



AquaTaxi Riwaka Rugby Club Newsletter 8 August 2016

Hello and welcome to our August Newsletter!

With the end of both the senior and JAB club rugby season it's time to reflect on the previous year and see how we can improve and start planning for the future.

Last year the committee decided it was time to focus on all levels of rugby at the club and community, rather than just the elite level. We knew this wasn't going to be an easy task given the challenges rugby faces, with declining playing numbers and our perceived isolation out at Riwaka. We went ahead anyway and fortunately for us Tito was on hand to support our goals and establish RFit gym and the RFit Rugby Development Programme.

Both of these have been a huge success for the club. Senior playing numbers are strong, we have good representation in the Kahurangi Team and AquaTaxi Riwaka made the Division 2 final. Our JAB teams have also had a solid year with our Under 9 team doing particularly well, so the future looks good for the club.

One of the problems I see (my personal view) going forward, is the lack of rugby opportunities for those that are too old for age grade rugby and not yet good enough or not interested in Division 2 rugby. To me there seems to be a gap which a number of players are falling through. I would like to see some leadership from the TRU in providing more opportunities for these players; otherwise they will be lost to the game.

Looking to the future, the club is expanding the development programme to include both JAB and age grade players. We will continue to run our senior programme and add a junior programme for JAB players and an intermediate programme for age grade players. The programme is open to Motueka High School Rugby Club members and we would also like to get our programme into primary schools in the Motueka area. So watch this space.

As part of the development programme we would also like to develop and encourage coaches. The development programme will include a number of trainers which will work alongside Tito during training sessions. We encourage anyone interested in becoming a coach or improving their coaching skills to become one of these trainers.

For more information on the programme please contact admin@riwakarugbyclub.nz or visit

<http://www.riwakarugbyclub.nz/community-rugby-development-programme.html>

Next season we are committed to providing rugby for everyone who wants to play and a pathway for those who want to go onto higher honours. With this in mind we have committed to the Kahurangi team for next year and are already working towards a strong Division 2 team. We would also like to get our women's team back together and increase playing numbers at JAB level.

We hope these things will all contribute to a great 2017 season.

Before I finish, there are some people I want to thank for their recent generosity. The first is Kerry Diamond from Lifestyle Centre Riwaka. Kerry kindly donated a chainsaw for us to raffle off at the Hunting Club Competition, from which we received approximately \$700 in ticket sales. Thanks Kerry and yes your sign has been changed. The second person I would like to thank is Fred Thomas. Fred generously donated back his 100 club prize money to the Club. Thanks Fred.

And thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and supporters – without all of your efforts, we can't achieve our goals, so thank you!

Congratulations

Well done to last season's development programme members who have made representative sides.

- Under 16's Josh Stock and Jan Lammer
- Under 18's Eden Beech
- Under 19's Victor Kelly and
- Heartland: Brad Tunnicliffe

JAB

With the club season over its time for the prize giving function. Prize giving is scheduled for this Saturday at the Clubrooms from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm and everyone is welcome.

A huge congrats to our Under 9 seven a side team which beat Moutere Magpies 4-2 to win the Stoke Rugby Club Mike's Sevens tournament recently. 56 teams contested the tournament involving close to 700 young players so it was a fantastic effort by all involved.

Ambrose Golf Tournament

The annual Riwaka RFC ambrose golf tournament is on again this year. The tournament will be held on 30 October at Motueka and is open to teams of four. I will provide more information closer to the event.

