer (Captain), Craig McGrath (Head Coach), Alama Ieremia (Head Coach), Simon Hickey, Marcel Renata, Blake Gibson, Adrian Choat **ABSENT:** Scott Crawford (Assistant Strength & Conditioning), Charlie Abel, Caleb Clarke, Sam Hainsworth-Fa'afofo, Felix Kalapu, Akira Ioane, Reiko Ioane, Jock McKenzie, Patrick Tuipulotu

Round 1	HOME	North Harbour	36-26 (WIN)
Round 1	AWAY	Manawatu	45-18 (WIN)
Round 2	AWAY	Southland	24-23 (WIN)
Round 3	HOME	Bay of Plenty	17-21 (LOST)
Round 4	HOME	Otago	35-17 (WIN)
Round 5	AWAY	Northland	22-23 (LOST)
Round 6	AWAY	Waikato	15-30 (LOST)
Round 7	HOME	Tasman	30-27 (WIN)
Round 8	AWAY	Canterbury	20-38 (LOST)
Round 9	HOME	Taranaki	38-24 (WIN)
Quarter-final	AWAY	North Harbour	21-18 (WIN)
Semi-final	AWAY	Wellington	19-54 (LOST)

Played 12 | Won 7 | Lost 5

2022 BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE FARAH PALMER CUP RESULTS



Back Row: Hayden Nelson (Strength & Conditioning Coach), Francis Stowers (Assistant Coach), Willie Walker (Head Coach), Georgia Raumatalei (Manager), Ruahei Demant, Kiritapu Demant, Sophie Fisher, Cilia-Marie Po'e-Tofaeono, Maiakawanakaulani Roos, Liana Mikaele-Tu'u, Mele Hufanga, Cristo Tofa, Cheyenne Tuli-Fale, Patricia Maliepo, Theresa Fitzpatrick, Sulieti Halafihi, Moana Cook, Makaya Kaipō, Sam Curtis, Angelica Mekemeke Vahai, Eloise Blackwell. **Middle Row:** Andrea Thomas (Professional Development Manager), Sophie Wilson (Physio), William Hafu (Assistant Coach), Daynah Nankivell, Maama Vaipulu, Jade Bowen, Mel Puckett, Alakoka Po'o'i, Tafito Lafaele, Sylvia Brunt, Charmaine McMEnamin, Jessica Dermody, Amy Courtney (Manager). **Front Row:** Shannon Leota, Anna Richards, Chryss Viliko, Aleisha-Pearl Nelson, Sapphire Abraham, Milahn Ieremia.

Round 1	HOME	Counties Manukau	39-20 (WIN)
Round 2	AWAY	Canterbury	27-33 (LOST)
Round 3	HOME	Bay of Plenty	3-7 (LOST)
Round 4	HOME	Manawatu	32-5 (WIN)
Round 5		BYE	
Round 6	AWAY	Waikato	5-41 (LOST)
Round 7	HOME	Wellington	26-25 (WIN)
Semi-final	AWAY	Waikato	26-21 (WIN)
Final	AWAY	Canterbury	14-41 (LOST)

Played 8 | Won 4 | Lost 4

AUCKLAND RUGBY BY THE NUMBERS

7 BLACK FERNS



6 ALL BLACKS



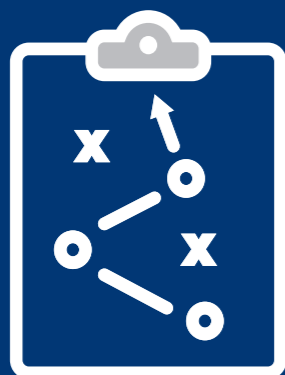
 **439** JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB TEAMS

