



NEW ZEALAND MĀORI RUGBY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BEREAVEMENTS



Alma Andrews
Patron, Te Tini-a-Māui
04 May 2024



Sid Going
All Black #655, Māori All Black
17 May 2024



Connor Garden-Bachop
Māori All Black, Highlander
17 June 2024



Norm Hewitt
All Black #938, Māori All Black
16 July 2024



Luke Crawford
Māori All Blacks Kaumatua,
New Zealand Rugby Kaihautū Māori
13 December 2024

Te ope o te rua Matariki.

E tuku ngā mihi aroha ki a rātou kua haere ki tua o te arai.

REMEMBERING MATUA LUKE CRAWFORD



**Ahakoā iti te whetū ki runga ki te rangi,
nui pōkēkē ao ūhia kia ngaro, e kore e ngaro.
– nā Marangai-paroa (Ngāti Te Maunu, Ngāti Toa)**

This whakataukī of Marangai-paroa, the son of Toa Rangatira, explains that even though the stars in the heavens can be obliterated by the clouds and are lost from view, the stars will always be there and are not lost.

Chair of the Tini a Māui Māori Regional Rugby Board Andre Baker shared this kōrero to recognise the significance of the passing of a special member of our Māori rugby whānau – Luke Mikaere Crawford (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Toa via his ancestor, Puhīwahine).

Te Kahurangi Dame Farah Palmer says, "In Māori rugby, Matua Luke shared his deep knowledge and experience of Te Ao Māori with Māori Rugby Boards, the Māori All Blacks and other Māori teams, with the 'Kūmara Patch', and Māori players, leaders and kaimahi at all levels. He provided opportunities and encouragement for us to explore our whakapapa more deeply, and encouraged those on their haerenga to connect with our marae, maunga and moana/awa. When asked to provide taonga and pūrākau for tournaments, teams, and rugby kaupapa, he did so in a multi-layered way, ensuring the process from start to finish was 'tika'. He was a solid and reassuring pou for all of us in the rugby space and made everyone feel safe and welcome."

In his role as Kaihautū Māori (Chief Advisor Māori), he was a bridge-builder, weaving te ao Māori into so many rugby spaces with patience and understanding of complex environments. He was vital in ensuring that tikanga was followed

on and off the field, advised on commercial outputs, and kept our people and culture at the heart of every decision. Staff saw him as the cultural heart of New Zealand Rugby. As Kaumatua of the Māori All Blacks, Luke played a leading role in fostering the group's connection to culture. He had a deep interest in guiding players into their whakapapa, learning more about who they were and who they represented. Luke also played a vital role in other Teams in Black, working closely with players and management on campaign theming, the mana behind haka and cultural connection. The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board had immense confidence in Luke's guiding hand across all of rugby.

We continue to send our aroha and sympathies to Luke's beloved whānau, wife Stephanie, children Hutana and Abigail, and son-in-law Lachie, and thank them for sharing so much of him with rugby.

**E te rangatira, Luke, moe mai, moe mai rā.
Ahakoā e noho mokemoke ana mātou mōu, ka mau tonu mātou i te kaki o te hoe, kia whai tonu mātou i ōu tapuwae i roto i te ao kikokiko mō ngā orangatonutanga o tō tātou ao whutupōro Māori.**

MĀORI RUGBY BOARD STRATEGY

2022 – 2025

Our vision is to reimagine rugby to ensure positive outcomes for Māori through rugby.

Our four pou:

Tātakitanga

Uplift Māori leaders

Build imminence within the NZR system, to achieve our cultural, social and commercial objectives.

Puawaitanga

Enhance Māori through rugby

Develop opportunities for Māori in rugby to strive and achieve.

Hauoratanga

Promote holistic wellbeing

Raise awareness of the importance of holistic wellbeing in and through rugby.

Angitutanga

Uplift Māori lives

Create opportunities and build capacity through rugby for our communities and people.

Our five values underpin all that we do:

Whanaungatanga

Unify and connect

Rangatiratanga

Leadership

Poutamatanga

Achievement

Taumatatanga

Excellence

Kaitiakitanga

Guardianship

NEW ZEALAND MĀORI RUGBY BOARD & MANAGEMENT

Chair
(New Zealand Rugby Board Member, Māori Representative)
Professor Dame Farah Palmer
(Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato)

Te Hiku o te Ika
Northern Regions
Robert Clark
(Waikato)
Chair

Te Tini-a-Māui
Central Regions
Andre Baker
(Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai,
Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga,
Ngāti Toa Rangatira,
Ngāti Whakaue)
Chair

Te Waipounamu
Southern Regions
Dayveen Stephens
(Waikato,
Tainui)
Chair

Appointed Members
Anne-Marie Jackson
(Ngāti Whātua,
Ngāpuhi,
Ngāti Wai,
Ngāti Kahu,
Te Roroa)
Arran Pene
(Ngāti Wairere, Ngāti
Apakura, Ngāti Pākehā)
Chair, Rugby Subcommittee
Doug Jones
(Rongowhakaata,
Ngāi Tāmanuhiri,
Ngāti Kahungunu)
Chair, Culture Subcommittee

Independents
Merewaakana Kingi
(Ngāti Awa)
Chair, Commercial
Subcommittee
Warren Alcock
(Rongomaīwahine)

Aspiring Director
Jacob Ellison
(Kāi Tahu, Te Ātiawa,
Ngāti Whakaue,
Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga,
Ngāti Porou)

New Zealand Rugby Representative
Steve Lancaster

Secretary to Board
Jane Miller

The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board was established as an incorporated society in June 2000, under its own Constitution, and the origins of the Board extend back to the 1870s.

For more information about the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board, head to nzrugby.co.nz/about-nzr/governance/maori-rugby-board/

There are six life members of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board:

- Alan Hava (2013)
- Percy Erceg (2016)
- Don Rangi (2017)
- Bill Bush (2021)
- Alma Andrews (2024)
- Duncan "Binny" Andrews (2024)

New Zealand Māori Rugby Structure

Within New Zealand Rugby’s organisation, there are roles committed to the growth and promotion of Māori rugby and tikanga throughout Aotearoa:

Kaihautū – Chief Māori Advisor/Kaumatua (Māori All Blacks)
Luke Crawford
(Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Porou)

Māori Rugby Development Manager
Tiki Edwards
(Ngāti Raukawa, Whakatōhea)

Māori Rugby Development Officer
Kahu Carey
(Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Te Ātiawa, Ngāi Tahu/ Kāi Tahu)

Māori Advisor
Atawhai Tibble
(Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Raukawa)

New Zealand Māori Rugby Committees

The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board has three sub-committees – Rugby, Culture, and Commercial.

Regional Māori Rugby Boards

There are three regional committees made up of representatives from the following rohe:

- **Te Hiku o te Ika (Northern Region)**
Te Waiariki (Bay of Plenty)
Tainui (Waikato)
Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland)
Te Tai Tokerau (Northland)
Counties Māori (Counties-Manukau)
King Country
Te Raki Paewhenua (North Harbour)
- **Te Tini-a-Māui (Central Region)**
Horouta (Ngāti Porou East Coast)
Tūranganui-a-kiwa (Poverty Bay)
Te Matau a Māui (Hawke’s Bay)
Taranaki
Wairarapa
Manawatū
Whanganui
Horowhenua-Kāpiti
Te Upoko o te Ika (Wellington)
- **Te Waipounamu (Southern Region)**
Te Tau Ihu (Tasman)
Waitaha (Canterbury)
Aoraki (South Canterbury)
Ōtākou (Otago)
Murihiku (Southland)

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BOARD MEMBERS

Professor Dame Farah Rangikoepea Palmer (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato)
Chair

Professor Dame Farah has extensive experience as a director within sport and te ao Māori. She currently sits on the Sport New Zealand Board.

