



2019 WRAP UP

DECEMBER 2019

South Pacific 9's Challenge

FMG Stadium Waikato



Michael Kulene (C)

Polynesia All Stars

Gary Endacott (C)

Invitational All Stars

Saturday October 26th saw our first big game at home in front of family and friends as the Polynesian All Stars took on the Invitational All Stars in an exciting match.

The South Pacific 9's challenge was the much anticipated culmination for PDRLNZ's year and with players from Christchurch, Taupo, Tokoroa, Sydney and Auckland making up the teams a great spectacle of Rugby League was on display.

A great show of passion, determination, grit, and adrenalin...everything you

would expect by our awesome athletes.

Polynesia All Stars captained by Michael Kulene were the eventual winners coming in with a 20 -10 defeat over Captain Gary Endacott's Invitational All Stars.

Huge shout out to everyone that made this happen and to our Special guest International PDRL Founder George Tonna helping out with the water.

We can't thank you all enough!

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ♦ *NZRL Cabinet Unveiling*
- ♦ *Campbell Cup Launched*
- ♦ *Fundraiser Kiwi v Tonga*
- ♦ *Tony Tatupu Ambassador*
- ♦ *Kiwi League Show*
- ♦ *Tagata Pasifika*
- ♦ *FMG Stadium Curtainraiser*
- ♦ *Kiwis reunion lunch*



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PDRLNZ New Ambassador Tony Tatupu



KIWI # 657 AND WARRIOR #12
TONY TATUPU

"IT IS AN ABSOLUTE HONOUR TO HAVE
BEEN CONSIDERED FOR THE
AMBASSADOR POSITION AND IT WAS AN
EASY DECISION AFTER HAVING MET THE
PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE
NZ TEAM AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THE
VERY FIRST TIME",

Physical Disability Rugby League NZ (PDRLNZ) was pleased to announce, former Warrior and New Zealand International, Kiwi #657 Tony Tatupu, had been appointed as PDRLNZ's new ambassador earlier this year.

Tony made his NRL debut against the Brisbane Broncos in 1995 as Warrior #12 and has represented both New Zealand and Samoa.

Tony now serves as a New Zealand Police officer and represented the New Zealand Police at the inaugural Police World Cup in 2008.

PDRLNZ are thrilled to have Tony's passion and drive for everyone to succeed in life help inspire us all to keep doing what we are doing, to keep giving our all, to keep striving for the best and to continue being change makers for everyone with a disability.

Welcome to the PDRLNZ family Karl Vasau and Pete Griffiths. So awesome to have our own NZ referees to officiate at our



games...

Such a great couple of guys. See you both next year at the Campbell Cup 2020.

PDRLNZ 2019 AWARDS WINNERS



Sportsman
Matthew Williams



Most Ardent
Leah Hickey



Most Improved
Jed Stone



Rookie
Daley Manu

Kiwis v Tonga PDRLNZ Fundraiser

June 22nd 2019 saw a sea of red converge on Mt Smart Stadium as Mate Ma'a Tonga came up against a strong NZRL Kiwi side.

PDRLNZ players and families were at the gates waiting for the crowds to arrive raising the banner high for Physical Disability Rugby League.

All entry points to Mt Smart Stadium were covered and over the course of 5 hours, lots of tin rattling, banner waving, and friendly chat we came away with a massive \$1600 to help us continue doing what we do. And to top it off, thanks to Cushla and Max Walsh the entire team got to watch our beloved Kiwis take out the game 34 -14.



Uturai Toparea



Physical Disability Rugby League & Abilities Fundraiser

Luke and Antoinette Watts

PDRLNZ were very fortunate to be chosen as one of the Charities alongside Abilities as the recipients of Luke and Antoinette Watts amazing fundraising auction in August this year.

Generously hosted at The Elephant Wrestler in Takapuna.

Our very own Uturei Top-area moved the crowd as he shared his personal journey recovering from his accident as a young

boy, the struggles physically and his incredible strength to live which has created the awesome young man we have today. Tawera Nikau shared of his Rugby League journey and the places and experiences he has been lucky to have playing the great game.

Thank you to everyone who made this night a truly successful one.

Luke and Antoinette you are both legends and we can't thank you enough. for the



Lee, Tawera & Luke

generous amount you raised which will make such a big difference in so many peoples lives.

Campbell Cup 2019

June 1st 2019 marked a milestone for Physical Disability Rugby League NZ with the launch of our first local competition held in Auckland.

The Campbell Cup is named after our very dear friend and Board member Philip Campbell whose belief in the rights of people with a disability to be able to play his beloved game saw him assist us to become a legal entity in 2017 and to put a stake in the ground for PDRL here in NZ.

The trophy donated by Phil's family was valiantly fought for over 4 matches and the eventual winners PDRL Knights had the honour of being the first winning team to be engraved on the trophy.

Big thank you also to the Racing Industry Transition Agency for funding our awesome gear.



Phillip Campbell Family

Hackett Family

RACING INDUSTRY
TRANSITION AGENCY



THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL 2019 SUPPORTERS



Luke and Antoinette Watts

Cooper Family

Bechet Family

PDRLNZ have so many incredibly generous supporters over 2019 who have made everything we do and dream of happen. We are so thankful and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an even more prosperous 2020.

Story makers



Air Rescue
and Community
Services