MARIST BROTHERS
OLD BOYS RUGBY CLUB WIN THE
2022 COLEMAN SHIELD 

 **47** SUPER RUGBY PLAYERS
(PACIFIC & AUPIKI COMPETITIONS)

1,171

REGISTERED COACHES



60,000 PEOPLE WATCHED THE
GALLAHER SHIELD FINAL LIVE



15,968 REGISTERED PLAYERS

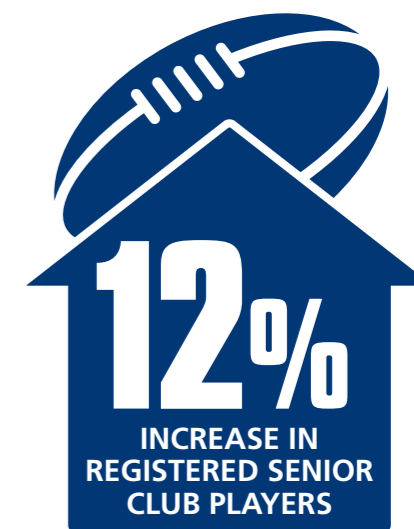
3% INCREASE IN 15-A-SIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLAYERS



SECONDARY SCHOOL REFEREE PROJECT LAUNCHED



PLAYERS DEBUTED FOR AUCKLAND IN THE BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE NPC AND FPC

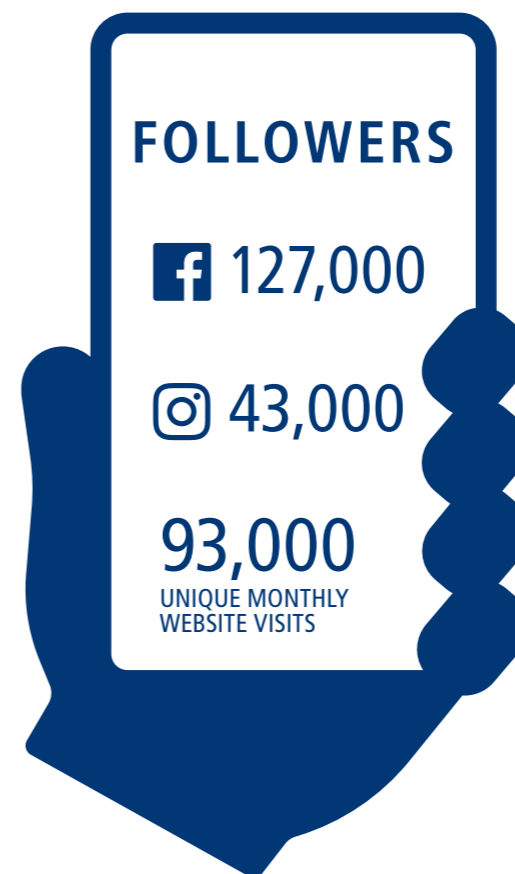


FOLLOWERS

 127,000

 43,000

93,000
UNIQUE MONTHLY WEBSITE VISITS



MANUKAU ROVERS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB WIN THE
100TH GALLAHER SHIELD



AUCKLAND REPRESENTATIVES RESULTS 2022

AUCKLAND B

20 August	v Northland B	Won 28-10
27 August	v North Harbour Development	Lost 17-26
3 September	v Counties Manukau B	Won 36-17
17 September	v Counties Manukau B	Won 33-24
24 September	v Bay of Plenty B	Won 34-26
1 October	v Taranaki B	Won 11-7

Played 6 | Won 5 | Lost 1 Points For 159 | Against 110

Coaches: Greg Aldous, James Stevenson-Wright, Gus Ledger, Tani Fuga
Manager: Paul Gianotti

AUCKLAND THUNDER

30 July	v Counties Manukau B	Lost 7-22
6 August	v Bay of Plenty B	Lost 7-20
13 August	v Waikato B	Lost 15-36
20 August	v Counties Manukau B	Won 46-19

Played 4 | Won 1 | Lost 3 Points For 75 | Against 97

Coaches: Ross Asiata, Parusi Leamalu
Manager: Jody Wong

AUCKLAND RESTRICTED U85KG

10 September	v Waikato Restricted U85kg	Won 21-11
17 September	v Counties Manukau Restricted U85kg	Won 31-28
24 September	v North Harbour Restricted U85kg	Won 23-17
1 October	v North Harbour Restricted U85kg	Won 28-0

