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From the Editor

Welcome to the March edition of our NZRL Monthly newsletter. Hasn't it been an exciting start to the league season.

In the UK players have battled extreme weather conditions—from snow one week to thick fog the next and teams like Leeds, featuring Ali Lautiti and Greg Eastwood, which are normally sitting near the top of the table are battling injuries and struggling to get a win.

Meanwhile in the NRL, after only four rounds, incredible come from behind wins are becoming the norm and our Kiwi players have shone, with commentators making regular mention of Isaac Luke, Benji Marshall, Jerome Ropati, Manu Vatuvei, Kieran Foran and Steve Matai amongst others, which bodes well for our upcoming tests.

Sadly the potential Kiwi squad has been hard hit by injuries and we wish all injured Kiwis including Nathan Fien, Manu Vatuvei, Luke Covell and Greg Eastwood speedy recoveries.



CEO's Update

From Jim Doyle

During March we have been around the country again presenting how we are progressing against the Game plan, and I am pleased to say we have been making good progress, and are receiving continuous positive feedback.

I know you are all aware, based on recent correspondence in my email of Tuesday 30 March, that in order to finalise what was agreed at last years AGM with regard to the Zone structure, we are still working with Auckland and hope to have this resolved shortly. Then we will all be able to focus on the future.

We now have the full team on board at the National office and are focussing on the Zones, with an excellent response to advertising of the GM positions. Interviews for these roles have started and we hope to have these filled during April.

On the Football front this has been another busy month, with Community Roots camps held in Auckland and Wellington, and planning for camps to be held in the

South Island and Waikato in April. Around two hundred parents have completed our Fundamentals of League and Mini-Mod Accreditation programmes and hundreds of children have taken home our takeaway packs with posters, stickers and a mouthguard each. The World Cup continues to tour the country, attending the roots camps and people are still queuing up to have their photo taken with it. You can read more about these inside this newsletter.

With an Anzac Test to be held in Melbourne on May 7th, we have also been busy with preparations for that. You may have read that we appointed two new selectors, Tony Iro and Tawera Nikau who join incumbent selector and Kiwi coach Stephen Kearney, while Howie Tamati remains as convener. We would like to thank Tony and Tawera for joining the team and we look forward to receiving their input.

We have just confirmed that our Junior Kiwis Under 20's will play two games against the Junior Knights English Under 20's later this year. These games will be played as curtain raisers to the Four Nations tests NZ v England in Wellington and NZ v Papua New Guinea in Rotorua.

Finally I would like to congratulate Nathan Cayless for achieving an extraordinary career milestone, he is the first player to captain his Parramatta club for 200 games, a first for anyone in any team in the competition.

Important Dates:

Saturday 10 April	Community roots camp	Southland Club Rooms, Invercargill
Sunday 11 April	Community roots camp	Victory Primary School, Nelson
Monday 12 April	Community roots camp	Wingham Park, West Coast
Sunday 18 April	Community roots camp	Resthills Sports Complex, Hamilton
Friday 7 May	New Zealand v Australia	AAMI Park Stadium, Melbourne



Momentum continues as Community Roots Camp arrives in Auckland

Following the success of camps in Christchurch and Wellington, Sir Edmond Hillary Collegiate, Otara played host to parents, coaches, referees and children on Sunday when the NZRL Community Roots camp came to Auckland.

During the morning ninety eight coaches, referees and managers completed the Mini-Mod accreditation programme under the guidance of Dan Floyd, Ian Mackintosh and Kevin Bailey of the NZRL Football Department.

In the afternoon over 180 kids aged from 6 – 12yrs were coached in skills and drills led by an experienced team of adults which included Dain Guttenbeil, Community Programmes Manager, Ruben Wiki, High Performance Manager, Andrew Wilson, visiting from the Leeds Rhinos, Leon Williamson, International Referee, and Alehana Mara and James Gavet from the Vodafone Warriors.

Despite the heat, the kids were able to play short games using what they had learnt and had the privilege of being refereed by Kiwi great Tony Kemp, and National Referees Coordinator Ian Macintosh amongst others. Auckland Rugby League Football Operations manager Gordon Gibbons proved to be a dab hand with the BBQ and all present were extremely grateful for his efforts.

“It was encouraging to see so many people travelling from outside the area to take part,” said Floyd “we had coaches and managers coming from as far afield as Waikato and Northland to refresh their presenting skills. They will now be able to go back to their zones and deliver Mini-Mod accreditation locally.”



The day finished with NZRL giveaway packs being handed out to all the children who had participated, and some took the opportunity to have their photo taken with their idols or with the Rugby League World Cup.