Professor Dame Farah is Pou Ākonga, Executive Director, Ākonga Māori Success, Office of the DVC Māori at Massey University. Her research and teaching focuses on Māori and gendered issues in sport, leadership and governance.

In 2024, she was Co Deputy-Chair of the New Zealand Rugby Board, and President of the New Zealand Rugby Museum.

Dame Farah was a member of the IRB Women’s Rugby Strategic Group in 2007 and 2011, and is a former Black Fern, captaining the side to three Rugby World Cup titles.

Robert Clark (Waikato)
Chair – Te Hiku o te Ika

Robert’s haqpuu is Ngati Tiipa and marae is Te Kotahitanga.

Rob is currently Chair of the Counties Māori Rugby Board and holds multiple governance and trustee roles. He is a member of multiple health committees at local, regional and national level, and is the current chair of Manawheuna I Tāmaki Makaurau Health Board MOU partner to Counties Manukau Health Te Whatu Ora.

Rob is Cultural Advisor to the NZ Police Counties Manukau and a member

of many community groups, including Critical Crisis Centre Papatoetoe, and My Rivers Pukekohe.

André Baker (Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Whakaue)
Chair – Te Tini-a-Māui

André is a Māori Rugby delegate on the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugby Football Union.

As of 3 March 2023, André is an elected Board member and Iwi Chair of Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, and is a Kairuruku Whānau Whakahui (FGC Co-ordinator) for Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, and as a Kaitakawaenga, Cultural Advisor and specialises in working with high needs tamariki and rangatahi.

Dayveen Stephens (Waikato, Tainui)
Chair – Te Waipounamu

Dayveen has over 20 years governance experience, mostly in the public sector, in a range of organisations between cultural and education perspectives to social and health governance.

Her rugby experience spans regional to national levels, with governance experience on Te Taihū o Te Waka a Maui Māori Rugby Board, Te Waipounamu Māori Rugby Board and Tasman Rugby Union Board. Dayveen also has governance and executive experience through the Nelson Marlborough District Health Iwi Board, Tasman District Police Advisory Board, Te Matatini National Board, Te Taihū Māori Cultural Council and Whakatū Marae Committee, amongst others.

Dayveen currently works as an Environmental Manager containing scope with Councils and Crown Agencies.

Anne-Marie Jackson (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Kahu, Te Roroa)

Anne-Marie has held numerous Board and advisory positions in Māori governance, in rugby, and in her professional career as a Māori research leader.

Most recently, she is a former Chair and Board member of Otago Māori Rugby. She brings to the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board and New Zealand Rugby a passion for te ao Māori (Māori worldview) as the basis of flourishing wellbeing for all.

She is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors. She is the Director of her whānau consultancy Rehutai Consultancy Ltd which includes her co-Directorship of the National Centre of Research Excellence Coastal People: Southern Skies. Anne-Marie took up the Chair position of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board in February 2025.

Arran Pene (Ngāti Wairere, Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Pākehā)
Chair – Rugby Subcommittee

Arran has experience in rugby governance as Tainui Waka Chair, a member of Te Hiku o te Ika Māori Rugby Board, and is a member of the Hamilton Boys’ High School Board of Trustees.

He owns a business (Speights Ale House) in Hamilton.

Arran was an All Black, Māori All Black, and professional player and coach in Japan.

Doug Jones (Rongowhakaata, Ngāi Tamanuhiri, Ngāti Kahungunu)
Chair – Culture Subcommittee

Doug has significant experience as a director across business, Māori organisations and rugby. He is currently a Director of Iwi Collective Partnership (Fisheries), Wharerata Forest Limited, and Icons Fitness Ltd (Fitness).

He has previously held directorships with Toitu Tairāwhiti Housing Ltd, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri AHC, and has been Chair of Rongowhakaata AHC and Pōneke Football Club.

He also coaches rugby including as Assistant Coach of Poverty Bay’s Heartland Rugby side and junior grades.

Doug is currently Deputy Chair of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board, and Chief Executive of Trust Tairāwhiti, the economic development agency for Tairāwhiti, sole shareholder of Eastland Group which owns Gisborne Port, airport, geothermal and solar energy.

Merewaakana Kingi (Ngāti Awa)
Chair – Commercial Subcommittee

A member of the Institute of Directors, Merewaakana has corporate and financial services experience in New Zealand and United Kingdom. Combining and unique skillset from her corporate career and high performance background, she brings cultural capability and a refreshing diverse perspective to the boardroom.

Merewaakana is a Chartered Accountant and member of CAANZ. She is an experienced Chief Financial Officer and currently the Head of Finance Hauora Māori Services –

Te Whatu Ora. She is recognised as a strategic finance leader with strong cultural identity in tikanga and te reo.

She has recently completed two years on an Board of ASB Bank. This experience on an NZX-listed company is part of the Institute of Directors Future Directors programme.

Merewaakana is also a double sporting international, having represented New Zealand in both rugby and touch rugby and is Black Fern #110.

Warren Alcock (Rongomaiwahine)

Warren’s background in rugby governance includes being a Director of Otago Māori Rugby (1990-1994), Te Waipounamu Committee (1992-1994), New Zealand Māori Rugby Advisory Board (1994-1995).

Warren has a first class honours degree in law and a degree in economics. He initially lectured law at Otago University from 1988 to 1991 before joining Dunedin law firm now known as Gallaway Cook Allan. From 1995-2006 he was a partner at that firm. He has held several pro bono roles, including Trustee of the Edgar Centre, Dunedin (2009-2015), Trustee of Louise Davie Charitable Trust (2023-2024) and was a Board member of Justitia Mutual Association Inc (which operates a lawyers’ mutual professional indemnity insurance scheme in New Zealand).

Warren is Director of Halo Sports (previously The Essentially Group and CSM Sport & Entertainment). He was NZ’s first accredited agent and has represented many of NZ’s top rugby and sporting talents over a career which first started in 1995.

Jacob Ellison (Kāi Tahu, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Porou)

Jacob’s journey in rugby has taken him from playing at the grassroots to the professional level, then into coaching and coach development.

As a mortgage broker running his own company, Jacob’s experience spans strategic planning, team management, and community engagement.

In his role as an emerging director, Jacob aims to develop his skills and expertise to effectively contribute at the Board level, bringing fresh ideas, dedication, and a commitment to enhancing the rugby experience for players and supporters alike.



INSIDE THE NEW ZEALAND MĀORI RUGBY BOARD

FROM THE CHAIR

Tēnā koutou,

Nō ngā iwi o Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu o Whangaroa, Ngāti Wai au. Ko Anne-Marie Jackson ahau. Kua hikina e au te manuka o te tūranga o te Tiamana o Whutupōro Māori Aotearoa. I kōrero mātou ki te tangi o Matua Luke Crawford, ā, ka tiaki mātou ko te poari Māori ki ōna kaupapa i horahia.

E noho pōuri tonu ana mātou ko te ao whutupōro mōu e Matua. He tōtara haemata koe. E noho ana koe ki te taha o ētahi atu o te kāhui whetū o te ao whutupōro. E mihi hoki ana au ki a Alma Andrews, rātou ko Connor Garden-Bachop, ko Matua Sid Going, me Norm Hewitt. I poroporoaki hoki mātou i a Kingi Tuheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII. Kua haere rātou ki tua o te ārai i te tau kua pahure nei. E tangi hotuhotu tonu ana te ngākau mō koutou. Rātou te hunga wairua ki a rātou. Tātou te hunga ora ki a rātou nei.

Ka huri taku mihi ki Te Kahurangi Ahorangi Farah Palmer. Ko te mareikura koe o te ao whutupōro. Kāore ngā kupu kia whakamārama pai ai i ōu pūkenga, i te reka o ōu mahi nōki. Nō reira, e whai ana mātou i ōu tapuwae, ka hāpai tonu mātou i ngā kaupapa i kawea e koe.

