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POROPOROAKI/FAREWELL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BEREAVEMENTS

Kimihia rangahaua

Kei hea koutou ka ngaro nei!

Tēnā kua riro ki Paerau Lost to Paerau

Ki te huihuinga o te kahurangi ka oti atu koutou e!

Kua hinga ngā tōtara haemata nō te wao nui ā Tane.

Ngaro ana koutou ki te po nui, ki te pō roa, ki te pō i oti atu.

E moe, e moe, haere koutou ki te okiokinga mutunga kore e.

Seek and search

Where have you been lost to

To that heavenly constellation you are forsaken.

Great leaders have fallen in the sacred forrest of Tane.

You are lost now to the long enduring darkness to the night without end.

Sleep now, repose, farewell to you now at eternal rest.



James 'Jim' Taui Himiona Wetere QSM (Tainui) Māori Rugby Board, Te Hiku o te Ika 23 January 2023, aged 73



Billy Guyton (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Pikiao, Naāti Raukawa) Māori All Black, NZ Heartland XV, Blues, Crusaders, Hurricanes, North Otago, Tasman 15 May 2023, aged 33



Dr Ihakara Porutu Puketapu (Te Āti Awa) Māori All Black, Wellington 7 July 2023, aged 89



Rangitane 'Tane' Will Norton (Ngāi Tahu) NZR President, Māori All Black, All Black **#694** 3 August 2023, aged 81

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.

Our five values underpin all that we do:

Enhance Māori through rugby

> Develop opportunities for Māori in rugby to strive and achieve.

Puawaitanga

Whanaungatanga Unify and connect Rangatiratanga

Leadership

Hauoratanga

Promote holistic wellbeing

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

Poutamatanga

Achievement

Angitutanga

Uplift Māori lives

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

Taumatatanga

Excellence

Kaitiakitanga

Guardianship

For more information on the Māori Rugby Board strategy, visit nzrugby.co.nz/maorirugby

NEW ZEALAND MĀORI RUGBY BOARD & MANAGEMENT

NZMRB Chair (New Zealand Rugby Board Member, Māori Representative)

Professor Dame Farah Palmer (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato)

New Zealand Rugby Representative Steve Lancaster

Secretary to Board Jane Miller

Te Hiki o te Ika Northern Regions

Robert Clark (Waikato) Chair

Te Tini a Maui 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, Ngāphui, Ngātiwai, Ngāti Kahu, Te Roroa)

Arran Pene

(Ngāti Wairere, Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Pākehā) Chair, Rugby Subcommittee

Doug Jones

(Rongowhakaata, Ngãi Tāmanuhiri, Ngāti Kahungunu) Chair, Culture Subcommittee

Independents

Merewaakana Kingi

(Ngāti Awa) Chair, Commercial Subcommittee

Warren Alcock

(Kai Tahu, Te Atiawa, Ngāti Wakaue, Ngāti Raukawa ki te tongā, Ngāti Porou)

Aspiring Director

Jacob Ellison

The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board was established as an incorporated society in June 2000, under its own Constitution, though 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 four life members of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board:

- Alan Haua (2013)
- Percy Erceg (2016)
- Don Rangi (2017)
- Bill Bush (2021)

New Zealand Māori Rugby Structure

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

Kaihautu – 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, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō)

Māori Rugby Programme Manager/Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa Whutupōro Māori

Cushla Tangaere-Manuel (Ngāti Porou) Contract concluded July 2023

New Zealand Māori Rugby Committees

The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board has three sub-committees which are involved in key wānanga and working groups across New Zealand Rugby – Rugby, Culture, and Commercial.

There are also 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 Maui (Central Region)

Horouta (Ngāti Porou East Coast) Turanganuiākiwa (Poverty Bay)

Te Matau a Maui (Hawkes Bay)

Taranaki

Wairarapa

Manawatū

Whanganui

Horowhenua-Kapiti

Te Upoko o te Ika (Wellington)

• Te Waipounamu (Southern Region)

Te Tau Ihu (Tasman)

Waitaha (Canterbury)

Aoraki (South Canterbury)

Otakou (Otago)

Murihiku (Southland)

BOARD MEMBERS

Professor Dame Farah Rangikoepa 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.

She is 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 haapuu 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.

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

Andre is a Māori Rugby delegate on the Horowhenua-Kapiti Rugby Football Union.