Played 4 | Won 4 | Lost 0 Points For 103 | Against 56

Coaches: Logan O'Connell, Ben Sinnamon, Ewen Milnes
Manager: Guy Slater

AUCKLAND UNDER 19 BOYS

13 August	v Northland U19s	Won 27-5
27 August	v North Harbour U19s	Won 25-15
3 September	v Waikato U19s	Won 14-10
10 September	v North Harbour U19s	Won 24-7

Played 4 | Won 4 | Lost 0 Points For 90 | Against 37

Coaches: Jeff Ierome, Nooroa Tokahere, James Stevenson-Wright
Manager: Cameron McQueen, Brent Ward

AUCKLAND UNDER 18 GIRLS - SOUTH-EAST

17 September	v Counties Manukau U18	Lost 12-31
24 September	v North Harbour U18	Lost 17-32
1 October	v Auckland Central-West	Lost 3-15

Played 3 | Won 0 | Lost 3 Points For 32 | Against 78

Coaches: Andrew Hall, Stacey Hooks
Manager: Brigitta Lotu-Liga

AUCKLAND UNDER 18 GIRLS - CENTRAL-WEST

24 September	v North Harbour	Won 41-12
1 October	v Auckland South-East	Won 15-3

Played 2 | Won 2 | Lost 0 Points For 56 | Against 15

Coaches: Chris Hibberd, Lei Lafaele
Manager: Jenny Sheehan

AUCKLAND UNDER 18 1A BOYS

5 September	v Auckland Divisional U18s	Won 19-5
10 September	v North Harbour U18s	Won 36-10
17 September	v Auckland Gulls	Won 58-11
23 September	v Counties Manukau U18s	Won 33-0

Played 4 | Won 4 | Lost 0 Points For 146 | Against 26

Coaches: Francis Stowers, Matt Howling, Peter Leuluso'o
Manager: James Kumate

AUCKLAND UNDER 18 DIVISIONAL BOYS

5 September	v Auckland 1A U18s	Lost 5-19
10 September	v Northland U18s	Won 35-17
17 September	v Counties Manukau U18s	Lost 21-30
24 September	v North Harbour U18s	Lost 10-27
Played 4 Won 1 Lost 3		Points For 71 Against 93

Coaches: Scott Mansell, Logan Fui, Michael Marnewick

Manager: Cory Larsen

AUCKLAND UNDER 18 GULLS BOYS

5 September	v North Harbour U18s	Lost 21-25
10 September	v Waikato U18s	Lost 21-29
17 September	v Auckland 1A U18s	Lost 11-58
Played 3 Won 0 Lost 3		Points For 53 Against 112

Coaches: Parker Cline, Aula Silipa, Atapana Faau

Manager: Jacob Saunders

AUCKLAND UNDER 16 BOYS SOUTH

17 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys West	Lost 0-62
24 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys East	Lost 8-57
1 October	v Auckland Under 16 Boys Central	Lost 19-50
Played 3 Won 0 Lost 3		Points For 27 Against 169

Coaches: Steffan Minton, Leua Tamatai, Sheppard Tokahere

Manager: Leone Tuiali'i

AUCKLAND UNDER 16 BOYS EAST

17 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys Central	Won 20-12
24 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys South	Won 57-8
1 October	v Auckland Under 16 Boys West	Won 24-10
Played 3 Won 3 Lost 0		Points For 101 Against 30

Coaches: Karna Luke, Shaun Simpson, Jaco Van Heerden

Manager: Joel Wiggans

AUCKLAND UNDER 16 BOYS CENTRAL

17 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys East	Lost 12-20
24 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys West	Won 15-11
1 October	v Auckland Under 16 Boys South	Won 50-19
Played 3 Won 2 Lost 1		Points For 77 Against 50

Coaches: Alex Fatu, Marcel Milo-Harris, Antonio Ripata

Manager: Joel Stewart

AUCKLAND UNDER 16 BOYS WEST

17 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys South	Won 62-0
24 September	v Auckland Under 16 Boys Central	Lost 11-15
1 October	v Auckland Under 16 Boys East	Lost 10-24
Played 3 Won 1 Lost 2		Points For 83 Against 39