Ka mihi hoki au ki a Doug Jones. Ka piki taiapa ia ki te poari o New Zealand Rugby. E mahi ngātahi tonu ana mātou. Kāore e kore, he mahangā kaupapa i kawea hoki e Doug ki roto i tō mātou poari. Ko te tiamana tuarua ia, he kanohi kitea ia mō te poari. I mahi tika ia ki roto i te mura o te ahi o te kaupapa o Silver Lake, me te tinihanga o te pūnaha o whutupōro nōki.

Nō reira, ka huri taku reo.

Ko te tirohanga matawhānui o te Poari Whutupōro Māori ko te whakapohewa hou i te whutupōro e rite ai ngā putanga angitu mō te Māori, mā roto i te whutupōro.

Ko ō mātou uara ko: te whanaungatanga, te rangatiratanga, te poutamatanga; te taumatatanga me; te kaitiakitanga.



Tēnā koutou,

I am from the tribes of Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu o Whangaroa and Ngāti Wai. I have been passed the mantle as the new Chair of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board.

Māori rugby still mourns the loss of our beloved kaumatua Luke Crawford. He was an esteemed rangatira to us all.

We acknowledge the bereavements of Alma Andrews, Connor Garden-Bachop, Sid Going, and Norm Hewitt. We also acknowledge the passing of Kingi Tuheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII. You are all greatly missed, and our hearts yearn for you all.

I turn my acknowledgements to our Chair Te Kahurangi Dame Farah Palmer. She is one of the foremost leaders of rugby. There are no words to describe her expertise and all she brings to rugby governance. We thank you for your incredible service to Māori rugby. We will continue in your footsteps and strive to uphold the many kaupapa you carried on behalf of Māori.

We acknowledge outgoing Deputy Chair Doug Jones who is a new member to the New Zealand Rugby Board. Doug made tireless contributions to Māori rugby, none more so that his efforts through the Silver Lake process and the governance reform. We will continue to work closely with Doug, and support him in his new directorship.

The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board's vision is to re-imagine rugby to ensure positive outcomes for Māori through rugby.

Our values are:

- whanaungatanga (unify and connect)
- rangatiratanga (leadership)
- poutamatanga (achievement)
- taumatatanga (excellence) and
- kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

E whā ngā pou kei roto i te Rautaki Whutupōro Māori.

Tātakitanga: Te Hāpai ake i ngā Manu Tātaki Māori

I te 2024, i kitea ngā hurihanga ā-mana whakahaere nunui puta noa i a New Zealand Rugby.

He tūranga hirahira hoki tō te Poari Whutupōro Māori ki te whakakotahi i te whutupōro mā roto i tētahi tukanga motuhanga i raro i te kaupapa o te kotahitanga. I roto i aua hurihanga i tautoko te Poari Whutupōro Māori i te tukanga mana whakahaere motuhake i te mea he mana motuhake hoki tō te Poari Whutupōro Māori, ka amohia ake e te turepapa o te Poari Whutupōro Māori, ā, ka ū mātou ki tēnei ahakoa ngā whakahoutanga ki te mana whakahaere o New Zealand Rugby. Waihoki kua tāmava te ao Māori ki te takapau o New Zealand Rugby, otirā ka whakamana a New Zealand Rugby i "te tūnga o te Māori hei tangata whenua i Aotearoa, me Te Tiriti o Waitangi hei tuhinga pūtake o Aotearoa".

He wā rongomaiwhiti tēnei mō te whutupōro i Aotearoa nā te whānui o ngā hurihanga ā-mana whakahaere, ā, i noho tēnei hei arawātea ki te whakarite hou i ngā kawataua o te hononga ā-mana ki te mana ki te Poari o New Zealand Rugby. Ka mihi mātou ki ngā mema katoa o mua, onāiane hoki o te Poari Whutupōro Māori mō ā koutou tātakitanga, ā koutou mahi me te anga whakamua hei kaiiaki o te whutupōro Māori.

Puāwaitanga: Te whakatītike i te iwi Māori mā roto i te whutupōro

Ka whakanui mātou i ngā whakatutukitanga o ā mātou kapa, arā, te kapa Māreikura, te kapa Whatukura, te New Zealand Māori XV me te kapa o ngā Ōpango Māori, ngā kaitākaro, ngā pouako me ngā kaiwhakahaere. E rua ngā angitutanga o te kapa Whatukura, i hinga te kapa Māreikura i tā rātou kēmu kotahi, a, he toatanga nui tō te Māori XV.

Haere te kapa Ōpango Māori ki Hapani, ā, haupārua te mutunga o ngā kēmu e rua ki te Japan XV, kotahi te toa, kotahi te hinganga. I whai wāhi te kapa ki tētahi hononga ahurea motuhenga ki ngā Hapanihi, otirā nā rātou i whakakanohi i te ao Māori, me ki te whutupōro Māori ki te ao, hei whakaatu i ā mātou kaitākaro ki tētahi māketē whutupōro e tipu nui ana.

Ka kite koe koe i ngā rārangi kapa kaitākaro Māori me ngā mauhanga ki tēnei Pūrongo ā-Tau. Kua whakaurua hoki tētahi kōrero whakamiharo mō ngā kapa tāne Māori angitu.

Ka whakamihī au ki ngā kaitākaro katoa, ngā pouaka me ngā kaiwhakahaere Māori kei ngā kapa ikeike, atu i ngā

We have four strategic pou through the Māori Rugby Strategy.

Tātakitanga: Uplift Māori leaders

2024 saw significant governance change across New Zealand Rugby. The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board played an important role in uniting rugby through a fractured process under the kaupapa of kotahitanga. With those changes, the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board supported the independent governance process primarily because the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board has our own mana motuhake, upheld through our New Zealand Māori Rugby Board constitution, and we maintain this irrespective of the New Zealand Rugby governance reform. Furthermore, te ao Māori is embedded into the fabric of New Zealand Rugby where New Zealand Rugby recognises “the status of Māori as tangata whenua in New Zealand and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand”.

It is an historical time in rugby in Aotearoa with such widespread governance change and this has been an opportunity to re-set the expectations of a mana to mana relationship with the New Zealand Rugby Board. We thank all past and current members of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board for your leadership, service and foresight as custodians of Māori rugby.

Puawaitanga: Enhance Māori through rugby

We celebrate the successes of our national Māori Māreikura, Whatukura, New Zealand Māori XV and Māori All Blacks teams, the players, coaches and management. Our Whatukura finished with two wins, our Māreikura lost their match and the Māori XV had a big win.

The Māori All Blacks travelled to Japan where on the field, they split the series against the Japan XV with one win and one loss. The squad shared in a special cultural connection with the Japanese, taking not only te ao Māori but also Māori rugby to the world. Thank you to all of the coaching and management staff and a special mention to Te Wehi Wright (Te Arawa, Ngāruahinerangi, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, in his first year as Cultural Advisor to the Māori All Blacks under the guidance of Matua Luke Crawford, and Arran Pene.

taitamariki, tae noa ki te Farah Palmer Cup, te National Provisional Championship me Heartland, Super Rugby Aupiki me Super Rugby, ngā Rarauhe Pango me ngā Ōpango.

Ko te reo whakamihī ki ngā kaiwhiwhi ā-ao, ā-motu, ā-rohe hoki ka whakaaturia ki te whārangi 18. E poho kererū ana mātou ko ā koutou whānau ki ā koutou whakatutukitanga. Nā te angitu o te Māori i ngā taumata katoa o te kēmu, arā, i ngā whakanuitanga o World Rugby, a New Zealand Rugby me te Tohu Tākaro o Aotearoa, ka whakaaturia te tāpaetanga whakahirahira o te Māori ki te kēmu.

Hauoratanga: Te whakatairanga i te oranga torowhānui

He 43,272 ngā kaitākaro Māori i Aotearoa. He 2,256 ngā pouako, ā, he 209 ngā kaiwawao. E āpiti ana ngā tatauranga o ngā reanga me ngā ira, ā, me te horanga ki te pūnaha tākaro. He huhua, he tini noa atu te whānau me ngā kaiitūao ka noho hei manawapou o te whutupōro Māori, otirā te whutupōro o Aotearoa.