As of 3 March 2023, Andre is an elected Board member of Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust is the Kairuruku Whānau Whakahui (FGC Co-ordinator) for Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, and as a Kaitakawaenga, 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 Tauihu 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 Tauihu Māori

Cultural Council and Whakatū Marae Committee, amongst others.

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

Aorangi Professor Anne-Marie Jackson (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāphui, Ngātiwai, 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
NZMRB and NZR a passion for te ao
Māori (Māori worldview) as the basis of
flourishing wellbeing for all whanau. She
is the Director of her whanau consultancy
Rehutai Consultancy Ltd which includes
her co-Directorship of the National
Centre of Research Excellence Coastal
People: Southern Skies

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, Icons Fitness Ltd (Fitness)

He has previously held directorships with Toitu Tairawhiti 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 Tairawhiti, the economic development agency for Tairawhiti, 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 a 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 (Kai Tahu, Te Atiawa, Ngāti Wakaue, Ngāti Raukawa ki te tongā, 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.



FROM THE CHAIR

Manaakitanga

The process of showing respect, generosity and care for others

Ko tā te poari whutupōro Māori (NZMRB) whatauira i te manaakitanga ko te whakaute ko te hāpai hoki i ngā tūmanako o te Māori mā roto mai i te whutupōro. He nui ngā aupiki me ngā auheke i te tau 2023, ā, ko te tau tuarua o te rautaki whutupōro Māori me te ārahi o ngā pou nei i ā mātau mahi katoa:

- Tātakitanga: Uplifting Māori leaders
- Puawaitanga: Enhancing Māori through rugby
- Hauoratanga: Promoting holistic wellbeing
- Angitutanga: Uplifting Māori lives

Tātakitanga – Uplifting Māori leaders

Ko tōna 27% o ngā kaitākaro whutupōro o Aotearoa he whakapapa Māori, me te aha kua whanake ngā kaupapa Māori i te taiao whutupōro o Aotearoa, ko tā te NZMRB (i whakatūria i te tau 2000) he whai kia whai wāhi ai te reo o te Māori i ngā whakataunga o te ao whutupōro i ngā wā katoa e āhei ana. Hei āpiti ki tēnā, i tuku whakaaro atu te NZMRB ki te ohu Independent Governance Review Panel i whakaputa i tō rātau ripoata whakamutunga i te Ākuhata 2023. Ko ētahi o ngā whakahau e hāngai ana ki te Māori ko ēnei:

- Kia pakari ake te hononga o ngā poari e rua
- Kia nui ake ngā rauemi me ngā pūtea tautoko
- Kia pakari ake te hononga o ngā poari o NZR me NZMRB
- Kia mana te mahinga tahi i roto i ngā puka ture o NZR, NZMRB me ngā uniana a rohe
- Kei te poari NZMRB te mana ki te panoni i tōna puka ture me te tohu i tōna ake heamana
- Kia whai wāhi tētahi mema e mātau ana ki te whutupōro Māori me Te Ao Māori ki te poari NZR, ā, ko te whakahau kia nui ake i te kotahi te mema

Manaakitanga

The process of showing respect, generosity and care for others

The New Zealand Māori Rugby Board (NZMRB) demonstrate manaakitanga by showing respect and care for Māori aspirations in and through rugby. There were many highs and lows in 2023, and this was the second year of the Māori Rugby

Strategy, with the following pou guiding what we did and how we did it:

- Tātakitanga: Uplifting Māori leaders
- Puawaitanga: Enhancing Māori through rugby
- Hauoratanga: Promoting holistic wellbeing
- Angitutanga: Uplifting Māori lives

Tātakitanga – Uplifting Māori leaders

With 27% of registered rugby players in New Zealand with Māori whakapapa and aspects of Te Ao Māori well-integrated into New Zealand rugby, the NZMRB (established as an Incorporated Society in 2000) works to ensure that Māori have a voice in national rugby decision-making processes wherever and whenever we can. With that in mind, the NZMRB made a substantial submission to the Independent Governance Review Panel who released their final report in August 2023. Some of the recommendations relevant to Māori Rugby included:

- Greater direct contact between the two boards
- Improved resourcing and financial support
- Improved recognition of the significance of the relationship in the governance structure of both NZR and NZMRB
- The mutual obligation to work in partnership be outlined within the constitutions of NZR, NZMRB and the Provincial Unions
- The power for NZMRB to alter its own constitution and appoint its own chair
- That knowledge of M\u00e4ori rugby and Te Ao M\u00e4ori must be present within the NZR Board, preferably from more than one director