Coaches: Willie Gibbons, Ethan Nisbett, Antony John

Manager: Vaimoana Va'ai



NATIONAL HONOURS AND REPRESENTATIVE AWARDS

NATIONAL HONOURS

All Blacks

Akira Ioane
Angus Ta'avao
Caleb Clarke
Patrick Tuipulotu
Rieko Ioane
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck

Black Ferns

Charmaine McMenamin
Liana Mikaele-Tu'u
Logo I Pulotu Lemapu Atai'i (Sylvia) Brunt
Maiakawanakaulani Roos
Ruahei Demant
Tafito Lafaale
Theresa Fitzpatrick

Māori All Blacks

Leni Apisai
Marcel Renata
Zarn Sullivan

All Blacks XV

AJ Lam
Bryce Heem
Patrick Tuipulotu
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck

Black Ferns 7s

Niall Williams
Theresa Fitzpatrick

All Blacks 7s

Caleb Tangitau
Che Clark

New Zealand Under 20

Josh Beehre
Wallace Sititi
Essendon Tuitupou

New Zealand Under 19

Alefosio Aho
Byron Smith
Essendon Tuitupou
Leo Gordon
Riley Williams
Sam Hainsworth-Fa'aofo

New Zealand Secondary Schools

Blair Tagi-Fuimaono
Dickie Terepo
Kurene Luaumanuvae
Sika Pole
Star Sami
Xavi Taele
Xavier Tito-Harris
Gus Leger (Coach)
James Hantz (Coach)

New Zealand Barbarian Under 18

Etuate Fukofuka
Hawkins Toeava
Ofa Topeni
Ratu Noborisi
Riki Ruben
Sio Kali

New Zealand Māori Under 18 Boys

Charles Gemmell
Joel Lauvale
Josh Tengblad
Rico Simpson

New Zealand Māori Under 18 Girls

Mikaya Kaipo

REPRESENTATIVE AWARDS

Sir Fred Allen Supreme Award

Josh Beehre

Storm Player of the Year

Ruahei Demant

Storm Most Promising Player of the Year

Katelyn Vaha'akolo

Storm Players' Player of the Year

Ruahei Demant

Bunnings Warehouse NPC Player of the Year

AJ Lam

Bunnings Warehouse NPC Defensive Player of the Year

Blake Gibson

Bunnings Warehouse NPC Team Man of the Year

Taufa Funaki

Thunder Player of the Year

Samaria Kaipo

Bs Player of the Year

Jay Tuivaiti

Under 19 Player of the Year

Sam Hainsworth-Fa'aofo

Under 85kg Player of the Year

Tom Morrison



AUCKLAND RUGBY UNION INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



SPECIAL PURPOSE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

For the year ended 31 October 2022

	Note	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Revenue and other income			
Revenue	3	9,010	7,656
Other revenue	4	819	842
Gain on fair value adjustment on managed funds	9	-	327
		9,829	8,825
Less: expenses			
Administration expenses		(1,646)	(1,633)
Community expenses		(2,430)	(2,470)
Loss on fair value adjustment on managed funds	9	(431)	-
Commercial & high performance expenses		(4,928)	(4,756)
		(9,435)	(8,859)
Net loss before equity accounting		394	(34)
Share of net profit of associate accounted for using the equity method	12	477	12
Profit / (loss) for the year		871	(22)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income / (loss)		871	(22)


The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

SPECIAL PURPOSE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 October 2022

	Note	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	14,447	10,796
Receivables	7	4,551	3,760
Inventories	8	26	45
Investments in managed funds	9	3,834	4,265
Other assets	10	181	139
Total current assets		23,039	19,005
Non-current assets			
Receivables	7	1,578	1,578
Equity accounted investments	12	1,244	767
Property, plant and equipment	11	369	423
Total non-current assets		3,191	2,768
Total assets		26,230	21,773
Current liabilities			
Payables	13	11,400	8,023
Provisions	14	221	266
Other liabilities	15	475	221
Total current liabilities		12,096	8,510
Total liabilities		12,096	8,510
Net assets		14,134	13,263
Equity			
Retained earnings		14,134	13,263
Total equity		14,134	13,263

