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Football Club (Inc)  
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[www.centurionsrugby.co.nz](http://www.centurionsrugby.co.nz)

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November 2014

## President's message



Your committee has been very busy over the past few months with our various 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary functions.

### Annual Luncheon

September could not have been better for us with a wonderfully successful pre-test luncheon on 12 September with 750 people in attendance. This was our largest turn-out ever and really does show that this lunch is well and truly an iconic event on the Wellington sporting calendar. We are aware of the need to keep things fresh and not be complacent about this lunch but the combination of Mike Copeland at his brilliant best, a celebrity speaker or former All Black and The New Zealand Rugby Foundation as our profiled charity has proved to be a great formula. Amongst a line-up of Rugby guests including NZRU president Ian Mac Rae we welcomed ten Very Injured Players as our VIPs for the day. Through donations and auction items we raised over \$14,000.00 and for that reason alone this event is a very worthwhile undertaking. A big thank you to Paul Rolton for his leadership of this event.



### Members 75<sup>th</sup> Lunch-Sunday, 5 October.

We hosted 60 members for this lunch at Westpac Stadium prior to the Lions game against Taranaki. A key purpose of our luncheon was to honour those members and former members whose contributions over many years have enabled our club to not only still exist but to continue to be engaged in some very worthwhile

activities of benefit to our rugby community. I was particularly mindful that many of the members present had served on the committee or as club captain or had been involved in fundraising or “working bees” over the years. This included a period of intense activity in the 1980s to purchase, site and refurbish our Athletic Park digs which were affectionately known as Mick’s Mansion in recognition of Mick Williment’s efforts in making that project a reality. So in celebrating this occasion we wanted to celebrate the terrific people from the time of our establishment back in 1939 who have personified our club and our contributions to our rugby community. Patron Mick Bremner proposed a toast to absent friends and in recognition of our mutually supportive relationship with the WRFU, President Butch Phelan later proposed a toast to the Centurions on behalf of the WRFU. After slicing through our multi coloured anniversary cake we then invited some of our members to contribute their stories about some of the Centurions activities that they recall. Above all this was an occasion for our members to get together and celebrate being Centurions—and it was the start of an ambitious week of activity.



#### BBQ with the Lions- Thursday, 9 October.

This was the first of what we intend to be an annual BBQ lunch with the Lions team. Following their training session at their Newtown base Centurions members and children and grandchildren joined the team for autographs, a few kicks out on the field and a great lunch. One of the purposes of the barbecue was to build a closer relationship between the Centurions and the Lions and particularly to let the team know that we are a network of over 300 members who are keen to support them both in their rugby and outside rugby. In addition to offering all of our support for their upcoming final match of the season against North Harbour I mentioned that when they pulled on their Centurions socks for that match and ran through our Guard of Honour for them on Saturday they should be in no doubt that the support and best wishes of all our members many former great Lions players would be with them all the way. I also mentioned that many of our members own businesses and could provide some on the job experience or time to talk about what options there might be for Lions players to explore or develop careers after rugby. We also invited the players to join our club to be part of our activities such as the college First XV coaching games, or our other rugby programmes involving

under 18, under 85 weight restricted grade or one-off games from time to time such as the colts game against NZ Marist earlier this year. Lions captain Brad Shields thanked us for our support and presented our club with a Lions jersey signed by the team. We hope this event will become an annual fixture and that we might also have a similar occasion involving the Hurricanes. Thank you very much to the WRFU for enabling us to initiate this activity and thanks to Mike Russell and Nigel Hughes for their superb cooking and to Butch Phelan's Churton Park New World for our supplies on the day.

#### Guard of Honour for the Lions-Saturday, 12 October.

On WRFU old-timers day, the Centurions formed a guard of honour for the Lions as they took to the field for their game against North Harbour. It was fantastic that the Lions responded so well with a great victory by 58 points to 34. Of course we believe that their success was primarily due to the Thursday BBQ, our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Guard of Honour for them and those fantastic multi-coloured socks!

