



# 105<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2024

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the New Plymouth Old Boys' Rugby Football & Sports Club - to be held in the clubrooms, Vogeltown Park, Carrington Street, on Monday 4 November 2024 at 7 pm.

## AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and Notice of Meeting
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Obituaries/bereavements
- 4) Minutes of last AGM
- 5) Matters Arising from previous minutes
- 6) Chairman's report
- 7) Sponsorship report
- 8) Team reports
- 9) Performance Report
- 10) Election of Officers
- 11) General business

## OFFICE HOLDERS FOR THE 2024 SEASON

<b>PATRON:</b>	S. Moore		
<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	K. Mawson		
<b>SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	N. Barnes		
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS:</b>	R. Sleep	G. White	
	M. Topless	B. Sutton	R. Lilley
	B. Wood	P. Darney	S. Roylance
	I. Anderson	K. Armstrong	K. Mawson
<b>HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS:</b>	G. Earl	D. Lean	
	B. Gould	W. Williams	P. Morrison
	B. Davis	P. O'Neill	G. Lilley
	P. Saunders	J. Mitchell	
<b>LIFE MEMBERS:</b>	R. J. Muir*	A.C. Read	R. Sleep
<b>*DENOTES DECEASED</b>	R. A. Roper*	N. Barnes	M. Carr
	Mrs S. Mitchell*	G.C. Earl	A. Slater
	J. W. Bennett*	P.J. Morrison	P. Darney
<b>HONORARY SOLICITOR:</b>	H. Froude		
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>			
<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	S. Cloke		
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Y. Preston		
<b>TREASURER/FINANCE:</b>	L. McBride		
<b>CLUB CAPTAIN:</b>	P. Darney		
<b>SPONSORSHIP COORDINATORS:</b>	K. Mawson, N. Loft, M. Harold		

JUNIOR CONVENOR:	B. Morgan
RUGBY MANAGER:	J. Looney
FUNDING APPLICATIONS:	L. French-Wright
MARKETING/COMMS:	A. Boslem
FACILITIES:	J. Mitchell
EVENTS:	N. Hintz
<b>EVENT COORDINATORS:</b>	N. Looney, A. Morris, K. Purcell
<b>PREMIER</b>	
COACHES:	A. Slater H. Mitchell J. Looney
TEAM MANAGER:	S. Roylance
<b>DIVISION 1</b>	
COACHES:	M. Harold P. Gard
TEAM MANAGERS:	T. Landrigan C. Harold
<b>COLTS</b>	
COACHES:	R. Lilley D. Stewart
TEAM MANAGER:	S. Douglas
<b>U85 Half Pints:</b>	M. Harold

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Members,

As we gather for our Annual General Meeting, I am proud to reflect on another rugby season for New Plymouth Old Boys Rugby Club. It is a chance to think of all that we have achieved and to look forward to the coming season and what we still need to achieve.

Our teams worked hard across the season to field teams each week in the face of unprecedented injury numbers, unfortunately our Pepper Construction Colts couldn't sustain injury numbers and did not see out the season. BCD Premiers had numerous games where fielding a front row seemed unlikely. Also Division 1 were the shining stars bringing home the Division 1 Cup.

The newly formed Events Committee put a lot of energy into their events, with successful theme nights, ladies day and a newly formatted Prize-Giving. These events saw new and old members and supporters enjoying the club atmosphere and getting involved.

We had some new board members assisting us this season, Nicola Loft - Sponsorship & Funding, Matt Harold - Sponsorship & Gear and Natasha Hintz - Events, thank-you. Without people putting up their hands for board positions we simply cannot function or move forward. To those board members who have chosen that the time is right to step away, I thank you for all the many, many hours you have contributed and the support you have given myself and the board, you will be sorely missed.

Challenges Ahead: While we have had successes, we face challenges, particularly in sustaining our volunteer base and increasing engagement among our junior and senior teams. I urge all members to consider how they can contribute, whether through volunteering, assisting with events, fundraising and/or supporting our bar and kitchen.

We have new coaching teams, new board members, a new caterer and a new bar manager, with these appointments it will bring a new energy and enthusiasm to the club and we hope new supporters and players.

The 2025 Board will be tasked with revising and finalising our vision and strategy, continuing work on recruiting and retaining players and coaches and lifting the engagement with our volunteers and supporters. We will build on the foundations we have already in place, being our Club handbook, Club structure document, Player welfare document and work with the newly formed players group to ensure we deliver on what matters most.