- Kia āhei te tātari i ngā hua e hāngai ana ki te whutupōro Māori i roto i ngā rautaki a NZR
- Kia arotakehia te punaha pōti o NZMRB

Kua tau te poari whutupōro Māori ki ngā whakahau a te ohu motuhake, ā, e whai tonu ana kia kuhu ki ngā whakataunga, te kōrero ki te hunga whai pānga me te whakatairanga i te whutupōro Māori ki ngā taumata katoa o te whutupōro i Aotearoa.

Ko ngā hiranga:

- Te nui o te whai wāhi ki ngā rangatira me ngā heamana o ngā rohe o ngā kaupapa NZR hoki
- Te hui ā-kanohi ki te poari NZR
- Te hui ki Te Huinga Tākaro o Aotearoa ki te wānanga i ngā whāinga/hua
- Te timata i te punaha arotake/whakawhanake i te turepapa

Puawaitanga – Enhancing Māori through rugby

E tipu tonu ana ngā kaitākaro whutupōro Māori. I te tau 2022 he 37,167 ngā kaitākaro, ā, i te tau 2023, he 41,072 ngā kaitākaro. He aupiki 25% mā ngā kōtiro, ngā māreikura me ngā wāhine, me te aha he aupiki 7% mā ngā tama, ngā whatukura me ngā tāne.

Kua tipu te tokomaha o ngā kaitākaro wāhine i ngā rohe katoa, me te aha 11 ngā rohe kua neke atu i te 20% te tipu o ngā kaitākaro. He mīharo te kite atu i Tūranganui-a-Kiwa i tipu ngā kaitākaro wāhine Māori mā te 95%. Ko ētahi rohe i paku tipu te tokomaha o ngā kaitākaro tāne Māori, ā, ko ētahi rohe i kite i te paku hekenga o ngā kaitākaro Māori. Koia ngā tatauranga e kitea whānuitia ana i te ao whutupōro.

I whanake tonu te hōtaka whutupōro Māori nā te tautoko nō roto i te whare nei, nō ngā kaiāwhina Māori o ngā rohe me ngā uniana o ngā rohe.

I aro pū te hōtaka rangatahi ki ngā hōpuni me ngā kapa Whatukura me ngā Māreikura i raro i te 18 te pakeke me te aha i kaha tautoko mai ngā kaihāpai Māori o ngā rohe. He pai te kite atu i te reanga rangatahi e harikoa ana i ngā whakahaere a te kāhui kaimahi e hanumi nei i ngā tikanga Māori me te whutupōro.

- Mutually agreed, measurable outcomes in relation to Māori rugby in NZR strategies
- The weighted voting structure allotted to NZMRB is reviewed.

The Māori Rugby Board is encouraged by the recommendations from an Independent Panel and continue to engage in decision-making processes, consult with our Māori rugby stakeholders, and advocate for Māori Rugby in ongoing discussions in New Zealand rugby at all levels.

Highlights include:

- Being more involved in Provincial Union CEO & Chair forums and NZR activities
- Having a face-to-face, Board-to-Board discussion with NZR Board
- Meeting with Te Huinga Takaro o Aotearoa which is an Incorporated Society of Māori National Sport Organisations to explore mutual opportunities/benefits
- Beginning the process of reviewing/updating our own constitution

Puawaitanga – Enhancing Māori through rugby

The number of Māori involved in rugby as players continues to grow. In 2022 there were 37,167 players and in 2023, there were 41,072. This is a 25% increase for our kōtiro, mareikura and wāhine and a 7% increase for our tama, whatukura and tāne.

All regions have shown growth in wāhine player numbers, with 11 provincial unions showing more than a 20% increase! Poverty Bay in particular showed a 95% increase in wāhine Māori playing rugby which is awesome to see. There are some regions where player numbers for tāne Māori have modestly increased, but there is also a slight decrease in participation in some regions, which reflects a trend across rugby generally.

Within New Zealand Rugby, the Māori Rugby Programme continued to expand with support from within the organisation as well as from our Regional Māori Rugby volunteers and Provincial Unions.