Overwhelming support for NZRL Roots camp in Wellington

More than 265 children and 60 coaches and trainers attended the NZRL community roots camp at The Pelorus Trust Sportshouse, Hutt Park on Saturday 20th March. Run by the NZRL football department and community programmes team in partnership with Wellington Rugby League; the day began with presentations to the coaches and managers introducing the fundamentals of league and mini and mod accreditation.

Then 265 children enjoyed games and drills, and they all received NZRL giveaway packs.

Tony Kemp, NZRL Football manager said "The turnout was fantastic; the local support for the camp was tremendous and the camp was a huge success."



Here the huge group of children work in groups, watched by their parents and supporters.

The day was filled with activities providing an opportunity for any child aged between 6 – 15 years to participate, with the bonus of a chance to meet and work with their hero's.



Can you spot Ruben Wiki?

Kiwis enjoy a visit to the Rugby League Museum

A number of Kiwi players from the 1949 – 1965 eras gathered at NZRL House and while there took the opportunity to have a look through the Rugby League museum and have their photograph taken with the World Cup.



Above: Ken English, John Lasher, Tommy Hadfield, Roy Moore, Ray Cranch NZOM, Jim Riddell, Tommy Baxter, Don Hammond, Jack Fagan.

Don Hammond, NZRL Life Member and the museums curator suggested meeting at the museum and said “When I heard that Kiwi John Lasher (Hooker, 1956) was trying to arrange for the guys to get together I offered our meeting room as it is a central gathering point. It was great to give them the opportunity to look through the museum, and see the World Cup up close.”

They haven’t lost their sense of humour and there were a lot of laughs shared by the group as they admired photos of their younger selves along with a variety of memorabilia including old boots, blazers and jerseys and a guitar that once featured in back of the bus concerts.

Although a number of the Kiwi team mates are now in their eighties they are still firm friends. Ken English, (Front Row, 1951) said of the 1951 – 52 tour “We went away for months at a time. We spent four weeks just getting to England on the ship, then we toured and played there for three months, went on to France and toured there for another two months, then sailed home again. In all we were away for seven months, and I don’t remember a cross word being spoken. We all got on really well; we were a really tight unit and still are today.”

Everyone agreed the get together was a great success and they hope to arrange more meetings like this in the future.



Ray Cranch NZOM, Tommy Baxter, Ken English—1951 tourists.

Game Plan presentations continue

A number of well respected members of the league family including Duane Mann, Pat Carthy (ARL CEO) Frank Endacott, Jason Hemson (Wellington), and Graeme Sole (Christchurch) gathered at NZRL House to hear about the Game Plan from Jim Doyle and about the upcoming football calendar from Tony Kemp (NZRL Football Manager).

Jim Doyle said "the meeting was a great success, once people hear about our plans for the future they are enthusiastic. We really appreciate so many of them taking the time to come and hear about it directly from us."



NZRL Life Members Meet

Wanting to ensure that every member of the rugby league family has an opportunity to hear about the new Game Plan first hand, Jim Doyle, CEO invited the NZRL Life Members to a presentation at Rugby League House on Saturday.

Doyle and Tony Kemp, Football Manager took the members through the plan and its updates. Then, following a shared lunch with a group of NZRL staff and Board members they moved on to Mt Smart stadium to watch the first home game for the Vodafone Warriors.

This was the first time the Life Members had been invited to such an event and they really enjoyed the opportunity to meet each other and hear about the development of Rugby League in NZ.



From L to R: Jim Doyle, Bernie Wood, Ken English, Ray Cranch, Don Hammond, Ray Haffenden, Trevor Maxwell, Gerald Ryan, Bill Whitehead, Lory Blanchard, Noreen Smith (wife of Pat Smith), Allen Gore, Bud Lisle, Cris Easterbrook, Peter Kerridge, Garry Fissenden, Jim Campbell, Tony Kemp, Scott Carter.

Photo: Robin Smith, Superleague



INVITATION

This is your invitation to be in the **National Masters of Rugby League Tournament 2010** to be held at Rotorua, New Zealand from Saturday 9 October - Saturday 16 October. Rotorua is the tourist capital of the North Island and has some of the best sporting activities and scenic attractions in New Zealand. You can take a drive across to Tauranga or up to Hamilton and it is close to the mountains and ski fields if you want to take a drive down that way. Auckland is only 3 1/2 hours to the North.

Be prepared for a warm and friendly welcome. The tournament is a great opportunity to participate in a friendly atmosphere of fun and camaraderie of Rugby League players from many different places throughout the country.