As members of New Plymouth Old Boys Rugby Club, there is much work to do and we can all make a difference, but we need to commit, to the club, to our stakeholders, to each other. We value each and every contribution and thrive on new ideas and feedback.

I would like to express my gratitude to the coaching staff, board members, volunteers for your support and dedication, it has been fantastic. Together, we can continue to build a thriving rugby community at NPOB.

*Sonia Cloke, Club Chair NPOB*

## BEREAVEMENTS

The club wishes to pass on sincere condolences to all those who lost a loved one this season.

Graeme (Lofty) Adlam

Brett Coombe

Don Slater

Larry Stewart

Murray (Fuzz) Williams

## HIGHER HONOURS AND REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

With great coaching and mentoring comes great players. Once again New Plymouth Old Boys have a number of players who achieved representative status:

PLAYER	TEAM
Tupou Vaa'i	All Blacks Chiefs Taranaki Bulls
Bradley Slater	All Blacks All Black XV Chiefs
Kaylum Boshier Reuben O'Neill	Chiefs Taranaki Bulls
Perry Lawrence	NZ Māori XV Taranaki Bulls
Toby Burkett Michael Loft Jackson Morgan Mitchell O'Neill Brayton Northcott-Hill JJ Pokai Fiti Sa Jayden Sa Bradley Slater Rowan Slater	Taranaki Bulls
Toby Burkett Mason Milham Jack Parker JJ Pokai Rowan Slater Joel Williamson	Taranaki Development
Jacob Hart Jacob Hawkins	Taranaki U19
Michael Loft Mitch O'Neill Brayton Northcott-Hill	Chiefs Development
Michael Loft Brayton Northcott-Hill	Invitation Teams Hong Kong 10's
Tom Florence Daniel Waite	Japan Contracts
40 boys and girls	Ross Brown

## SPONSORSHIP REPORT

On behalf of the NPOB Rugby Club I would like to thank all of our Sponsors for their support during the 2024 season. As a Club we are very fortunate to have supportive, long-term sponsors that enables the Club to provide an opportunity for its junior and senior members to play a team sport in a supportive community environment.

As a Club we have had continued ongoing annual support from our major sponsors which includes our Club sponsor **PAK'nSAVE** (which changed ownership part way through the season) Premier Team sponsor **BCD Group**, Division 1 Team sponsor **ALSCO NZ**, Colts Team sponsor **Pepper Construction**, Under 85 Team sponsor **Spark Metal Fabrication** and Junior Club sponsors **Mark Newman Memorial Trust**, **The Good Home**, **Entire Electrical**, **Fire Protection**. The Club also received fantastic support from its gear sponsors **Kingsway Menswear**, rugby shorts sponsor **Revital Fertilisers** and official bar sponsor **The Good Home**.

We would like to also acknowledge the support of our Associate Sponsors who provide a range of services and support for the Club: Cheers Digital, Cunningham Construction, DB Breweries, Dobson + Sons Canvas, Engineering Consultants NZ, Neville Ritson, NZ Community Trust (NZCT), Pelorus Trust, Phoenix Shipping, Physiotherapy@Carefirst, Primo, Hintz Family, Waite family, Carters, Rampage Fitness and Schurr and Ireland Accountants.

A large portion of our sponsorship funds is generated from the Premier Team Player Sponsors and Match Day Sponsors and we would like to thank these sponsors, a lot of whom have been part of the Club for many years: AB Electrical, Andrew Darney Vanburwray, Chad Niwa Building, Chemwash Taranaki, Cohesive Construction, Corson Tyres, Craig Investment Partners, Crossan Builders, Egmont Seafoods, FMG Insurance, JGP Ltd, Josh Rei Tiling, Legal Solutions - Carrington + Ussher, Mangonui Bull Hire, Marsh Limited, McDonald Everest Insurance Brokers, Metalcraft Roofing, Ritson Holdings, Rob Mason Electrical & Security, Savvy Gas Plumbing and Drainage, Sterile Welco Engineering Services, TCM Ltd, Timberco, Value Building Supplies- ITM North and Warren & Claire Bolton.



The Club had changes with the sponsorship personnel in 2024 with Nicola Loft and Matt Harold working hard to get around the sponsors to deliver positive and tangible returns for them. Nic and Matt are looking to make some changes to the sponsorship packages in 2025 to provide increased offerings and opportunities. The sponsors are the lifeblood of the Club especially with pressure on community trust funding and ensuring we are delivering benefits for the sponsors in the future will be critical.

