

PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE NEW ZEALAND 2021 WRAP UP



ACHIEVEMENTS

3 x Campbell Cups played

1ST Inter Island PDRL Challenge

2 PDRLNZ RLWC squad camps

Coach Ray— Winner Pirtek Volunteer of the Year



Radio Kahungunu live Interviews with Kevin Tamiti x 12

PDRL inaugural International Classification system created

PDRLNZ Classifiers selected and trained

So here we are at the end of another year...a year we didn't expect, a year in which we have had to pull together again, but through the ups and downs of 2021 we made it!

We were especially thankful for being the only country playing Physical Disability Rugby League in the world again, managing to get a 3 game competition in over the season.

After an almost 3 year gap since the 2018 Emerging Nations in Sydney, we had our first PDRLNZ squad camp in May, to prepare for the inaugural PDRL RLWC. It was an amazing camp, plenty of learning was had and good memories were made.



August was PDRLNZ squad camp number 2, this time in Christchurch, which also included the inaugural Inter



Island Challenge. We were well looked after by our wonderful hosts Hornby Rugby League, their manaakitanga to our athletes, supporters and management was incredible. Congratulations to the Southern Warriors on a valiant win over the Northern Stars in a hard fought game.

With the announcement that the RLWC was to be postponed for another year, we managed to pick ourselves up again and continued to keep our eyes on the prize. We now have the wheels moving again with dates almost confirmed at the time of writing for the PDRL RWLC in Warrington England October 2022. A six nation contest—Wales, Scotland, England, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand where we will endeavor to do the very best we can to bring that Cup home to Aotearoa with our name engraved on it forever.

A huge hole has been left in our PDRLNZ family with the sudden passing of our only NZ ref and great friend Peter Griffiths. Our hearts have all been touched by Pete in some way or other, from the bags of lollies, the water balloons after trainings, the refereeing of our Campbell Cup games, the inaugural Inter Island Challenge and at our NZ camp. Pete was always ready to lend a helping hand at sausage sizzles, our caller at our bingo fundraisers...the list goes on. We love you Pete, and will see you again.



Thank you to everyone who has made this year great, our awesome volunteers, supporters, players, our coaches, trainers, Board members, Ambassador Cliff Beverley, KT, Chippy Hireme, Barbara Murphy and New Lynn Stags, Jen and Hamish our PDRLNZ classifiers, NZRL, ARL...you are all superstars. Here's to a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



Stay safe, enjoy your families and God bless.

Sandra Hickey