This follows many past successful Tournaments held in New Zealand and Australia. Our movement is gaining popularity and is strongly supported by many. We look forward to another successful event.

The **Masters of Rugby League New Zealand (Inc)** welcomes nominations from teams or players looking to play in this national event – all players must be affiliated to a Rugby League Club.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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INVITATION

We are pleased to confirm the NZ Womens National Tournament:

Date: Sunday 6th June & Monday 7th June 2010 (Queens Birthday Weekend)

Venue: Manurewa Rugby Club
 Mountfort Park
 Manurewa
 MANUKAU CITY



This National Tournament will be utilised for selection of the Kiwi Ferns training squad for an upcoming Test Series vs. England in October 2010 and building up to the next World Cup 2012 in England.

For more information on the tournament and to register your province please contact:
Karla Matua, KarlaM@cmsport.co.nz or 027 282 7075.

Tournament information packs will be sent out once receipt of registration is made which will include a letter of sanction by New Zealand Rugby League for any funding applications.

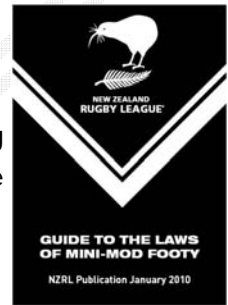
Karla Matua
Treasurer
 NZWRL

News Updates

From the NZRL Football Department—Mini-Mod & Safe Play Code

A number of "Guides to the Laws of Mini-Mod Footy" and Safe Play Codes will be distributed to all districts who are currently running or planning on running Mini and Mod League. Everyone that sits the new Mini-Mod Cert will also receive these resources as part of a resource pack distributed at the course.

These are also available on the NZRL website in pdf format. See the NZRL website www.nzrl.co.nz Kids 2 Kiwis page.



From Maori Television

Auckland Rugby League's prestigious premiere grade inter-club championship will be boosted by comprehensive coverage on New Zealand's national indigenous broadcaster, Maori Television, in 2010.

For the second year in a row, the Fox Memorial Shield will be televised on two channels – Maori Television and Te Reo – with a revised schedule ensuring the 'same weekend' broadcast of two games. The 10-week coverage will include seven weeks of the competition's second round and three weeks of the final series, culminating in the grand final on Saturday August 28. See www.maoritelevision.com for scheduling details.



From the NRL

Rugby League fans will feel what it is like to step into the shoes of Jarryd Hayne and all the other stars of the NRL following the release of Rugby League 3 for Nintendo Wii™, the latest title in the acclaimed Rugby League video game series.



New features such as Visceral Wii Remote and Nunchuk motion controls will significantly enhance the gaming experience by enabling gamers to emulate the skills of their favourite players, such as a Darren Lockyer cut-out pass or a Greg Inglis fend. Gamecube controllers will also be supported. "We are very proud of what we have achieved with Rugby League 3 on Wii - it's a great step forward for the franchise" said HES Business Development Manager, David Robles. Rugby League 3 is currently available throughout Australasia from leading video game retailers.

From Taranaki Rugby League

Tony Kemp Cup 2010

On Thursday 18th March 2010, the Tony Kemp Cup Day was held at the Waitara Rugby League Clubrooms.

Twelve schools from around North Taranaki participated in the tournament. From these, six teams then qualified to go on to participate in the Howie Tamati Champions of Champions Tournament held on the 29th March 2010.

Te Pi'ipi'i Kakano mai i Rangiatea took out the tournament beating St Joseph's of New Plymouth convincingly.



Winners: Te Pi'ipi'i Kakano mai i Rangiatea Kura Kaupapa

Howie Tamati Champion of Champions 2010

On Monday 29th March 2010, the Howie Tamati Champions of Champions tournament was held at the Waitara Rugby League Clubrooms, of which ten schools participated. Primary schools were chosen to participate in this event through a series of cup-day tournaments held throughout Taranaki.

The final game was played between Te Pi'ipi'i Kakano mai i Rangiatea Kura Kaupapa Maori and Spotswood Primary School. A tight game with Te Pi'ipi'i Kakano mai i Rangiatea coming through in the end to win the tournament by 2 points, a final score of 14—16.



Howie Tamati presenting the Most Valuable Player Trophy 2010

In other news

Jesse Parete has been signed with the Melbourne Storm. He was named New Zealand junior rugby league player of the year and comes from the Normanby / Okaiawa knights club in Taranaki. Jesse played in the NJC's Under 16's competition in 2009 from which he was 'discovered' and attained the award of most valuable player for the comp.