The Rangatahi programme has focused predominantly on Under 18 Whatukura and Māreikura camps and teams which are well-supported by our regional Māori volunteers. It is great to see the next generation of rangatahi enjoying the mixture of tikanga Māori and rugby delivered by a very passionate group of kaimahi.

Kei te whanake hoki ngā Rangatira Camps, i whakatōpu i ngā kaiako Māori, i ngā kaiwhakahaere me ngā kaihāpai kia āhei ai rātau te ako tahi me te ako i ngā wheako o te hōtaka whutupōro Māori. E hāngai hoki ana ēnei hōpuni ki te pou rautaki – Angitutanga: whakawhanake rangatira Māori – ko te nuinga o ēnei kaihāpai he aroha noa te utu. Mei kore ake rā rātau kua kore te whutupōro Māori e whanake.

E tipu tonu ana ngā kaupapa Rangatahi me te Rangatira e whakahaerehia ngātahitia ana ki ngā poari Māori ā-rohe (Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Tini a Māui, me te Te Waipounamu). E mihi ana ki a Tiki Edwards rāua ko Kahu Carey me te 'Kūmara Patch' i whakapeto ngoi kia horapa ngā kaupapa nei ki Aotearoa whānui.

Hauoratanga – promoting holistic wellbeing

E aro tonu ana mātau ki ngā huarahi e koha ai te whutupōro ki te Hauoratanga – whare tapawhā, be that through direct involvement or through the values and principles associated with rugby. Māori Rugby weaves our strategic pou through Te Ara Ranga Tira – The Rugby Way.

The Rangatira Camps where Māori coaches, team managers, and administrators come together to learn from each other and to understand what is experienced in the Māori Rugby programme, are also going from strength to strength. These camps also align with our strategic pou – Angitūtanga: uplifting Māori leaders – as many of these rangatira are volunteers and without them Māori rugby would not thrive.

The Rangatahi and Rangatira workshops delivered in partnership with our Regional Māori Boards (Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Tini ā Maui, and Te Waipounamu) continue to grow. Thanks in particular to Tiki Edwards, Kahu Carey and the 'Kumara Patch' who have worked hard to expand this programme and deliver it across Aotegroa.

Hauoratanga – promoting holistic wellbeing

We continue to focus on how rugby can contribute to Hauoratanga – holistic wellbeing, be that through direct involvement or through the values and principles associated with rugby. Māori Rugby weaves our strategic pou through Te Ara Ranga Tira – The Rugby Way.

Te Ara Ranga Tira The Rugby Way	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Te Pou Maioha:	Tātakitanga:
Be welcoming	Uplifting Māori leaders
Te Pou Hiringa:	Angitūtanga:
Be our best	Uplifting Māori lives
Te Pou Ihiihi:	Puawaitanga:
Be passionate	Enhancing Māori through rugby
Te Pou Tika:	Hauoratanga:
Play fair	Promoting holistic wellbeing

Te Ara Ranga Tira The Rugby Way	Te Pou o Whutuporo Māori o Aotearoa
Te Pou Maioha:	Tātakitanga:
Be welcoming	Uplifting Māori leaders
Te Pou Hiringa:	Angitūtanga:
Be our best	Uplifting Māori lives
Te Pou Ihiihi:	Puawaitanga:
Be passionate	Enhancing Māori through rugby
Te Pou Tika:	Hauoratanga:
Play fair	Promoting holistic wellbeing

I koa te ngākau ki te kite i te hōtaka Mind.Set.Engage a Whutupōro Aotearoa e mahi tahi ana ki Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority) i te 2023 me te whāinga kia pai ake ai ngā tatauranga hauora i Aotearoa, me te aha i horapa tēnei hōtaka ki Manukau, Te Waiariki, Pōneke, Waitaha me Murihiku, me te tūmanako nui ka whai hua ā-hauora nei ngā Māori i te whutupōro i tēnei hōtaka.

Ko te manaaki te aronga matua a NZR mō te whakataetae whutupōro o te ao, ā, i whai wāhi atu te komiti ahumoni me te komiti ahurea o te poari whutupōro Māori ki te whakarewanga o te kaupapa nei i Ōrākei Marae i te Hūrae 2023. E mihi ana ki a Luke Crawford, Kaihautū Māori nō NZR i tautoko mai, i ārahi hoki i a mātau i roto i tēnei kaupapa. Me eke mai – our bench is your bench – he karanga tēnei kia whai wā ai tātau ki te whakatā, ki te mahi tahi, ki te tautoko, ki te ui atu, ki te manaaki i a koe anō. otirā i a tātau katoa.