#### Annual Charity Golf Tournament-Friday 31 October.

This year we had 23 teams entered for an enjoyable mix of social occasion and friendly competition. This was our largest turn out for some years as we look to grow this tournament. Special thanks to Andy Leslie who was instrumental in personally obtaining many of our first time attendees. Thank you also to our sponsors for the day which included Porters Vineyard, the WRFU for donating the Lions jersey and those other participants who donated a prize on the day and our golf hole sponsors; the Wellington Rugby Supporters Club and LG Anderson Transport. There was some extra challenge this year in the very windy conditions and with the greens having recently been cored. This proved to be no problem for Dion Waller's winning team on the day. The winner of the Centurions Golf Trophy for competition amongst rugby clubs went this year to Poneke. All up we raised over \$5,500 half of which will go to the NZRF for the support of very injured players and the other half will go to the club for our rugby activities. This was a successful day which we hope to build on again for next year. Thank you to Kevin Kelly and Kirsten for organising the prizes and the smooth running on the day and to Ross Bond and Shandon Golf club for again hosting us so well. Thanks also to Andy Leslie who gave a brief updates about the activities of the NZRF and to Ross Plunkett for auctioning the WRFU jersey, the Porters Pinot Noir and the Colin Meads rugby ball and caricature.

#### Best wishes to all members.

During the year some of our members face challenges or difficulties of one sort or another. It might be a personal health or financial issue or that of a partner or family member. As we approach Christmas the committee wishes to offer its best wishes to all members and particularly to those who are facing personal challenges. We also offer our sympathy to those members who have lost loved ones including committee member Tracy Smith who lost his stepfather in October and Life Member Peter McDavitt who lost his wife Judy this month. As with anything it is the respect, the friendship and the care that we have for one another that will ultimately define whether people want to be part of our club.

Nigel Stirling  
**President.**

## Patron's Message



On behalf of members our grateful thanks to a hard working committee for making sure our 75<sup>th</sup> year was the event of our season. The numerous celebrations were well catered for and may I say it was a pleasure to see more than a few long time members who rekindled memories of past deeds and comradeship which does personify the spirit of the Centurions RFC.

Once again the desire to maintain high standards by our good influence over our up and coming younger players continue to benefit the club. For those members directly involved in selecting and coaching, in combination with their experience and guidance the results have certainly been worthwhile. What better reward could one ask?

Wishing you all the very best for the festive season

S.G. (Mick) Bremner

**Patron**

## Rugby Report

### Centurions U18 Team

The 2014 U18 Centurions team was selected post the college season in early September. Some players came into the squad with the experience of age grade club footy with most playing at first 15 level for their respective colleges.

Playing in the re-formatted Hurricanes Youth Council Under 18 tournament proved a great extension to the season for our guys. With only three competition games to play, coaching and management didn't have long to build structure and pattern. We achieved this by getting buy in from the lads and explaining some moves, how they work, why we use them and having them name them.

Our season started off with a warm up game against Taranaki Secondary Schools in Whanganui. Although we couldn't achieve a win from this it provided a great basis to bring the team together. Training after this was a lot sharper and the lads knew the level of play that was expected from them.

Our first competition game saw us face East Coast who had travelled down on the test weekend at the initiative of, and with funding from Centurions RFC.

Commitment on this day was unquestionable with some great tries scored by our backs and forwards.

Having been at the thick end of a high loss didn't faze the East Coast team as the whole weekend was a learning experience. The opportunity to stay on an urban Marae, watch the All Blacks live at The Stadium and have the honour of carrying out the NZ flag prior to kick off - no doubt a huge privilege for them. Special thanks go to Tracy Smith who made this happen.

Our second game saw us take on Wairarapa Bush at North Park. This win was a lot tougher with the Bush showing some never say die attitude in the last 20 mins.

Our last game was an overnight trip to Palmerston North to play Hawkes Bay. In a weather lashed game with conditions resembling Athletic Park of old, we suffered our first loss going down 13-15.

Despite the loss the boys enjoyed a great night out in Palmerston North that evening, and it was a very good way to end another successful season.

A special note goes out to captain Passi. His leadership shown when taking the men into battle was a real credit to him. It's very difficult to name the players that stood out as all of these young men showed commitment, were enthusiastic, and a pleasure work with.

