

2022 WRAP UP

So here we are at the end of 2022 and what a year. Thankyou everyone, we couldn't have done it without you all.

With nearly all of our attention focussed on fund-raising to get our first ever NZ squad to Warrington UK in October we continued to squeeze in more exciting achievements and opportunities to shine! We managed to get a 4 game Campbell Cup competition in over the season. The teams were selected as evenly as possible and the games were competitive to the end.

With the added bonus of having the players from around Aotearoa and Australia in Auckland for World Cup camps we were able to also get games in with the Richmond Masters, Mt Wellington Masters and some of the Ex Kiwi and Ex Warriors OGS. Big thankyou to Cliff Beverley and Tony Tatupu for rallying the boys for us and making this happen. This really stood our team in good stead for the World Cup!

August also heralded a wonderful forward movement for PDRLNZ when we were able to announce our Te Reo name 'Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa'.

We attended the Kiwis reunion luncheon and got to hang out with both the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns having both put in a massive effort the day before at Mt Smart against Tonga. We also were privileged to be among heroes of yesteryear with the '71 Kiwis in attendance, who were meant to reconvene last year to mark the 50th anniversary of their triumphant tour, but the reunion was postponed due to the Covid. Such an honour to be amongst these legends.

And the biggest moment in the history of Physical Disability Rugby League took place in the UK October 21st—31st where the NZ team competed against their peers from Australia, Wales and England in a fierce battle to become the inaugural champions. We dug deep and fought with every ounce, despite things coming against us from every angle. The passion, pride and unbelievable effort our team put in saw them become the 2nd

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ♦ 4 x Campbell Cup 's
- ♦ NZ inaugural PDRL World Cup squad announced
- ♦ June 26th Kiwis reunion lunch
- ♦ Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa introduced
- ♦ 7 x NZ World Cup camps
- ♦ Fundraised \$120,000 to attend PDRL World Cup
- ♦ Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa—NZ PDRL become 2nd best team in the world

top team in the world as they played England in the grand final at Halliwell Jones Stadium and we couldn't have been more prouder of our guys.



Huge thankyou to Coaches, trainers, referees, physios both from UK and NZ, sign language support, referee, media, classifiers, donors, raffle buyers, raffle donors, bingo night attendees, NZRL, ARL, Chippy Hunter, Sir Peter Leitch, supporters and players who made this all possible.

May you enjoy our 2022 issue!!

WHUTUPŌRO RĪKI WHAIKAHA O AOTEAROA



In keeping with our commitment to Te Tiriti o Wai-tangi Physical Disability Rugby League New Zealand sought the expertise of Keri Opai and Kahurangi Fergusson– Tibble to adopt a new name to better represent our people and what we stand for . We were thrilled to unveil our new name 'Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa' on August 27th prior to naming our World Cup squad which was captured so well by Maori TV and screened throughout Aotearoa and beyond. Of special significance is the Maori term 'Whaikaha' which is a relatively new term coined by kaumātua (Māori elder) Māka Tibble from the disabled community it means: to have ability, to have strength, to be otherly abled. A positive indigenous Māori term for disability that is not based on a negative or medical model which we identify with strongly. Big Nga Mihi also to our own designer extraordinaire Daley Manu who created our new logo .

Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa 2021 World Cup Team

Captain: Harley Roach

Vice Captain:

Phillip Milne
Michael Kulene
Roko Nailolo
Shane Ratahi
Daley Manu
Mal Davis
Jed Stone

Jeremy Hendrix Harris

Timothy Ragg
Max Walsh

Kent Stroobant
Che Fornusek
Garry Kingi

Matthew Slade
Shane Culling
Matthew Williams
Delta Taeauga

Head Coach:

Raymond Greaves
Team Manager:

Reitu Archibald

Kaumātua:

Kevin Tamati

Gear Steward:

Freeman Hickey

Physio: Emma Kirke

Trainer: Lee Whiteley

Sign Language: Laura Callaghan

Tour manager:

Sandra Hickey

Match Official:

Karl Vasau

Media: Farani Faga

Whutupōro Rīki Whaikaha o Aotearoa 2022 AWARDS WINNERS and RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS



RLWC MVP
Roko Nailolo

RLWC MIP
Jeremy Hendrix
Harris

RLWC Sportsman
Daley Manu

RLWC NZ Captain
Harley Roach

RLWC NZ Vice Captain
Phillip Milne



Peter Griffiths Sportsperson
Max Walsh

Rookie of the Year
Tiali Mafae

RLWC NZ Head Coach
Raymond Greaves

RLWC NZ Team Manager
Reitu Archibald

RLWC NZ Kaumatua
Kevin Tamati

RLWC NZ Gear Steward
Freeman Hickey

RLWC NZ Tour Manager
Sandra Hickey



Kiwis Reunion Lunch 2022



Whutupōro Riki Whaikaha o Aotearoa international players were again treated to a memorable afternoon at the Kiwis 2022 Reunion Lunch June 26th. Great to have the Kiwi's and the Kiwi ferns drop in before they departed back across the ditch, well received after they both put in a massive effort the day before at Mt. Smart. Thankyou to all who attended and supported our raffle and for the friendships made. So blessed to be a part of the NZ league family. Big thank you to the NZ Kiwis association for another wonderful day, see you next year with an even bigger contingent.



PDRL WORLD CUP WARRINGTON

The 2021 Physical Disability Rugby League World Cup, was the first world cup for physical disability rugby league. The tournament was held from 23 October to 30 October 2022 in Warrington, England, alongside the main tournaments of the 2021 Rugby League World Cup.

We arrived safely after a 10 hour flight to Singapore, a 5 hour stopover and then the final 14 hour leg to Manchester. A weary but excited bunch!!

With 3 games ahead of us plus a grand final we needed to be in top shape and thanks to our chef Freeman and our physio Emma we were ready to do all we could to put Whutupōro Riki Whaikaha o Aotearoa on the World Map. Aotearoa's very own Daley Manu made history as the first try scorer for International PDRL World Cup with a magnificent try against Wales. With a loss on the day being overturned 2 days later because of technical errors we went on to notch up two wins after having the victory over Australia also. With our players suffering severe injuries we were forced to take the field with only 8 players against England on Friday, however we had made the finals so there was nothing to lose on the day but plenty of experience to gain for our remaining players. Despite the things that came against us throughout the week, the team turned up at the Halliwell Jones Stadium for the grand final, fought hard, with passion and pride and gave their all. England won the inaugural Physical Disability Rugby League World Cup 42-10 over New Zealand, however we won the hearts of many and look forward to 2025 where we get to do it all again.



WRWA have so many incredibly generous supporters over 2022 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 2023.



Sir Peter Leitch



MAINLAND FOUNDATION



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TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOĀ