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors on 25 November 2022



Stu Mather
Director



Tony Catton
Director

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

SPECIAL PURPOSE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN RETAINED FUNDS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Retained earnings		
Balance at beginning of the year	13,263	13,285
Profit / (loss) for the year	871	(22)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	871	(22)
Balance at the end of the year	14,134	13,263

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

SPECIAL PURPOSE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

	Note	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Receipts from customers, funding and sponsorship		8,997	7,146
Receipts from government subsidies		208	448
Payments to suppliers and employees		(5,546)	(8,257)
Interest received		94	45
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		3,753	(618)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(102)	(87)
Net cash used in investing activities		(102)	(87)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Proceeds from loans and advances to related parties		-	10
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	10
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		10,796	11,491
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		3,651	(695)
Cash at end of financial year		14,447	10,796

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report covers Auckland Rugby Union Incorporated and its consolidated entities and jointly controlled 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 2022, the special purpose consolidated statements of financial performance, movements in retained funds 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.

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(b) Going concern

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

The Group has carefully considered the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2022. The Group did not identify any material financial effects, including on the application of critical estimates and judgements.

(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.

Equity interests in a subsidiary not attributable, directly or indirectly, to the Group are presented as non-controlling interests. Non-controlling interests are initially recognised either at fair value or at the non-controlling interests' proportionate share of the acquired entity's net identifiable assets. This decision is made on an acquisition-by-acquisition basis. Non-controlling interests in the results of subsidiaries are shown separately in the special purpose consolidated statement of financial performance and the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position respectively.

(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 the profits or losses of the associate is recognised in the Group's profit or loss.

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.

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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.

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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 associates and joint venture entities are accounted for in accordance with the equity method of accounting.

Interest

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

(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.

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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.

(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 2022

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 in relation 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 straight-line 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 2022

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

(a) Applicability of the going concern basis of accounting

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health, social and economic measures have lowered overall economic activity and confidence (as described in note 1(b) above), 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 considerations described in note 1(b) to reaffirm the Group's application of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

	Note	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
NOTE 3: REVENUE			
NPC Match Fees		609	248
Sponsorship		1,444	1,320
North and South Trust Limited Funding		2,190	2,165
Test Match Fees		1,161	856
New Zealand Rugby Union Funding		3,173	2,637
Commercial Initiatives		241	178
Service & Fees Revenue - Blues Limited Partnership		192	252
		9,010	7,656

During the year the Group received grants of \$2,190,000 (2021: \$2,165,000) 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.

NOTE 4: OTHER REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

Cash distributions from investments in managed funds		46	46
Interest income		94	45
Government subsidy		208	448
Other revenue		471	303
		819	842

NOTE 5: OPERATING PROFIT

Profit / (losses) before income tax has been determined after:			
Depreciation		156	159
Employee benefits:			
- Short term benefits		3,995	5,034
- KiwiSaver contributions		135	133
		4,130	5,167

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

	Note	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
NOTE 6: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash at bank		2,288	5,685
Cash on short term deposit		12,159	5,111
		14,447	10,796

NOTE 7: RECEIVABLES

CURRENT

Receivables		236	117
GST receivable		-	114
Amounts receivable from:			
- other related parties	16	4,315	3,529
		4,551	3,760

NON CURRENT

Amounts receivable from:			
- other related parties	16	1,578	1,578

NOTE 8: INVENTORIES

CURRENT

At cost			
Merchandise		26	45

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

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 New Zealand Limited \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2022			
Opening value	1,967	2,298	4,265
Gain / (loss) in fair value	(111)	(320)	(431)
Closing value	1,856	1,978	3,834
2021			
Opening value	1,845	2,093	3,938
Gain / (loss) in fair value	122	205	327
Closing value	1,967	2,298	4,265

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

CURRENT

	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Prepayments	137	91
Other current assets	44	48
	181	139