We encourage Club members to support our sponsors and so that they can support NPOB Rugby.

*Keith Mawson, Nicola Loft and Matt Harold - Sponsorship Coordinators*

## SPONSORS

<b>CLUB SPONSOR</b>	<b>PAK'NSAVE</b>
<b>JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB SPONSOR</b>	Pak'nSave Mark Newman Memorial Trust The Good Home Entire Electrical Fire Protection
<b>PREMIER TEAM SPONSOR</b>	BCD Group Ltd
<b>SENIOR DIVISION 1 TEAM SPONSOR</b>	Alsco NZ
<b>COLTS SPONSOR AND SCOREBOARD FIELD 2</b>	Pepper Construction
<b>U85 HALF PINTS</b>	Spark Metal Fabrication Josh Rei Tiling Milwards Roofing Nag n Noggin The Concrete Guy
<b>GEAR SPONSOR</b>	Kingsway Menswear
<b>SHORTS SPONSOR</b>	Revital Fertilisers
<b>OFFICIAL BAR</b>	The Good Home
<b>PREMIER TEAM JERSEY SPONSORS</b>	AB Electrical Warren & Claire Bolton Andrew Darney - Vanburwray Chad Niwa Building Chemwash Taranaki Cohesive Construction Corson Tyres Crossan Builders Egmont Seafoods FMG Insurance Josh Rei Tiling Legal Solutions + Carrington Ussher

	<p>Mangonui Bull Hire  Marsh Limited  McDonald Everest Insurance Brokers  Metalcraft Roofing  Luke O'Neill - Harcourts  Ritson Holdings  Rob Mason Electrical &amp; Security  Savvygas Plumbing and Drainage  Sterile Welco Services  TCM Ltd  Timberco  Value Building Supplies (ITM North)</p>
<b>MATCH DAY SPONSORS</b>	<p>Craig Investment Partners  JGP Ltd</p>
<b>ASSOCIATE SPONSORS</b>	<p>Carters  Cheers Digital  Cunningham Construction  DB Breweries  Dobson + Sons Canvas  Engineering Consultants NZ  Hintz family  NZ Community Trust (NZCT)  Pelorus Trust  Phoenix Shipping Agencies Ltd  Physiotherapy@Carefirst  Primo  Rampage Fitness  Neville Ritson  Schurr and Ireland  Waite family</p>

## BCD GROUP - PREMIER REPORT

The 2024 season started with some key players missing from the winning championship 2023 team. This was seen as an opportunity to promote some of our Colts and Division 1 players into the squad - a test of depth within the club.

Our pre-season was a little disrupted with unavailability of players and injuries. We were unable to field a team for the Hamilton Old Boys \$10K tournament but picked up a game against College Old Boys from Palmerston North, along with the traditional game against Clifton. We struggled numbers wise and unfortunately picked up a few more unwanted injuries.

The format for the season changed - the first round was called the Championship round and teams were split into odds and evens, going by last year's placing. The last placed team (even number) selected first etc. until there was two teams left, ranked 1 and 2.

We played Stratford away and it was a repeat of last year's final, a game we needed little motivation for. The game itself started slowly with the normal first-up game nerves and trading points in a tight first half then it opened up in the second half for a comfortable 27-3 win. Next up was a home game - Tukapa on Old Timers day. Again, little motivation was needed. Wet, difficult conditions resulted in a tight game but we managed to wrestle our way to a 13-3 win.

This was followed by Southern away, never an easy team to play at home and this proved to be the case again. Both teams had domination but were unable to capitalize with the game grinding to a 31 all draw. The Southern performance didn't sit too well the team who went about a demolition job in the next home game against Inglewood- notching up a score of 77-19.

Coastal away is always a challenge, and it was from this game forward that our squad depth and season came under fire. We lost 19-13 but it was the number of injuries collected that was of more concern. With the first round now complete and Coastal retaining the McLeod Shield, the bruised and battered Premis now faced Clifton away. Due to the large number of injuries the team was carrying, we

had to start two of our props as loose forwards. Clifton came out to play, running in tires as only Clifton can when their tails are up and headed into the break with a 28-5 lead. To our credit, we fought back in the second half, but a few costly mistakes let them off the hook, with Clifton taking the win 38-36.