He mihi maioha ki a koe, Tiki Edwards, koutou ko Kahu Carey me te Māra Kūmara. Neke atu i te 350 ngā rangatahi i wahi wāhi ki ā rātou whakangungu ā-rohe i whakahaeretia puta noa i te motu, me te aro anō ki te opeope i ngā rangatahi kia tū hei rangatira, i te taha o ngā rangatira (ngā pouako, ngā kaiwhakahaere me ngā kaiitūao). He kaupapa whakahirahira te hōtaka o E Tū Toa o te whutupōro Māori.

Angitutanga: Te whakaara i te oranga o ngāi Māori

I tēnei Pūrongo ā-Tau, ka taea e koe te pānui i ngā whakarāpopoto o ngā pūrongo ā-tau takitahi a ngā Poari Whutupōro Māori ā-Rohe, āra, o Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Tini a Māui me Te Waipounamu. E toru ngā Poari ā-Rohe Whutupōro Māori, me ngā ūniana-iti 21. Tēnā pānuitia ā rātou pūrongo, me ngā āhuatanga ahurei o ia rohe. Ka rere ngā mihi ki ngā whānau katoa, ngā hapū, ngā iwi, ngā kaumātua, ngā kuia, ngā kaiitūao me ngā kaitākaro o ia rohe. Kāore e ārikarika te nui o ā koutou mahi nui.

You will find the Māori team lists and records in this Annual Report. We have included a special story on our incredibly successful New Zealand Māori U18 Ngā Whatukura team who defeated New Zealand Secondary Schools and New Zealand Heartland U20s.

Congratulations to all of our Māori players and coaching and management staff who are in representative teams from age grade, through to Farah Palmer Cup, National Provincial Championship and Heartland, Super Rugby Aupiki and Super Rugby Pacific, and the Teams in Black.

Congratulations to all of the international, national and local awardees featured on page 18. We, alongside your whānau, are incredibly proud of all of your achievements. To see Māori succeeding at every level of the game, acknowledged by World Rugby, New Zealand Rugby, and at the Māori Sports Awards demonstrates the significant contribution Māori make to the game.

Hauoratanga: Promote holistic wellbeing

There are 43,272 Māori players in Aotearoa. There are 2,256 coaches and 209 referees. We have provided a breakdown of ages, and gender, as well as across the playing system. There are many, many more whānau, and volunteers who are the lifeblood of Māori rugby, and of rugby in Aotearoa.

We pay a special thank you to Tiki Edwards, Kahu Carey and the Kūmara Patch. There were over 350 rangatahi (youth) participants in their regional camps which were held across the country with a focus on turning rangatahi into rangatira, alongside the rangatira (coaches, managers and volunteers). The E Tū Toa programme is a celebrated aspect of Māori rugby.

Angitutanga: Uplift Māori lives

In this Annual Report you can read summaries of the individual annual reports of our three Regional Māori Rugby Boards of Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Tini-a-Māui and Te Waipounamu. There are three Regional Māori Rugby Boards and 21 sub-unions. Please enjoy reading their reports, and the unique characteristics of each of our regions. We thank all the whānau, hapū, iwi, the kaumātua and kuia, and the volunteers, and players of each rohe. You make an immense contribution to Māori rugby.

Ngā mihi ki a Jack Kani, he toka tū moana o te Ūniana o Whutupōro Māori o Counties Manukau, i ara ake hei Tumua ki o te Whutupōro Māori o Counties Manukau, me te mihi ki a Jim Coe, he mema mauroa hou. Ka mihi ki a John Cribb i whakawhiwhia ki te mematangā mauroa ki te Ūniana Whutupōro Māori o Taranaki.

Hei whakamutunga māku, me mihi ka tika ki te hunga katoa e tukitahi pūmau ana ki tō tātou waka o te whutupōro Māori. Ko koutou ngā kaitiaki o tō tātou kaupapa, ko te ao Māori te tūāpapa hei painga mā te katoa e whai wāhi ana ki te whutupōro i roto i tō tātou hāpori.

Kā tikina ēnei kupu a Kingi Tuheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII hei whakakapinga kōrero, "He kōrero tahi. He mahi tahi. He painga mō te iwi".

Nō reira,

Kua kati au i konei i raro i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.

Congratulations to Counties Māori Rugby Union stalwart player and coach Jack Kani who became the Counties Māori Rugby President, and to Jim Coe who became a life member. Congratulations to John Cribb who was awarded a life membership to Taranaki Māori Rugby Football Union.

Finally, we wish to thank everyone who is committed to our waka of Māori rugby. You are custodians of our kaupapa with te ao Māori as our tūāpapa for the betterment of all who are involved in rugby in our communities.

I wish to conclude this kōrero with the words of the Late Kingi Tuheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII, "He kōrero tahi. He mahi tahi. He painga mō te iwi." A collective voice, working together, for the benefit of us all.

Nō reira,

Kua kati au i konei i raro i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.



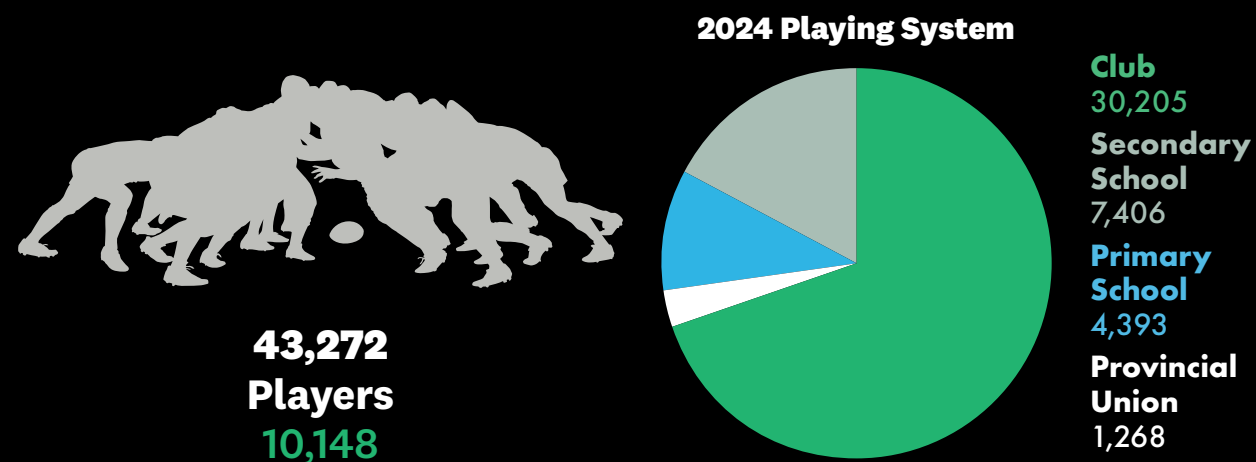
Anne-Marie Jackson
(Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Wai,
Ngāti Kahu o Whangaroa)

Chair
New Zealand Māori Rugby Board



HIGHLIGHTS

KEY STATS FOR 2024



31,854 Males
7,919



11,418 Females
2,229



22,688 Juniors
6,216



10,177 Teens
2,423



10,407 Adults
1,509

209 Referees
90



2,256 Coaches
456

Numbers in green reflect those who selected Māori as their secondary ethnicity.

HIGHLIGHTS

THANKING TE KAHURANGI DAME FARAH PALMER

Te Kahurangi Dame Farah Palmer, a trailblazer of the women's game and proud advocate for Māori rugby, stepped down as Chair of the Board in 2024. This coincided with her retiring from the New Zealand Rugby Board after completing the maximum number of terms.