Jesse Parete with mum Mary

Issac Robinson comes from the Waitara Bears Rugby League club and has represented New Zealand in the under 15's and under 16's over the previous two years. After attending a Melbourne Storm camp



Dave Robinson with son Issac

in Wellington in 2009, Issac was one of four players who were offered a scholarship to attend a second training camp with the Melbourne Storm in Melbourne.

From Whakatane Rugby League

League's ahead for Bay's youngsters

by Adyn Ogle

If Whakatane's junior rugby and league organisations were political parties, the rugby party would be very nervous about the next election. Rugby league is gaining more supporters than its union counterpart if the numbers at the Whakatane Mustangs Rugby League Club's junior open day on Sunday 20 March were anything to go by. The open day at Rugby Park included a visit from two Vodafone Warriors players – Ian Henderson and Brett Seymour.

A crowd of more than 150 young players between three and 15 years old took part in drills, kiwi tag and relays and had a chance to interact with the NRL stars. It was both players' first visit to Whakatane and they were able to make the trip as they were both injured. Henderson (knee) is expected to return within the next two weeks while Seymour (thumb) could be out for as long as eight weeks.

Henderson said he was pleased to be part of the open day. "It is good to get out of the city and come to a place like Whakatane. It is a part of the job that I like to do. As soon as the request came through for players I was keen. It is such a positive setup here and that is good for the game. We want to get out as much as we can and promote rugby league and this was a great opportunity." he said.

Seymour was hopeful that Whakatane would produce another top-level league player. "It looks like such a good environment for the kids to go through the levels. That is good because this is a strong rugby area. I think there could be another Manu Vatuvei in the making here," he said.

The club has had junior registrations over the past few weeks and added 35 to their tally on Sunday. They now have 134 registered players and may have to create an extra grade because of it. Open day organiser and former Kiwi Fern Selena Te Amo was ecstatic with the event.

"It was a huge day and it went really well. It was a lot of work to organise the event but it was well worth it. Any code is capable of doing what we have done. We are passionate about rugby league and it is about the kids having fun and being active. It was great having Brett and Ian there. The way they handled the kids and how they interacted with them was really good. It really gets the kids thinking about what they can achieve if they put in the hard work. We create a positive atmosphere and these two suited that theme," she said.

Source: Whakatane Beacon



From Tasman Rugby League

League set to grow from grassroots

16 March 2010—The Nelson Mail

The Tasman Rugby League is well into phase one of re-establishing the sport in the region as part of its five-year strategic plan. And that means reinventing the game at grassroots level, where the response, league officials say, has been encouraging.

It has been about six years since there was a meaningful senior competition in the Tasman region, but TRL secretary Paul Lafotanoa said they had already begun rebuilding from the ground up with the introduction of an eight-team primary schools competition – Mini-Mod Junior Football.

"We want to give kids and young guys the choice to play league," Lafotanoa said. "We want to provide that pathway for them."

The competition involves zoning clusters of schools. Each cluster will have four schools, with two clusters currently in operation – four schools from Nelson and four from Stoke and Tahuna.

Teams start the competition playing within their own cluster, vying for the cluster title. The title winners will then go on to play against other cluster title winners.

The next phase will be a new 10-week senior competition involving four teams from Tahuna, Stoke, Motueka and Blenheim, starting in late April.

Lafotanoa said four Warriors players, including captain and former Nelson College student Simon Mannering and Michael Luck, will visit Nelson from June 18 to 20 and attend a Carnival Day as part of the weekend's celebrations. A Nelson selection will also play a team from Auckland's Village Sports Academy.

Lafotanoa said he was also looking to introduce a three-match City v Country State of Origin-style series to be held after the local club competition.

Three sponsors are already on board to help run this year's programme, although he said the TRL was still looking for a major sponsor for next season when they hoped to launch a full senior competition involving up to "six or seven" teams.

New code coming to schools

By Jinny Reynolds - The Nelson Mail

Junior sport lovers from around Blenheim, Nelson and Motueka will soon have the option of trying another game. Rugby league is gearing up to make its debut at eight primary schools in Nelson, with volunteer coaches Mike Sharp and Andrew Samuela spending four days a week over seven weeks teaching youngsters how to play the code.

Tasman Rugby League Incorporated board member Sharp has spent the past year with seven other board members volunteering his time to the league cause. "I moved here about four years ago and I wanted my son to play rugby league, but there were no teams. This is about giving kids an equal opportunity so they can get involved in a sport they want to play," he said. "After the coaching is done, we will put teams together and have an interschool competition," Sharp said.