As always none of this would have taken place if it wasn't for the people that make this happen in the background especially Tracy Smith, Mick Reedy, Mo Mackey and Muzza (Murray Usmar). Thanks so much for your support and thanks to the Centurions club for their ongoing support of these young men playing the game we love.

Paul Swift

**Co-Coach**

Hurricanes Youth Rugby Council Under 18 Tournament

13 September 2014 v East Coast at Petone Rec won 71 – 9

Boyd (2), Fine (2), Keil (2), Tuisamoa, Momoemausu, Vea, Purcell, Forster tries; Donaldson (5), Bickle (3) conversions.

20 September 2014 v Hawkes Bay at Palmerston North lost 13 – 15

Momoemausu, Walmsley tries; Donaldson penalty.

27 September 2014 v Wairarapa-Bush at Porirua Park won 48 – 14

Walmsley (3), Fine, Keil, Momoemausu, Vea, Purcell tries; Donaldson (3), Bickle conversions.

Leading Points scorers:

Jacob Walmsley 20 (4 tries), Zac Donaldson 19 (8 conversions, 1 penalty), Passi Fine 15 (3 tries), Samoa Momoemausu 15 (3 tries), Fredrich Keil 15 (3 tries).

Forwards

1	A J	Leau	Rongotai College
2	Te Wharerangi	Kea	Wellington College
3	Daniel	Leone	Tawa College
4	Ivan	Fepuleai	St Pats Silverstream
5	Paasi	Fine	HOBM Club
6	Richard	Guttenbeil	Newlands College
7	Ben	Ross	St Pats Silverstream
8	Bradd	Forster	Wellington College
9	Fraser	McLaren	Newlands College
10	Jonty	Boyd	Tawa College
11	Tukia	Purcell	Rongotai College
12	Folau	Vea	Tawa College
13	Ale Mathew	Peni	Naenae College

Backs

14	Kaide	McCashin	St Pats Silverstream
15	Samoa	Momoemausu	Poneke Club
16	Jacob	Walmsley	Newlands College
17	Fredrich	Keil	St Bernards College
18	Poata-Ezna	Tuisamoa	St Bernards College
19	Levi	Grace	J'ville Club
20	Sharn	Robinson	Wellington College
21	Paul	Bickle	St Pats College
22	Zac	Donaldson	St Pats College
23	Hinckley	Sioaosi	Rongotai College
24	Tamati	Hauraki-Tynell	Wellington College



## Centurions U85kg Team

Centurions v North Harbour under 85kg

The Centurions under 85kg side was selected by nominations from clubs across the region and the selectors were Hamish Vance, Mick Reedy, Andrew Robinson and Ian Tulloch, with Greg Halford advising on selections also. The team was coached by the U85kg grade winning Coach from MSP, Andrew Robinson and Ian Tulloch. The team represented ten clubs from Wellington with a variety of experience and ability. With the absence of the Barbarians tournament this year we arranged a one off game v North Harbour in Taupo on Saturday 27th September. Here is how the trip and game unfolded.

The weather in Taupo was good and playing on a great surface at Owen Delany Park was ideal.

North Harbour asked for the match not to be weighed and they were coming into the game on the back of four lead up games in the previous four weeks only losing to Auckland and this probably showed in the opening quarter of the game.

Harbour kicked an early penalty before they broke through out wide to run around and score under the posts and then another penalty made it 13 nil after 15 minutes.

Centurions then missed two relatively easy penalties while Harbour kicked another two which gave them a 19 nil lead at the break.

Basic errors really cost Centurions in the first half when scoring opportunities were begging, which was frustrating but highlighted the team not having played together before.

Centurions had made a lot of good play but with passes not going to hand and lacking patience we struggled to build any momentum as Harbour kept the scoreboard ticking over.

Ten minutes into the second half Harbour missed a penalty but almost immediately after got an intercept try from about 30 out to extend their lead to 26 nil.

From here Centurions started to get some phases going and strong running saw us hammer the Harbour line before prop Ross McIsaac charged onto a pass in midfield and went over for a try.

Halfback Declan Hay then made a break and kicked past the fullback only to be tackled without the ball with no one in front of him. This could be argued was a penalty try and/or yellow card but was only deemed a penalty.

From here Centurions continued to attack and Declan got the try he deserved earlier by diving over from a ruck on the line to make it 26 to 14.