A former Black Ferns captain and three-time Rugby World Cup champion, Farah brought that experience into rugby governance. She was a member of the Māori Rugby Board for 17 years, serving as Chair since 2016. She was the first woman to be elected to the NZR Board that same year, going on to become Deputy Chair.

Her tenure oversaw a significant chapter in the evolution of Māori rugby and its place within the wider rugby landscape of Aotearoa. Under her guidance, the Board emphasised the importance of tikanga within rugby structures, ensuring that Māori identity was preserved and celebrated across all levels of the game. She championed increased pathways for

Māori players, coaches, and administrators, particularly for kōtiro and wāhine. She pushed for greater representation and equity, amplifying Māori perspectives and cultural integrity in decision-making processes and commercial rugby activity.

Te Kahurangi Dame Farah's impressive playing career and substantial governance contributions have positioned her as one of the most influential people in the game, and elevated the mana of the Board. Te Kahurangi Dame Farah Palmer is synonymous with women's rugby, and Māori rugby. She has established a foundation for the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board to build upon to continue to advance the aspirations of our Māori rugby communities, and all communities of Aotearoa.

We thank her and her whānau for all she has given to Māori rugby, and we know we will continue to see her involvement in the game.



RECOGNITION

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2024 ASB RUGBY AWARDS

New Zealand Rugby Referee of the Year Winner: Ben O’Keeffe (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua)	Tom French Memorial Māori Player of the Year Winner: Tyrel Lomax (Ngāi Tuhoe, Muaupoko)
Fiao’o Faamausili Medal Winner: Hollyrae Merekara Mete (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Iwi Morehu)	Richard Crawshaw Memorial All Blacks Sevens Player of the Year Winner: Dylan Collier (Whakatohea, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui)
ASB New Zealand Coach of the Year Winner: Cory Sweeney (Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara)	Black Ferns Player of the Year Winner: Kaipo Olsen-Baker (Ngāti Porou)
Sky Super Rugby Aupiki Player of the Year Winner: Katelyn Vahaakolo (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Maniapoto)	

2024 WORLD RUGBY AWARDS

World Rugby Men’s 15s Dream Team of the Year Tyrel Lomax (Muaupoko and Ngāi Tuhoe) Damian McKenzie (Ngati Tūwharetoa)	World Rugby Women’s 15s Dream Team of the Year Katelyn Vahaakolo (Ngāti Whatua, Ngā Puhi and Maniapoto)
--	---

2024 MĀORI SPORTS AWARDS

Te Maru ō Tūmataurangi Māori Sports Coach of the Year Winner: Cory Sweeney (Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara)	Te Tama-Ā-Tanenuiārangi Senior Māori Sportsman of the Year Winner: Codie Taylor (Muaupoko, Ngāti Raukawa)
Ngā Ika ā Whiro Māori Sports Team of the Year Winner: New Zealand Māori Development team	Te Kunenga Ki Pūrehuroa Massey University Scholarship Winner: Tyla King OLY#1323 (Ngāpuhi)
Te Tamāhine-ā-Papatūānuku Junior Māori Sportswoman of the Year Winner: Maia Davis (Ngāti Hineuru, Taranaki)	Toitū Kaupapa Māori Mātauranga Māori Education Trust Scholarship Winner: Maia Davis (Ngāti Hineuru, Taranaki)
Te Tama-ā-Ranginui Junior Māori Sportsman of the Year Winner: Charlie Sinton (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)	Skills Active Aotearoa Māori Sports Awards Scholarship Winner: Charlie Sinton (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)

2024 SPORT NEW ZEALAND AWARDS

Suzie Simcock Future Leaders' Scholarship Winner: Manu Albert (Ngāti Porou) NZR Injury Prevention and Wellbeing Programme Manager
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RECAP

REGIONAL BOARD RECAP

Updates from our Regional Boards across the country, outlining rugby activities and celebrations throughout 2024.

TE HIKU O TE IKA

Tournaments

Te Hiku o Te Ika Māori Rugby Tournament

Saturday 5 October
Marist Rugby Football Club, Panmure

Saturday 19 October
Waiuku Rugby Football Club, Waiuku

Participating teams

- U13s: Counties Manukau Whero, Counties Manukau Pango, Tāmaki Makaurau
- U15s: Pool A: Counties Manukau Whero, Tāmaki Paki Toa, Tāmaki Paki Tu | Pool B: Counties Manukau Pango, Te Raki Paewhenua, Tāmaki Paki Rongo
- U17s: Tāmaki Ora, Te Raki Paewhenua, Tamaki Tu
- U19s: Tamaki Makaurau, Te Raki Paewhenua
- Tane: Counties Manukau, Te Raki Paewhenua

2024 taonga recipients

- U13s: Counties Māori
- U15s: Tamaki Māori
- U17s: Te Raki Paewhenua
- U19: Tamaki Māori
- Tane: Te Raki Paewhenua

We had referees support our tournament from three different Provincial Unions, who each have returned from previous years as they recognise the specialness of the kaupapa and enjoy being a part of the brand of rugby we are renowned for.

Some rohe did not participate in our tournament due for various reasons, from focusing on building internal capability, to working through relationships with Provincial Unions or prioritising a local kaupapa and development.

Highlights

Te Raki Paewhenua

100% return of coaches and managers, which helps with stability of our leadership and teams structure. This also indicates they are enjoying being a part of the kaupapa.

Auckland Māori Rugby

Our teams did well in the festival. Our our U15s and U19s won their finals, and our U13s and U17s lost their finals. Encouraging results all round.

Counties Māori Rugby

We sent a U16 Tama team to Hamilton to participate in the Chiefs ID talent tournament in September, which resulted in seven selections in the Chiefs U16 Train On Squad. This was huge considering CMRU only had three players selected. This validates the importance of participation as Māori for our rangatahi.

As well as hosting one weekend of the Te Hiku o Te Ika Māori Rugby Tournament in Waiuku, we were also able to source referees for both weekends and are grateful for their support. A young Māori female referee was identified and also participated in U16 Chiefs tournament. This is an exciting development and can only benefit Māori Rugby.

Acknowledgements

He hōnore, he korōria ki te Atua. Nāna nei nga mea katoa. Āmine Ka tangi, ka mihi ki ngā mate o te tau. Kia Luke Crawford, Robert Gillies, Tariana Turia, Iritana Tawhiwhirangi, ki nga ika katoa o te motu, arā anō, ki te ika nui o te motu, o te tau, kia Kingi Tuheitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII. Paimarie Kia tatou te hunga ora, ki ngā ringa raupa, ngā matua, ngā whānau katoa o Te Hiku o Te Ika, ko koutou nei e amohia ake ana i te kaupapa hei oranga mo te iwi, nei ra te mihi maioha kia koutou. Mauri ora!

At the CMRU AGM, we were pleased to witness a Counties Māori rugby stalwart player and coach Jack Kani become CMRU President. Jim Coe also received Life Membership at the AGM.

A special thanks to all the managers, coaches, support crews, whānau and players who volunteered and contributed towards this awesome event. Ngā mihi kia koutou katoa.

TE TINI- A-MĀUI

Tournaments

Inter-rohe competitions were funded by Te Tini-a-Māui and some Provincial Unions, which complimented the Heartland and NPC representative programmes. An example of this was the triangular Tāne competition between Whanganui Tāne, Horowhenua-Kāpiti Tāne and Wairarapa-Bush Tāne which was well supported and included curtain-raisers to Heartland fixtures. Similarly, Te Matau-a-Māui Tāne, Manawatū Tāne, Whanganui Tāne and Te Upoko o Te Ika Tāne competed in rohe fixtures.

In late August 2024, Te Upoko o Te Ika Invitational Rugby tournament was held at the New Zealand Campus of Innovation and Sport in Te Awakairangi and included six affiliated Te Tini-a-Māui rohe (Te Upoko o Te Ika, Manawatū, Wairarapa-Bush, Te Matau-a-Māui, Horowhenua-Kāpiti, Tūranganui-a-Kiwa), Te Wairoa and Waitaha.