There will be zoning "clusters" of schools. Each cluster will have four schools. "We have two clusters at the moment " he said. Teams will start the competition playing within their own cluster, vying for the cluster title. Then title winners will go on to play against other cluster title winners.

Giving the younger generation another sport to choose from means there could be more pathways and career opportunities as they grow.

From Waikato Rugby League

Promoters tackle promising youngsters

16 March 2010 – Waitomo News

As the National Rugby League competition kicks off, efforts are underway to emulate the competition in Te Kuiti. Waikato Rugby League and Sport Waikato representatives encouraged juniors to try the code by hosting a promotional day at Centennial Park on March 6.

New Zealand central zone board director Kevin Forgeson from Te Kuiti says NZ Rugby League (NZRL) has been split into seven zones in an effort to grow the game.

Te Kuiti comes within the upper central zone which covers Waikato, Gisborne, Tauranga and Bay of Plenty. "NZRL is trying to increase its following and that's why the new seven zone system has come about," says Mr Forgeson. "One of their initiatives for 2010 is to spread the game throughout the entire country."

Mr Forgeson stepped into his role late last year with zone general managers yet to be appointed. "We don't want to compete with other established codes, our aim is to introduce the game to young children (6-8 years) and start a local competition if enough people are interested."



FUNDAMENTALS: Carlos Karatiana (left) and Anta Puletaha-Kingi of Te Kuiti learning the basics.

He says games would be held during the week so children can still play other sports on Saturdays.

"We simply wanted to see how much interest there was from children and their families who wanted to play league but eventually we would like to get a Saturday morning type competition going."

"The idea was if the locals were interested they could have a run," says Mr Forgeson.

At the promotional day Waikato Rugby League had some age group teams (Under-8 and 14), playing games, with local children invited on to the field at halftime. Training was provided by coaches from Waikato Rugby League's Schoolboys' Association. Currently there is no league in Te Kuiti for school children with the nearest club for juniors in Te Awamutu.

"Overall I was very impressed with the turnout and there were a good number of local children who look keen," says Forgeson. Fifty-five local children registered at the promotional day. "But, without the help from parents it's not going to go anywhere at schoolboy level."

Forgeson says if a competition starts in Te Kuiti, NZRL will add its full support.

INVITATION

Northcote & Birkenhead Tigers Rugby League & Sports Club celebrate their 100 year Centenary in 2010. There have been a number of "centenary" events already held this year including a golf tournament, a very successful 9's tournament and a Ladies Reunion Luncheon.

The main events to celebrate this club milestone are due to be held over the weekend of Queen's Birthday, 4 – 7 June 2010. Events during the "centenary" weekend will include

- A "smoko " evening
- A kids gala day
- A Masters v an Invitation Masters team (to include ex pat TIGERS players)
- The TIGERS Premier team in the feature match of the weekend and
- A formal dinner & dance on Sunday 7th June 2010.

We are hoping to secure a renowned guest speaker for this function. Details to be confirmed.



Kevin Locke (Warriors), Sean Metcalfe (Auckland Vulcan's), & Aaron Heremaia (Warriors) with the TIGER ball boys at the 9's tournament.

There are a number of "centenary" based fundraising opportunities including "100 Years of Tigers Support - Acknowledgement Wall" where supporters can purchase a \$100 plaque, personalised with their own choice of script for display at the NORTH HARBOUR LEAGUES CLUB, a limited edition Centenary jersey (100 only for sale – going fast) and pre orders being taken for the Centenary Book which is due for publication in 2011. Details of all the planned events and merchandise can be seen by visiting the Club website www.northcotetigers.com. You can also email your expression of interest and request additional information to Northcote.tigers@xtra.co.nz.

TIGERS Rugby League are currently fielding 21 teams in the Auckland Rugby League Competition from Under 6's through to Masters. A successful TAG module ran from the club for juniors & seniors over the summer months as did Softball & Tee ball teams playing in the NORTH HARBOUR softball competition.

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Thanks to Navman the NZRL is thrilled to be able to give away a new release MY55 in-car navigation system to one lucky reader.

Just answer the questions below and email the answers along with your name and a contact phone number to philippa@nzrl.co.nz by 3pm Monday 19 April, 2010.

1. Which organisation is running a league competition in Rotorua this October?
2. Which injured Warriors went to help at a sunny North Island East Coast junior open day?

The winners will be contacted after the competition closes and the answers and the winner will be in next months edition.

Good luck.

New Navman MY55
RRP \$499