Angitutanga – Uplifting Māori lives

I kōrerohia i runga rā, kei te tipu ngā tatauranga mō te kuhu a te Māori ki te whutupōro, ā, e harikoa ana ki te whakaū i whakatū whakataetae, kēmu, hōtaka hoki ngā poari a rohe e toru i te tau 2023. I whakatū whakataetae ā-rohe a Te Waipounamu me Te Hiku o te Ika, ā, i tū tonu ētahi kēmu ā-tau, kaupapa i waenga hoki i te Māori me ngā uri o Te Moananui-ā-Kiwa me ētahi kapa a rohe i roto i ngā rohe. I tū anō te whakataetae Te Tini a Māui ki Heretaunga mai i te Mate Kowheori, nā Te Matau ā Māui i whakahaere, ā, i toa i a Manawatū Māori te taonga Ringa Raupā ki a Tūranganui ā Kiwa. E mihi ana ki ngā kaitautoko i ēnei kaupapa, e whakatinana tonu nei i ngā moemoea o te whutupōro Māori ahakoa ngā taumahatanga me ngā wero.

I tū anō Ngā Tohu Tākaro Māori i te Nōema, he nui hoki ngā Māori o te ao whutupōro i tae atu. E mihi ana ki a Ben O'Keeffe (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua) i toa i te taonga Te Aratiatia, te kaiwawao Māori toa o te tau me Clayton McMillan (Ngāti Rangi), te toa o te taonga Te Mau ō Tūmatauenga, te kaiako Māori toa o te tau. He nui hoki ngā Māori i whai wāhi ki te ASB Rugby Awards i riro i a Cory Sweeney rāua ko Rawinia Everitt ngā tohu kaiako, ā, i whakamihia a Stacey Waaka rāua ko Aaron Smith mō te pai o tā rāua tākaro i te tau 2023.

We were heartened to see New Zealand Rugby's Mind Set Engage programme partnered with Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority) in 2023 with the aim of improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes in Aotearoa, and with expanded delivery of this programme in regions such as Counties Manukau, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Canterbury and Southland, we hope that Māori in rugby find this programme beneficial to their hauora.

With the Rugby World Cup campaign from NZR focusing on manaaki, the Commercial and Cultural Committees of the Māori Rugby Board were engaged in the process, and were involved in the launch of the manaaki bench campaign in July 2023 at Ōrākei Marae. We would like to acknowledge the support and guidance in this campaign from Luke Crawford, Kaihautu Māori (Cultural Advisor) for New Zealand Rugby who has played a key role in guiding us all through the process. Me eke mai – our bench is your bench – is a call for all of us to check in on each other, and to take a moment and be still and listen to share, care, and be kind to ourselves and others.

Angitūtanga – Uplifting Māori lives

As mentioned earlier, numbers of Māori participating in rugby is on the up, and we are pleased to report that all three regional boards hosted tournaments, games and programmes in 2023. Te Waipounamu and Te Hiku o te Ika continued to host regional tournaments, while there are ongoing annual games and events that occur between Māori, Pasifika and provincial teams in some regions. For the first time since Covid, Te Tini ā Maui had a tournament in Hastings, hosted by Te Matau ā Maui –Manawatū Māori won the Ringa Raupa Taonga against Turanganui ā Kiwa. We want to thank all of the volunteers who make these tournaments happen, and keep the moemoea of regional Māori rugby alive, in what are sometimes challenging circumstances.

At the Māori Sports Awards in November, Māori in rugby were once again well-represented across all categories. Congratulations to Ben O'Keeffe (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua) winner of Te Aratiatia, the Māori Sports Umpire/Referee award and Clayton McMillan (Ngāti Rangi), winner of Te Mau ō Tūmatauenga, the Māori Sports Coach award. Māori also featured well in the ASB Rugby Awards with Cory Sweeney and Rawinia Everitt receiving coaching awards, while Stacey Waaka and Aaron Smith were acknowledged as players who had a stellar season in 2023.

I poho kererū hoki mātau ki ngā kaitākaro Māori o te kapa Ōpango o te kapu o te ao i autaia te tākaro, i Māori hoki te whakakanohi i a tātau. Kei ngā rangatira, ngā kaitākaro, ngā kaiako, ngā kaiāwhina me ngā kaimahi ā-hapori, ā-rohe, ā-motu me Aotearoa hoki e mihi ana ki te rourou a tēnā, a tēnā kia whanake, kia ora, kia eke tonu ai te whutupōro Māori.