Waitaha were the tournament champions securing the Binny and Alma Andrews Tournament Cup and Tirikatene Challenge Shield. The tournament was well attended by each rohe and several notable rangatira were in attendance, including Bill Bush, Paul Blake and Brian Morris.

The following data was generated reflecting the support and contributions generated across the two competition days:

- Te Whakaminenga: 300
- Kaumātua: 20
- Kaiwhakawā: 8
- Whakaora Whawhati Tata: 6

Highlights

The Management Committee prioritised our successful liaison with Provincial Unions Chief Executives supporting and resourcing individual rohe rugby conferences. Te Upoko o Te Ika invitational tournament held in Te Awakairangi, and Te Huri Rau Tau o Taranaki Māori Rugby Football Union in Ngāmotu benefited directly because of these renewed and strengthened relationships.

The formation of the first NZ Māori XV created an opportunity for our Management Committee to support the pōwhiri for the October Labour Weekend camp held at Te Pou o Tainui marae in Ōtaki. Liaison directly with the team management was beneficial and this enhanced the players’ opportunities and experiences to develop partnerships and engagement with Ngāti Kapumanawawhiti hapū, Rangiātea Church, Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Ōtaki Waka Hoe and Rāhui Rugby Club, who hosted the team at their grounds and club facilities.

Te Huri Rau Tau o Taranaki Māori Rugby Football Union was celebrated over two days in September at

Te Whare o Ruapūtahanga, Te Hāwera and at Yarrow Stadium, Ngāmotu. Taranaki promoted the opportunity to acknowledge both past and present people involved in Taranaki Māori Rugby since 1924.

There were 16 taonga exhibited along with footage from 2011 which was part of a display at Puke Ariki during the 2011 Rugby World Cup; later displayed at Te Utanganui in Pātea. On the first day teams representing the eight iwi and some clubs that were part of Tribal rugby i.e. Ngaere (Eltham), Manawapou (Pātea) and Puke Ariki (New Plymouth) competed.

Acknowledgements

Although we sadly farewelled our long serving Patron Alma Andrews in 2024, with the respectful consent of the Andrews whānau, we honoured both Alma and her late tāne Duncan ‘Binny’ Andrews with Life Memberships at the Hui-ā-tau of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Luke Crawford was honoured and farewelled by his iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the motu at Takapūwāhia marae in Pari-rua. Luke was celebrated across Aotearoa for his selfless contribution and commitment to New Zealand Rugby in the capacity as Kaihautū Māori (Chief Advisor Māori) from 2018 and Māori All Blacks kaumātua since 2010.

We also recognise and celebrate John Cribbs’ Life Membership awarded to him by Taranaki Māori Rugby Football Union as a part of the 100-year rugby centennial held in Ngāmotu in September. John is a very respected and valuable kaumātua of Māori Rugby within Te Tini-a-Māui. John is the Chairman of the Horowhenua-Kāpiti RFU Board of Directors and Rugby Committee, and a delegate for the Horowhenua Kāpiti Māori Rugby Board.

In June, Te Tini-a-Māui endorsed the nomination of Doug Jones to the New Zealand Rugby Board. We extended our support in recognition of Doug’s impressive commitment and dedication to promote and develop Māori rugby across the rohe of Tūranganui-a-Kiwa, Te Tini-a-Māui, and Aotearoa. We also acknowledge his valuable and consistent governance contributions to New Zealand Māori Rugby Board as a respected advocate and facilitator of tino rangatiratanga and kaiitiakitanga.

We respectfully acknowledge Kahurangi Farah Palmer for her extended service, commitment and leadership as the Chair of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board. The legacy left behind for those kōtiro and wāhine who are attracted to Whutupōro Māori in both the amateur and professional code have an exemplary example to follow, hei whakatauirā koe i te āhuatanga o te mareikura.

TE WAIPOUNAMU

Tournaments

Te Waipounamu Māori Rugby Rangatahi Ahurei 2024

- Hosted by Waitaha Māori Rugby in Kaiapoi
- 12 teams
- 400+ Rangatahi

Te Tautihu

- U17 Taitama, U17 Kōhine, U15 Tamatāne, U15 Tamāhine
- Whakawhanaungatanga wānanga

Waitaha

- U17 Taitama, U17 Kōhine, U15 Tamatāne, U15 Tamāhine
- Global Youth 7s - U18 Boys Team
- Waitaha Wahine - Canterbury Club 7s
- Waitaha Senior Tāne: Binny and Alma Andrew Tournament Cup and the Tirikatene Challenge Shield vs Canterbury Pasifika
- Waitaha U18 Tāne vs NZ Barbarians
- Waitaha U16 Tāne South Island Tournament
- Waitaha Colts vs South Canterbury
- Whakawhanaungatanga wānanga

Ōtākou

- U17 Taitama, U17 Kōhine, U15 Tamatāne
- U13 Development Kaupapa
- U18 Ōtākou ki Uta vs U18 Otago Girls
- Whakawhanaungatanga wānanga
- Whānau Days

Murihiku

- U17 Taitama
- Global Youth 7s - U18 Girls Team

Highlights

The past year has seen a continuous commitment towards building our capacity and capability and empowering our next generations through opportunities to higher levels within the game. We also look to maintain our enduring drive in supporting our emerging leaders and players through the E Tū Toa programmes. Both objectives are geared towards ensuring positive outcomes for our people through the vehicle of rugby.

Acknowledgements

He kura i tangihia he maimai aroha ki a rātou mā ō tātou mate kua riro atu ki te pō. Ko Matua Luke Crawford tērā, ko Connor Garden-Bachop tērā. Me okioki e kōrua ki te okinga a ngā mātua o tua whakarere. Nō reira, moe mārire te moe, e au ai te moe e rarau, kāti.

Aranga ake ko tātou te hunga whai oranga, ora ki te whakatupua, ora ki whakatawhito, he ora e! Kei ngā maunga whakahii, kei ngā puke kōrero, kei ngā wai tukukiri. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa



TEAMS AND RESULTS

MĀORI ALL BLACKS

2024 SEASON

29 June Monato
Māori All Blacks 36 10 Japan XV
06 July Toyota
Māori All Blacks 14 26 Japan XV



Bailyn Sullivan
(Ngāti Kahungunu)
Waikato, Hurricanes

Benet Kumeroa*
(Te Atihauui a Pāpārangi)
Bay of Plenty, Hurricanes

Billy Harmon
(Ngāi Tahu)
Canterbury, Highlanders

Cameron Suafoa
(Ngāpuhi)
North Harbour, Blues

Cole Forbes*
(Ngāti Awa)
Bay of Plenty, Blues

Corey Evans*
(Te Aupouri, Ngāti Kahu)
Northland, Blues

Cullen Grace
(Ngāti Whakaue)
Canterbury, Crusaders

Daniel Rona*
(Te Ātiawa)
Taranaki, Chiefs

Isaia Walker-Leawere
(Ngāti Porou)
Hawke's Bay, Hurricanes

Joe Moody
(Ngāi Tahu)
Canterbury, Crusaders

Josh Moorby
(Ngāti Maniapoto)
Waikato, Hurricanes

Kurt Eklund
(Ngāti Kahu)
Bay of Plenty, Blues

Laghan McWhannell*
(Ngāti Kahungunu)
Waikato, Blues

Marcel Renata
(Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāi Takoto)
Auckland, Blues

Mason Tupaea
Blues

Max Hicks
(Ngāti Ranginui)
Tasman, Highlanders

Nikora Broughton*
(Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Ruanui)
Bay of Plenty, Highlanders

Ollie Norris
(Ngāpuhi)
Waikato, Chiefs

Pouri Rakete-Stones
(Ngāpuhi)
Hawke's Bay, Hurricanes

Quinn Tupaea
(Ngāti Tiipa, Ngāti Amaru)
Waikato, Chiefs

Rameka Poihipi
(Ngāti Whakaue)
Canterbury, Chiefs

Rivez Reihana*
(Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Hine,
Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa)
Northland, Crusaders