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

NOTE 11: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Leasehold improvements at cost	1,379	1,379
Accumulated depreciation	(1,257)	(1,200)
	122	179
Motor vehicles at cost	17	17
Accumulated depreciation	(13)	(12)
	4	5
Furniture, fittings, IT and equipment at cost	1,075	1,059
Accumulated depreciation	(832)	(820)
	243	239
Total property, plant and equipment	369	423

(a) Reconciliations

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

Leasehold improvements

Opening carrying amount	179	232
Depreciation expense	(57)	(53)
Closing carrying amount	122	179

Motor vehicles

Opening carrying amount	5	6
Depreciation expense	(1)	(1)
Closing carrying amount	4	5

Furniture, fittings, IT and equipment

Opening carrying amount	239	258
Additions	102	87
Disposals	-	(1)
Depreciation expense	(98)	(105)
Closing carrying amount	243	239

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

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 Blues Super Rugby franchise, which represents the regions of Auckland, North Harbour and Northland in the SANZAR Super Rugby competition.

On 31 August 2021, the license agreement to manage the Blues rugby team expired. The format of the 2023 Super Rugby competition has been agreed and finalised, and a renewed perpetual licence agreement with the New Zealand Rugby Union is currently being finalised. The Board of the Blues does not expect the negotiation of this agreement to affect the participation of Blues Limited Partnership in the 2023 season.

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 2022 and adjusted to take into account the 2 months to 31 October 2022.

	Note	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Opening balance at 1 November		767	755
Share of profit		477	12
Closing balance at 31 October		1,244	767

NOTE 13: PAYABLES

CURRENT

Unsecured liabilities

Trade creditors		24	497
Amounts payable to:			
- other related parties	16	9,438	6,927
Sundry creditors and accruals		1,938	599
		11,400	8,023

NOTE 14: PROVISIONS

CURRENT

Employee benefits		221	266
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NOTE 15: OTHER LIABILITIES

CURRENT

Deferred income		475	221
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NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

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 transact 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.

(a) Transactions with other related parties

During the financial year ended 31 October 2022, the following transactions were undertaken with significant related parties.

	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Blues Limited Partnership - Services and fees revenue	263	252
Eden Park Trust - Venue hire and services received / (paid)	(215)	(531)
New Zealand Rugby Union - Funding	3,434	2,637

(b) Transactions with directors

Remuneration paid to directors during the year amounted to \$36,000 (2021: \$36,000).

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

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

NOTE 16: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

(c) Balances with related parties

As at 31 October 2022, the following balances were outstanding with significant related parties.

	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Receivable		
Eden Park Trust	948	1,297
New Zealand Rugby Union	3,278	2,143
	4,226	3,440
Payable		
Auckland Rugby Member Clubs	(7)	(1)
Blues Limited Partnership	-	(1)
Eden Park Trust	(701)	(638)
New Zealand Rugby Union	(8,730)	(6,287)
	(9,438)	(6,927)

(d) Loans to related parties

As at 31 October 2022, the following loans to significant related parties were outstanding.

Current		
Auckland Rugby Member Clubs	42	42
Eden Park Trust	47	47
	89	89
Non-current		
Blues Limited Partnership	535	535
Eden Park Trust	1,043	1,043
	1,578	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, have no fixed repayment date and are interest free. The Group has no intention of recalling these loans within the next financial year.

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2021

NOTE 16: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

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 2022, the Group had no capital commitments (2021: \$Nil).

(a) Operating lease commitments

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

	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000
Payable		
- not later than one year	334	163
- later than one year and not later than five years	657	163
- later than five years	347	-
	1,338	326

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

NOTE 18: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 31 October 2022 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- the operations, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2022, of the Group, or
- the results of those operations, or
- the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2022, of the Group.

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 46 to 64, which comprise the special purpose consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 October 2022, and the special purpose consolidated statement of financial performance, special purpose consolidated statement of movements in retained funds 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 Inc. The sponsorship 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 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 2022 (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.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the special purpose consolidated financial statements is located at the External Reporting Board's website at:

<https://www.xrb.govt.nz/assurance-standards/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-7/>

Baker Tilly Staples Rodway

BAKER TILLY STAPLES RODWAY AUCKLAND

Auckland, New Zealand

25 November 2022





**AUCKLAND
RUGBY**