Ko taku tau whakamutunga tēnei hei heamana mō te poari whutupōro Māori, nōku te maringa nui ki te ārahi, ki te tautoko hoki i te whanaketanga o te whutupōro Māori i tēnei wā e kaha panoni nei te whutupōro i Aotearoa. Ki te iwi Māori, ngā rangatira, ngā rangatahi, koutou e tākaro ana, koutou e mātaki ana, ngā mema poari me ngā kaitākaro, koutou katoa – kia kaha tonu, kia ū ki ō mātāpono kia eke ai koe.

Whāia e koe te iti Kahurangi ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei

Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

We were also extremely proud of our Māori players in the All Blacks Rugby World Cup squad who played exceptional rugby and represented tangata whenua with pride. As leaders, players, coaches, volunteers and kaimahi at the local, provincial, regional, national and international level, we appreciate what everyone does to keep the aspirations and achievements of Māori rugby thriving and striving.

This will be my last year as the Chair of the New Zealand Māori Rugby Board and I've been humbled and appreciative of the opportunity to play a small part in leading and supporting Māori rugby during a transformative time for rugby in New Zealand. To Māori in rugby, as rangatira and rangatahi, both on and off the field, around boardrooms and on rugby fields, and everything in between – keep striving, stay true to your values, and you will thrive.

Whāia e koe te iti Kahurangi ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei

Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

Kahurangi Dame Farah Palmer Professor Dame Farah Palmer New Zealand Māori Rugby Board Chair

forfice.

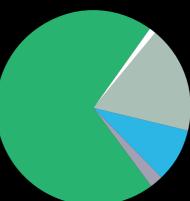
HIGHLIGHTS

KEY STATS FOR 2023

Aquel-1333

41,072 Players 9,504

2023 Playing System



Club 28,797

Sub Union 509

Secondary School 7,204

Primary School 3,741

Provincial Union 821

30,998Males
7,587



10,074 Females 1.917



21,378 Juniors 5,837



9,582 Teens **2,269**



10,112 Adults 1,398

209 Referees 79

1,960
Coaches
397 2023 was the second year participants were able to select a secondary ethnicity when registering to play, allowing for increased Māori representation on our registration data.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

THE BENCH

As the All Blacks headed away to France for the Rugby World Cup, they had all of New Zealand with them, as they extended their bench to the nation.

The "Bench for All" campaign saw 26 pae noho whakairoto – wooden benches – gifted to communities across the country, from Kaikohe to Bluff, Tikitiki to Westport, reaching each of the Provincial Unions. Players and management staff fully embraced the kaupapa, nominating locations personally meaningful to them, or to rugby's rich history. An additional group of benches were hand carved by NZ Māori Arts and Crafts Institute in Rotorua to be gifted to French cities and international commercial partners.

The campaign was steeped in te ao Māori, with manaakitanga being the central concept. Luke Crawford, NZR Kaihautu – Chief Māori Advisor, was played a significant, vital role as cultural kaitiaki in the project, ensuring that all campaign executions adhered to tikanga, overseeing relationships with Māori stakeholders, and that our culture was accurately portrayed and appreciated.

This included engaging a design/marketing agency with excellent tikanga practices and experience, and repurposing a tohu pattern designed by Tim Worrall, a Māori artist well grounded in tikanga arts and crafts. For the international events, Ngāti Ranana London Māori Club were engaged to bless the benches and enrich the events with waiata and haka, bringing a taste of te ao Māori to the world.

Manaaki remained the driving force of the project from launch in July to the tournament in October/November, with the first bench gifted to the Tikitiki community following the hard impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. Similarly, the All Blacks management group decided to hold their Rugby World Cup squad naming in Hawke's Bay to show aroha to the community following the weather events. The team spent a day on Tangoio Marae to help with rebuilding efforts of their damaged wharenui.

In sharing the kaupapa behind the benches, Crawford said "The whakapapa for this bench means to care for someone else, to make them bigger than yourself. On the rugby field the bench is the backbone of the team. It represents manaaki – the players who sit there have the backs of those on the field. Off the field, a bench is a place where people come together, share and connect.