Sam Nock
(Ngāpuhi)
Northland, Blues

Taha Kemara*
(Te Whānau a Apanui,
Te Whakatōhea)
Waikato, Crusaders

Tahlor Cahill
(Ngāpuhi)
Canterbury, Crusaders

Tana Tuhakaraina*
(Ngāti Hauā)
Waikato, Chiefs

Te Kamaka Howden
(Tūhoe)
Manawatū, Hurricanes

Te Toiroa Tahiriorangi
(Ngāti Rangitīhi, Ngāti Pikiao,
Tūhourangi, Ngāti Whakaue,
Ngāti Awa)
Bay of Plenty, Chiefs

Tyrone Thompson
(Ngāti Kahungunu)
Chiefs

MANAGEMENT

Ross Filipo
(Muaūopoko)
Pouako Matua

Roger Randle
(Ngāti Awa)
Pouako Āwhina

Greg Feek
(Ngāti Kahungunu)
Pouako Āwhina

Brad Te Haara
(Ngāpuhi/Ngāti Rangi)
Kaiwhakahaere Tima

Christos Argus
Kaiwhakahaere Whakapakari

Jayson Ross
(Ngāti Kahungunu)
Kaitātari Whakatutukitanga

Thomas Warehaugh
Kairomiromi

Rawiri Durie
Tākuta

Ben Fisher
Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa

Ezra Iupeli
Kaiarahi Mahi Whakahaere

Jordyn Steel
(Ngāti Hei)
Kaiarumoni

Savannah Tafau-Levy
Kaiwhakahaere Hunga Pāpāoho

Callum Smith
Kaiwhakahaere Konae Ipurangi

Te Wehi Wright
(Te Arawa, Ngāruahine, Ngāti Raukawa,
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa,
Ngāti Whitiākepeka, Te Rarawa)
Cultural Advisor

Luke Crawford
(Ngāti Porou, Tūwharetoa)
Kaumatua

*denotes Māori All Black debutant in 2024.

TEAMS AND RESULTS

TU TOA MĀREIKURA,
TU TOA WHATUKURA

The Tu Toa Māreikura and Whatukura programme is a shining light of Māori rugby. The programme is led by Tiki Edwards (Māori Rugby Development Manager) with support from Kahu Carey (Māori Rugby Development Officer) and many Māori rugby volunteers around the country (known as the Kūmara Patch).

The programme has a focus on turning rangatahi into rangatira, and teaches young people about Māori values and ways of living to cope with the world we live in today. This could be through karakia, waiata, pepeha, mihimihi, traditional Māori games using rākau, and finally, rugby-specific drills.

In 2024, over 350 participants were part of the regional camps held across the country. Regional camps were held in April in Port Waikato, Ashburton, Timaru and Palmerston North. Rangatahi were supported by numerous rangatira to develop coaching, management and cultural capability around the country.

50 Ngā Whatukura and Ngā Māreikura were selected from regional camps held across the country to attend national camp in Porirua. Once again, they were supported by over 60 rangatira while in camp.

These camps resulted in the national sides being selected – in October, Ngā Whatukura defeated NZ Heartland U20s and NZ Schools in Hamilton; Ngā Māreikura lost to NZ Barbarians in Pukekohe.

An increasing number of players who have attended these camps are progressing to higher honours in rugby, be it at provincial or Super Rugby level, the Māori All Blacks or other Teams in Black.

In 2024, the programme celebrated its second and third All Blacks when Cortez Ratima (#1214) and Ruben Love (#1223) debuted against England and Japan respectively. Justine McGregor, a former Māreikura camp attendee, debuted for the Black Ferns Sevens in December.

Our Value Statements

Te Ara Ranga Tira	The Chiefly Way
Tū Māori	Proud To Be Māori
Tū Whānau	We Are Family
Tū Aroha	We Love You
Mo Ake Tonu	Forever

Actioning Values

Paki Tu	Uplift each other
Paki Toa	Help each other be successful
Paki Rongo	Listen and support
Kia UU	Hold fast to my kaupapa
Kia Whiri	Sort myself out
Kia Toa	Be successful individually

TEAMS AND RESULTS

PUAWAITANGA
ENHANCE MĀORI
THROUGH RUGBY

"There are plenty of models in high performance rugby, but no other rugby environment prioritises wairua and mauri like us. We call it higher performance." Kahu Carey, Ngā Whatukura Head Coach

Connect before content was a key factor in the success of the 2024 Ngā Whatukura side.

The team of 25 players all aged under 18 came together for an age group tournament in October. The group grounded themselves at Tauhei Marae, connecting to each other, te ao Māori and the whenua.

During the eight nights on the marae, the tane were required to take full responsibility for care of the marae, thus installing Māori values like kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga into their everyday lives.

This is a continuation of the important kaupapa of Tiki Edwards and Kahu Carey, who use rugby as a vehicle to enhance the lives of young Māori men and women. Mātauranga Māori has long been central to this programme, weaving tikanga and reo into team environments.

These camps, teams and tournaments provide an opportunity to build and strengthen players sense of identity, grow life skills and nurture a sense of collective belonging which is carried onto the field.

Ngā Whatukura secured two wins from two matches, including the first-ever win over the New Zealand Secondary Schools side. These results demonstrate the importance and strength of Māori rugby, which will be seen at this level and continue on into the Māori All Blacks and other national teams.

TEAMS AND RESULTS

NZ U18 MĀORI RUGBY

NEW ZEALAND MĀORI U18 NGA MĀREIKURA GIRLS

Amber Mundell (Ngāpuhi)	Kaiarihi Puku (Ngāti Maniapoto)	Mikaya Kaipo (Te Aupōuri, Ngāpuhi)
Anyis Drossaerts-Lake (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Maniapoto)	Keiana Roffey (Ngāti Porou)	Patricia Heihei (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Te Rangi)
Arlia MacCarthy (Ngāpuhi)	Keira Mete-Renata (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Iwi Mōrehu)	Psalm Maletino (Te Āti Awa)
Billie Va'a (Te Whakatōhea)	Kingston Taiapa (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa, Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau a Apanui)	Te Kihiora Kuka (Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui, Te Āti Haunui a Pāpārangi)
Braxton Sorensen-McGee (Ngāti Wai)	Lashaye Blake (Tūhoe, Ngāti Porou)	Te Maia Sweetman (Rangitāne)
Dane-A Kopa (Te Whānau ā Apanui)	Lucy Mahuika (Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)	Trinity Edwards-Rea (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa, Te Āti Haunui a Pāpārangi)
Danica Talitonu (Ngāti Ruanui)	Maddison Pask (Ngāti Porou)	Whaiora Kopa (Te Whānau a Apanui)
Eva Rose Dean (Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kahungunu)	Manu Anderson (Ngāti Tūwharetoa)	

MANAGEMENT

Luke Crawford (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Porou) Kaumatua	Richard Francis (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Ngāti Mākino) Kaiako Poumuri
Patariki Edwards (Whakatōhea, Ngāti Raukawa) NZR Rangatira	Leticia Jones (Te Arawa) Kaiwhakahaere Matua
Kahu Carey (Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā To, Te Ātiawa, Ngāi Tahu/Kāi Tahu) NZR Rangatira	Tara Buckley (Ngāpuhi, Tainui) Kaiwhakarite Matua
Riwa Keno (Te Iwi Mōrehu, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui) Kaitohutohu	Kara Thomas (Ngāruahine) Kairomiromi
Jayson McRoberts (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa) Pou Whirinaki	Hayley Bungard (Kāi Tahu) Kairomiromi
Stephanie Te Ohaere-Fox (Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Porou) Kaiako Matua	Frankie Tihore (Ngāti Porou) Hoa a Tahu
Lucy Holmes Crombie (Ngāti Kahungunu) Kaiako Poumua	Latham Bruce (Ngāpuhi) Hoa a Tahu
Terauoriwa Gapper (Ngāpuhi) Kaiako Poumuri	