Next game up we were pushed all the way by a good Spotwood team, winning 35-27, but again more players ended up on the injury list. Going into the Stratford game we were now relying heavily on the Division 1 players to fill gaps in our depleted forward pack. It's a tough call to play 80 mins then sit on the bench for the prems. The Stratford game summed up our season, played some great footy but as the game unfolded and attrition set in, we were unable to introduce fresh players to keep our momentum. The most concerning outcome from this game was not the 39-35 loss but facing yet more injuries.

Tukapa lay in wait and could smell blood. The number of injuries the team was carrying was well publicised and there wasn't a lot left in our arsenal to keep a fired up Tukapa team in check - they stormed to a 43-3 win.

From here we needed to win two of our remaining three games if we were to make the semi's. A tough task that continued to get tougher with the loss of another player from the Tukapa game. Southern were also pushing for the semis spot and came to New Plymouth with added motivation. Southern muscled up in wet conditions and played to their strengths winning 45-7.

Our next game was Inglewood away - with the number of injuries this game was a tricky proposition. We managed to grab a late try to win 40-34, a gutsy performance and much needed win.

Our last game of the season was a must-win against Coastal at home. Much like the Stratford game, we were in it and dominated for large periods of the game but couldn't put them away. Coastal were able to score off our mistakes and finished stronger to win 42-34.

2024 season was a challenging season for all involved. Sport throws curve balls - we were able withstand them for much of the season but ultimately the timing of injuries and the resulting loss of key players put pressure on the depth of the club.

A huge thank you must go to the men who continually put their hands up to bench for us. Some of these men played 80 minutes for the Division 1 and were asked to play another 30 minutes for the prems, and in some cases even longer.

Despite the carnage that was our 2024 season there were positives. We were able to promote some talented young men from the Colts and Division 1. This promotion was not how we would have liked it to unfold - the sink or swim method can have its pitfalls. However, everyone who was asked to stand up did just that and will be better players for the experience, as was the Club.

A massive thank you to all coaches, Slates, Behar and Waitsy, to Spud our Manager (a one man band this year), Billy our video analyst, and Coombesy our physio, who was the most over worked man in our team this season. There's lots of moving parts in this but once again your dedication and passion for the team and club ensured there were few issues.

Thank you to BCD and all the sponsors for your part in making this season possible and to the Board for your tireless efforts throughout the year.

Lastly, a massive congratulations to the Division 1's on your championship! We cannot thank you enough for putting our needs before your own at times throughout the season. This selflessness is a true reflection of the club culture, and this will ensure the club will remain strong in the coming years.

*Justin looney (Judda) - Rugby Manager and Coach*

## ALSCO - DIVISION 1 REPORT

The Division 1 side came into the 2024 season looking to go one better and take back the trophy that Southern had ripped from their grasp the year prior.

2023 Coach Matt Harold after a successful two years at the helm had been 'fizzed' and replaced by 2020 champion Phil Gard, could the PC Principal lead this side back to its former glory? Only time would tell.

Signs weren't encouraging at the early stages of the season with training numbers at single figures, something Coach Harold had become accustomed to. Could Phil handle this sort of adversity?

These were the questions on everyone's lips as the boys travelled down to Stratford for their first game of the season in atrocious conditions. With only 15 players, the majority playing out of position and no practice under their belts, the boys put in a big 80-minute shift in the end going down 24-12. A repeat of last year's first up result. The defensive effort from the forwards was a positive in this match, but in a grade with rolling subs, 15 vs 28 players is too big of a mountain to climb.

Next up was Tukapa at home on Old Timers. The boys never lack motivation on a day like this and it showed, 41-17 the victors in torrential rain. The boys were back in business.

Then alas, only 15 boys showed up for Southern in Hawera, an impossible task. The boys fought valiantly but lost that one 26-7, Phil was wondering what the hell he had got himself into.

A match against a depleted Inglewood side was just what the doctor ordered, 40-7 to NPOB, could the team turn the season around and put in one of these performances against a quality side?

Well at that moment in time, the answer was no. NPOB Div 1 then going down to Coastal 41-31. A tough game with another small squad, but plenty of fight left in our troops heading into round two, where we now just sit one win off second place thanks to the beautiful points halving at the end of round one.

The lads started off the Premiership round with a hiss and a roar, taking out Clifton and Spotswood with ease and then flipping the result on Stratford Eltham with a clinical performance. The boys were finding some momentum. However, injuries were mounting across the club, and for the next few weeks we would be without our starting front row. A hooker was needed to guide the lads through to the finals. Matt Harold pleaded with Phil Gard that he was destined for this role after his years of studying the intricacies of Caleb Mawson and James Wilsons game. Phil ended up caving, a decision he would not regret.