A Centurions clearing kick out of the 22 was taken near halfway by the Harbour fullback who ran it back and busted through the line then proceeded to break another couple of weak tackles before offloading to an unmarked support player who dived over next to the posts.

Centurions still continued to attack from all areas of the field and a busting run by centre Korey Skipper saw him offload to winger Zak Nichols who managed to power his way over for the try.

Then immediately from the kick off Centurions spun the ball wide in their 22 and a skip pass put winger Matt Jackett away with several players in support and he put his foot down before drawing the fullback beautifully to put away Tim Mowbray who was able to score in the corner despite being smashed in a good cover tackle to make it 33 to 24 with five minutes to play and unfortunately that would be the final score.

The forwards worked hard all game and were extremely physical with lock Jared Martinovich throwing himself into everything and openside flanker James McQuin-Tan having a top match while captain Jack Coles lead the team well.

Winger Matt Jackett got involved from out wide and second five Tony Natoli hit it up strongly as always.

Player of the day for the Centurions was vice-captain Corey Draper who played half back in the first half and first five in the second half where his aggressive strong running caused the opposition problems.

North Harbour 33 (3 tries, 3 conversions, 4 penalties) beat Centurions 24 (Ross McIsaac, Declan Hay, Zak Nichols, Tim Mowbray tries, Matt Jackett 2 from 3 conversions) - Half time 19 nil to North Harbour.

1	Sam Duncan	MSP
2	Nic Patterson	MSP
3	Ross McIsaac	MSP
4	Jack Coles (captain)	Petone
5	Jared Martinovich	OBU
6	Steve Lack	MSP
7	James McQuin-Tan	Poneke
8	Bill Drummond	Eastbourne
9	Corey Draper (vice-captain)	Wainui
10	Chris Thompson	Poneke
11	Matt Jackett	Avalon
12	Tony Natoli	Tawa
13	Kupa Higgott	Waikanae
14	Zak Nichols	MSP
15	Tim Mowbray	OBU
16	Joel Taylor	OBU
17	Korey Skipper	MSP
18	Dan Berry	Wellington
19	Gareth Stokes	MSP
20	Declan Hay	MSP



**Ian Tulloch**

**Annual Test Luncheon**

Thanks for your continued support at this year’s luncheon. We sold a record number of tables and raised a record amount of money for the NZ Rugby Foundation!

Although there is no test match in Wellington for 2015, due to the RWC, we can confirm that we will definitely be holding a luncheon.

Contact Paul Rolton, ph 027 353 8951 or [prolton@xtra.co.nz](mailto:prolton@xtra.co.nz) to rebook your table.

**New Membership 2014**

The Centurions Committee would like to welcome the following new members:

Mo Mackey (and welcome to the committee)

Andrew Robinson

Phil Grigg

Tony O’Connell

Jaesen Sumner

Matt Coles

If you would like to nominate someone please go to our website to download an application form, [www.centurionsrugby.co.nz](http://www.centurionsrugby.co.nz)

**Feature Article by Jack Callender**

As a lot has been happening with the Centurions RFC during 2014, the feature article by Jack Callender is a separate attachment to the emailed version of this newsletter. There is also a link to it on the homepage of our website [www.centurionsrugby.co.nz](http://www.centurionsrugby.co.nz).

**Centurions BBQ with the Lions 2014**

The inaugural bbq with the Wellington Lions team was a big success. The weather was fantastic and the Lions players were friendly and professional.

A big thanks to Butch & Jan Phelan at Churton Park New World for their generous support.



**Contact details**

Have your contact details changed recently? If so we would like to keep our database right up to scratch and would appreciate your updated details.

<p><u>Centurion members change of contact details.</u></p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>Phone details.....</p> <p>Email Address.....</p> <p>Please post to The Secretary, P O Box 11 101, Wellington, or email to <a href="mailto:gr_brooking@xtra.co.nz">gr_brooking@xtra.co.nz</a></p>
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## Newsletter

Special thanks to Graham Stephen for sending out this newsletter via email and also enveloping/sending the newsletters to those of you who are not 'electronic' as yet. Thanks for your time and effort Graham!

Mike Russell  
Editor

## Executive contact details 2014

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