2024 SEASON

11 October	Pukekohe
NZ Māori Ngā Māreikura U18	15 • 29 NZ Barbarian U18 Girls

NEW ZEALAND U18 MĀORI NGĀ WHATUKURA

Alex Arnold (Te Ātiawa)	Ethan Mcmanemin (Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto, Kāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu)	Kane Paranihi (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Porou, Te Ātiawa, Ngāpuhi)
Alex Hewitt (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga)	Hiraka Waitai-Haenga (Ngāti Tūwharetoa)	Kobe Brownlee (Kāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu)
Brayden Neilson (Kāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu)	Isaac Turoa (Ngāti Tūwharetoa)	Le'Sharn Reiri-Paku (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)
Caleb Woodley (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, Ngāti Wai)	Isireli Qaranivalu (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Wai)	Mako Blackman (Ngāti Porou)
Charlie Carroll (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)	Jack McCarthy (Ngāti Tūwharetoa)	Noah Gregory (Ngāpuhi)
Clark Sutcliffe (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa)	Jayden Broome (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Wharara)	Oliver Church (Kāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu)
Cruiz Simpson (Ngāti Rangitīhi)	Jericho Wharehinga (Ngāti Porou, Te Arawa)	Riley Grant-Faiva (Ngāpuhi)
Dallas Rata-Makene (Ngāpuhi)	Kaden Makea (Ngāpuhi) Kah'nal Ngawati (Ngāpuhi)	Ryder Crosswell (Ngāti Porou)
		Wiremu Brailey (Ngāti Pikiao)

MANAGEMENT

Luke Crawford (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Porou) Kaumatua	Kara Thomas (Ngā Ruahine) Kairomiromi
Patariki Edwards (Whakatōhea, Ngāti Raukawa) NZR Rangatira	Kahurangi Falaoa (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Pūkeko) Pou Tikanga
Kahu Carey (Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā To, Te Ātiawa, Ngāi Tahu/Kāi Tahu) Head coach/Kaiako Matua	Kramer Ronaki (Moriōri, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Pikiao (Te Arawa), Tapuika (Te Arawa)) Pou Kaupapa
Simon Kneebone (Ngāti Porou) Kaiako Poumua	Frankie Tihore (Ngāti Porou) Pou Kaitunu
Jeremy Wara (Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Pikiao (Te Arawa)) Kaiako Ārai	Norman Bell (Kāi Tahu / Ngāi Tahu) Pou Kaitunu
Willie Brown (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Porou) Kaiako Poumuri	Phife Toto (Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Awa) Kaitātari Ātaata
Duncan Cameron (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Te Whānau ā Apanui, Rangitāne) Kaiwhakahaere Matua	Phil Kauika (Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Maniapoto) Kaiako Manaki
Sonny Raina (Ngāpuhi) Kaiwhakarite Matua	

2024 SEASON

06 October	Hamilton
NZ Māori U18 53	22 NZ Heartland U20
10 October	Hamilton
NZ Māori U18 22	15 NZ Schools

TEAMS AND RESULTS

NZ MĀORI XV

Adrein Wharawhara
(Ngāti Haua)

Anaru Paenga-Morgan
(Ngāti Konohi, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri)

Bruce Kauika-Petersen
(Ngāti Kauika, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu)

Cooper Grant
(Ngāti Porou, Rangitāne o Wairau)

Cruise Dunster
(Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Awa)

Elyjah Crosswell
(Ngāti Porou)

Hone Mathieson
(Ngāti Porou)

Jacob Waikari-Jones
(Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tai)

Joel Hintz
(Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou)

Kade Manuel
(Ngāti Porou)

Kapumanawawhiti Broughton-Winterburn
(Ngāti Raukawa)

Kyan Rangitutia
(Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāpuhi)

Manahi Brooking
(Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tai)

Perry Lawrence
(Ngā Rauu)

Sam Smith
(Ngāti Raukawa)

Sam Walton-Sexton
(Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)

Sean Paranihi
(Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa)

Tayne Harvey
(Ngāti Raukawa)

Tayne Tupaea
(Waikato)

Te Ariki Te Puni
(Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Rangitāne o Manawatū, Ngāiterangi)

Terrell Peita
(Te Rarawa Kaiwhare)

Tiaki Fabish
(Ngāti Maniapoto, Te Whānau-a-Apanui)

Will Cole
(Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)

MANAGEMENT

Luke Crawford
(Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Porou) Kaumatua

Ngatai Walker
(Ngāti Porou) Kaiako Matua

Simon Kneebone
(Ngāti Porou) Kaiako Poumua

Jeremy Wara
(Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Pikiao (Te Arawa)) Kaiako Ārai

Kahu Tamatea
(Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, Te Ātianga a Māhaki) Kaiako Poumuri

Stacey Grant
(Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa) Kaiako Manaaki

Simon Craggs
(Ngāti Pākehā ki Papakura) Kaiwhakahaere Matua

Duncan Cameron
(Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Te Whānau ā Apanui, Rangitāne) Kaiwhakarite Matua

Kara Thomas
(Ngā Ruahine) Kairomiromi

Kahurangi Falaoa
(Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Pūkeko) Pou Tikanga

Frankie Tihore
(Ngāti Porou) Pou Kaitunu

Irlene Young
(Kāi Tahu, Ngāi Tahu) Pou Kaitunu

Patariki Edwards
(Whakatōhea, Ngāti Raukawa) NZR Rangatira

Kahu Carey
(Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Te Ātiawa, Kāi Tahu, Ngāi Tahu) NZR Rangatira

Kate Bron
NZR Rangatira

2024 SEASON

29 October Whanganui
NZ Māori XV 47 • 14 Heartland XV

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2024	2024 ACTUAL	2023 ACTUAL
Income		
Grants from NZRU	\$166,550	\$151,494
Interest income ¹	\$108,191	\$102,382
Total income	\$274,741	\$253,875
Expenditure		
Regional Operating Grants ²	\$90,000	\$90,000
Board Member Fees ³	\$36,400	\$35,443
Operational Overheads (Travel & Accommodation)	\$29,574	\$20,325
General Expenses	\$10,576	\$5,726
Legal Expenses	\$3,600	–
Total expenditure	\$170,150	\$151,494
Net profit	\$104,591	\$102,382

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2024	2024 ACTUAL	2023 ACTUAL
Assets		
SSI Grant from NZRU ¹	\$2,228,811	\$2,124,220
Total assets	\$2,228,811	\$2,124,220
Liabilities	–	–
Equity		
Retained Earning	\$2,228,811	\$2,124,220
Total equity	\$2,228,811	\$2,124,220

¹ NZMRB chose to invest the \$2.0m with NZR's other cash reserves, pending decisions on how to utilise the funds. In 2024 an average interest rate of 5.1% (2023: 4.95%) resulted in an additional \$108k of interest income.

² Where regional activity took place, grants are distributed to the appropriate Māori Regional Board.

³ Remuneration for NZMRB for face-to-face meetings and reflects actual attendance at board meetings.

COMMENTARY TO SUPPORT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements reflect New Zealand Rugby's accounting of income and expenditure applied to the NZ Māori Rugby Board (NZMRB) and the Regional Māori Rugby Boards. Other activities related to Māori Rugby are undertaken by NZR and reflected in its annual accounts. This includes the Māori All Blacks programme which during 2024 centred around a two-match series against the Japan XV in Japan.

These include:

- a. Funding for two Māori Under 18 development teams, 3 regional camps and 1 national camp.
- b. Funding for NZR facilitated E Tu Rangatahi programme and Rangatira workshops for Māori coaches, leaders and other volunteers.
- c. Salary costs and overheads for Māori Rugby-specific roles and a portion of NZR staff and overheads for other staff who directly support the NZMRB.





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