The team finished off the round taking down Coastal, Southern and Inglewood at home with a loss to Tukapa sprinkled in the mix, meaning the boys would host a semi final against their old foes at Vogeltown park.

Injuries were mounting in key positions which no doubt was keeping Phil up at night, however it was 'next man up' and a number of Colts and Premier boys were eligible to don the Alsco Division 1 Jersey for our finals run.

In a thrilling semifinal showdown, NPOB faced Tukapa, aiming to silence their earlier bravado after a 3-nil sweep at Sanders Park. In all honesty, this match looked like it was getting away on us, however some Whetu Cameron magic before the half inspired a comeback from 25-12 down to go up 1 with a few minutes to spare. But soon after the kick off, a recovery to Tukapa and some cynical play from us gave the chooks a gimme in front. Over it went. And just like that, Tukapa had a two point lead. Kneepkens pointed to the supposed ice running through his veins, thinking this one was all sealed up.

But this one was about as sealed up as an open envelope. With one minute remaining, we got the ball back after the kick off and a penalty was awarded to us this time. 40 metres out. Time up on the clock. Cometh the day, cometh the Rei. If Kneepkens had ice in his veins, J Rei had liquid nitrogen. He lined up the game-winning kick. Took a deep breath. His family looked on. His teammates looked on. The left to right breeze blew. The crowd went deathly silent. He struck the ball. Up it went. And over it went! The game was won. The crowd went wild. Asked about his heroics in the post-game interview, captain J Rei, simply responded: "What's there to be happy about? Job's not finished." Too right it isn't. A finals



rematch awaited us. Up against almighty Southern who dominated their semi-final and had that trophy we so desperately wanted back.

Onto Yarrows Stadium we went. Well, field number 4 to be exact, much to the playing group and coaching staff's disgust. How quick were they to forget who our fearless first five was and what he had achieved on this very ground? The Ass Management group knew, and they knew they were in for something special from that man today.

As I write this, I am struggling to remember the finer details of this brilliant occasion. Some say it was the mixture of painkillers and \$15 beers at the ground, but I think it was the pace, physicality and quality of rugby in this match that would have some mistaking it for a Premier final.

Back and forth it went, going try for try with Southern sneaking ahead by 6 with just as many minutes on the clock. Their sideline was chahooing, one hand already on the trophy, or so they thought. Not on Josh Hamilton's watch. He knows every blade of grass on this field. Gliding through their defence like he did to this NPOB side when he once donned the Spotty Dog colours, scoring the would be match winner and giving a 'Fins up' to boot, breaking the hearts of Southern players and supporters everywhere.

The team had done the unthinkable, five finals in a row and the third title in that span.

As the final hooter sounded, the 28-man squad was reminded of the team effort that led to this emphatic victory. From the injured over-30's stalwarts hobbling over to celebrate, to the families cheering on the side-lines, who supported our men each game-day and stuck by them through their shenanigans off the pitch. From the courageous Colts and prestigious Premier players who joined our squad throughout the year, to the wonderful women and men in the Club working hard behind the scenes. Thank you.

Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives.

*Matt Harold - Coach*

## PEPPER CONSTRUCTION LTD - COLTS REPORT

Coaches for this season were Ross Lilley and Dean Stewart along with Shane Douglas as Manager.

This season saw the Colts struggling for numbers right from the start of the season. We were able to have five players leave and join the Division 1 and Premier Team but I felt recruitment was good with 7 new players joining COLTure.

First up was Stratford/Eltham with only two full practices and 17 players where we lost a tight game 15/8.

Our second game was against Tukapa who were the eventual winners of the Colts competition. Whilst numbers were still short we were able to win 39/18.

However over the next 4 weeks we were usually between 16 and 18 players with a win, a couple of losses and a default. By this stage we were struck with numerous injuries that were season ending injuries and therefore not actually having a starting 15.

Going into the second round with Stratford/Eltham we started that game under the game on rules with 13 players and ended with a broken leg and broken shoulder and defaulting that game at half time.

So obviously a really difficult and disappointing season because without the injuries we were capable of performing even with limited numbers.

The problem with limited numbers and the injuries was that we could not get numbers to training and therefore only trained on Thursdays which saw a lack of fitness and game plan which with our numbers had us always struggling come game time with no bench.

There will be further players leaving COLTure this season to the Division 1 team and therefore recruitment in the coming season is going to be very important to keep the Colts viable.

I have been with the Colts now for 5 years and will finish this year. I think it's probably time for a new direction.

*Ross Lilley - Coach*

## SPARK METAL FABRICATION - U85 HALF PINTS

The NPOB u85 Half Pints season was full of promise after a strong showing in 2023. We welcomed many new faces to the side after losing some senior campaigners to greener pastures across the Tasman.

In 2024, the u85 tournament began after the club season was done, and attention spans were everywhere else but the footy field.

For the first round, we met the Johnsonville Terrahawks in Whanganui. Scrum technician Joel Williamson took one look at the opposition's warm up and knew that this was going to be a one sided match. NPOB ended up running away with it 91-17. The coaching group learnt very little from this result with the exception that Willy Luff is a senior 3rds midfielder at best. Jade Taylor, Mason Milham and Jack Parker all scored hat tricks, but then abandoned us for the rest of the tournament for average rep footy and the pleasures that the Hong Kong underworld has to offer.

The next round saw the Half Pints travel to Wellington to face the OBU Scallywags. The betrayal of the aforementioned key players along with a few fatties missing weight meant this match was going to be an uphill battle.

We lost 27-15. Season over. Some blame the wind, some blame the travel time, some even blame the fact that we had 10 players sent to the bin during the match but it was clear yet again to all watching who was to blame, William Luff. He had somehow found a way to transfer his rugby skills and IQ to our courageous Captain Wheatley.

We look forward to the 2025 season, where the board will be looking to clean house and replace the entire coaching and management group and start fresh. Rumours have it that the 'Bash Brothers' have finished their OE and will be returning, and William Luff has started his in the UK. Addition by subtraction.

Thanks to all of our sponsors:

Spark Metal Fabrication, Nag n Noggin, The Concrete Guy, Josh Rei Tiling and Milwards Roofing.

See you all again next year.

*Joel Williamson - Lineout & Scrum Technician.*

## PAK'NSAVE JUNIOR CLUB REPORT

*TEAMS: 13 (including 2 x girls rugby teams).*

*REGISTERED PLAYERS: 210 (an increase of 11 players from 2023)*

2024 saw registrations increase within the junior rugby space with kids from 4 years up to 13 years old. The increase in numbers saw a second girls rugby team registered in the Friday night schedule - an increase on the one team we had in 2023. This allowed the club to participate over all age group competitions.

A coaches and managers meeting was organised prior to the commencement of the season to ensure everyone was on the same page and had the necessary information and equipment needed to get through the season. I believe this allowed an open forum to discuss improvements and how we as a club can prepare and support our volunteers to ensure a successful season. This was supported by the TRFU with two community officers present. This was a way for us to work with each other to ensure the best outcome for all age groups.

A highlight of the season was having over 40 boys and girls represent NPOB in the Taranaki representative festival in Hawera - with representation in the Michala Blyde, Conrad Smith and Ross Brown teams. This is the largest representation NPOB has had in these tournaments to date. All kids represented the club extremely well in their given divisions.

2024 saw NPOB enter three teams in the New Zealand junior rugby festival with 135 teams and 600+ games played over four days in September. Both individually and as teams, NPOB punched well above its weight not only within the regular season but also in representative teams and at tournaments. The teams put in good performances at Taupo with representatives from all teams being named in tournament teams including - Mac Hammond - U10s, Maximus Munro u11s, Ngatai Mason and Kylan Booker u12's. With planning underway for 2025, NPOB are aiming to represent the club in all four available grades. A big thank you to the Board for the support for the 2024 Taupo with support in supplying buddy gifts and providing the marquee for our team to use whilst at the tournament.

Lastly, the 2024 prizegiving allowed us as a club to recognise and acknowledge the growth of all our junior players and the hard work they have put in this season. The prizegiving was broken into two time slots, U6s, U7, U8 and U9s in the morning and U10s, U11, U12 and U13 at midday and it was pleasing to see the Whitehouse filled to the brim with players and whānau with over 200 people through the club. It was great to see all age groups and teams come together and interact as one club. Team and club culture is such an important aspect of any organization and to see hundreds of people in our clubrooms support and cheer for each other is truly a wonderful thing and one that I hope we can continue to do annually.

A big thanks to all the volunteers, committees, whānau who supported junior rugby this year, and especially to Pak'nSave New Plymouth - with your support we were able to feed hundreds of junior kids every Saturday with the donation of sausages bread and player of the day packs

2024 was an enjoyable season for all and we look forward to 2025.

Thanks

*Blake Morgan - Junior Convenor*