"The New Zealand bench design features a manu or bird which takes flight from Aotearoa, just as our teams will perform on the world stage. In the centre of the design the eyes are formed by two seeds, shaped as rugby balls. As the wings unfurl, they release our potential, uplifting us all. No matter how our flight may take shape, by truly embracing each other we have succeeded already."

Me eke mai – our bench is your bench.



RECOGNITION

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASB RUGBY AWARDS

New Zealand Rugby Referee of the Year

Ben O'Keeffe (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua)

ASB National Women's Coach of the Year

Rawinia Everitt (Te Aupouri, Ngāti Kuri,

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou)

Tom French Memorial Māori Player of the Year

Winner: Aaron Smith (Ngāti Kahungunu, Manawatū)

Black Ferns Sevens Player of the Year

Winner: Stacey Waaka (Ngāi Tūhoe)

2023 MĀORI SPORTS AWARDS

Te Aratiatia | Māori Sports Umpire/ **Referee Of The Year**

Winner: Ben O'Keeffe (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua)

Te Maru Ō Tūmatauenga | Māori Sports Coach Of The Year

Winner: Clayton McMillan (Ngāti Rangi)

Māori Education Trust Scholarship

Winner: Jayda Maniapoto (Ngāti Awa,

Ngāti Maniapoto)

OTHER RECOGNITION

World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Year

Winner: Tyla Nathan-Wong (Ngā Puhi)

World Rugby Women's 15s Dream Team of the Year

Ruahei Demant (Te Whānau ā Apanui,

Tē Whakatōhea, Naāti Awa)

Krystal Murray (Te Paatu, Te Rarawa)

World Rugby Women's Breakthrough Player of the Year

Katelyn Vahaakolo (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Winner:

Ngāti Maniapoto)

2023 King's Birthday Honours -Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Rugby

Ruahei Demant (Te Whānau ā Apanui, Tē Whakatōhea,

Kennedy Simon (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Māhanga)

2023 Halberg Awards – Sport New Zealand **Leadership Award**

Sarah Hirini (Ngāti Kahungunu)



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 Kumara 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.

Our Value Statements

Te Ara Ranga Tira	The Chiefly Way
Tū Māori	Proud To Be Māori
Tū Whanau	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

In 2023, over 500 participants were part of the regional camps held across the country. Five Whatukura regional camps took place in Christchurch, Dunedin, Auckland, Rotorua and Levin (with a Gisborne camp being cancelled due to bad weather) and Timaru, Huntly and Palmerston North hosted three Māreikura camps. 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 Rotorua. Once again, they were supported by 50 rangatira while in camp. These camps resulted in the national sides being selected – in September, Ngā Whatukura defeated Northland U 19 and lost to NZ Barbarians; Naā Māreikura defeated the NZ Barbarians in October.

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 2023, the programme celebrated its first All Black representative when Tamaiti Williams became All Black # 1209.



NZ U18 MĀORI RUGBY

NEW ZEALAND MĀORI U 18 NGA MĀREIKURA GIRLS

Alizay Grant

(Te Whānau-ā-Apanui)

Amber Mundell

(Ngāpuhi)

Anahera Hamahona

(Ngāti Tūwharetoa (ki Taupō), Te lwi Mōrehu, Raukawa)

Anyis Drossaerts Lake

(Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Maniapoto)

Bailey Nightingale

(Ngāpuhi, Tainui)

Braxton Sorensen-McGee

(Ngāti Wai)

Georgina Hemopo

(Ngāti Ranginui, Tainui)

Hayley Gabriel

(Ngā Rauru)

Janelle Dhedadig

(Te Ātiawa (Taranaki))

Jordyn Tihore

(Ngāti Porou)

Justine McGregor

(Ngāti Porou) Kaea Nepia

(Tūhoe)

Keighley Simpson

(Te Ātiawa (Taranaki), Ngāti Maru)

Kesha Church

(Ngāti Tūwharetoa)

Kokako Raki

(Ngā Maihi)

Lashaye Blake (Tūhoe)

Lucy Mahuika

(Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)

Maia Davis

(Ngāti Hineuru, Ngāti Kahungungu)

Mikaya Kaipo

(Te Aupōuri, Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa)

Pearl Kahui

(Ngā Ruahinerangi)

Penelope Taulafo

(Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hauiti)

Te Atawhai Campbell

(Ngāpuhi)

Waimarie Rauhina

(Te lwi Mōrehu, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Ātihaunui-a-Pāpārangi)

MANAGEMENT

Jarvy Aoake (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Hinerangi, Ngāti Raukawa) Head Coach

Stephanie Te-Ohaere Fox

(Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Maru (Hauraki), Ngāti Porou) Forwards Coach

Te Rauoriwa Gapper

Backs Coach

2023 SEASON

06 October Pukekohe

NZ Māori Ngā • NZ Barbarian

Māreikura U18 U18 Girls

NEW ZEALAND U 18 MĀORI NGĀ WHATUKURA

Amaziah Mitchell

(Ngāti Porou)

Blake Lidgard

(Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)

Christian MacEwan

(Ngāti Awa)

Dylan Eti

(Ngāti Porou)

Hiraka Waitai-Haenga

(Ngāti Tūwharetoa)

Hoani Nikora-Wilson

(Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)

Hohepa Chandler

(Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)

Hone Mathison

(Ngāti Porou)

Jack McCarthy

(Ngāti Tūwharetoa)

Jimmy Pender

(Whakatōhea, Te Arawa -Ngāti Rangiwewehi)

Joe Parkinson

(Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)

Kurtis Hana

(Ngāti Ruahine)

Liam Anderson (Ngāpuhi)

Liam Sturm

(Ngāti Te Wehi)

Lucas Te Rangi

(Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa)

Mac Russ

(Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa)

Maiti Leef

(Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahungunu)

Oscar Ritchie

(Ngāti Porou)

Phoenix Tapatu

(Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)

Quinn Sturmey

(Ngā Rauru, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi)

Reimana Saunderson-

Rurawhe

(Ngāti Apa)

Ryan Dunn

(Ngāti Awa)

Stanley Solomon

(Ngāi Tahu, Kāi Tahu)

Taiora Cameron (Ngāti Mutunga, Te Āti Āwa)

Will Cole

(Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)

MANAGEMENT

Kahu Carey

(Rangitāne, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō) Head Coach

Willie Brown

(Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Porou) Coach

Jackson Willison

(Ngāti Mahuta, Waikato) Coach

Scott Palmer

(Ngāti Kahu, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Paoa) Coach

2023 SEASON

23 September Hamilton

NZ Māori U18 • Northland U19

Hamilton 28 September

NZ Māori U18 • NZ Barbarian U18

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2023	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL
Income			
Grants from NZRU ¹	\$151,494	\$177,000	\$2,044,793
Sport NZ Contribution to Regional Grants ²	_	-	\$ 127,907
Interest income ³	\$102,382	-	\$21,838
Total income	\$253,875	\$177,000	\$2,194,539
Expenditure			
Regional Operating Grants ⁴	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$ 127,907
Board Member Fees ⁵	\$35,443	\$41,600	\$16,800
Operational Overheads (Travel & Accommodation)	\$20,325	\$39,400	\$ 19,973
General Expenses	\$5,726	\$6,000	\$8,021
Total expenditure	\$151,494	\$177,000	\$172,700
Net profit	\$102,382	-	\$2,021,838

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2023	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL
Assets			
SSI Grant from NZRU ^{1&3}	\$2,124,220	-	\$2,021,838
Total assets	\$2,124,220	-	\$2,021,838
Liabilities	-	-	-
Equity			
Retained Earnings	\$2,124,220	-	\$2,021,838
Total equity	\$2,124,220	-	\$2,021,838

In 2022 the NZMRB received a \$2.0m Short Term Stakeholder Investment payment (SSI) from NZR as part of the investment into NZR by Silver Lake. This has been restated as income in 2022 to record the asset from NZR.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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.

- Funding for two Māori Under 18 development teams, 8 regional camps and 2 national camps.
- 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 NZMPR









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² In 2022 Sport NZ provided COVID-19 support funding to NZR for Māori Regional Tournaments. This was carried forward from 2021.

³ NZMRB chose to invest the \$2.0m with NZR's other cash reserves, pending decisions on how to utilise the funds. In 2022 interest was earned at an average interest rate of 3.26% per annum which generated \$22k of interest income. In 2023 an average interest rate of 4.95% resulted in an additional \$102k of interest income.

⁴ Where regional activity took place, grants were distributed to the appropriate Māori Regional Board.

 $^{^{5}}$ Remuneration for NZMRB for face-to-face meetings. Actual amount reflects actual attendance at board meetings.

